

# The River Park News

A publication of the River Park Neighborhood Association

## "People Who Make a Difference"

### Kenneth "Doc" Milliken

By Janet Maciulski

Kenneth "Doc" Milliken is one of the amazing people that have made a big difference in the River Park Neighborhood.

As a young man Doc wanted to be a police officer to help people. In November 1968 at the age of 21 he signed in as a South Bend police officer. He was assigned to River Park in 1983, and he has done his best to keep our neighborhood safe for almost 40 years. He was even given the nickname "The Mayor of River Park".

Doc enjoyed patrolling the streets of River Park and liked that he never knew what he was going to be doing from one day to the next. He shared that the most interesting part of his job was meeting and learning about new people. His sense of humor helped him put a smile on people's faces and he wanted them to feel as if they were getting a service from the city.

Doc grew up on the west side of South Bend and graduated from Washington High School. He is the proud father of three daughters and one son. His son, Dominick Jr., better known as "DJ", was born with special needs, and Doc made sure that he had the best life possible. "DJ's Sensory Garden" was created in Potawatomi Park in his memory. In retirement Doc is looking forward to spending more time with his eight grandchildren.

Doc joined the police force when police officers were respected and looked up to. That is one of the biggest changes in our society that he finds difficult.

A big thank you goes out to Doc for all that he has done for River Park. We hope his retirement is full of those things he enjoys the most. The River Park neighbors are appreciative for his time and effort.



The River Park Neighborhood Association meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the River Park Branch Library at 7PM. The meetings are open to all.

### River Park Neighborhood Association

President Cheryl Walsh: [cwlshe@gmail.com](mailto:cwlshe@gmail.com)  
Vice President: Michael Maciulski  
Treasurer: Taylor Wiley  
Secretary: Janet Maciulski  
Board Members: Howard Berberick, Linda Deaton, Sharon Jojo, Darcy Kinelar, Carrie Marks, Phil Niswonger, & Joseph Sipocz

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Fish Friday  
Pizza Sunday

Check out our  
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Phone: (574) 287-7379

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574-258-5225  
3618 Mishawaka Ave.  
South Bend  
(Next to Luigi's)

**Builders Store Inc.** 574-288-5025  
Website: [www.buildersstoreinc.com](http://www.buildersstoreinc.com)  
Email: [buildersstore@att.net](mailto:buildersstore@att.net)

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Hours:  
Monday-Friday 8:00-5:30  
Saturday 8:00-4:00  
Sunday CLOSED

Hours: Monday-Friday 8-5:30, Saturday 8-4, Sunday CLOSED

**Jeannie's House**

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

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

## Lead Screening & Mulch Madness

Jocelyn Keranen – ND Lead Innovation Team

A big thank-you to everyone who came out for the annual River Park cleanup and first ever Mulch Madness Event! The River Park Neighborhood Association is thrilled to see fellow neighbors working together to make River Park a safe and beautiful place to live.

For all those that received a Lead Screening Kit, remember you can turn it into the River Park library once it is complete. Results take 2-3 weeks after the kit has been turned in. If you received a kit and did not fill out a form with your contact information, please do so by visiting <https://redcap.link/leadscreeningkit> or by filling out a form available at the library when you drop it off. Don't forget to include your **kit number** so we can get you your results.

If you didn't get a chance to participate in the big event on April 2nd, there is still time to take part.

**For lead safety:** Fill out a contact form and pick up your free lead screening kit at the River Park Library. Don't forget, children under 6 should be tested for lead and can get tested through the Department of Health.

**For mulch:** Self loaded mulch is available for free on a first come first serve basis through South Bend Organic Resources. You can pick up the mulch at 4340 Trade Drive, South Bend, IN 46628

**For clean up:** Every day can be a clean-up day. Remember to keep trash in your bins and out of the streets.

## Warmer Weather Reminders

Cheryl Walsh RPNA President

Spring is here and the warmer weather will have more people and pets outside. Please keep the following in mind when out and about on the roadways.

**Mishawaka Avenue** – The speed limit from Logan heading west is 20 MPH! YES, 20 MPH!! Please slow down and give yourself an extra couple minutes to get where you need to go.

**Nuner School and The Track** – Please obey the school speed limit signs, stop fully at all **Stop Signs** and take an extra look both ways. **Sports Teams** are practicing which means more people, bicyclists and cars near the track and side streets.

**Motorcycles** – Do not be the driver that fails to see the motorcycle in plain sight. Take a second look at left turns. Check your blind spot and do not tailgate a motorcycle rider. Motorcyclists- you too can help us keep you safe. You have the same responsibilities on public roadways as other drivers.

**Grass Clippings** – DO NOT mow or blow your grass clippings into the road/by the curb. These clippings are dangerous to bicyclists and motorcyclists. If you hire a professional lawn service - they too are NOT allowed to put grass clippings into the street. In addition to a road hazard, those clippings, leaves, twigs and debris clog the sewer drain and then...flooding. Let's all work together!

**Kids, Balls, Toys, and Parked Cars** – Please remember when you were younger and how easy it was to forget about the dangers of traffic. Kids get easily distracted and want to 'save' their favorite ball or toy. They will run out between parked cars before you even have time to blink. Use caution and reduce your speed when driving through the neighborhood. Our goal is an accident-free Spring, Summer, and longer. Check around your vehicle before pulling out of your driveway or parking spot in the street. Children may be out playing hide and seek, tag, or again retrieving that lost toy that is under your car/tire.

**Hot Cars** – DO NOT leave your children or pets in car! All your children and pets exit with you. Every single time, No exceptions!

**Car Safety** – Do not leave your unattended car running. Cars are being stolen every day. Do not become a statistic. Keep your car locked when parked – whether in the street, your driveway, or parking lot. Thieves are trying door handles and can remove your personal items before you know it. Remove those personal items from your car – laptops, wallets, purses, book bags, backpacks, phones, clothing, etc. – do not be an easy target.

**Be a Good Neighbor** – those of you who know me, know my saying for River Park is 'Neighbors Helping Neighbors'. Please keep an eye out for your fellow neighbors. Check on them and step off your front porch to say "Hi". If they need a helping hand and you cannot assist, please reach out to the River Park Neighborhood Association – either on Facebook, email or call Cheryl Walsh RPNA President, [cwlshe@gmail.com](mailto:cwlshe@gmail.com), 716-512-0931 or any member of the RPNA board.

**Good Lighting** – Porch, Garage, Alleys will also help deter criminal activity. Let's "**Light Up**" River Park while enjoying the warm weather with friends and family!

**Look for the Neighborhood Association on Facebook!**

## Help Us Deliver These Newsletters

Volunteers hand deliver The River Park Newsletter to over 2,500 homes in River Park. Another 100 to 200 are distributed to businesses and gathering places.

Needless to say 2,500 deliveries to the doors of our neighbors is a rather large task and it is done by far too few people. We need help to cover the established routes to bring the newsletter to the entire River Park area.

I and others have been involved in getting the newsletter out many times and have always enjoyed the activity as it allows us to meet our neighbors, and feel good about engaging in a great community activity.

If you could adopt a street or a route or even several blocks it would make a huge impact on the load that so few have had to carry in the past. If we all pitch in the individual workload can be drastically reduced and we could deliver the newsletters in much less time. Community events listed here make the prompt delivery of the newsletters crucial. Please step up and be a good neighbor. Volunteer to adopt a route to deliver the newsletter.

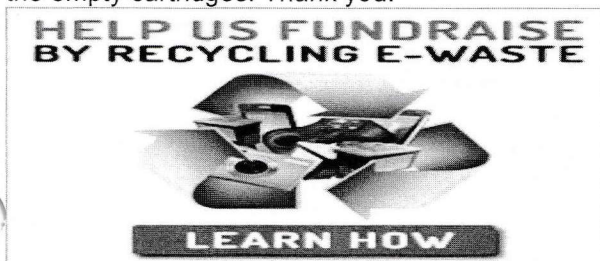
Perhaps walking a route is not your cup of tea, or maybe you are unable to walk a route. Fear not! We have tasks for you! The newsletters are delivered door to door in a plastic bag so they can be hung on a door or fence or post. The newsletters do not "jump into" the bags by themselves. You could "stuff the bags" or collate the newsletters when larger issues have multiple pages. It might be your calling.

Contact me to volunteer to help bring this valuable community resource to the people.

Mike Maciulski  
Email: [mactool2u@aol.com](mailto:mactool2u@aol.com) Home Phone 574-282-1787

## Planet Green Recycling

Planet Green accepts ink jet printer cartridges for recycling. Bring them by the River Park Library where we have a collection box near their book return. When you recycle the cartridges you keep them out of the landfills, save half the cost by buying recycled cartridges, and the River Park Neighborhood Association earns cash from the empty cartridges. Thank you!



## RIVER PARK YARD SALE DAYS SATURDAY and SUNDAY APRIL 23 and 24



If you are having a Yard Sale, you are responsible for your own advertising. If you post signs in the neighborhood, please remember to remove them after the event.

Rain date is Saturday April 30th.

## Register for the COVID-19 vaccination here!

COVID-19 vaccines are available for those **5 years and older.**

Once you are registered, a Community Health Worker will contact you to schedule your appointment and answer any questions.



For more information contact Beacon Community Impact at **574.647.4913**

Scan here to register for a COVID-19 vaccine



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Source: CDC

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*Join us for our first Earth Day, MIND-BODY-SPIRIT Festival! A Celebration of Connection*

When: Saturday April 23rd Time: 10am-6pm EST  
Where: Potawatomi Park 500 S GreenLawn Ave South Bend, IN 46615

A community celebration of all things that raise conscious awareness of self, the planet, and all things living and growing. To include a variety of Music, Gardening, Yoga, Qigong, Reiki, Drumming, Crystals & Rocks, Tarot & Astrology, Seed Exchange, Tree Give Away, Health & Wellness Education, Vendors, Art, Food, and interactive activities for all ages.

**ADMISSION IS FREE** (weather date is 4/30)

### Hotline Numbers:

Sexual Assault Hotline - (800) 656 4673  
National Runaway Hotline - (800) 786 2929  
LGBTQ National Hotline - (888) 843 4564



## Your VOTE is Your Voice by Pam Claeys

Tuesday, May 3 is Primary Election Day. We will vote for Federal, State, County, Township and Precinct offices. The selected candidates of each political party will compete in the General Election, Tuesday, November 8. \*\*Please check your voter registration and PLEASE VOTE\*\*

\*\*If there is any chance you will not be able to vote on Election Day, VOTE EARLY\*\*

### Important Dates:

Monday, April 4: Deadline to register to vote  
Tuesday, April 5: Early/absentee in person voting begins  
Thursday, April 21: The deadline for Absentee Ballot by Mail application to be received  
Monday, May 2, 12 Noon: Early/absentee in person voting ends  
Also the deadline to receive completed Absentee Ballots by mail  
Tuesday, May 3: Primary Election Day, 6am to 6pm  
The Deadline to deliver Absentee Ballot in person is 6 pm  
Tuesday, May 17: Voter Registration for the Fall begins

### Register to Vote; Update or Check Voter Registration, Apply for Absentee Ballot or Travel Board

o **Online:** indianavoters.com  
o **In person:** Voter Registration (VR), 4th Floor, County-City Building; 235-9521; call with questions  
NOTE: Check your voter registration to ensure you have not been purged from the voter rolls

**Vote early:** Tuesday April 5th-Noon Monday May 2nd: County City Building (CCB), 227 W. Jefferson Blvd, SB, or County Services Annex, 219 Lincolnway West, Mishawaka

**County offices will be closed Good Friday, April 15**  
8am - 4:30pm Monday-Friday  
8am to 4pm, 2 Saturdays before (4/23/22 and 4/30/22)

**Vote absentee:** Submit or print an Absentee Ballot Request (indianavoters.com), or call VR to have one mailed to you.

Complete and return in the envelope provided by April 21. Your ballot will then be mailed to you.

\*\*Be sure to complete and return your completed ballot so it is received via mail by 12 Noon, Monday, May 2

**Request a visit from the Travel Board:** If you are a voter who is confined or you care for a confined person, call the County Clerk's office, 574-235-9635, or indianavoters.com, for Application for Absentee Ballot by Travel Board, to request the Travel Board come to your home.

**Vote in person** Tuesday, May 3 6am-6pm. Find a list of Vote Centers usually in the newspaper OR at indianavoters.com. Bring your valid state ID.



**JASON CRITCHLOW**  
for Trustee

Our Community:  
Safe, Healthy, & Thriving

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Contact@jasoncritchlowfortrustee.com



**ROD GOODCHILD**

- Learn
- Serve
- Lead

**VOTE**

**PORTAGE TWP TRUSTEE**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 3RD**

goodchild4trustee@gmail.com

Paid for by Friends of Goodchild for Trustee

### More Hotline Numbers:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – (800) 273 8255  
Child Abuse Hotline – 800-4-A-Child - (800) 422 4453  
National Domestic Violence Hotline – (800) 799 7233  
Missing & Exploited Children Hotline – (800) 843 5678  
Victim Connect Resource Center – (855) 484 2846  
National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence – (800) 622 2255  
Human Trafficking Hotline – (800) 622 2255 or text 233733

# Public Library

## ST. JOE COUNTY

Here's what is coming up at the River Park Branch Library:

**May the Fourth:** We're calling it Star Wars Imperial Storm Troopers' Trivia Target Practice. Answer questions, impress friends, and perhaps become a Jedi Master. Can't miss! Unlike the imperial storm troopers.

**Storytimes Return:** Mondays at 10:30 starting May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Enjoy books, rhymes, and songs, which build on practices that prepare children to learn to read. Recommended for ages 3-5. Families are welcome.

**Poetry's Greatest Hits:** Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. Listen as players from The Acting Ensemble read outstanding poetry to celebrate National Poetry Month.

**Spill the Ink Poetry Contest:** Share your story in our all ages poetry contest.

Discover your voice by writing a one-page poem that captures your unique story. Discover your voice by attending one of our writing workshops. Deliver your voice by sharing your work at our celebratory reading at Main Library at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 29.


Winning writers will receive a prize and have their poems displayed in Main Library. There will be two winners from each age group. Submissions accepted April 1-22.

Coming in June – Look for the Summer Reading Challenge – All ages!

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**Adventures in Bad Cinema:** May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Join us for an evening of laughably bad cinema. The movie is so awful, we dare not reveal its title in advance. Come for the snacks at least, and the shared experience.

**Movie Matinee** – Spider-Man Into the Spider-Verse  
 Join us on May 28<sup>th</sup> at Noon to watch the Oscar-winning animated film. Remember, with great power comes great responsibility to come see movies.



**Teen Gaming:** Challenge your friends to a fun afternoon of video games. Saturday April 30, May 14, May 28 3-5 p.m. For ages 12-18.

### Neighborhood Watch News

From the River Park Neighborhood Association Meeting:

The police highly recommend you lock your cars. Car larcenies are up due to unlocked cars. Incidents of thieves breaking windows are rare. Domestic violence has increased, so call before things get out of hand.


To find out more about our Neighborhood Crime Watch captains program, call Phil Niswonger at 287-2270. To be a captain, all you need is a phone.

# Franky's

## tacos!




574-931-2151  
 2720 Mishawaka Ave.  
 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



## Have Your Rental Unit Certified Through the Rental Safety Verification Program

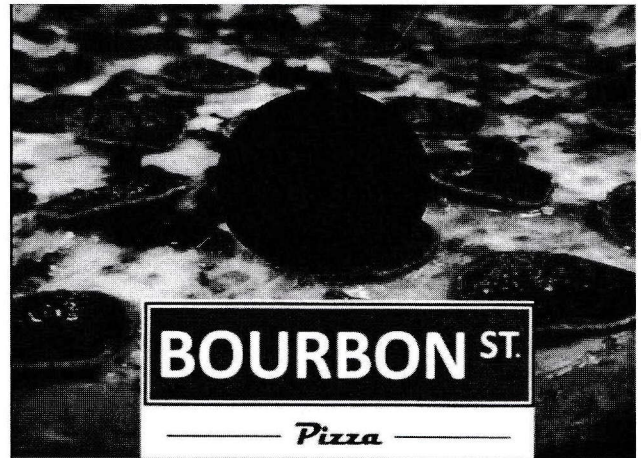
The Rental Safety Verification Program (RSVP) promotes the health and safety of rental units in the City of South Bend by requiring that rental properties meet minimum standards of property maintenance. Rentals that meet these standards are issued an **Inspection Certificate** to show the property is compliant with building and housing code and ordinance requirements.

The Department of Community Investment's Neighborhood Health & Housing team administers the program. Tenants, property owners, and property managers can call 3-1-1 to schedule an RSVP inspection. If a tenant has a concern about their rental unit, repair requests should first be made to the owner or property manager to give them the opportunity to make repairs before contacting Neighborhood Health & Housing. If you have received a notice for inspection in the mail, please call Neighborhood Health & Housing at 3-1-1 (or 574-233-0311) to speak with the Program Coordinator.

During the inspection, the RSVP inspector will inspect the outside as well as all rooms on the inside of the unit. They will have a checklist of items to look for such as: chipping/peeling paint, visible leaks, working plumbing and electrical systems, proper sanitation, and adequate heat. If the property does not pass inspection, the property owner will be notified of violations, provided time to make repairs, and is required to schedule a re-inspection. After the unit passes, an **Inspection Certificate** is issued for a period of one to five years. Properties that require multiple visits to pass inspection will be granted a shorter period of time.

What properties are eligible for RSVP? All residential rental units within the City of South Bend! Property owners and managers are encouraged to contact Neighborhood Health & Housing before receiving a notice to schedule an inspection. Properties scheduled before receiving notice, that pass on first inspection, will be granted an extra year on their Inspection Certificate, granting 5-years before renewal is needed.

Visit [www.southbendin.gov/rsvp](http://www.southbendin.gov/rsvp) for more information about RSVP, including a sample inspection checklist and information about the status of properties in the RSVP inspection process.



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