

THE PARK CRIER

WINDING BROOK PARK ASSOCIATION

President's Column

As promised in the last Criers, I am bringing to you the **positives and negatives of being annexed into the city of Mishawaka**. It is a fact that our taxes will go up. I will discuss that in a later column. The column today considers a few aspects most of us don't think about that would result in improvements for us.

1. **Water bills will go down.** We pay about 15% more today because we are in the County. As an example, if your water bill is \$100 a month you would expect to see a reduction of \$180 a year.
2. **The City handles leaf pick up.** If you pay \$100 to have it done for the fall then you would expect to save that amount. The City usually makes 5-6 passes through each neighborhood each fall.
3. **Trash pick up would be done by the City.** They competitively bid the contract each year and today the rate is \$13.77 a month (\$11.22 for retirees). That may or may not be a big savings for you. But I know that for current Allied Waste rates that is approximately a \$240 per year savings. Additionally, there would be only one day each week for trash pickup so the morning ritual of trash trucks rumbling around our streets would be reduced to a single day.
4. Our **public school district** would **NOT** change. We are currently in the Penn- Harris-Madison district and **we will remain in PHM**. School district designation is **not** affected by annexation.

These positive aspects of annexation into Mishawaka are just a few. There will be more discussed in future columns as well as examples of how the property tax impact of annexation may affect you. **Steve Ellis**

Winding Brook in Bloom



Mark your calendars for Sunday, **July 13** for the second annual **Winding Brook in Bloom**. This year, added to awards for *Best Front Yard*, *Best Use of Flowers*, *Best Containers*, and *Best Mailbox*, is *Most Improved Front Yard*. Please submit your 'before' pictures prior to July 13 to be considered for the award. 2014 sponsors include **Vite Greenhouses, McKinley Terrace Garden Center, and Not Just a Garden Center**. Please consider purchasing your plant materials and garden supplies from them and mention you saw their ad in the Crier. Happy planting!



Getting their yards ready for summer are :

*Above: Greg Mackey, Merrifield
Left counter clockwise: Susie Cleaver, Springmill; Phil Verslype, Hearthstone; Mirzeta Imamovic, Winding Brook Drive.*





LORI BENJAMIN

WBPA Board Member

Years on Board: Just joined!

Family: Husband, Jim; 2 married daughters and one daughter at home

Lived in WB: for 10 years on Luminaire Court

Occupation: Office manager for a foot and ankle surgeon

On the Board: to help expand communication and unify the neighborhood

Likes living in WB because: of how comfortable the neighbors make her feel-like she has known them forever!

Winding Brook Alert System

Have you signed up?

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. **If you are signed up, you received a text or email on May 24 regarding a missing cat.** Hope you will take advantage of this important communication system.



FYI

Signs at entrances can only be displayed for TWO days.

Please remove them in a timely manner.

The next WBPA Board

Meeting will be held
Wednesday, **September 17**
7:00pm

Honkers Restaurant

**All residents are
welcome to attend!**

Future Annexation Discussions

In the next several Criers, I will discuss topics that are affected by annexation. Some are obvious and some may be a surprise. Again, the purpose of this examination is that we understand that annexation does not mean higher taxes alone, but that it also means improved services, lower costs and a higher quality of life.

June – Water bills, Leaf pick up, Trash removal, and Public School district.

July – Police patrols, Fire and EMS response, Code enforcement, streetlights and sidewalks, public Transpo stop, homeowners insurance.

August – Representation for Zoning matters, City Council voice, mayoral access, no open burning, coordination with WBPA.

October- examples of the tax impact on various homes of differing values

Our intention is to educate ourselves about the good things that could come from annexation and compare them with the tax increase we all know will happen. *Steve Ellis*

Block Parties

Are you thinking of holding a block party this summer? You can advertise it here or submit after-pictures to recognize your event. A block party helps bring our neighborhood together! Let's party!

WBPA Board

Steve Ellis, President

Scott Kachmarik, Vice President

Jane Mason, Secretary

Bill Bagatini, Treasurer

Laurel Eslinger, Crier Editor

Mike Babcock-Lori Benjamin-Brian Coffman-Lauren Dunbar-Tammy Emery-Chris Peregrine



WAY TO GO!

Congratulations to the following graduates:

● **Caroline Buhr** is graduating from Penn with high honors and is headed to the University of San Diego on a full scholarship to play D-1 women's basketball. Caroline is the daughter of **Jeff and Patty Buhr**, Fox Run Trail.

● **Jack Cleaver**, son of parents **John and Susie Cleaver**, Springmill, graduated from Penn and will be studying secondary education at IU Bloomington.

● **George Cressy** will be attending IU Mauer Law School now that he has finished his undergrad years at the University of Dayton. **George and Katie Cressy**, Little Flower Trail, are his parents.

● Graduating from Wellesley College is **Jayne Ellis**, daughter of **Steve and Patty Ellis**, Whispering Oak, who was a four year starter for the Wellesley College softball team and was All-Conference and All-Region her Junior and Senior years. She plans to be a teacher.

● **Tim and Kitty Fulnecky**, Branch Water Way, are happy to announce that their two sons graduated from Notre Dame this year. **Blair** received his Masters of Science in Business and **Tim** his BS in Environmental Science.

● Graduating from St. Joseph High School is **Josh Kachmarik** who is heading west to the University of Portland where he hopes to study elementary education. His parents are **Scott and Lynn Kachmarik**,

AROUND THE PARK

Sweet New Arrival!

Congratulations are in order for **Josh Higginbotham** and **Lauren Dunbar**, Winding Brook Drive, who now have a darling baby girl, **Louisa Joy** who arrived on May 1! She weighed in at 7 pounds, 1 ounce.

Jingle Bells!

Winding Brook in Lights!

The WBPA Board is announcing a holiday decoration's contest which will recognize those homes with the best use of lights, animated decorations, non-animated decorations, front door, etc. Stay tuned for further information! For those who like to get started creating their display months in advance, the Board wanted you to have the information well ahead of the holiday season!

Street Signs

This summer you will see some painting going on by some of your neighbors who will be tackling our street signs that need refreshing.

Merrifield Bridge Update

We are still waiting for the repair work to begin some time this summer. The County is working with a company that does timber work so that the new will match the old.

Update on Sewer Work on Old Bedford and Carriage Lane

The sewer work that was expected to be completed by May 9, hit a snag and had been delayed and is at this writing just starting up again after a hiatus. In case you are wondering, there will be landscaping done to correct the areas damaged by the work.

The work on the lift station on Carriage Lane which appears to be more extensive, began on May 28 and will run until at least June 20.

Winding Brook Drive Entry Lights

It has been noted that the lights over the Winding Brook Drive entry sign malfunction when the temperatures drop. We hope that will not be the case this summer, though who knows the way things have been this year; they will be attended to in preparation for our colder seasons.

Cul-de-Sac Cleanup

The WBPA has asked our lawn care service to do basic clean-up in the cul-de-sacs throughout WB and WW. Your annual dues at work!

Notable Neighborhood Graduate

All of our graduates are notable. Sometimes additional challenges are overcome to achieve that coveted diploma. Determination and boundless energy has paid off for **Barbara Ernsberger** of Embers Drive. According to her husband, **Brad**, Barbara worked at Memorial Hospital for ten years back in the '90s. They moved to WB in 2001 and brought Barbara's parents from Ohio to live with them. She stopped working to concentrate on raising children and to care for her live-in parents. Seven years ago, Barbara returned to work at Memorial and the last three of those years has been in the Emergency Department. Despite still having three children at home, one with special needs, as well as her mother, Barbara went back to school part time in 2010 to become a Surgical Tech. Two years ago, Barbara decided to attend Bethel full-time to pursue her nursing degrees and at the age of 49, she just graduated from Bethel with an ASN and was offered a nursing position in Memorial's Emergency Department. Barbara will have her BSN from Bethel at age 51. Brad says he is as proud of her as any of his kids!

Mailbox Vandalism

Perhaps you have been the victim of mailbox vandalism (mailboxing) that seems to know no season. One neighbor said it is not unusual for him to find his mailbox in a neighbor's yard when he leaves for work early in the morning. He has replaced his mailbox multiple times. And his story is just one of many. It was discovered who knocked down the bank of four on Hearthstone but that was done with a big truck unlike many others that appear to be hit with a bat or similar object. Please keep your eyes and ears open and call the POLICE if you see something suspicious. It is a felony to tamper with mailboxes. In fact, according to the USPS website: *Mailboxes are considered federal property, and federal law (Title 18, United States Code, Section 1705), makes it a crime to vandalize them (or to injure, deface or destroy any mail deposited in them). Violators can be fined up to \$250,000, or imprisoned for up to three years, for each act of vandalism. Immediately report theft, tampering or destruction of mail or mailboxes to your postmaster. CALL THE POLICE -911- WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS.*



WANTED! STARTING HOME FOR 4TH OF JULY PARADE.

Interested? Email or contact any Board member. Parade will end at the Coffmans on Whispering Oak.



**Friday and Saturday,
June 20 and June 21**

8:00am-1:00pm

See more detailed information outlined in the insert in this issue.

Jane Mason is coordinating this event with an assist from **Mary Lou Cressy**.

Dogs Running Wild

People are letting their dogs run free to destroy other people's yards/property. There is a leash law that many in WB ignore for some reason like it doesn't pertain to them. Irresponsible pet owners need to be held accountable for their animal digging, and doing their "business" in their neighbors' yards. BTW, we have a dog - love dogs! Don't especially care to pick MY dog's business up in my fenced in area for her (responsible pet owner), let alone after my "neighbor's" dogs, too. There is also a safety factor. I've seen dogs chasing after kids on their bikes, and ladies walking strollers. It's not safe to let a dog run free. Did I mention that there's a LAW about it?

Submitted by:

A Concerned WB Resident

Top 5 Reasons You Should Consider Beautifying Your Front Yard

1. You want to play your part in living in a lovely neighborhood.
2. You want to increase your property values.
3. You want to do that clean up work that has been hanging over your head for the last couple of years.
4. You want to feed your competitive spirit.
5. It is the right thing to do!

Winding Brook Website:
www.windingbrookpark.com

WBPA
PO Box 6566
South Bend, IN 46660

WBPA email address:
wbpahome@gmail.com

FROM THE EDITOR

I just thought I would mention this: You probably know of graduates not listed here and I wanted you to know that their absence is because I was not aware they were celebrating their graduation. The response to the request I made in the last two Criers for information on the Winding Brook graduates resulted in what you see in this issue. I would have loved to have recognized them all.

Laurel Eslinger

Where your beautiful gardens begin.[®]

Vite GREENHOUSES

Hours: April May Jun-Oct
Mon-Fri 8-8 8-8 9-6
Saturday 8-6 8-8 9-5
Sunday CLOSED
Directions on back

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Niles, MI 49120 fax: (269)695-6455
vitegreenhouses.com email: info@vitegreenhouses.com

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