

RIVER PARK NEWS

Official Newsletter of
the River Park Neighborhood Association

Hello River Park Neighbors, Businesses, and Churches

There are many things I want to say in this message. 1) There are many ways to volunteer with the **River Park Neighborhood Association**, 2) we have some exciting events coming up, and 3) we would like some input.

We have many opportunities for neighbors to volunteer. We need volunteers for several upcoming events. We are looking to revive our **Housing and Asset Committee**. If you are interested, reach out to Phil Niswonger at niswongerpg1963@yahoo.com.

Our long serving **RPNA Secretary** is looking to step down, and we need someone to step up to take her place. To learn more about any of these opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact me or any officer or board member or mention it at our next meeting. River Park neighbors of any age can volunteer.

Secondly, I want to tell you about our upcoming events. We have the **Annual River Park Clean-up** on May 3rd at 2411 Mishawaka Avenue. We are bringing back the **Family Game Night** at **The Well** on the last Wednesday of every month from 6-9 pm. We are planning the **River Park Run**, a 5-K race through our neighborhood on May 10th.

Lastly, we would like your input on potential new ideas, projects, and guest speakers for the meetings. Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the River Park Branch Library. And look for us on Facebook!

Hope to see you around:
DeAndre Barton, President

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HELP US FUNDRAISE
BY RECYCLING E-WASTE



Planet Green Recycling

We convert your used ink jet printer cartridges to money! Drop them in our box in the River Park Branch Library.

Your neighborhood association benefits financially, but the program also helps our environment. Keep useful materials out of landfills, and reuse the electric components that are now in short supply worldwide.

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]
Kelly Wilson (Vice President)[kwparkland@gmail.com]
Open (Secretary)[]
Carrie Marks (Treasurer) cmarks@successacademysb.com]



Local Business Spotlight: Franky's Tacos

By Kiara Hashberger

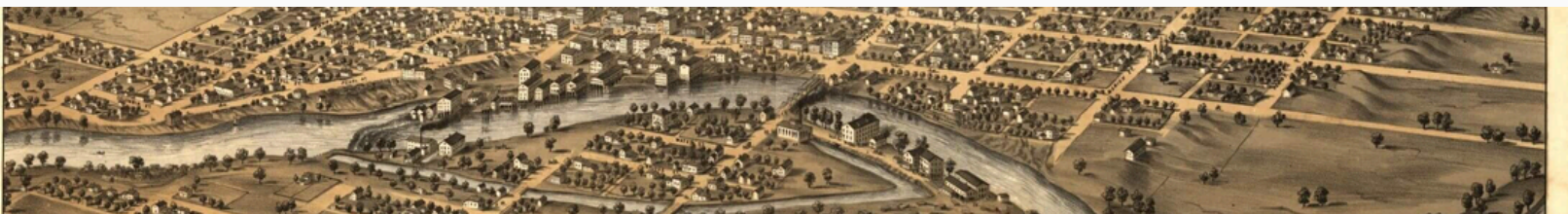
Even on a Tuesday afternoon the restaurant was packed full of locals enjoying their favorite spot for lunch. From the second you walk in the door you are immediately greeted by friendly employees and a welcoming atmosphere.

While quality is very important to Franky's Tacos, they also believe that providing value for price is important. At Franky's, they want their customers to feel that they are getting a worthwhile experience for their dollar.

Hours: Open everyday from 10am-9pm
(574) 931-2151

Locally owned taqueria dishing up familiar Mexican plates in an informal setting.





River Park Branch Library Updates

Storytime, Off in February, returns on Thursdays starting in March, 10:30 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.

Playtime

Wednesday, March 19, April 16, 10:30 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. Ages 0-5.

Adventures in Bad Cinema, Wednesday, February 26, March 26, April 30, 6:30 p.m.

We continue to celebrate the best film work of incompetent amateurs, and the worst work of hack professionals. The movie is free and we'll bring the snacks.

Fiber Craft and Chat Club, Wednesday, February 5, March 5, April 2, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

You are invited to meet up with fellow fiber artists. Work on your own projects and be inspired by others and their creations. Knit, crochet, sew, spin, weave, embroider, and needlepoint.

Eviction & Housing Legal Clinic Thursday, February 6, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

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

Zoo-to-You, Tuesday, March 4, 4:00-4:45 p.m.

Enjoy an up close encounter with live zoo animals. Learn about several amazing animals with the zoo staff. Ages 6 to 12 are welcome.

Resume and Resources, Thursday, February 20, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

A workshop aimed to help people learn what goes into a good resume and what resources the library has that could help you in the job searching process. There will be extra time for hands-on work.

Digging Through Time with Indianapolis Children's Museum, Tuesday, February 25, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Explore how fossils are laid down in the ground and how studying the layers of the earth can help paleontologists understand how old dinosaur fossils are with a virtual museum expert. Ages 8 - 12.

Tell Your Story Through Art Journaling, Thursday, March 13, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Get creative and tell your story through art journaling using writing prompts and a combination of analog and digital techniques. Capture big and small moments in your everyday life on a page!

Virtual Connections: Video Conferencing 101, Wednesday, March 19, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Learn the essentials in this interactive workshop! Get hands-on practice with setting up, joining, and managing virtual meetings while mastering tools like screen sharing and audio/video settings.

STEAM Lab - Off to the Races, Tuesday, April 1, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Explore the laws of motion by designing and racing your very own balloon-powered LEGO Car! Try different designs to see which goes farthest. Recommended for ages 8 - 12.

Draw & Paint a Quirky Animal Portrait! Thursday, April 17, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Capture the personality of an animal in your life (or using our photo source materials from Potawatomi Zoo) and develop your unique personal drawing/painting style. Beginners welcome!



Exciting Changes Bloom at the Potawatomi Conservatories

The Potawatomi Conservatories, a treasured green oasis in the heart of South Bend, is entering an exciting new chapter, thanks to the efforts of the Botanical Society of South Bend and a dedicated team of passionate individuals. With a renewed focus on community engagement, education, and the celebration of nature, the Conservatories are poised to grow like never before.

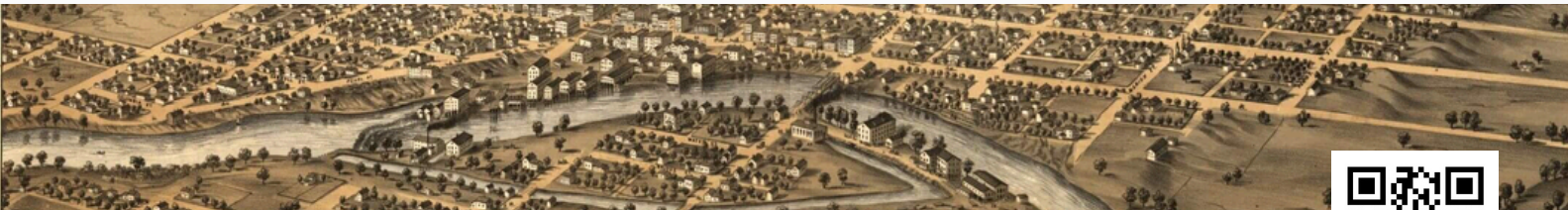
At the helm of this transformation is the newly appointed director, Tyler Barton, who brings a unique blend of scientific expertise and a deep love for nature to the role. A former biochemistry researcher and science educator, Barton is passionate about fostering connections between the community and the natural world. “This space has so much potential to inspire, educate, and bring people together,” says Barton. “We’re focusing on enhancing the guest experience, expanding our programs, and welcoming even more visitors and volunteers.” “Nature has a way of bringing people together,” Barton shares. “We’re honored to be stewards of this special place and look forward to seeing it thrive in the years ahead.”

Joining Barton is the Conservatories’ new event coordinator, Paige Beven, who will oversee private and community events. Beven’s vision is to make the Conservatories a hub for memorable gatherings, from weddings to workshops and everything in between. “I’m thrilled to help create events that celebrate the beauty and versatility of this incredible space,” says Beven. Beven is focused on curating events that draw in a wider audience, from nature enthusiasts and families to yoga practitioners and community groups.

The Botanical Society of South Bend has also welcomed several new members to its board. The fresh energy of new board members Eve, Jamila, Emily, Joseph, Lara, and Betsy complements the experience of long-time board members Janet and Catharine, who have been instrumental in sustaining the Conservatories as a cherished community resource. Together, this dynamic team is working to expand educational programs, improve facilities, and enhance the Conservatories’ role as a cornerstone of South Bend’s cultural and natural heritage.

The Conservatories are expanding their offerings to encourage community participation and wellness. A key highlight is the Wednesday and Saturday morning yoga sessions, providing a peaceful, nature-filled retreat for yoga practitioners of all levels. These sessions offer a unique opportunity to stretch, breathe, and find serenity among lush greenery, making them a favorite for both locals and visitors.

Yearly memberships are now available, giving supporters unlimited access to the Conservatories while helping to sustain this vital community space. Memberships come with exclusive benefits, including discounts on special events and workshops.



Volunteer Opportunities at the Potawatomi Conservatories

As the Conservatories continue to grow, so do the opportunities for volunteers to make a difference. Whether assisting with plant care, leading educational programs, or helping with special events, there are plenty of ways to contribute. Volunteers play a crucial role in maintaining the beauty and functionality of the Conservatories while gaining hands-on experience and connecting with like-minded individuals.

Whether you have a green thumb or are simply passionate about nature, there's a place for you to make a difference.

The Potawatomi Conservatories invite the community to join them on this exciting journey. Keep an eye on their calendar for upcoming events, programs, and opportunities to explore, celebrate, and connect with nature.

For more information on memberships, events, or volunteer and board member opportunities, visit the Potawatomi Conservatories' website or stop by and experience the magic of nature firsthand.

For more information or to get involved come in between the hours of 9am to 3pm Tuesday through Saturday or email Tyler Barton at Director@potawatomiconservatories.org

2105 Mishawaka Avenue, South Bend
(574) 235-9442

<https://www.potawatomiconservatories.org/>



**River Park
Business
Association**

Meets 3rd Wednesdays 8am at Allie's

RiverParkBusinessAssociation@gmail.com

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



The Barber Shop

Haircuts & Styling

Dennis Lamborn

574-258-5225

3618 Mishawaka Ave.

South Bend

(Next to Luigi's)

Sunday Carvery & Buffet



Weekly At

FIDDLER'S HEARTH

Seating 11am-2pm

Carving Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding Weekly

Rotating an Additional Roasted Protein at Carving Station

Two Additional Entrees on the Buffet (including a vegetarian option)

Assorted Sides & Condiments 🌱 Dessert Station

\$25 per person (\$14 ages 6-12 / kids under 6 free)

Dessert Station Only...\$7

Reservations at www.fiddlershearth.com

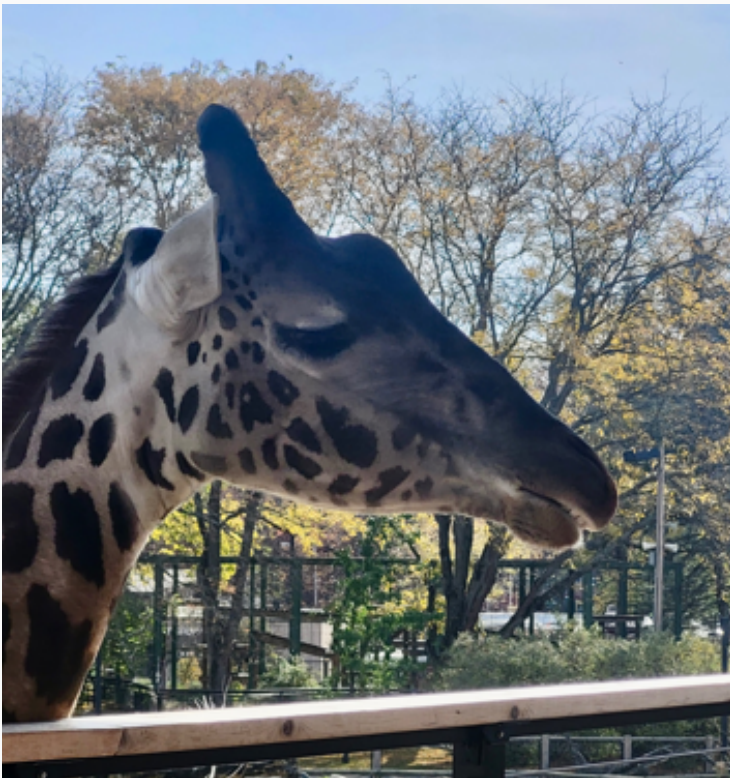


\$1 off Specials on Spritzes,
Mules, and Mimosas!

Traditional Irish Breakfast and Limited Menu of Fiddler's Favorites
Also Available from the Kitchen

A Sunny Day at the Potawatomi Zoo

By Kiara Hashberger



Bob Pellegrino

"In River Park"

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South Bend, IN 46615

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2024 Christmas Decorating Contest Winners

By DeAndre Barton

The **2024 Decorating Contest** was amazing. There were many decorated houses. I wish they all could have been chosen to be shown off, but that makes it harder.

With 52 votes, **third place** goes to **822 S. 25th Street**. We saw a giant Santa with a carriage, ground-level toys, and miscellaneous lighting. They won a \$10 gift certificate to the **Builders Store** on Mishawaka Avenue.

With 186 votes, **second place** goes to **737 S. 36th Street**, which had two Grinches, a few minions and other blowups, a nativity scene, candy canes along their walkway, and much lightning around their yard. They won a \$15 gift card to **Franky's Tacos**.

In **first place**, was **1334 S 30th Street**, with more than 200 votes and 20 comments praising the dedication that went into it. Their yard had a Nightmare Before Christmas theme and many lights. Our top winner earned a \$25 gift certificate to **Make South Bend**.

If you know the winners, please congratulate them. The RPNA Board would like to thank Lisa Harmon, Phil Niswonger, RPNA Vice President Kelly Wilson, and RPNA President DeAndre Barton for cruising the neighborhood, taking the photos, and selecting the best to be posted.

And, of course, we thank everyone who decorated their houses and everyone who voted.





**CALL FOR
VOLUNTEERS**

**River Park
Run**

**River Park
Neighborhood 5-K
Run on May 10th**

We are planning a River Park 5K Run that will take runners of all ages and skill levels up and down our streets. To be successful this event will require many volunteers.

We need people to help with planning, the set up and tear down, race registration stations, people to pass out water bottles on the course, and to greet racers with refreshments at the finish line.

Good times are just about guaranteed. Contact us at: <https://www.riverparksouthbend.com/copy-of-faq-s>



Let the games begin!

**The last Wednesday of every month
6 - 9pm at The Well**

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

Like our page on Facebook

to stay connected and share your stories!

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

**Annual River Park Clean-Up
on May 3rd**

The **River Park Clean-Up** is set for Saturday May 3rd at 8 AM. Meet your neighbors as we maintain the quality of River Park.

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

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.