

RIVER PARK NEWS

Official Newsletter of
the River Park Neighborhood Association



Your Digital Newsletter

If you are picking this up and 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/>

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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 on
March 1st, June 1st,
September 1, December 1st
- with updates and news at

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

Want to advertise your business
in the River Park Newsletter?

Email

sbriverpark@gmail.com

for more information!





Your New Neighborhood Association Board Officers

Our new officers are:
DeAndre Barton - President
Kelly Wilson - Vice President
Janet Miciulski - Secretary
Carrie Marks - Treasurer

We thank them for their willingness to contribute their time and energy to our community!

We are the River Park Neighborhood Association, and we are looking for community members.

Meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm at the River Park Branch Library

Help plan activities and events for your River Park neighbors!

Community Blood Drive: Attend and Save Lives Tuesday, November 21, 11-5 pm

Visit this link to sign up:
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give>
and search for IUSB.

Do not miss this excellent opportunity to make a lasting difference. On Tuesday, November 21! Indiana University South Bend, in collaboration with The American Red Cross Student Club, will be hosting an extraordinary campus and community-wide blood drive. This is an opportunity to be a true hero, to embody the spirit of selflessness, and to extend a lifeline to those who need it most. Your contribution can transform lives and touch hearts. Your participation can create a ripple of impact, a lifeline of hope for individuals facing challenging circumstances. Every drop of blood you donate is a testament to your compassion and commitment to saving lives. It is a chance to be part of something bigger than yourself, a chance to show that our campus and community care deeply about the well-being of others. Let us come together and make this event a symbol of compassion and unity in our community.

Potawatomi Zoo

For almost a week at the Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend, Indiana, you will have the opportunity to enjoy our Gift of Lights 2023! Come on down and bring your family with you to enjoy the jaw dropping view of lights throughout the whole zoo. Our dates will be November 24th and 25th from 5 pm to 9 pm, November 26th from 5 pm to 8 pm, and December 1st from 5 pm to 9 pm. While you're here, don't forget to come visit our furry, scaly, and thick-skinned friends! They will be anticipating your visit and hopefully you and your family have a life changing experience and a good time with our lights show!

The River Park Business Association

River Park has the good fortune to host a diverse business community. Although each business has its own goals and expectations, the entire community is affected by outside circumstances such as the current City planning for the future of the River Park neighborhood.

A strong, stable neighborhood supports a vital business community and invites new businesses, and new residents, to locate in River Park. Please support your Neighborhood Association in its activities to unite and strengthen our neighborhood.

The business community provides goods and services locally and regionally as well as bringing the attention of surrounding communities to River Park. The RPBA is supported by generous donations from our businesses. River Park is recognized by the City of South Bend as having both a strong Neighborhood Association and a strong Business Association. It's up to all of us to maintain and continue to strengthen our Associations. Participation in each Association is key to advancing River Park.

The Business Association meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, at 8am, in Allie's Café

Like our page on Facebook to Stay Connected and share your stories!

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





River Park Crime Watch

The River Park Crime Watch is a community initiative aimed at promoting safety and reducing crime in the River Park neighborhood of South Bend, Indiana. The crime watch encourages residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious activities to the local law enforcement agencies.

For more detailed information about recent crimes in River Park, you can check out the crime map provided by SpotCrime.

<https://spotcrime.com/IN/South%20Bend>
Sign up is free. This map shows crime incident data down to neighborhood crime activity including reports, trends, and alerts.

Remember, if you see something suspicious, it's always best to report it to your local law enforcement agency. Stay safe!

CALLING ALL CITIZENS!
If you are not a Neighborhood Crime Watch Captain, now is your chance!

You are invited to River Park's Neighborhood Crime Watch Network and Safety Committee



River Park Business Association



Jeannie's House



1444 Mishawaka Ave.
South Bend, IN
574-855-4423

3159 S. Eleventh St.
Niles, MI
269-683-2800

Builders Store Inc. 574-288-5025
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

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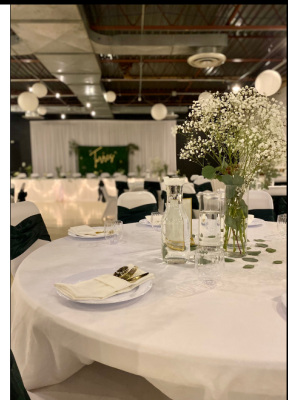
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**RIVER PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
805 S. 29th St.
South Bend, IN 46615
574-288-8288
Rev. Steven Latzke
ourredeemersb@aol.com
www.ourredeemersb.org



River Park Branch Library Updates

Storytime, every Thursday 10:30-11:30 AM

Enjoy books, rhymes, and songs which build on practices that prepare children to learn to read. Recommended for ages 3 - 5. Families are welcome. We will not have Storytime on Thanksgiving, and December 21st and 28th.

There There: Book Discussion

Tuesday November 14th, 5:30 PM

In partnership with the South Bend Museum of Art, join us for a discussion of *There There* by Tommy Orange as part of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read. Registration required. Sign up at [sjcpl.org] under Programs & Events, or call us at (574) 282-4635.

STEAM Lab

Tuesday, November 14th, December 12th, & January 9th 4-5 PM

Tinker, build and create in our library STEAM lab. Enjoy a new art, science or engineering activity each week. Recommended for ages 8 and up.

Playtime

Wednesday, November 15th, & January 17th 10:30-11:30 PM

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.

Adventures in Bad Cinema

Wednesday, November 29th, December 27th, & January 31st, 6:30-8 PM

We again gather to celebrate Hollywood's worst. Now in our third year, we have unspooled such legendary turkeys as *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, *The Blob*, *Night of the Lepus* (yes, killer bunnies!), and *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*. Join us for consolation snacks and shared mirth.

Rocketry 101 for Kids

Monday, December 4th, 4-5 PM

This activity introduces you to the basic concepts of rocketry! You will learn all about what it takes to build a rocket, and how our team chooses to execute the process. Ages 6 and up.

Ride the Jack Rabbit – with Aaron Helman

Tuesday, December 12th, 6-7:30 PM

Aaron Helman shares some of the stories and insights discovered while writing his latest book on Michiana history, including stories about Playland Park, which was once located across the river from River Park.

Eviction & Housing Legal Clinic –

Presented by the Volunteer Lawyer Network

Thursday, January 4th, 1-5 PM

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

Martial Arts Demo – with Jerry Sponseller

Saturday, January 13th 2-3 PM

Come and watch a martial arts demo with Jerry Sponseller! Learn some basic kicks and hand strikes, as well as the philosophy behind the art.

Indoor Seed Starting – Presented by Unity Gardens

Thursday, January 18th, 5-6 PM

Get a jump on summer planting by growing your own starts indoors. Learn the basics of nurturing healthy plants in a variety of environments!

AE
THE ACTING ENSEMBLE

602 E. Mishawaka Avenue
Mishawaka
574-217-8873

Your neighborhood community theater

Visit www.actingenensemble.com for more information!

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The Potawatomi Conservatories

The [Potawatomi Conservatories](#) is a beautiful place within our neighborhood where you can wander paths through the three sets of conservatories and you can connect with nature by educating yourself, or just sit and enjoy your surroundings. The staff and volunteers are friendly people who maintain this place in great conditions for the plants and for their visitors to enjoy. This place offers weekly events: yoga classes, afro drumming, and Tai Chi. The Potawatomi conservatories is also a place that you can rent and plan your own event.

Hours of Operation

Tuesday-Friday: 10:00am-4:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am-3:00pm
Sunday-Monday: Closed

Admission

Adults- \$3 Children (3-14)- \$2 Under 3yrs old- free



Kelly's Pub
1150 E. Mishawaka Ave., South Bend, IN 46615
Phone: **(574) 287-7379**

Drop on in and wet your whistle on...

Taco Tuesday	Fish Friday
Wing Wednesday	or
Burger Basket Thursday	Pizza Sunday

www.facebook.com/KellysPubSouthBend/

10% DISCOUNT when you bring in this card!!  us on 

Avenue Automotive

3001 Mishawaka Avenue
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Call to Schedule 574-288-0802

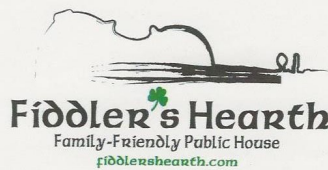


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Exquisite Moments Bridal Boutique is THE Place

Exquisite Moments Bridal Boutique is a new business at 1526 Mishawaka Avenue right here in River Park. Owned by Marie Woods, this is much more than a bridal shop and Marie has tons of experience to make this successful. Marie has been an entrepreneur since she was 18 years old... doing hair, owning her own hair salon, planning weddings, being a model, and owning Lady P Creative Designs. She continues to decorate halls, do weddings, church and other special events, in addition to starting her own 'brick and mortar' business. She can put together the fullest and most beautiful gift baskets for all occasions. Think baby showers, bridal showers, birthdays, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and she can cater to your own wishes and desires.

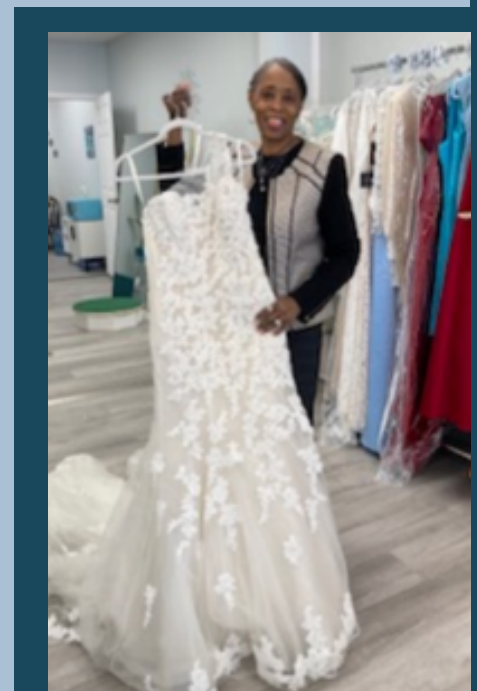
It was during COVID that her interest in opening her own bridal boutique began to grow. The encouragement of her family gave her strength to overcome challenges, as did the quote: "When you face difficult times, know that challenges are not sent to destroy you. They are sent to promote, increase and strengthen you." There are plenty of bridal shops in the area that are beautiful and extravagant. But she wants to be more personal and passionate with her business. "There is not a single gown in my shop that I would not be proud to wear on my own wedding day."

She has new and preowned gowns at affordable prices and can check with her vendors for anything a bride would like. Exquisite Moments Bridal Boutique also offers new and preowned evening gowns, bridesmaid dresses, flower girl dresses, Quinceanera gowns, prom dresses, jewelry and many other accessories. She even has silky kimonos for the bridal party when getting hair and make-up done. Plus, she is always open to requests and suggestions to please her customers. Marie offers a boutique that makes a difference -- where brides have her total attention to fulfill their dreams knowing their exciting day will be beautiful (and not stressed with price). The atmosphere is as calming and professional, as is Marie. She will find everything to make your dream come true!

At this time, find her on Facebook - Marie Woods - her icon is a gift basket. She plans to have a pop-up bridal show in the near future, including photographers, cakes, banquet halls, and more.

For personal and dedicated service, bridal consultations are by appointment. Please call 574-378-2014 to schedule your appointment. Current regular hours are Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Please call ahead!

Her greatest need is a website!
If you can help develop this,
please contact her ASAP,
574-383-2638.





The Well

Board games, comfortable sofas and relaxing chairs, coffee and sodas; all creating an enjoyable atmosphere and all attributes of The Well. Located in River Park Square, The Well is a non-profit cafe open to the community and is run solely by volunteers. I recently made a visit there to explore what it's all about. Not only does it offer great coffee, it offers an array of board games and casual seating with an art deco appearance. The art on the wall was from local artists and was for sale. I spoke with the longest committed volunteer at the shop, and when I asked him to describe The Well he said their original motto puts it best; "The Well is meant to be Mishawaka Avenue's living room".

I chose my seat then ordered my usual, a latte. I was amazed by both the friendliness of the volunteers, and the presentation and flavor of my coffee. As the volunteer made my coffee, we discussed what The Well was all about. I learned that besides being a coffee shop, The Well has been established to be a fun place for hosting a variety of activities. The Well is a unique space, made up of the main cafe and then three different rooms within the building: a conference room where different organizations hold meetings, a basement, and an upstairs. The different areas allow spaces for a variety of events in which everyone can participate. Dance class was taking place upstairs while the basement was a space for open mic night and game nights. The purpose for The Well is for members of our community to have a space to interact, relax and enjoy friends.



The Well offers a great website for people to easily access a calendar of events. Community members can enjoy many activities at The Well. For example, Tuesday's Book Club Night, Wednesday's are Board Game Nights and Dynamite at the Coffee, and every Thursday they have a Super-Smash Bros Game and Craft night. They also host a variety of other events such as Michiana songwriters, A Cuppa Crafters Farmers Market, and at the end of every month there's a Waffle Night, so don't forget to mark your calendar for Waffles on November 30th!

Being a non profit organization takes a lot of good people working together in order to stay open. Volunteers are essential to keep The Well going and those working will share in the challenges the organization faces. Upon entering patrons can see posted bills that must be paid and visitors can make a donation if they wish. They also have a QR code for patrons to contribute as well which makes it very quick and easy to make a donation.

After visiting The Well with my friends we all agreed that "Mishawaka Avenue's Living Room" is a fitting, relaxing and comfortable place where everyone can hang out. My friends, who are very picky, truly enjoyed the atmosphere. For one of them, it was simple snacks, regular sodas such as Coke and Mountain Dew, or Italian sodas. The other said the atmosphere felt like being at home, even without knowing about the volunteers' conversation. I agree. It was one of the most enjoyable places I had been to in a while. I took the time to play a board game, look at the art, and talk to the friendly workers. The Well provided more than just coffee. It is a place to socialize and engage in activities many of us don't make time for.



Busy Hands Of Michiana

Busy Hands of Michiana is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization serving over 100 agencies in nine counties of Northern Indiana and Southwest Michigan. We sew, knit and crochet 80 products that we distribute free of charge. We provide products for therapy, warmth and comfort to agencies and therapists serving autistic children, nursing homes, homeless shelters, community centers, cancer treatment centers, hospice, schools and other agencies serving people of all ages who are dealing with a variety of life challenging situations.

Some of the items we gave to agencies to distribute to their clients last year included:

- 1,815 hand-made hats, scarves and mittens for children and adults
- 406 crocheted lap blankets and shawls to nursing homes
- 180 weighted blankets and vests and 255 weighted stuffed animals to autistic children

In total, Busy Hands made and gave out 10,911 items last year. Our 50 volunteers logged 20,329 hours working for Busy Hands. Our supplies of fabric and yarn are predominately from donations. 90% of what we make is from donated fabric and yarn. We make useful, needed items from materials that might otherwise go to the landfill.

Busy Hands is located in the lower level of River Park United Methodist Church. RPUMC generously offered us space for our operation when we had to move from our previous location. We have been happily working in River Park for nearly 4 years. We are open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 -12:00. We invite visitors to stop by and see what we do in person. We welcome new volunteers who sew, knit or crochet. We welcome donations of fabric, notions, yarn and stuffed animals.

Christine Deitchiey, Director Busy Hands of Michiana 920 S. 23rd St.
South Bend, IN 46615 www.bushandsofmichiana.org
email: office@bushandsofmichiana.org
574-234-2515

-----**Merry and Bright**-----

The River Park Neighborhood Association is again going to be reviewing holiday outside decorations and nominating the merriest and brightest for our Merry and Bright award.

Our judges will cruise the neighborhood to identify and photograph the most spirited displays. We'll post the photos on the River Park Neighborhood Facebook groups and decide the winner based on your votes.

We will determine prizes for the 3 best houses as soon as we look under the tree.

Watch this space next time for the winners!