

# THE PARK CRIER

## Winding Brook Park Association

### Safety and Security Meeting

In response to some incidents that occurred in May, a special Board meeting was held in June to address safety issues in our neighborhood. At the meeting, guest speakers **Jason Stefaniak**, Ass't Police Chief, Mishawaka Police Department, and **Jason Koski**, Detective, St. Joseph County Police, who oversees the Neighborhood Watch programs, shared information with Board members and residents to help keep us safe and aware and answered our many questions. Here are some takeaways from their presentation that will help us



keep our property and our lives safer:

•**Turn your lights on.** Don't have a dark home inside or out. They feel that this is one of the most important deterrents to crime.

•**Lock your doors**—car, house including your storm door, and your shed. Close garage doors.

- Do not leave valuables in your cars** and regularly check to be sure the doors are locked.
- **Remember that you have garage door openers in your car** and if your doors are unlocked, anyone gaining access to your car, also gains access to your home.

**Winding Brook  
4th of July Parade!**

**9:30am -Decorating begins  
10:00am Parade**

**15685 Winding Brook Drive  
Hosted by the Dripps**

**Decorate your bikes, Big Wheels,  
stroller, and cars and join the fire  
truck and fun celebrating the birth  
of our nation.**

**Refreshments after the parade  
Parade route on Page 3**

**Winding Brook in Bloom**

**Sunday, July 7**

Are you going to take home one of the prizes this year for **Best Front Yard, Best Mail Box, Best Container Garden, Best Use of Foliage, Best Use of Flowers, and Most Improved** (those eligible moved here since last July and have pictures of the before and the dramatic improvements made that are submitted before July 3)? Winners will be notified at the conclusion of the judging and prizes awarded that are donated by local garden centers. **McKinley Garden Center, Vites Greenhouses, Ginger Valley, and Varners.**

## President's Corner

Hello Neighbors!

I hope this finds you and your family doing well. On June 19th, the Board held a special safety and security meeting that was open for all residents to attend in light of recent events this Spring. Thanks to the residents that attended, and our special guests Detective Jason Koski with the St. Joe County Sheriff's Department, and neighbor Jason Stefaniak, who is also the Assistant Chief of Police for Mishawaka. Their insights and reminders were very helpful and reassuring. In light of our meeting, we will likely be initiating a Neighborhood Watch Program in the very near future with the help of the St. Joe County Sheriff's office. We are also in the process of investigating security systems and video surveillance options. Stay tuned for more information.

While Summer technically arrived on June 21st, I think we all would appreciate it more if the rain would let up soon. Thanks to all of you that are doing your part to keep up with your yards and homes. That said, we have received a few complaints from neighbors regarding a few homes and yards that are in need of attention. Please respect your neighbors and do your part to care for you home and yard. We understand situations in life may come up that make this difficult, so if you need help, please reach out. We can connect you with landscapers, and home improvement companies that can help you complete your projects.

In closing, it's an honor to serve on the Winding Brook Board with the other dedicated volunteer Board Members. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me, or any of our Board Members if you have questions, or if we can be of service. I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood.

*Michael Miller*

### WBPA BOARD

**Michael Miller, President**  
**Zach Dripps, Vice President**  
**Laurel Eslinger, Secretary**  
**George Cressy, III, Treasurer**

**Sharon Burden—Maria Carter**  
**Mariah Cressy**

**Josh Higginbotham**  
**Ryan Howell—Brain Powell—Kathy Smith**  
**Tim Sullivan—Kyle Umbarger**

## Safety and Security Con't.

- If you must have **glass in your front door**, have it on the opposite side of the handle.
- **Get to know your neighbors.** We are an important component in fighting crime. Report what you see!
- **Trim your bushes** or other landscape materials or even remove them if they would allow someone to hide behind them.
- When **going on vacation**, notify a Board member or a trusted neighbor to let them know that you will be gone and ask that they keep watch over your home and pick up any packages that you may receive.
- **Dogs** can be a deterrent.
- **Security cameras** are helpful. Position them on the peak so that there is good coverage and not just focused down on your driveway.
- **Ring doorbells** are recommended.
- **Document** what you have in your house so that if your home is broken into and items stolen, you will have some idea of what was taken.

The biggest takeaway was **CALL 911.** We were assured we would never be bothering them by making that call and if we see something suspicious or feel unsafe or see a crime being committed—**PICK UP THE PHONE AND CALL 911.**

As soon as high school is out for the summer, incidents of crime rise. Today, windows are not being smashed to gain access to cars, door handles are checked—more a crime of opportunity. And, more crimes happen during the day rather than at night.

We appreciate Chief Stefaniak and Detective Koski for taking the time to speak with us and provide this invaluable information. Let's do what they say!



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](http://windingbrookpark.com). Look for the link in the upper right corner. It is faint so look hard!

**UPDATE:** Detective Koski shared at the recent meeting that he had been involved in the investigation regarding the shooting on Whispering Oak and that he felt it was an isolated incident and that it should not happen again.



## AROUND THE PARK

### New Residents

A warm welcome to our new and not so new neighbors!

**Neil and Debra Morey** now reside at 15675 Hearthstone Drive. Debra is a homemaker and Neil recently retired from the U.S. Army where he was stationed as a dentist in Ft. Stewart, GA. They have five children and ten grandchildren. Maria Carter, who lives in the neighborhood, is their

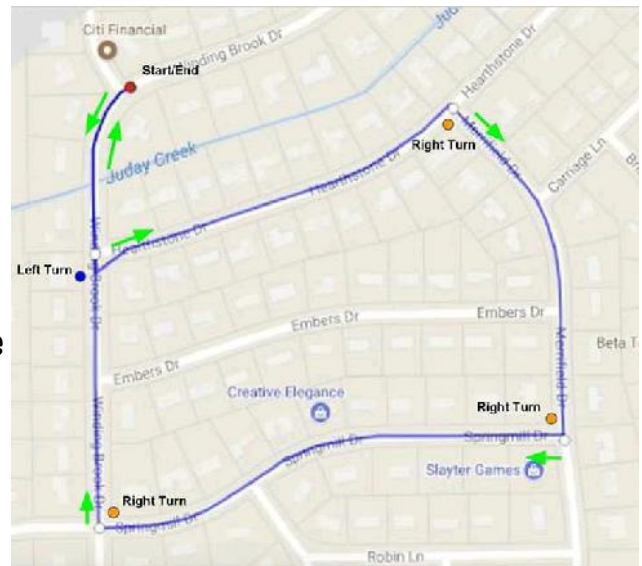
daughter which is what prompted them to move north. They enjoy home improvements, reading, church work, and woodworking. Both Neil and Debra love it here and appreciate being in close proximity to everything.

New to 54737 Little Flower Trail are **Andy and Kathy Blum** who recently moved from their home on Robin Lane!

### Cul de Sacs

The WBPA Board is looking at several cul de sacs to receive a face lift this summer. Please standby for the announcement! Any neighbors who live on a cul de sac and would like to help in any way, please contact the Board at [wbpahome@gmail.com](mailto:wbpahome@gmail.com). Last year, Fox Run residents with financial help from the WBPA Board, helped beautify their cul de sac. Who would like to mobilize your cul de sac residents to do something similar?

### 4th of July Parade Route



## Summer is Here!

We just changed seasons —we went from cool and rainy to rainy and August-like temps and with the onset of summer, several issues surface that are not so obvious in other months:

- Please **keep your dogs on leashes** and scoop when needed.
- **Slow down!** Kids are out of school and playing outside. Walkers and bikers want to feel safe, too.
- **Mow your yards!** Let's keep unsightly grass and untrimmed trees and bushes out of our sight.
- Think about moving your **unsightly trash and recycling containers** so that we can't see them when we pass your home. There is nothing attractive about them!
- Does a neighbor need some help —reach out and lend a hand.

This points will help us all have a desirable neighborhood to live in.

Please thank and support the  
sponsors of  
Winding Brook in Bloom!



2610 Redbud Trail S.  
Niles, MI 49120  
vitegreenhouses.com

Hours:  
April May Jun-Oct  
Mon-Fri 8-8 8-8 9-6  
Saturday 8-6 8-8 9-5  
Sunday CLOSED  
Directions on back

(269)695-2959  
email: info@vitegreenhouses.com



The weather cooperated and this year's Garage Sale was a success! Neighbors shared that it was a busy morning and they were very pleased with the results. Remember, next year it will again be the Saturday after Father's Day so start thinking of what you can live without! It will be here before you know it! Thanks to everyone who had sales this year!



Varners Greenhouse  
and Nursery  
Not just an experience but a tradition  
70294 Fir Road, Niles, MI

## What's Happening in Michiana

July 10 Arts in Bloom Garden Walk 9:30am-7:30pm Start at 3012 S. Twyckenham Drive South Bend

July 12-14 Underground Railway Days James Bonine House, Penn Road and Michigan 60 in Vandalia, MI

July 13 Concours d'Elegance at Copshaholm 10:00am-4pm. Studebaker National Museum at Copshaholm, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend

July 13 Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff 10:00am-6pm Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph, MI

July 19 Fernwood Friday 5pm. Music by Dean's List Fernwood Botanical Garden, 13988 Range Road, Niles, MI

July 20 Community Foundation Arts Series 7pm IUSB Jazz Ensemble Chris Wilson Pavilion at Potawatomi Park

Winding Brook Website:  
[windingbrookpark.com](http://windingbrookpark.com)

WBPA  
PO Box 6566  
South Bend, IN 46660

WBPA email address:  
[wbpahome@gmail.com](mailto:wbpahome@gmail.com)

### FROM THE EDITOR

Hi Neighbors,

Do you have information about new residents, births, deaths, weddings, special accolades or anything you would deem newsworthy. Please send them on to our email address —[wbpahome@gmail.com](mailto:wbpahome@gmail.com).

Thanks!

*Laurel Eslinger*

## Dues Paid in Full Through June 10

Annis  
Babcock  
Bagatini  
Barker  
Barnum  
Bass  
Beekman  
Bell  
Benjamin  
Bergwall/Brandenburg  
Berta  
Bertha  
Blasko  
Bloom  
Blum  
Bonadies  
Bournay  
Bradford  
Bradley  
Brennan  
Brill  
Buhr  
Burden  
Carter  
Castaneda  
Cavanaugh  
Benavente  
Cichowicz  
Clark  
Cocquyt  
Cook  
Copeland  
Cordill  
Cossman  
Cox  
Craig  
Cressy, G.III  
Cressy, G. Jr.  
Cressy, J.  
Cressy, R.  
Cybulski  
Czarnecki  
Deane  
Dearth  
DeCloedt  
Degan  
Dees  
Del Pilar  
DeLee, J.  
DeLee, P.  
Dickey  
Durcinka  
Elliott  
Ellis

Eslinger  
Fair  
Feeks  
Foley  
Fox, J.  
Fulkerson  
Fulnecky  
Garman  
Gill  
Gillott  
Gionfriddo  
Glase  
Goodin  
Greske  
Guenther  
Hahn  
Hamman  
Hancock  
Hankins  
Harrington  
Havard  
Henthorn  
Higginbotham  
Hill  
Holt  
Hosinski  
Howell  
Hughes  
Jacob  
Jarvis  
Kelly  
Kinney  
Kirkbride  
Koziatek  
Krzyszewski  
Kuc  
Lacay  
Laird  
Lawton  
Lin Quan  
Lindeire  
Lowry  
Mainieri  
Mark  
Mason  
McCorry  
McGill  
McGowan  
McKinnell  
McMahon  
Medvigy  
Meier  
Melkey  
Mester

Meuzelaar  
Meyer  
Miller, M.  
Miller, W.  
Mirkin  
Moe  
Monagle  
Montgomery  
Moore, B.  
Moore, K.  
Morehead  
Morris  
Muffoletto  
Ndayahundwa  
Nguyen  
Noonan  
Nussbaum  
Olsen  
Onderdonk  
Oneese  
Osborne  
Park  
Peregrine, Chris  
Petersen  
Polaski, L.  
Polaski, T.  
Porter  
Potts  
Price  
Probst  
Putman, M.  
Putman, T.  
Quinn  
Rajdl  
Rasmussen  
Reber  
Regan  
Ribera  
Rodefer  
Rudhman  
Saavedra  
Salameh  
Savage  
Schiele  
Schrager  
Schroeder  
Schuster  
Shappell  
Simko  
Slack  
Slayter  
Sloan  
Sovinski  
Spahic

Stanfield  
Stefaniak  
Stob  
Strasser  
Sullivan, R.  
Sullivan, T.  
Sun  
Tapper, A.  
Tapper, C.  
Twadros  
Thayer  
Thrall/Nikola  
Tipton  
Trimburger  
Umbarger  
Unwin  
Vellos  
Vogel  
Voll  
Voor, D.  
Walter  
White  
Witt  
Wilkerson  
Williams, B.  
Williams, F.  
Witters  
Woodward  
Zelvy

Thank you to  
t h e s e  
r e s i d e n t s  
who have met  
their annual  
commitment.  
It is never too  
late to pay  
your dues.  
Subsequent  
dues payers  
will appear in  
the next few  
newsletters.  
L e t ' s s e e  
yours there if  
you don't see  
it here!



**Happy  
garage sale sellers!**

