

# RIVER PARK NEWS

Official Newsletter of the River Park Neighborhood

## IUSB Honors Program Partners with RPN

BY CHLOE GARNER AND TY RAYOUM

The Honors Program at IUSB is the newest partner for the River Park Neighborhood Association. The Honors Seminar class has divided into groups to serve the River Park Neighborhood in various ways, including the food pantry, Potawatomi conservatory, creating a website for the neighborhood, working with youth, and revamping/digitizing the newsletter. The goal of the projects is to assist and support the community that IUSB resides in.

Honors Seminar Professor, Dr. Neovi Karakatsanis, spoke about the mutual benefits of the project. “The neighborhood would benefit from the work of our students who are writing stories for the neighborhood’s newsletter, moving the newsletter to a digital platform, creating a website for the association, working on youth programming, and volunteering at the Conservatories and at the River Park Food Pantry. In exchange, our honors students are being enriched by these experiences. They are learning leadership and life skills that are sought by employers and graduate programs alike. In fact, they are building their resumes while building an even stronger community!”

Students are also instructed to identify a leadership project they can direct for each service area. My participation in the class involves collecting and writing stories for the newsletter. My personal goal is to provide a voice to each member of the River Park Neighborhood and provide information on events and opportunities within the community. We want to create a community that connects

with each other and with IUSB students and faculty. The newsletter will therefore consist of stories and information collected from members of the River Park Neighborhood as well as IUSB. - Chloe Garner, IUSB class of ‘25.

As a small town organization, we understand the importance of supporting our community. That's why we proposed the idea of collecting ads to fundraise for the Association and offset the cost of monthly activities. It's no secret that lesser known groups like ours do not receive much outside support. That's why we believe the best thing we can do for the people of our community is to raise not only money for the newsletter, but awareness for local businesses who do not get the recognition they deserve. By offering ad space in our newsletter, we are able to give businesses in our community a chance to promote their products and services to a wider audience. At the same time, the funds we raise through these ads will help us continue to provide monthly activities that benefit the community as a whole. We hope that by working together with local businesses, we can create a stronger sense of community and support for one another. So if you're a local business owner looking to promote your business, or someone who wants to help support our Association, consider placing an ad in our newsletter. Together, we can make a difference for River Park. - Ty Rayoum, IUSB class of ‘24.

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## Join us for the Easter Bunny Brunch

Potawatomi Conservatories  
2105 Mishawaka Ave., South Bend  
Saturday April 8th 11:30-1:30

### THINGS TO DO:

Visit the Easter Bunny, Easter Egg Hunt,  
Brunch from the Yellow Cat Cafe,  
Live Bunny, Craft Project, Face Painting, Lots of Fun!

All among the beautiful plants in the Potawatomi Conservatories.

### COST:

Adults: \$10.00; Children (3 and up) \$8.00  
Reservation only, call (574) 235-9442 ASAP as seating is limited.

## River Park Branch Library Updates

- Each Thursday at 10:30, Mrs. Jamie conducts children’s storytime. Enjoy books, rhymes, and songs that develop skills that prepare children to learn to read. Recommended for ages 3 - 5. Families are welcome!
- On Tuesday, April 18th at 4 PM, tinker, build and create in our library STEAM lab. Enjoy a new art, science or engineering activity here in River Park. Recommended for ages 6-11.
- Tuesday, April 18, at 6pm River Park Library is hosting trivia for *Flamer*, the 2023 Book Choice!
- On Wednesday, April 19th at 10:30, join us for Playtime. 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.
- Also on Wednesday, April 19th but at 4 PM, Learn about how to help the world around you through recycling with The Solid Waste Management District of St. Joseph County. A recycling craft will follow the presentation. For ages 6 - 12
- Join us on Tuesday, April 25th at 6 PM for Poetry with Acting Ensemble. Actors, poets, and readers celebrate National Poetry Month by reading their favorites.
- On Wednesday, April 26th at 6:30 we again desecrate the memory of Hollywood with Adventures in Bad Cinema. Unmitigated audacity, inexcusable craft, cheap thrills, and the products of a something/anything movie marketplace. We’ll provide the snacks.

## Save the Date

WELLNESS AND  
RESOURCE EVENT  
Wednesday, April 26th  
11am to 6pm  
Rio Park Events  
3028 Mishawaka Ave South  
Bend IN

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local organizations and  
businesses.

Learn about the services they  
provide in our community and  
for you & your family.

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## CALLING ALL CITIZENS!

If you are not a Neighborhood Crime Watch Captain, now is your chance!

### WARNING



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM IN FORCE

WE IMMEDIATELY REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

River Park has the best (and only) NCW Captain Network in South Bend. We have over 40 NCW captains, which helps explain our much lower crime rate than the rest of South Bend. We'd like at least one NCW Captain for every five houses.

All you need is a phone and a willingness to call the SBPD and let your close neighbors know about any crime in your neighborhood. Many of our captains work together in clusters.

## RPNA Donation Drive

### Recycle Your Used Ink Cartridges Today!

Looking for a way to give back to your community while also being eco-friendly? Look no further than the RPNA ink cartridge donation program, a unique initiative that allows you to dispose of your used ink cartridges in an environmentally responsible way while also raising funds for your neighborhood! By simply dropping off your used ink cartridges at the River Park Branch, you can contribute to our recycling efforts and help support important community initiatives. So why not get involved today and stop by to donate your used printer products!



**THIS IS THE LAST AT HOME DELIVERY:** Digital opt-in is an easy and convenient way to receive your neighborhood association newsletter straight to your inbox. By signing up for this service, you can stay up-to-date on community events, important news, and developments that directly affect your neighborhood. Not only does opting-in to email delivery save paper and help the environment, but it also ensures that you never miss an issue. With just a few clicks, you can join the growing number of residents who are already taking advantage of this digital option. Sign up today and stay connected with your community! THERE WILL STILL BE PAPER COPIES AT THE LIBRARY, ETC.

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



Donate to the River Park Neighborhood Association with this QR code:



SCAN ME



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

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

# Call to Safety

Committee Chair Phil Niswonger  
(574) 287-2270

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## Rediscover History: South Bend's Underground Railroad

BY CHLOE GARNER

**“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it” Spanish Philosopher George Santayana.**

Is this statement true? It is a popular quote within history and social studies classrooms around the US, used in arguments against teaching America's atrocities. But how does that apply to local history? Are those who are unfamiliar with Indiana, South Bend, and River Park history also doomed to repeat it? What can even be learned of such minute and seemingly unimportant history as that of small-town Indiana? Yet, when taking a broader look into South Bend's rich history, it is obvious that many aspects have remained untouched. It's time to dust off the chest that harbors local history and rediscover the past of the city.

One piece of South Bend's history that deserves recognition is its participation in the Underground Railroad. Many citizens are unaware of the city's influence on the Underground Railroad, yet it played a role in its success. The law became aware of the Underground Railroad during an 1849 Court Case, later dubbed the Fugitive Slave Case. The Underground Railroad ran from the south up to Cass County, Michigan, with South Bend being one of the last stops along the way.

In the case, Freedom Seekers and abolitionists rallied together to defend a runaway slave from being returned to his owner in Kentucky. Though the owner won the case, he received financial compensation in lieu of the slave.

Key Underground Railroad conductors include South Bend citizens, James Washington, and another who is simply named Mr. Sawyer. These men were barbers who collected money to help protect and safely transport slaves across state lines to Cass County, Michigan. Washington's wife hosted a sewing circle to clothe and collect monetary donations for runaway slaves as well.

A documentary was filmed by South Bend's History Museum about the role of African Americans in South Bend's history. It may be watched on the museum's website under the title "A Free Life." The hyperlink for digital readers is here: <https://www.historymuseumsb.org/free-life/>

The US Census shows that about 25% of South Bend's population is African American, and the River Park Neighborhood's population is 12%. This number may be in part because of the influence and location of South Bend on the Underground Railroad.

So how can we learn from this information? Simply acknowledging the importance and struggle of African Americans in the neighborhood and city is a start. While you may not find yourself harboring slaves and transporting them to freedom and safety, you may find yourself witnessing other prejudices and racist events. Learning from past Freedom Seekers and abolitionists and knowing the importance of freedom and race equality to South Bend's ancestors, will leave you encouraged to fight for equality in current matters.

Let's not be doomed to repeat the secrecy of our abolition and anti-racism beliefs, but be open and ready to fight for justice and equality, with knowledge of South Bend's past call for freedom.

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## Your VOTE is Your Voice

BY PAM CLAEYS

Tuesday, May 2 is Primary Election Day.

We will vote for Municipal (City) candidates for Mayor, City Clerk, and City Council – District and At-Large.

Selected candidates of each political party will then compete in the General Election, Tuesday, November 7.

**\*\*Please check your voter registration. PLEASE VOTE\*\***

**\*\*If there is any chance you will not be able to vote on Election Day, VOTE EARLY\*\***

### Important Dates

Monday, April 3: Voter Registration ENDS

Tuesday, April 4: First day for Early Voting

Thursday, April 20: Deadline for County Clerk to

receive Application for Absentee Ballot By Mail

Monday, May 1, 12 noon: Early Voting ends AND Deadline for Clerk to receive completed Absentee Ballot by mail

Tuesday, May 2: Primary Election Day, 6am to 6pm

VOTE AT ANY VOTE CENTER

6pm: Deadline to deliver Absentee Ballot in person – Find any open door at CCB; bring to County Clerk office

Tuesday, May 16: Voter Registration Begins

Register to Vote, Find Vote Center, Update / Check Voter Registration, Apply for Absentee Ballot or Travel Board, & Much More:

- Online: indianavoters.com
- In person: Voter Registration (VR), 4th Floor, County-City Building: Location may change, call 574-235-9521 to check

NOTE: BE SURE TO CHECK your voter registration to make sure you have not been purged from the voter rolls

- Vote early, 8am -4:30pm M-F beginning Tuesday April 4 through Monday May 1, 12 noon:
- County City Building (CCB), 227 W. Jefferson Blvd, SB, OR
- County Services Annex, 219 Lincolnway West, Mishawaka
  - 8am to 4pm, 2 Saturdays before (4/22/23 and 4/29/23);
  - Possibly 2noon to 4pm Sunday before (4/30/23) election

NOTE: County offices may be closed on Good Friday, April 7

- Vote absentee: Submit or print an Absentee Ballot Request (indianavoters.com), or call VR to have one mailed to you. Complete and return in the envelope provided no later than April 20, 2023. Your ballot will be mailed to you.

**\*\*Be sure to complete and return your completed ballot so it is received via mail by 12 noon, Monday, May 1**

- Request a visit from the Travel Board: If you are a voter who is confined or you care for a confined person, call the County Clerk's office, 574-235-9559, or indianavoters.com, for Application for Absentee Ballot by Travel Board, to request the Travel Board come to your home.
- Vote in person Tuesday, May 2 between 6am and 6pm. Vote at any Vote Center location. Find a list of Vote Centers usually in the newspaper OR at indianavoters.com. Bring your valid ID.



## SHARON MCBRIDE

### COMMON COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE 3RD DISTRICT

Sharon McBride is the President of the Common Council and the representative of District 3, which includes: IUSB, Potawatomi Park, the Sunnymede neighborhood, the River Park neighborhood, & the South East Side.

Sharon has led the way on initiatives that have benefitted not only her district, but the city as a whole. She has supported: wi-fi access along the Mishawaka Ave strip, zoo improvements, and will work to keep public schools open. She has voted to fund the Real Time Crime Center.





# Together South Bend

## Local Spotlight, Samara Dulik

BY ISAAC LILLIE

River Park is a Neighborhood that takes pride in its local businesses and citizens alike. Each and every resident has something to offer when it comes to making their neighborhood unique. It is through the passion and efforts of these locals that River Park can continually grow and improve as a community. And, as the community owes its growth to these individuals, it seems only fitting that some light should be shed on their work.

The spotlight for this newsletter falls on Samara Dulik. As a local artist, Samara is always eager to spread her love for art and grow this passion within the community. She strongly feels that art can be used as a creative outlet to yield benefits in terms of mental health and increased creativity. She brings this passion to her career through her business, “The Arty People,” which she founded 5 years prior. Her business is available for various events, with face painting being one of their most popular options. Aside from events, Samara herself is also available for artistic commissions. This is how she became involved with the River Park Neighborhood.

In an effort to beautify the local infrastructure, the River Park Neighborhood Association has chosen to use money from South Bend’s IGNITE Grant to decorate the local electrical boxes. For this project, Samara was commissioned as an artist to help design the vinyl that would adorn the boxes. She describes the experience as being exciting and rewarding. Even though there have been some hiccups and red tape along the way, she has moved forward with the project alongside the Neighborhood Association. As of right now, she is eager to see how this project progresses.

Aside from her work in the community, Samara’s art has also been displayed in various local venues as well as exhibits out of state. For her, these experiences are both rewarding and nerve-racking. She describes her unique style as “Graffitism” and draws inspiration from urban art as well as different types of music. Early on, she developed an interest in art thanks to the influence of her high school art teacher, Mr. Kaeming. Through his guidance, she was able to cultivate a passion for the arts and make use of the artistic freedom he provided.

Through her work locally, Samara has cemented herself as a standout artist within the community. In her efforts to bring art to South Bend and promote local interest, she has brought her unique passion to the neighborhood. Residents should be advised to look forward to her collaboration with the Neighborhood Association.



**Face Painting Parties**

**Art Class Parties**

**Painting Parties**

**Henna Parties**

**.....and more!**

574-301-9744

info@TheArtyPeople.com



### IGNITE GRANT UPDATE:

**We hope to use a bulk of the \$10,000 grant to decorate some of the unsightly signal boxes down Mishawaka Ave.**

**Cheryl had a couple of calls and a zoom meeting with members from the Engagement and Economic Empowerment Team, Department of Community Investment, City of South Bend and a representative from Elkhart’s vinyl wrapping project. She also went to Elkhart to see some of their boxes in person. She was pleasantly surprised at the condition the wraps were in. Their wraps had a gloss finish to them and are holding up very well.**

**We are looking for artists with artwork that they can submit digitally or we can scan to digital for vinyl wrapping, preferably in AI format with bleed for application. Email: cwlshc@gmail.com**





# SJCPL 2023 "ONE BOOK, ONE MICHIANA"

BY ISAAC LILLIE

For its Book Choice of 2023, the library has chosen Mike Curato's *Flamer*. The book follows the story of a young boy named Aiden, who is struggling through the various aspects of adolescence. The book is unabashed in its portrayal of these struggles and doesn't shy away from their awkward nature. *Flamer* has also been praised for the voice it gives to those in the LGBTQ community, with Aiden himself coming to accept his own feelings throughout the book.



In his unique art style, Curato tells Aiden's story in such a way that those struggling with similar difficulties can relate. And through his writing, Curato creates a powerful portrayal of adolescence and the struggles that can come with being different. Anyone dealing with a similar situation will surely find something to like in this book.

To find out more, locals are encouraged to attend the events held by the local library, with Curato himself coming to South Bend to speak about his book.

On Monday, April 24th, at 6 PM at Main Library, we present An Evening with Mike Curato. An award-winning author and illustrator, Curato is the author of our One Book, One Michiana 2023 selection, *Flamer*. Preregister at [sjcpl.org](http://sjcpl.org).



# April 2023

April 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
					Potawatomi Zoo opens!	1 Conservatory Yoga 9:00-10:20* River Park Food Pantry 10-12:00 Easter Egg Dive @ Kroc Center 10:30-1:30** Mulch Madness @ Nuner School IUSB Food Festival 2-5:00
	3 SBSCS Spring Break	4 SBSCS Spring Break IUSB Choir Concert @ 7:00	5 SBSCS Spring Break. Conservatory Yoga 11:00-12:00* River Park Food Pantry 10-12:00	6 SBSCS Spring Break Children's Storytime @ library, 10:30-11:00	7 SBSCS Spring Break	8 Conservatory Yoga 9:00-10:20* River Park Food Pantry 10-12:00 Easter Bunny Brunch @ Conservatories 11:30-1:30* **
	10	11 IUSB Philharmonic Concert @ 7:00	12 Conservatory Yoga 11:00-12:00* River Park Food Pantry 10-12:00 Conservatory Mental Health "Pot a Plant" 2-4pm ***	13 Children's Storytime @ library, 10:30-11:00 RPNA monthly meeting @ library, 7pm	14	15 Conservatory Yoga 9:00-10:20* River Park Food Pantry 10-12:00
	17	18 Library STEAM Lab 4:00 IUSB Euclid Quartet Concert, 7:00	19 Library Playtime for ages 0-5 @ 10:30 am Conservatory Yoga 11:00-12:00* River Park Food Pantry 10-12:00 Library's Recycling 101, 4-5:00 ages 6-12	20 Children's Storytime @ library, 10:30-11:00 IUSB Jazz Ensemble @ 7:00	21	22 Conservatory Yoga 9:00-10:20* River Park Food Pantry 10-12:00
	24 Main Library's Evening with Mike Curato to discuss his graphic novel, "FLAMER" at 6:00*	25 Library's Poetry Acting Ensemble, 6-7:00	26 Library's Adventure in Bad Cinema, 6:30 Conservatory Yoga 11:00-12:00* River Park Food Pantry 10-12:00 IUSB Wind Ensemble @ 7:00 Wellness Resource Event @ Rio Park, 11am-6pm	27 Children's storytime @ library, 10:30-11:00	28	29 Conservatory Yoga 9:00-10:20* River Park Food Pantry 10-12:00



# May 2023

◀ Apr 2023							May 2023		Jun 2023 ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat				
7	8	9 IUSB-Commencement, Notre Dame @ 6:30pm	10 Conservatory Yoga 11:00- 12:00* River Park Food Pantry 10- 12:00	11 Children's Storytime @ Library, 10:30-11:00 RPNA monthly meeting @ library, 7pm	12 SBSCC Battle of the Books	13 Conservatory Yoga 9:00- 10:20* River Park Food Pantry 10- 12:00				
14	15	16	17 Conservatory Yoga 11:00- 12:00* River Park Food Pantry 10- 12:00	18 SBSCS Spring Break Children's Storytime @ library, 10:30-11:00	19	20 Conservatory Yoga 9:00- 10:20* River Park Food Pantry 10- 12:00				
21	22	23	24 Conservatory Yoga 11:00-12:00* River Park Food Pantry 10-12:00	25 Childrens storytime @ library, 10:30-11:00	26 Last Day of School for Prek, SNAP, and Marquette Montessori	27 Conservatory Yoga 9:00- 10:20* River Park Food Pantry 10- 12:00				
28	29	30	31 Conservatory Yoga 11:00- 12:00* River Park Food Pantry 10-12:00							

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@ Gospel Center

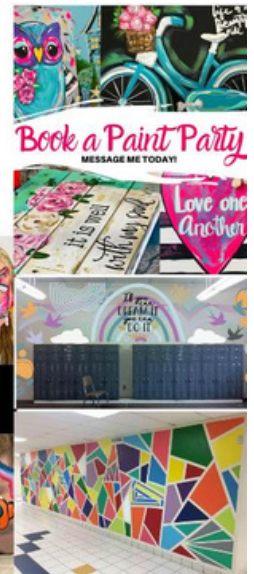
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