



The River Park News Spring 2021 Newsletter

A Publication of the River Park Neighborhood Association

Our vision is a safe, attractive community where residents feel proud, are connected to one another, and engage to better the neighborhood. We meet each month on the second Thursday of the month, via Zoom at 7 p.m. Send us an email with SBRiverPark@gmail.com. Visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/riverparksouthbend>

Amazon Smiles On River Park: When making a purchase on Amazon, you need to go to [Smiles.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smiles) instead of the regular Amazon.com. The first time you go here, it will ask you to select the charity you wish to support. Ours is listed as River Park Neighborhood Association, with a location designation of South Bend, IN. Once it is set, then every time you go there it will default to that same charity until you change it. But the key to success is to bookmark or otherwise continue to use [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smiles) instead of just Amazon.com.

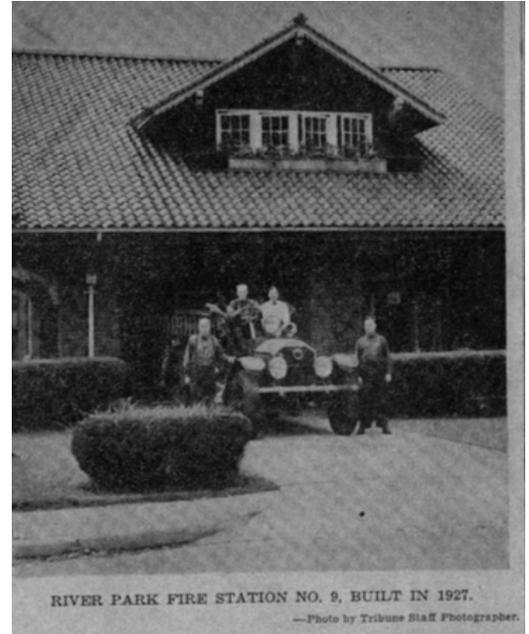
Historic Fire Station #9: Its Past, Present, and Future - Taylor Wiley

The original Fire Station #9, located on 2520 Mishawaka Avenue, has a rich past that ties in greatly with the history of River Park as a whole. Its completion in 1927 was a part of an annexation deal between River Park, which was previously an independent town, and the City of South Bend.

The fire station, along with other items outlined in the annexation agreement such as promising to install a water main on Mishawaka Avenue (River Park had no public water supply, which also hampered street improvements the town was in need of at the time!), were some of the very reasons that River Park voted to annex with South Bend in the November 1910 election.

In short, the fire station is one of the key assets promised that encouraged River Park residents to vote to be annexed by South Bend over Mishawaka.

Today, the fire station sits unused. It was replaced by the new Fire Station #9 on 2108 Mishawaka Avenue in July of 2019, and Palmer Funeral Homes purchased the building in late 2020. Fortunately, Palmer is open to ideas about what to do with the building. Hopefully, the firehouse will evolve to serve our community in a way that, while different from its original purpose, will still be vital.



Winners for the 2020 Merry and Bright Holiday Decoration Contest As Voted Via Facebook

3rd place - the Snowman and Friends 2nd place - the Snowman and Ornaments: 1st place - Santa on the roof and more. Look for the Golden Rake award contest over the summer!

Enjoying God's Creation

by Sharon Jojo

It was early one Sunday morning in June. I was sitting on the porch admiring the peaceful beauty. My next door neighbor came over and told me there was a little bird stuck under one of my roof shingles. The sparrow was chirping away frantically. I saw my other neighbor out across the street and called to him to see if he would help. He got out my extension ladder. I live in a house that is a story and a half. The ladder was too short to reach the roof safely.

About that time another neighbor was riding by on his bike and he stopped to help. His wife also came over. The five of us were standing by my rose trellis. We were trying to figure out what to try next. The bird had gotten awfully quiet; its chirping had ended.

Fortunately, the little sparrow had gotten loose. GOD had freed the little sparrow. The five neighbors had also gotten to know each other better.

It helps to have good neighbors. Sit on your porch and see what happens.

With our compliments

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574-289-1000 www.palmerfuneralhomes.com

**3RD DISTRICT COUNCILWOMAN
SHARON MCBRIDE'S CORNER**

I would like to take the time to say hello to everyone in the River Park Neighborhood area! Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, I have missed meeting with you all and regularly attending events in our area. I hope that you all are remaining safe and well. I want to encourage all of you to check on your family and friends.

I want to invite you to continue to support some of the following events in our area.

- Buy from our local stores and restaurants.
- Visit our fantastic Zoo... I am excited to hear that the zoo will be getting Giraffes soon!

Also, if you are in need of any of the following services for assistance, please contact:

- Mortgage, Rent, Utilities & Food 877.438.4673
- Real Services (Energy, Heating, Rental) 574.232.6501
- Food Bank of Northern Indiana 574.232.9986
- Military Family Relief COVID 19 Emergency Grant 317.232.3910
- Employment: WorkOne 574.237.9675
- File of Unemployment 800.891.6499
- Indiana 211 Call 211
- Vaccinations (All are free) OurShot.IN.gov Call 211

If you have questions or concerns in the 3rd District, please do not hesitate to contact me at smcbride@southbendin.gov.

Stay safe! Sincerely,

Sharon McBride

Councilwoman Sharon McBride



Jeannie's House



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

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



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



Help the *River Park Neighborhood Association* by dropping off empty ink jet cartridges, and small electronic devices like cell phones to the River Park Public Library. Our small collection box is by the check in machine. You can also order remanufactured ink jet cartridges in most models via Planet Green Recycle, and help us by just mentioning River Park Neighborhood Association. They give a donation to the RPNA at about \$1.50 per cartridge. And their cartridges are guaranteed and cost about half of new.



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Library Updates

In April we are featuring our **One Book, One Michiana** choice *True Grit* by Charles Portis, held over from 2020. On April 10th we'll host a Zoom event *Tales from the American Folklore*. Tune in for stories about 19th Century America. Expect cowboys, Native Americans, legends, and history. On the 24th, look to Facebook for a video, *Donner and a Book*. Expect a few choice readings from *True Grit*, along with recipes for the very, very, very hungry. Look for more *True Grit* on our social media. We also have plenty of copies of the book and movie to check out.

We are open for inside browsing, computing, and curbside service. Ask for more details about our virtual programming, including virtual D+D for teens on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays. We have take-away crafts for kids.

Art Works Installed at River Park Branch Library

The St Joseph County Public Library (SJ CPL) and South Bend Museum of Art (SBMA) celebrate the installation of five works of art inspired by the late Charlotte Hunt and her love of the River Park Neighborhood. Charlotte Hunt lived with her family in River Park for many decades. Come see these finished artworks at the River Park Branch Library.

- Stephen Barany (South Bend, IN), *River Park: South Bend's Living Treasury* First Prize Winner
- James Jursinic (Mishawaka, IN), *Ripple Effect*
- Alan J. Larkin (South Bend, IN), *Gateway to River Park*
- Peg Luecke (South Bend, IN), *September Song, River Park*
- Greg Potter (Franklin, IN), *Un día en el Parque*

All residents can be a Neighborhood Crime Watch Captain. All you need is a phone and a willingness to let your close neighbors know about any crime in your neighborhood that is passed on by phone to you by the SBPD.

Call RPNA President and Safety Committee Chair Phil Niswonger @ 287-2270.

River Park has the best (and only) NCW Captain NETWORK in South Bend. NCW Captains help us to have a much lower crime rate than the rest of South Bend. Some of our captains work together in clusters.

Your River Park Neighborhood Pub
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South Bend, IN 46615

EVENT CATERING AVAILABLE

Breakfast	Tacos
Burritos	Menudo
Carnitas	Pozole
Carne	Tamales
Asada	Horchata
Flan	

Follow us

Monday to Sunday 9:00 am to 9:00 pm

A Legislative Update from Representative Maureen Bauer:

The Indiana General Assembly has reached the halfway point of the 122nd legislative session.

The year 2021 brings a new and challenging legislative session. There are many urgent issues that need our attention before we adjourn on April 29. Now is the time for bold, urgent action to assist the recovery efforts from the economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide real relief to Hoosiers.

In the first weeks of session, I joined my colleagues in supporting bi-partisan legislation, as well as authoring and co-authoring critically important bills. I would like to highlight a few issues that focuses on delivering meaningful relief to workers, families and small businesses as the COVID-19 pandemic persists:

- Create the Student Learning Recovery Grant to fund K-12 recovery earning programs and remediation for students who experienced learning loss.
- Provide full funding tuition support to traditional public schools for all modes of teaching and learning for the entire 2020-2021 school year.
- Reform our criminal justice system by requiring use-of-force and de-escalation training for law enforcement officers.
- Expand Indiana's current Safe Haven Law to prevent infant abandonment and abuse.

Additionally, I have introduced progressive healthcare legislation to improve health outcomes in Indiana, and expand access to quality, affordable healthcare. House Bill 1245 to increase protections at the workplace for pregnant employees and House Bill 1350 to reduce our infant and maternal mortality rates by expanding coverage for doula services to private insurance.

As we progress through this legislative session, please do not hesitate to contact me at 1-800-382-9842 or H6@in.gov with any questions, comments, or concerns about state government. It is an honor to advocate at the Indiana Statehouse on your behalf, and work to improve the lives of all Hoosiers.

State Representative Maureen Bauer, House District 6

The River Park Neighborhood Association

Cheryl Walsh: RPNA President: cwlsbc@gmail.com

Michael Maciulski: RPNA Vice President

Taylor Wiley: RPNA Treasurer

Janet Maciulski: RPNA Secretary

Board Members: April Bell, Linda Deaton, Darcy Kinelar, Phil Niswonger, Carrie Marks, & Joseph Sipocz

Upcoming:

We're cleaning up the River Park neighborhood with a **River Park Clean-Up** set for Saturday, April 24th. Meet across from The Well at 9.

We're having a fundraiser at **Portillo's** for May 5th from 5-8 PM. Portillo's is located at 5102 N Main Street, Mishawaka. Pick up a flyer at the library or ask any RPNA board member for a flyer. The River Park Neighborhood Association will receive 20% of the proceeds. In keeping with best safety practices, Portillo's offers this fundraiser for carry out service only.