

# RIVER PARK NEWS

Official Newsletter of  
the River Park Neighborhood Association

## August RPNA Featured Speaker

**Carl Hetler: City of South Bend  
Homeless Coordinator**

You see them almost everyday. Standing on the street corner with a cardboard sign. Laying down on a bench. Sleeping in a doorway. How does it make you feel? What do you think should be done?

I had the opportunity to speak to the River Park Neighborhood Association in August. We started by thinking about what thoughts and feelings we have to the word “home.” This helped us think about the benefits we enjoy and what we want all residents to experience. I shared about our goals for the City: to help people find the resources they need for food, shelter and support, and to create a caring community. You can learn more on our website [www.southbendin.gov/homeless](http://www.southbendin.gov/homeless).

We discussed concerns about how to best help people, the different levels of shelter in our community, and new construction going on to provide more affordable and low-income housing. I shared statistics on what causes people to experience homelessness and how successful we’ve been providing housing and services such as recovery from substance use and addressing mental health issues. I finished by talking about different ways to help, from donations, to volunteering, to getting to know someone struggling. Please reach out to me if you want to know more and get involved!

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to stay connected and share your stories!

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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]



## March for Jesus 2024

By Phil Niswonger

About 30 churches organize a March for Jesus every year. This year they selected River Park to be its epicenter.

Approximately 200 walkers gathered on Saturday, August 17th, in the IU South Bend parking lot to begin four circular routes around River Park.

They marched in the pattern of a clover leaf, ending up at Potawatomi Park at noon in time for the annual *Party in the Park*. A fifth route coming from Notre Dame served as a stem for the clover pattern. The idea was in some fashion to honor the Fighting Irish logo.

There was a lot of enthusiasm. Realtor Diane Bennett, who got her start with some assistance from the River Park Neighborhood Association's *Housing and Asset Preservation Committee*, was one of its facilitators.

Even though there was some light rain about 1,000 parents and their children enjoyed the many activity booths and free food in the park that Saturday afternoon.



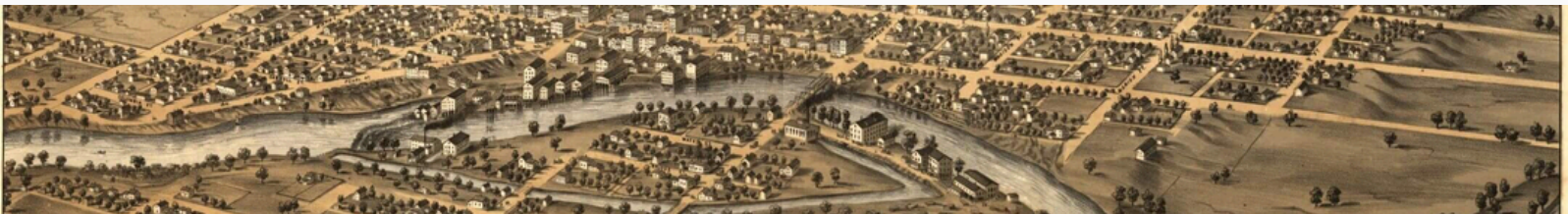
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## River Park Branch Library Updates

### **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 - Patterns in Nature**

**Tuesday, October 1, 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 8 - 12.

### **Eviction and Housing Legal Clinic**

**Thursday, September 5, 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Free legal advice for evictions and housing issues provided to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **Crafting Connections, Tuesday, September 10, 6:00 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.

### **Playtime, Wednesday, September 18, October 16, November 20, 10:30 a.m.**

Help your child develop skills to learn to read through free and guided play. Recommended for ages 0-5.

### **The Wonders of Watersheds, Thursday,**

**November 14, 5:00 p.m.** With the St. Joe County Soil & Water Conservation District jump into a discussion of watersheds, and how pollution affects watersheds and the water cycle. We will use the augmented reality sandbox to see watersheds in action.

### **Adventures in Bad Cinema,**

**Wednesday, September 25, October 30, November 20, 6:30 p.m.** 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.

### **It's a Hot Mess - Diary of a Wimpy Kid Release Party, Thursday, September 12, 4:30 p.m.**

It's coming! Diary of a Wimpy Kid Hot Mess is due on shelves in October. Celebrate everything Wimpy from learning how to create your own comic strip to games and crafts. Ages 8 - 12

### **Fun with Fire Station Number 9 , Saturday, September 28, 1-3 p.m.**

Spend time with some of our local heroes. You'll meet firefighters from Station 9, get an up close view of a fire truck, and enjoy a special performance by Roz Puppets.

### **Resumes & Resources, Thursday, October 3, 5:30 p.m.**

A workshop aimed at helping people learn what goes into a good resume and what resources the library has that could help you in the job searching process. There will be extra time for hands-on work.

**Beginning Genealogy, Monday, October 21, 6:00 p.m.** Begin climbing your family tree with an introduction to genealogy research.

### **Silent Reading Society Tuesday,**

**November 12, 5 p.m.** A monthly gathering to share what you're reading then settle in for an hour of silent, sustained reading. At the end of the hour, attendees can socialize—or not!





## Safety Committee Picnic By Phil Niswonger

The 11th River Park Neighborhood Association Safety Committee Picnic was on August 1st. Eleven were in attendance, including our association president and vice president.

The question was discussed about how the Safety Committee needs to proceed now that the South Bend Police Department no longer maintains its ties to our Neighborhood Crime Watch Network. One thought is to merge with the Housing and Asset Preservation Committee since reducing crime is linked to the quality of curb appeal and the general appearance of our neighborhoods.

The more our neighborhood knows and communicates, the safer it is.



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VIEW MENU

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**Fiddler's Hearth**  
Family-Friendly Public House  
fiddlershearth.com

**2021 BEST OF THE BEST**  
South Bend Tribune  
WINNER

VOTED 2021 Best Cold Beer & Live Music  
VOTED 2022 Favorite Irish Pub





**Register, Show Up, VOTE!! Election Day is  
Tuesday, November 5th  
by Pam Claeys**

Do you care about the environment? Global warming? Your children's future? Your personal freedoms and choices? Healthcare? Social Security? Many critical issues facing us now and in the future? Your vote is your voice!

On Tuesday, November 5, we will elect candidates for President and Vice-President, US Senate, US Congress, as well as State of Indiana and St. Joseph County officials, school board positions, judicial retentions. There is a state constitutional amendment to ratify.

Visit [www.IndianaVoters.com](http://www.IndianaVoters.com) to register to vote, update or check your voter registration; see who is on your ballot; vote by mail or travel board; find early and Election Day voting times and locations; find your elected officials, and so much more.

**Important Dates:**

**Monday, October 7**  
**Tuesday, October 8**  
**Tuesday, November 5**  
**Monday, December 2**

**Voter Registration Ends**  
**Early Voting Begins**  
**General Election Day**  
**Voter Registration Opens**

U.S. Rep. John Lewis once said, "The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democracy."

**Your vote is your voice. YOUR VOTE MATTERS more than you might think!!**



Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 8am at Allie's

[RiverParkBusinessAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:RiverParkBusinessAssociation@gmail.com)

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



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**COMMUNITY  
BIBLE STUDY**

Fall 2024 - Do you want to learn more about who Jesus is and his ministry on earth? If so, CBS is for you! Community Bible Study has classes for men, women and children.

We are studying the book of Matthew.

Class starts September 9<sup>th</sup> at GCMC; Questions? Contact Kelly Wilson at 954-856-7408 or visit [communitybiblestudy.org](http://communitybiblestudy.org).



## Lead Affinity Group Presentation

By DeAndre Barton

At our May River Park Neighborhood Association meeting, Heidi Beidinger from the Lead Affinity Group came to speak with us about preventing lead exposure in our homes. Exposure to lead causes learning disabilities that look like ADHD in children and a wide variety of health problems in adults.

As most of the homes in River Park were built before 1928, they are a potential lead risk. The Lead Affinity Group works with Notre Dame to mulch homes and get homes tested for lead.

Lead is a naturally occurring element in everyday life but older homes have risks inside and outside. Paint used to contain lead, and the chips of paint taste sweet to children. Dust in the home may include lead. Take care sanding painted surfaces which can put dust into the air. Outside, if pea gravel and mulch are put down to cover soil, then you can avoid lead exposure. Encapsulating paint is a good way to seal the lead in.

There are other ways to prevent lead poisoning. We learned that good habits help, like eating good nutritional food, washing our hands before eating, and cleaning horizontal surfaces once a week. It is best to get any children tested for lead with the Department of Health. We learned that the Indiana Department of Health requires the testing of 1- and 2-year-olds to verify no lead exposure, although not all children are tested. Zero is the only safe level of lead.

The Lead Affinity Group offers home testing kits, and our own River Park Library is a collection center. You can pick up a kit from the library and drop it off right there. Keep your family safe.

Join us!

# Gospel Center

missionary church

930 S. 30th Street  
South Bend, IN 46615  
574.288.4477

**REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**Sundays**  
9:00 AM - Sunday School (for all ages)  
10:15 AM - Worship Service (online & in-person)

**Wednesdays**  
11:00 AM - Prayer Meeting  
6:30 PM - Kid's Camps\*  
6:30 PM - Youth Group\*  
\*Begins September 11

**Food Pantry**  
Serving the Gospel Center family and River Park residents

Pick-up is on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month from 10-11 AM.  
Order the day before by calling the church between 9 AM - 2 PM.


*Special Upcoming Events:*

**SEP 9** INTRO TO PICKLEBALL CLASS ~ 6:00 PM  
Learn the basics of this popular sport. Class is free, but please call the church to reserve a spot. These classes are offered each Monday in September. One new Pickleball paddle will be given away each session.

**SEP 29** HYMN SING ~ 6:00 PM  
Join us as we have an evening of singing some of the special hymns of the faith. Refreshments afterwards.

**OCT 20** MARILYNN HAM PIANO CONCERT ~ 6:00 PM  
Marilynn is a concert pianist and sacred arranger. She served at Bethel University for 30 years as a professor and artist-in-residence.

**Check us out online: [www.gcmc.info](http://www.gcmc.info)**



## The Barber Shop

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# Burton's LAUNDRY





## May River Park Clean Up

By DeAndre Barton

Thank you to everyone that participated in our clean up this past May. We had about 20 of neighbors come and help clean our neighborhood. We were able to get 23rd to 30th on the north side of Mishawaka Avenue, Nuner field, and the alley along the the Railroad tracks on the north side of the neighborhood cleaned up. Please keep an eye out for the 2025 River Park Clean Up.

Thanks again to the neighbors that came out to help keep our neighborhood clean. I hope to see more neighbors out at the next clean up.







## The River Park Neighborhood Association Collaborates With The IU South Bend Freshmen Honors Students

This semester the IU South Bend Freshmen Honors Students will again work with the River Park Neighborhood Association on our newsletters and the Neighborhood Association's dedicated website. River Park Branch librarian Joe Sipocz, Freshmen Honors advisor Catherine Borshuk, and RPNA board members Kelly Wilson and Carrie Marks will work with the students.

Last semester students added photos and other content to the website. This year the students will update the events calendar and freshen up entries for many of our landmarks, including restaurants, shops, recreation spots, and more. For the newsletter, students will write feature articles on some of our neighborhood's businesses and social institutions.

Look for the next newsletter in November. The website is available anytime at <https://www.riverparksouthbend.com/>

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](mailto:ourredeemersb@aol.com)  
[www.ourredeemersb.org](http://www.ourredeemersb.org)

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