

MARCH 2023

# THE PARK CRIER

## WINDING BROOK PARK ASSOCIATION



### EASTER EGG HUNT

*SATURDAY, APRIL 8 AT 10 AM*

HENRY FRANK PARK (next to Disney Elementary)

The inflatable bunny will be available for pictures again this year.

2,000 eggs will be hidden throughout the park and two separate hunts will be organized: one for ages 0-3 and another for children 4 years-old and up.

The hunt will begin promptly at 10AM, so please arrive early.

**If you would be willing to donate Easter egg candy**, please coordinate drop-off at Mark Thornton's house: 15625 Embers Drive. We need these donations by April 1. Contact Mark at (407) 744-3128 to coordinate.



### Corrections from Past Criers

My sincerest apologies to the neighbors who were incorrectly named in January's Crier.

**The Fini family** at 15620 Embers Drive won 3rd place for Clark Griswold Would be Proud in the Gift to the Community 2022 awards. Congratulations, and my apologies for the misprint.

**Julie and Mark McGill** of 15406 Old Bedford Trail won 3rd Best Overall in the Gift to the Community 2022 awards. Congratulations, and I'm sorry about the misprint.

Please know if you'd like to get in contact with the Board, you can **email us at [wbpahome@gmail.com](mailto:wbpahome@gmail.com)**. We will make note of your concern and add it to the next month's meeting. You're also always welcome to attend Board meetings as a guest. Please also kindly remember that it's your neighbor on the other side of the computer screen, and we're all just doing our best.



## THE BOARD IS IN NEED OF A NEW TREASURER



Our Treasurer's term is up, and we're looking for someone new to step in. We are so thankful for George's time and efforts on the Board, and now we're in need of another neighbor who will step up and help us keep track of our dues, our annual budget, and record keeping.

The Treasurer's responsibilities include:

- Periodic trips to the P.O. Box at the Edison post office
- Depositing dues
- Authorizing and tracking transactions
- Accounting for Gift to the Community donations, expenses, and payments to charities
- Proposing an annual budget

The Board is made up of entirely volunteers, and we understand how busy everyone's lives are. If you think you can support our neighborhood by joining the Winding Brook Park Board Association, please email us at [wbpahome@gmail.com](mailto:wbpahome@gmail.com) or call President Lukas Kromer at (419) 310-6967.

### A Common Question:

*Q: What is happening with the annexation into the city of Mishawaka?*

**As a neighborhood, we still have not decided what to do regarding annexation** into the city. In the end, this is *not* a Board-level decision – this is going to require a commitment from a critical mass of the

neighborhood (not just the Board) before the city of Mishawaka will even begin looking into whether they want our neighborhood to be annexed. We are committed to helping our neighborhood come to a decision, but it's going to require more conversations and input.

If you would like to help lead the charge toward coming to an answer, please consider volunteering your time to be on our Board.

### Leaf Pick-Up

We know you've seen the emails about signing up for the HOA leaf pick-up program through the "St. Joe County Leaf Program" private company. In order to be part of that program, we're required to have at least 50% of the homes in the neighborhood sign up. Last year, we only had 115 neighbors who subscribed out of the 321 homes in the neighborhood. That is 35.8%. Therefore, we do not have the critical mass to sign up for this program. Please proceed with your own leaf pick-up plan.

### Suspected Vandalism

One of our neighbors reported to the Board some suspected vandalism that happened in a backyard along Old Bedford. The neighbor wanted to make sure our neighbors are aware that an air conditioning unit was uncovered and patio bricks were moved around.

Let's keep an eye out for each other. And if you suspect foul play, please don't hesitate to call the police.

# nextdoor

Are you signed up with NextDoor yet? This website is a social platform based on your address. You can choose to only get alerts from Winding Brook Park or include surrounding neighborhoods. *This is our neighborhood's primary means of immediate communication.* This is where we communicate with our neighbors about upcoming events, meetings, safety concerns, etc.

You can sign up at [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com) or by going to our [windingbrookpark.com](http://windingbrookpark.com) homepage and clicking the icon in the top right-hand corner.

## How Do I Reduce My NextDoor Notifications?

We've heard from the masses that NextDoor sends too many emails and everyone is getting inundated with nonsense from surrounding neighborhoods, too. We need a new means of immediate communication. Please email [wbpahome@gmail.com](mailto:wbpahome@gmail.com) if you have any ideas about how to best communicate with our neighbors between monthly newsletters. As of now, make sure you've minimized the number of emails you get by going to your profile on NextDoor, then clicking 'Settings.' Under 'Settings,' click on 'Following Neighborhoods' and deselect all of them except Winding Brook. Make sure to also go to 'Settings' then 'Notifications' and deselect all 'Digests,' 'Popular Everywhere,' and the promotional material under 'Other.' I am going to try to create a private 'Group' and as long as you're receiving email updates from the 'Group' settings, you should be updated via email. We'll continue exploring other options in case this does not work.

## 2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

Easter Egg Hunt  
*Saturday, April 8 at 10AM*

Neighborhood Garage Sale  
*Saturday, June 24*

July 4th Parade  
*Tuesday, July 4th*

Winding Brook in Bloom  
(It's Back!)  
*A Sunday in July*

### WBPA BOARD

Lukas Kromer—President	Corinne Craig
Maria Muffoletto—Vice President	Sofia Gutierrez
George Cressy, III—Treasurer	Ryan Howell
Mariah Cressy—Secretary & Crier Editor	Andrew Rajdl
Maria Carter	Mark Thornton

[windingbrookpark.com](http://windingbrookpark.com)  
[wbpahome@gmail.com](mailto:wbpahome@gmail.com)

WBPA  
P.O. Box 6566  
South Bend, IN 46660

## AROUND THE PARK

### News & Happenings

Welcoming a child this year or know a neighbor who will be? Have a surgery scheduled? Our neighbors would love to help you worry about one less thing after a big life event, like what you're having for dinner. Nominate yourself or someone in need in our neighborhood. Contact Mariah Cressy at (574) 339-4941 for more details.

If you'd like to join a book club, Michelle Lacay started one for our neighbors called 'Winding Brook Park Ladies Book Club.' You can sign up by going to [bookclubs.com/clubs/5976496/join/402027/](http://bookclubs.com/clubs/5976496/join/402027/)



# President's Corner

Greetings Neighbors,

As we begin the year with snow melting, the sun shining, rain falling, and soon enough flowers blooming, I ask everyone to take account of your blessings and reach out to your neighbors who may be in need. Everyone here has a neighbor that may need help from time to time, someone to visit and talk with, or at least share a smile and wave when passing by on a walk or bike ride. Our neighborhood is a welcoming and friendly community, and it is you that makes this possible. It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood, and I appreciate you for being my neighbor.

As the Board and myself get better acquainted with the previous work on Annexation and the Covenants projects, we will be very transparent on the progress and planning as these topics return to the table for review and discussion. There are currently two available Board Member positions if you are highly interested in learning more about these projects or wish to get more involved with other community programs throughout the year; there is also a Treasurer position which will also be available if you have a talent for managing accounts. If there is enough community interest in holding another assembly to review the past progress and intent of these projects going forward, especially for newer neighbors such as myself, please write to us at [wbpahome@gmail.com](mailto:wbpahome@gmail.com) and stay tuned in for more updates. There are also past Criers available online at [windingbrookpark.com/neighbors/newsletters](http://windingbrookpark.com/neighbors/newsletters) where these items were delivered in greater detail in March/April and May of 2022.

My goal is to continue to support the needs of the neighborhood and promote the best interests for our community. Programs for social interaction and fellowship for all ages will be something to look forward to throughout the year. If you wish to volunteer or participate, please look for updates and announcements in the Crier and on social media through our Facebook page and in the NextDoor app. These events require a lot of time and dedication from volunteers and Board Members to give you an enjoyable experience, so please show your support for these efforts and/or provide the Board and myself with some new ideas and interests for the year(s) ahead. Maybe it will become a new favorite tradition for years of enjoyment as our community continues to welcome new families and individuals to the neighborhood. Thank you for being our neighbors!

—Board President – Dr. Lukas Kromer

## Annual Dues

Annual dues statements will be emailed out within the next two months, in an attempt to save paper and associated costs. Please keep an eye out for that email.

If you'd like to get a head start on this process, you can drop a check in the mail for \$110 to P.O. Box 6566, South Bend, IN 46660.

Please make sure to include your neighborhood address. Or you can open your smartphone camera and hold the camera over the QR code to the right to pay \$110 via CashApp (please include your address in a comment).



## PLEASE REMEMBER:

With the weather warming up, more kids will be outside playing. This will also mean more bikes, scooters, pedestrians, and fun!

Please,

- **Slow down** on neighborhood streets
- **Watch** for kids and toys in the roads
- **Put down your cell phone**
- **Stay alert** and avoid distractions



It's way too easy to become complacent, and that's when accidents happen. Let's keep each other safe!