

RIVER PARK NEWS

Official Newsletter of
the River Park Neighborhood Association

Responding to the City's Plans for Potawatomi Park and River Park by DeAndre Barton, RPNA President

Thank you to all the River Park neighbors who attended either the River Park Neighborhood Plan meeting or the Potawatomi Park Plan at the River Park Library on April 29th and 30th. We appreciate your input!

I met with Chris Dressel, South Bend Senior Planner, and we discussed the comments circulating around Kids Kingdom. Chris told me the structure will not be taken down right away. It will stay up until the new playground is built and elements of Kids Kingdom will be integrated into the new playground.

As a neighborhood association we need to talk about the plans and how we want to react to them. We will present a response to the Planning Commission and the South Bend Council when they meet later in the year. This is a change from the meetings we had expected in early summer. Until then, we will continue to discuss the city's plans at our monthly meetings. We have time to develop a consensus about how to respond.

Please share to your networks and neighbors about the correction regarding Kids Kingdom as well as the Neighborhood plan and next steps.

Like our page on Facebook
to stay connected and share your stories!

<https://www.facebook.com/riverparksouthbend>

Want to advertise your business in the
River Park Newsletter? Email
sbriverpark@gmail.com
for more information!



THIS ISSUE:

City Planning for
River Park Page 1

Business Focus:
Dito's Investments
and Construction
Page 2

Library Updates
Page 3
Community Bible Study
Page 4

Security Camera
Registry Program
Page 5

Business Focus:
Rio Park Events
Page 6

Potawatomi Zoo
Page 7

Digital Newsletter Sign Up
Association Web Updates
Page 8



HELP US FUNDRAISE
BY RECYCLING E-WASTE



LEARN HOW

Planet Green Recycling

We convert your used ink jet printer cartridges to money! Drop them in our box in the River Park Branch Library.

Your neighborhood association benefits financially, but the program also helps our environment. Keep useful materials out of landfills, and reuse the electric components that are now in short supply worldwide.

Your River Park Neighborhood Association Board

The association meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the River Park Branch Library. All are welcome!

DeAndre Barton (President):[dbarton665@gmail.com]
Kelly Wilson (Vice President)[kwparkland@gmail.com]
Janet Macuilski (Secretary)[jnetm@aol.com]
Carrie Marks (Treasurer)[cmarks@sbcsc.k12.in.us]

The logo for Jeannie's House features two coffee cups with steam rising from them, one on each side of the text "Jeannie's House".

1444 Mishawaka Ave. 3159 S. Eleventh St.
South Bend, IN Niles, MI
574-855-4423 269-683-2800

A photograph of the Builders Store Inc. storefront. Two men are standing in front of the store. The store has a sign that says "Best CUSTOMER" and "Mark & Paul Wolfram".

Builders Store Inc. 574-288-5025
Website: www.buildersstoreinc.com
Email: buildersstore@att.net

Store Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:00-5:30
Saturday 8:00-4:00
Sunday CLOSED

1319 Mishawaka Ave • South Bend, IN 46615

River Park Business Focus: Dito's Investments and Construction by Kaliah Damp, IUSB Honors Program

Ricardo Nevarez is the small business owner of Dito's Investments and Construction on Mishawaka Ave. This business is owned and operated by Ricardo and his family with the goal of providing equal housing opportunities to families in the River Park community.

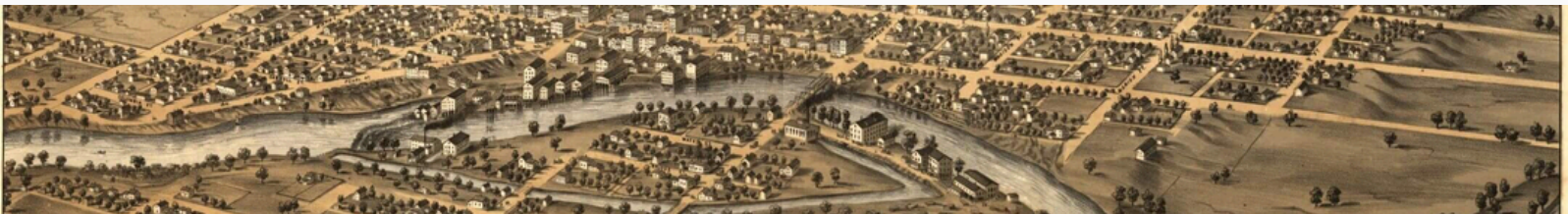
Dito's Investments and Construction buys apartments and homes to fix and rent to low income households in order to provide them with housing options they can afford. The company works closely with section 8 families.

By fixing the homes and renting them, they not only provide housing for families, but also bring more value to River Park. Each time they fix a home and make it more presentable, the community looks better and this increases the value of the neighborhood around it.

Ricardo expressed his joy in repairing homes and being able to provide low income families with a place to live. He shared with me that he has not dealt with many homes in River Park this year, but he looks forward to meeting new people and helping more people love their homes.

Overall Ricardo cares about making people feel at home and comfortable no matter what their background or financial situation. Being comfortable in your living space is important.

Dito's Investments & Construction
2911 E. Mishawaka Ave.
South Bend, IN 46615
(574) 406-5685



River Park Branch Library Updates

Storytime

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m.

Enjoy books, rhymes, and songs which build on practices that prepare children to learn to read. Recommended for ages 3 - 5. Families are welcome.

STEAM Lab

Tuesday, May 14, June 11, July 9, 4 p.m.

Tinker, build and create in our library STEAM lab. Enjoy a new art, science or engineering activity each month. Recommended for ages 6-11.

Paws and Pages

Thursday July 11, 4:00 p.m.

Books and Bow-Wows! Join the Humane Society of St. Joseph County as we read and learn about our 4-legged friends, dogs. Then enjoy 1-1 time with a special furry friend. Ages 3 - 10 welcome.

Summer Reading Club Kickoff Concert

Friday, June 7, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Celebrate the start of the Summer Reading Club in the courtyard at Main Library! Enjoy activities and live performances by Los Hermanos Bueno and Nicole Williams while you sign up for summer reading.

Playtime

Wednesday May 15, June 19, July 17, 10:30 a.m.

Help your child develop skills to learn to read through free and guided play using our collection of toys and early literacy materials. Recommended for ages 0-5.

Adventures in Bad Cinema,

Wednesday, May 29, June 26, July 31,

6:30 p.m. For your consideration - join us to view another classic bad film. We gather each month to celebrate the best work of incompetent amateurs or the worst work of professionals. The films we select are either hobbled by a bad script, poor acting, terrible direction, cheap production, or rife with poor judgments of logic and taste. As always, we provide snacks.

Birds for Beginners with South Bend Elkhart Audubon Society Wednesday, June 12, 10 a.m.

What makes a bird a bird? Why are they so amazing? What can be done to help protect them from extinction? Enjoy learning about the native birds of northern Indiana as well as tips on how to help our local feathered friends. The first part of this program will answer questions in a lecture style format, leaving the remaining time to go on a guided bird walk around the library grounds. Limited supply of binoculars will be provided.

Crafting Connections, Wednesday,

June 26, 1 p.m. Crafting is better together! Join Crafting Connections to unravel craft history, weave friendships, and create a new piece of art. This program is open to adults of all skill and ability levels.

Resumes & Resources

Thursday, July 25, 5:30 p.m. On the hunt for a job but don't know where to start? Need to update your resume or create a new one? Join us in learning what it takes to make a stellar resume and land your dream job!



You're Invited to Community Bible Study!

What is Community Bible Study? CBS is a local and global movement of God's life-changing Word and community. Together, we learn more about who God is, and, as we grow in our relationship with Him and each other, He changes us from the inside out.

Classes meet weekly during the school year. Starting in September we will study the Book of Matthew. Each class participant receives a course book with a commentary and home study questions. Each week, you'll participate in small group discussions and a large group teaching. Classes are for men, women, and NextGen – school-age to college-age.

Where: Gospel Center Missionary Church, 930 S. 30th St. and Zoom

When: Mondays, 7:00-8:30 p.m. for Women and Men (Fall Class starts September 9, 2024)

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m. for Women and Pre-School Children (Fall Class starts September 10, 2024)

Questions? Contact Rodger Parfitt - (574) 215-0740 or Jan Jagerman - (310) 497-5903

Learn more about Community Bible Study at:

communitybiblestudy.org

To register for class, go to:

southbend.cbsclass.org



Avenue Automotive

3001 Mishawaka Avenue

Any Make – Any Model – Any Brake Service

Call to Schedule 574-288-0802

3001 Mishawaka Avenue

Fund Raising Opportunity



Visit Allie's for a delicious breakfast or lunch and 20% of your bill goes to RPNA to fund fun events!

Show this post on

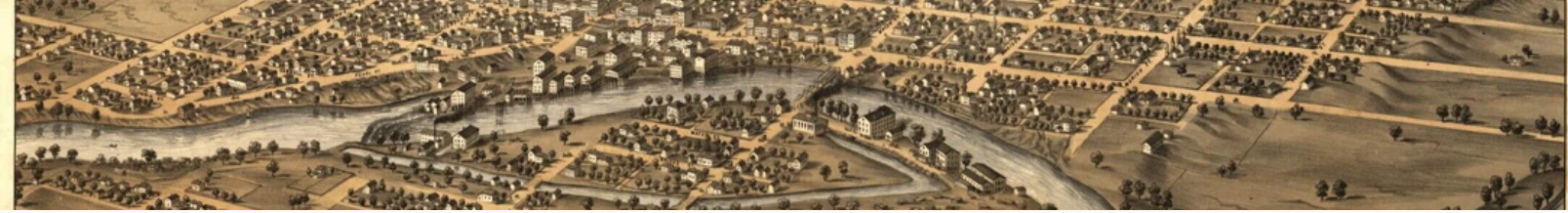
June 4th



The Barber Shop

Haircuts & Styling

Dennis Lamborn
574-258-5225
3618 Mishawaka Ave.
South Bend
(Next to Luigi's)



South Bend Police Department -- Camera Registry Program Help Keep River Park Safe! by Pam Claeys

Brianne Fenton, Senior Crime Analyst with SBPD Strategic Intel Office, attended the River Park Neighborhood Association’s April 11th meeting to present information about the “Sync South Bend Camera Registry Program.” This program has 2 components: one for homeowners/renters and one for businesses. Both programs will expedite police investigations by sharing your security cameras with SBPD!

Homeowners/Renters

There are currently 1364 residential cameras registered in the program in South Bend. All one needs to do is go online to www.syncsouthbend.org and register your home security camera/s. The only information needed from a homeowner or renter is the home’s address and then their contact information. IF a crime occurs near the area of your registered camera, an SBPD officer or detective may contact you. They would ask you to share any video footage for that particular time frame in order to help solve the crime.

- ***SBPD cannot directly access any residential cameras registered.
- ***This program is totally FREE and VOLUNTARY for the homeowner or renter.

Businesses

There are currently 795 cameras integrated in the City’s Camera Integration Program that encompasses local businesses. A business would first need go online to www.syncsouthbend.org in order to purchase a “FUSUS core device” that would allow a business to integrate their camera/s into the SBPD’s Real Time Crime Center. FYI, Ring cameras do NOT work with the integrated business camera.

Last year, a Business Security grant assisted 50+ businesses by providing the FUSUS core, camera, lighting, and assistance with set-up. A second round of assistance for businesses will open in May 2024 and will include all of the above. Additionally, these grants will also be open to non-profit organizations and churches.

- ***Camera feed can be accessed by SBPD in the event of an emergency or crime in progress.
- ***Cameras provide enhanced situational awareness when responding to your business.

 <p>SYNC SOUTH BEND CAMERA REGISTRY</p> <p>SCAN ME! >> </p>	<p>FOR HOMEOWNERS:</p> <p>HELP EXPEDITE INVESTIGATIONS BY SHARING THE LOCATION OF YOUR SECURITY CAMERAS WITH SBPD!</p> <p>REGISTERING YOUR CAMERA DOES NOT GIVE SBPD ACCESS TO YOUR CAMERA FEED.</p> <p>SBPD WILL REQUEST FOOTAGE IF A CRIME OCCURS IN YOUR AREA. SHARING IS 100% VOLUNTARY.</p> <p>LEARN MORE: SYNCSOUTHBEND.ORG</p>	 <p>SYNC SOUTH BEND CAMERA REGISTRY</p> <p>SCAN ME! >> </p>	<p>FOR BUSINESS OWNERS:</p> <p>PURCHASE A FUSUS CORE DEVICE TO INTEGRATE YOUR CAMERAS INTO SBPD'S REAL-TIME CRIME CENTER.</p> <p>CAMERA FEED CAN BE ACCESSED BY OFFICERS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY OR CRIME IN-PROGRESS.</p> <p>PROVIDE OFFICERS WITH ENHANCED SITUATIONAL AWARENESS WHEN RESPONDING TO YOUR BUSINESS.</p> <p>LEARN MORE: SYNCSOUTHBEND.ORG</p>
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River Park Business Focus: Rio Park Events **by Aryanna Allen, IUSB Honors Program**

Rio Park Events on 3028 Mishawaka Avenue is a great place to book your next event. After moving all over for work, Sarah Overholser wanted to come back to her roots to settle down and start a business. Overholser opened Rio Park Events in October 2019. The sky is the limit when it comes to what you can book with Rio Park Events. From fashion shows to trivia nights and even barber competitions, Overholser says, “Every event is impactful to us and goes a long way. We are grateful to still be here and for our employees.”

What makes Rio Park Events special is how unique it is. There are two different rooms available to rent out; a Small Hall that seats 50-60 people and a Large Hall that seats 100-150 people. The Small Hall is more typically used for birthday parties and baby showers, while the Large Hall has seen weddings and quinceaneras. If you are looking for something with two rooms, you are able to rent both the Small and Large Hall for your event. Rio Park Events also offers a Table and Linen package where you can rent their supplies for your event off-site! Along with tables and linens, there are other décor that is able to be rented for your event.

Overholser’s future plans for her business include trying to beautify the exterior of the business so more customers are drawn to it. She also wants to focus more on off-site rentals and try and find a way to cater to different events more efficiently.

When deciding on a venue to pick it is important to know that you as a customer are cared about. When purchasing from Rio Park Events every customer is important to them. Overholser cares about her community. This is why she donates her space to a non-profit organization around every quarter.

Rio Park Events’ full address is 3028 E Mishawaka Ave, South Bend, IN 46615. If you are looking for a venue or décor to rent for your special event you can contact Rio Park Events at (574)-303-8584. You can also reach out to them through the email book@rioparkevents.com.



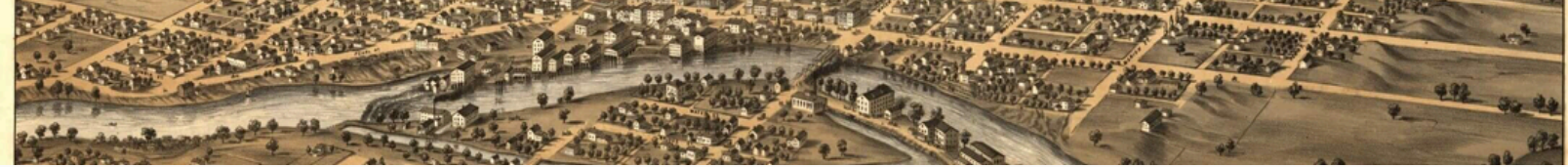
**River Park
Business
Association**

Meets 3rd Wednesdays 8am at Allie's

RiverParkBusinessAssociation@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/riverparkbusinessassociation/>

Burton's
LAUNDRY



Your Potawatomi Zoo By Alison Smythe, IUSB Honors Program

The Potawatomi Zoo has been open in our community since 1921. It started off small with a few deer. It has grown greatly over the past 100 years. In these past few years the zoo has focused on modernizing the campus for visitors. From building new facilities for the animals to bringing giraffes to the zoo, the staff's main goal over these past years has been to improve the zoo for the community.

One of the important details about the Potawatomi Zoo is that it is accredited. This means that the Potawatomi Zoo follows higher standards for animal welfare, health, living conditions, as well as many other criteria. These zoos have to be re-certified every 5 years by the AZA (The Association of Zoos and Aquariums). Potawatomi Zoo has been an accredited zoo since 1987. Through the AZA the Potawatomi Zoo is also part of the Species Survival Plan (SSP). This program helps Potawatomi Zoo safely breed animals based on genetics.

The growth over the past few years has greatly helped the zoo. It has made some major upgrades to modernize it for the community. The biggest additions are the giraffes in 2022. The popular giraffes have helped the zoo park set a new attendance record. People love them. The zoo has gone from 211,000 visitors in 2019 to 351,000 this past year. A new structure this year is The Lodge. The Lodge is a concession and dining establishment attached to an Andean Bear Habitat!

As well as the new additions, the zoo is excited for the events they have coming up. These events include the Eat and Drink at the Zoo (21+) June 8th from 5-8pm, as well as 28 corporate events that they already have scheduled. They also plan to host the annual Zoo Brew on the 21st of September.

The Potawatomi Zoo is definitely proud of the growth of attendance and the building of better habitats for the animals. The Potawatomi Zoo is excited for the future.
www.potawatomizoo.org





The Updated Neighborhood Association Website

This semester's IU South Bend Honors Students have worked with Association Treasurer Carrie Marks to make substantial improvements to the Neighborhood Association's dedicated website. Consulting with Joe Sipocz and their advisor Neovi Karakatsanis, they have smartened up the visual backgrounds, improved usability, and added content. Find the website at <https://www.riverparksouthbend.com/>

The website now has a link to the Association's Facebook page. The events calendar is up-to-date, and now easily updatable by the Association's officers and partners. There is a map of River Park, and a description of the River Park Neighborhood West committee. There are beautiful photos, descriptions, and contact information for many of our landmarks, including restaurants, shops, recreation spots, and more. There is a list of the Association's officers with their contact information. Finally, they have scanned and provided easy access to past issues of the River Park Neighborhood Association newsletter. Check out their excellent work! Thank you Tess Miller, Lorrin Smith, Amar Sahbazovic, and Samuel Asbury!

To make sure you stay up-to-date with what's happening in River Park:

Look for website updates and news at <https://www.riverparksouthbend.com/>

- Subscribe to our newsletter email list
- Check our community calendar

Look for newsletters in November, February, May, and August.



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

805 S. 29th St.

South Bend, IN 46615

574-288-8288

Rev. Steven Latzke

ourredeemersb@aol.com

www.ourredeemersb.org

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