

THE PARK CRIER

Winding Brook Park Association



Halloween Party a Success!

Witches and ninjas and chips and salsa all came out for the annual Winding Brook Children's Halloween gathering. And thanks to hosts **Rob** and **Starr Kelly**, it was a spook-tacular success! All enjoyed the tattoo station, sucker pull, and pin the eye on the monster along with the delicious refreshments. Even the adults got in the act by dressing up for the occasion! Kudos to the Kellys for making this event possible.



Some of our party-goers!



Special Report from the President

Water Issues

On October 17th, the Board held an important meeting to discuss recent flooding issues in Winding Brook Park that was open to all residents to attend. David McCormick, Civil Engineer with McCormick Engineering in South Bend, provided an education on how ground water flows and reviewed topographical drainage maps that provided some perspective on the variables that impact our neighborhood. A number of concerned residents attended this meeting, and it was sad to hear about their flooding issues, headaches and overall damages to their property.

As you know, Juday Creek is the “Winding Brook” in our name and parts of our neighborhood were developed in a flood plain. Much of the knowledge that is available now regarding flooding and water flow was not available or as accurate when the neighborhood was started in the 1960’s. Over the past few years, the entire Michiana region (not just Winding Brook) has been inundated with water, and sadly some residents experienced serious flooding issues as a result. In August 2016, we experienced a “1,000 year rain event,” and in February of this year, our region experienced “500 year flood” due to the rapid snow melt and simultaneous rain fall over a 3-day period (source, South Bend Tribune, March 4, 2018).

The drainage/aquifer maps that Mr. McCormick reviewed show that water from the areas north of WB to the Michigan State line, essentially all flow underground towards Juday Creek and the St. Joe River, and while the issues some may be experiencing are not likely caused or resolved by a small local fix. In short, they are mostly related to acts of God, the geological structures, and aquifers below the ground that are beyond our



(Con't from Column 1)

With that in mind, below are a few important take away points that I think we all need to be aware of:

1. **If you have a basement** then you likely have a **perimeter sump pump** that is designed to move ground water on the outside of your home away from your foundation. Please check to be sure that this is NOT connected inside your home to your sewer drain line which is against building codes and the LAW. It should drain into your yard or swale (the low area in many front or side yards. Not sure if yours is connected properly, please call a plumber.
2. If you have a basement then you want to talk to your insurance agent about **FLOOD INSURANCE**. If your home is not located in an area designated as a flood plain, then adding this policy may be fairly inexpensive. Talk with your agent to learn more.
3. If you have a **swale in your yard**, be sure that it is clear and that any drainage tiles (tubes that run underground or under your driveway) are clear and not filled in with dirt and leaves. This helps move water away from our homes (and your neighbors).
4. All the new construction taking place around the neighborhood require drainage plans that must be approved by the County to contain runoff. That said, these projects are not likely impacting, or exacerbating issues in our neighborhood.
5. If you have a specific drainage concern, consider calling the St. Joe County Engineer (574-235-9626), or Drainage Department (574-235-9631) since they over see this and Juday Creek.
6. This article from the South Bend Tribune may also bring some perspective: https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/weather/was-the-flood-of-one-for-the-record-books/article_6a14e98c-3cff-5edd-b555-a11db008f93f.html

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of our residents that have experienced flooding issues over the years. Hopefully, this information is helpful.

Wishing you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

See you around the neighborhood.

Michael Miller

WBPA BOARD

Michael Miller, President
Laurel Eslinger, Secretary
Bill Bagatini, Treasurer

Sharon Burden
George Cressy, II
Mariah Cressy
Zach Dripps—Cory Hankins
Josh Higginbotham
Ryan Howell—Kathy Smith
Tim Sullivan

Board of Director's Meeting

Wednesday,
November 14
6:00pm

St. Joseph Regional
Medical Center
Conference Room B



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!

Introducing November Lights!!

Hello fellow Winding Brook Residents and Friends. This is Tim Sullivan. I am a member of the Winding Brook Park Board. I'm so excited to announce a program called **November Lights!!** As you all know, our Gift to the Community is right around the corner. Our Christmas Lights planning has begun and we are focused on making this the best year ever. Since many of our neighbors are long time residents, they may have come to the point in their lives that putting up lights is not an option anymore. Many would love to be a part of this great tradition but the worry of a twisted ankle or worse may deter the desire to participate. That's where "November Lights" comes in. Every Saturday in November we will gather from 8-12 and put up a couple of strings of lights for the elderly or home bound. We just ask that you supply the decorations and we'll do the rest. Please email me at tmsullivan@gmail.com or call me at [574-335-9450](tel:574-335-9450) and we'll get you on our Elf List! Any able-bodied volunteers who would like to be a worker bee can also contact me. We want to make this year the best ever for the many, many who make visiting Winding Brook a special Christmas Tradition!!
Thanks, Tim

AROUND THE PARK

Introducing new WBPA Board members **Mariah Cressy and Ryan Howell!**

Mariah Cressy grew up in South Bend and attended the University of Dayton for her undergraduate degrees in journalism and English and then received her Masters in English at the University of Louisville. Mariah has professional experience as a writer, editor, search engine optimizer, a digital marketer, website manager and email marketer. She currently works for the University of Notre Dame in Grotto Network as their website manager, SEO, and email marketer. She is very excited to be back in the South Bend area building her community. She loves participating in making decisions, making things happen for an organization, and making a difference.



Ryan Howell grew up in the area and graduated from Penn in '92. He has many memories of spending time in Winding Brook and watching this local area be transformed from farmland to the Edison Lakes Park. After graduating from Indiana University Bloomington in 1997 where he met his wife, Ryan moved to California outside the San Francisco area then to Long Island where he worked for a private educational program providing support for students on the Spectrum. He and his wife, Kristy, ultimately made the decision to come to Mishawaka when they realized they wanted to start a family and joined the Winding Brook community 12 years ago. Ryan feels he came full circle raising his two daughters back in Mishawaka.

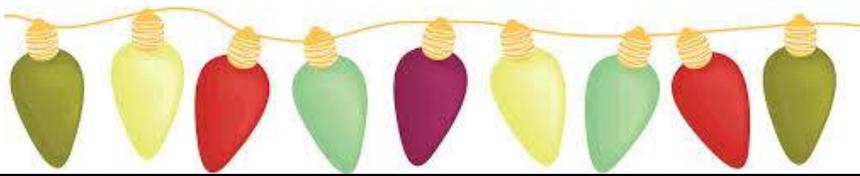


Dues Paid—Thank You!

Thank you to the following residents who met their annual obligation. (As of October 15)

**Castaneda
Coffman
Hankins
Powell
Slack**

Please know it is never to late to pay your dues!



What's Happening in Michiana

1. Nov. 10 Tail-Waggin' Hayride Bring your dog to Bendix Woods County Park for a tractor-drawn hayride 1:00-4:00pm
2. November 23 and every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until Dec. 23 Gift of Lights at the Potawatomi Zoo 5-9pm
3. November 24 Santa's arrival in downtown Mishawaka 6:00pm

Halloween is behind us, Thanksgiving will soon be here—and then here come the holidays—Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa or whatever you may celebrate at that time of year. Here are a few things for you to know to help you prepare for the upcoming Gift to the Community:

Embers is not on the tour this year.

Luminary sales will be available as always—look for the date and location in the next Crier.

Collections at the Gingerbread House will begin Dec. 7, 8, and 9 and then take a break until Dec. 13 when they will run through Christmas night.

There will be more **decorating prizes** than usual this year — details in the next Crier. Start planning if you haven't already!



Thanks to our neighbors who made this such a fun holiday!



Winding Brook Website:
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WBPA email address:
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FROM THE EDITOR
 Happy Thanksgiving to all!
 We are so thankful to live in Winding Brook.
Laurel Eslinger