

RIVER PARK NEWS

Official Newsletter of
the River Park Neighborhood Association

Happy Retirement Joseph Sipocz

Hello, River Park Neighbors, Businesses, Churches, and others

As RPNA President, I would like to express my sorrow that River Park Library Branch Manager and RPNA Board Member, Joseph Sipocz, has retired from both the Library and the RPNA Board.

I know I speak for the officers and board when I say that we are going to miss him. I have worked with Joe on the RPNA Board for the past two years, and I can say that it was a great experience.

Many of you may not be aware, but Joe did a great deal for the Neighborhood Association. He worked on our Newsletters so that the rest of the board could concentrate on the different events, committees, and other parts of the RPNA that need to be addressed. He also worked with the IUSB Honor Students. He truly will be missed as a staple of the neighborhood.

At the August RPNA Board meeting, it was decided to elect a new board member. With a 6-0 vote, Ann Moore was voted on the board. She comes to every meeting and is very interested in helping the neighborhood. If you see Ann, please congratulate her.

Help me wish Joseph Sipocz a great retirement, and Ann Moore good luck as a board member.

Hope to see you around,
DeAndre Barton, President

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Planet Green Recycling



Help save the planet and improve River Park by recycling ink jet cartridges for the *River Park Neighborhood Association*. The *River Park Public Library* lobby has our RPNA collection box.



Planet Green is the largest recycling company in the U.S. And not only can the RPNA receive funds from your recycled Ink Jet cartridges, you too can purchase Ink Jet cartridges from them for up to **70%** discount over OEMs but also the RPNA receives a small percentage of such purchases. Yet, the benefits for you do not end there. By calling them and giving our RPNA account number (**29196**), you can receive another **15%** discount. Free shipping for orders over \$45. Call *Planet Green* at **800-377-1093** and ask for Becky. Tell her that you are with the *River Park Neighborhood Association* and give her our account number. Delivery is usually within three to four days.

Any questions? Call RPNA's representative: Phil @ 574-287-2270.



**HELP US FUNDRAISE
BY RECYCLING E-WASTE**



LEARN HOW

Rediscover River Park Saturday, September 27th, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join the River Park
Neighborhood on
Saturday, September 27th,
for Rediscover River Park.

There will be a History
Scavenger Hunt starting
at 10:00 a.m. at Gospel
Center. Discover the
answers and receive
prizes!!! Beginning at 10
a.m., head over to Our
Redeemer Lutheran

Church for the Jeep Park. There will be free donuts, and you can “duck” a Jeep. At 12 p.m., stop by Gospel Center Missionary Church for free food and games. Plus, the Potawatomi Conservatories will be free from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. if you have a Scavenger Hunt sheet.

There will be a table for the S.H.A.P.E. Committee and the River Park Neighborhood Association. At that table, you will learn about the S.H.A.P.E. Committee and drop off any empty ink cartridges you may have.

Rediscover RIVER PARK



Saturday, September 27

Join us for a time of exploring what makes the River Park neighborhood so great - a deep history, committed businesses and churches, and lots of great people!

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

RP HISTORICAL SCAVENGER HUNT PRIZES!

Starts @ Gospel Center Missionary Church
10am - 1pm

1ST ANNUAL JEEP PARK FREE DONUTS & DUCKS!



@ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
10am - 2pm

PICNIC

FREE FOOD & GAMES!

@ Gospel Center Missionary Church
Noon - 2pm

Keep River Park in S.H.A.P.E.



It is basic. Mankind wants to have shelter, food, clothing, and an income. A person's home is his or her family's 'castle'. The *River Park Neighborhood Association's* standing committee's efforts, **Safety, Housing, and Asset Preservation** (SHAPE), try to address primarily the issues of finding, keeping, and improving our living conditions, and have been doing so since 2009. In this article, we will look at current governmental resources from the Housing Authority and the city's Community Investment.

The **Housing Authority** has two basic services: **Section 8** and **Public Housing**. Section 8 serves families to pay for rent in a landlord's rental property. Public housing is found in units owned by the *Housing Authority*.

Typically, both have long waiting lists. It is possible for a person/family to be on both wait lists when the application period opens up. If a person has a larger family, is homeless, etc. they are issued more points. The more points you have, the sooner you reach the top of the wait list. The Key for both services is to apply when one or the other is officially opened for applications. It is currently estimated that within 40 days (as of mid-October 2025) for 2,3,4, & 5 bedroom needs. A two-bedroom requires, for example, a parent & child, etc.

South Bend's **Community Development** flagship is *Rebuilding Together* (formerly *Christmas in April*). This program, now administered as of 2024 by the *Heritage Foundation*, selects a neighborhood and about twenty homes to upgrade with the help of volunteers and free services from various contractors. River Park was served by this program in 2010 and 2012. However, River Park was also served by other programs such as: the *Neighborhood Improved/Investment Program* for four years, *Refresh*, *Love Your Block*, as well as 27 homes that the RPNA did ourselves via our Housing Committee.

The city also offers the ongoing *Curb and Sidewalk* and *Lamppost* programs, where the city covers approximately half of the cost. Various utilities also offer utility assistance, like electric, gas, and water, based on income. Some of these can save a resident ranging from \$14 to \$25 per month.

Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) also offers assistance. However, the city's past *Rent-to-Own* and *First Time Home Buyers* are currently in potential redevelopment.

Nevertheless, the city's **Community Investment's Neighborhood Division** serves as a managing conduit for the *Community Homebuyers Corporation* (CHC) that offers classes to help purchase homes with a 20% grant and \$1,000 toward closing costs. And their *Home Repair Program* will likely begin accepting applications this winter. The RPNA's SHAPE will keep you informed.



River Park Clean Up 2019

Your River Park Neighborhood Association

Your 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 Maciulski (Secretary)

Carrie Marks (Treasurer):
[cmarks@mycanops.com]

Our vision is a safe, attractive community where residents feel proud, are connected to one another, and engage to better the neighborhood.



River Park Business Association

RiverParkBussinessAssociation@gmail.com
Facebook.com/riverparkbusinessassociation
P.O. Box 6482, South Bend, Indiana 46660

The River Park Business Association has moved from a monthly meeting schedule to a quarterly schedule. All meetings will continue to be held on Wednesdays at 8 am in Allie's Cafe. The next RPBA meetings will be on September 24, 2025 and December 10, 2025





The Barber Shop

Haircuts & Styling

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

Builders Store Inc.

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

574-288-5025

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Get to Know God

God wants to **speak to you** through His Word and tell you **He cares for you and loves you.**

Come and Read Psalms together with us at Community Bible Study. Share with others what you have read. Hear what others have read and join us in the community.



STARTING SEPTEMBER 8th southbend.cbssclass.org
REGISTRATION OPEN ONLINE NOW

South Bend Classes: at Gospel Center Church,
930 S 30th St., South Bend 46615

Men's Class and Women's Class
Monday Evenings 7:00 to 8:30pm

Women's Class with child care for infants 6 months to 5 years
Tuesday Morning Class 9:30 to 11:00 am

NextGen Class for ages 8-11, ages 11-14 and ages 14-18
Monday evening 7:00 to 8:30pm (check web site for changes)



Do you want to write for RIVER PARK NEWS?

As a neighbor in River Park, you have the opportunity to write an article for RIVER PARK NEWS. At the moment, the officers and board, and IUSB Honor students write for this Newsletter, but anyone in River Park is welcome to write an article about anything that is happening in River Park.

All you need to do is email an article to sbriverpark@gmail.com, and your article will be placed in the next issue of RIVER PARK NEWS, pending approval.

S.H.A.P.E.

Safety, Housing, and Asset Preservation Efforts

The River Park Neighborhood Association is looking for interested people who would like to improve River Park. The **Safety, Housing, and Asset Preservation Efforts Committee** has been in existence since before 2009 as one of the standing committees of the *River Park Neighborhood Association*, in response to the *City of South Bend's* request for increased resident involvement in the development, safety, and preservation of its neighborhoods and services.

Our mission goals are:

- # 1 Work with neighbors whose houses are most in need and link with various improvement programs.
- # 2 Optimize the experiences of renters and landlords.
- # 3 Facilitate improvements in other commercial and non-commercial properties.
- # 4 Work to improve infrastructure conditions, including sidewalks and alleys.
- # 5 Partner with city departments such as: *Community Investment*, *Code Enforcement*, *South Bend Police Department*, and other neighborhood partners, as well as with other agencies, institutions, including *IUSB*, service groups, charitable organizations, businesses, and other concerned individuals.
- # 6 Keep River Park residents informed on how they can keep their homes and improve their neighborhoods, and empower them to be more proactive in River Park's success. It is also envisioned to develop rental and home-buying resources.
- # 7 Coordinate the presentation of River Park's history and its historic preservation.
- # 8 Improve the safety of River Park in the mission-memory of the *Neighborhood Crime Watch* model.

Over the past 15 years, we have helped improve over 50 homes, coordinated many area-wide clean-up campaigns, contributed to the safety of River Park by 400% from our inception, and have offered many safety and history seminars.

Please call Phil at 574-287-2270 or Joe at 574-286-5127.



River Park Clean Up 2025

This year's Annual Clean Up was very successful.

We had close to thirty volunteers. Those included were neighbors, business owners, church volunteers, city officials, members of the St. Joseph County democratic party, and members of the Portage Township Trustee Office. Everyone met at the former Fast Signs parking lot and was able to use the city's Tend-the-Bend trailer.

By the end, we had cleaned up a total of nine streets between Ironwood and Logan, as well as the River Park west neighborhood. Free donuts and coffee/water were offered.

Please join us next year for our 2026 River Park Clean Up.

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!



Sign Up for the Next
Digital Newsletter

Your neighborhood news delivered
to your in-box 4 times a year



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

Take a
photo of
this ad &
get 10% off

VIEW MENU

127 N Main St, South Bend, IN 46601 • (574) 232-2853

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



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 February, May, August
and November.