



# 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.

Mishawaka, Indiana

Jeff Rea, Mayor

January 2009

## Combined Sewer Overflow

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

In this time of economic uncertainty, getting the most out of every dollar is more important than ever. Just like individuals, cities face expenses that cannot be avoided. One such expense is the federal requirement to address combined sewer overflows.

Combined sewer systems carry storm water and raw sewage in the same pipes. Combined sewer systems were built prior to the 1950's, and can discharge untreated sewage and storm water to the river at structures called combined sewer overflows (CSOs) when there are

heavy rains. These overflow points protect houses from basement flooding and prevent sewage from backing up onto streets and yards, and were considered a cost-effective way of dealing with the overflow of storm waters. Today, however, the systems do not meet with standards for environmental sustainability.

There are 770 CSO communities in the United States which serve about 40 million people. Mishawaka is one of more than 100 Indiana communities with combined sewers. As a result of the negative environmental issues they create, Federal law has recently required all cities

with combined sewers to develop long-term control plans to reduce or eliminate CSOs.

The elimination of combined sewer overflows is difficult and expensive—it is not simply matter of fixing something that is broken. Correcting CSOs will require re-designing large parts of our sewer system, including expanding wastewater plants, increasing sewer sizes, building storage tanks and tunnels, and building new separate storm and sanitary sewers. Mishawaka has taken a very proactive stance on the issue of correcting CSO systems within the City: early action projects have reduced annual CSO volume by 85% since

*(continued on back page)*

### This Month:

- Combined Sewer Overflow
- Winter Fun in Mishawaka

### Next Month:

- Mishawaka Utility Online
- Bill Pay

All past issues of the Communicator are available at



## Princess City Progress

### All Things Riverwalk:

Over Thanksgiving the Riverwalk cable-stayed bridge was officially opened. A special thank you to those who brought non-perishable food items for the Mayor's Youth Council's food drive as part of the bridge opening. The architecturally significant bridge is not only functional but also serves as an appropriate symbol of the connection between the historic and modern. The bridge connects the oldest and newest city parks, as well as, connects older established neighborhoods to the Ironworks mixed use development currently under construction on the former Uniroyal properties. The plywood panels that were temporarily placed along the railing to open the bridge should be replaced with the permanent metal panels in January.

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### Lincoln Park- Kamm Island to Logan Street

After many years of submitting for grants and jumping through federal government hurdles, the City is ready to proceed with construction of the Riverwalk section behind the waste water treatment facility that will connect Logan Street Bridge to Kamm Island. Through a partnership with INDOT and MA-



*(Riverwalk cable-stayed bridge)*

COG, the project was just bid and will be awarded to the low bidder, Northern Indiana Construction. This 1.3 million dollar project will receive approximately \$900,000 in federal transportation grants. The project will start in the coming months and is estimated to be completed in the Fall of 2009.

### Of Special Interest:

T-shirts commemorating The City of Mishawaka 175 anniversary and the 25th anniversary of Summerfest 25<sup>th</sup> are available for sale in the Controllers office at Mishawaka City Hall. The City of Mishawaka T-shirts are printed in two popular colors green and maroon. Maroon sizes are L, XL, XXL green sizes are M, L, XL, XXL. Cost is \$10.00/ea for sizes M thru XL. XXL is \$15.00/ea. Summerfest T-shirts are available in colors of blue or brown. Sizes M-thru XXL. Cost is \$10.00/ea for sizes M-XL. \$15.00 for XXL. Quantities are limited so come in early for the best selection.

## Around the Town

### January:

1st - New Years Day

19th - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
(City Offices Closed)

### February:

12th - Valentines Day Tea -

The City cordially invites you and your loved one to enjoy the annual Valentine's Day Tea at the Battell Center on February 12th at 12:30 in the Community Room of the Battell Community Center.

17th - State of the City Address

Mayor Jeff Rea will give his state of the City Address to the Mishawaka Common Council at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Mishawaka City Hall

See the complete city calendar on the web at:  
[MishawakaCity.com](http://MishawakaCity.com)

## A Letter from the Mayor (continued)

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The city is close to reaching an agreement with the EPA on a plan to take care of our remaining CSOs. Mishawaka's long-term control plan will result in the elimination of overflows in years with average rainfall. Our plan is cost-effective but will still be expensive. Because of the \$140 million estimated cost of controlling our remaining CSOs, the city is seeking a 20 year schedule to complete the project. Although we are committed to minimizing rate increases necessary to pay for our long term control plan, we ask you to understand that CSO control is a Federal mandate and therefore, City officials do not have the option to not take action. Our long term control plan will have to receive Federal approval.

Currently the cost of CSO control falls completely on local communities. A series of sewer rate increases will be necessary to begin the implementation of the long-term control plan. The City is already involved in an aggressive search for other funding sources that may lessen the impact on our ratepayers. These efforts will continue for the duration of the CSO control program implementation. We have met with Indiana's congressional offices to explore possible grants or earmark funding, and have submitted projects that may be considered for funding as a part of the federal infrastructure stimulus program. As always, we will seek low interest state loans if we must borrow to pay for projects.

TIF funding may also be used to help offset rate increases. Mishawaka will continue to work toward cost-effective solutions for a cleaner St. Joseph River and healthier neighborhoods.



## Winter fun in Mishawaka!

Mishawaka has two great locations for family winter family fun this winter: The Merrifield Complex, home to an outdoor skating rink, and George Wilson Park, home to the "Tubing Hill". Both locations charge a minimal admission fee, depending on your residency; and both can host group outings. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.mishawakacity.com/parksandrecreations.asp> or call the Park Office at 574-258-1664.

The Merrifield Complex offers public ice skating Monday - Thursday from 1:00 to 5:00 PM; Fridays from 1:00 to 8:00 PM; and Saturdays/Sundays from 12:00 to 4:00 PM and 4:30 to 9:00 PM. Groups are welcome during open skate and those in excess of ten (10) will receive a discount on admission. Merrifield also offers a Party Package that is ideal for planning that winter birthday party. The Party Package is an economical way to

skate, eat, and have fun at Merrifield. For planning your outing or group activity, please contact Merrifield at 574-258-1665. Bring your own skates, spend time with friends/family and enjoy time on the ice (and at the snack bar). If you do not have skates, don't worry! Merrifield rents both figure and hockey style skates in a variety of shoe sizes for nearly everyone. For additional information, please visit Merrifield Ice Rink's home page at: <http://www.mishawakacity.com/MerrifieldRink.asp>.



George Wilson Park is a winter hot-spot for kids, teens and families during the winter season. At the park, you and your family can fly down the snowy "Tubing Hill". Just in case it is too cold, there is a large warming shelter area that offers a warm, dry place to meet friends, a cozy fire (and/or furnace heat), and vending machines. Groups are welcome and those in excess of ten (10) will receive a discount on admission. It's a great way to spend a snowy day with family or friends! Daily tubing hours are typically from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM, weather permitting. For more information, or to plan your group outing, contact the Park Office at 574-258-1664