

THE PARK CRIER

WINDING BROOK PARK ASSOCIATION

President's Column

Happy new year! We begin another year together.

2013 was a good year for the Park. We fixed a large number of street signs and repainted over half. We hope to do the other half this coming year. Our "Winding Brook in Bloom" was a big hit and we hope to repeat it this year. Finally, our annual "Gift to the Community" was successful as it has been for several years. This coming year we hope to continue the efforts noted above.

One new area of concern has been security. We contract with a security provider each year. Perhaps now it the time we consider our options with the City of Mishawaka. If we feel our security needs have escalated then, short of contracting more from our security contractor, our answer may lie in annexation. Annexation into Mishawaka could provide many benefits to the Park. I know this raises red flags with many residents who fear the potential increase in taxes. However, I believe we can hold a reasonable discussion about this option over the coming year. Let's all be good neighbors and work together this year.

Steve Ellis



Can you believe it? Christmas 2014 is a memory! Many of our holiday lights which were so bright and plentiful came down quickly thanks to a brief but most welcome blast of 'warm air' that allowed some of us to work at a frantic pace to get those Santas, snowmen, and angels down and stored for another year. Others resisted ending the holiday and their homes shone brightly even after the New Year. We are all thankful that our Arctic blast/polar vortex phenomenon waited until it did. Could you imagine if it was December 24? Shudder. Even so, the cold temps prior to Christmas did have an effect on the donations collected this year though it was still a very presentable amount to be divided among the participating charities. Thanks to the coordination by **Mike Babcock** with assists by **Steve Ellis, Jane Mason, Scott Kashmarik, Bill Bagatini** and the rest of the WBPA Board Members, our **Gift to the Community** went off seamlessly which must be to the delight of WB residents everywhere. Traffic flowed, houses were all aglow, as you will see from the pictures throughout this edition, and Winding Brook/Woods once again treated the community to a winter wonderland. A BIG thanks to all who participated!





LAUREN DUNBAR

WBPA Board Member

Years on Board: 2

Family: Husband, Josh Higgenbotham

Lived in WB: 27 years

Occupation: Assistant Director, Reunion Giving at Notre Dame

On the Board: to continue the strong sense of community that WB has always offered its residents.

I like living in WB because: I have grown up here and have always appreciated the friendliness and dedication of the WB neighbors. It is a kind and supportive community.

Hobbies: Reading

WBPA Annual Meeting

The annual Association meeting to elect new Board members and to vote on the revised by-laws will be held January 15th at Honkers Restaurant on Day Road. All residents in good standing with the Association (dues paid up) are considered voting members. The revised bylaws are available on the web site. If you would like a copy, please contact any Board member for one. Please plan to attend the annual Association meeting and add your voice to your neighbors'.

WBPA Board Nominees

In January, at the Annual WBPA Meeting, nominees will be presented for Board positions. One nominee who was not included in the last Crier along with **Brian Coffman** and **Tammy Emery** is **Chris Peregrine**.

For the past two years, **Chris** has lived on Robin Lane with his wife and two children, a son and a daughter. He is the owner of a plastic recycling / reprocessing facility in Plymouth called CJ Poly. Chris says he likes living here because it is a neighborhood and feels there are many subdivisions but few real neighborhoods.

New Block Captains

Joining our seasoned Block Captains are :

Laura Brandenburg- covers 1/2 of Winding Brook from 54689-54763

Christine Peregrine- Baintree, Bonnet Hill Trail, Robin Lane, and Rustic Terrace

Thank you for your generosity to our community!

Block Captains needed for Donnybrook and Luminaire Ct and part of Old Bedford. Please contact **Tara Reilly**, 257-4952, if you can help.

Crier Delivery

A recent emailed edition of the Crier was met with many positive comments and some residents have even requested that in the future, they no longer wish to receive a print copy. Unfortunately, due to the current delivery system, it will not be possible to single out those who have made that request. So, please recycle yours if you choose to only read it on-line and make arrangements for a neighbor to retrieve it from your door knob if you are going to be away from home for an extended period of time. Some day, all Criers may be delivered electronically but until that time, it is necessary to deliver in the current manner. Thank you so much for your understanding.

WBPA Board

*Steve Ellis, President
Jane Mason, Vice President
Michelle Lacay, Secretary
Bill Bagatini, Treasurer
Laurel Eslinger, Crier Editor*

Mike Babcock-Susan Bennett

Mary Lou Cressy-Lauren Dunbar-Scott Kashmarik-

The WBPA Annual Meeting

will be held

Wednesday, **January 15,**

7:00pm

Honkers Restaurant

Residents are encouraged

to attend!

Not So Good News

Now the not so pleasant. Throughout this past year, WB experienced a **series of break-ins or attempted break-ins** that surpassed the count of what is more typical for our neighborhood. You may not be aware, but during our power outage (you all remember that, don't you?!) because of a break-in during that time period, our security service was notified and asked to double its surveillance. It has been frightening, frustrating, and costly to those victimized in this way. What can we as a neighborhood do to decrease the instances?

1. **Please be aware of strange vehicles and anyone acting suspiciously.**
2. **Know your neighbors.**
3. **Keep doors and windows locked.**
4. **Secure sliding doors properly.**
5. **Keep entry ways to your home visible to prevent anyone from sneaking up.**
6. **Add deadbolts.**
7. **Be sure to have paper and mail stopped before you leave on vacation.**
8. **Keep outside lights on.**
9. **Use automatic timers when away from home.**
10. **Keep your yard free from overgrowth where someone can hide.**
11. **Keep in mind that burglars will only spend 4-5 minutes trying to break into your home so make it as difficult for them as possible to do so.**

There are many more ways we can take precautions, but regardless of what you did or didn't do, if this happens to you, **it is not your fault; only the burglar is at fault.** And one more thing, remember to call the police if you feel something is wrong. Trust those feelings!

AROUND THE PARK

Perhaps a first for our neighborhood, was the sight of a beautiful white horse-drawn carriage on December 23 riding down our brightly lit streets. The company of Dream Coach Carriages was hired by non-WB residents to give them a unique experience to see our neighborhood at Christmas time. After seeking WBPA approval, the carriage went against the traffic for its hour and a half journey on a very cold night but the heavy Amish lap robes and the music playing just for the riders, kept them comfortable and their minds off the frigid



temps. Sound good to you for next year? Want to treat someone special? A suggestion that owner Jeanine Dziak had for the future was perhaps to break up the ride into half hour segments. For more information, contact DziakFarm@embarqmail.com.





Top 5 Reasons to be happy the holidays are over!

1. House is back to 'normal'.

2. The cookies are all gone so no more temptations confronting you!

3. Your electricity usage is lower!

4. You can start your new year's resolutions. Didn't say keep them!

5. Instead of wrapping, baking, and decorating, you can now just concentrate on shoveling, snow blowing, and keeping those walks clear!



Winding Brook Website:

www.windingbrookpark.com

WBPA

PO Box 6566

South Bend, IN 46660

WBPA email address:

wbpahome@gmail.com



FROM THE EDITOR

FYI: You may not receive a Crier for a few months. Stay tuned!

Unrelated to that, please see the article on Crier Delivery on Page 2!

2014 Dues!

Be on the lookout for your dues renewal letter coming to you soon!



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