

SPARK*

SKY DIGG *Soldiers*

2018 Midwest
Junior NBA Champions

*Winter
Warriors*

VPA Behind the Scenes
p.16



OUR MISSION

Venues Parks & Arts inspires a more livable South Bend for all, connecting us to emotionally engaging experiences and to one another.

“I love working at VPA because every day brings the potential to brighten someone’s day, encourage someone to try something new or different, or share information on something that they didn’t know about.”

- Amy Roush,
Volunteer Coordinator
for Venues Parks & Arts



Contents

SPOTLIGHTS

- Our Venues 4
- Sky Digg Soldiers 6
- Bark in the Park 8
- Charles Black Renovations 10
- Feature: Sam Centellas 12-14
- Feature: Winter Warriors 16-17
- Staff Picks 18
- Thank You 20-21

RUM VILLAGE PARK

The 160 acres of rolling woodlands are home to deer, foxes, reptiles, amphibians, and numerous species of birds. With much to see and many programs and activities to do, it is no wonder that many people are rediscovering Rum Village.



Administration Office
O'Brien Center
321 E. Walter St.
574-299-4765
M-F 8AM-4:30PM
vpa@southbendin.gov
sbvpa.org

@sbvpa
South Bend Events App

Maintenance Concerns
574-235-9414

Park Ambassadors
574-286-6827

Byers Softball Complex
1300 Mayflower Rd.
574-282-1449

Century Center
120 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
574-235-9711
centurycenter.org

Charles Black Recreation Center (under renovation)
3419 W. Washington St.
574-235-7712

Elbel Park Golf Course
26595 Auten Rd.
574-271-9180
sbparkgolf.org

Erskine Park Golf Course
4200 Miami St.
574-291-3216
sbparkgolf.org

Four Winds Field
501 W. South Street
574-235-9190
milb.com

Howard Park Recreation Center (under construction)
219 S. St. Louis Blvd
574-235-9428

*Kennedy Water Playground
2700 Westmoor St.
574-235-9407

*Leeper Park Tennis Center
07 Riverside Dr.
574-235-9405

Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center
1522 W. Linden Ave.
574-235-9445
M-TH 9AM-9PM
F 9AM-6:30PM

Morris Performing Arts Center
211 N. Michigan St.
574-235-9190
M-F 12-5PM
morriscenter.org

O'Brien Fitness Center
321 E. Walter St.
574-299-3482
M-F 5AM-9PM
SA 7AM-4PM
SU 9AM-2PM

Palais Royale
105 W. Colfax Ave.
574-235-5612
palaisroyale.org

Potawatomi Conservatory
2105 Mishawaka Ave.
M-F 10AM-4PM
SA 10AM-3PM
574-235-9442
potawatomiconservatories.org

Kennedy Water Playground
2700 Westmoor St.
574-235-9407

*Potawatomi Pool
2000 Wall St.
574-235-9438
M-SU 12-6PM

Potawatomi Zoo
500 S Greenlawn Ave
574-235-9800
See website for hours.
potawatomizoo.org

Rum Village Nature Center
2626 S. Gertrude St.
574-235-9455
M-F 8:30AM-4:30PM
SU 1-5PM

Studebaker Park Golf Course
718 E. Calvert St.
574-287-6634

*Open in the summer



350,000 people. 650 events.
\$22M economic impact.


SPARK SPOTLIGHT: OUR VENUES

350,000 people. 650 events. \$22M economic impact. These statistics are the results from two incredible buildings and three outstanding operations. Alongside our partners at SMG and Navarre Hospitality, our dedicated staff work tirelessly to maintain the Century Center, Morris Performing Arts Center, and Palais Royale Historic Ballroom.

But these buildings are so much more than that! They are places where memories are made, business is conducted, and friendships are renewed. In 2022, we will celebrate 100 years of the Morris. Elvis, Frank Sinatra, Betty Davis, Stevie Wonder, B.B. King, and so many more have graced the stage during that time building upon the legacy of the Morris and solidifying the theatre's place in South Bend history.

And it's not just about our history but about our future as well. The Morris will have more than 100 events in 2018. The Palais continues to be the premier destination for couples to celebrate their vows as well as for groups to unite for a common purpose. The Century Center is undergoing a feasibility study to evaluate the use of our space and the opportunity for expansion. We have invested, with our partners at the Hotel Motel Tax Board, more than \$850,000 in each of the last five years to ensure the next 40 years of the Century Center provide an even greater return for the citizens of South Bend.

VPA works hard to deliver upon our vision of making sure 'every resident of South Bend is positively engaged at least once every year'. A lot of brick and mortar went into the construction of these two buildings, but there's even more passion, love, and dedication that brings them to life each and every day for our citizens and guests. Unlike the statistics offered in the opening line, the results of that commitment cannot be quantified but are undoubtedly felt and remembered for a lifetime.

 , Executive Director of Venues, VPA



Mayor of South Bend

Pete Buttigieg

Board Of Park Commissioners

President: Mark Neal

Vice President: Consuella Hopkins

Members: Aimee Buccellato, Dan Farrell

Venues Parks & Arts Senior Staff

Executive Director: Aaron Perri

Executive Director of Venues: Jeff Jarnecke

Director of Experience: Kari Bumgardner

Director of Facilities & Grounds: John Martinez

Director of Recreation: Jonathan Jones

Spark Magazine Team

Director of Experience: Kari Bumgardner

Director of Marketing: Matt Esau

Design & Media Specialist: Danica Kulemeka

Communications Coordinator: Courtney Sniadecki

E-Media Coordinator: Jessica Spoor

Special Events Coordinator: Elizabeth Leachman

Intern: Kara Copeland





On the Cover

Karina Scott, Rashunda Jones, Nevaeh Foster, Amiyah Reynolds
Members of Sky Digg Soldiers basketball program at Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center



SKY DIGG SOLDIERS

Congratulations 2018 Midwest Junior NBA Champions

Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center's Sky Digg Soldiers traveling basketball program represented the Midwest Region in the first-ever Junior NBA World Championship on August 7 - 12 at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex near Orlando, Fla.



Learn skills in a friendly competitive atmosphere that focuses on the fundamentals of the game.

Payment plans are available for this 15-week season!

LEAGUES AT
O'Brien Center
Charles Black Center
Martin Luther King, Jr. Center

Registration is open from
September 4 - October 12
Practice begins October 15

Season: November 3 – March 9
Scholarships available

Registration information available at
sbvpa.org 574.299.4765

*Formerly River City Basketball



Spark is the newest resident of South Bend! She is a firefly, which is a native insect to Indiana. Fireflies are friendly and communicate with light, which is why Spark lights up.

Catch a glimpse of her? Come say hi! Spark loves to give hugs and high-fives to everyone she meets, spreading surprise and delight wherever she goes.



BARK IN THE PARK

A New Dog Park Will Benefit Pets and Owners

Are you welcomed home with a slobbery wet kiss and wagging tail after a long day at work or school? Nearly 44% of all households in the United States are, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). As the popularity of owning a dog increases, so does the new era for dog-specific products and services. Moreover, studies have shown Millennials are likely to spend their discretionary income on their fur-babies.

What does this have to do with South Bend? A growing Millennial

population in our city means a new type of demand—the Rum Village Dog Park. Want to throw your pup a birthday party? Bring balloons, because the city’s newest dog park can accommodate with a specific fenced-in area for rent. Want to take a scenic walk with your dog off the leash? Rum Village’s dog park is the perfect place to get some exercise in for you and your furry friend. The location will feature areas for large and small dogs as well a socialization area, so whether your pet is big or small, there’s a place for them at the Rum Village Dog Park!

“Dog parks make South Bend a better place. It’s not just great for the animals; it’s great for community. The more things that different kinds of people have in common, the better.”

– Mayor Pete Buttigieg

Fun DOG FACTS

Americans spend over \$60 billion annually on their pets since 2015, according to American Pet Products Association.

36% of Americans give their dog birthday presents and have a form of birthday parties for them, according to Pet Secure.

74% of pet owners experienced mental health improvements from pet ownership, according to Human Animal Bond Research Institute.

Dog parks have grown by 89% since 2007, according to The Trust for Public Land.

It’s estimated that 78 million dogs are owned in the U.S., according to ASPCA.

For more
information
about the new
Rum Village
Dog Park, go to

mysbparksandtrails.com/projects/rum-village

EST. 1922 PALAIS ROYALE HISTORIC BALLROOM



The Palais Royale at the Morris Center is the historic 1920s ballroom with 8,800 square feet of stunning architecture for memorable wedding ceremonies and receptions, parties, celebrations and business events.



105 West Colfax Avenue in the Heart of Downtown South Bend, IN | 574.235.5612 | PALAISROYALE.ORG





Charles Black Recreation Center Renovations

For years, Charles Black Recreation Center has been a pride and joy for the LaSalle Park neighborhood.

Walking into the center, you might come across seniors eating lunch provided by REAL Services in the cafeteria, tennis shoes thumping on the gymnasium floor during the children's after-school program, and chattering of teens as they share about their day at school and work on homework. However, it was unlikely that these activities would happen simultaneously, because the facility simply didn't have the capacity to host several programs at once.

That was until now.

After a year of tireless construction, center staff are prepared for the grand opening of the remodeled facility and the season ahead.

"It's been a journey but well worth the wait," said Cynthia Taylor, the center's supervisor.

Not only will the center have increased capacity, allowing senior citizens, children, and high school students to share the center at the

same time, it will also feature brand new amenities that aim to positively impact the community.

Need help sending an email or searching a subject on the Internet? The caring staff will be there to help. A student needs a safe place to go after school? The remodeled building creates room for them to play basketball, listen to some tunes, or come together in the gathering area. Plus, the new bike shop will give individuals the opportunity to learn how to repair bikes. Participants can even earn a bike by going through a 6-week workshop.

Beyond the facility updates, Taylor said, "We are looking forward to the new programming, experiences, and memories. We are coming back bigger and better than ever!"

With its amplified ability to offer new opportunities and increase accessibility, Charles Black Recreation Center will be, not only the pride of LaSalle Park neighborhood, but a place of pride for the City of South Bend as a whole.

A FEW *new* FEATURES AT THE CENTER

Three new practice basketball courts and a larger fitness center, allowing plenty of space for exercise and play

A music studio for creative music-makers to jam out together

A new gathering area with charging stations for mobile devices and a concession area where guests can lounge and converse

A new computer lab, where visitors can study, write an email, find information, and more

A new bike repair shop in-house, where anyone is welcome to have their bike repaired or even learn to make minor repairs themselves

These additions aim to open a new world of possibilities to visitors of Charles Black Recreation Center!

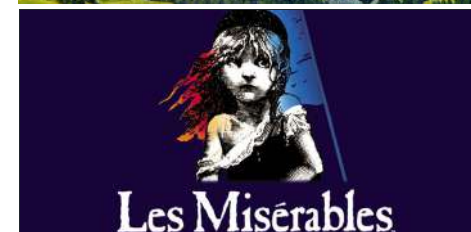
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT mysbparksandtrails.com/projects



Modest Mouse
September 24



The Sound of Music
Nov. 30-Dec. 2



Les Misérables
March 19-23

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Ringo Starr and His All Starr Band | September 9
Alison Krauss | September 12
Newsboys United | October 7
There's One in Every Family | October 19
Disney Jr. Dance Party On Tour | October 24
Theresa Caputo | October 26
John Crist: The Human Being Tour | November 4
Rumours of Fleetwood Mac | November 7
Straight No Chaser | November 28
The Nutcracker | December 8-9
Mannheim Steamroller Christmas | December 12
A Charlie Brown Christmas Live! | December 20
Swan lake | January 18
Evita | January 25-27
Stomp | February 24

For tickets and a full list of all upcoming events visit morriscenter.org or MPAC box office at 211 N. Michigan St.

SOUTH BEND'S MOST UNIQUE WEDDING VENUES



CENTURY CENTER

120 S. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd | 574-235-9711
centurycenter.org



MORRIS PAC

211 N. Michigan St. | 574-235-9190
morriscenter.org



PALAIS ROYALE

105 W. Colfax | 574-235-5612
palaisroyale.org



Sam Centellas,
pictured below,
dances at West Side
Wednesday during
Best. Week. Ever.

Motivated by the need to live a healthy life and set a good example for his kids, Sam implemented a fitness journey, which started with an early morning workout.

Meet Sam Centellas. You might know him as the Executive Director of La Casa de Amistad, a community center on the Westside of South Bend, you might recognize him as one of the key coordinators of Westside Wednesday, or perhaps you may have seen this early morning gym-goer at O'Brien Fitness Center, cycling on a spin bike or participating in 5:30 a.m. yoga. In any capacity, Sam has achieved many successes this past year, including losing over 50 pounds with a membership at O'Brien Fitness Center.

Motivated by the need to live a healthy life and set a good example for his kids, Sam implemented a fitness journey, which started with an early morning workout.

"I have heart disease in my family and have always put off doing more to get in shape," Sam wrote on his blog regarding the start of his lifestyle change.

Sam committed to a goal of losing 25 pounds before he turned 40. Like many others who like to get sweaty before 6 a.m., he began using O'Brien Fitness Center in the mornings to fit in with his busy schedule. He attributed the inviting and low-pressure atmosphere as one of the reasons that he loves going to O'Brien, as there is no judgment toward newcomers.

JOURNEY TO HEALTH

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CHECK OUT
sbvpa.org/fitness



Far Left: Sam Centellas
Above: Fitness instructor, Missy Richardson
Left: Fitness instructor, Lori Borders

Inspired by the progress he was making at O'Brien, he continued his fitness regime at home by doing push-ups as part of his routine – nearly 200 a day.

"I spend about 45 minutes to an hour at the gym, 4-5 days per week. On the days off, I still do push-ups or some curls at home with my weights," said Sam, "I started a weekly yoga class. I usually try to get my son to do some with me, or like last Friday, I took both the younger ones with me to a Zumba class."

Sam had been a member of O'Brien for a year before he began using the facility consistently, and now, he utilizes the fitness center several times a week.

In addition to working out, Sam also changed his diet to include healthier foods. With the combination of spending time at O'Brien Fitness Center and eating a healthy diet, Sam doubled his original weight loss goal.

Sam commented, "After losing the first 35 pounds, I ventured and tried running again [...] Now, 50 pounds down, I am running regularly, and it makes me glad I pushed myself."

I love running early in the morning and watching a South Bend sunrise."

This goes to show that it's never too late to improve your health. Sam had been a member of O'Brien for a year before he began using the facility consistently, and now, he utilizes the fitness center several times a week.

Whether you're already an avid visitor of the gym or you just want to get moving a little more throughout your day, the staff at O'Brien Fitness Center is there to help you realize and achieve your health goals.

Sam said, "I appreciate the staff being so supportive of my goals. Their smiles keep me coming back!" ▽

O'BRIEN
FITNESS CENTER
TRIAL

Come meet friendly staff and
kickstart your journey to health

*For complete details go to sbvpa.org/fitness
*Exclusions may apply.

1 week
FREE*

CAUTION:

EXERCISE HAS BEEN KNOWN TO CAUSE HEALTH & HAPPINESS.

GET MOVING TODAY!

1 WEEK FREE Trial Memberships*

*Exclusions may apply. Call or stop by for more information.

M-F: 5AM-9PM
SAT: 7AM-4PM
SUN: 9AM-2PM
321 E. Walter Street, South Bend
574.299.3482

POWERED BY
SBVPA

Winter Warriors

VPA Behind the Scenes

We all know that magical feeling of the first snowfall. Glittering snowflakes drifting through the air, fields of white, and mugs full of hot cocoa. But we also all know that winter has a dark side.

After about three days of snowmen, sledding, and snowball fights, that beautiful pure white snow has turned into gray slush. The days are getting shorter and the nights are getting longer. Dragging yourself out of bed in the morning gets that much harder. And then – just when you wonder how long it'll be until you see daylight again – twinkling lights start going up around the city, the snow-covered streets are cleared throughout the night, and the city heads to work.

Jose Torres & Tracy Williams
South Bend Ambassadors

Have you ever wondered about the people who bring light to the city in the darkest of months? From the festive lights to plowing snow in the dead of night, Venues Parks & Arts staff is out there every day.

One of the most necessary tasks to keep the city running in the winter months is snow clearing. As long as there's snow on the ground, Facilities and Grounds staff will clock in.

"Some winters are good, some winters are bad," said Jim Byers, Grounds Operations Manager. Byers, who has been with Facilities & Grounds for over 40 years, remembers the blizzard of 1978 where 19.5 inches of snow fell on South Bend. "The



most gratifying thing about my job is seeing how much we can accomplish and how much snow we can clear," he said.

When the clock strikes 3 a.m., you can find twenty Facilities & Ground workers pulling up in Bobcats all around the city. By the time the city wakes up, they've plowed, blown, and shoveled the most trafficked areas of South Bend. The entire city takes some time, especially navigating around benches, bike racks, and planters, but their goal is to haul the snow out within 24 hours.

"It takes dedication and a lot of experience," Byers emphasized. Between working 12-hour days, weekends, and holidays, they make sure the roads and sidewalks are ready for you to get out and around the city. Even under several inches of snow, South Bend doesn't stop.

Among Facilities & Grounds, you may also bump into a smiling face in a red shirt while you're out. A kind of jack-of-



Facilities and Grounds Team of Venues Parks & Arts

all-trades, the ambassadors work 24/7 to provide safety, event assistance, hospitality, and seasonal decorations to make South Bend more inviting.

"I like to see people smile," Downtown Team Lead Ambassador Darrell Pargo beamed, "People see our passion, that it's not all about work."

From placing mini Christmas trees in sidewalk planters to

lights strung around downtown, the ambassadors work every day to make South Bend a welcoming city. Even though the cold may not always be appealing, VPA staff keeps the city exciting, inviting, and festive.

Speaking of festive, if you've been around for a South Bend winter, you've probably noticed the giant Christmas tree that goes up on Jon Hunt Plaza in front of the Morris. Arborists with the Forestry Department spend a day to string the tree top-to-bottom with over 13,000 glittering lights.

It's easy to get caught up trudging through the deep snow and maneuvering through the slush. This winter, perhaps you'll look up and notice the thousands of tiny lights lighting up the sky or the freshly cleared roads as you drive to grab that early morning coffee. It's moments like this that Facilities & Grounds, Forestry, Ambassadors and countless others strive for – a more livable and lovable South Bend. ↴

Spark's Top 5



Venues Parks & Arts staff members give you five things they're looking forward to this fall and winter.



1.

GET OUT + GET ACTIVE

The chilly weather might be coming in, but it's not too late to make memories for life this season in your favorite South Bend parks. From autumn nature hikes to sledding, come enjoy the great outdoors year-round!

"I enjoy taking walks at Rum Village Park during my lunch time. I think it's the best place to enjoy flowers and the wildlife as I do my walk around the park."

-Rose Kaufman, Center Supervisor



2.

TRICK-OR-TREATING

We're ready for colorful leaves, sweaters, and pumpkin-flavored everything. Another one of our favorite parts of fall? Trick-or-treating throughout the city! Check out sbvpa.org in October to find the best spots for dressing up and enjoying treats this Halloween season.

"My daughters absolutely love trick-or-treating downtown and have a blast every time."

-Kyle Miller, Production Manager



3.

HOLIDAYS AT THE MORRIS

Morris Performing Arts Center will feature some holiday favorites this winter. Here are some of the classics to get excited about:

- Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip David
- A Charlie Brown Christmas Live!
- The Nutcracker Ballet
- Swan Lake

"The Nutcracker is a wonderful wintertime tradition in South Bend, and one that every family should experience!"

-Elizabeth Leachman, Special Events Coordinator



4.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

According to a Nielsen survey, "staying fit and healthy" is our top New Year's resolution as Americans, followed by losing weight. The O'Brien Fitness Center is here to help! With supportive staff and the ability to work at your own pace, the center is a great place to begin your fitness journey.

"The O'Brien Fitness Center is the perfect place to feel like part of a family. It's not just about getting a workout in; it's about an environment that allows everyone of all types to feel comfortable."

-Michael Self, Arborist



5.

KIDS EVENTS

Looking for something to do with the kiddos? Santa is coming to town for the Tree Lighting Ceremony and the whole family can visit him all month at his in-town workshop for pictures. Also, stuff those stockings with Daddy/Daughter and Mom/Son Dance tickets this year! Tickets will be on sale online in early November.

"Being able to take my son to the Mom Son Dance and make those memories with him was exciting. A great night out, spending time together!"

-Amanda Yasko, Fitness/Wellness Supervisor



CENTURY CENTER
SOUTH BEND

BEAUTIFUL. ADAPTIVE. ELEGANT SPACES.

centurycenter.org



Photo Credit: Matt Cashore

SBMart
South Bend Museum of Art

Immerse Yourself In
Rich, Artistic Culture

Gallery Hours | Admission
Wednesday – Sunday, 12p.m.-5p.m.

Closed Monday, Tuesday,
and Major Holidays

Admission is free to members,
with a suggested donation of
\$5 for non-members.

Located in the Century Center
120 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
South Bend, IN 46601
574-235-9102



One Spark, BIG Impact.

South Bend Venues Parks & Arts is always looking for interested parties to volunteer and support programs, venues, events, and facilities. For more information about ways to get involved, visit:

SBVPA.ORG/SPONSORS/VOLUNTEER



EDGE ADVENTURES

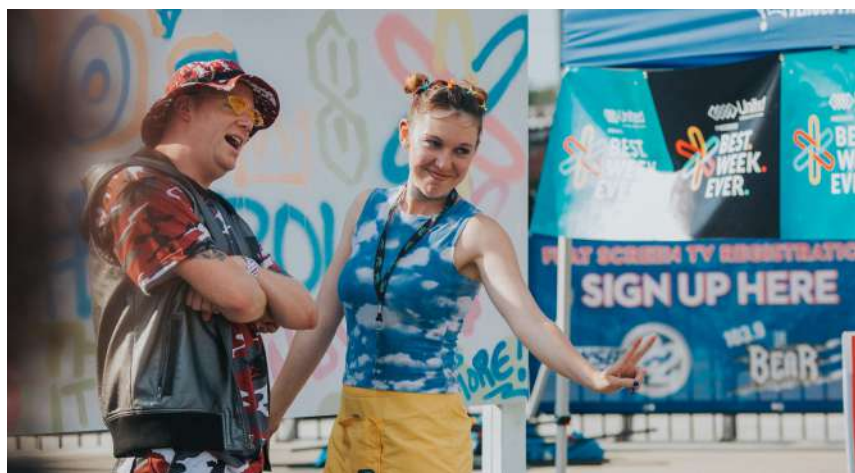
Experience the thrill of the zip lines and aerial obstacles while the continuous belay system keeps dventurers connected to our safety line from start to finish. Minimum age 8, weight 40-275lbs. Hands must reach 66" high flat on the ground. Helmet, harness and gloves provided. Open now through Fall.

*Make Memories • Family Fun • Corporate Events
Date Night • Team Bonding • Fundraising Efforts
Birthday Party Packages • Group Discounts Available*

RUM VILLAGE PARK, 2626 S. GERTRUDE ST.
CALL: 800-590-8347

EDGEADVENTUREPARKS.COM

A LOOK BACK AT 2018



To all those who
got their hands
dirty, partnered
to create new
memories, or
marked their
calendars for one
of our events—
Thank you!

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS

DISCOVER

THE GIFT OF LIGHTS at the POTAWATOMI ZOO

EVENINGS, FRIDAY - SUNDAY ❄️❄️❄️ NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 23

LIGHTS
SPONSORED
BY

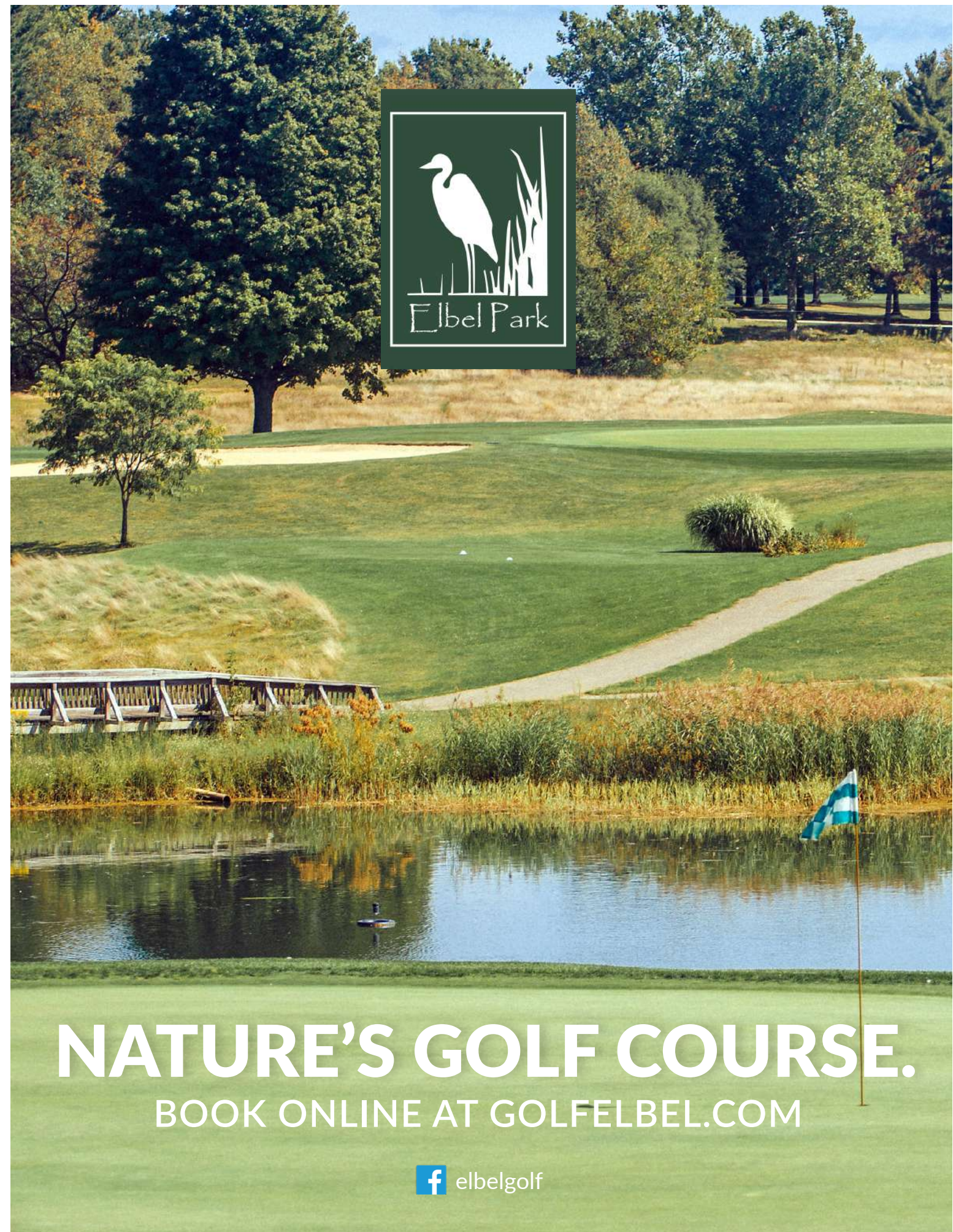
**INDIANA
MICHIGAN
POWER**

An AEP Company

BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

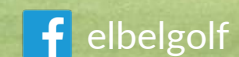


500 S. GREENLAWN AVE
SOUTH BEND, IN 46615
574.235.9800
POTAWATOMIZOO.ORG



NATURE'S GOLF COURSE.

BOOK ONLINE AT GOLFELBEL.COM



STUDEBAKER NATIONAL MUSEUM

**EXPLORE OUR CITY'S
INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE**

Museum Hours

Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday 12 p.m.-5 p.m.

201 Chapin Street, South Bend, IN 46601

574-235-9714

studebakermuseum.org

IRISH DAVE

& CHRISTINE SHOW

Weekday Mornings 5:30-10am



The fun way to wake up!



WE'RE UNITED FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, AND WE'D LOVE TO GET TO KNOW YOU.

GRAND OPENING
SOUTH BEND



GRAND OPENING
MISHAWAKA



YOU'RE THE REASON WE'RE HERE.

Since day one, we've understood it's less about where our buildings stand and more about how we can serve those who are standing next to us. While we take great pride in our work inside each of our branches, it's the work we do on the outside that truly defines us.

Stop by and see us soon or give us a call today!

IRELAND ROAD
223 W. Ireland Road
South Bend, IN 46614

EDISON LAKES PARKWAY
4840 N. Main Street
Mishawaka, IN 46545



(888) 982-1400 | unitedfcu.com

Insured by NCUA. Equal Opportunity Lender. Equal Housing Lender. NMLS #471962.