

THE PARK CRIER

WINDING BROOK PARK ASSOCIATION

Best Overall WOW!

1. **Peregrine**
15624 Robin Lane
2. **Mackey**
54736 Merrifield
3. **Clark**
54445 Old Bedford
4. **Cybulski**
54751 Carriage Lane
5. **Kirkbride**
54732 Merrifield

Best Front Door

1. **Konopinski**
54735 Beaver Creek
2. **McCorrey**
15631 Embers
3. **Tie Myers**
54354 Old Bedford
3. **Tie Moreland**
54470 Donneybrook
4. **Lawton**
15644 Robin Lane
5. **Durcinka**
54423 Old Bedford

Best Theme

1. **Williamson**
54589 Whispering Oak
2. **Cressy (George)**
54721 Little Flower
3. **Rudhman**
15496 Carriage Lane
4. **Bonadies**
15377 Carriage Lane
5. **Strasser**
54610 Whispering Oak

Clark Griswold Would Be Proud!

1. **Beutel**
15640 Hearthstone
2. **Emery**
54759 Bonnet Hill
3. **Montgomery**
15830 Branch Water
4. **Powell**
54747 Winding Brook
5. **Kriegel**
54716 Merrifield

Most Original

1. **Olsen**
54450 Old Bedford
2. **Smith (Andy)**
15685 Hearthstone
3. **Reber**
54724 Old Bedford
4. **Verslype**
15610 Hearthstone
5. **Blum**
15651 Robin Lane

Martha Stewart Would Be Proud!**

1. **Vellos**
15649 Springmill
2. **Hermann (Tony)**
54743 Bonnet Hill
3. **Saavedra**
54490 Old Bedford
4. **Craig**
54578 Old Bedford
5. **Rodefer**
54800 Rustic Terrace

****When driving around, Judges added this category when it became clear it was needed!**



Between the mild weather and the competitive spirit of some residents, our neighborhood shone brightly this holiday season making it a real treat for all who drove through WB. Houses sparkled, snowmen and Santas waved hello to the passersby, and manger scenes reminded us why we celebrate the season. Joy could be felt everywhere.

For the first time in some years, a contest was held to recognize those residents who captured the joy and tradition of the Gift to the Community (GTTC). If you took the tour, you know how difficult it was for the judges to name just one house as the winner in any of the categories. However, there was one clear winner for the **Best Overall WOW!** The **Peregrines** at 15624 Robin Lane with their incredible colorful and fanciful display incorporated elements from all of the categories: theme, originality, Clark Griswold, Martha Stewart, Front Door clearly and was deserving of the title. It is unfortunate that this newsletter is not printed in color as the purples and greens were truly spectacular and pictures do not do it justice. It was not unusual for cars to stop and passengers to get out to have their picture taken in front of the Peregrine's display! Congratulations to the Peregrine's for their creativity, hard work, and the expense (let's not forget what it takes to make this all happen). Rest assured, your February electric bill will be much better. That goes for many residents who really lit up the December nights.

Many WB residents worked hard and spent much to the delight of those taking the tour which benefitted the charities chosen for 2014. As of this writing, the total collected was not available but it is estimated that it was a record year.

Before you know it, Christmas 2015 will be here. What will you do to top this year? It is not too soon to plan!

Happy new year everyone!



STEVE ELLIS

OUTGOING WBPA BOARD PRESIDENT

Since 2011, WB has been fortunate to have **Steve Ellis** at the helm of the WBPA Board. Last month, his column listed Board accomplishments during his tenure but what he didn't say was that many of those were successful because he implemented them. Steve does not toot his own horn so it is time someone else does. Yes, there have been Board members who have taken on tasks and seen them to their conclusion but often the impetus has been Steve's ability to see the need to begin with and often just plain take care of it. We needed street signs painted so Steve did it--saving us money. The gingerbread house needed a complete redo, so Steve recruited a helper, Brian Coffman, and made a nifty almost new structure spending hours on the project. **Jane Mason**, Board Secretary says, "I remember Steve the first year he became president when he fixed the roofs of the entryways of WB. It was so hot but Steve was always out there usually with one or two other helpers. The thing that I remember most about his tenure as President is his willingness to tackle the subject of annexation. He was determined to educate all the residents about what annexation would entail including the pluses and the minuses. He did his job well." According to **Scott Kashmarik**, Board Vice President, "I do think Steve captured it all pretty well in the recent Crier. I lot of what he described was actually undertaken and completed by him alone." Bill Bagatini, Board Treasurer, writes, "He has set the bar real high for all of us as Board members. His easy going personality and his dedication to the community will be an example to us all."

--Continued next column--

Outgoing, Continued

Brian Coffman, Board Member and next door neighbor to Steve, had this to say, "It takes a special person to take on what Steve has over the many years. No matter what you do, someone will not like it. With that said, I commend Steve for his tireless efforts of trying to make a difference. Steve is the reason I got on the Board, and I thank him for getting me involved. Hopefully we can convince Steve to continue to play some role in the future."

It does take a village but it also takes one individual who is fully committed to making a difference who is willing to do the heavy lifting to make it all work. On a personal note as the editor of the Crier, I am still writing this newsletter because Steve has always been there for me answering questions, providing neighborhood information and in a timely manner. Without that support, frankly, I would have needed to step down.

So, Steve, thank you for all you have accomplished and for your dedication. Hope you fill the time you will gain with all good things just for you!

Thank you to the County or the City of Mishawaka, which ever it was, that put the barriers up at the end of Old Bedford to keep people from driving over the ground to get on to Trinity Dr. Guess it was not clear that a landscaped bank is not to be driven on.

WBPA Board Nominations

At the January Annual Board of Directors' Meeting a slate of nominees will be presented and accepted. As of this writing, **Mike Miller** of Briarton is interested in Board membership. If you have a similar desire, please contact any Board member or email your desire prior to the meeting.

WBPA Annual Board Meeting

**Wednesday, January 21
7:00pm**

Honkers Restaurant

All residents are encouraged to attend!

Winding Brook Alert System

Have you signed up? Since its inception, alerts have gone out indicating burglaries in the neighborhood as well as lost pets. It is an expedient means of communication and sure beats a telephone tree!

By text message: text WBRESIDENT to 84483 to receive future text alerts.

By email: enter your email address at the following link: https://www.rainedout.net/team_page.php?a=a4a3c621564fe250c152

After you enter your email address, agree to terms of service and then you are finished. Ignore the section that asks for a Private Key.

You will receive alerts by email after you are signed up.

If you feel something is worthy of sending out via the alert system, please contact any Board member who will determine if that is the appropriate way to get your message out to the residents.

Recent Burglary

There was a burglary on Merrifield near the Day Road entrance that occurred when the owners were out of town. It appears cash was taken.

WBPA Board

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

Mike Babcock-Brian Coffman-Lauren Dunbar-Tammy Emery-Chris Peregrine-Kathy Smith

AROUND THE PARK



Jane Mason handing out luminaries to Tim Sullivan. Scott Kashmarik looks on.



Clark Griswold Would Be Proud!

Martha Stewart Would Be Proud!



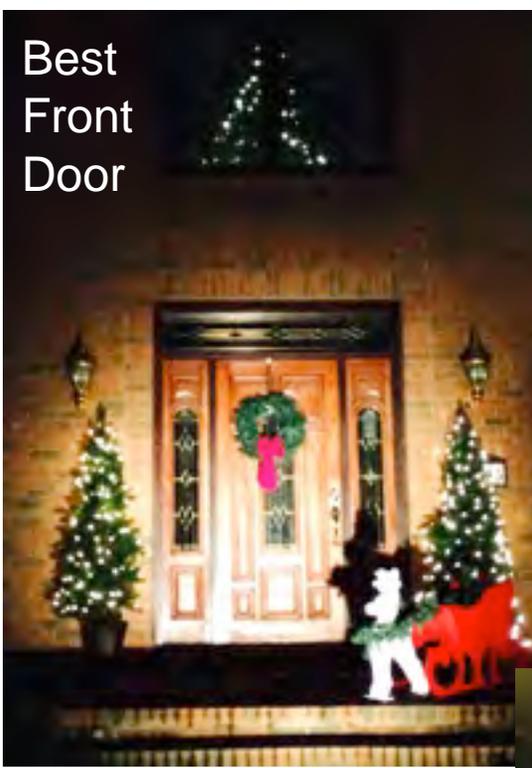
Dean Velloso decking his house with oh so many strings of lights! Martha *WOULD* be proud!

Most Original



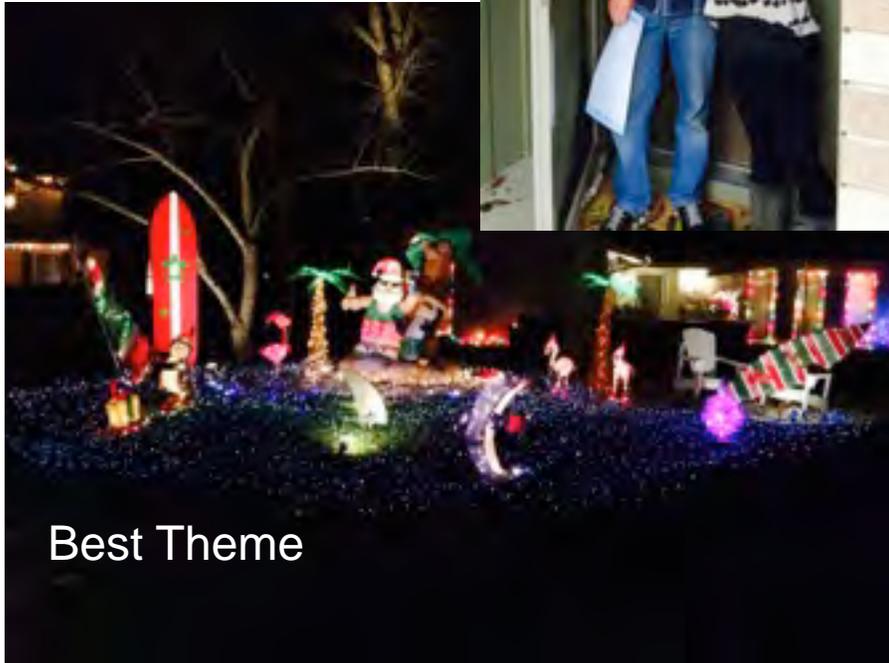
Most Original: The long beloved Ho Ho Santa and its creator **Mark Olsen**

Best Front Door



Chris Peregrine getting the news that his display won the Best Overall WOW!

Douglas and Jen Williamson happy to hear their Florida inspired theme won the 2014 honors.



Best Theme

Luminaries

Many thanks to **Jane Mason** who undertook the gigantic task of luminary distribution for yet another year. Perhaps because of the free giveaway, record numbers flew out of her garage. The rain kept many of us from using them, so please keep them for next year.

Mike Babcock, GTTC Chair: *2014 GTTC was a banner year. The weather was very cooperative and I cannot remember a year where the neighborhood was decorated nicer. The total amount collected has not been fully counted yet, but we are looking at record numbers there. The rain probably kept some people home on Christmas Eve but the traffic every night, especially weekends, was very thick.*

A HUGE thank you to Mike for once again chairing this holiday effort !

Did You Know...?

1. This year we gave out 5500 FREE candles and bags. Last year we sold 3500. It is unfortunate many didn't get a chance to use the luminaries because of the rain. It would have been beautiful. Save them for next year.
2. More than 20,000 candy canes were given out by the workers who staffed the Gingerbread House much to the delight of eager kids.
3. 'The Clark Griswold Would Be Proud' award was judged on 'over the top' presentation and effort.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Happy 2015! Hope your holidays were joyful and your new year will be blessed with good health and peace.

Please look for your next Crier late Winter.

Thanks!

Laurel Eslinger