

RIVER PARK NEWS

Official Newsletter of
the River Park Neighborhood Association

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

Welcome to the fall edition of our River Park Neighborhood Association newsletter. In this edition of the newsletter, we will share some local business highlights, information about the library and the fun events they have planned, and cover some important neighborhood news, including the latest on the city's plans for River Park.

We would also like to say thank you for being a part of this wonderful neighborhood and for signing up for the newsletter to stay up to date and informed about what is happening in the community. Please pass the word and invite your neighbors to sign up for the newsletter as well!

Fall is such a special time of year. It is when the weather starts to cool down and all the leaves start to change color, making a breath-taking landscape. Fall also signals the start of the holiday season with Thanksgiving and Christmas coming up along with any other holidays that you and your family may celebrate. We hope that you all have safe and special holidays this year!

Look for the next newsletter in February 2025. Our website is available anytime at <https://www.riverparksouthbend.com/>

Like our page on Facebook
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THIS ISSUE:

Welcome Message Page 1

Housing and Safety
Committees Merge
Page 2

River Park Branch
Library Updates
Page 3

Christmas Decoration
Contest and Report on
JoinUp! South Bend
Page 4

River Park IGNITE
Grant Completed
Page 5

Make South Bend
Page 6

River Park Master Plan
Page 7

Avenue Bike Shop
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]



2024-25 Organization of Housing and Safety Committees

By Phil Niswonger

Initially the River Park Neighborhood Association Housing & Asset Preservation and Safety Committees were united. Improving neighborhoods also reduces crime. Yet, because their work was more detailed, they divided into two committees in 2013. The value of these two committees over the last 20 years is inestimable.

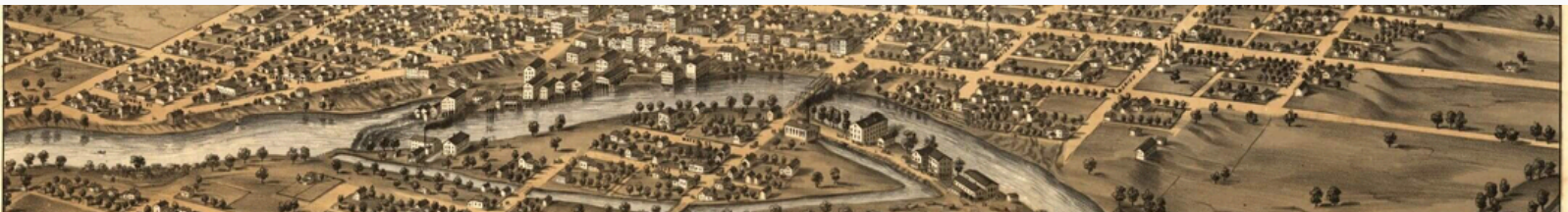
Since the main effort of the Safety Committee was through the now discontinued Neighborhood Crime Watch program, and since the Housing & Asset Preservation Committee has been dormant since COVID, we will now reunite them for the shared purpose of improving housing in River Park.

The Housing & Asset Preservation Committee was successful in repairing many homes, both via its own efforts and through connections with First Source Bank and Rebuilding Together.

It has sponsored the annual River Park Spring Clean Up and railroad cleanup projects. It developed close relationships with South Bend's Code Enforcement and the city's Redevelopment Commission.

It is time to consolidate and revitalize these committees. Call Phil at 574-287-2270 to share ideas and support.





River Park Branch Library Updates

Storytime,

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. -

No Storytime

December 26 and January 6

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

Playtime

Wednesday, November 20, December 18, January 15, 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, November 20, December 18, January 29, 6:30 p.m.

In our 3rd year, we continue to celebrate the best film work of incompetent amateurs, and the worst work of hack professionals. The movie is free and we'll bring the snacks.

Fiber Craft and Chat Club,

Wednesday, December 4, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

You are invited to meet up with fellow fiber artists. Work on your own projects and be inspired by others and their creations. Knit, crochet, sew, spin, weave, embroider, and needlepoint.

Printmaking - Linoleum Relief,

Monday, December 9, 16,

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Join this linoleum printmaking workshop with instructor Kristyn Kertai! Over two days, you'll design, carve, and make prints, over 2 sessions at the library and the museum's printmaking studio.

STEAM Lab - Hidden Figures,

Tuesday, January 7, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Land a space capsule, learn about binary code & experiment with a wind tunnel as we explore the achievements of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan & Mary Jackson, three NASA mathematicians. Ages 8-12


Stomp Rockets with the Notre Dame Rocketry Club , Tuesday, January 14, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Build stomp rockets & explore the principles of flight as you design and launch your rockets using stomping force alone.

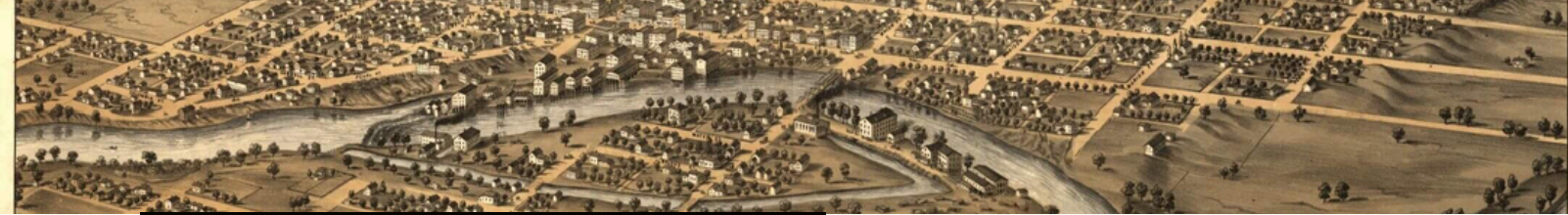
Crafting Connections, Monday,

January 27, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Crafting is better together! Join Crafting Connections for an all-supplies provided arts project. This program is open to adults of all skill and ability levels.



The Barber Shop
Haircuts & Styling
Dennis Lamborn
574-258-5225
3618 Mishawaka Ave.
South Bend
(Next to Luigi's)



Holiday Christmas Decoration Contest

By Phil Niswonger

Again this year, the River Park Neighborhood Association has opened our Holiday-Christmas Decoration Contest to all River Park residents.

We will have prizes for the top three finalists. Have your decorations up by December 7th, and our judges will review them by December 16th .



JoinUp! South Bend

Here is a photo of River Park Neighborhood Association President DeAndre Barton representing us at the **JoinUp! South Bend** film and event on Sunday, October 13th.

JoinUp! South Bend intends to fight the epidemic of loneliness through promoting civic engagement. They will develop an online club directory to connect people. The film, *Join or Die*, is based on the bestselling book *Bowling Alone* by Robert Putnam. Find out more about the organization at <https://www.joinupsouthbend.org/>

Fun Facts: Did you know

The Potawatomi and Miami Native American tribes originally inhabited River Park.

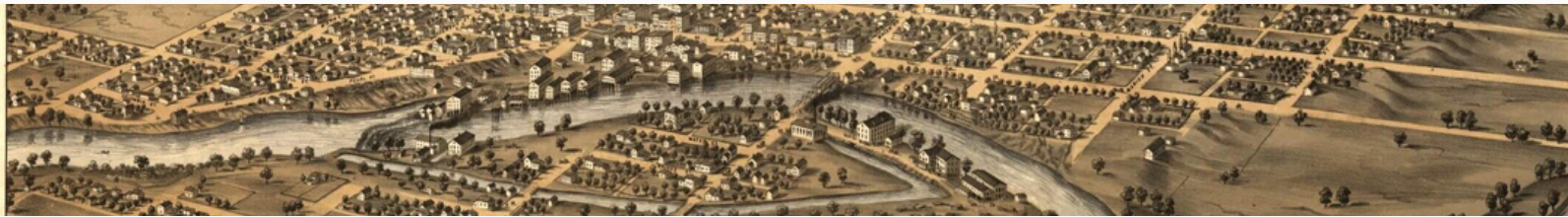
Scarecrows have been used for thousands of years to protect crops.

Fall leaf colors come from the same pigments that make vegetables assorted colors, like orange carrots.

Pumpkins are a type of squash, and all squashes are fruit. That means pumpkins are fruit.

Fall babies live longer! A study in the Journal of Aging Research found that babies born during the autumn months live to be 100 years old more often than those born during the rest of the year.





River Park IGNITE Grant Completed By DeAndre Barton

It's finally finished! River Park has completed their 2023 Ignite Grant. The grant paid for wrapping up 5 signal boxes in River Park in photographs from our history. As you come across the corners of Mishawaka Avenue, Twychenham Drive, Ironwood Drive, Pleasant Street and 30th Street, please do take your time to admire the photos celebrating River Park.

At the corner of Twychenham Drive and Mishawaka Avenue, you will see the logo of River Park. Across from IU South Bend, you will see the signal box wrapped with pictures of the zoo. At the corner of Ironwood Drive and Mishawaka, the signal box is wrapped with pictures of the old firehouse. At the corner of 30th Street and Mishawaka Avenue, the signal box will have a old picture of the River Park Theater. At the corner of Ironwood and Pleasant Street, the signal box will have the River Park logo on it.

The River Park Neighborhood Association would like to thank the City of South Bend for allowing us to decorate some of our signal boxes.

Below are pictures of the wraps for the 30th Street and Mishawaka Avenue signal box and the signal box across from IU South Bend.



Make South Bend by Kaityln Marie Molnar

Do you like making crafts or buying locally made products? If so, there is the perfect place for you in River Park! **Make South Bend** is located at 2228 E Mishawaka Ave, South Bend, IN 46615 and they have a lot to offer!

Make South Bend offers services such as makers classes, parties and memberships for the ardent crafter or artist. You do need to register for classes beforehand, and they will walk you through the process on how to make a specific item. They will host your party for different crafting activities for 5 or more people, and they will provide the materials and instructions for a craft of your choosing. They offer memberships that allow access to the whole makerspace and lots of materials. If you do not want to commit to a membership, they also offer day passes so people can go in and see if they like it there.

If you are interested in buying local goods, you can walk into the store and be greeted with lots of wonderful things for sale. They sell South Bend T-shirts, local art, postcards, candles, soap and even beard oils. They have a very nice studio supplied with everything you need where you can do activities like painting, crocheting, knitting, jewelry making, candle making, soap making, pottery and more.

Overall, this is a wonderful local small business that provides the people of River Park with an outlet to let their creativity shine! Visit Make South Bend today! You can also check out their website at MakeSouthBend.com.



Meets 3rd Wednesdays 8am at Allie's

RiverParkBusinessAssociation@gmail.com

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

Bob Pellegrino

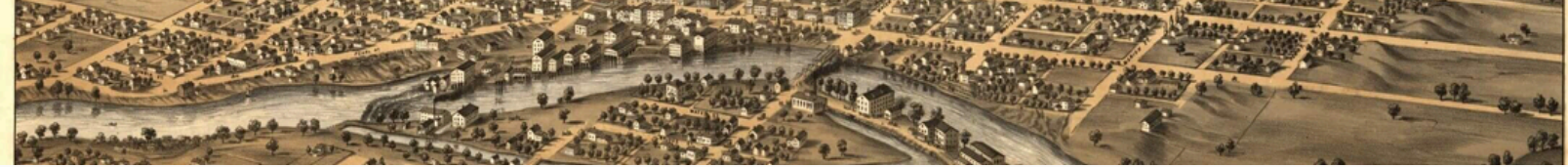
"In River Park"

AVENUE AUTOMOTIVE
Superior Service. Honest Value.

3001 Mishawaka Avenue
Corner of 30th Street
South Bend, IN 46615

574-288-0802
aveautoguy@sbcglobal.net





River Park Plan Update By DeAndre Barton

The River Park Neighborhood Association's November meeting was dedicated to viewing the City of South Bend's updated River Park Neighborhood Plan. On November 14th we met at Gospel Center Missionary Church to listen to Tim Corcoran from the city. The city is working to get more public engagement for its planning process.

The biggest news from the update was what the city wants to do with Nuner field. The area of Nuner Field is already zoned for housing since there is no zoning type for school owned land. The big news: the City of South Bend has talked with the South Bend Community School Corporation, and SBCSC has no plan to sell the field and the city has no plans to buy it. If the school corporation decides to sell, the city has a plan in place. Asked if some one else could buy it, Tim said if anyone who is not with the city bought it, then they could build on the whole field.

If the school corporation were to sell and the city bought the land, the city would split the property down the middle and zone the south part of it as open space. It would be called Nuner Green and it would be a 2.2 acre City Park. It would add city recognized open space to the east side of South Bend. Tim said that it would have a soccer field, a walking track, a playground, community garden, pavilion, and additional trees and seating. The north half could include different housing types for smaller households, which would create a greater population to support the Mishawaka Avenue businesses.

Nuner field updates and explanations were not the only updates. There has been a change with IU South Bend plans because of how IU Bloomington would like them to have these plans. The city's plans now include Wall Street from Ironwood to Logan. They want a shared use path for pedestrians cross Ironwood safer. They have some ideas, like pedestrian flashers and an island, but there is nothing concrete at the moment. Tim said that they are focused on Wall Street and Greenlawn improvements when it comes to Potawatomi Park Plans.

The date for the updated Potawatomi Park Plan hasn't been set, but the neighborhood Association will keep you updated. To review the updated plans, go to together.southbendind.gov, choose Neighborhood Planning, then select the link for River Park.





Avenue Bicycle Station By Colin Christy

Are you looking to get your bike fixed or buy one? If so, The Avenue Bicycle Station, located at 2716 E. Mishawaka Avenue, is just the place for you. The owner's name is John Hall, and his business renovates and refurbishes bicycles to keep them out of the dumps. John is the owner and operator of the store but also works as a police officer for South Bend.

John would like the River Park Neighborhood to know that they are a family-owned business, and they provide a quality service and reliable refurbished bikes. Their goal is to help you repair a bike or find a new one that's the perfect fit, while staying on budget. His business stands behind all their products. He just wants his customers to know that the store focuses on what is better for the customers rather than big profits.

“If it's got wheels, we'll work on it - including scooters” - John Hall



Sign Up for Your Next
Digital Newsletter
Save the trees and our knees



Scan this
QR Code to
opt-in for the
digital
newsletters

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.