



Vol. 6, Issue 1

Newsletter

April 2022

Don't forget to renew your FOMP membership! The form is on page 5-6.

Krider Rest Area Dedicated



Donors, stakeholders, and community members gathered at the site of the Krider Rest Area along the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail in Middlebury at noon on Friday, April 1, to dedicate the new facility. The formal dedication was held at the nearby pavilion due to the blustery weather and a brief but intense snow shower. The rest area consists of a restroom facility, a bike repair station, a drinking fountain, and extensive landscaping. Many groups and individuals worked together to achieve this long-time goal: the Bontrager Family Foundation, the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, the Friends of the Middlebury Parks, the Friends of the Pumpkinvine, the Middlebury Park Board, the Trails Committee, the Landscape Committee, Mary Cripe, the Middlebury Town Council, the Pumpkinvine Cyclery, the Scott and Vonnice Trumble family, John Dodd, the Poyser family, the First United Methodist Church, A&B Lawn and Landscape, and the staffs of the Middlebury Parks and Recreation Department, Middlebury Public Works, and Middlebury Water Department.

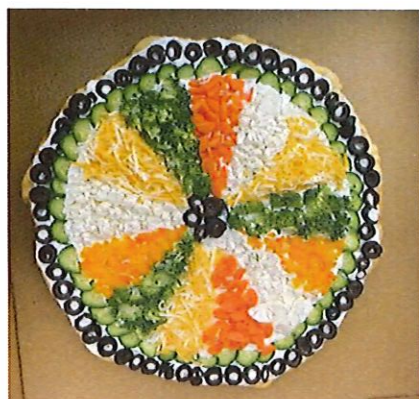
2022 FOMP Board

Chris Miller, President
Dick Cook, Vice-President
Ginger Thorne, Secretary
Joel Miller, Treasurer
Bill Beier
Rex Krider
Nathan Miller
Gloria Salavarria

Ex-Officio members:

John McKee, Middlebury Park
Board President
Tom Enright, Middlebury Park
Superintendent
Elma Chapman, Middlebury Park
Board Communications

After a brief speech by Middlebury Park Superintendent Tom Enright recognizing the contributions of various individuals and groups, refreshments were served. Cookies and coffee were appreciated, but the *pièce de resistance* was the veggie pizza designed to resemble a bicycle tire.



The facility was opened in the autumn of 2021 and closed for the winter, but is now re-opened for the warmer months ahead. During its brief open period last fall, many trail users expressed their thanks for the facility via emails. As the weather warms up, riders and walkers on the trail as well as visitors to Krider World's Fair Garden will appreciate this facility resulting from the cooperation of the groups and individuals who worked together to create this rest area.



News from the March FOMP Board Meeting

The March meeting was held on Tuesday, March 19 at the Middlebury Town Hall. A major item of business was the election of officers for 2022: Chris Miller – President, Dick Cook – VP, Joel Miller – Treasurer, and Secretary Ginger Thorne. Jim Cameron attended and is interested in joining the board. Any one interested, please contact Chris Miller. 574-596-9069 or email chrism@gdc-corp.com

In other business, it was reported that Trestle Terrace needs some topsoil and grass seeding. Tom Enright had a quote for expenses. The board approved up to \$1,800 for the project. Plans for the membership drive were finalized. All FOMP members are urged to attend the Wildflower and Wetlands Walk on April 27 and the Ridge Run & Roll event on May 14. (See following pages for details on these events.)

The Next FOMP board meeting will be May 15, 2022, at the Middlebury Town Hall 7:30 AM. All members are welcome to attend.

Volunteers Needed

Middlebury Parks staff members are working with the 8th grade Civics kids again this spring to do some work at Krider Garden. The date this year is April 16 from 9-11 a.m. We will be working on some mulching, transplanting, leaf raking, and brush removal as well as planting some canna bulbs. We will want to have 3-4 more adult volunteers to help be leaders of the tasks. Please let Tom Enright know if you can assist: parks@middleburyin.com or 574-536-2305.

Wildflower and Wetland Walk

Wednesday, April 27, 5-6 pm

Join Park Superintendent Tom Enright at Riverbend Park to walk through the wooded wetlands looking for some of the first wildflowers of the year, like Jack in the Pulpit, Marsh Marigold, Violets, and Buttercups. Learn how the wetlands in the park act as a sponge to hold the flood waters that typically take place in spring. Wetlands also act as filter to keep the river clean. You will leave with a better appreciation for the wetlands of Riverbend and the free benefits they provide for our community. Meet in the pavilion in the park.



Time to Register for *Summer Fun*

Summer Fun will run from **June 13 – July 22** (excluding the week of July 4 – 8) from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Riverbend Park for kids ages 6 – 12. There are four field trips planned this year: Dutch Creek Farm Animal Park, the Air Zoo in Kalamazoo, the South Bend Chocolate Company and Howard Park, and the Kroc Center in South Bend. (The daily camp is *free*, but parents are asked to pay the entry fees if their children attend a field trip.) Last year water slides and inflatables replaced the field trips, but this year we hope to have both. Varns and Hoover, Affairs to Remember, and the First State Bank are sponsors for this year (Thank you!), and we are still looking for a few more to cover the costs of the water day activities. This program has been in existence for over 40 years and serves kids from Middlebury, Jefferson, and York Townships. Applications are now available at http://www.middleburyin.com/.../park.../just_for_kids.php



Hop into Spring
Family friendly activities, kids crafts and games!

Friday, April 15, 2022
4-6 p.m. at the East park

Activities will take place inside of the Library in case of inclement weather

Middlebury Public Library (MPL)

Middlebury, IN THEN & NOW

Source Bank

Middlebury

Stevens Puppets
BRINGING FAIRY TALES AND LITERATURE TO LIFE SINCE 1992

Presents The Wizard of Oz

www.middleburythenandnow.org

RIDGE RUN & ROLL

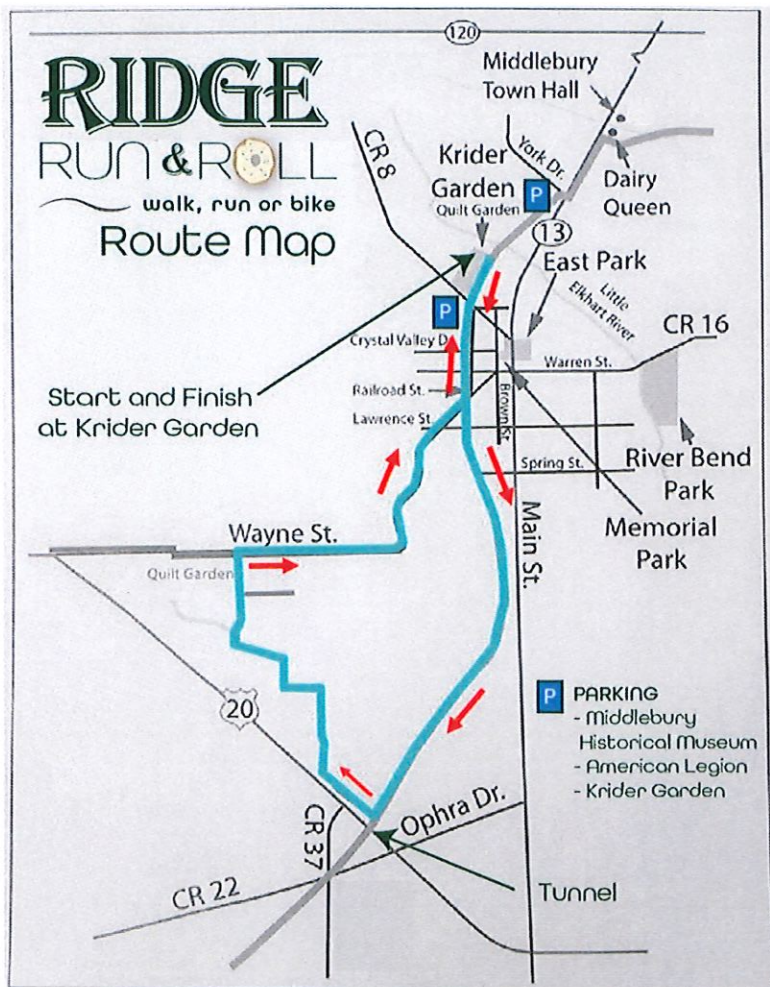
walk, run or bike

9 AM
Saturday, MAY 14
5K loop, starting at Krider Garden

SPONSORED BY

FEATURING COFFEE
& ESPRESSO BY

DONUTS
DONATED BY



Join us for the Ridge Run and Roll event on May 14 at 9 a.m. Meet at the windmill in Krider World's Fair Garden for a fun 5K walk, run or ride experience for all ages. It's not a race, and you can complete the whole route or just a portion of it while connecting with others in our community.

The marked loop route will guide users through the new traffic calming measures located at Bristol Avenue and Berry Street, down the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail to the Ridge Run Trail, and then connect to the Wayne Street Trail down the 'S' curves. Please note the last portion of the route is downhill, so cyclists, make sure your bike is in good repair and the brakes are functional!

Upon completing the route (or however far you choose), we kindly ask for your feedback on the new traffic calming measures as you enjoy a free Essenhaus donut and coffee drink from the Electric Brew.

Please register on our Eventbrite at no cost to you:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/3/305832682787>.

Contact the Middlebury Park Department (parks@middleburyin.com) or call 574-536-2305) for questions. See you there!



Friends of the Middlebury Parks 2022 Membership

Calling everyone who is interested in "Making Life Better" in the Middlebury community. Your membership is vital in the successes of the Friends of the Middlebury Parks!

WHO: Members of the Friends of the Middlebury Parks include civic clubs, businesses, families and individuals that **help do those extra things** that make Middlebury parks special.

WHAT: In addition to the needed funds from Membership, our Members volunteer for parks projects such as the Northridge 8th grade volunteer days. They are important members of planning committees such as Riverfest, Mini Golf at the Library, the Trails Committee and the Landscape Committee. There is an opportunity to assist in ways that fit your available time and interest.

HOW: We have enclosed a membership card to complete with a self-addressed return envelope.

Thank you for your interest in and support of the Friends of the Middlebury Parks!

2021 accomplishments and potential future efforts!

Krider World's Fair Garden Rest Area



In 2021 your membership contributed to:

- The Stable Grounds Project
- The engineering study for the proposed River Mill Trail
- The Gathering Place statue planned for Krider World's Fair Garden
- Construction and property for the Krider Rest Area fully functioning public restroom

Looking to the future the Friends of the Middlebury Parks are developing a master plan for the development of the Trestle Terrace property. The following diagram is a conceptual design of what this could include;

- Pavilion with enclosed storage and serving area
- Parking lot
- Amphitheater
- Outdoor classroom



Friends of the Middlebury Parks Membership and Contribution Form

I want to help preserve, improve and further develop the Town of Middlebury's park and recreational activities by supporting the Friends of the Middlebury Parks. All yearly membership dues and contributions to the Friends are tax deductible.

Make checks payable to: **Friends of the Middlebury Parks**

Annual Membership Dues: Individual \$30 _____ Family \$50 _____

Business/Civic Group \$200 _____ Other contribution

\$ _____

Please contact me about volunteering _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____



Please send this form with your membership dues and contribution to:
Friends of the Middlebury Parks, PO Box 1235, Middlebury, IN 46540