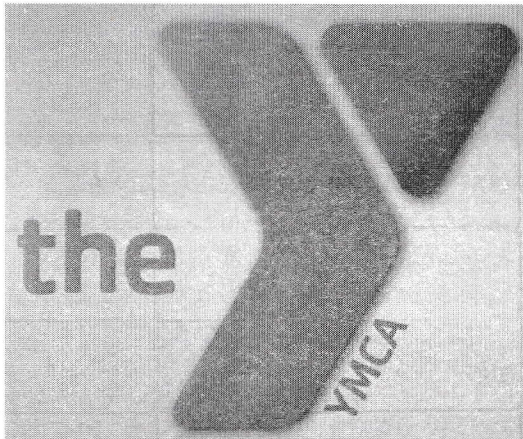


## New things are happening at the Y!

By Willow Wetherall



If you haven't visited the Michiana Family YMCA, located at 1201 Northside Blvd in a while, you should stop by for a tour! The million dollar renovations were based on extensive member feedback and input which included strong support for the Y to remain at its current location and upgrade its facility. Stepping through the new glass doors, members enter a spacious reception area updated with new tile, counters and fresh cool colors of cream, ice blue and tan. There are now two check-in points to prevent bottle necks and delays while checking in. The new lounge features comfortable seating and a long "bar" overlooking the pool with plenty of outlets for members to plug in laptops to work while children swim or enjoy other group

activities.

Additionally, the child watch area is now fully air conditioned and new toys, carpeting and materials will be added soon. The upcoming renovations in the Child Watch area are based

on the concept of

creating an "Adventure Zone" where children can have a fun and educational experience at the Y.

All of the renovations are designed to enhance members' experience. Walk down the hallways and you will notice new lighting and new tile giving the space a bright, clean look. The men's and women's locker rooms also underwent a substantial transformation. The space was reconfigured and redecorated with brand new lockers throughout. The private exercise areas for men and women were updated with seating and a

wide screen TV. But the best part is that there is now ample hot water in the women's locker room.

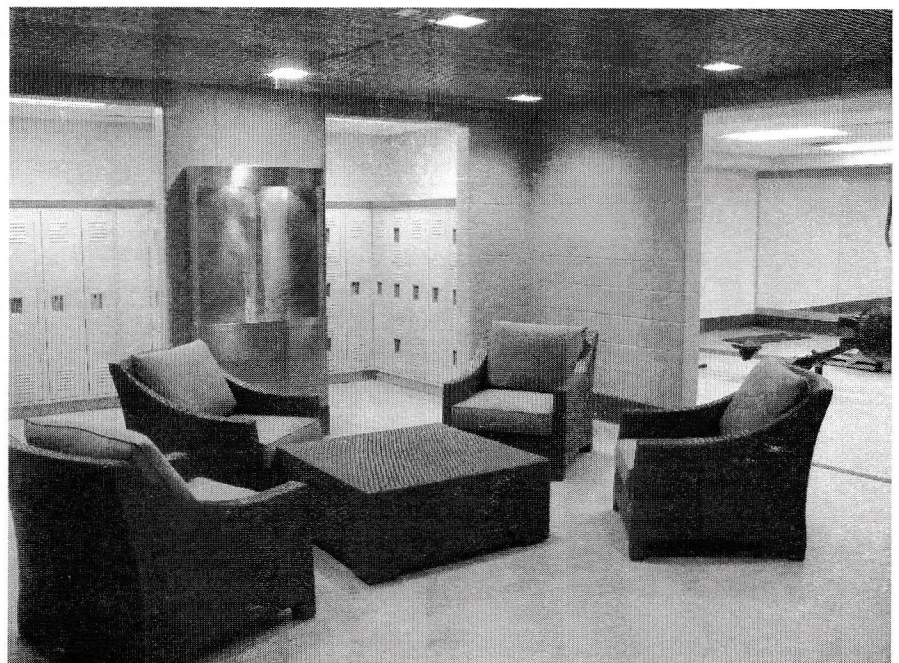
Upstairs the Healthy Living Area was reconfigured and refreshed. The free weight area was moved to the second floor and twenty-six exercise units were added to the Cardio Room.

Members will notice improvements outside as well, including new blacktop on the parking lot with additional handicap spaces. But the renovations won't end there! Members can look forward to a new whirlpool on the pool deck and continued updates throughout the building. Next year exterior stone work will be completed and

bike racks added. Long term, the Y would like to capitalize on its location next to the river to include water activities such as kayaking and riverside yoga.

If you have been thinking about joining the Y, now is a great time to check it out and enjoy a newly updated facility. Call (574) 287-9622 for more information or check out their website at [www.michianaymca.org](http://www.michianaymca.org).

Special thanks to Laney Dietrich, Interim Executive Director and Membership and Marketing Director and Beth Mengel, Director of Communications for providing information and images for this article.



# River Park Neighborhood Association Updates

**The River Park Neighborhood Association is always looking for ways to involve you, our neighbors! Join us for our monthly meetings held the second Thursday of each month @ the River Park Library from 6-7:30 PM.**

## Engaging

***Striving to engage you as an active member of your community***

Mark your calendar! It's Election Time for the River Park Neighborhood Association Board. On Thursday, October 13, 2011 at 6pm the Neighborhood Association will hold its annual elections and invites members to participate in selecting neighborhood representatives. Only current members can cast a ballot so if your membership has lapsed, please renew for \$5 by contacting Bev Steele at [bst1st@comcast.net](mailto:bst1st@comcast.net). Neighbors can renew or become a member the night of election as well. The evening won't be all "business," expect refreshments, door prizes, and an informative slide show of RPNA sponsored projects - you will be impressed with the work being done to improve our neighborhood!

Neighbors who are interested in serving on the Board are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 6pm at the library. Come join us and "Be Part of It!"

## Informing

***Striving to inform you on what is happening in your community***

**Keep Your Newsletter Strong by Becoming a Part of the Team!**

The River Park Newsletter can be found at several locations throughout River Park and one day soon, it may find its way to your mailbox via a subscription service. News about the potential subscription service will be shared at the upcoming annual meeting. The newsletter is created and published through the efforts of RPNA's Marketing and Visibility Committee and we're looking for you. Commit as much or as little time as you have. Our primary need is for an Ad Manager and for writers. If you would like to meet up with a committee member, send an e-mail to [rpna@exploreriverpark.com](mailto:rpna@exploreriverpark.com) and let us know where your interests lay.

## Securing

***Striving to keep you secure and connected with your local safety officers and community leaders***

River Park's Safety Committee has been busy assisting with the closing of three drug operations, recruiting 18 new Neighborhood Crime Watch (NCW) Captains, establishing a NETWORK of 93 NCW Captains, and distributing a quarterly NETWORK newsletter. But that is just the beginning. Four educational security programs have been held and the committee partnered with five River Park churches to organize Solidarity Walks, one in November and one in June, aimed at reducing crime in small pockets of the neighborhood. The next walk is scheduled for September; watch the Web site for date, time and location.

**The Safety Committee has the following ways to volunteer:**

- Neighborhood Crime Watch NETWORK Coordinator
- NCW Captain Recruiter
- Safety Program Chair
- Safety Vice-Chair
- NCW Section, Cluster & Group Captains NCW Captains

Call 335-9927 to find out more or stop by a committee meeting held the first Thursday of each month @ the River Park Library from 5:30-6:45 PM. All are welcome!

## Improving

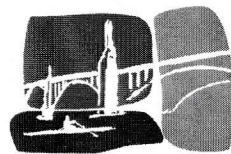
### ***Striving to improve and preserve your housing and your community assets***

Since 2009, the Housing and Asset Preservation Committee volunteers have improved 26 properties, most recently highlighted in the July 17 issue of the South Bend Tribune, with another improvement project occurring on July 30th from 9AM-3PM at 937 S. 21st St. All are welcome. Over the past six months the committee has organized three railroad clean ups of 1.5 miles of along our northern boundary, helped facilitate the cooperative actions of IUSB's expansion of their parking lot into western River Park, offered three history presentations, and managed River Park's History Month and Centennial. The Committee participated in the planning of the Landlord /Tenant Ordinance via City of South Bend and NRC to help formulate a city ordinance to improve the quality of homes as rental properties by knowing the landlords, assessing the potential tenant, providing best practices for landlords, and helpful information for finding good landlords. Our third area-wide clean-up project is scheduled to coincide with Rebuilding Together in April 2012 for the southern half of River Park.

***But we do need more volunteers from River Park. Here are our current needs.***

**The Housing Committee has the following ways to volunteer:**

- Housing & Asset Chair
- Housing-Secretary Vice Chair
- Railroad Clean Up Coordinator
- Home Improvement Project Chair
- Equipment & Supply Coordinator
- Fund Raising / Treasury Chair Home Recognition Chair
- Area Clean up Coordinator



**River Park**  
Neighborhood Association  
*Be part of it!*

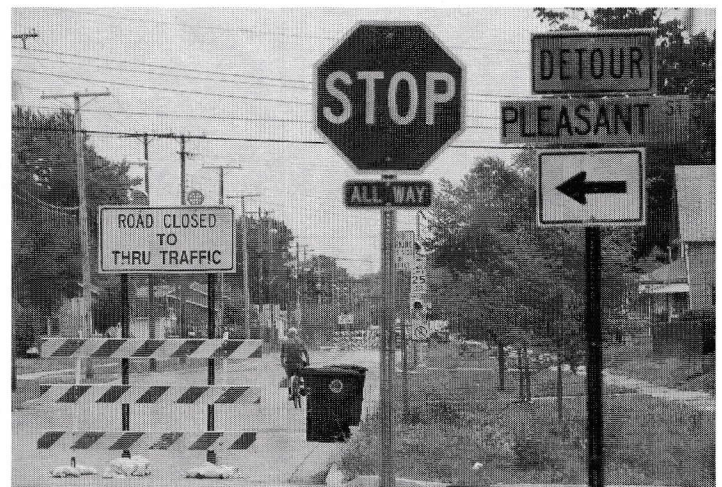
Call 335-9927 to find out more or stop by a committee meeting held the third Thursday of each month @ the River Park Library from 5:30-6:45 PM. All are welcome!

## Pleasant St. construction makes river more "Pleasant"

By Janet Maciulski

The sewer separation project taking place on Pleasant St. will stop raw sewage from ending up in the St. Joseph River. According to Patrick Henthorn from the Engineering Department of the City of South Bend, the strike that lasted about two weeks caused a slight delay in the project, but it should be completed by early September. The new storm sewers will have separate pipes that will allow the sewage to go to the sewage treatment plant and the rainwater to go into the river. At this time during heavy rains the sewage and the

rainwater share one pipe that carries both to the St. Joseph River. For those of us who have been taking detours parking in unusual places, feeling the earth move, listening to loud machines, smelling fumes and experiencing the feeling of living on a cul-de-sac for the last few months, it won't be long before Pleasant is up and running. It



will about eight feet narrower, there will be parking allowed only on the north side of the street and we'll enjoy a cleaner St. Joseph River.

# Bike Shop under New Ownership

By Barbara Wade



John and son Zach put some finishing touches on a bike in for repairs.

With the passing of Scott Kelsey, the fate of the Avenue Bicycle Station was tentative for a few days. It was glad news

for River Park and for Scott's family that the shop soon found a new passionate owner in John Hall, who took over the operation on June 20.

John, a detective with the South Bend Police Department in his other life,

says his new enterprise is a dream come true. "I've always wanted to own a bike shop. My dad had one and having grown up around bicycles and helping him in the shop, this is kind of like making both our dreams a reality-yet another place where any bicycle rider, young or old, professional or beginner, can feel at home."

John takes pride in offering a "commuter-friendly shop," American-made products, such as KHS, and service that tries to help people save money.

"We will suggest repair rather than always trying to sell new, and we use quality used parts in the process," says John. Though the shop is small, with little room for large displays of bicycles, almost any custom request can be accommodated at no additional charge.

John also looks forward to becoming a member of the River Park Business Association and becoming even more involved in the community.

Welcome to River Park, John.

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# Avenue Automotive, a friendly place

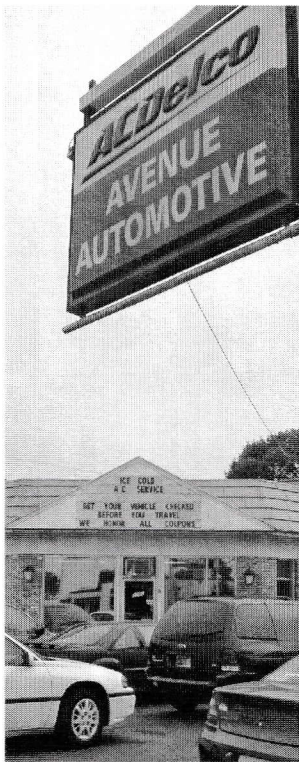
By Janet Maciulski

The Avenue Automotive is well known in River Park as a friendly place to have your auto repairs and general maintenance done. The owner, Bob Pellegrino, is also the President of the River Park Business Association. His time and hard work make River Park a better place to live. Bob sold his Midas franchise in Mishawaka about the same time the property on the corner of

Mishawaka Ave. and 30th St. became available. The property was small and in the middle of a residential neighborhood which was a perfect match for his business; so, in May of 2001, he opened up shop. The River Park Newsletter is his only form of advertisement and he keeps busy. He likes the idea that most of his customers can drop their cars off and then walk to the nearby homes. He has the opportunity to know his customers and helps them out in many ways. He has been responsible for helping organize the River Park Days Celebration and Parade. He helps keep the Avenue in good shape by organizing and working Avenue Clean Up Days. You may find him helping our River Park neighbors by mowing lawns, shoveling driveways or many other jobs deemed necessary. Bob would like to see the empty storefronts on Mishawaka Avenue be



filled with coffee shops, cafes, bookstores, and he appreciates the vintage clothing shop and Bammers Italian grocery store with it's great salami. In his closing words of wisdom, Bob stated, "Everyone stay the course. As the River Park Neighborhood Association and the River Park Business Association continue to work together, we are making River Park the place to be."



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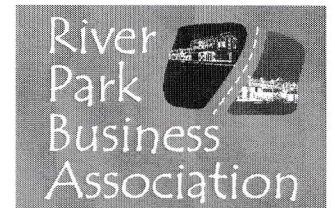
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# IU South Bend Strives to be a Good Neighbor to River Park and the Earth

By Kathy Borlik

The rumble of machinery on the east side of River Park will conclude about mid-August as the new IU South Bend parking lot is finished. Forty-four houses were set for demolition that began in mid-June. The lot will make way for 170 parking spots.

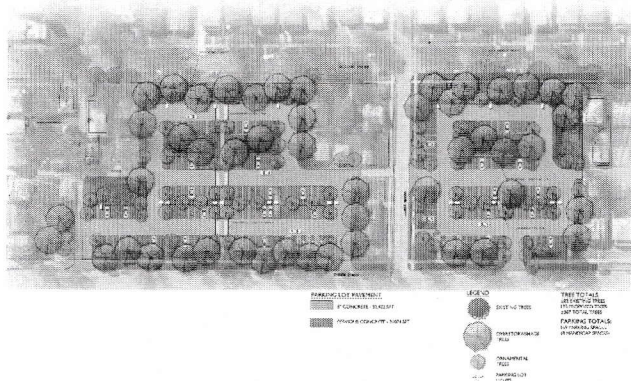
Before the work began, there were a number of "green" factors that were considered - such as why throw everything away when it can be reused. Many thanks to Habitat for Humanity Restore Store for removing and recycling 57 tons of kitchen cabinets, pipes, wire, sinks, flooring, gutters and ceiling tiles. Keeping on the green theme, the concrete from demolition is being ground and recycled, while dirt

from the site is going to an organic center for reuse. In designing the lot, 108 trees were saved, mostly on the perimeter and 100 plus trees will be planted in the parking islands and around by the streets. Rainwater will drain through the pavement rather than going into runoff drains.

The lot was designed to be neighbor friendly with peripheral berms to block headlights from flooding nearby houses. The lighting in the lot will focus down rather than around the neighborhood.

Neighbors have been meeting monthly with IU South Bend representatives to ask questions and voice their concerns. IU South Bend wants to be a good neighbor to the River Park residents and make the parking lot both useful and attractive.

The area is bounded by Esther Street on the east, Bellevue Avenue on the west, Hildreth Street on the south and the alley behind retail shops on Mishawaka Avenue on the north.



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Diane Bennett  
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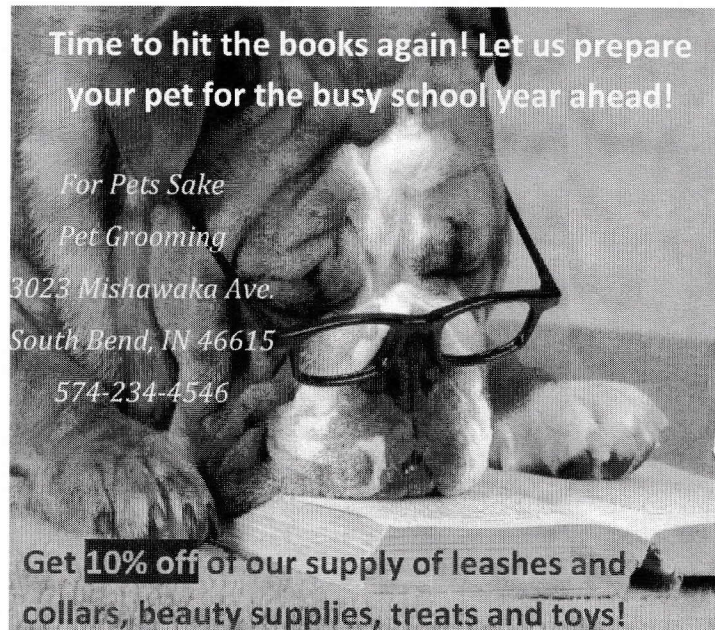
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# Rebuilding Together Works to Assist River Park Home Owners



program dedicated to helping eligible homeowners with home repairs. Partnering locally with the City of South Bend, the University of Notre Dame, the St.

Joseph Valley Building Trades, and others, Rebuilding Together is able to fix homes at no

cost to the owner. Priority is given to the elderly, the disabled, and homeowners that are within federal household income limits. Rental homes are not eligible. If you are interested in help with repairing your home, don't wait! You can get the help you need. The application deadline of July 20 has been

Household Size	Household Income Limit
1	\$33,250
2	\$38,000
3	\$42,750
4	\$47,500
5	\$51,300
6	\$55,100
7	\$58,900
8	\$62,700

extended until early August. Please submit your paperwork as quickly as possible that time to ensure consideration. If you have any questions, please call Rebuilding Together at 235-9660.

Rebuilding Together, we will improve River Park!

Sincerely,  
Michael P. Divita  
Program Coordinator

Dear Neighbor:

Rebuilding Together (formerly Christmas in April) is coming to your neighborhood! This free home repair program is currently taking applications for April 2012, and its focus is on the River Park Neighborhood.

Rebuilding Together is a national

**Need an application? Download a copy at [www.explorerriverpark.com](http://www.explorerriverpark.com)**

**We keep you active!**

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# Nancy Collins Remembered

By Janet Maciulski

The people in River Park lost a special friend when Nancy Collins passed away recently. Nancy devoted many hours to helping make River Park a good place to live. She was a board member for the River Park Neighborhood Association for many years. Her quick wit and caring heart made her so

much fun to be around that many of the mundane tasks for the RPNA became enjoyable. She served on many committees and she always kept us laughing at the newsletter roll and folds. Christmas parties, River Park Days, rewriting the by-laws, working fund raisers and helping with

food baskets Nancy was there to do her share and more. She took her responsibilities with the VIPS (Volunteer in Police Service) very seriously because people were important to her and it showed. Nancy was always wearing a smile, she made a difference and she will be missed.

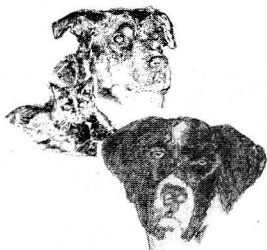
## Public Meeting for Riverwalk

Looking for news about the public meeting for the continuation of Northside Trail? So are we! The process is currently stalled with no

news to report. Keep checking the news releases on the City Web site. Choose "City" and "News & Info" on

www.southbend.in.gov and then select "News Releases" on the left hand menu to view all Public Notice issued from the Mayor's office.

### Pet Portraits



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The River Park News is published quarterly for the River Park community by the River Park Neighborhood Association (RPNA) and available at Allie's Café, Burton's Laundry, River Park Library and all sponsor and advertiser businesses. Support for the River Park News comes from the advertising and underwriting sponsors of the River Park Business community. Direct inquiries to: Editor, publisher@workofthesun.com; 288-8661.

NEXT ISSUE: November, 2011  
News & Advertising deadline: Oct 15

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