

# RIVER PARK NEWS

Official Newsletter of  
the River Park Neighborhood Association

## Your Digital Newsletter

If you are picking this up at one of our local distribution points, 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.

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!

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



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:

- \* Subscribe to our email list
- \* Check our community calendar
- \* look for quarterly newsletters in November, February, May, and August around the first of each month

Look for updates and news at  
[https://www.riverparksouthbend.com!](https://www.riverparksouthbend.com/)

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## 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]

My name is DeAndre Barton and I want to introduce myself as the new River Park Neighborhood Association president. I have lived in River Park for over ten years. Currently I am a student at IUSB and work full-time. I became president to understand better what concerns neighbors have and try to bring the neighborhood together. Please do not be afraid to come to our next meeting.

Kelly Wilson (Vice President)  
[kwparkland@gmail.com]

Janet Macuilski (Secretary)  
[jnetm@aol.com]

Carrie Marks (Treasurer)  
[cmarks@sbcsc.k12.in.us]



## Planet Green Recycling Program Benefits the River Park Neighborhood Association

Thank you River Park for donating your used ink jet printer cartridges in our box in the River Park Branch Library. Not only does this help us financially but also helps our environment by keeping them out of landfills and by saving and reusing the electric components that are now in short supply worldwide.

You can also order online remanufactured ink jet cartridges in most models via Planet Green Recycle, and help River Park by just mentioning River Park Neighborhood Association. They give a donation to the RPNA at about \$1.50 per purchased cartridge. And their cartridges are guaranteed and cost about half of new ones.

We have raised nearly \$400 in the past four years.

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



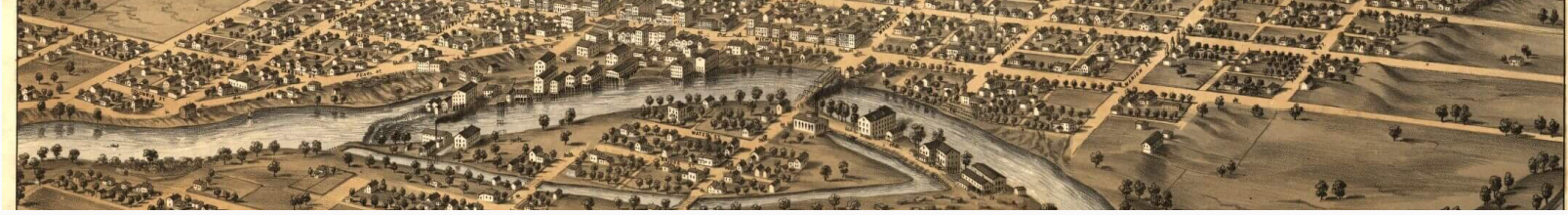
**LEARN HOW**



**River Park  
Business  
Association**







## River Park Branch Library Updates

### Storytime,

**Every Thursday, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

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

### STEAM Lab, Tuesday, March 12, 4-5 p.m.

Tinker, build and create in our library STEAM lab. Enjoy a new art, science or engineering activity each month. Recommended for ages 6-11.

### Understanding Our Nervous System and Our Need for Connection - Presented by Self-Healing Communities of Greater Michiana

**Tuesday March 19, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Have you heard of sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems? Join us to discuss how these systems play a crucial role in shaping our daily experiences, human connection and building resilience.

### The Solar Eclipse Spectacle

**Presented by the Michiana Astronomical Society**

**Tuesday, March 19, 4-5 p.m.**

Prepare for one of nature's greatest spectacles. Discover what to expect and how to witness the solar eclipse safely. Totality is the sight of a lifetime! Recommended for ages 8 - 12.

### Playtime

**Wednesday March 20, 10:30-11:30 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.

### Eviction & Housing Legal Clinic

**Presented by the Volunteer Lawyer Network**

**Thursday, March 21, 1-4 p.m.**

Free legal advice for evictions and housing issues provided to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Sonnet Slam With Shades of Orange,

**Tuesday, March 26, 6-8 p.m.**

The Sonnet Slam is a unique opportunity for writers, poets, performers, and audiences of all kinds to gather for a celebration of the spectacular art form that is the Sonnet.

### Adventures in Bad Cinema,

**Wednesday, March 27, 6:30-8 p.m.**

For your consideration - join us to view another classic bad film. We gather each month to celebrate the best work of incompetent amateurs or the worst work of professionals. The films we select are either hobbled by a bad script, poor acting, terrible direction, cheap production, or rife with poor judgments of logic and taste. As always, we provide snacks.

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## Keeping River Park Safe: April 11 Program

RPNA will host Brianne Fenton in April to speak at our regular monthly meeting about the Sync South Bend Camera Registry program of the South Bend Police Department. Please join us!

Who: Brianne Fenton, SBPD Senior Crime Analyst, Supervisor of the Real Time Crime Center

What: Camera Registry Program for Home and Business Owners

When: Thursday, April 11, 7pm

Where: River Park Library, 2022 Mishawaka Avenue

Why: Learn how YOUR home or business can help solve crimes.



**FOR HOMEOWNERS:**

HELP EXPEDITE INVESTIGATIONS BY SHARING THE LOCATION OF YOUR SECURITY CAMERAS WITH SBPD!

REGISTERING YOUR CAMERA DOES **NOT** GIVE SBPD ACCESS TO YOUR CAMERA FEED.

SBPD WILL REQUEST FOOTAGE IF A CRIME OCCURS IN YOUR AREA. SHARING IS **100% VOLUNTARY.**

LEARN MORE: [SYNCSOUTHBEND.ORG](http://SYNCSOUTHBEND.ORG)

**SYNC SOUTH BEND**  
CAMERA REGISTRY

SCAN ME! >> 



**FOR BUSINESS OWNERS:**

PURCHASE A FUSUS CORE DEVICE TO INTEGRATE YOUR CAMERAS INTO SBPD'S REAL-TIME CRIME CENTER.

CAMERA FEED CAN BE ACCESSED BY OFFICERS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY OR CRIME IN-PROGRESS.

PROVIDE OFFICERS WITH ENHANCED SITUATIONAL AWARENESS WHEN RESPONDING TO YOUR BUSINESS.

LEARN MORE: [SYNCSOUTHBEND.ORG](http://SYNCSOUTHBEND.ORG)

**SYNC SOUTH BEND**  
CAMERA REGISTRY

SCAN ME! >> 

## Annual River Park Clean Up

The River Park Clean Up is set for Saturday May 4th 8 AM. Meet your neighbors as we maintain the quality of River Park.

We will meet at noon at the FASTSIGNS parking lot  
2411 Mishawaka Avenue

## Easter Bunny Brunch at the Potawatomi Conservatories

Saturday March 30th from 11:30-1:30

Join us for a delicious Brunch, an Easter Egg Hunt, a visit from the Easter Bunny, a craft project, a live bunny, face painting, and lots of fun! All of this takes place among the beautiful plants that fill the Potawatomi Conservatories at 2501 Mishawaka Ave. South Bend, IN.

Cost- \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 3 and up. Call the conservatories to reserve a spot at: (574) 235-9442. Seating is limited.



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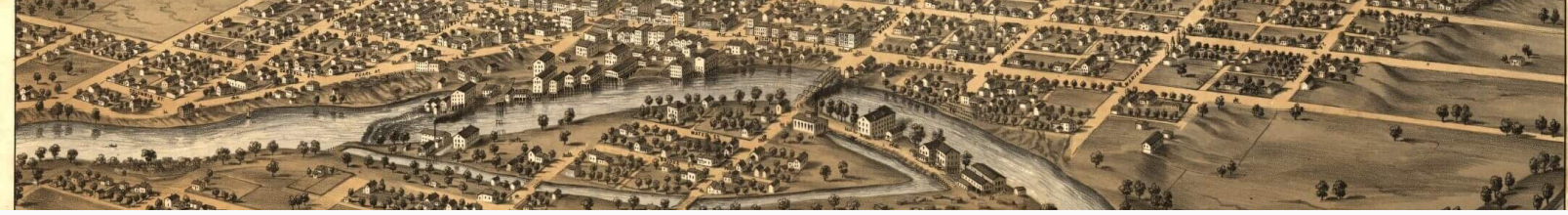


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**Your VOTE is Your Voice for Democracy  
By Pam Claeys**

**Tuesday, May 7 is Indiana's Primary Election Day**

We vote for county, state, and federal offices in our upcoming Primary Election, Tuesday, May 7. Winning candidates will then compete in the General Election on Tuesday, November 5.

Be sure to check your voter registration to ensure your name has not been purged, [indianavoters.com](http://indianavoters.com). Also find your elected officials, who's on your ballot, list of Vote Centers, and much more. Please ensure your friends and family are registered to vote. **\*\*If there is any chance you will not be able to vote on Election Day, VOTE EARLY\*\***

**Important Dates. \*\*VOTE AT ANY VOTE CENTER\*\***

Monday, April 8: Voter Registration ENDS

Tuesday, April 9: Early Voting BEGINS

Thursday, April 25: Deadline for County Clerk to receive Application for Absentee Ballot By Mail

Monday, May 6, 12 noon: Early Voting ENDS, and Deadline for Clerk to receive completed Absentee Ballot By Mail

Tuesday, May 7: Primary Election Day, 6am to 6pm

**Register to Vote OR Check Your Voter Registration**

Check your voter registration to ensure you have not been purged from the voter rolls:

- In person: Voter Registration (VR), 4th floor, County-City Building; 574-235-9521. Call with Q's.
- Online 24/7: [indianavoters.com](http://indianavoters.com)

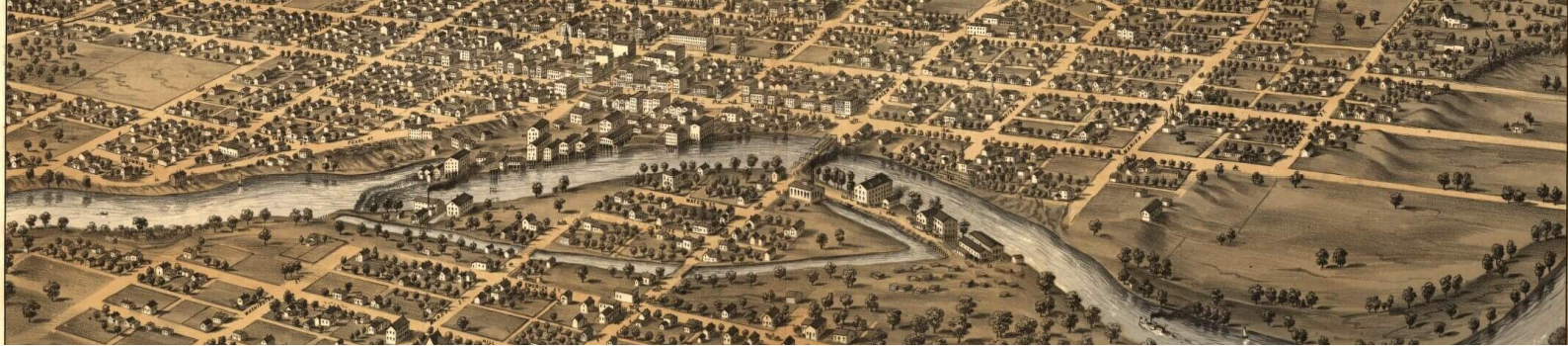
Vote Absentee: If you meet one of the approved excuses, [indianavoters.com](http://indianavoters.com), print an Application for Absentee Ballot by Mail, or call VR to have one mailed to you. Complete and return in the envelope provided, or take to Clerk's Office by Thursday, April 25. Your actual ballot will be mailed to you. Check the ballot to ensure you have the correct ballot AND that 2 sets of initials are on the back. This is critical. If not, call VR immediately. Complete, sign, and return your ballot so it is received by Monday, May 6 at noon. **\*\*If you wish to return your ballot in person, take it to the County Clerk's Office\*\***  
**\*\*Remember to allow several days for mail to be received and/or sent\*\***

Request a visit from the Travel Board: If you are a voter who is confined or you care for a confined person, complete Application for Absentee Ballot by Traveling Board, [indianavoters.com](http://indianavoters.com), OR call Kim Riskovitch, 574-235-9635, ext. 7013, to request the Travel Board come to your home.

Vote in person Tuesday, November 7: 6am to 6pm, Bring your valid photo ID. Vote at any Vote Center. Vote Center locations will be publicized when finalized and at [indianavoters.com](http://indianavoters.com).

**\*NOTE:** This article was written before the Election Board finalized details for this election. Check local news media/websites and [www.indianavoters.com](http://www.indianavoters.com) for up-to-date information.





## Merry and Bright! Christmas Holiday Lights 2023

Here are the displays that were flagged on the neighborhood Facebook pages as being “best”. According to Cheryl Walsh, the house at 737 S. 36th Street had the most votes, but they are all winners in our book.



753 S. 33rd



529 S. 31st



737 S. 36th



735 S. 36th



621 S. 30th



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## River Park Safety Summit

Reported by Kelly Wilson

The River Park Safety Summit was held on Monday, February 12, 2024 at the IU South Bend Grill. Representatives from the South Bend Police Department and the South Bend Fire Department gave a presentation on personal and home safety.

### South Bend Police Department

Sgt. Jarveair Bourn and Officer Joseph Cole, both Community Resource Officers with the South Bend Police Department, let the attendees know that one of the main goals of their department is to develop a friendly and approachable relationship with residents. The officers attend neighborhood meetings, community events, host cookouts and answer phone calls. You won't have to go through 3 people to get to them. There are also traffic detail officers to serve traffic calls. The officers handed out magnets with direct contact numbers with the different departments within the SBPD. You can pick them up at the next River Park Neighborhood Association meeting on March 14th.

### Personal Safety Tips:

Be aware of your surroundings; walk in pairs. Let someone know where you are. Stay off your phone to reduce distraction, and the same for ear buds. Carry a flashlight, not your phone flashlight which can provide a quick distraction. Sit in your car before getting out and scan the area. Keep your doors locked, and pay attention to who is around you as you walk to your destination. An alarm app on your phone is useful to communicate potential threats.

### Home Safety Info

The Crime Registry Program is available to all SB residents. You can register your Ring or other camera with [syncsouthbend.org](http://syncsouthbend.org). If a crime occurs in your area, the police can look at the footage of the time of the crime. They have 1,297 registered cameras. The Integrated Cameras program is for area business owners where the police can see crimes in real time.

### Home Safety Tips:

Use outdoor motion lighting. Put lights on a timer in the house. Don't post online that you are on vacation-wait until after you get home. Ask police to do a safety check if you feel like something is wrong in your neighborhood. Know your neighbors.

### Vehicle Safety Tips:

Stow away valuables. Don't have the mentality that "it won't happen to me". Don't start your car and leave it unattended.

### Other Tips:

Mace or Pepper Spray are great for protection, but read the instructions. Test the device prior to carrying it so you know how to use it in an emergency. Wasp spray works well also.

### Social Media:

Don't give out personal information, speak with the person first. A dog and/or an alarm system are equally effective in deterring a crime. Car Cams are helpful if you are involved in an accident.

Break up your daily routine. Look outside before walking out of your house. Be aware of dark or hidden areas outside your door where a person can hide. Use outside lighting. Check out the South Bend Transparency Hub for River Park crime statistics, city info, and more at

<https://southbend.in.gov/transparency-and-performance/transparency-hub>

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## South Bend Fire Department

Firefighter Suzie Krill-Public Information Office, Fire Chief Carl Buchanon

### Home Fire Safety and Prevention Tips:

- Home address signs should have 3 inch numbers in colors that contrast with your home color so they stand out. This will assist the Fire Department in locating your home quickly and easily. Place them at eye level, or on your mailbox, and not on porch steps.
- Fire Chief Carl Buchanon emphasized the importance of getting out of the house before calling 911.
- Chief Buchanon also explained that fires that start on the first floor rise up.
- Have a flashlight next to your bed in case of fire to signal to firefighters where you are in the house.
- Have a home escape plan that all the occupants are aware of and have practiced. If you have a second story, purchase a ladder and practice attaching it and using it. If there is a fire outside your bedroom, stuff clothes or blankets under the door to delay the fire, and then go to the window.
- Talk to your neighbor about your plan so they can call 911 after you get out of the house.
- For stove fires-use the pan lid to put it out. Don't pick up the pan and put it in the sink.
- Don't leave the stove on when you leave the house. Don't leave food unattended in the air fryer or oven. If you do, set a timer on your phone to remind you to check the food.
- Home fire extinguishers are only for small fires, not for large fires. Check your extinguisher for the type — each extinguisher has a description how it can be used.
- Smoke Alarms-Contact the SBFD for free smoke alarms and installation. Test them monthly. New alarms have 10-year batteries. Install one on every floor. In the basement the alarm should be placed above the stairs going down.
- The SBFD also recommends the use of Carbon Monoxide detectors, and offers to provide and install them.
- Pet safety stickers are available through the Fire Department to let first responders know there are pets in the home.
- Recycle paint and other flammable items so fires don't start in your garage or basement.
- Use surge protectors not extension cords in the home
- Don't leave kerosene or space heaters unattended.
- Have a certified electrician check out your wiring, not just someone who is "handy".
- The SB Fire Department offers CPR classes online.

Thank you to our sponsors: Adams High School, IU South Bend, IU South Bend Honors Program, The River Park Business Association, the River Park Neighborhood Association, the River Park West Neighborhood and the River Park Library.

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