



Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

www.mishawaka.in.gov

September 2011

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood

Dear Friends and Neighbors,



As summer draws to a close, it is time to remember that our Mishawaka children will be walking to and from school, riding their bikes and crossing the streets. As drivers, we need to keep an eye out for them. TAKE HEART/DRIVE SMART is a program that my Office, in partnership with Mishawaka PTA Council and School

City of Mishawaka, has co-sponsored reminding all drivers to please be careful in our school zones, to drive safely and slowly!



Also, in our school zones this year our Mishawaka Engineering Department has been working to make sure that all school warning signs, pavement markings, and school warning flashers along designated walking routes have been checked and are properly maintained as students head back to school.

The Engineering Department is also constantly searching for funding sources that can be utilized to upgrade and improve sidewalks for students to walk and bike to their neighborhood schools. This is extremely important in Mishawaka where the school corporation does not provide transportation to schools for students. Engineering has studied each school to identify and prioritize improvements to develop a safe route for that school.

One program that is being used is The Indiana Safe Routes to School Program which is based upon a Federal Highway Program designed to make walking and bicycling to school safe and routine. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is responsible for administering the Safe Routes to School Program that can provide a maximum of \$250,000.00 of federal funding for eligible activities and infrastructure improvements

Working collectively with school officials, parents, and the Mishawaka Police Department, it is our goal to design a safe route that is well maintained so that students may easily walk or bike to and from school. It is our hope that this will encourage students to walk or bike to school which also helps reduce traffic congestion, helps parents save money by using less (continued on next page)



Don't Be Hard-Headed About Concussions

The Communicator will provide a monthly series of articles for our Let's Move Mishawaka Program about healthy eating and lifestyles provided by Saint Joseph Physician Network, courtesy of Dr. Dale Deardorff, Medical Director.

The fall sports season is here, which means it's time to cheer on the kids at their soccer, volleyball, or football games. Unfortunately, it is also the time of year when sports-related concussions become prevalent.

At this time, there is no way to prevent concussions from occurring (continued on next page)

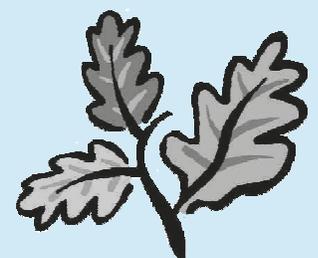


TRIAD of St. Joseph County is having their PILL DROP on Wednesday Sept 21st from 7:00 am to 2:30pm at the Mishawaka Central Fire Station at 333 E. Douglas Road. Come drop off your unused pills or liquid medicine. Put pills in baggies (recycle your containers yourself.) Liquids must be in original container. Keep Mishawaka clean and safe.



Leaf Pick Up

Leaf pick up will begin in the City of Mishawaka on Monday October 17th and go through the week of Thanksgiving.



A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood (continued)

fuel and also leads to healthier lifestyle habits for children.

In 2010, an application was submitted for improvements around Emmons Elementary School within the South Main Street corridor beginning at Sixth Street on the east side and extending south to Sixteenth Street. The improvements continue along the north side of Sixteenth Street between Main and Union Street. In November of 2010, the application for Emmons Elementary School was approved. Plans include the replacement of damaged sidewalks and curbs plus the removal of brush or trees that may block the walkway to Emmons.

Bids for the project were opened by INDOT in July and a project in the amount of \$160,723.00 was awarded to Selge Construction of Niles, Michigan. They are expected to begin work in mid August and be completed by the end of October. INDOT provided 100% of the construction funding for this project and local participation was required only for design and construction management. The Engineering Department intends to submit an application for a different elementary school each year throughout the life of this program. In 2011 the school submitted for sidewalk improvements is Battell Elementary.

In addition to infrastructure upgrades for improvements to walking corridors, the Engineering Department has implemented four projects as part of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) through MACOG. This federally funded program is targeted toward reduction of hazards to achieve a significant reduction in traffic accidents and injuries on public roads. A School Warning Flasher replacement program is one element of our improvements.

Replacement of ten out of twelve existing school warning flashers from incandescent to LED including a beacon located on the back of the assembly altering to traffic they are traveling within a school zone. The change to LED will allow a brighter display during all weather conditions providing a greater distance of visibility. The greater visibility allows the vehicular traffic to have an advantage of recognizing the school zone and providing the highest level of protection for the pedestrians. In addition to the additional safety the LED provides a longer life, less energy use and a constant level of safety. The remaining two school warning flasher locations have been included in previous or scheduled City projects and offer this same level of safety.



Don't Be Hard-Headed About Concussions (continued)



in sports-related activities. A concussion is a brain injury that is caused by traumatic force through contact with another player, equipment, or a physical structure such as a goal post or gym floor. One in ten young athletes will suffer a concussion this year. That number grows considering accidental head injuries to youngsters at normal play such as jungle gyms, swing sets, and bike riding.

"Most kids are fine after a concussion with medical management within a week or two, but any persistent symptoms should be evaluated sooner," said Stephen Simons, M.D., Director of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center's Sports Medicine Institute. "More information has evolved and health care experts know to take concussions more seriously and to be sure kids are symptom-free before returning to play."

Symptoms of concussions can include drowsiness, headache, nausea, and vomiting. The majority of people who suffer concussions do not lose consciousness. Symptoms may not appear until several hours or days after the injury. Close monitoring for neurological symptoms, and early medical evaluation and intervention is recommended.

"Teenagers who play sports may not realize they've sustained a concussion and they'll want to get right back into the game," says Dr. Simons. "An athlete who has sustained a concussion should not be allowed to return to practice or competition while having symptoms or signs of a concussion, because it is not worth risking permanent brain damage."

Stephen Simons, MD
Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center
Sports Medicine Institute



Government in Action

Mayor Dave Wood and Chief Dale Freeman announced that in early July the Mishawaka Fire Department received a new Sutphen Corporation, Inc. 100 foot aerial Ladder/Pumper Combination Fire Truck to replace a 1991 model. The new truck has a 100 ft. ladder and a pump capable of delivering 1,500 gallons of water per minute. It is 46 ½ feet long and weighs 60,000 lbs. The truck was manufactured in Columbus, Ohio. The new truck is expected to have at least a twenty year service life protecting both the lives and property of the citizens of Mishawaka.

