

THE PARK CRIER

Winding Brook Park Association

Annual Gift to the Community

Here is all you need to know to make this the best year ever!

Springmill is not on the tour this year; however cars will still drive by to see your displays.

Charities will collect on:

December 4, 5, and 6, 11, 12, 13 and then again December 16 through Christmas Day.

Judging will be the evening of **December 14.**

Banners will be attached to mailboxes indicating winners and prizes will be awarded to residents.

Luminary pick-up will be at the the **Powell Home**
at 54725 Merrifield on the following dates:

Thursday, December 17

3-5pm

Saturday, December 19

2-4pm

You can call Brian Powell at 574-303-4130, if needed.

Cost to residents: Minimum donation of .75 per luminary

Sand will be delivered by December 17 in the Hearthstone cul de sac.

Police Officers will direct traffic Christmas Eve.

Enjoy the season and know that we are sending joy and love to all who attend our annual event.



President's Corner

We finally made it to December! What a year we've had! I am sure there have been countless changes in your life this year: canceled vacations, virtual school and work, maybe you have lost a job or a loved one. I pray that you have found comfort with loved ones and neighbors. As your neighborhood association, our thoughts are constantly with each of you. We are a community of families and friends. Do not hesitate to reach out this holiday season if you need any help or assistance. We have some of the best people in the world right next door that are always willing to help.

To bring back some normal, I hope everyone is ready for this year's **Gift to the Community**. We have already seen cars make their way through Winding Brook and we count on many more to come. I've been so pleased seeing the effort you are putting into your decorations this year. I hope you were able to take advantage of the nice weather last month. As a reminder, please keep your vehicles locked and homes secured. We've seen reports of break-ins recently and they have occurred in the past.

Lastly, we wish you the best of this holiday season!

Zach Dripps

Prizes for Decorations

Decorating started early this year when some residents took advantage of the balmy weather prior to Thanksgiving. Perhaps others have followed suit and are ready to vie for the following prizes!

***Best Overall**

***Best Front Door**

***Best Theme**

***Most Original**

***Best Faith-Based Theme**

***Martha Stewart Would Be Proud**

***Clark Griswold Would Be Proud**

***Rookie of the Year-**

lived here less than a year

***Best Artisan (handmade)**

***Four judges' picks**

Which one will you win?!!!

Charities

This year, the charities are:

Alcohol and Addictions Resource Center (AARC) offers alcohol and other drug prevention, education, advocacy assessment, and referral for individuals and families

Blue Star Mothers is a private non-profit that supports mothers who have sons or daughters in the U.S. Armed Forces. **Children's Dispensary** the program, A Place to be Me, provides social and recreational programs for young people with developmental, physical and emotional needs.

Center for the Homeless is the largest residential facility in our area for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. The center serves men, women, children and veterans each day. We usually support its Montessori Classroom but due to COVID, it is not currently operating.

Family Justice Center serves as a one-stop help center for victims of sexual and domestic violence. It works collaboratively with other non-profits and governmental agencies so that survivors and their families can quickly and confidentially seek resources and information. S-O-S, the rape crisis center, is also a program of the FJC.

Hannah's House maternity home provides a safe environment and programming for young pregnant women.

In*Source provides Indiana families and service providers with information and training necessary to assure effective programs and service for children and young adults with disabilities.

Tri Kappa, South Bend Chapter provides financial support for five local charities each year.

WBPA BOARD

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Almost everyday, your Winding Brook neighbors are signing up to keep better informed. For those of you who have already joined, you know Nextdoor's value as a tool that is helping to connect our neighborhood. Nextdoor is a private online network based on address so it is exclusive to Winding Brook unless you choose to include surrounding neighborhoods. Your choice. **This is now the vehicle that is used to alert you when there is something urgent that you should know regarding safety issues, upcoming meetings, events, items for sale, lost pets, etc.**

Please consider signing up if you haven't already done so. It is well worth it and will help keep your family safe, informed, and up to date on our neighborhood. Just log into our website at windingbrookpark.com. Look for the link in the upper right corner. It is faint so look hard!

AROUND THE PARK

Welcome!

New residents **Tony and Vanessa Husted** now live at 15625 Winding Brook Drive with their two children. They made the long journey from Seattle to come closer to family and to have an adventure. Tony is the Executive Director of Learning and Development for Shipley Coaching. Vanessa is a systems Programmer for the University of Washington Learning Management System. Their hobbies include swing dancing, Kundalini Yoga along with biking and running.



Our neighborhood Meal Train has been active serving our families meals to help them in times of joy as well as to give them a much needed boost. If you would like to help prepare a meal, nominate someone, or would like to be a recipient, please contact Mariah Cressy at 574-339-4941.

Thanks to Block Captain **Gwen DeLee** for proving this information on our new neighbors.

Dues Paid

**Deegan
Gilliland
Stanfield**

Thank you!

A Few Reminders

- Please slow down—always—and in particular during this upcoming increase in traffic.
- Keep your cars locked if they need to remain in your driveway. We will have many visitors to our neighborhood in the weeks to come.
- If you are expecting a package and will not be home for the delivery, ask a neighbor to get it for you thus keeping those 'porch pirates' at bay.
- Have a happy holiday whatever you celebrate!

Gift to the Community Traffic

Especially for our new residents who have not experienced this time of year in Winding Brook, please know that this is a highly popular event with people coming from literally all over the region. It is their holiday tradition and they come to expect us to outdo ourselves each year. With all of the interest comes traffic particularly Christmas Eve when we light luminaries and are all aglow in more than one way. It gets so busy that police direct traffic for us that evening! Please know that as residents, you have the right to enter Winding Brook Drive against the traffic. Just make it known to the security guards that you live here. The last thing you want to do is get in the line with everyone else and take the tour when all you want is to get home!





MISHAWAKA

Running of the Lights

December 15
Registration: 6:00
Start: 6:30

Fleet Feet will once again be back to walk/run the light display route. Runners, walkers and families from the Michiana area are expected to come and enjoy the brilliant display of holiday lights on foot. All Winding Brook's residents are welcome to join in this unique event. A \$5 donation per participant is suggested. Fleet Feet will match the funds raised to double the impact they have on our community.

Things all participants should consider:

- ***Parking will be at Walt Disney Elementary school.***
- ***Participants are required to check-in upon arrival. They will receive a safety light or reflective band that they will be required to wear for the duration of the event.***
- ***Participants will be assigned a 'wave' after checking in. Waves will be signaled to go at specific intervals to help with social distancing. Participants will then follow the traffic signs in order to tour all the houses on display. The run will end where it started to allow participants to cross safely at the traffic light back to their vehicles.***
- ***Volunteers will be on the route to help guide you.***
- ***The lights are pretty bright, but be sure to bring a light source such as a headlamp or knuckle lights.***
- ***Christmas light necklaces and other festive wear are 100% encouraged! We get some great pictures with everyone all lit up!***
- ***Strollers are welcome as long as kiddos stay in them.***
- ***A time was chosen that isn't as popular with cars but they will be present. Participants will be running with the traffic most of the time but may also be running against it in some areas.***
- ***Leave the dogs at home; its too dark and chaotic for our furry friends.***
- ***If you are not feeling well, please stay home! This protects the rest of the participants and our awesome volunteers.***