

The River Park News

A publication of the River Park Neighborhood Association

Fall

www.riverparksouthbend.com

2017

Facebook: **River Park Neighbors (South Bend)**

We are back after a year's hiatus!

December Events in River Park

Our annual **Children's Christmas / Holiday Party** is **Sunday, December 10th**.

It will be held at **The Well @ 2410 Mishawaka Ave.** from noon to 2:00 PM. All are welcome, children and families, for games, crafts, refreshments, Santa, and gifts. It's free!

Sponsored by
River Park Neighborhood Association
& The Well

RIVER PARK HOLIDAY-CHRISTMAS PARTY
Sunday December 10
Noon to 2PM
The Well - 2410 E. Mishawaka Ave

There will be plenty of crafts and games for kids to participate in, as well as an opportunity to sit with Santa for photos. Refreshments will be provided (espresso drinks available for purchase). This is a free event for residents of River Park, and nearby neighbors and friends.



Housing and Asset Committee:

A big thanks to our award sponsors: the **Builders Store** and the **Potawatomi Conservatories**.

Here are the Lavish Lawn Awards for 2017:



May: 746 S. 30th



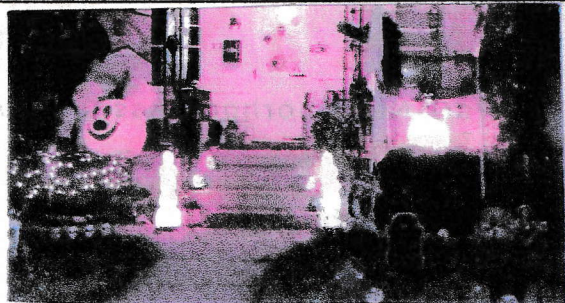
June: 753 S. 33rd



July: 3310 Northside Blvd



August: 701 S. Ironwood



pending

**October: Halloween 517 S. 30th.****December: Lavish lawn Award for Christmas**

Code Enforcement has a new tool to assist reporting problem properties. Go and register @ aca3.accela.com/southbendin.

There you can register a complaint; such as, trash, abandoned house, and other violations of city ordinances. River Park, because of our exceptional *Neighborhood Crime Watch* Captains and NETWORK and your Association, the City of South Bend is using River Park as a test case of this resource for the city. So, help River Park and *Code Enforcement*. Register and use the system. It is already working!

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Christmas/ Holiday Events:

Come Celebrate Jesus' Birthday, Sunday, December 3, 1:00- 4:00 PM, ***River Park United Methodist Church***, 920 S. 23rd St. RSVP 288-6243.

Advent Penance Service, December 5, 7:00PM ***St Anthony Catholic Church***.

Christmas Eve Children's Choir 4:15 PM, followed by the ***Christmas Vigil***, Dec. 24th.

Midnight Christmas Prelude 11:30 PM and ***Christmas Morning Mass***, 10 AM. Dec 25

"Behold the Light" Advent Reflection series: Wednesdays, Dec. 6, 13, 20 @ 7 PM at ***Our Redeemer Lutheran Church***. ***Cookie Walk***: Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 AM to noon. ***Christmas Eve***: 7 PM and ***Christmas Morning***: 10 AM.

Our Redeemer is looking for partners and suggestions to help the elderly with their yard and homes in River Park. Call Pastor Steve Latzke: 288-8288.

RPNA Children's Christmas/ Holiday Party, Sunday, December 10, noon – 2:00 PM @ ***The Well***, 2410 Mishawaka Avenue. All families are welcome. See page 1 for more details.



Hanukah, December 12-19.

River Park Business Association's free Christmas – *Holiday Chorale*

Adams High School Choir will present their annual carols on Wednesday, December 13th from 8-9 AM at ***Allies Restaurant***.

RPNA's Christmas / Holiday Meeting. Thursday, December 14, 7:00 PM @ the ***River Park Public Library***. Our keynote presenter will be ***Chief Steve Cox*** of the ***S.B. Fire Department***. He will discuss the latest for our new ***Fire & Ambulance Station***.

A Christmas Carol (Children's Christmas Program), Sunday, December 17, 10:15AM and ***Christmas Eve Service***, Dec. 24, 5:30, at ***Gospel Center Missionary Church***.

River Park West Committee by Pam Claeys

River Park West – a Cozy Neighborhood, is a charming four-block area at the western edge of River Park, bounded by IUSB on the east, Mishawaka Avenue on the north, Twyckenham Drive on the west, and Hildreth Street on the south. Our neighborhood consists of business and residential owners and renters. We are part of the *River Park Neighborhood Association (RPNA)* and report regularly on our progress.

Neighbors organized in September 2010 in response to IUSB's plan to demolish multiple homes (50 in all!!) and put in a gravel parking lot. Our main goal and mission originally was to oppose gravel parking lots, attempt anew to communicate with IUSB, and to maintain property values. With the full support of RPNA and others, communication between IUSB and RPWN began in November 2010 when the "Parking Lot Project" was announced. As a result, we met Tom Morrison – IU Vice President for Capital Projects and Facilities, and Ken Baierl – IUSB Director of Communications and Marketing (now also Chief of Staff, Office of the Chancellor), and were involved in the design and ongoing execution of the project which was completed in the fall of 2011.

Ripple effects of the parking lot project have included:

- Alleys damaged by large machinery used in the project.
- Need for more street lighting after homes were demolished.
- Increase traffic volume, 300-600 cars per weekday on Hildreth Street, per recent traffic study.
- Speeding drivers on streets and in alleys.
- Altered traffic patterns, necessitating need for new stop signs and traffic calming measures.
- Increased parking woes as IUSB students avoid buying parking passes and park in restricted residential or 2-hour parking areas.
- Parking problems exacerbated when IUSB raised parking fees in 2016, and getting worse.

Successes have included:

- Paved, landscaped "parking park" instead of unimproved gravel lot as initially proposed.
- Direct connection to Project Leader, Tom Morrison, and Mia Williams, IU Landscape Architect.
- Input into design issues and execution of the parking lot project.
- Facilitated items donated to *Habitat for Humanity* before housing demolition, including three 16-foot truckloads of perennial plants, and an estimated 57 tons of material diverted from the waste stream.
- Met IUSB Chancellor, Terry Allison, shortly after his July 2013 arrival, who committed to continued communication and has proven to be understanding and supportive.
- Work with several *City of South Bend* departments to add street lighting, improve alleys, conduct traffic studies, and add traffic calming measures.
- Currently working with SBPD to enforce driving and parking violations.

RPWN supporters continue to include the *River Park Neighborhood Association (RPNA)*, elected city, county, and state officials, City of South Bend staff, several River Park residents and business owners, and other interested partners. We thank everyone involved for their support.

RPWN continues to meet with IUSB to foster ongoing communications regarding neighborhood issues, campus plans including property maintenance and expansion plans; maintaining residential property values; and neighborly good will. We now mark seven years of successful communication and working together to solve problems, and look forward to continued good relationship and open communications. *River Park West* meets at 6 PM on alternate first Thursdays at the *River Park Library* - call Pam for details: 288-5951.

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Down through the past twenty years RPNA members have been involved in the planning of the \$1.2 million River Walk Project through our *Parks and River Committee*, prayer walks via the *Secure River Park Committee*, partially restoring 27 homes via *Housing and Asset Preservation Committee*, adding over 100 *Neighborhood Crime Watch Captains* via the *Safety Committee*, which has helped insure River Park as the safest 1.5 sq mi. area and 18 miles of streets in South Bend.

Avenue Auto, a long time member of the *River Park Business Association*, is offering again this year a very popular free service:

Holiday Package Delivery

This is a **free service** for River Park residence only. You can have your holiday packages more securely delivered to our Avenue Auto's address, especially if you expect a package's arrival when you are away from home.

1. Just call 574-288-0802 to register.
2. Your name and address should show as the billing address (no C.O.D.s)
3. And the shipping address is to be your name and our address:
3001 Mishawaka Avenue, South Bend, IN 46615.
4. A valid photo ID with your residential address is necessary to obtain your package.

You can pick them up during regular business hours: 8 AM – 6 PM, Mon – Fri.

Visit avenue Auto on Facebook or our website: www.avenueautomotivein.com.

Visit our video on ABC 57 or on our website.

The **River Park Neighborhood Association** serves all of River Park and its surrounding neighborhoods and businesses. It is all volunteer and receives no operating funds. For over seven years RPNA has mailed to each of the 3,800 homes quarterly at a cost of \$1,500 per issue. This time we hope to e-mail, list on Facebook (see letterhead), or our website our current issue to all interested. However, we can mail issues at a subscription of \$5.00 per year. To help us provide additional services; such as, our annual picnic and *Children's Christmas Holiday Party* and general operation costs, we appreciate donations and "partnerships". Below is our partnership application:

Partner Application
River Park Neighborhood Association

Please Print

Last Name		First Name	
Address	City	State	Zip
Phone	Email Address		

nature Date Received by RPNA Date \$5.00 Suggested Amount:

Box 66, South Bend IN, 46624-0066

We also seek volunteers and leaders to serve on the following committees:

Communications, which includes our Facebook, Website, and newsletter.

Housing and Asset Preservation, which includes our Lavish Lawn recognition and other programs; such as liaison with Code Enforcement, NIP, and Rebuilding Together. Check out our Facebook page.

Safety, which includes our *Neighborhood Crime Watch* Captain Network and affiliation with the *South Bend Police Dept.* Safety can also sign up new NCW Captains. Call 287-2270.

River Park West, which works with IUSB. (See article on page 3)

Fundraising: (we aim for at least quarterly promotions. Call Jan @ 282-1787).

Events: Children's Christmas - Holiday Party, summer Picnic, River Park Day, and others.

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The RPNA meets monthly at the *River Park Public Library* on the **second Thursday** of the Month at 7:00 PM. All are welcome. We usually have speakers or presenters.