

City of Mishawaka State of the City Address

Department Reports for 2010



THE MAYOR'S OFFICE



Mayor David A. Wood

It is truly an honor to serve the 48,252 citizens of Mishawaka each and every day of the year. Our Mission Statement is at the heart of everything that we do here in the Mayor's Office. Indeed, our mission is what inspires every decision made in this office. Our mission statement bears repeating: "*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.*"

The Mayor's Office is where my expectation and the responsibility of World Class Service begins and ends. Mishawaka's government is open, friendly, personal and accessible to all of our citizens. We never lose sight that the Mayor's office, City Hall, the Council Chambers and all of our facilities are yours, the citizens of Mishawaka. That too, is the way we operate the Mayor's office. We are here to help you by answering your questions, listening to your concerns and suggestions and directing you to the right department to make sure that you receive the services that you – our citizens need. After all, it is the *Mishawaka way of doing business.*

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Mayor Jeff Steps Down

On August 9, 2010 Mayor Jeffrey L. Rea resigned his position as the 20th Mayor of the City of Mishawaka to assume the position of President and CEO of the St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Rea was reelected to his second term in November of 2007. His first term began in 2004.

With less than 17 months left in his second, four-year term, Mayor Rea announced his resignation effective September 6, 2010. It was a decision that he did not make lightly. "I don't see it so much as walking away as stepping into a wonderful opportunity, an opportunity where I still have the chance to serve the people in Mishawaka in a different role," said Mayor Rea

When Mayor Rea was asked of the accomplishments he was most proud of he mentioned first weathering the recent difficult economic times and also cited the prosperity of the City of Mishawaka. "We've created an environment where people want to locate their families and retire", he said.



Mayor Rea's last day as Mayor of the City of Mishawaka was Monday, September 6, 2010. Jeff Rea's first day with the St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce was on September 7, 2010.

Electing a New Mayor in Mishawaka

In accordance with Indiana law, the Republican Party of St. Joseph County conducted a caucus of Mishawaka precinct chairpersons to choose the next Mayor of the City of Mishawaka. Republican Party Chairman, Chris Riley, would move swiftly to ensure a steady transition to someone who shares Jeff Rea's commitment to good government and economic development.

Mr. Riley sought potential candidates by asking anyone interested in becoming the next Mayor to inform him of their desire to run. The qualifications for filing as a candidate for Mayor of the City of Mishawaka include the following: must be at least 18 years of age, must reside in the City of Mishawaka, and must be a registered voter. By the September 1 deadline, eleven candidates answered the call and participated in the process to succeed Mayor Rea. The candidates were:

Michael Bergin – husband, father of four and a member of the Parks and Recreation Board. He also serves on the School City of Mishawaka Community Governance Group that helps SCM to define its goals. He is a local business owner and consultant. He ranks the City Budget as his #1 priority.

Ben Blatt - a Mishawaka High School graduate that does not have a car and rides Transpo regularly. "They are predictable and reliable and they go everywhere," said Blatt who is a local attorney. He is also a substitute teacher at MHS. He believes the most important job for the new mayor is to "build a basis for which the community can continue to grow."

Daniel Bowman – served as an intern in Mayor Rea's Office in 2007 while he was working on his bachelor's degree in public administration at Ferris State University in Michigan. He now works as an account executive with Jordan Automotive Group. He thinks the City is a prime location for future businesses in technology and high-tech manufacturing. He added that Rea made several tough budgetary decisions and that more of those decisions may need to be made.

Tim Calderone – is currently serving as the IT Director of the City of Mishawaka and would make Technology his focus. He believes Mishawaka can become more efficient and financially responsible through a better use of technology.

Tim Erickson – is currently the Electric Division Manager for Mishawaka Utilities and has the largest of the City's budgets. He has worked for the City for 33 years. He said it is most important to equip City employees to do their jobs safely, believing the City has done this so far. He also wants to ensure that everyone in the City has a job, to see family activities grow and to develop the Mishawaka Riverwalk.

Cory Hamel – is currently the Staff Attorney for the City of Mishawaka and has worked for the City for two years. He believes that the City is on the right track with moving towards efficiency, but believes there is still more work to be done.

Marsha McClure – is the Republican 4th District Councilman where she served for 11 years. She works as a local mortgage lender. She believes it is important to attract businesses that offer well-paying jobs the City's future. Even though she has a heart for downtown, she sees the Capital Avenue corridor as the prime potential area for development.

David Wood - is the Republican 2nd District Councilman where he served for 11 years. If elected, he promised to maintain the progress that tough decisions and good management have gained for the City – particularly with the budget. “We also need to put ourselves in a good position to attract new businesses and good-paying jobs, and to work with existing businesses to let them know we are partners in their growth.” Wood is an assistant vice president at 1st Source Bank, a board member for St. Joseph County's Solid Waste Management District and a board member of Habitat for Humanity where he has served as crew leader on 26 Habitat homes in St. Joseph County and internationally. Until last year, he served as Vice President and Finance Committee Chairman of St. Bavo's Catholic School Board, where he continues to coach 6th grade girl's basketball.

The rare and historic process included several meetings in which precinct committee members interviewed each candidate. Each candidate had an opportunity to share their experience, express their vision for the City and answer committee member's questions.

The special election was held on September 2nd at the Mishawaka Republican Headquarters. That evening each candidate was given two minutes to speak to the caucus of Republican delegates, citizens and guests that gathered in Republican headquarters to witness history in the making for the City of Mishawaka. Each candidate spoke about their vision for Mishawaka and their interest in becoming the Mayor of Mishawaka.

The rules for the caucus election were mandated by the State. The election was strictly monitored by the Republican Party and the process mandated that the winner must have a simple majority of the votes cast. If the candidate did not receive a simple majority then the candidate with the lowest vote total would be eliminated, and the process would move into another voting round after a short recess. That process would continue until a candidate received a simple majority of the votes cast.

After the candidates spoke, the 21 precinct officials began voting. The votes were tallied after the first round. David A Wood received a majority of the votes and was elected the 21st Mayor of the City of Mishawaka.

In his acceptance speech, Mayor Wood spoke about what Mishawaka has meant to him and that he would not have the opportunity without his traditional Mishawaka upbringing.

Mayor Dave Wood: 21st Oath of Office

On Tuesday September 7, 2010, David A. Wood took the Oath of Office and became the 21st Mayor of the City of Mishawaka. Mayor Jeff Rea read the Oath of Office to Mayor Wood as former Mayor Robert Beutter held the Bible. Mayor Wood's wife, Jaimi, and his children, Haley, Abigail, Joseph and James proudly surrounded him as he recited his oath of office. The Mishawaka Common Council Chambers was overflowing with close family, friends, department managers, staff members and citizens wishing the new Mayor of Mishawaka their heartfelt congratulations.



Mayor Wood's Resignation from Council

On Tuesday, September 7, 2010 Mayor Dave Wood submitted his resignation as the Councilman for the Mishawaka Common Council representing the 2nd District. Chris Reilly, Chairman of the St. Joseph County Republican Party, said that the party will hold another caucus to fill Mayor Wood's vacant Common Council seat in the 2nd District within 30 days following Mayor Wood's resignation from the Council.

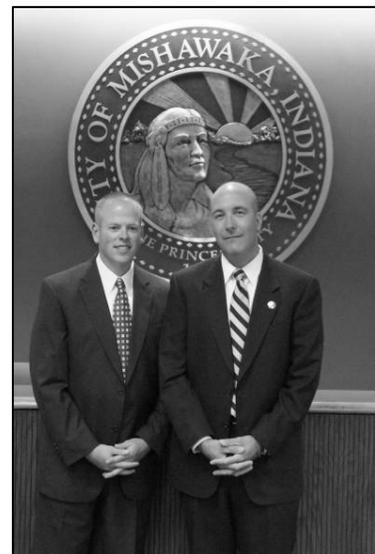
Selection of the New 2nd District Councilman to replace Mayor Wood

Chairman Chris Reilly of the St. Joseph County Republican Party asked for candidates interested in filling the vacant 2nd District Council seat to send him a letter of candidacy. The precinct chairmen, from the 2nd District which Mayor Wood represented, would vote to fill the vacant Council seat. Two interested candidates responded with letters to Reilly.

Mayor Wood's Transition

The transition from Mayor Rea's administration to mine went as smoothly as any transition could possibly go. While transitions are never easy, this one was complicated by the fact that the City was about half way through the process of adopting a \$47 million budget. Likewise, seven contract labor negotiations needed to be completed, or in some cases started and completed by the year end. There were over \$50,000,000 in city construction projects in various stages of progress, as well as record snowfall to deal with. Despite these challenges, I am very proud of how quickly we progressed. I am grateful to Mayor Jeff and all of our dedicated staff of public servants for helping to ensure that my transition was seamless and successful.

The City's team of managers, assistant managers and crew leaders were very helpful in bringing me up to speed in my new role as Chief Executive. My first order of business was to meet with each department manager to become more



familiar with their day-to-day operations and, more specifically, how those services impact the citizens of Mishawaka. This information was essential for me to fulfill the role of CEO of this great City. Not only did I meet with the managers, but I visited departments and, in some cases, spent the day working side-by-side or riding along with our staff members as they perform their essential services. In every case, I was greatly impressed with the dedication and professionalism displayed by our public servants. I am proud to report to the citizens of Mishawaka that their public servants deliver World-class service.

Meeting with our dedicated staff was vital during the transition, but the business of the City also needed to be conducted as well. Daily administrative tasks include working with our citizens, and answering phone calls and emails. This transition was made much smoother by the work of Julie DeKeizer who not only helped with the daily operations of the Mayor's office but also managed the busy calendar of events and meetings.

By early October, my staff and I began to compile some of my initiatives for the City, which involve proposals for stronger neighborhoods, fiscal responsibility and, of course, world-class service.

Throughout this transition and into the present, my approach to this job is simple: to serve the citizens of Mishawaka in the same manner that I did in my previous role as a City Council Member. I will reach out to the citizens of this community on a personal level, forming even more relationships with the citizens of Mishawaka demonstrating my desire to provide beneficial policies and services to make Mishawaka a great place to live and work.

Let's Move Initiative



The citizens of Mishawaka are extremely grateful for the generosity that the University of Notre Dame has shown our community through its \$50,000 yearly donation. This donation confirms Notre Dame's mission of helping those in need and reaffirms its commitment to both human solidarity and the common good.

In July of 2010, Mayor Jeff Rea announced that the City of Mishawaka, with hopes of learning from Notre Dame's example, would be investing Notre Dame's gift to the City via special concern for a growing epidemic in our country, childhood obesity, to improve the overall health of our community. Mishawaka will join First Lady Michelle Obama and cities across the country by promoting Mishawaka's Let's Move Campaign. This campaign will directly impact the lives of children, parents and other individuals in our community in a positive way.

This campaign will directly impact the lives of children ...

A Roundtable of community healthcare leaders, school officials and Mayor Rea met in early June to discuss how to tackle the important issue. Plans were made for a year of Communicator articles, free classes at Mishawaka's Battell Center, programs in the schools and programs in the parks to promote healthy lifestyles.

In November, a second Roundtable was held by Mayor David Wood, confirming Mayor Wood's commitment to the effort, updating current programs at both the Battell Center and in the parks. A program was planned for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students in their school gyms with community partners St. Joseph Regional Medical Center and Martin's Supermarkets. This program would include Fire Prevention Chief Jim Schuster's Fire Prevention Obstacle Course, and Mike Faulkner from Mishawaka Parks included a fun parks activity. Dave Kindig organized the activity for School City of Mishawaka. The program was scheduled to begin in early January.

You will read much more about the Let's Move Program in the State of the City in the Park Department section.

Faith Based Roundtable

In 2010, both Mayor Wood and Mayor Rea met with members of the faith based community and led roundtable discussions to build relationships, form partnerships and discuss community needs. These roundtable discussions planted seeds for many community outreach programs, including over 20 of our local churches adopting schools to volunteer in, sponsor and donate school supplies. The non-profit group *help with love*

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was established as a result of members of the faith-based roundtable continuing their discussions and meeting real needs in our community.

The Department of Community Development's Summer of Service Program is also a success story of the Faith Based Roundtable. The objectives of the Summer of Service Program are to encourage citizens both young and old alike to volunteer to connect with the community, beautify the city, and touch the lives of Mishawaka residents. This program has made a real impact on the City and our citizens. You will see the remarkable impact of this year's Summer of Service Program's community service in the Community Development section of the State of the City.

Both Mayor Dave and Mayor Jeff are especially grateful to our faith based community leaders for their participation in the roundtable discussions and for the service that they and their church members are providing to the citizens of Mishawaka.

Young Professionals Network Roundtables

In 2010, the City continued its relationship with the Young Professionals Network (YPN) of St. Joseph County. Four times a year roundtables are held in the City of Mishawaka. These roundtables are sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County

with the discussions now being led by Mayor Wood. As identified by the Chamber's website, YPN is a professional development series program encouraging young professionals in north central Indiana and lower southwest Michigan between the ages of 21 and 39 to become actively involved and engaged in area business and the future of the region through networking, the exchange of ideas and professional development. YPN is a dynamic and diverse group of peers with a passion for making a difference, willingness to learn, the desire to build important relationships, and the energy to get involved in the community. Too often, young professionals don't feel like they have a place or voice in business meetings or in the community. The Mayor's office has embraced this group and opportunity to engage young professionals. The roundtables in Mishawaka are well attended and the conversation and exchange of ideas well received.

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175th Anniversary for History Exhibit

In March of 2010, Mayor Jeff Rea announced that the Center for History Museum in South Bend donated a permanent exhibit of the first 175 years of Mishawaka history to the City of Mishawaka. The exhibit includes a number of pictures, artifacts and story boards that tell the story of how Mishawaka developed as a city.



The Mishawaka Exhibit at the Center for History Museum was originally on display at the Center for History as their 175th Mishawaka History Presentation. Thanks to the generosity of the Center for History, citizens of Mishawaka can view the exhibit as it is now displayed in the second floor halls of Mishawaka's City Hall.

Forty Under 40 Award

It was an honor for Mayor Rea to recognize School City of Mishawaka's Teacher of the Year, Sarah Hoover as one of the Young Professionals Network *Michiana Forty Under 40* Award winners of 2010. When nominating Sarah Hoover, 2nd Grade Teacher at Beiger Elementary School for the award, Mayor Rea wrote, "As Mayor, over the last six and a half years, I have spent a considerable amount of my time in our Mishawaka schools, and teachers have become my heroes. Sarah is definitely a bright spot in our community's education."

On receiving her Teacher of the Year Award, Sarah said her hope was "to instill in her students the desire to never give up. I have always known that I would be a teacher. I loved school. When I attended Hums, I wrote my Young Author's project on wanting to become a teacher in Mishawaka. I have found that teaching is such a rewarding job."

Sarah and her husband, Neil, a St. Joseph County Police Officer live in Mishawaka and send their children to Mishawaka schools. Sarah believes that becoming a parent has

made her a better teacher, since she now has a better perspective on the role of families and education. Sarah and Neil believe that they are role models for their children and for the children that Sarah teaches. They believe in our community, our education system, and the important role that parents play in their children's education.

In the classroom, Sarah empowers her students with choices for their behavior and actions and the only rule in her classroom is the Golden Rule – *Do unto Others as You Would Have Them Do unto You*. Sarah also tries to have her class as close to normal every day life as possible. She encourages her students to cooperate with each other in every aspect of the daily routine. They problem solve in each and every subject, sharing ideas and leadership skills.

Sarah encourages her students to participate in many outside activities including PTA sponsored events, such as Book for Babies, Readers/Writers Workshop, Book It, St. Joseph County Food Bank, Logan Nose Fundraiser, Mayor Rea's Education Round Table, Student Treasures and recycling. These activities encourage positive behavior, reading and writing skills, and teach students about the environment. These programs enable students to appreciate that they have the power to make good choices; choices that can affect their lives and the lives of others, change their environment and save our planet.

Sarah exemplifies the Michiana Forty Under 40 Award Program. She has achieved distinguished success in her career as an educator, and at such a young age. Mishawaka is indebted to Sarah for her dedication and commitment to the students of our community. We are so appreciative of the kindness and patience that she shows to them each and every day. The difference that she is making in the lives of the children of Mishawaka will be remembered forever.

Martin Luther King Drum Major Award for Community Service

On February 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. preached an inspiring and now famous sermon on the importance of community service and love for our fellow neighbors. In remembrance of his life and dedication to peace, the City of Mishawaka would like to recognize three selfless members of our community as recipients of the Martin Luther King Drum Major for Social Justice and Peace Award. These individuals have devoted their time, talents and resources to benefit those within our community.

I am proud to present the Martin Luther King Drum Major Award to the following community members on behalf of the City of Mishawaka. I would like to thank each of them for their incessant loyalty, compassion, and devotion to our community.

Sr. Vice President Dennis Engbrecht, Bethel College

Dennis Engbrecht was born into a minister's home on the prairies of South Dakota. The eldest of four children, Dennis graduated from high school in Lincoln, Nebraska; completed a baccalaureate degree at McPherson College (1972), a Master of Arts degree at Kansas University (1976) and a Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska (1985). In 1974

he married Karla Bell of Topeka, Kansas and they have three children; Nathan (25), Aaron (22) and Rachel (18).

Dr. Engbrecht has been in ministry for years as a Youth For Christ staff worker, youth pastor, senior pastor, Bible college professor and currently Senior Vice-President at Bethel College. He also taught and coached in the public high schools for five years. Dennis is a frequent speaker in camps, local churches, conferences, seminars and on college campuses. His primary emphasis is spiritual renewal.

Associate Pastor Clint Schwartz

Associate Pastor Clint Schwartz leads the Missions Ministry at the vineyard Church in Mishawaka. Pastor Schwartz and his wife Rose and five children, Michael, Anna, John Michael, Ben and Rebekah. Clint has been an Associate Pastor with the Vineyard Church for the past four years. This past fall he led a mission trip to the Sudan and Uganda. Their mission is to help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by sharing the love of God through compassion ministry to those who are in extremely difficult situations. They provide this by partnering with pastors in foreign countries to share the Gospel and also by providing a hand-up approach instead of a hand-out approach to those in need of assistance in hopes of becoming self sufficient. Associate Pastor Schwartz dedicated immeasurable hours to the City of Mishawaka's annual Summer of Service Program, which helps to strengthen our community through showing care and support for those who need it the most. The objectives of the Summer of Service Program are to encourage youth volunteers to connect with the community, beautify the city and touch the lives of Mishawaka residents. Thanks to the leadership, faith and vision of Pastor Schwartz and the Summer of Service committee, the program continues to flourish and serve those most deserving.

Mishawaka Optimist Club Youth Appreciation Breakfast

Each year, Mayor Jeff looked forward to honoring the young men and women of our community who bring positivity and enthusiasm into our Mishawaka high schools. On Wednesday, April 14, 2010, Mayor Rea was delighted to present eight teens with awards at the Mishawaka Optimist Club Youth Appreciation Breakfast. These students each received a \$100 savings bond from local banks, as well as special gifts from the Mayor.

These eight students were selected based on the Optimist Club creed, which emphasizes positive self-esteem, a happy countenance, healthy relationships, personal strength, and uplifting attitudes towards others. These individuals persistently chose to have an optimistic mind-set and, in doing so, touch the hearts of those around them. The 2010 award-winners are:

First Baptist Christian School: Cory Long and Abby Ward

Marian High School: William Amar and Kathleen Klauer

Penn High School: Katie Aiello and Brandon Fewell

Mishawaka High School: Cody Burks and Molly Crawford

Mayor's Youth Initiative

Engaging the youth of Mishawaka continues to be one of the highest priorities of Mayor Dave's administration. Together they have spent an enormous amount of time in our schools actively encouraging our Mishawaka youth to study hard, listen to their parents and teachers and get a good education because they are "Mishawaka's future."

Mayor Dave proudly continues the great classroom programs:



- Reading in all classrooms grades Pre-school through 6th grade
- The Community Workers presentation for 2nd grade students
- The Mishawaka History for 3rd grade students
- The Indiana History for 4th grade students
- DARE for 5th and 8th grade students
- The If I Were Mayor Essay Contest for 6th grade students in association with the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns.
- Annual Town Hall Meeting at John Young Middle School
- Participate with the Student Council at Mishawaka High School
- Appear at Career Day at Mishawaka High School updating students on potential job and career opportunities in the community, as well as job and career opportunities with the City of Mishawaka
- Member of the Beyond The Cave Committee to help students with financial aid and college preparation
- Mayor's Youth Council

Mayor's Youth Council

Reaching out and engaging the youth of our community on a personal level has been a top priority of mine since taking office. Indeed, our greatest resource is our people and students are our future. I have been greatly impressed with our students. Likewise, I value their input for the community we build today is the community that they will

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inherit tomorrow. It is our responsibility to build a community that our youth can be proud of: a community that provides them with the opportunity to stay here, work, raise their family, recreate and retire in Mishawaka.

One way I have chosen to engage our students is to continue working with the Mayor's Youth Council. This is a great program that Mayor Rea started and I am proud to continue. High School students all grade levels are invited to participate and represent all three high schools in Mishawaka. The objective of the Mayor's Youth Council is three-fold. First, it is a special opportunity for each of them to serve their community in an important advisory capacity. They have participated as focus group advisors, helped our Summerfest Committee with program decisions on what we should offer young people and been advisors to the Police Department on issues like juvenile violence and crime. Secondly, we strive to make this an educational experience for the students. Department Managers speak to the Youth Council monthly updating the members on City projects and their departments, educating them on the services that the city provides and giving them valuable background information about local government.



Community service projects are the final part of the experience. Students work on community service projects for part of each meeting learning the value of giving back to the community that they call home.

The discussion is exceptional and the students are proud to represent the City as members of the Mayor's Youth Council. Their input and service are valued greatly and the Citizens of Mishawaka are well served by these outstanding young people. Each student has embraced their experience fully.

Hometown Holiday

In 2010, The Mishawaka Business Association, Mayor Dave Wood's Office and the Mishawaka Parks Department partnered for another successful hometown holiday for the children of Mishawaka. It was a beautiful and cold December night for the lighting of



our downtown Christmas tree and Santa's arrival in Mishawaka!

... another successful hometown holiday for the children of Mishawaka

This year our City Christmas tree was donated by the William Coleman family and they were given the honor to flip the light switch as hundreds of Mishawaka families gathered around to enjoy this special event in our hometown.

The Mishawaka Cavemen Conference champion football team donated their time to play games with children, face paint, and pass out books donated by Mayor Wood, City Clerk Debbie Block and a member of our City Council. Thanks to a donation from our friends at the Beiger Mansion, there was a magician and a balloonist handing out his balloon art free to the children. The



Mishawaka Parks Department provided free popcorn and treats for the children. There were cookies donated from Martin's Supermarkets and McDonald's drink for the kids. CVS provided free pictures for the kids sitting on Santa's lap.

As always, much gratitude goes to our community for their efforts to make this a very special evening for the over 450 children and families who enjoyed and participated in Hometown Holidays.

