

THE PARK CRIER

President's Column

Our neighborhood is a rare place. The spirit of cooperation makes our lives move along with an ease and comfort many other places rarely know. The Board's recent investigation into finding a way to erect a fence that would run from Merrifield Dr. to Winding Brook Drive will have to be abandoned. Our investigation found that the resources available to the Park are insufficient to permit us to take that project any further. We are grateful for the interest those residents that would have been affected expressed in the effort.

Next, the investigation into just what would be the positive and negatives aspects of the Park being annexed into Mishawaka would be. I want to be clear as there may be some misunderstanding in the Community. We are asking questions about the process and what the benefits would be. Make no mistake there would be an increase in property taxes. Just how much needs to be investigated. What are the benefits that such an increase would bring also would need to be known. Perhaps some services that we pay out of our pocket may be reduced or eliminated. We don't know what this means until we have a deer dive into the details.

So, when someone says they heard we are going to be annexed into Mishawaka you can tell them that it is not true that we are only investigating the pros and cons of it. I will be reporting to you regularly in this forum and on the Winding Brook Park's website www.windingbrookpark.com.



Easter Egg Hunt



On a clear, crisp, cool April morning Winding Brook children scattered at Henry Frank Park to search for the coveted golden egg and to collect colorful eggs full of sweet treats. Mr. Bunny was on hand for photo ops, hugs, and more candy. It was another successful Easter Egg Hunt thanks to the outstanding efforts of the committee chair **Michelle Lacay** and her team of **Garetta Keefer, Tammy Emery, Steve and Patty Ellis, Joe Lacay, and Tara Reilly** for making this event possible.

Winding Brook in Bloom

It is time to start getting ready for the 2nd annual **Winding Brook in Bloom**. For those of you new to WB, it is a friendly neighborhood competition for **Best Front Yard, Mailbox, Container, and Use of Flowers**. Local garden centers' gift cards are the prizes. Keep in mind that color in your landscape is highly recommended. This year, another category has been added: **Most improved**. To qualify for consideration for that award, please submit a 'before' photo similar to the one of **Nick Beutel**, Hearthstone Drive, working on his landscape project. You can email it to the WBPA email account or pop it in the mail. All addresses on page 3. So start raking, turning over and preparing that dirt, laying out your garden, and planting your way to a prize as well as improving your property and the neighborhood you live in! Any questions? Submit them and someone will get back to you soon. Happy planting!



TAMMY EMERY

WBPA Board Member

Years on Board: since January 2014

Family: Husband, Bob; 7 children-- 30 down to 16!

Lived in WB: since 2002

Occupation: Child care provider. Has cared for many WB children over time.

On the Board: thanks to Michelle Lacay's urging! Has the time to devote to the Board now that her children are older

Likes living in WB because: of her good neighbors

Hobbies: Reading, enjoying her pool in the summer, and spending time with her family!

WBPA Board

Steve Ellis, President

Scott Kashmarik, Vice President

Jane Mason, Secretary

Bill Bagatini, Treasurer

Laurel Eslinger, Crier Editor

Mike Babcock-Brian

Coffman--Lauren Dunbar-

Tammy Emery-Chris

Peregrine-

Winding Brook Alert System

Hopefully you have already signed up to Winding Brook's *new neighborhood alert system* but if you haven't, it is not too late. Here is how you do it.

By text message:
text WBRESIDENT to 84483

By email:
enter your email address at the following link:

https://www.rainedout.net/team_page.php?a=a4a3c621564fe250c152

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. Hope you will take advantage of this important communication system.

Merrifield Bridge Update

The bridge over Judy Creek on Merrifield Drive in the north part of the park will be repaired soon. According to the County Engineer, the sub-structure is sound and not in need of repair. Obviously the missing timber guard rail will need replaced and the County is investigating how best to do that. Look for action on this sometime this summer. In the meantime, orange markers have been placed on the bridge.

The next **WBPA Board**

Meeting will be held

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

Honkers Restaurant

All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend!

A Bat House in Winding Brook--Really?

You can see them all around our neighborhood during the warm early evenings. At dusk they begin their swooping and diving between trees. They are quick and you may never notice them. To see them try this; during the evening find a space in your back yard that gives you an open view of the evening sky. Often only a few minutes will go by before you notice them darting across the sky. They are much faster than birds so you may see them only peripherally. Bats are important to our environment. They are not the evil creatures of legend. They are vital to the control of insects and can eat thousands of mosquitoes in one evening. They are critical to the pollination process and distribute seeds to help perpetuate the distribution of many plants. There are only three bat species that actually drink blood. These three species of bats, which are only found in South America, produce a powerful enzyme to dissolve blood clots and is used in treating victims of stroke. There is a species called the Indiana Bat indigenous to our area too. It is now threatened by extinction due to a mysterious disease that has killed over a third of the population. So the next time you see one of those "birds of the night" don't be too harsh and afraid. In fact, you could build them a bat house of their own in your back yard. This is a picture of my bat house in my backyard.

Steve Ellis



Neighborhood Watch

All available seats were filled at the first Neighborhood Watch (NW) meeting indicating an interest and concern on behalf of many of our residents. **Lt.**

Regis Thimons, St. Joseph County Police, in a very informative presentation,

shared with us what we need to do to help keep crime down in our neighborhood. He also brought to our attention that 90-95% of all burglaries committed are drug related. Right before the meeting



Lt. Thimons toured WB and found that at 6:30 that evening there were 17 homes for sale, 6 vacant which are havens for crime. He asked who was watching those houses. He also observed that there were 26 garage doors up with no one in evidence and 140 cars sitting outside. How many of those cars were unlocked with items appealing to burglars? **Did you know that your car alarm is sounded only when the door is attempted to be open? Criminals can easily open your car window soundlessly. And if the car is not locked to begin with...Garage door openers are in your cars and anyone can then gain access to your house.** Daytime criminals have a different pattern of behavior than those criminals who use the dark of night to commit their crimes. They tend to knock loudly on your door with a story. Of course, if you answer that means the house is occupied and they move on. Night time burglars tend to walk through backyards looking for unlocked access to homes. It was suggested that we **vary our schedules** even it means leaving five minutes earlier or later than usual a few times a week or driving around the block first before actually pulling out of WB.

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Vandalism or accident? All that is left of 4 attached mailboxes on Hearthstone mounted on steel poles in concrete destroyed by truck. You should have seen the truck!



AROUND THE PARK

Hello!

Welcome to our new neighbors, **Mindy McIntire** and her two daughters who moved to our neighborhood in March from Granger! They now reside at 15650 Hearthstone Drive. Mindy is the marketing director for Transhield, Inc. in Elkhart.

Graduations

Last call for graduation information that will be included in the June Crier.

If you know of a student graduating this year from high school or college and would like him or her to be recognized in the Crier, please forward that info to the Editor at wbpahome@gmail.com. Please include the name of the student, parents' names, and school. If future plans are known, please include that information as well. **Deadline to be included in the June Crier is May 21.**

Way to GO!

Caroline and Camryn Buhr were part of the starting five varsity members that led the Penn Girls Basketball team (4A) to the State Championship game. They lost 41-51, but finished the

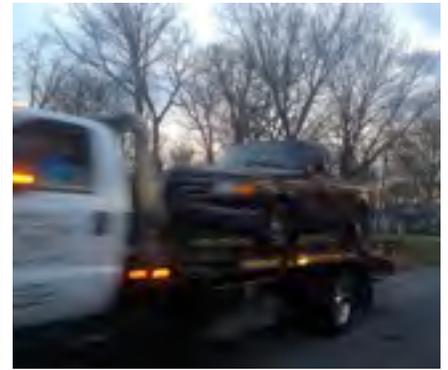
season with a 25-2 record, and this was only the 2nd time in the history of Penn Girls Basketball that the team was a state runner-up. Additionally, Caroline was named to the Indiana Senior All-Star team—she is one of only 13 senior high school girls that will represent the state of Indiana in the early June games against the Kentucky All-Star teams. Congratulations to the Buhr sisters!

Moving

This summer, long time residents **Pat and Carol Dunn**, are moving to Middleton, WI. Pat was born in Green Bay, WI. and is returning to his birth state after 29 enjoyable years as a WB resident. They moved here in August 1985 and never regretted it! So, sometime this summer, maybe by early August, they will be on their way to retirement in Wisconsin! The best to the Duns as they begin their new life.

Sewer Work on Old Bedford

Sewer work that was to have been done last summer, is underway now and will last until around May 9.



Letter Carrier Food Drive

On Saturday, May 10, letter carriers will collect food donations along the postal routes in Winding Brook Park. "Stamp Out Hunger" is the nation's largest one-day drive. This effort will help restock the Food Bank of Northern Indiana that works in partnership with our community to help feed the hungry in St. Joseph County. You can assist by placing a bag of non-perishable items such as canned fruit and vegetables, pasta, cereal, rice or soups at your mailbox when you pick up your Saturday morning newspaper. You can make a difference!

Neighborhood Watch (Con't. from Page 3)

Lighting is perhaps the most important deterrent to crime. If your house looks like it is Christmas all year long, so be it. **Timers are important** even when you are home. Vary the set times.

A visible sign of an alarm system is a deterrent though it needs to be legitimate as the criminals know if it is not.

Often, residents do not think their concern is worthy of a 911 call so don't report suspicious cars or people walking in the neighborhood. **Don't hesitate to call 911!** Police presence cannot always be there so it is so important for all of us to use our eyes to help reduce the incidence of crime in our neighborhood. **Meet your neighbors, let them know when you are going to be gone, and keep an eye out for their house.**

This was the first NW meeting. There will be more. Watch for information in future Criers.



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

8:00am-1:00pm

At the conclusion of the sale, St. Vincent de Paul will make a run through the neighborhood to pick up any unsold items. A list of allowable items will be distributed with the June Crier.

Jane Mason is coordinating this event.

Indiana Native Flowers

Indiana gardeners are rediscovering their native plants. Natives require less care, attract fewer pests and suffer fewer diseases than imported species. **Pale purple and gray-headed coneflowers, lazy Susans, shooting stars and blazing stars** greeted early settlers. **Wild bergamot**, an aggressive grower, provides aromatic leaves as well. A variety of **native asters and summer phlox** provide cut flowers; common and **western yarrow, Eastern red columbine and black cohosh** are "wildflowers" that graced grandmothers' gardens. **Southern blue monkshood and Eastern bluestar** attest to Indiana's position in a cultural intersection of East, Midwest and South. Rare **Dutchman's pipe and Jack-in-the-pulpit** are natives, too. **Cardinal flower and great blue lobelia** thrive in wetland areas.

Top 5 Reasons You Should Consider Neighborhood Watch

1. You want to live in a safe neighborhood.
2. You want to become more informed about what is happening in your neighborhood.
3. You want to learn how to better protect yourself, your family, and your property.
4. You want to meet like-minded neighbors.
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 hope you will keep me in mind when you think of something that is newsworthy. You can always reach me by the wbpa email address above or my home phone which is in the Directory.

Thanks so much and Happy May!

Laurel Eslinger

MAJESTIC SECURITY

24/7 532-3667

Office Monday-Friday 8-5

675-0883

Sheriff 235-9611

Emergency 911



2014 Dues Are Due!

All residents who have paid their dues will be listed in the June edition of the Crier.