





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

Chief Development Officer Annie Gawkowski

Executive Director of Venues

Jeff Jarnecke

Director of Facilities & Grounds

John Martinez

Director of Recreation

Jonathan Jones

SPARK MAGAZINE TEAM

Managing Editors Matt Esau Courtney Sniadecki

Magazine Design Danica Kulemeka

Cover Photography
Danica Kulemeka

Writers Eva Ennis Jonathan Jones Elizabeth Leachman John Martinez Amy Roush Courtney Sniadecki Jessica Spoor





CONTENTS

_	CDADV	Spotlight
D	SPAKK	20001112111

- 6 On the Cover
- 8 VPA in Motion
- 9 Kids Triathlon
- 10 One Spark
- 12 Picks

FEATURE STORIES

- 14 100 Years of Golf
- 16 Golf
- 20 Celebrate
- 26 Summer
- 32 Best. Week. Ever.





ON THE COVER

Spend this Season in Nature

Elbel, Erskine, and Studebaker Golf Courses are all owned by the City of South Bend. These municipal courses are vastly different with their own unique features and rich stories, full of history, to tell.

Whether you're looking for a course

that's residing within the city or one that's situated so deep into nature you are immersed with the blue herons that roam about, these three courses are beloved by generations.

SPARK SPOTLIGHT

Facilities and Grounds

Most of our first memories with parks happened right in our own neighborhoods. These are at the parks "down the block" or across the street—a place near home where we made new friends, walked the dog, took the grandkids, or even more recently, chased Pokémon. South Bend's 22 neighborhood parks make up the backbone of the 56 parks within our city.

Neighborhood parks do more than just give us opportunities for recreation. They provide economic value to the community and stimulate health and wellness. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) estimates that local parks provide an increase of 1.5% or more value to homes within 500 feet. The trees and green infrastructure of these parks reclaim and capture storm water runoff, consume carbon dioxide, and provide oxygen.

Among the asphalt, stop signs, and busy urban life, parks offer an opportunity to experience wildlife, feel the cool grass under your feet, and promote fellowship.

As a part of the My SB Parks & Trails plan we are investing over 1.4 million dollars into neighborhood parks over the next two years. Your local parks will see new accessible playgrounds with modern play equipment and better designed play spaces. We are also upgrading and

updating all our exterior restrooms to be more welcoming and under current ADA standards. Gone are the stalls without doors and awkward layouts, replaced by electric hand dryers with warm atmospheres and decorations. In addition, we're renovating and repairing our tennis courts and basketball courts, while upgrading the quality of existing athletic fields with items like the irrigation of the LaSalle soccer fields and pickleball courts planned at Boehm Park.

In 2019, we will also be unveiling new programs such as Trails 365, a special event vehicle, as well as continuing fantastic events like Best. Week. Ever. At VPA, we have very high expectations and goals for the continued improvements of our residents' quality of life. This is our vision, to positively engage for every resident, every year.







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

VPA IN MOTION

Coming to a Neighborhood Near You Rolling into town this spring, in the form of an 18-foot-tall, 36-foot-long special event vehicle, is a brand-new initiative of Venues Parks & Arts to breathe fresh life into South Bend's neighborhoods. We're literally taking our show on the road.

Our brand-new special event vehicle, aptly named Boomer, is sure to deliver plenty of surprise and delight in ways that you will just have to be there to experience!

A city-wide survey administered in 2018 saw the availability of recreation programming in neighborhoods

selected amongst the top parks-related issues to receive the most emphasis over the next two years.

This initiative aims to directly respond to this need via a year-round traveling series of high-impact, festival-like celebrations visiting various neighborhood locations within each of the city's six districts.

Each event will feature a main theme and/or attraction along with music, games, recreational activities for families, social spaces, access to community resources, food and fun for people of all ages.









KIDS TRIATHLON

Swim, Bike and Run Your Way to a Good Time

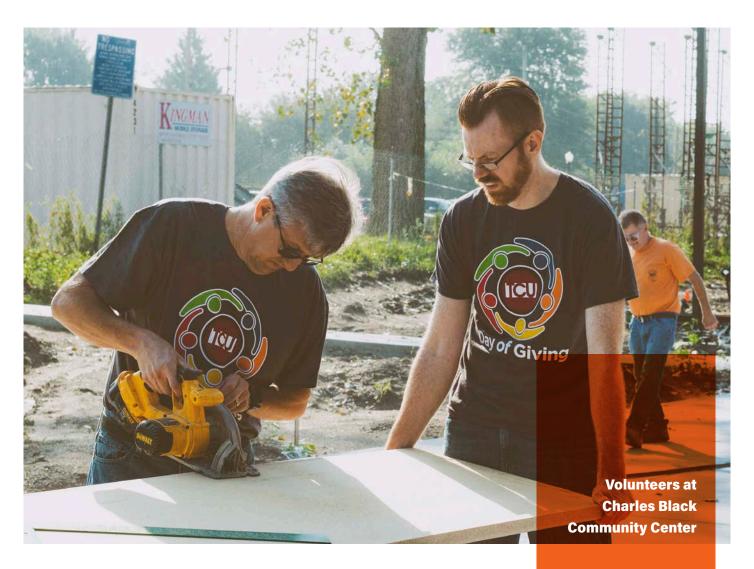
Summer is the perfect time to get out and get active! Every year, VPA hosts Kids Triathlon at Potawatomi Park, featuring an exciting, fun-fueled 50-yard swim, 1.3-mile bicycle course, and .5-mile run.

In addition to promoting health and wellness, this multisport race also creates a sense of community and unity amongst its contestants. Participants from all over the region join each other for the common goal of finishing the course and beating their personal best time. Throughout the morning of good-natured competition, the park is filled with cheering and support as kids pedal, splash, and dart their way to the finish line.



ONE SPARK, BIG IMPACT

Be a Part of Something Bigger



When the word "volunteer" is mentioned, the first thought that comes to mind might be picking up trash in a park. However, being a volunteer for Venues Parks & Arts (VPA) offers more opportunities than the ever-important trash removal. For instance, there is an ever-present need for theater and music lovers to give their time as ushers at Morris Performing Arts Center; our community centers are always in need of extra hands to mentor after-school students; our soccer, basketball, and tennis programs often have open positions for volunteer coaches; and there are plenty of chances for businesses and school groups to participate in team-building activities that can benefit

their local parks while building camaraderie and community togetherness.

VPA recently implemented an incentive program that encourages new participants to get involved and acknowledges the importance of volunteers that stay involved. One person giving two hours of their time can have a ripple effect that can change lives. Whether it is an usher at a performance, an adult helping a student with homework, or a coach helping a child perfect their free throw shot, one kind word, smiling face, or listening ear can have a lifelong effect.

Check out our online service to see all the available opportunities: sbvpa.org/get-involved

COMMUNITY PICKS

KENNEDY WATER PARK

"My family and I absolutely love visiting the Kennedy Water Park numerous times a week. Such a fun way to play, hang out, and meet new people and enjoy our parks!"

-Robin Vida

VOORDE PARK

"The SB Ladies HS Rugby Club and its coaches would like to thank VPA for all that it does for us at Voorde Park. Our favorite thing about VPA is being able to ruck, scrum, and maul our way onto the Voorde fields every spring. We look forward to hosting our teams from all over Indiana to play our favorite sport!"

-Ed Reyes

RUM VILLAGE

"I love hiking through Rum Village. The nature and quiet is a good getaway from the hustle of every day life."

-Kiersten James

FRIDAYS BY THE FOUNTAIN

"Fridays by the Fountain is my favorite summer program by Venues Parks & Arts. Music, food trucks, and community. It's a great way to finish off the work week."

-Michael Hudson



STUDEBAKER GOLF

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Florence Troeger, Manager and Golf Course Pro at the Studebaker Municipal Golf Course



The history of Studebaker Golf Course dates back to 1919, when the state of the world was recovering from the desperate times of WWI. According to US Open, golf was introduced to military camps in 1918, having "conclusive evidence that golf provides a form of recreational activity which plays an important part in counteracting the tension of intensive training." After the war ended, the sport skyrocketed in popularity, leading to the development of hundreds of new golf courses around the country.

The 9-hole Studebaker Golf Course was dreamt up during the boom of new courses 100 years ago and has since become a place for golfers of all skill levels. The course is a place of incredible tradition of golfers who call the course home. Each year, generations of seasoned players come out to teach their younger counterparts, keeping the tradition of golf alive and well.

It's more than just a game, too; it's a lesson in practice and persistence. While patience isn't taught in one round, the passion for overcoming challenging fairways and hazards begins on the first drive. Programs like The First Tee of Michiana teach these core values to youth through play.

"First Tee is a life-values curriculum," said Jenny Zimmerman, Site Director for First Tee of Indiana-Michiana, "It simply uses the vehicle of golf to teach the values. The two fit together perfectly, as golf is inherently different than most sports. We call our own fouls. We shake hands with our opponents at the beginning and end of play and compliment them throughout—we realize that our opponent's good shot does not negate anything we did—it just encourages us to match it. We learn to not let one bad hole ruin the rest of a round; we just pick ourselves up and tee off on the next hole."

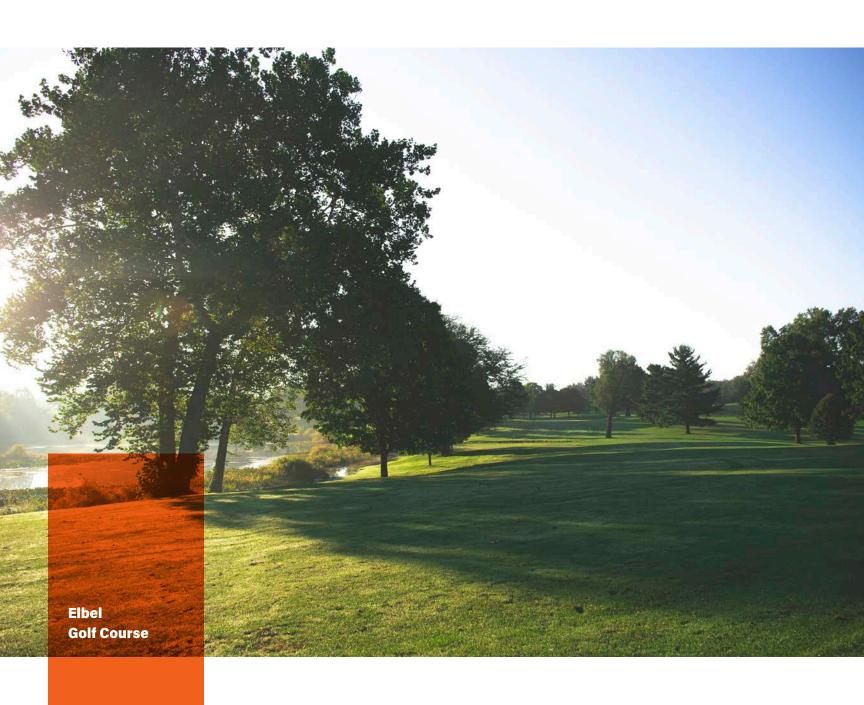
With rich roots to our city's and our country's storied past, the future of Studebaker Golf Course is just as valuable as ever. Building community, tradition, and values through the game of golf is what Studebaker Golf Course is all about.

To learn more about Studebaker Golf Course and its partnership with the First Tee, visit golfstudebaker.com.

GOLF

SOUTH BEND TRADITION THROUGHOUT GENERATIONS

At the start of each golf season, we embrace the chance to get in touch with both nature and a piece of our city's rich history. The grass is dewy, and patches of mist may still linger along the fairway. Course conditions may not be quite like Augusta's greens in May yet, but the tradition of golf in South Bend remains. Devoted golfers can be seen on any one of VPA's three municipal courses early in the day, breath still visible in that morning chill.







This year, Studebaker Golf Course celebrates its 100-year anniversary. For a century, the course has invited people of all ages and skill levels to play, connect, and grow before passing on the sport and its values to the generations after them.

"Studebaker was the first course I ever played with my brother and dad when I was around ten years old," said South Bend resident Evan Gorzkiewicz, "He taught me how to play the game on that course. It's one of the many great memories I have playing golf."

The sport has seen an ebb and flow in popularity over the years. The most recent surge is due to the prominence of young professional golfers and their influence in social media among an incredibly-connected younger generation.

"Golf is widely driven by personalities," said Gary Hegland, Golf Shop Manager, Elbel. "The younger generation on tour have such a wide outreach that it's not just about golf. They use their social media to capture the attention of youth, which in turn influences them to pick up a club and try the sport."

In a time where golf can feel exclusive due to increasing prices by large developers, municipal courses bridge the gap by allowing higher accessibility within communities. In South Bend, we have programs like First Tee of Indiana-who call Studebaker home-providing opportunities for children to learn the game.

"The First Tee National School Program is taught in many of our area's schools. We offer a basic introduction to golf in grades K through 5," said Jenny Zimmerman, Site Director for First Tee of Indiana-Michiana, "Scholarships to First Tee camps are available and we can even provide equipment as needed."

Though a centuries-old game, golf is kept alive by players, golf courses, and partners like First Tee who are committed to teaching the next generation about the game. With this kind of passion, even after 100 years, this is still only the beginning of a long history for golf in South Bend.





As temperatures rise, the season makes room for getting together with loved ones to celebrate. Celebrations with family and friends, whether weddings, birthdays, reunions or any other event, allow us to elevate special life moments into something meaningful. These tips will help foster a truly special celebration for gatherings big or small.

CREATE CONNECTION

Think of ways to get guests talking to one another. Try leaving a few discussion questions on the table to get conversation going. Ask thought-provoking things like, "What was your biggest surprise ever?" You can also create a space for guests to share their memories from the night like a photobooth station or creative guestbook.

BE THOUGHTFUL WITH FOOD

We all know food is the way to most people's hearts. For your celebration, think of ways to use food to make guests feel welcome and more comfortable. Weddings don't just have to serve chicken or fish anymore. Celebrate your heritage by picking foods your family grew up with or try a fun taco bar. Think of how food relates to the people you want to be with and go from there.

HINT: Venues Parks & Arts partners with exceptional, creative caterers, SMG and Navarre Hospitality who love coming up with unique menu ideas, at their venues.

ENLIST HELP

If you are hosting an event, you will most likely be

busy on the big day. Decide what tasks you want to do and be realistic. Maybe ask a friend to oversee greeting everyone or hire someone to take care of bartending for the night.

IF YOU PICK A BEAUTIFUL VENUE KEEP DÉCOR SIMPLE

The benefit of picking a location for your celebration that's already beautiful is that décor can be left simple. Let the space shine by adding simple flowers and some basic linens.

HINT: Palais Royale, Morris Performing Arts Center, Jon R. Hunt Plaza, Century Center, and South Bend parks all have beautiful and distinct spaces to host events.

GIVE GUESTS SOMETHING MEMORABLE TO TAKE HOME

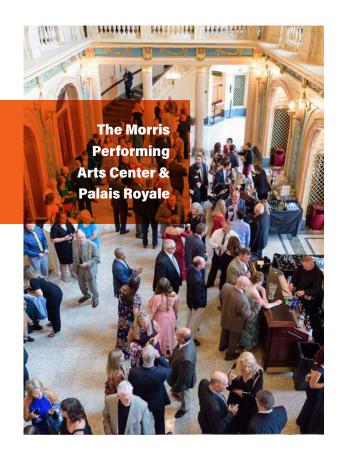
Beyond photographs, there's little more than a few hours of fun that make up an event. To make the memories last, consider giving a party favor that reminds guests of the time they had. Even better, give guests something that they can make at the party and take home, like a rolled beeswax candlestick or a do-it-vourself flower bouquet.





As one of only two theater/ballroom combinations left in the country to this day and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Palais Royale and Morris Performing Arts Center represent an incredible heritage within South Bend. From the moment you step inside, it is easy to become captivated by the elegance and grandeur.

Credit: Katie Whitcomb





Credit: Katie Whitcomb

Celebrate continued...















Opulent architecture and stunning details within the 8,800-square-foot building is just the beginning of the exceptional experience.

Concerts & Events | Broadway Shows | Symphony Orchestras

Get Your Tickets Today!

Palais Royale

105 W Colfax Ave South Bend, IN 46601 Palaisroyale.org



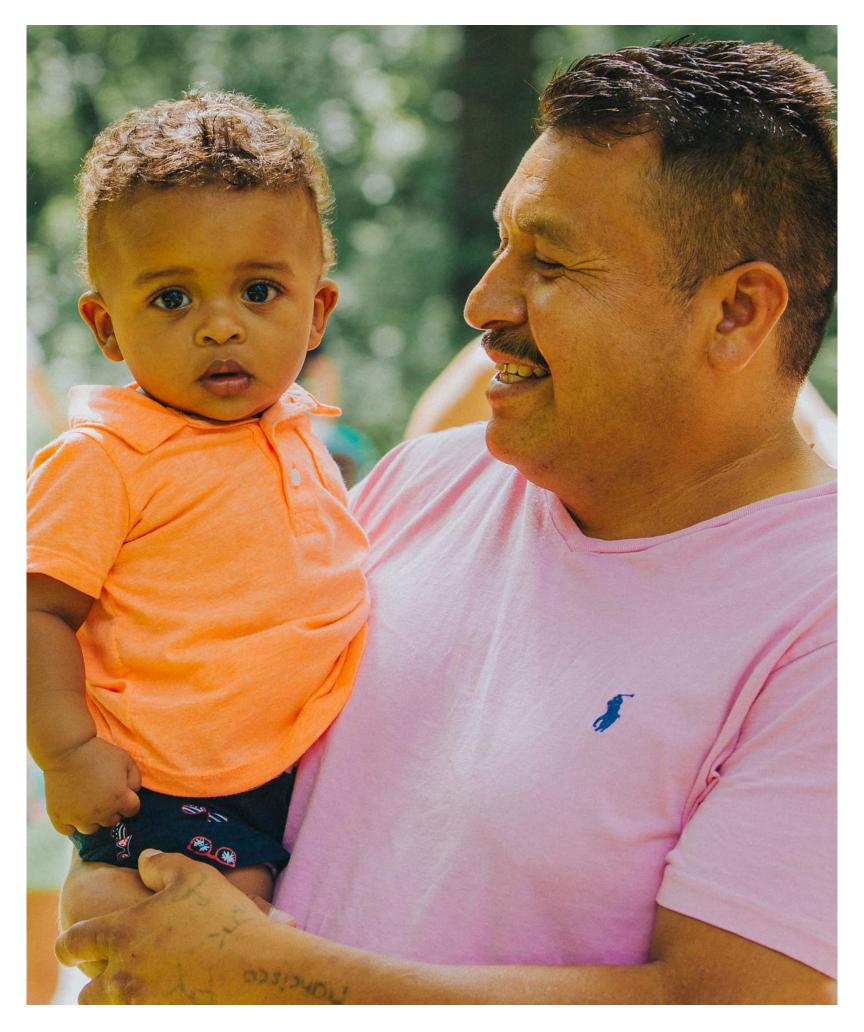
MPAC Box Office:

211 N. Michigan St., South Bend, IN (574) 235-9190 or (800) 537-6415 MorrisCenter.org



PORTRAITS OF SOUTH BEND

















Best Week. Ever.

2019 **SCHEDULE**

SUNDAY 06.02

Rebel Art Fest—Outdoor grassroots festival

06.03 **MONDAY**

Best. Game Night. Ever.—Neighborhood game night

TUESDAY 06.04

> Choose Your Own Adventure—Outdoor activities, including disc golf and hiking

06.05

Westside Wednesday—Festival celebrating the culture of the west side. Pub Paddle

06.06

Taste of Michiana—Indoor food event River Lights Music Festival | Pub Paddle

06.07

First Fridays | River Lights Music Festival | Pub Paddle | ROC Ur Body | Meet Me on the Island

SATURDAY

Pub Paddle | Belly Burst







EDGE ADVENTURES

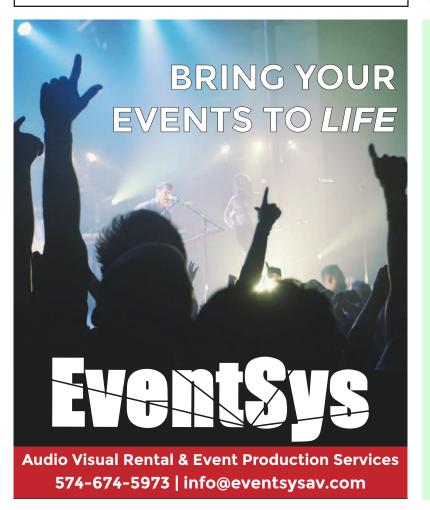
Experience the thrill of the zip lines and aerial obstacles!

Visit us at one of our many locations. 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





DOWNTOWN SOUTH BEND EVENTS

First Fridays: March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 5, Aug 2, Sept 6

Paddy Party: March 15 Egg Stravaganza: April 13

Wednesday Wine/Beer Walks: May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug 14, Sept 11, Oct 9

Red Table Plaza: June 3 - Aug 29

Arts on the Race: June 8, July 13, Aug 10 Summer Film Series: June 8, July 13, Aug 10 Summer Fitness Series: June 8 - Aug 31 Summer Restaurant Week: July 22 - Aug 4

Art Beat: Aug 17

LIVE. WORK. PLAY. LOVE. SB





The Potawatomi Conservatories are a haven of tranquility within Potawatomi Park.



We offer community events for entertainment as well as education.

For an unforgettable time, plan your special occasion in the captivating atmosphere of the Conservatories.

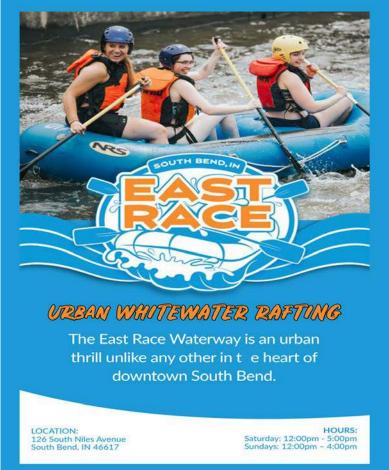
Hours of operation: Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm; closed Sundays



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





55TH ANNUAL MIDWEST LEAGUE **ALL-STAR EVENTS**



JUNE 17

- Gates Open 5:30PM
- Home Run Derby 7:30PM

Events Include:

- Autograph sessions with Midwest League All-Stars and former Chicago Cubs players including HALL OF FAMERS ANDRE DAWSON AND FERGIE **JENKINS**
- Special Appearance by Clark the Cub
- Special Appearance by the 2016 CHICAGO CUBS WORLD SERIES TROPHY
- 1st 2,500 fans through the gates receive an All-Star Game hat
- Pre-game catch on the field
- Post-game run the bases

*Events, times, and appearances subject to change



JUNE 18

- Gates Open 5:30PM
- First Pitch 7:30PM

Events Include:

- National Anthem performed by Wayne Messmer
- 1st 5,000 fans through the gates receive an All-Star Game hat
- Post-game run the bases
- Post-game FIREWORKS extravaganza

*Events, times, and appearances subject to change

BOTH EVENTS PRESENTED BY:



CASINOS

For more details and ticket information visit: