



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2014

7:00pm

HONKERS RESTAURANT

DAY ROAD

**Guest Speaker--Lt. Regis Thimons
Investigative Division - Neighborhood Watch
St. Joseph County Police**

In light of criminal activity in Winding Brook over the past ten months, the Winding Brook Park Association Board invites you to attend a presentation to help residents discourage, deter, and prevent crimes such as burglaries, car thefts and car break-ins. It is a time to discuss information and ideas to help keep our community free of crime.

Come get your questions answered and learn from the expert.

All residents in attendance will receive materials and a window sticker.

Annexation – A Discussion We Need

It is clear to all of us that the City of Mishawaka is continuing to expand. The farmland and woods that once surrounded us are giving way to office complexes and healthcare facilities. We are slowly but surely becoming an island of unincorporated, harder to serve, easily missed part of the County. For years we have been “in the sticks”. The County has had the requirement to serve Winding Brook since it was first built. Perhaps now it is time to consider our options in considering annexation into the City of Mishawaka.

It comes without saying that there are strong opinions on both sides of the discussion. I thought I would use these next series of articles to lay out the arguments on both sides. I believe a calm and reasonable examination of the costs and benefits is needed before we either proceed with or discard the option.

It is important to understand that either the County or Mishawaka will serve us. First and foremost of these services are Fire and Police protection. There have been many examples of cooperative relations of the two Fire/Police bodies serving the Park. Perhaps the evaluation would be better served by examining the quality of the response. The closeness of the Douglas Road Fire house and the proximity of the Mishawaka Police serving the business and apartment complexes nearby would tend to suggest that they could arrive in our Park, on average, faster than the Penn Township Fire service and County Police which serve a much larger geographic area than Mishawaka.

Our current effort for adding extra security is in direct response to the concern that adequate police coverage (i.e. patrols of the neighborhood) are insufficient. Would we eliminate the contract for the current security service that patrols the neighborhood at night if we were agreed to annexation? Most likely, we would. Would patrols by Mishawaka Police stop any possibility of break-ins? That too, unfortunately, is not likely. However, they could bring more resources to bear in a more rapid fashion.

I'm sure there are some aspects of this comparison I have not mentioned. Feel free to send us a note with your thoughts and concerns to: wbpahome@gmail.com

Steve Ellis