

THE PARK CRIER

Winding Brook Park Association



Gift to the Community!

And what a gift it was! Our neighbors outdid themselves this year and because of their decorating efforts, collections doubled over last year—over \$50,000 was generously donated by all who enjoyed the displays. Everyone who took the tour knew it was a special year. One posting on Nextdoor said,

‘Our family has taken the tour of Winding Brook almost every year for the past 40 years. It is always fun and beautiful to see. However, this year was exceptional. Thanks to all of you for giving our community such a wonderful gift especially due to the year we have been through.’ Another posting said, *‘My hats off to the tremendous decorations in Winding Brook. We have lived here since 1990. This year is one of the best overall—the old favorites plus so much innovation.’*



So many thanks are in order. A huge THANK YOU to all of our neighbors who participated and lit up our neighborhood in their unique styles and made this year extra special.

This annual event does not happen all by itself. **Josh Higginbotham** once again spearheaded the effort. **Brian Powell**, with help from **Sharon Burden**, stepped up to handle the luminary sales. **Jane Mason** continued to store and stock the ever popular candy canes. **Michael Miller** delivered the ‘Gingerbread House’ and helped to do some repairs. **Maria Carter** placed and pounded the directional signs. Board members took their turns overseeing the charities each night. Special thanks to **Kuert** for their donation of sand and for **Fleet Feet** for their contribution of over \$1,000.

The winner of the **Best Overall** award in the decorating contest is the **Trimbergers** who live at 54630 Whispering Oak! See above! As the pictures portray, this award is well deserved.

President's Corner

Happy New Year and welcome to 2021! I wanted to start off to say THANKS to all of you who decorated your homes and yards for the Holidays. This year the neighborhood shined more than ever! I have not stopped hearing the amazing feedback from people who drove through our neighborhood. By my count, approximately 75% of the route participated. All of your efforts were well worth it.

As I am wrapping up my first year as the President, I am amazed at what we have done this year. This year required us to pivot some of our traditions, and I'm proud of our Board and their ability to respond to our unique situations. This year, I'm hoping for more continued progress in some of our long-term projects. I brought up previously, we are looking at updating our Covenants. We've been delayed over the holidays, but plan to pick this back up the first quarter of this year. We had a few residents volunteer to join an advisory committee. They will be meeting in the coming months to weigh in on the revisions. If you are interested in joining, please let me know. More information will be coming later this year.

Lastly, I know that the recent power outages were extremely frustrating. My family and I were without power for nearly the entire 4 days and had to find space with extended family or friends to house our large family. As a Board, we've read the comments, complaints, and concerns posted on Nextdoor and we will be seeking out AEP to discuss our concerns. Keep an eye out for more information later.

Hope you are safe and well.

Zach

Annual Board of Director's Meeting January 20

6:00pm

All residents
are invited to
attend via
Zoom

Meeting ID:
810 1164 4060

Passcode:

349623

or email

wbpahome@gmail.com

for link

WBPA BOARD

Zach Dripps, President
Laurel Eslinger, Secretary
George Cressy, III, Treasurer
Sharon Burden—Maria
Carter
Mariah Cressy
Josh Higginbotham
Ryan Howell—Michael
Miller
Brian Powell
Kathy Smith—Tim Sullivan

1st Brandenburg
1st Garman
1st Castenada
2nd Williamson
2nd Ballew

54721 Winding Brook
54705 Merrifield
15415 Old Bedford
54589 Whispering Oak
15628 Baintree

Decoration Winners

Thank you to all who helped make Winding Brook shine brightly this year and to the following who are the best of the best in the eyes of the judges. You outdid yourselves!

Best Overall

1. **Trimberger** 54610 Whispering Oak
2. **Strasser** 54610 Whispering Oak
3. **Lorenz/McGiff** 15406 Old Bedford

Rookie of the Year

1. **Giff** 15406 Old Bedford
2. **Tepe** 54499 Whispering Oak
3. **Guttierez** 15831 Branchwater Way

Most Original

1. **Babcock** 54763 Merrifield
2. **Turner** 15655 Winding Brook Drive
3. **Olsen** 54450 Old Bedford

Best Theme

1. **Smith** 15685 Hearthstone
2. **Johnston** 54559 Whispering Oak
3. **Cybulski** 15432 Carriage Lane

Best Faith-Based

1. **Putman, T.** 54706 Winding Brook
2. **Bonadies** 15377 Carriage Lane
3. **Bagatini** 54650 Whispering Oak

Clark Griswold Would Be Proud

1. **Onderdonk** 54405 Old Bedford
2. **Stob** 54711 Merrifield
3. **Kreager** 15678 Winding Brook

Martha Stewart Would Be Proud

1. **Dickey** 15530 Carriage Lane
2. **Tipton** 54596 Old Bedford
3. **Van Dyke/Vance** 54743 Bonnet Hill

Best Front Door

1. **Beristain** 54318 Old Bedford
2. **Siqueria** 15635 Embers
3. **Fox, J.** 15426 Old Bedford

Best Artisan

1. **Craig** 54578 Old Bedford
2. **Hahn** 15394 Whispering Oak
3. **Rudhman** 15496 Carriage Lane

Judges' Picks

2nd Clark 54445 Old Bedford
3rd Miller, M. 15590 Briarton
3rd McManus 15656 Winding Brook
3rd Moore, K. 15394 Whispering Oak



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!

Keeping Connected

While the ice storm held us hostage in our homes or elsewhere, one thing kept us connected—Nextdoor. A certain degree of comfort existed knowing that we weren't alone and helpful updates provided hope. If you haven't signed up for Nextdoor, please read the information above, and consider doing so.



AROUND THE PARK

Neighbors

What a way to start the new year—a widespread power outage that produced cold, dark, days and nights lasting for what seemed like forever—four days for some. Many residents moved to friends, family, and even hotels to keep warm and safe. Others started up their portable generators to help them endure this weather event and some even lent generators to neighbors. During our power outage, not everyone was without

electricity. **Jennifer Castenada** sent out an invitation via Nextdoor for any residents who so desired to come to their garage for a warm drink and donuts and to use their power strips. How generous and gracious! Jennifer shared that ever since they moved in, they were blessed with wonderful neighbors and wanted to reach out. Three neighbors stopped by and they felt they made new friends!

Safety Issues

Unfortunately, there continues to be cars broken into and mail stolen. The culprits have not been identified and the crimes have continued. Please contact the police if you should fall victim. As always, try to remember to lock your cars and take your mail out of your boxes as soon as possible. Leaving outgoing mail in your box does not guarantee that it will ever see the post office.

Fleet Feet

"We obviously did some things differently this year. In order to ensure we met the current safety standards for groups, we had to have everyone pre-register for the event so that we could assign them to group start times and limit the amount of people around at one time. I believe we did this quite well given the necessity for rapid change and adaptation. Our official registered number for the night was 121 people. Given this year's uncertainty and caution, I personally think that is a stunning number.

It's nice to know that in a year where group events were discouraged, modified, or all together canceled, the Michiana running community still showed up strong enough to result in a bigger donation than last year. What an incredible event for our community and we should all have such pride in the generosity our area has. I cannot wait to see what next year will bring..."

Happy New Year
Christopher A. Braker,
Operating Partner -- Fleet Feet Mishawaka

Winners in Their Categories

1. *Original Babcock* 54763 Merrifield
2. *Martha Stewart Would Be Proud* Dickey 15530 Carriage Lane
3. *Rookie* Gill 15668 Winding Brook Dr.
4. *Theme* Smith, A. 15685 Hearthstone
5. *Faith-Based* Putman, T. 54706 Winding Brook
6. *Artisan* Craig 54758 Old Bedford
7. *1st Judges Pick* Brandenburg 54721 Winding Brook

Pictures Not Available

- 1st Judges Pick* Garman 554705 Merrifield
1st Judges Pick Castaneda 15415 Old Bedford
Front Door Beristain 54318 Old Bedford
Clark Griswold Onderdonk 54405 Old Bedford



Thanks to Zach Dripps for taking the pictures. It was not an easy task!