



# The River Park News

A publication of the River Park Neighborhood Association

Spring

www.riverparksouthbend.com

2015

## River Park Day Saturday May 16



The John Adams Marching Band performs in the 2014 River Park Day parade

### In This Issue

New on The Avenue.....2

RP Furniture Closing.....3

Reading Program  
Saturday Yoga.....4

Thrift Store.....5

Curb Repair  
Tattoo Parlor Rezoning....6

Housing Asset  
Yard Waste Ordinance....7

NIP Grants  
Watch Captains.....8

Home Ownership  
Assistance Program  
Backpacks.....9

Welcoming Spring.....11

River Park Day is fast approaching and that means another great parade down The Avenue. The parade, sponsored by the River Park Business Association, starts at 10:00 and travels down Mishawaka Avenue to 36th

St. There will be food and craft vendors and other fun things to do, there will even be the opportunity to have your hands sculpted in wax. This year there will be a Parade Raffle with the Grand Prize of a Hoover

Steam Vac from the Sweeper Company. Second prize is \$100 worth of car washes from Parkwood Auto Spa with other prizes such as \$25 off any service at Avenue

*continued on page 3*  
**see Parade**

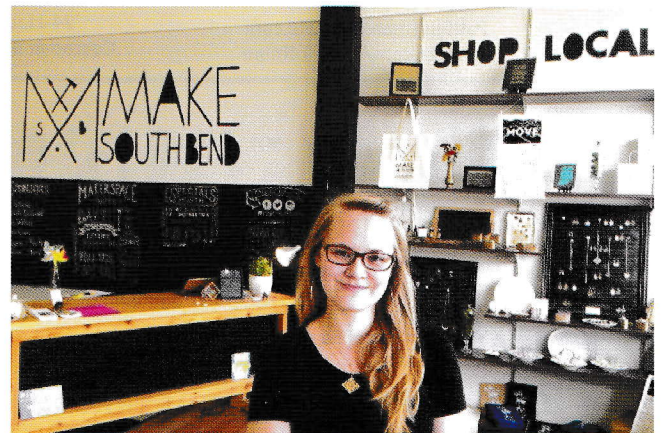
## Make things in River Park

There is a new space to make things right here in River Park. Make South Bend, located in the former River Park Branch Library, is a place where local artists, makers, designers, creators, and entrepreneurs can create,

collaborate and work while having access to a large variety of tools and equipment.

As part of a widely growing phenomenon known as “makerspaces”, “fab labs”

*continued on page 3*  
**see Make**



Michelle FitzGerald: local artist and visionary in her new business in River Park

# New on the Avenue Stone Soup Batiks



local crafters. You'll find beautiful jewelry made by Candy's sister Vicki who is blind, there are clothes made for the American Girl doll collection, greeting cards and floral arrangements to name a few of the things for sale. There are classes offered to give people the opportunity to create beautiful fabric projects of their own.

The name of Candy's business came from the old fable "Stone Soup" that tells about a little town where people were

*continued on back page*  
see **Stone**



by Janet Maciulski

Stone Soup Batiks opened its doors on Mishawaka Avenue in August 2014. Candy Samuels is the owner and was happy to share the story of her new business. She sold soaps at the Farmer's Market for 40

years and had thought about having a traveling bus to sell her products from but decided that would be a bit too noisy. Instead she chose a store front on the Avenue and filled it with the most beautiful Batik fabrics, as well as, a variety of other items that are made by

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## Parade

*continued from page 1*

Auto and a \$25 coupon for Allie's Café are being offered as 3rd and 4th prizes. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 15 tickets for \$10. Tickets are available at The Maids, 2409 Mishawaka Av, Avenue Automotive at 3001 Mishawaka Av. and at For Pet's Sake, 3023 Mishawaka Av. The drawing will take place after the parade; the

winner will be notified by phone.

The River Park Neighborhood Association will have an information booth and T-shirt sale and The Potawatomi Conservatories will be distributing garden seeds. Be sure and come down to The Avenue and take in the excitement.



## River Park Furniture closing

After 70 years of being a vibrant part of River Park, River Park Furniture is closing its doors. John Bognar Sr. started the business in the back of what is now the Sweeper Co.

Later the company expanded and moved across the street to its current location. John Bognar Jr. and wife Wendy are now retiring. Their presence on The Avenue will be missed.



## Make

*continued from page 1*

and tech incubators, Make South Bend offers a wide variety of tools and resources for those interested in making things be they crafters, artists, woodworkers or entrepreneurs. With over \$15,000 worth of tools such as a 3D printer, laser cutter, pottery wheels, kilns, woodworking tools, print making equipment and others too numerous to mention, Make South Bend hopes to provide support to local artists and makers and to provide the community at large access to art and the maker movement. Artists can collaborate with others to incorporate new ideas and mediums into their work and receive the support they need to grow in their gifts.

On going classes in such things as diverse as electrical soldering, 3D design, oil painting, crocheting and jewelry making, to mention

just a few, make it easy to try a new art form without committing the time and money needed for traditional art classes or to try it on their own. Classes are limited in size and are offered for a small fee plus materials. Instructors may include member artists, community guests, or local artists. Make South Bend also offers locally produced goods and art in their curated shop. The community is encouraged to stop in at 2228 Mishawaka Avenue, shop local for unique, awesome items from coffee to prints to candles to jewelry and/or participate in learning a new skill, refine established skills, make stuff and share in the artisan experience. Their hours are 12:00 - 8:00 Tuesday to Saturday, visit their web site [makesouthbend.com](http://makesouthbend.com) for further information.

# River Park Branch Library's Summer Reading Challenge Program begins June 6

Looking for something different to do this summer? Join the River Park Branch Library's Summer Reading Challenge Program. This year the theme is Every Hero has a Story!

So exactly how does it work? It is very easy! Just go to the River Park Branch Library and sign up or you may sign up online from home, beginning June 6.

## The Prizes:

### Ages birth thru 11

Sign up and get a bookmark and tattoo or sticker  
 200 minutes read = coupon for food or service  
 300 minutes read = a bonus prize  
 400 minutes read = a free book  
 500 minutes read = entry into our exclusive RRC raffle  
 for every 500 minutes read after 500, kids will receive another entry into the raffle for additional chances to win.

### Ages 12 thru 18

Sign up and get a book bag and coupons  
 For every 10 books read will be a chance in a drawing at the end for gift cards.

### Adults

Sign up and receive a book bag For every 10 books read will be a chance in a drawing at the end for gift cards.

## Superhero Firefighters visit River Park! River Park Library Summer Reading Program Tuesday, June 2, 6 p.m.

Kick off our Summer Reading Program with the superheroes of the South Bend Fire Department! Learn the skills and bravery it takes to fight fires and be the first responders to accidents. Get your face painted, hear a story and do a craft while you wait to climb aboard a fire truck and meet Firepup and 9' tall Captain Steele. The very creative Twister Mike, balloon artist, will amaze you with a balloon creation just for you. We'll be outside (weather permitting). Please call 282-4635 for more information.

### Storytime at River Park

Weds at 10:30 a.m.  
 June 3, 10, 17 and 24  
 July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29  
 August 5

Join us for stories, music, and movement that build early literacy skills and help your young child prepare for future learning success while developing a love of books. Ages 5 and younger; families are welcome.

# Saturday Morning Yoga at the Conservatories

by Jan Maciulski

Want to know a great way to start your Saturdays? Join us in Jamie Robinson's Yoga Class. It is held at the beautiful Potawatomi Conservatories where you are surrounded by colorful tropical plants. The conservatories are located on Mishawaka Ave. and the class runs from 9:00-10:15 a.m. The cost is \$5.00 for BSSB members and \$8.00 for non-members.

Many people think Yoga is just stretching and while stretching is certainly involved, Yoga is really

about creating balance in the body through developing both strength and flexibility. This is done through the performance of poses or postures, each of which has specific physical benefits. The amazing thing about yoga is that your practice is always evolving so it doesn't get boring.

One of the most difficult but ultimately most liberating things about yoga is letting go of the ego and accepting that no one is better than anyone else. Everyone is doing their best on any given day. So give it a try. Hope to see you there on Saturday!



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# The Sisters Clothes Closet & Thrift Store

by Alicia Kindley

The Sisters Clothes Closet & Thrift Store 1302 Mishawaka Ave South Bend, In 46615 Hours: Tue Wed Fri Sat 10am - 5pm Phone: (574) 232-8025 The sisters of the Sisters Clothes Closet & Thrift Store are myself, Lis Kindley, and my sister Cleo Conley. We both have the same desire to provide help to those who need it. I am currently in graduate school studying for the ministry while Cleo runs the store during the week. We are associated with Albright United Methodist Church but we are an independent organization and receive no support from them or any other organization. This ministry was started to help provide clothing and small household items to those who are in need. Clients may come in once a month and pick out two outfits per family member. The first time they come in they can

also pick out a pair of shoes if needed. They may also receive a few other necessities if they are available such as a towel, sheets and blanket. We also help with dishes, a coffee pot, toaster and other small essentials if available. We are a registered 501 (C) (3) and are run completely by volunteers. No one receives any payment for his or her work. My sister Cleo and I are the volunteers in charge and neither of us receives any monetary benefit from the ministry. We have a clothes closet and a thrift shop. Everything is priced and available for sale. Whatever money is received by selling items is used to help pay expenses such as electric, heat, insurance and other expenses that we incur. We do not currently take in enough to pay much more than the electric at this time but as word gets out we hope to do more and become self-supporting. If you are in need of a bit of help with

clothing or small household items please come and see us or call Cleo at (574) 232-8025 Hours: Tue Wed Fri Sat 10-5 We accept donations of clean gently used items that we sell to help support the ministry but we also make a majority of those items free to those who are in need of them. We give away much more than we sell but sales are needed to keep the doors open. We also plan on putting tables out in the front parking lot with reading and activity books that will be available to use there or to take home. We will have a book exchange so that you can take a book, read it, and trade in for another one. We are not sure when this will begin, we need to make sure that it is

okay for us to do it as well as making sure the weather will cooperate. Please like and share our Facebook page and follow us for updates on what we are doing and special sales that we will be having.



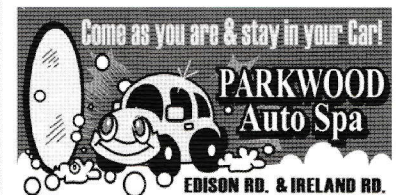
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## City announces curb and sidewalk repair reimbursement program



The City of South Bend is implementing a new curb and sidewalk repair reimbursement program to assist property owners in making needed repairs to curbs and sidewalks abutting their properties. This reimbursement program replaces a former program requiring residents to pay for half the costs of repair. It is hoped that this program will help improve safety, access and aesthetics for residents in neighborhoods throughout the city. Residents will have more control over the repair process and time frame with the intention of making the system more efficient.

Residents will be reimbursed at the rate of

\$20.00 per linear foot for sidewalks and \$15.00 per linear foot for curbs. Private, bonded contractors selected by the property owner must perform the work. Additional information may be obtained by calling the City's resident service line at 311 between the hours of 7:30 am and 5:30 pm.

## Tattoo parlor seeking zoning exception on The Avenue

A rezoning petition has been submitted for property located within River Park. The Area Plan Commission will hold a public hearing in the Council Chambers, located on the 4th floor of the County-City Building, on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 3:30P.M., at which time the following will be considered:

A combined public hearing on a proposed ordinance of New Paris Development Co. LLC to zone from MU Mixed Use District to LB Local Business District; seeking a special use exception to allow for a tattoo, body piercing establishment; and seeking the following two variances:

1. from the required 12 parking spaces to 0; and
2. from the required 500'


separation from a religious use to 20', property located at 2212 Mishawaka Avenue, City of South Bend - APC# 2742-15.

You are invited to express your opinion on behalf of the neighborhood regarding this petition at the public hearing or submit written comments to the Commission prior to the hearing. Written comments received by the commission will become part of the petition file but will not be read at the public hearing. A Commission Staff Report and Preliminary Staff Recommendation will be available on the Commission's website, [www.stjosephcountyindiana.com/departments/Areaplan](http://www.stjosephcountyindiana.com/departments/Areaplan), and at the Commission Office after 1:00 PM on Monday, May 11, 2015.

The Common Council will hold a separate public hearing on this petition at a later date at which they will make a final decision to either rezone or not rezone the subject property. There will not be a notice for that hearing, it is suggested that you contact the Council Office for time and place of their hearing.



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# Housing and Asset Preservation Committee seeking members and chairperson

by Phil Niswonger

The Housing and Asset Preservation Committee has had great recent history by improving 27 homes in River Park, along with area wide cleanups and seminars, like December 2013's First Time Home Buyers program. This program can provide up to \$20,000 off a \$100,000 mortgage for someone who has not had his or her own home for three years. This is decided with a sliding scale, which means that most people in River Park are eligible for super savings now and in the long term.

Along with First Source Bank, the River Park Neighborhood Association's Housing and Asset Preservation Committee has promoted the Neighborhood

Impact Program (NIP) for four years now. NIP helps to improve owner occupied homes with their roof, furnace, windows, etc. River Park has been the most successful in obtaining tens of thousands of dollars each year.

The Housing and Asset Preservation Committee was formed in February 2009 as one of the five sub committees of the River Park Neighborhood Association in response to the City South Bend's request to have more resident involvement in the development and preservation of its neighborhoods and services, especially in light of decreased revenues due to lower property tax rates.

## Our mission goals are:

1. Work with neighbors whose houses are most in need.
2. Facilitate improvements in other commercial and non-commercial properties.
3. Work to improve infrastructure conditions including alleys.
4. Partner with city departments; such as, Community Development, Code Enforcement, and the neighborhood partners as well as with other agencies, institutions including IUSB, service groups, charitable organizations, businesses, landlords, and other concerned individuals.
5. Keep River Park residents informed as how they can keep their homes and improve their neighborhoods and empower them to be more proactive in River Park's success.
6. Coordinate the presentation of River Park's history and its historic preservation.

## Great progress has been made

Between 2009 -2012 Housing's volunteers have improved 27 properties. There have been three clean ups of 1.5 miles of railroad track along our northern boundary and two area wide clean up projects coordinated. Over a dozen residents have been invigorated about what they

can do. The Committee has also provided three history presentations, River Park's History Month, and the Centennial feature in the South Bend Tribune.

Our ultimate goal is to help improve River Park one home at a time and one project at a time. Call Phil @ 287-2270 to see how you can help River Park.

## Yard waste ordinance now in effect

Residents are no longer allowed to use plastic bags to dispose of their yard waste. Yard waste for pickup must now be placed in biodegradable paper bags or other containers approved by the City and separated from other refuse. Individual bags or containers must not weigh

more than 35 pounds when full. Residents may rent a yard waste container from the city during the yard waste collection period from April through November. Cost for this 96 gallon container labeled "Yard Waste Only" is \$16.00 for the season. This container is not subject to the 35-pound weight limit. Call the City at 311 to obtain a container.

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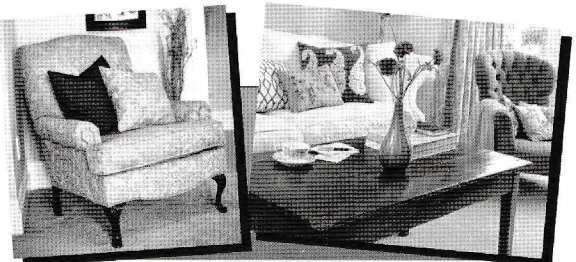
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# NIP Home Improvement Grants available

by Phil Niswonger

Nip is back again this year. River Park led the city in the amount of neighborhood home improvement grants totaling almost \$30,000. Just about every River Park homeowner is eligible to get needed home repairs, such as new furnace, new roof, replacement windows, etc. - just about anything that needs repaired or replaced in your home. The grants come from the required 10% of federal mortgage loans' profits. For Indiana they come from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis and channeled via our own First Source Bank.

There are three grants:

1. up to \$7,500 for those who have or will get an account.

2. up to \$10,000 for those who have a mortgage or refinance an existing mortgage. In most cases

your overall interest payments are also reduced.

3. up to \$10,000 AMP (Accessible Modified Program for those over 62 or who have a disability program (such as SSI or SSD) to get ramps, wider doors, accessible shower or tub, handrails, chair lifts, etc.

Contact Adam Gill in River Park's First Source Bank @ 235-2320 and look at the enclosed flier. In addition to these savings, you will also improved the value of your home, have better heating/cooling savings, and improve your living conditions.

Don't wait. It is a first come, first serve program for all of Indiana with \$300,000 earmarked by FHLB for NE Indiana.

These opportunities are recommend by RPNA's Housing and Asset Preservation Committee. It is in its fourth year in River Park.

My wife and I are enjoying immensely our two new insulated storm doors, four energy efficient windows and four secure glass block basement windows we got last year from the Neighborhood Impact Program. Don't miss this great opportunity, call Adam today.

# Residents encouraged to become a Neighborhood Crime Watch Captain

Be part of South Bend's NCW Network and make River Park even safer by Phil Niswonger

River Park is safer because it has, in my opinion, the best Neighborhood Crime Watch system of captains in South Bend, called the Network, and every citizen is encouraged to consider becoming a captain. River Park NCW Network is currently composed of 121 captains. The Network is divided into six sections and subdivided into clusters of captains wherever possible. The Network gives two extra layers of service by its link with the city of South Bend Police Dept. and the RPNA Safety Committee. Our captains feel more confident as they can relate to other captains. They are also encouraged to participate in the monthly captains meetings at the SBPD and with the Safety Committee. Most captains have about

five to ten neighbors that they link with. The only thing needed to be a captain is a local phone number and, helpfully, an answering machine. You need not to be a homeowner, renters are encouraged to participate as well. The only requirements are to keep an eye out for your neighbor, call in suspicious activity, like any good citizen, and to relay the occasional message from the SBPD to your neighbors.

For more information, call Phil of the RPNA Safety Committee 287-2270 or come to our booth on River Park Parade Day. The Safety Committee will have a NCW Captain information and sign up booth at the SE corner of Mishawaka Avenue and 30th Street, on May 18th 10 AM - 1PM during River Park Day.

**The more a neighborhood knows, the safer it is.  
Be a captain and continue our level of safety,  
the best in South Bend**



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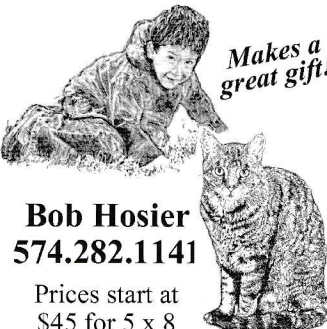
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# Homeownership Assistance Program

Community Homebuyers Corporation (CHC), a not-for-profit organization, created the Homeownership Assistance Program to help individuals become first-time homebuyers.

The Homeownership Assistance Program is the result of six local financial institutions joining with the city of South Bend to help people get a good home at an affordable price. For those who qualify and meet some simple, ongoing criteria, grant money is available as a forgivable loan equal to 20% of the purchase price based on household income. All properties purchased through the Homeownership

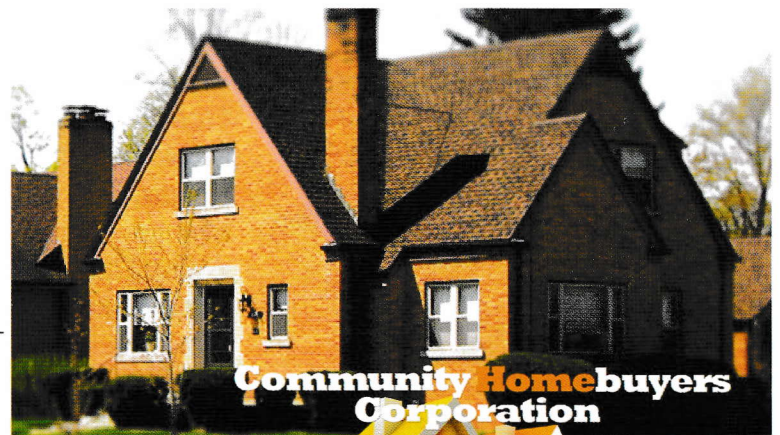
Assistance Program must be owner-occupied, single-family units within the city limits of South Bend. Condominiums are also eligible.

The property sale price may not exceed \$95,000. (The property must appraise for at least the sale price.) All properties purchased through the program must be brought to a condition that will reduce the risk for additional repairs and costly maintenance. All clients are urged to obtain property inspections, which are independent of the Community Homebuyers Corporation inspection. This program provides

assistance to first-time homeowners through a grant with federal funds provided to CHC by the city of South Bend for those that qualify. As with any grant there are criteria which must be met for the grant to be paid in full. Some of the requirements are up front and some are post-purchase. Following the completion of all pre- and post-purchase requirements,

participants will visit with the city of South Bend Housing Counselor for a review and to receive their completion certificate.

Since 1992 the Community Homebuyers Corporation has helped more than 500 families purchase a new home. Visit [www.AHomeAllMyOwn.org](http://www.AHomeAllMyOwn.org) for further information.



## Applications for back packs being accepted

by Deborah Moore

The River Park United Methodist Church will hold its 9th annual "Back to School Give Away" Saturday August 10th. Each year the church gives students in the 46615 zip code area a new backpack filled with supplies that are required for the grade they will be going into in the fall. These backpacks are for students in grades K - 12.

If you would like your child/children to receive a backpack and supplies you can fill out the accompanying application. This application can be mailed to the River Park United Methodist Church, 920 S 23rd St., South Bend, IN 46615 or they can be dropped off at the church's food pantry on any Wednesday or Saturday between the hours of 10:00 am and 12:00 noon. Applications must be in by June 27th.

### Application for Backpack & School Supplies

Student Name	Grade entering in 2015	School Attending	Parent's Name	Phone #
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



Mayor Pete Buttigieg addresses a standing room only crowd at the April RP Neighborhood Association meeting



April Bell learns the proper way of using a fire extinguisher from the South Bend Fire Department at the March Association meeting.

### River Park Neighborhood Association Board of Directors

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Email: jean@perrin-consulting.com
- Phil Niswonger** (Vice President)  
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## Your Neighborhood Association is on the move:

Monthly Association meetings (2nd Thursday, 6PM at the RP Library) • A quarterly newsletter delivered to every River Park home and business • Annual Free "Meet Me in the Park" Summer Picnic at Potawatomi Park • Annual Free Holiday Party at The Well (December) • Maintains an extensive Neighborhood Watch Captain network • Participates in Potawatomi Zoo's Zoo Boo (October) • Works with our Common Council representative to better River Park • Works with the River Park Business Association to help River Park be a fun and vibrant place to work and live • Works with the Neighborhood Resources Connection • Participates in IUSB Welcome Week • Participates in IUSB "Adopt-A-Box" sustainable gardening project • Works with IUSB to monitor it's impact on the neighborhood • Maintains 5 social media connections to keep you informed • And much more

## RPNA Vision and Mission

Our vision is a safe, attractive community where residents feel proud, are connected to one another, and engage to better the neighborhood. To bring our vision to reality, the River Park Neighborhood Association cultivates relationships to secure and develop our River Park assets.

### Partner with Us!

Donations at any level will help support RPNA activities and events

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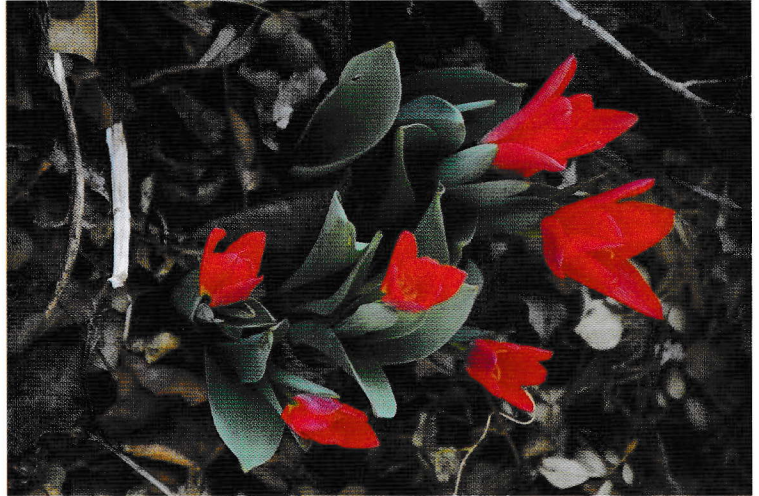
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# Welcoming Spring in River Park

by Jan Maciulski

The seasons are changing and winter is now nothing but a memory. Buds on the trees are transforming into blossoms and as I ride my bike through the River Park neighborhood I am in awe of the beauty all around me. It's nice to see the kids playing in the yards and waking up to the bird songs as they greet the new day. Spring flowers are adding a multitude of colors to the scenery and the flowering trees add a beauty all their own. The rain, thunder storms and

rainbows come along this time of year and Potawatomi Zoo is open for people from all around to visit the animals and learn lessons about life. We live in a unique community with so many opportunities to enjoy so I hope you can get out and appreciate our River Park neighborhood. Visit with your neighbors, help keep an eye out for all of the kids, pick up any trash laying around and welcome Spring to the neighborhood.



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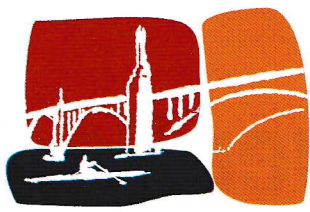
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Stone continued from page 2

poor and also very stingy. Three hungry travelers came to visit this little town and found that no one was willing to share any of

their food. So the travelers played a trick and made a pot of stone soup with water and three pebbles. Before long the

townspeople began to bring other ingredients like carrots, onions, cabbage, etc. to add. In the end the travelers and the townspeople shared the delicious "stone soup" that everyone pitched in to make. Candy believes everyone helping one and other is the way it should be. Batik is an amazing ancient way of color dyeing. The wide array of colorful fabric she sells has been created by the Batik method. Hence

the name "Stone Soup Batiks" was chosen for her business. Candy has been making and donating quilts for The Homeless Center for a number of years. In the back room of her shop are some beautiful quilts that she has made and their beauty shows her wonderful artistic talent with fabric. Her shop is unique and adds a bit more charm to our River Park neighborhood. Welcome!

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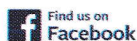
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