



Parks and Recreation Department

The employees of our Mishawaka Parks and Recreation Department work each and every day to make sure that our 30 Mishawaka Parks are beautiful, relaxing places for our residents of all ages to enjoy!



Our Mishawaka Parks are the best places in Mishawaka when they are filled with are citizens! Our Parks are busy all summer long with families playing on the playgrounds or playing in one of our splash pads on a hot summer afternoon. In the spring and fall, couples are taking a stroll along the River walk or sitting in Beutter Park having a quiet moment. In the winter months George Wilson Park Tubing Hill is a favorite of the kids on a snowy day for a fun thrill day on the hill.

Our Mishawaka Parks also offer recreational programs, special events, sporting leagues; special interest classes and community programs and activities at Battell Center so there is lots to do no matter what the season.

With over 400 acres of open space that we have developed or currently maintain prove that the community engages these areas to elevate its quality of life. From wedding gardens to a nationally ranked disc golf course, from concert lawns and



amphitheatres to pavilions, from playgrounds and splash pads to an Olympic sized swimming pool, Mishawaka Parks has plenty of opportunity for our citizens to develop a physical, social and emotional well-being for themselves and their families.

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Robert C. Beutter Riverfront Park

Robert C. Beutter Riverfront Park is host to a beautiful and scenic park with the ability to hold outdoor concerts. The Beutter Park Concert Series has been a hit since its inaugural debut in 2007. Thursday evenings during the summer months the park plays host to a free open air concert weekly for families to enjoy, attracting up to 700 people. Beutter Park also hosts a “Movie Night” for families once a month at no cost. Families can bring a blanket or picnic and lie back on the grassy seating and enjoy quality time together, as well as a movie.

Riverwalk

The Mishawaka River-Walk was completed in 2009. This permanent development provides over a 2 ½ mile path around the beautiful and scenic St. Joseph River for citizens to enjoy. The River-Walk passes through seven (7) Mishawaka parks, gardens, and art in public places, including Robert C. Beutter Riverfront Park, Kamm Island Park, Lincoln Park and Boat Launch, Kate’s Garden, Battell Park, Ball Band Monument and Central Park. Citizens can stroll along the River-Walk or stop and enjoy the amenities at any of the parks along the way. The Mishawaka River-Walk can be considered the recreation “engine” or foundation to build upon for new and exciting future events.



The Battell Community Center

Battell Community Center has been providing programming and activities for the seniors and youth of our community since 1980. Each year we are privileged to work with the residents of our community to expand upon and add a new selection of events to the community center.

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In 2009 the Park Administrative Office was relocated to the Battell Center for multiple reasons and most importantly to improve the efficiency of both the Battell Center and the Park Office. Becky Kindig is the Building Coordinator for the Battell Center and will help with scheduling classes and answering questions that anyone might have.



The Battell Community Center’s mission statement is to “administer programs and services as a public trust to multiply opportunities for happiness and health, regardless of age, sex, creed, or condition of life.” Programming includes such types of activities as dance classes, exercise classes, musical and theatrical entertainment, club activities, health and wellness programs, adult painting classes, gardening classes, kids’ classes. A fitness room on the third floor affords adults and seniors the opportunity to stay in shape. All programming is designed to enrich and expand one’s mind, body and spirit.

Each year the Battell Center continues to advance its mission of administering programs and recreational activities to the community. Our goal is to continue to make a difference in Mishawaka for our residents both young and old. Without the generous help and selfless dedication of our volunteers that would not be possible.

We are very appreciative and thankful for all the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and for all that they do each year at the Battell Center, and also for the community as well. Each year Battell Center celebrates its volunteers in April at the Annual Volunteer Breakfast.

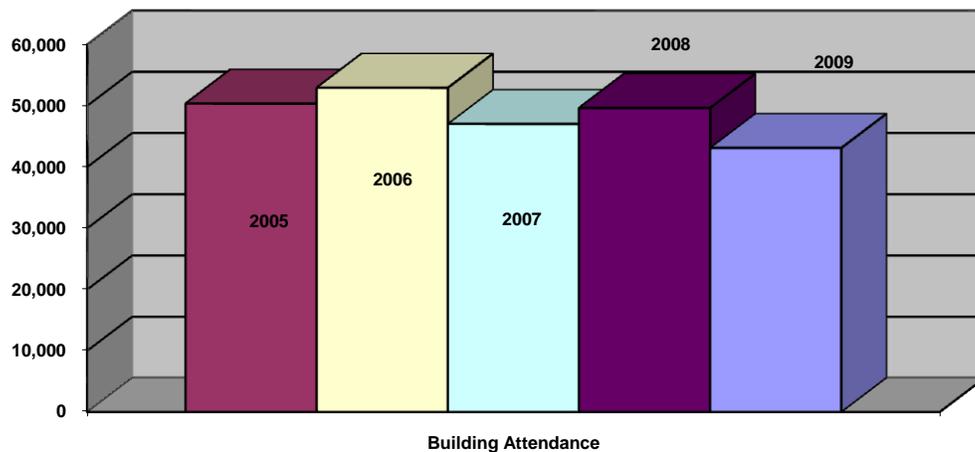


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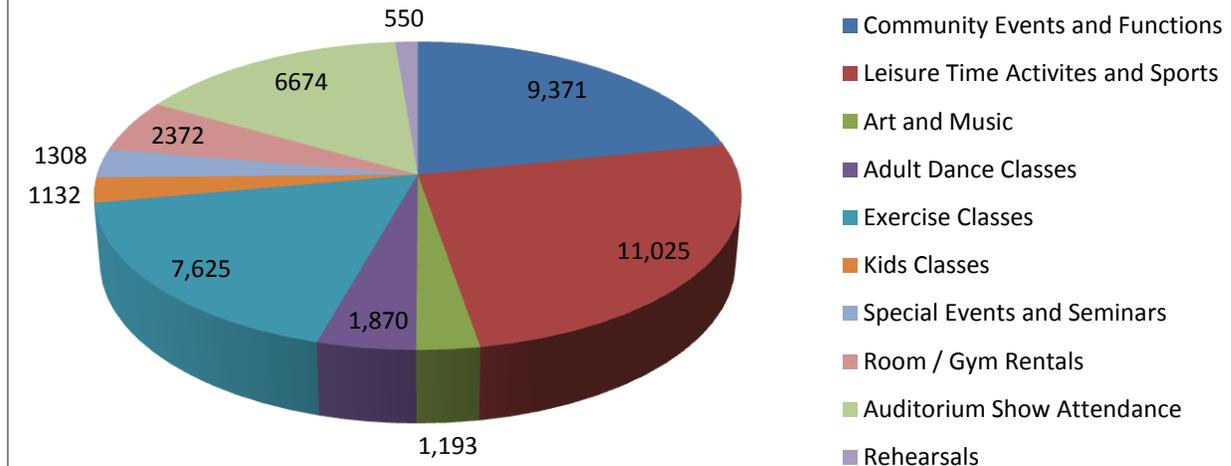
The Battell Community continued its trend in 2009, where people would gather to socialize, learn, exercise, recreate, and be entertained from its large variety of offerings. A recorded 43,120 used Battell Center in 2009 for a variety of reasons.

One of the highlights at Battell Community Center is its auditorium. The auditorium is in strong demand by hometown theatrical groups such as The Main Stage Inc., The Company, The Performing Arts Center, Michiana Concert Band, and Ruby Jazayre. Each group brings its own flavor to Battell Community Center with a mission to provide quality performances, quality instruction, a magical experience, and a belief that music builds a strong sense of skills.





Battell Center



Battell Park

Battell Park, also along the River-Walk, hosts another one of our concert series, the Battell Band shell Concert Series. This concert series, geared toward the generation from the 50's, hosts Swing, Jazz, Big Band, Dixieland and Concert Band entertainment. Residents can bring a lawn chair, their grandchildren, and a picnic to the concerts. There is something for everyone: adults can enjoy the music while the children play in the wet fun at the splash pad or on the playground within visual sight. Albright Methodist church across the street often piggy-backs on these events and hosts ice cream socials on their lawn which are free to the public and enjoyed by the concert-goers.



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Recreation

Other than open space, the Parks Department offers special events to enrich the community and its families. Some of these activities and events include Punt, Pass and Kick Competition, a national event sponsored by the NFL; Pitch, Hit and Run, a national event sponsored by the Major League Baseball; the Princess City Youth Triathlon, Hometown for the Holidays, Winter Fest, and Little Tikes Christmas Party. The Department also offers a variety of programming for both adults and youth, including Adult Softball, Men's Basketball, Women's Volleyball, Youth Tackle Football, Youth Flag Football, Youth Wrestling, and Tot Soccer. Youth programs are designed to teach the basic fundamentals of the sport, sportsmanship, and team building with an emphasis on good health in mind and body.



Although golf continues to be one of the city's number one overall attractions for leisure time activity, the department continued their efforts to offer a wide range of programs, events and activities to meet the diverse needs and ages of the entire community. The following breakdown includes the 2009 program/event/sport, number of participants and the revenue generated from it.

RECREATION PROGRAM NON-REVERTING REVENUE

Non-Rev Disc	\$1,389.00
Non-Rev Softball	\$9,025.00
Non-Rev Tube Admiss	\$6,044.00
Non-Rev Tube Rental	\$7,135.00



Merrifield and Mary Gibbard Pools



Another division within the Parks and Recreation Department includes aquatics: While Merrifield and Mary Gibbard Pools continue to be the annual family gathering spot for aquatic recreation; the community continues to weigh their options with the summertime aquatic fun. In recent years many have taken a break from the traditional swimming pools and have engaged their friends to cool off in the splashpad's in the parks. On any given day, throughout the summer months, you will find hundreds of children and families spending their leisure time together socializing within these permanent park facility attractions. Whether you are in one of the two pools sliding down the water slides or spraying your friends in one of the four splashpad's the community and visitors continue to congregate to these highly attracted areas for its positive and safe environment. A part of the overall positive recreational experience is knowing you are carefree and within a safe environment. The department recognizes this and provides policies and methods to know who is using facilities at all times through its photo identification cards.



Merrifield Ice Rink

Ice Rink: Photo Id's are also used for everyone's safety who is wanting to ice skate at Merrifield Ice Skating Rink. The ice rink has remained a highly attractive winter time activity providing users with everlasting memories of fun and where they first learned to ice skate. Those lessons continue to be another draw to Merrifield and in 2009 there were fifty-five participants that signed up to learn. Other attractions to the Merrifield Ice Rink in 2009 included the University of Notre Dame Hockey



Team who practiced at the complex on January 23rd. This “Practice on the Pond” was a change of pace for the Notre Dame Hockey Team to practice outdoors and at the same time demonstrate their skills and technique as well as meet and greet the three hundred fans that attended the open practice. The hockey players took the time to talk with their fans, sign autographs and take pictures. This event gained a great deal of media hype through local news channels as well as local radio stations who gave away door prizes for people that attended. Other Ice Rink attractions included the family get together or “Winter-fest” on December 5th. This new program attracted many families to take advantage of a great night of skating, food and beverage, Santa Clause and bon fire.



Mishawaka Youth Tackle Football League

The Mishawaka Youth Tackle Football League (“MFL”) program, a joint venture between the Mishawaka Parks & Recreation Department and the School City of Mishawaka, is designed to teach children ages 7-13 the basic fundamentals of football, as well as sportsmanship, respect and responsibility. The MFL program structure includes four “A” league teams, four “B” league teams, 32 coaches, and numerous parental volunteers and park staff members. The “A” league is designed for players in 5th and 6th grade while the “B” league is geared for players in 2nd through 4th grades.



Since its inception in 2002, the MFL program has been very successful as a feeder program for our middle and high school football programs. In 2004, the high school’s freshman team had players from our very first MFL year. According to the high school coaches, the knowledge those players possessed concerning football was much greater than those who had not participated in the MFL program. Thus, appeared that what we were teaching was effective and our approach geared in the right direction. Armed with this piece of information, we decided to take a

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proactive approach to bettering the program each year so that it continues to be a source of skilled players for other programs.

MFL teaches not only football skills and sportsmanship but life-long skills as well. An emphasis is placed on such life-long skills as doing your personal best and active listening that help to develop well-rounded children and prepare children for leadership roles within our community. Other life skills which MFL teaches include respect of fellow team mates and coaches, responsibility, cooperation, effort, flexibility, perseverance, common sense and pride in doing one's personal best.

Community Support

Funding from community businesses and organizations such as School City of Mishawaka and Jordan Ford Automotive helped to establish our MFL program. This year the program suited 197 children in equipment and uniforms thanks, in part, to a grant from the National Recreation and Park Association, as well as assistance from community businesses such as Sports Image Apparel and Mike's Sporting Goods.

2009 Recap

The 2009 MFL season proved once again to be very successful attracting over 230 players with six teams in the B-League and four teams in the A-League. The 2009 season saw a different approach to assist in attracting more participants. Traditionally in years past, the league would begin in August before school started its fall session. This year's decision to wait until after school began helped to market the program, and target the kids within each school. This change escalated numbers from 168 participants in 2008 to 230 participants in 2009.

As for competition, each team in both leagues began their scheduled Sunday games on September 13th and played every week at John Young Jr. High School and Hums Park. The championship and consolation games were played on November 1, 2009 at Mishawaka High School's Steel Stadium.

As the Mishawaka Football League (MFL) continues to grow in numbers, so does the support and benefits to our youth and to the high school football program. As



the kids learn the basic fundamentals and techniques at an early age, time is minimized on having to teach these tools at the high school allowing more time to focus on game plans and strategies. This was proven to be worthy as the Mishawaka Cavemen Football Team climbed up the ladder in the state ranking polls to number 5 overall, recording a record of 10-1, and beating the Penn Kingsmen for the first time in twenty nine years!

Eberhart-Petro Golf Course

When you think of beauty and landscape in Mishawaka, one area in particular you may think of is Eberhart Petro Golf Course. While the course is known for its continued upgrades and beautification, it is also known for issues of flooding, particularly in the early spring months. 2009 saw substantial flooding resulting in a six week delay into the golf season, however, Eberhart bounced back to have an average year financially and provide golfers with course conditions second to none among municipal golf courses. While flooding issues will always be of concern, specific plans to install drainage tile were prepared in 2009. Drainage tile will obviously not eliminate the flooding of the rising river, it will however, expedite the drainage to help the course dry quicker.

A continuation of improvements through strategic planning are conducted on a yearly basis at Eberhart and in 2009, many were implemented to carry on the efforts in making Eberhart the finest municipal golf course in Indiana. As dead, dying and diseased trees are removed, new trees are planted. In 2009 staff removed several mature trees at holes 4, 7, 10, 14, and 17. Newly planted trees; including ten 1.5” Hard Maples at holes 1, 11, and 5. Along with these improvements, extensive tree pruning was conducted daily throughout course. Other improvements included a major community service project with Bethel College students to clean up riverbank at hole #13. This project mandated an overabundance of volunteer laborers to help assist with the removal of unsightly trees and underbrush. The Mishawaka Parks Department is grateful to the Eberhart volunteer for their contributions to golf course in 2009.



Landscaping

While a majority of our park volunteer groups contribute to specific maintenance project tasks, many also assist the city landscape division in weeding, pruning and planting flowers, trees and shrubs. City Landscape Supervisor, Rick Springer and his crew worked diligently orchestrating these volunteers and at the same time complete the following highlighted tasks over 1000 perennials were replaced in Beutter Park. These were missing either from the floods we had or from animals digging them up and eating them.

In 2009, 55 shrubs and 86 trees of various varieties of maple, oak, red bud, and crab were planted in 2009 at Battell Park, Borley Park, Merrifield Park, Central Park, Twin Branch, Monkey Island, Eberhart Petro Golf Course. Also 4 Memorial Trees were planted at Kamm Island, Battell Park and Mary Gibbard Park.

Park Charity Events

Mishawaka Parks provides the location for two other annual events, the Snowball Softball Tournament sponsored by Corvilla which raises funds to provide homes for persons with developmental disabilities, and Wiffle Ballin' for Kids sponsored by The Children's Campus, which helps raise funds for local charities. In addition to these, Mishawaka Parks offers ball fields to the Special Olympics organization at no charge in preparation of their annual event.

Par for the Cause 2009

In June, Eberhart Golf Pro Ben Berger completed the "Par for the Cause 2009." This annual event is a fundraiser for the Logan Regional Autism Center in South Bend. Donors are asked to pledge a dollar amount, per the number of holes played by Berger. This year, Mr. Berger completed 600 holes, playing the links at Eberhart from the crack of dawn to last bit of sunlight. Amazingly, during his many rounds, Berger netted 1 Eagle, 97 birdies, had a low score of 65 and an average score of 72. Berger averaged only 27 minutes per round, traveling a total of 90 miles on the course, and in all raised \$25,000 for Logan. This event annually is a great benefit for the charity, and brings great recognition to the golf course as quite a few spectators come to cheer Ben on.

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At the end of the Golf season, Berger retired from the Golf business, to enter the private sector. We are appreciative of the many advances made at Eberhart under Berger's leadership. Who knows, maybe he'll come back with a goal of beating 600!



Community Volunteers:

Over the past ten years the parks and recreation department has been blessed with a variety of groups and individuals to give back to the community and volunteer their time to make a difference. While every individual and group make significant impacts on their task at hand, two large groups including Bethel College and Five Star certainly do not go unnoticed for their impact as well as the large numbers they produce.

The Park Department is so very fortunate to have all of our groups and individuals take time out from their busy lives to volunteer and give back to their community. The following list of names are also recognized for their efforts for helping and giving back:

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Bethel College

Bethel College once again made a large impact with the city and park department as they provided a day of service continue their annual efforts to clean up the riverbank along the city river-walk, on Wilson Blvd. From Logan Street Bridge through Battell Park, students worked tirelessly hauling debris and overgrown vegetation, ke offering over 300 students and faculty members to eping the banks clutter free and enhancing the visual site for folks using the river-walk. In addition, the students provided their clean-up services on the overgrown, weed infested banks at Eberhart Petro Golf Course. With the efforts at Eberhart, the students contributed to the aseptically pleasing landscape surrounding on the 15th green and 16th fairway. Moreover, both projects conducted are considered high volume traffic areas that require countless man hours of work. By having Bethel College volunteer their services, the city was able to reduce the man hours from a 3-4 week project on the river-walk and weeklong project at Eberhart, to a one day project, as well as save thousands of tax payer dollars!



Five Star



Five Star was back again for their second consecutive year, bringing in excess of over 500 volunteers to Battell Park. On Saturday November 11, 2009 the group from Five Star after school program took advantage of their pledge contributors to spend a beautiful sun shiny day in Battell Park and along Wilson Blvd, river-walk, raking leaves. From 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. the large group paced themselves to capture every leaf in the park and river-walk. What generally takes a park crew of eight

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employees nearly three full days to complete Battell Park and one full day on the river-walk, this crew accomplished in 3 hours!

Cub Scout Pack #404 brought over a dozen of their group along with their leaders and several parents to their annual clean-up and boat race at Laing Park. The scouts, as always, took great pride and did a great job giving the park a good spring clean up. This service project has taken place annually for several years and it is safe to say that Cub Scout Pack #404 has adopted this park as their target area for the environmental spring clean-up.

School City of Mishawaka contributed in many ways this year. Mrs. Shiner's 5th grade class from Beiger Elementary School once again came out to Battell Park and Merrifield Pool to rake leaves, pick-up trash and basically perform a spring clean up. The students also planted annual flowers in the rock garden and the entrance nodes at Battell Park as well as planting flowers around the pool at Merrifield Complex.



These children learned about helping the community through their actions and 'take ownership' of the areas where they have worked. Mrs. Shiner has performed this work with her class for over ten years in Battell Park. While the children were busy in Battell and Merrifield, an older group of students from Mishawaka High School volunteered their day by spring cleaning in Rose Park as well as Beutter Park. Again, the students performed annual maintenance; picking up trash, debris, raking leaves, planting flowers etc.

The University of Notre Dame, Center for Social Concerns, contacted the park department late 2008 requesting partnership to make a difference with the environment to offset carbons in the air. As part of their proposal, they agreed to join the department at its annual Arbor Day celebration and plant 40 trees, in our city parks. Parks receiving trees included Monkey Island, Eberhart Golf Course,

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Hillis Hans, Twin Branch, Central, Battell and Merrifield. The 40 trees was a fifty-fifty match between the city and university.

Friends of Beutter Park volunteers once again took time out of their busy schedules to attend to their “adopted” flower beds. With over 38,000 plantings and forty (40) flower beds, many of the volunteers spent majority of their time pulling weeds and spreading mulch in their designated bed. Volunteers including Mayor Rea, former Mayor Bob Beutter and his wife Mary Alice just to name a few; were the dedicated individuals who helped out on a weekly basis, to contribute to the parks overall beauty.

The Mishawaka Historical Society officially adopted Ball Band Park in 2009 and assisted with its annual clean up as well as the planting of the annual flowers.

Jim and Nancy Olsen, assisted by their neighbors on Calhoun St. and Wilson Blvd. kept the traffic island located on that corner in beautiful condition all year. This group of dedicated citizens has provided inspiration to others in the neighborhood.

The Martellaro Family and neighbors kept the traffic island on the corner of Clay St. and Wilson Blvd. looking nice all year and provide another example of how a few people can make such a big difference.

River Valley Church youth spent a day working at Merrifield Complex and Shiojiri Niwa where they applied fresh mulch to all of the flower and shrub beds.

The Mishawaka Garden Club continued their project of planting the multi-annual planters in the downtown area for the beautification of the downtown area.

The Michiana Master Gardeners Club continued with their project at the back of Kate’s Garden where they are creating different types of gardens (Rose garden, annual garden, shade garden, etc).

Members of LDS helped with two projects. First they spent a couple of hours at Henry Frank Park picking up branches and debris and a couple of weeks later they



got together at Beutter Park and did a tremendous job putting down new mulch at Beutter Park.

Girl Scout troop #45 spent an evening planting flowers at Beutter Park and Girl Scout Troop #46 spent an evening planting flowers at Rose Park.



Friends of Hillis Hans Park got together on a Saturday in early spring to plant 3 donated trees in the park and to plant 10 donated shrubs around the bathroom facility. This same group was instrumental in the efforts in collecting over \$5,000 to be applied to the new pavilion scheduled to go up in the spring of 2010.

The Japanese – American Friendship Club cleaned up Shiojiri Niwa in the early spring and then held a picnic serving traditional Japanese food.

The Citizens in Alliance with Police Program (CAPS)

The Citizens in Alliance with Police, was a new program created in 2009, in an effort to reduce nuisance crimes in our downtown city parks. It is a project which places caring and community spirited volunteers patrolling our downtown parks looking for acts of vandalism and other nuisance crimes and rendering aid to those who come to enjoy our city parks. C.A.P. volunteers are on patrol in the evening hours every night of the week in a specially marked golf cart. They are also identifiable by the light blue C.A.P. shirts they all wear.



This is a great community based program which partners community members with our police and parks personnel. With the outstanding support of the City of

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Mishawaka, we believe this program will be a valuable resource in the years to come.

Summerfest

Mishawaka's celebration of the 26th annual Summerfest was once again the highlight of the 2009 summer. Three days of festivities, including the craft and food vendors, and a musical fireworks display was once again a huge hit! In addition, Main Stage, Inc. was also back again to offer to shows; performing the 80's classic, "Fame". The "Battle of the Bands" competition also returned for its second year, but was conducted in a new format. Ten bands competed the week before Summerfest at Beutter Park, placing the top three to the finals on Summerfest Saturday in Merrifield Park. Once the competition concluded on the main stage, "Vehikle" was crowned champions and a free ticket to open up for the headline entertainer, "Hotel California". Hotel California, an Eagles Tribute Band, stunned the record setting crowd with their looks and identical sounds of the classic rock legend, Eagles.

As in years past, Summerfest saw some of its yearly attractions including the World Famous Racing Pigs, 5k run/walk, youth triathlon, and various sports tournaments including fishing, basketball, volleyball and horseshoes. The Summerfest 5K Run/Walk once again attracted a record setting numbers totaling 345 participants while the youth triathlon increased its numbers to nearly 120 kids. Throughout the course of the two and half day Summerfestival, crowds remained steady as Mother Nature brought in beautiful weather conditions.





Arbor Day

In April, the City, Mishawaka Utilities, the Park Department and Mishawaka School City celebrated its 20th consecutive Arbor Day celebration. This year Battell School students participated in the Arbor Day festivities in Merrifield Park.



Kamm Island Fest



The Mishawaka Business Association and the City of Mishawaka teamed up again in 2009 for the 6th Annual Kamm Island Fest. For the first year – it did not rain! The weather was absolutely beautiful the entire evening! Again the crowds were good and everyone enjoyed themselves along the beautiful Riverwalk. The event provided great food, great music, great friendship and great art. It was a great night to be in Mishawaka!

Hometown Holiday

December 5, 2009 was a very cold and snowy night in Mishawaka but an exciting one for the children of the Princess City because Santa Claus came to town! The Mishawaka Business Association and the City of Mishawaka partner together each year to bring this event to the downtown. A large tent is set up in Beutter Park and over 400 of our Mishawaka children play games, do crafts, participate in a coloring contest, and receive free books, balloons, popcorn,



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cookies and candy as they wait their turn to have their picture taken with Santa. The event which includes the official lighting of the downtown Christmas Tree would not be possible without the donations of our generous sponsors. We would like to send a special thank you to the Penn High School Football Team and Cheerleaders for volunteering to paint faces and help with games and crafts.

Martin Luther King Drum Major Award for Community Service

The City of Mishawaka is proud to honor three special members of our community with the Martin Luther King Drum Major for Social Justice and Peace Award. These individuals have unselfishly given their time, talents and resources to better our community. This award is given in remembrance of Dr. King and a famous sermon he preached on February 4, 1968 regarding the importance of community service and love of all humanity.

It is an honor to present the Martin Luther King Drum Major Award for the City of Mishawaka to the following individuals on behalf of Mishawaka and I would like to thank them for their compassion, commitment and devotion to our community.

Paul Baldwin

Paul Baldwin, his wife Becky, and their four children, Libby, Elisha, Hannah and Abby are residents of the City of Mishawaka and parishioners of the River Valley Church. As the Spiritual Formation Pastor and Leader of the Young Life Youth Ministry for the River Valley Church in Mishawaka, Paul has dedicated his ministry to serving the youth of the Mishawaka community. Paul spent seven years as the Youth Pastor for River Valley, and in that time, spent countless hours devoting himself to the care and instruction of children and teens. Three years ago, his passion for the principles espoused by Dr. King lead him to approach the City of Mishawaka with an idea for a service program centered on acts of charity, faith, and fellowship. This program allowed for the youth of the city to become deeply



involved in donating their surplus in time, talent, and resources to serving the less fortunate in the Mishawaka community.

Paul's idea for youth-centered community service projects has evolved into the City's annual Summer of Service program, which helps to strengthen our community through showing care and support for those who need it the most. Through the Summer of Service, Paul's unique talent, faith, and vision have touched countless lives throughout the Mishawaka community. By modeling the principles of charity, justice, and peace, Paul has become a trusted steward and role model for our community.

Pastor Warren Kirkwood

Pastor Warren Kirkwood has been a key component of the Mishawaka Alliance of Care Food Pantry since 1993. Before the Mishawaka Alliance of Care was formed, several Mishawaka churches kept food for the hungry in our City, but needed a better way to meet their growing needs. Albright Church, with Pastor Warren Kirkwood's guidance, offered to house the MAC Food Pantry. Due to his talent for leadership and compassion for others, he has taken a fledgling food pantry effort out of an area the size of a closet and turned it into an organization which helps to feed over 300 families every month. His compassion, charity, dedication and commitment to community outreach have brought together other area churches and businesses into volunteering their time, talents, efforts and resources into keeping the pantry open to the community.

Rob Wegner, Pastor of Life Mission, Granger Community Church

Pastor Wegner has taught Purpose-Driven Church to church leaders throughout the world and has been a main session speaker at Saddleback's Purpose-Driven Church Conference. Rob is married to his wife Michelle and they have three daughters: Madeline, Whitney and Isabelle.

In Rob's own words, "Injustice can be remedied if the church is on mission. When people feel spiritually lost for lack of good news, when a child goes to bed hungry at night, when a family lives without decent shelter, when children live in ignorance because there is no one to teach them to read, when inner city teenagers turn to



gangs because they don't see any way out of the cycle of poverty, when countless people suffer from disease that could easily be prevented...these things break God's heart, and I want them to break mine. I want to be God's friend and carry His burdens, not just have Him carry mine."

As teaching pastor at Granger, Rob Wegner has committed his ministry to planting churches, developing partnerships, equipping leaders, assisting and feeding the poor, caring for the sick and educating the next generation, both in our community and around the world. Pastor Wegner is an energetic and deeply talented role model for the Mishawaka community who has dedicated his life to achieving the principles of social justice espoused by Dr. King.

Pastor Warren works tirelessly to keep the food pantry shelves stocked. He directs a dedicated group of volunteers who work around the clock to meet people's physical and spiritual needs. He is known throughout the Mishawaka community for his ability to communicate a strong message of love and charity, and for always showing the utmost care and compassion for all he encounters. The Albright United Methodist Church and the entire community are fortunate to have such a fine servant of social justice as the Pastor Warren.

CURE Gun Buyback Program

On Saturday, the Cities of Mishawaka and South Bend partnered again in 2009 with CURE (Community Religious Effort) in an initiative to remove guns from the streets by the means of a gun buyback program on June 13th. The City of Mishawaka has been a member of CURE since its inception in 1997. CURE is led by Dennis Engbrecht Senior Vice President for Bethel College and Rev. Keith D. Witherspoon. Our community is immensely grateful to the members of this organization and to organizations who worked along side of CURE towards finding a solution of promoting nonviolent conflict resolutions and making our community a better place to live.



Capital Avenue Litigation

On November 23, 2009, the City of Mishawaka filed a complaint with fellow plaintiff, Memorial Health System, Inc., against Michael Reed, in his capacity as the Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner, the Indiana Department of Transportation, and the State of Indiana. The complaint alleged that Section 279 of P.L. 182-2009 (Indiana's state budget bill), which designated a portion of State Road 331/Capital Avenue in St. Joseph County as a limited access highway, is unconstitutional. The unconstitutional law allows for only nine access points to State Road 331/Capital Avenue between the U.S. Highway 20 bypass and State Road 23. Access points not provided for, and thus required to be closed, include Douglas Road and the Indiana Toll Road interchange. Mishawaka maintains that the law is unconstitutional because it is a special law applying to only one location in the state. The law is harmful to Mishawaka because closing access points may increase emergency vehicle response times, will create traffic congestion, will limit future commercial and business investment in Mishawaka, decreasing tax revenues, and will require Mishawaka to spend money to rework development plans and upgrade or construct roads to create alternate traffic routes.

Mishawaka filed an Application for Preliminary Injunction on January 20, 2010. The requested preliminary injunction asks that the court enjoin and prohibit the defendants from taking steps to enforce the State Road 331 Access Law by closing existing access points on the designated portion of State Road 331 pursuant to the law or by taking any other actions aimed at enforcing the law until a final judgment is reached in the case. A hearing on the Application for Preliminary Injunction will be held, but has not yet been set by the court.

The City is also attacking the problem on a different front. The State legislature is considering two bills, Senate Bill 170 and House Bill 1125 that would correct the problem created by the State Road 331 Access Law. The City has actively lobbied at the Statehouse to remedy the problem, and has been successful in at least the Senate where SB 170 has passed. House Bill 1125 will soon be heard in a second committee meeting and it remains to be seen whether it will pass.



Pleasureland Museum Litigation

On December 17, 2009, Pleasureland Museum, Inc. filed a Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief against the City of Mishawaka in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, South Bend Division regarding the validity of its Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance requesting that the City of Mishawaka be permanently enjoined from enforcing the ordinance. The City of Mishawaka will file its answer on or before February 19, 2010.