



MISHAWAKA COMMUNICATOR



A LETTER FROM MAYOR DAVE WOOD



Looking Back with Purpose. Looking Ahead with Resolve.

As we begin a new year, it's important to take an honest look at where we've been—and where we're headed as a city.

There's no question that **2025 was a challenging year for Mishawaka**, and for cities and towns across Indiana. The passage and implementation of **SEA 1 by the State Legislature, signed into law by Governor Braun**, significantly modified Indiana's property tax system. As adopted, the law provides substantial tax relief for businesses and more limited potential relief for residential homeowners.

For local governments, however, the impact has been significant. SEA 1 is currently projected to reduce City of Mishawaka funding by approximately **20 percent—nearly \$15 million.**

Because the vast majority of city funding supports **police and fire protection, public safety, streets, parks, and core services**, this change fundamentally altered how cities are funded. It has required us to make careful, and at times difficult, decisions, placing real pressure on municipal budgets and long-term planning.

Rather than reacting hastily or compromising essential services, we relied on disciplined planning, conservative budgeting, and a long-term mindset. That discipline allowed us to pull back deliberately making thoughtful adjustments instead of reactive cuts. While many communities are being forced into sudden service reductions, Mishawaka has worked to protect its core responsibilities while positioning itself to navigate uncertainty responsibly.

Even under those constraints, progress continued.

We advanced key economic development efforts, including the **Microsoft Data Center project**, which represents the type of long-term, high-value investment that strengthens our tax base over time and supports future infrastructure needs.

(Continued on next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS



February 5
Disney Skate
Ironworks Ice Rink



February 12
2000's Throwback Skate
Ironworks Ice Rink



February 19
K-Pop Skate
Ironworks Ice Rink



February 20
Daddy/Daughter Dance
Battell Center



February 21
Mother/Son Dance
Battell Center



February 26
Country Skate
Ironworks Ice Rink

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood (*continued*)

Projects like this are not quick fixes—but they are critical components of a sustainable future.

We also remained committed to quality of life. **Rose Park** continued its transformation into a welcoming community space, and **Miracle Park** moved forward as a powerful example of inclusive design and public-private partnership—ensuring that every child has a place to play and belong.

At the same time, we continued the essential, often unseen work that protects public health and the environment. Progress on our **Long Term Control Plan (LTCP)** remained steady. These investments are complex and costly, but they are necessary, and they reflect our commitment to doing things the right way—even when the work isn't flashy.

What stood out most in 2025 was the consistency of effort. City employees, utilities staff, public safety professionals, volunteers, nonprofits, and residents all stepped up. Mishawaka moved forward because people stayed focused, worked together, and understood the value of steady leadership.

As we look ahead to 2026, I remain optimistic—not because challenges have disappeared, but because Mishawaka is meeting them with honesty, discipline, and resolve. The year ahead will require continued caution, smart planning, and tough choices. We will approach those decisions the same way we always have—grounded in facts, focused on service, and committed to the long-term health of our city.

Thank you for your trust, your engagement, and your pride in Mishawaka. Together, we will continue to move forward—carefully, responsibly, and with confidence in our community.

Your Mayor,
David A. Wood



FREE SAINT JOSEPH HEALTH SYSTEM BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

In partnership with St. Joe Health System



**2ND MONDAY
OF EVERY MONTH**

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM



**AT THE BATTELL
COMMUNITY CENTER**

904 N. Main St. Mishawaka, IN 46545



IRONWORKS SKATING RINK

ADMISSION

Adult \$11

Youth \$8

HOURS

Monday/Wednesday:

5:00pm-6:30pm & 7:15pm-8:45pm

Tuesday/Thursday:

5:30pm-7:00pm & 7:45pm-9:15pm

Friday:

4:00pm-5:30pm, 6:15pm-7:45pm, 8:30pm-10:00pm

Saturday/Sunday and Winter Break (Dec. 23rd-Jan5th):

11:30am-1:00pm, 1:45pm-3:15pm, 4:00pm-5:30pm, 6:15pm-7:45pm, 8:30pm-10:00pm

PRE-REGISTER: <https://checkout.roller.app/ironworksplaza/products/booknow#/sessions>



TUBING AT GEORGE WILSON PARK

DECEMBER – FEBRUARY

WEATHER DEPENDENT

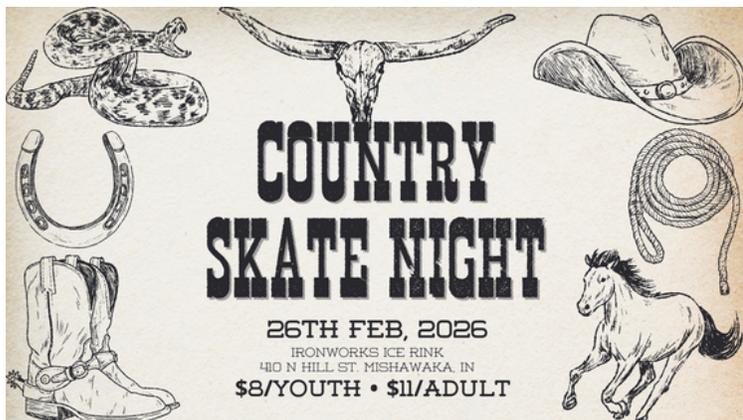
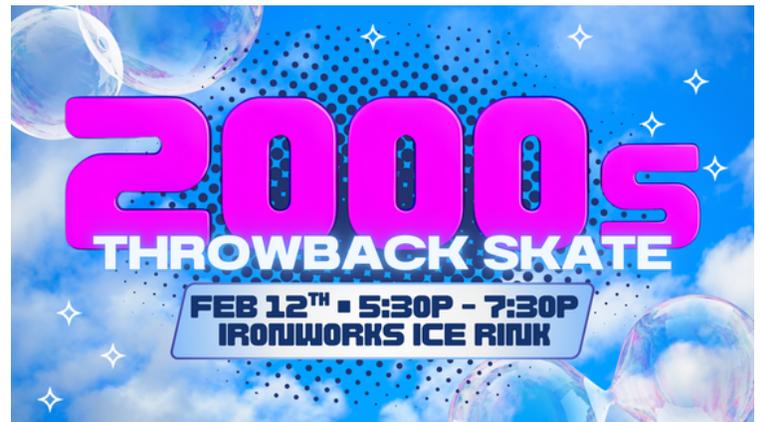
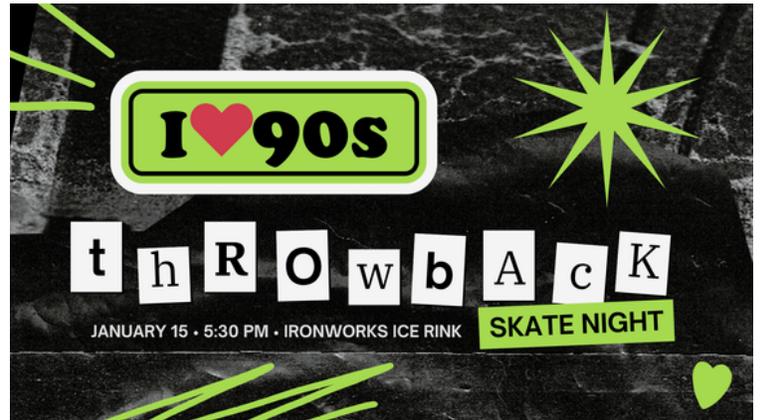
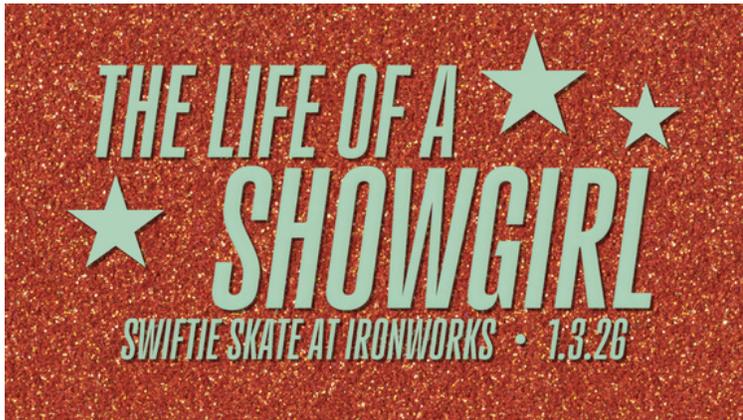
HOURS

10:00pm-8:00pm

\$4/person (all ages)

\$3/tube rental

PURCHASE TICKETS: <https://checkout.roller.app/ironworksplaza/products/booknow#/sessions>



SCAN ME TO BOOK YOUR SKATE

