

Winter

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2013

RP Business Association attains Indiana Main Street status

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman has announced that the River Park Business Association has joined the Indiana Main Street (IMS) program. This program encourages economic development, redevelopment and improvement to downtown and main corridor areas of Indiana's cities and towns.

The River Park Business Association is joining more than 100 other Indiana Main Street communities dedicated to the vitalization of their respective areas. The IMS is administered by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA).

The goal of the RP Business Association with its newly attained Indiana Main Street affiliation is to achieve

Continued page 3



River Park Business Association 2012 president Pat Case along with a representative of South Bend Mayor Buttigieg's office accept the Indiana Main Street designation at the Association's December 12th meeting.

RPNA plans 2 big fundraisers

By Mike Staszewski

The River Park Neighborhood Association is currently planning two fundraisers, the Five Guy's fundraiser and a Trivia Night. All funds raised are used to support our family and friends within River Park. Below is more info on each one. We hope to see you at these events-helping make our great community better one dollar at a time! For more information on any of the two fundraisers or join the fundraising committee to help plan the next fundraiser, please contact Mike at mikestaszewski@gmail.com.

Five Guy's Burger and Fries fundraiser

Date/Time: Thursday, February 7th, 2013-All Day Long! 11:00AM-10:00PM

Location: (Eddy St. Commons, by Notre Dame) 1233 North Eddy Street, South Bend, IN 46617



15% of everyone's entire meal will be donated to the RP Neighborhood Association.

20% of your meal will be donated if we raise \$400 or more!

Gift Card purchases will count towards this total.

All you need to do is place your receipt in our specially designed box located next to the registers (you can't miss it).

Continued page3 See Fundraisers

The Well Coffee House opens on the Ave

hopes to become "the other living room" for River Park

A non-profit, 'French press' style coffee house, The Well, has opened in the former Bryan's Piano Barr at 2410 Mishawaka Avenue. "French press coffee", explains Megan Chandler, general manager, "is an individual brewing system (that makes it sound more involved than it is) that allows for very smooth and strong coffee. Don't worry though, we still offer a full Espresso menu, for those who don't want to stray too far from Starbucks."



The Well's non-profit status is maintained by not charging for drinks, patrons instead are asked to make a donation, and

all the baristas are volunteers. The menu lists suggested donation amounts, all under \$2, which allow for a small

profit to go towards the community directly.

Currently, The Well has purchased ceramic-style travel mugs, and will be selling them from the coffee house for \$5. All the

proceeds will go to the River Park Neighborhood Association. The Well is also going to be offering scholarships for River Park residents. Readers are encouraged to submit ideas for how profits can benefit the community. You can contact the Well and follow

their events and goings on by visiting their Facebook page www.facebook.com/TheWellRiverPark.

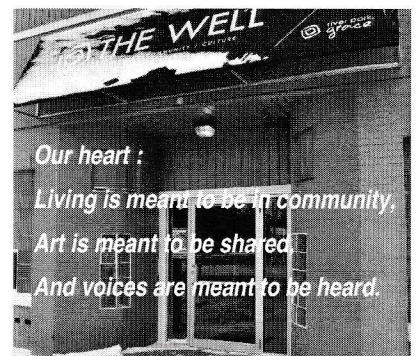
The Well is open Wed-Fri: 10-10. (They will be open more hours as more volunteers are recruited.)

The Well offers free wi-fi.

Thursday night = Game Night.

Friday night = Open Mic.

The Well features space for local art to be displayed.



Our heart :

Living is meant to be in community.

Art is meant to be shared.

And voices are meant to be heard.

Meet the Members:

By Kevin Strebinger

It is with great pleasure that I introduce Willow Wetherall who has lived in the South Bend area for almost 12 years and has called River Park home for 6 of those years. Initially coming here from Maine to earn a Master's Degree in International Peace Studies, she decided to plant roots after her first child was born. The choice of moving to River Park was easy because "the neighborhood had everything we were looking for."

In 2008, Willow became involved with the RPNA and through collaboration with the members and neighbors decided to pursue ways to stimulate growth and revitalization in River Park and downtown South Bend with a focus on sustainable development. The existing

attributes of River Park, such as the river walk, businesses, parks and walkable neighborhood make it a natural fit for anyone interested in new urbanism. Having strong neighborhoods with unique characteristics is essential to positive growth and is healthy for a city as well.

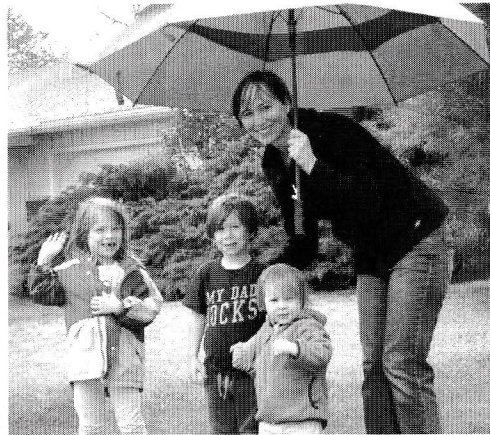
Willow's love of the area has motivated her to organize Ignite Michiana. What started in Seattle in 2006 has become global. After attending an Ignite event in May 2012, she decided South Bend was ready.

Every Newsletter our membership chair, Kevin Strebinger, will attempt to interview a member of RPNA. If you have something you love about our neighborhood or someone you think we should feature, please e-mail rpna@exploreriverpark.com to let us know.

organization on Facebook.

Willow may have sprouted in Maine, but she has firmly planted her roots in the soil of

River Park and South Bend; Maine's loss is certainly our gain.



Willow Wetherall & family

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"Ignite Michiana is an evening event of presentations designed to inspire, educate, and entertain the Michiana community. In one evening, attendees hear 18 passionate speakers from our creative, technical, and business communities talking about their current projects or favorite ideas for just five minutes each. The evening also includes additional time for networking and informal follow-up with the presenters."

So at 6:30 p.m. on March 28th, the State Theatre will host the first "Ignite Michiana" with a theme of Innovation and Sustainability. The cost is \$10.00 per person for the event

and then all attendees are invited to the after party for further discussion of how to put the ideas into action. Visit www.ignitemichiana.com to learn more and follow the

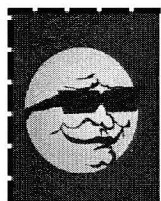
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A Little Help Please!

By Kevin Strebinger

Once again I am here to ask for your support of the River Park Neighborhood Association by becoming a member. The cost is only five dollars per year per person. I know that parting with money is not always an easy thing to do. Especially when it seems there is no obvious benefit. I am going to try to change that. Before I explain how, let me just remind you of the things that we need money for. First there is the Newsletter. There is a substantial cost to produce this fine publication and the advertising revenue does not always leave us flush with cash. The Newsletter is an important way to share information with each other and is great for coupons and deals. Second, we have expense incurred for website fees, PO Box rental and newspaper ads. Third, would be the continued mailing of the Newsletter to every home in River Park. What are the potential benefits of being a member? I have already

offered an incentive program on the facebook page and that could happen again. I am working on getting local businesses to offer some member only benefits. This project is in the early stages and I will have more details in the next Newsletter. There have been ideas presented ranging from gift baskets for those in need during holidays to a scholarship for a local child. All these things require funding and a large group of people doing a little can accomplish more than a few trying to do a lot. Remember that anyone is welcome to become a member. All that is required is to fill out an application and send it to River Park Neighborhood Association, PO Box 66, South Bend IN, 46624-0066 along with the five dollars per person. Don't forget, if you recruit someone, please make sure your name is also clearly written on the form for future recruiting challenges.



Continued from front page

opportunities for the vitalization and continued prosperity of the River Park area through this program. The RPBA will assume all responsibilities for the corridor's Main Street initiatives, including Main Street's Four Point Approach to development: organization,

design, promotion and economic structuring. Each of these points represents an aspect vital to the continuing efforts of the River Park community. The RP Business Association is excited to have this opportunity to bring more visibility to River Park.

Fundraisers (continued from front page)

Trivia Night @ the American Legion



Date/Time: Thursday May 16th, 2013;
7PM-9:00PM

Location: The American Legion Post 303
2503 West Mishawaka Avenue

Post 303

Alcohol sales will be allowed so be sure and bring your ID.

\$120.00 per table and 8 people max at a table (approx. \$15/person).

No minimum team size: so you can be your own team!

You can guarantee there will be some River Park history at this trivia night!

Every team/table will receive 1 mulligan, with potential to purchase addition mulligans.

River Park parade is two days later (Saturday, May 18th).

Goodwill Community Career Center



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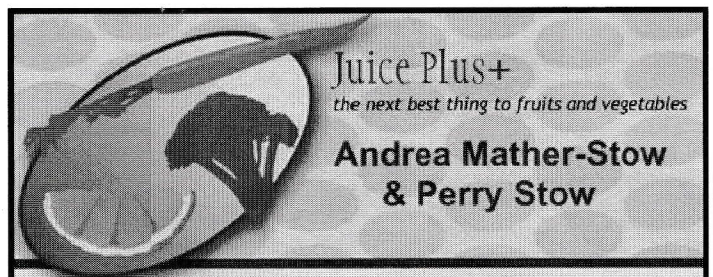
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It's all happening at the Conservatories

by Jan Maciulski

If you are looking for fun things to do this winter may I suggest visiting the Potawatomi Conservatories on Mishawaka Ave. as the place to go. A good way to begin your Saturday is to join us for Yoga beginning at 9:00 am. If you haven't tried Yoga with tropical plants surrounding you you're missing something very special. The Unity Garden offers many classes such as Bee Keeping, Shade Gardening, Hummingbirds, Urban Chickens etc. that will help you improve your surroundings and our community. There will be knitting classes on a monthly basis and stained glass window classes offered. The Easter



Bunny Brunch on March 23rd from 10:30-12:30 is a great family opportunity to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt, visit with the Easter Bunny, make a craft

project and enjoy a delicious brunch. Call for 282-1787 reservations. If you like to kick up your heels you don't want to miss the Beats Without Boarders dance nights that are scheduled monthly. It's a night of lazer lights, great music and a dance instructor with a sense of humor. The next one is on Feb. 8th from 8:00-11:00. If you are bored during the winter months or just ready to help make a difference there are many volunteer opportunities at the Conservatories. You can help with the plant collection, plan events and fundraisers, work to build a greater membership and use your talents to help us make the Potawatomi Conservatories continue to improve and be a vibrant part of the River Park neighborhood. Join us!

Potawatomi Conservatories calendar of events

February	March
2 Yoga 9:00-10:15 am	2 Yoga 9:00-10:15 am
6 Beekeeping Class 6:00 pm	3 Stained Glass Class (time to be determined)
7 All About Vegetables Class 6:00 pm	4 Dance, Jamila Thomas (time to be determined)
8 Beats Without Boarders 8:00-11:00 pm	7 Herb Gardening Class 6:00 pm
9 Yoga 9:00-10:15 am	9 Yoga 9:00-10:15 am
13 Hummingbirds Class 6:00 pm	Knitting Class 12:00-3:00 pm
14 Indoor Seed Starting and Saving Class 6:00 pm	14 Maintaining Your Garden 6:00 pm
16 Yoga 9:00-10:15 am	16 Yoga 9:00-10:15
20 Plant Propagation Class 6:00 pm	Stain Glass Painting Party 12 noon
21 Container Gardening 6:00 pm	Ginger Valley Spring Show
23 Yoga 9:00-10:15 am/ Knitting Class 12:00-3:00 pm	17 Ginger Valley Spring Show
Wine Tasting 7:00-9:00 pm	23 Spring Flower Show starts/ Yoga 9:00-10:15 am
27 Urban Chicken Class 6:00 pm	Easter Bunny Brunch 10:30-12:30 am
28 Pest Management Class 6:00 pm	Knitting Class 12:00-3:00 pm
	30 Yoga 9:00-10:15 am



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Thursday - House Made Meat Loaf
Friday - Fish Fry & Philly Steak

Artists Corner **Anna Pasquarello**

By Megan Chandler,

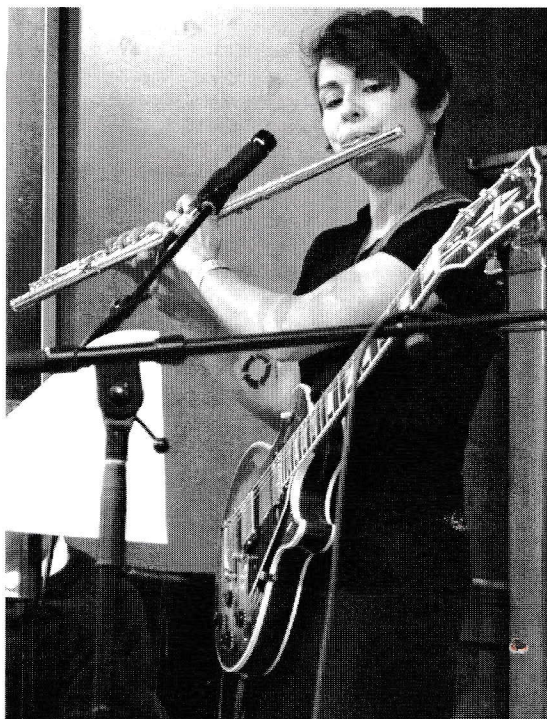
Anna Pasquarello is a 20-something artist resident in River Park. She happens to be one of those annoyingly amazing people who is talented at many things: a visual artist, musician, and audio engineer.

Not only is she fluent in multiple media, she also plays multiple instruments. She began studying flute at 8 years old, and has since added guitar, stomp/snare, trombone, and even harp to her repertoire. That, and of course, she can sing harmonies off the cuff, which many vocalists cannot

manage. While her talent and skill astound, it is her heart that makes her a true artist. When discussing her audio engineering chops, she states, "I don't think you can be an artist and not want to keep learning." Speaking as an artist continually seeking perfection, she doesn't consider herself yet to be excellent. Still, in reminiscing over the hours of practice from her youth she can recall "glimmers of excellence" with a smile.

If you are walking on Mishawaka Ave and come across a bicyclist with a pixie-

ish haircut, currently sporting a streak of pink, an introvert artist may have crossed your path, and trust me you're the better for it. So check out her band Shiny Shiny Black, and see first-hand the lady who, when asked what Art meant to her said, "Art makes me thrive."



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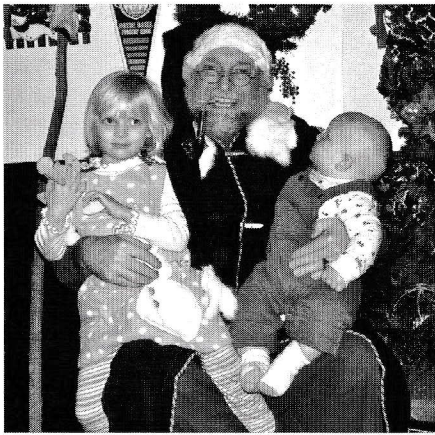

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Children's Holiday Party Rocks!



The RPNA decked the halls at Allie's on Sunday,

December 16th for about thirty neighborhood children and their parents. Though attendance was only half of that of last year's event (read: NO SNOW!), all the kids got their sweet cravings assuaged, had photos taken with St. Nick, sang holiday songs and left with a nice bag of treats and toys. The upside of the down attendance was that we were able to donate the leftover food and toys to the South Bend Center for the Homeless!



RPNA's own Bev Steele takes part in the official ribbon cutting ceremony inaugurating the completion of the River Park's portion of the North Side Trail held November 12, 2012

Interested in e-Waste Recycle Fest?

By Kevin Strebinger

Every year there is tons of electronic waste headed to landfills across the country. This presents a very dangerous environmental risk due to the chemicals in most electronic devices. These chemicals can make their way into ground water and pose serious health risks. Every year there is an e-cycle event held at IU South Bend on the second Saturday in May. I have

always missed it because that is also the same day as the Letter Carrier Food Drive of which I am the coordinator. I have been thinking of organizing a River Park pickup on the Thursday before and would love to have some feedback. If you are interested in helping organize or participating in this please contact me at binger8@sbcglobal.net or message me on Facebook.

RPBA invites all to participate

The River Park Business Association consists of about 45 dues-paying members representing businesses all through out River Park from the Farmer's Market to Logan Street between Jefferson Blvd. and the St. Joseph River. The RP Business Association is committed to the improvement, development and prosperity of not only the River Park businesses as well as enhancing the River Park community by striving to maintain a desirable

place to live, work, shop and visit. They meet every third Wednesday at 8:00AM, at Allie's Cafe'. You do not have to own a business to attend! All are welcome to sit in, volunteer for their numerous committees, and join in lively discussions addressing all topics of interest having to do with River Park. The River Park Neighborhood Association is happy to be partnered with the River Park Business Association.

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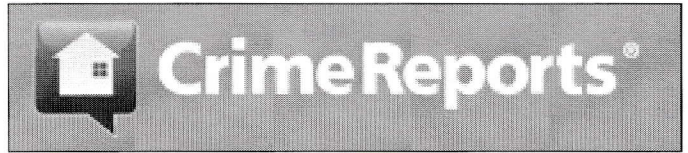
www.MissPamsChildcare.com

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Solstice Celebration "Brings the Light"!

The evening of December 21st saw a gathering of high-spirited River Park residents on Northside Trail river walk to participate in the ancient tradition of chasing away the evil spirits brought on by the longest night of the year by singing and making loud noises with crude instruments, and then, to welcome the growing periods of daylight ahead with cheerful

celebration. The river walk was lined for a mile with ethereal candle-lit luminaries to light the way for our "Mummers Parade", and Matt and Kathy Kent provided the Yule (Juul) log to warm our exteriors and some tasty mulled wine to do the same for our interiors. This was the 2nd annual event of its kind here in River Park, and we hope it grows into a cheerful tradition!




South Bend and Mishawaka have both recently become members of CrimeReports.com. This live interactive site allows you to enter any address (in a participating municipality) and see live reports of crimes that have occurred in that area. Crimes reports are added

icons differentiating thefts, thefts from vehicles, breaking and entering, assaults, sex offenders, as well as the option to add and remove icons on the map. Take a moment to stop by the site and review River Park. Then take a step outside your door and confirm that your house numbers are easily visible from the street during evening hours, that our porch is well lit and that you can see the lit porches of your neighbors. These three tasks can have a great impact on the ability of the police to send squad cars to the proper addresses and/or see crimes in progress.

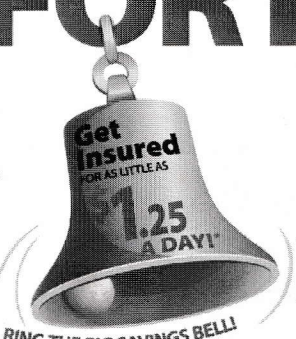
within 24 hours of a police report and indicated on the map by small icons that clarify the type of incident. You'll see



River Park Neighborhood Association



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RING THE BIG SAVINGS BELL!

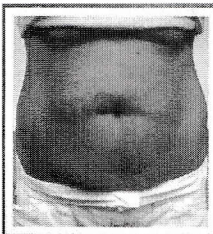
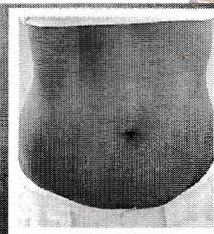
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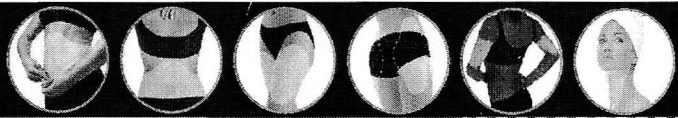
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River Park Neighborhood Association

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Signature	Date	Received by RPNA	Date	\$	Amount
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PO BOX 66, South Bend IN 46624-0066

River Park

Neighborhood Association

Vision and Mission

Our vision is a safe, attractive community where residents feel proud, are connected to one another, and engage to better the neighborhood. To bring our vision to reality, the River Park Neighborhood Association cultivates relationships to secure and develop our River Park assets.

The River Park Neighborhood Association

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WE MEET
The **SECOND THURSDAY** of the month
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Find us on Facebook **River Park Neighbors (South Bend)**

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NEXT ISSUE: May, 2013
News & Advertising deadline: April 15, 2013



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