



Volume 30, Number 3 Thursday, January 23, 2014

Hitting the Slopes

Swiss Valley Caters to All Skiers, Especially Beginners

Editor's note — This is the first in a series of articles highlighting places to ski in the area.

by Stefan Barkow



Melissa (from left), Micky and Lyndi listen to their instructor, Jeremiah.

In 1968, Jim Wiseman bought a ski area in Southwest Michigan then known as “Little Switzerland.” It had nothing more than a single farmhouse building and seven rope tows. The day before Wiseman was set to open what he renamed “Swiss Valley,” five of those seven rope tows were condemned.

No evidence of such origins remains as I pulled into the closest ski and snowboard site to Chicago and northern Indiana with my wife, Melissa, brother-in-law, Micky, and his girlfriend, Lyndi. We were too busy taking in the modern lifts, runs, terrain

parks and buildings, all imbued with the quaint charm of their Swiss-chalet stylings in blue and brown.

Swiss Valley is located in Jones, Mich., which is 35 miles from South Bend and 103 miles from Chicago. It has been owned by the same family for the last 45 years. The family and staff have spent that time dedicated to making the resort the most family friendly ski area around.

“We’ve now got 11 runs, two terrain parks, two

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Published and Printed by
THE BEACHER BUSINESS PRINTERS

Delivered weekly, free of charge to Birch Tree Farms, Duneland Beach, Grand Beach, Hidden Shores, Long Beach, Michiana Shores, Michiana MI and Shoreland Hills. The Beacher is also delivered to public places in Michigan City, New Buffalo, LaPorte and Sheridan Beach.

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Hitting the Slopes

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quad-chair lifts, a triple lift, a separate beginner's area and a 225 vertical foot peak," said Jamie Stafne, Wiseman's daughter and the park's marketing director. "We're really known as a 'learn to ski' area. We provide more than 10,000 lessons a year, and you can learn at our park and take those skills with you anywhere."

Since three-fourths of our group had never skied before, we visited the ski school inside the main lodge to register for a lesson. Speaking with Alex Linn, assistant director of the Swiss Valley ski school, it was immediately apparent that Stafne wasn't kidding about the area's focus on teaching. Swiss Valley offers lessons on demand to any level of skier or snowboarder, and their instructors are all Professional Ski Instructors of America certified. Private and group lessons are offered at varying rates, as well as options such as gender-specific in-

structors in case, for example, a female guest feels more comfortable with a female instructor.

Kids have plenty of options as well, with instructors specifically certified in teaching them how to ski and snowboard. Beyond standard lessons, "our Valley Kids program is a good option for parents who want to ski," Linn explained. "It's a package deal that puts four or five kids together in a fun, playground environment for a full or half day under the care of specialized instructors. It incorporates toys and Hula hoops as they learn, and the adults have a few hours to ski on their own knowing their kids are having fun and being taken care of."

We arranged an hour lesson to learn the basics of going, stopping and turning, and rented some gear before meeting our instructor. Though we came prepared save for boots and skis, part of how Swiss Valley is trying to make snow sports inviting and available is to think of everything for you. While most areas will rent equipment, not all of them offer as



The view from atop Quad 83 at Swiss Valley.

much as Swiss Valley does if you're new to the winter scene.

"We can rent you jackets, goggles and anything else you need," Stafne said, "but you should bring your own socks."

While everyone else headed to the separate bunny hill for the lesson, I detoured through the ski patrol building. Statistically, skiing is a lot safer than many sports and activities. According to the National Safety Council, you're significantly more likely to drown in a public area or fatally crash while riding a bicycle than to die on skis. But the combination of cold weather, speed and unfamiliar activity does have inherent risk. That's why the National Ski Patrol was organized in 1938.



Buildings near the entrance capture a Swiss-chalet style.

At Swiss Valley, a volunteer force of nearly 70 patrollers under Jeff McElheny's direction offers emergency care to the area's guests. Don't think that being a volunteer force means they don't know what they are doing.

"To be a patroller," McElheny said, "you must pass the NSP's Outdoor Emergency Care program for extreme conditions and have AED as well as advanced CPR certifications.

"Beyond that, a good number of our patrollers are health-care professionals in their day jobs, though while patrolling they are only authorized to provide certain levels of care. For serious injuries, we're served by a nearby ambulance service."

The average Swiss Valley patroller has between 20 and 25 years of experience, and many volunteer at bike races, marathons and other events all year long.

"Advances in technology have made skiing a lot safer, too," McElheny said. "Better materials and bindings mean fewer lower-extremity injuries."

He knocks on wood while stressing that nothing unfortunate with skiers has taken place yet this season.

By then, my family had finished their lesson and

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Hitting the Slopes Continued from Page 3

in just an hour learned how to safely descend the hill. The skiing itself was great. The trails are pretty much straight shots interrupted by copses near the bottom, but the paths among the trees were closed when we were there. The layout lends itself to an area focused on learning since the runs don't wind much; however, that's common for this area since we don't have anything like the mountains out west. Regardless, the speed was exhilarating as we raced down the intermediate runs. Even on a busy holiday, the hills at Swiss Valley are broad enough that you never feel crowded by fellow skiers or snowboarders. The four of us never had to wait long in line for the lifts and within a short time we were at the top once more, looking out over the icy fences at the incredible elevated view of the frozen Michigan countryside.



A vintage Sno Cat is a familiar presence at Swiss Valley.

Later, while taking a break, we warmed up with some hot chocolate in the café, which offers the usual fare alongside healthier options such as wraps and salads. The park's complex of buildings also includes a lower lodge with a restaurant and a full bar (I'm told their hot spiced wine is popular, and that during the weekend there's live music) as well as the ski shop. A large, round fireplace is kept burning in this chalet for skiers to warm their fingers and toes away from the elements while affording a beautiful view of the hills through nearby windows.

With feeling returned to our faces — it was quite cold that day — and being ready to get some more



A few members of the National Ski Patrol, which help ensure the safety of skiers and snowboarders at Swiss Valley.

runs in, we took to the tallest hill this time to push our skills. We didn't dare venture into the terrain parks, but I did stop to speak with a man who was out shaping the snow in front of a rail: Mark Osborne, who builds and maintains the terrain parks for Swiss Valley.

"We've got a starter park and a main one," Osborne said, "and they've got rails, boxes and a table-top jump. We reposition them each year so it doesn't get stale."

Even just standing there on the hill talking, Osborne's involvement was noteworthy. Not only is it unusual for a park to have a full-time person on-hand in the terrain park to catch issues before they form, but a number of young skiers stopped by to ask advice or get feedback on their efforts.

While Swiss Valley has intentionally positioned itself as one of the best places beginners can go to learn to



Zach Surdell, Swiss Valley's Olympic hopeful.

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ski, don't think that it's just for novices. The park has its own traveling junior race team and hosts events such as the upcoming Outpost Cup, an open ski and snowboard race on Feb. 24. In fact, as I spoke with Osborne, he called over a young skier, Swiss Valley's own Olympic hopeful, Zach Surdell.

Osborne was Surdell's first coach and spotted his talent at Swiss Valley, where Surdell learned to ski. Since then, the 15-year-old has become a free-style aerial skier with the U.S. Olympic development team and competes internationally as part of the exclusive national team. Some of the tricks he's working on require 50 to 60 feet of air, which he practices over water for now for safety. But once he turns 17, he'll be able to qualify them on snow and use them in competition. Look for him in the 2018 or 2022 games.

"A few Olympic skiers have come out of Swiss Valley," Osborne said, adding that interested skiers can contact him through the park to find out more about training opportunities.

With the sun soon to set, we returned our gear and made for home, tired from the day's activities but deeply satisfied with a day spent together doing something new and active. The snow was in good shape for us, well-groomed and free of icy chunks. Already, this season is off

to a better start than last year. As "Coop," a staffer in charge of a number of the park's operations, told me, so far it's looking like it will be a great year.

"We were able to open two weeks earlier than last year, and conditions have been great for us to make snow, too," he said.

So with the start of the new year, why not resolve to make the short trip up and try something new with friends and family? Swiss Valley is not only the closest, but one of the best places to learn if you've never skied or snowboarded before, and has plenty to offer more experienced athletes as well. Visit skiswissvalley.com for information on rates, hours and snow conditions. See you on the slopes!



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“Peter and the Wolf”

La Porte Service League will present a children’s musical to area students and the public as it opens the 80th annual production Sunday, Jan. 26.

Sheryl Edwards, who has been directing and acting in the league’s annual children’s plays for 27 years, is the director.

The play is an adaptation of the classic orchestral suite by Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev. The symphonic selection was created with narration to introduce audiences to the various instruments that make up an orchestra.



All aspects of the production, such as directing, acting, set construction, costuming, publicity, ushering, prop selection and music direction, are performed by La Porte Service League members.

Actresses playing humans, animals and inanimate objects to life include: Debbie Ault — Peter; Frog/Narrator — Kris Cook;

Cat — Lana Cook; Bird — Lisa Denger; Lady Hunter — Marianne DePersio; Wolf — Joanne Gorecki; Hunters — Beth LeRoy, Beth Mann and Sandra Olson; Poppy/Grandfather — Mary Ellen McCain; Baba/Grandmother — Annette Williams; Duck — Claudia Winter.

The stage crew includes Ramona Komaskinski (production manager), Marsha Barr, Connie Kuzdym and Carol Holcomb.

The play will be presented to La Porte County school children at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, Jan. 27, 28 and 30, in the La Porte High School auditorium. One performance will be offered at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, while Friday, Jan. 31, is an alternate day in case of inclement weather.

The general public may attend any of the performances, as well as at 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, or 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1. The suggested donation is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children.

In addition to grade schools, preschool classes and home-schooled students, groups of younger children are welcome. Educational packets that follow state standards are put together by Jan Yandt, a La Porte Community Schools teacher and La Porte Service League member.

Groups interested in reserving a time to attend the production may contact Claudia Winter at (219) 778-4478. Sponsorship opportunities are available for some performance dates.

“The Origins and Evolution of Ska”

The Purdue University-North Central Honors Program will present “The Origins and Evolution of Ska — from Jamaica, to England, to the U.S. and the Rest of the World” from noon to 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27, in Library-Science-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02.

The lecture by Chesterton-based music journalist Heather Augustyn is free and open to the public.

The musical genre of ska began in Jamaica in the 1950s, then traveled to England before reaching the U.S. in the 1980s. Augustyn’s work traces this international flow of cultural materials alongside the political, social and historical circumstances that made it possible.

Augustyn is the author of three books that approach the subject of ska using biography, oral history and cultural analysis: “Ska: an Oral History” (2010); “Don Drummond: The Genius and Tragedy of the World’s Greatest Trombonist” (2013); and “Ska: The Rhythm of Liberation” (2013).

Augustyn has been an invited lecturer at the International Reggae Conference and hosted music programming on Chicago’s National Public Radio station. Her work is accessible to a broad audience and includes a blog exploring the cultural history of ska (skabook.com/foundationska/).

Visit www.pnc.edu/honors or email honorsprogram@pnc.edu for more information/

Brown Bag Gardening Series

La Porte County Master Gardeners will present four sessions — two each in La Porte and Michigan City — as part of its Brown Bag Gardening Series.

The sessions focus on everything from designing garden beds to planning what to plant.

All sessions are from noon to 1 p.m. They are:

- Wednesday, Jan. 22, “How Will Your Garden Grow?,” Purdue Extension-La Porte County office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, La Porte.
- Wednesday, Feb. 19, “Seed Starting,” Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.
- Wednesday, March 19, “Landscaping 101,” Michigan City Public Library.
- Wednesday, April 16, “Weed Wisdom-Methods of Organic Weed Control,” Purdue Extension-La Porte County office.

Participants can take their lunch to participate in one or more of the topics. The \$5 fee, or \$15 for all four sessions, includes informational handouts. No registration is required to attend.

Call (219) 324-9407 for more information, or download a flyer at <http://www.ag.purdue.edu/counties/laporte>. Look under “Hot Topics” or “Master Gardeners.”



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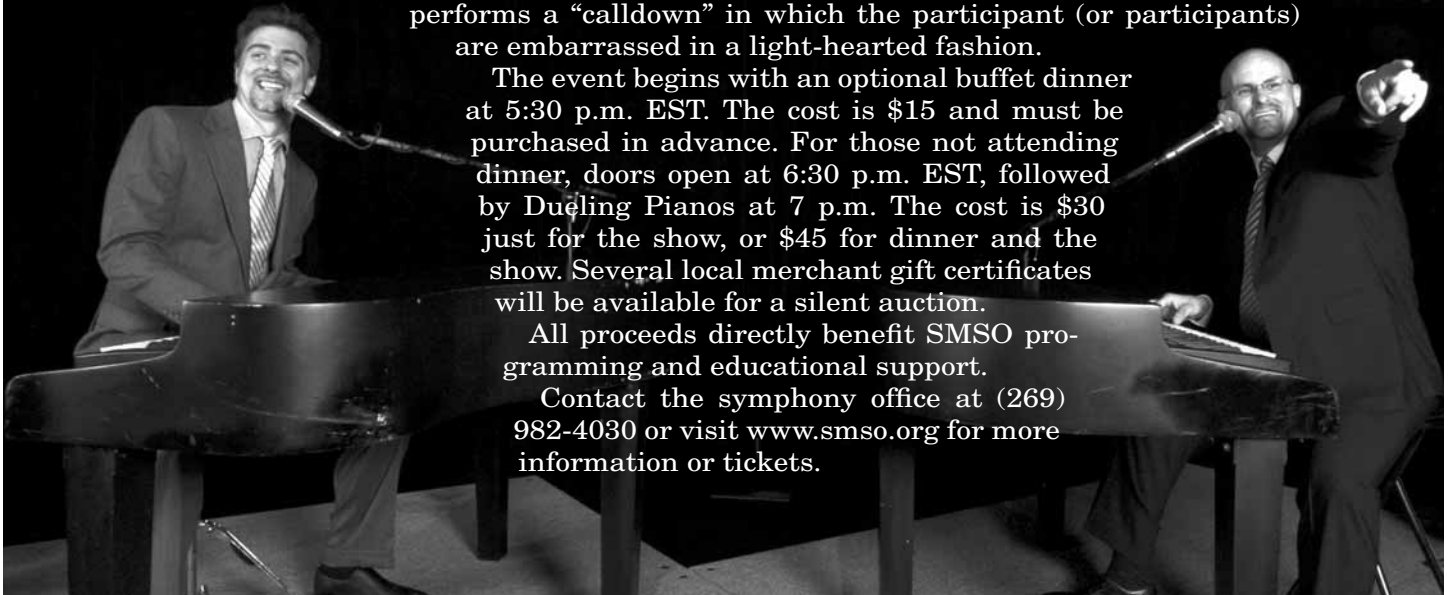
As a fundraiser for Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, an evening of dueling pianos is at 7 p.m. EST Friday, Jan. 31, at The Vineland Center, 1155 Vineland Road, St. Joseph, Mich.

A typical dueling pianos show features two piano players taking audience-requested songs. Generally, tips are expected when a song request is made, and priority may be given to a song with a larger denomination bill. After receiving the tip, the players will often perform a fight song of whatever college song is requested, often resulting in bidding wars between alumni and students of various universities present. Patrons also can request an audience member be brought on stage. Generally, this is to celebrate a birthday, bachelorette party, bachelor party, anniversary or other occasion. The player then performs a "calldown" in which the participant (or participants) are embarrassed in a light-hearted fashion.

The event begins with an optional buffet dinner at 5:30 p.m. EST. The cost is \$15 and must be purchased in advance. For those not attending dinner, doors open at 6:30 p.m. EST, followed by Dueling Pianos at 7 p.m. The cost is \$30 just for the show, or \$45 for dinner and the show. Several local merchant gift certificates will be available for a silent auction.

All proceeds directly benefit SMSO programming and educational support.

Contact the symphony office at (269) 982-4030 or visit www.smso.org for more information or tickets.



Indoor Flea Market

From local food products and plants to tools and antiques, the indoor flea market returns on Saturday, Jan. 25, at the New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road.

Continuing the last two Saturdays through March, the flea markets also include books, jewelry, photography, crafts, furniture and other housewares. The community center's two new stores — a bookstore and furniture store — will be open during the flea markets.

Visitors also can place orders for heirloom seed collections. Six different collections are available at \$10 per collection. Each collection contains four packets of seeds.

Vendor spaces are available at \$10 per space, which includes a table and chair. Contact Janna at (773) 275-1514, Del at (269) 985-3087 or info@centeroftheworld.net to reserve a space. The center will be open for dealer setup from 6 to 7 p.m. EST Friday and at 8 a.m. EST Saturday. Proceeds from space rentals benefit the center, an all-volunteer facility run by the non-profit organization Friends of New Troy.

Doors will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST Saturdays. Admission is free and a home-cooked lunch will be available for purchase.

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"Discovering the Forest" Exhibit

South Shore Arts will present "Discovering the Forest: Paintings by Robert Johnson" on Jan. 24 through March 15 at the Crown Point branch, 123 N. Main St.

On display are 30 works from a series that began with Johnson's daily walks in the forest near his home in Palos Heights, Ill.



Robert Johnson's acrylic work "Shallow Stream."

He received his bachelor of art education from The Art Institute of Chicago in 1955 and his master of science in art education from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1967. He was a professor with The School of the Art Institute and for Chicago public schools. He was director of the Bureau of Art for the Chicago Public Schools from 1987 until his retirement in 1992.

Regular exhibit viewing hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Visit www.southshoreartsonline.org for more information.

Children's Programs Continue

Westchester Public Library will continue several popular children's programs this winter.

The programs are for different ages and held at different times to meet the needs of families with young children. They are held at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton, and Hageman Library, 100 Francis St, Porter.

"Play Date" offers unstructured playtime for babies newborn to 12 months old — siblings are welcome — and their parent or caregiver at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Hageman Library.

"Tickle Tales" is a hands-on introduction to books and the library for children 9 months old to 2 years old and their parent or caregiver. It is held at 10 a.m. Tuesdays at Hageman Library and 10 and 11 a.m. Wednesdays at Thomas Library. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required. Parents must register at the branch where their children will attend.

"Toddler Time," an informal introduction to books and the library, offers storytime for children 2 to 3 and their parent or caregiver at 10 a.m. Mondays at Hageman Library.

"Wiggles & Giggles" offers storytime for children 2 to 3 and their parent or caregiver at Thomas Library at 10 a.m. Thursday and Friday. Interaction between caretaker and child includes book sharing and singing with Grandma Frankie.

"Preschool Storytime" is for children 4 to 6 and not yet in kindergarten at 3 p.m. Wednesdays at Hageman Library. Programs last about 45 minutes and are available on a drop-in basis.

"Stepping Stone 3's" offers storytime for 3-year-olds independent of their parent, but not ready for a longer storytime. It is held at 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Hageman Library.

"Stories and Kicks for 4, 5 & 6" is held at 10 a.m. Tuesdays at Thomas Library for children 4 to 6 who can join Miss Pat for stories, songs, pretending, dancing and crafts.

Call Thomas Library at (219) 926-7696 or Hageman Library at (219) 926-9080 for more information.



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Jane Daley of the
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The 2014 First Trimester Calendar of Events that covers January through April is available for free.

The brightly colored Calendar of Events brochure, with a picture from the Sculptfusion public art exhibit, offers dates, times, places, websites and phone numbers of many events and festivals in La Porte County. Make sure you get your Calendar of Events and enjoy some awesome fun in La Porte County at any of its events and festivals.

You can pick up one or more Calendar of Events at the Visit Michigan City La Porte Convention & Visitors Bureau in Marquette Mall, or call (800) 634-2650 if you're not in the area and we can send one to you. You also can visit our website to view the brochure at michigancitylaporte.com

**ASL Coffeehouse**

The Purdue University-North Central American Sign Language Club will host an ASL Coffeehouse from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24, at Uptown Café, 1400 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso.

The coffeehouse is open to ASL students, as well as community members and children with a parent or adult. Participants are asked to use ASL, providing an ideal opportunity to practice it with friends, co-workers or family members. Coffee, food and drinks may be ordered throughout the evening.

The club has scheduled more coffeehouses from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Fridays, Feb. 21, March 21 and April 18, at Uptown Café. All feature a guest speaker, group activity or game.

Information about the club is available at www.aslclub.info, or contact Joanna Witulski, limited term lecturer in American Sign Language, at pncaslwitulski@yahoo.com

Lubeznik Center to Show Film

As part of its "Citizen * Soldier * Citizen" exhibit, a free showing of Zach Skiles' "On Killing" is at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., Michigan City.

"On Killing" is a documentary on combat veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan by and based on Lt. Col. Dave Grossman's book, "On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society." It follows one Marine who invaded Iraq in 2003, and features combat veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan who give personal insights to their own experiences in training, combat and the aftermath.

Contact the center at (219) 874-4900 or visit www.lubeznikcenter.org for more information. "Citizen * Soldier * Citizen" continues through Feb. 9 in the Hyndman Gallery.

Pianist Lecture-Recital

Pianist Rika Uchida will explain and perform the music of Claude Debussy in the lecture-recital, "Music of Claude Debussy: From Romantic to Modern Sound," at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, at Valparaiso University's Duesenberg Recital Hall.

Uchida will explain the historical background and various musical aspects of the pieces she performs, including "Clair de Lune."

Uchida received a master's degree in music theory and a doctor of musical arts in piano performance from the University of Oregon. She is associate professor of piano at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. She specializes in turn-of-the-century music, particularly Debussy's solo piano works.

Admission to the lecture-recital is free and open to the public. Visit www.valpo.edu/music for more information.

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A cluster of five hearts of varying sizes and shades of gray, arranged in a loose group on the left side of the page.

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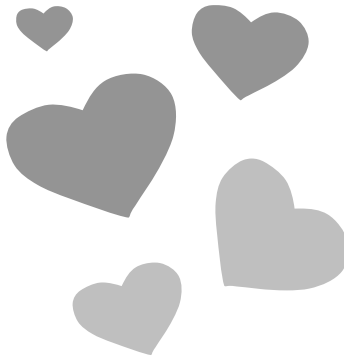
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Summer Festival Meltdown

The Michigan City Summer Festival annual Meltdown is Saturday, Jan. 25, at Michigan City Senior Center, 2 on the Lake.

The event starts at 5 p.m. with a cash bar, with dinner served at 6 p.m. Entertainment from the classic rock and country group Point 'N Fingers is from 7 to 11 p.m.

This year, a portion of the proceeds will benefit a collective effort by area veterans groups to correct a memorial in Washington Park near the U.S. Coast Guard station.

Admission is \$20, or \$150 for tables of eight. Tickets are available from any Summer Festival board member, by calling Event Chairman Bill Greene at (219) 898-0551 or at the La Porte County Convention & Visitors Bureau in Marquette Mall. Additional information is available by email at info@mcsummerfest.org

New, Small Business Seminar

The Indiana Department of Revenue, in cooperation with the Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce, will hold a seminar for new and small business owners from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, at Best Western Plus La Porte Hotel & Conference Center, 444 Pine Lake Ave.

The seminar will educate attendees about business taxes in Indiana, including sales tax and income tax withholding, with a focus on new business ventures and entrepreneurs. It will offer lunch, the presentation and a question-and-answer session.

The cost is \$17 for chamber members and \$22 for non-members. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required. Visit <http://ow.ly/sElC1> to register. Contact Aunjalee Bhullar at (317) 234-5432 or abhullar@dor.in.gov for more information.

Parent Network Informational Meeting

The Michigan City High School Parent Network will host an informational meeting for middle- and high-school parents on Dual Credit and Advanced Placement classes at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, in MCHS' auditorium, 8466 W. Paks Road.

Representatives from the MCHS guidance department and Purdue University-North Central will explain Dual Credit, AP and honors classes and outline the steps involved in earning credits.

Last year, Michigan City High School led the Duneland conference in Dual Credits awarded to high school students through PNC. In some cases, MCHS students earned more than a year's worth of college credit prior to high school graduation, at little or no cost to families.

Any public, private or home-school parent wishing to learn more about this opportunity is invited to the meeting.

La Porte County Library

The following programs are offered through La Porte County Library:

• **"Travels in Thailand" at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, at the Coolspring branch, 7089 W. County Road 400 North.**

Deborah Meserve will discuss her two-week journey to Chiang Mai.

• **"Cabin Fever" from 5 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at the main library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte.**

The program is open to the first 30 teens in grades six through 12 who return a parent-signed permission form. Participants play games, make crafts and eat snacks. Permission forms are available in Youth Services and must be signed and returned before Jan. 25.

• **"Google Apps" from 2 to 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27, at the main library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte.**

Learn the ins and outs of Google Apps such as Google+, Hangouts, Drive and Calendars. Meet in the large meeting room. Take a laptop or tablet, or use one of the library's. No registration is required.

• **Tech Help from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, at the main library.**

Stop by the computer lab, where questions ranging from how to open an email attachment to uploading images through social media can be answered.

• **Coolspring Bookclub at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, at the Coolspring branch.**

Stop by the branch to pick up a copy of the latest book. Current titles also are available through the library's online calendar (www.laportelibrary.org) or call (219) 879-3272.

• **After-school movie at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, at the Rolling Prairie branch, 1 E. Michigan Ave.**

The movie is "Despicable Me 2." Refreshments will be served.

Virtual Tour

Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich., will present a virtual tour of Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons national parks at 3 p.m. EST Sunday, Jan. 26.

Admission is \$3 for adults. Call (269) 927-4832 for more information.

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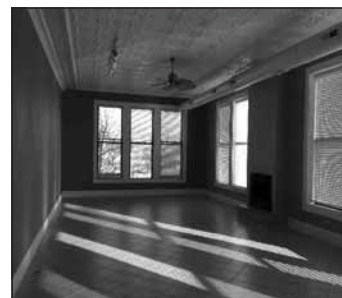
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Encaustic Paintings Exhibit

Substation No. 9, South Shore Arts' downtown Hammond branch, will kick off the 2014 season with "Money Tree: Encaustic Paintings by Deborah Landry," on Jan. 24 through March 22.

An artist reception is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, at Substation No. 9, 435 Fayette St., Hammond.



Deborah Landry's encaustic on panel, "Song of the Day."

While experimenting with encaustics, Landry secured shredded money to a wood panel using numerous layers of wax. During the process, she began to see a delicate color and texture emerge with each burnished layer. Once the final layer was burnished and smooth, she used India ink to paint images of tree branches and birds to complete the image.

Receiving her bachelor of fine arts in sculpture at the University of Georgia, Landry has been making and exhibiting public art for nearly a decade. Her objective as an artist is to design community based collaborative art projects and workshops that involve all ages.

With this exhibit, visitors have the chance to be part of a Money Tree Installation during the Jan. 30 reception.

Regular viewing hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Visit www.southshoreartsonline.org for more information.

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available through Westchester Public Library:

• **"The American Civil War: A Series on the Major Battles" from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 25, in the Bertha Wood room at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

History buff and Civil War enthusiast Thomas Murphy will discuss "The Battle of Shiloh," also known as the Battle of Pittsburgh Landing, from April 6, 1862.

Murphy is an RSVP volunteer who has presented many programs at the library. Future programs will cover the battles at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Antietam and Little Big Horn.

The program is free. No registration is required.

• **"All About Soup," which celebrates National Soup Month, at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Annette Jones from the Porter County Extension Service will share soup-making tips and recipes.

All ages are welcome. Visit Hageman or call (219) 926-9080 to register or for more information.

• **Children 6-12 are invited to "Around the World Dog" from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, in the Children's Department at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Attendees will view an episode of "Martha Speaks: Que Pasa, Martha?," read the book "Who Says a Dog Goes Bow-Wow" and learn from several foreign language teachers how to say "dog" and "bark" in Spanish, Japanese, German and French.

Registration is required. Call (219) 926-7696.

• **Children in first grade and older are invited to join the Pokémon League, which meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays in the Children's Department at Thomas Library. No registration is required.**

Beth Rutherford, mother of two sons who learned to battle and trade with their cards at a Pokémon League at Plymouth's library, will lead the group.

Attendees don't need to bring anything, unless they want to bring a starter pack of cards.

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Indiana Home Inspectors Course

The Purdue University-North Central Office of Graduate and Extended Learning will offer a non-credit pre-licensing course as preparation for the Indiana Home Inspector Examination.

"Pre-licensing for Indiana Home Inspectors" meets from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays starting Feb. 11. The \$1,350 registration fee includes all required textbooks and course materials. Payment plans are available. The registration and final payment deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28.

During the state-approved program, students learn through intensive classroom instruction and hands-on labs by performing live home inspections with the instructor. The course is designed to meet the guidelines for providing home inspection services in Indiana and is a requirement to apply for a Home Inspectors License here.

Taught by a licensed Indiana home inspector with more than 20 years of experience and nearly a decade of teaching, students learn the intricacies of building structures and systems, as well as the investigative techniques needed to complete home and business inspections. Students receive in-depth instruction on state law, report writing and marketing their own future home inspection business.

Contact Cassandra Boehlke, Graduate and Extended Learning coordinator, at (219) 785-5200, Ext. 5748, or cboehlke@pnc.edu for more information.

Harbor Country Book Club

Allen Eckert's "The Frontiersman" is the focus of the next Harbor Country Book Club meeting, which is at 12:30 p.m. EST Tuesday, Jan. 28, at Michigan Thyme, 107 N. Whittaker St., New Buffalo, Mich.

The next book, Kent Haruf's "Benediction," will be discussed Feb. 25 at Michigan Thyme.

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A Tribute to the Original Host

by Andrew Tallackson

As a journalist, many people cross your path. Some fade from memory. Others leave indelible impressions.

Richard Fammeree, without question, made the most memorable entrance into my life.

It was about 12 years ago. I was seated at a circular table, awaiting his arrival for an interview. We were to discuss Michigan City Public Library's new open-mic venue. I had no clue what he looked like. The meeting was arranged by phone.

Arriving on time, Richard barreled through the front doors of the building. Standing more than 6 feet tall, he sported a crazy concoction of hair, blood-red poncho, Khaki shorts and sandals. With arms spread wide, as if awaiting a hug, he looked right at me and shouted, "Brother."

I turned around in my chair, confused, looking to see if he was speaking to someone else.

"No, you," he said. "Get over here."

I hesitantly slid out of my chair and inched toward him. He grabbed me with a big bear hug, lifted me off the ground, set me back down, then exclaimed, "The sun is shining, the air is clean. Let's talk."

As Richard plopped down into a chair, gesturing for me to join him, my only thought was, "Wow, the '60s were *really* good to this guy."

Strangely enough, the ensuing interview was fairly even-keeled. A native of Oak Park, Ill., he described himself as a troubadour who roamed the globe to spread a love of poetry and music. He invited me to attend an open-mic session.

My wife and I did make it to the next program. Some of it was silly. Some of it was weird. Some of it was exhilarating. Some of it was deeply moving.

During the bizarre moments, Richard told everyone to relax. Many people, he said, view art as pretentious and alienating. Art in its truest form, he continued, can be freeing and exhilarating. It can be silly and embarrassing. Most importantly, it's about being comfortable with expressing yourself.

It was then I got it. I *got* Richard Fammeree. He loved life. He had a kind heart. He understood joy, the peace in knowing he was doing what he loved.

So it came as a shock when I learned of the Mighty Mic program being resurrected as a tribute to "the late" Richard Fammeree. I was unaware he passed away. A quick online search revealed he died in 2011 after a year-long battle with ALS, or more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Michigan City Public Library deserves a pat on the back for its efforts. In its heyday, Mighty Mic gave many people a voice, a forum to express themselves that otherwise might not have been possible.

To Richard, I never got the chance to tell you this, but, brother, you made me smile. You are missed, but not forgotten.

“Mightiest of Mighty Mic,” Jan. 12, Michigan City Public Library



Photos by Oleg Semkoff



February Jewelry Classes

Mara Wible will teach a variety of Tuesday night jewelry classes in February at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

On Feb. 4, Wible will offer a Lacy Woven Bracelet class where students use seed beads and monofilament to create a delicate bracelet. The Chainmaille Earrings Class on Feb. 11 will have students create up to three different pairs of earrings.



Chainmaille Earrings.

During Netted Rings on Feb. 18, participants make easy ring patterns in any color. On Feb. 25, Wible will teach a Wavy Beaded Necklace or Bracelet Class. Participants will have a choice of which accessory to create.



Lacy Woven Bracelet.

All classes are at 5:15 and 7 p.m. The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members, with all supplies included. Call (219) 926-4711 to register. Visit www.chestertonart.com for more information.

Photo Contest Winners Announced

The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich., has announced the winning entries in its "SHOOT" photography competition.

There were 99 photographers entering work in five categories and 189 photographs submitted. Entries were judged by Marc Ullom, a professional photographer and Andrews University instructor.

Prizes of \$200 each were awarded for the best in each category. Those winning the top prize were:

- David Cory, South Bend, for "Nebula 2" (abstract).
- Bob Conrad, St. Joseph, for "Finally, a Rest Stop" (animals).
- Tom Tackett, Stevensville, Mich., for "Maiposa Grove" (scenic).
- Todd Comeau, South Haven, Mich., for "Magnificent Mile, Portrait of Chicago Homeless" (people).
- Gary Cook, Stevensville, for "Oil Cans" (still life).

Honorable mentions went to:

- Herbert Helm Jr., Berrien Springs, Mich., for "Lost in Space" (animals).
- Brandon Bailey, Niles, Mich., for "Mackinac Lights" (scenic).
- Kristin Woodruff, New Buffalo, Mich., for "Eye of the Beholder" (people).
- Kelly Wantuck, South Bend, for "Reflection Italy" (abstract).
- Butch Welch, St. Joseph, for "Green Apple" (still life).

All works are on display through March 1. Most of the photographs are priced for sale. Visit www.boxfactoryforthearts.org/ for more information.

Michigan City Public Library

The following programs are through Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.:

- **Basket weaving at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25.**

Margie Warner teaches the class where participants take home a basket. A \$10 non-refundable deposit is required for materials, and prices vary. The basket can be viewed at the library circulation desk.

- **"Celebrate Elvis' Birthday" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26.**

Elvis Presley would celebrate his 79th birthday this month if he was alive today. As such, the library will show the concert film "That's the Way It Is." Released in 1970 and re-edited in 2001, it follows Elvis as he prepares for his live stage show and the actual performance. Refreshments will be served, and the DVD will be raffled off to an audience member. The program originally was scheduled for Jan. 5, but was postponed due to inclement weather.

Call Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information.

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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following events are planned through Indiana Dunes State Park:

Saturday, Jan. 25

• 10 a.m. — “Snowshoe Shuffle.”

Meet a park interpreter in the Nature Center. Learn about snowshoes, then try on a pair for a short walk through the winter woods. A hike is still planned even if there isn't enough snow.

• 2 p.m. — “Critter Feeding Time.”

Stop by the Nature Center Auditorium to help feed snakes, turtles and frogs.

Sunday, Jan. 26

10 a.m. — “Feed the Birds.”

Join a naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding. Get close views of chickadees, cardinals and woodpeckers.

• 2 p.m. — Winter Craft Hour.

Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium for winter- and nature-themed crafts.

Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 for more information.

New Chamber Members, Officers

Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce has announced its 2014 board members and officers.

Steve Kring (Horizon Bank) was appointed chairman, Scott Mundell (Franciscan St. Anthony Health) as chair elect, William Kaminski (Newby, Lewis, Kaminsky & Jones) as secretary and Paul Applegate (Applegate Co. CPA) as treasurer.

New board members are: Kevin Mazur (Crowe Horwath LLC) and Cynthia Roberts (Purdue University-North Central).

Other board members include: Tom Cipares, past chair (General Insurance Services Inc.); Sara Ellis (Blue Chip Casino); Tim Haas, Haas & Associates; Bill Hackney (The News-Dispatch); Clarence Hulse (Michigan City Economic Development Corp.); Angela Nelson (NIPSCO); Fred McNulty (HR Dimensions); Maureen Mellen (Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets); and Georgeann Quealy (Integrative Flavors Inc.).

Ex-officio directors are Mayor Ron Meer (City of Michigan City) and Barbara Eason-Watkins (Michigan City Area Schools).

Art Instruction Scholarships

The Michigan City Public Art Committee, created in 2011 by the Michigan City Common Council, has established a scholarship fund to assist Michigan City children in taking art instruction.

Visual art classes or individual art instruction for qualified children between 5 and 18 will be funded. More than \$2,000 in scholarships are still available. The maximum grant request per individual is \$200. Funds will be available for instruction in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, collage, crafts, such as beading, mosaic work and weaving, art camps or any combination of these taught by a legitimate instructor. The committee will not fund music, writing, dance or drama instruction.

Applicants must show financial need and take instruction from an art provider in Michigan City's city limits. The application deadline is at least 30 days before the instruction is scheduled to start.

Applications are available at the La Porte County Convention & Visitors Bureau in Marquette Mall. Submission can be made to Jane Daley at the bureau, or contact her by email at jane@michigancity-laporte.com and the application will be sent electronically.

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Critique Night at CAC



Mark VanderVinne explains the concepts of a successful piece of art.

Local painter Mark VanderVinne will host Critique Night at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Guests are welcome, with no prior registration required. All ability levels and artistic styles are encouraged to attend. While VanderVinne is a painter, he can advise artists in other mediums.

Guests may sit and listen; however, participation is encouraged. Artists can bring in a piece of work at any stage, from conception to the final version. While it will be a safe and friendly environment, it will be a critique involving VanderVinne and others providing advice and insight into the effectiveness of the work or artistic concept.

Critique Night is held the first Wednesday of each month. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com for more information.

Opening Reception for New Exhibits

Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich., will have an opening reception for two new exhibits at 6 p.m. EST Friday, Jan. 31.

"The Harmon and Harriet Kelley Collection of African American Art: Works on Paper" is in the main galleries.

After visiting a San Antonio Art Museum exhibit, the Kelleys embarked on a lifelong journey to collect African-American artwork. Neither are trained in the arts. However, the Kelleys vowed to educate themselves about their African-American heritage through the fine arts. Today, David Driskell, professor emeritus at the University of Maryland at College Park, calls the Kelley collection "one of the finest that has been assembled tracing the history of African American art." Works span from the 19th to 21st centuries.

The exhibit is organized by Landau Traveling Exhibitions of Los Angeles.

In the artlab, works by artist Heather Parrish are influenced by contemporary artists James Turrell and Olafur Eliasson. She lives in South Bend and is enrolled in The University of Notre Dame's master of fine arts program.

During the opening reception, the Hull School Drummers perform at 6:30 p.m. EST, followed by a Coastline Children's Film Festival premiere screening of "Kirikou & the Sorceress" at 7:15 p.m. EST.

Both exhibits run through April 20.

Michiana Clowns

Michiana Clowns held its installation of officers Jan. 4 at Strongbow Inn, Valparaiso, with an appreciation dinner for clowns who represented the alley during the year.

Terri Sherwood-Awald served as installing officer, relieving the outgoing officers — President Lonna Temkin, Vice President Beccy Seymour, Treasurer Darla Henandez and Acting Secretary Lynette McDonald — of their duties. The new officers serving for two years are: President — Seymour; Vice President — McDonald; Treasurer — Pat Bowers; and Secretary — Jenifer Moler.

Temkin distributed to each family in attendance a handbound booklet of "Wise Sayings" she compiled with the aid of Earl Temkin as a token of her appreciation. Michiana Clowns then presented a multi-colored, handcrafted photo blanket in recognition of her service as president for the past five years.

Lonna Temkin also read thank-you letters from various area charities and non-profit services in appreciation for donations from the Michiana Clowns alley during the holiday season.

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Snowman Building Competition

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens is hosting a snowman building competition through March 2.

To participate, entries must be built at Taltree, which is at 450 W. County Road 100N near Valparaiso. Participants should take a picture and submit their entry by email to info@taltree.org with the following information: name, phone, snowman title, date built and Taltree location description. All submissions must be received by March 3 to qualify.

On March 5, all entries will be posted to Taltree's facebook fan page – facebook.com/Taltree – for people to vote for their favorite snowmen. Facebook fans will have 48 hours to vote. The entry with the most "Likes" will win a one-year family membership.

The winner will be announced Friday, March 7.

In winter, the arboretum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Member entry is free. Non-member entry is \$10 per vehicle for up to five people. Visit Taltree.org or call (219) 462-0025 for more information.

Ice Sculpture Demonstrations

Art is coming in downtown La Porte in the form of ice sculptures to help launch WinterFest, the City of La Porte Park Department's winter activities.

From 3 to 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24, people can see the ice sculptures being made by the artists. Demonstrations are planned throughout downtown La Porte in front of shops on Lincolnway, State Street and Jefferson Avenue. Local shops hosting ice sculptures include Roxy Music, Thaddeus C. Gallery, Engstrom Jewelers, Cookery Tried and True Café, Zelden's Shoe Store, Magic Sports, Goose Feathers Gifts, Rocco's Gallery, Mucho Mas, As Time Goes By, B&J's American Café, Suds on State, Kessler Lofts and the Vintage Rose.

Other events that weekend include fitness activities, carriage rides and an ice fishing derby.

Visit www.cityoflaporte.com or call (219) 326-9600 for more information on WinterFest.

Origami Folding Class

Leslie Cefali will offer a three-week Origami Folding Class starting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Students learn about the ancient art of Japanese paper folding. In addition to folding traditional squares, participants explore folding money, business cards and travel brochures.

The cost is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Most materials will be included. Call (219) 926-4711 to register. Visit www.chestertonart.com for more information.

Service League of Michigan City

The Service League of Michigan City held its monthly meeting Jan. 14 at 301 E. Garfield St.

The league reported it served 87 patients in November and 78 in December, loaned 123 items in November and 116 items in December and received one donated item in November and three items in December.

Dressings were served to 23 patients in November and 28 patients in December. For collections, 23 first cards were sent in November and 17 in December, 12 second cards were sent in November and 11 in December and nine letters were sent out in both November and December.

Also, 1st Source Bank awarded the league with \$1,000 to celebrate 150 years of being in service.

The league is a volunteer non-profit group that loans for free medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, shower and toilet aids to Michigan City area residents for a three-month period.

Anyone interested in the league may stop by the office or call (219) 872-1144 between 9 a.m. and noon and 1 and 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

Polka Mass and Polish Dinner

Polka Mass and Polish dinner is Sunday, Feb. 9, at St. Matthias Church, 101 W. Burrell Drive, Crown Point, Ind.

A Polka Mass will be celebrated at noon, followed by a Polish buffet-style dinner. The EZ Tones Polka Band will provide music during the Mass.

The cost is \$20 for the dinner. Beer, wine and soft drinks will be sold at the cash bar.

Reservations are limited and due by Jan. 31 at the parish office or by calling (219) 663-2201.

MISSING Black and White MALE CAT named TOM.



- He was last seen with his red collar on Friday, Nov. 29th, 2013 on Lady Lane and micro-chipped.
- He has several black dots on his face with a white nose.
- All four paws are white.
- Weighs approx. 11 pounds.
- Very loving and sweet male cat.
- Has both front and back claws too.

PLEASE CALL Stephanie
(219) 814-4183 if you have seen him!



American Red Cross

The following American Red Cross blood drives are scheduled:

- Tuesday, Feb. 4, noon to 6 p.m., St. John's United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 101 St. John Road, Michigan City.
- Friday, Feb. 7, noon to 6 p.m., Marquette High School gymnasium, 306 W. 10th St., Michigan City.
- Sunday, Feb. 9, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Conservation Club House, 1 Mill Pond Road, Union Mills.
- Monday, Feb. 10, noon to 6 p.m., First Church of God gymnasium, 2020 E. Lincolnway, La Porte.
- Monday, Feb. 10, 1:30 to 6 p.m., Anytime Fitness, 4112 Franklin St., Michigan City.
- Tuesday, Feb. 11, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Ivy Tech Community College, 3714 Franklin St., Michigan City.
- Thursday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., General Insurance Services, 421 Franklin St., Michigan City.
- Friday, Feb. 14, noon to 4:30 p.m., First Trust Credit Union, 950 E. U.S. 20, Michigan City.

Call (800) RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to schedule an appointment to donate, or visit redcrossblood.org for more information. Individuals who are 17 (16 with parental permission in Indiana and Ohio), meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height) and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. Individuals should bring their American Red Cross blood-donor card or other form of positive ID when donating.

Children's Art Classes at CAC

Frank Lloyd Wright is the focus of children's art classes in February at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Children 3-16 will create papier mache houses, along with other related activities.

Visit www.chestertonart.com or call (219) 926-4711 to register or for more information.

McCormick's Creek State Park Trip

A special charter bus trip will head from Indiana Dunes State Park to McCormick's Creek State Park from Feb. 28 to March 2, with the trip including a two-night stay in the park's Canyon Inn.

The tour will offer a chance to see live birds of prey up close, McCormick's Creek's ice-covered canyons and the Marsh Madness Festival at nearby Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area. Participants will see thousands of migrating cranes, geese and other waterfowl there.

The cost is \$339 per person, double occupancy. The single-person cost is \$399. Included in the fees are two-nights lodging, all meals except Sunday lunch, special interpretive programming, park entrance fees and trail guiding.

Space is limited, and advance registration is required. Contact the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center at (219) 926-1390 for more information. Visit visitIndianaInns.com and click on Canyon Inn (group code 0228DT) or call (877) LODGES1 to register.

2014 Earth Day exhibitors Sought

The Recycling and Waste Reduction District of Porter County is accepting online registrations for exhibitors to participate in the 2014 Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration on April 19.

Exhibitors sought include organizations and businesses that can provide environmental awareness, services and products to attendees. They can register at www.ItMeansTheWorld.org

Held in three buildings at the Porter County Expo Center, 215 Division Road, Valparaiso, the event attracted more than 3,200 attendees in 2013, the largest attendance in its eight-year history.

Exhibitors can set up on Thursday, April 17. They also have the options of expanding their booths, connecting to electricity and advertising themselves on the bingo card given to all attendees.

Call (219) 465-3819 for more information.

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2. Mary Lou McFadden (four strikes in a row)	189
3. Kathy Osborne	181
4. Linda Neulieb/Tammy Nelmar	168
5. Margie Midkiff	166
6. Liz Lutterbach	161

SPLITS

Nancy Klausner 1-4-5-7

Downtown on National Register

Michigan City received notice the Franklin Street Downtown District was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Redevelopment Commission, working with Councilman Richard Murphy and consultant Kurt Garner, applied for the nomination.

The Elston Grove Historic District was listed in November. The Haskell-Barker District/Washington Street District is scheduled to be listed later this year.

Listing on the National Register, according to a press release, offers significant financial incentives for downtown redevelopment, including a 20 percent investment tax credit for historic renovation, a credit important in light of the Uptown Artists Loft Project in the Warren Building being developed by Artspace.

Michigan City Mainstreet Association

The Michigan City Mainstreet Association will host its annual meeting at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., Michigan City.

Speakers will review 2013 and present the 2014 vision and new board of directors.

Members and non-members are welcome. The fee, which is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members, includes lunch. Advance reservations are required. by emailing michigancitymainstreet@hotmail.com

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



On January 23, 1845, Congress mandated that national elections should take place on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

On January 23, 1849, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to receive a degree in medicine. A native of Bristol, England, her degree was awarded by the Medical Institution of Geneva, New York.

On January 23, 1950, the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, proclaimed Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

On January 23, 1977, the popular television mini-series "Roots," based on Alex Haley's novel, began airing on ABC.

On January 23, 2005, Johnny Carson, whose three decades as host of "The Tonight Show" made him America's most-watched comedian, died, in Malibu, CA, at the age of 79.

On January 24, 1899, Humphrey O'Sullivan, of Lowell, MA, patented the rubber heel.

On January 24, 1935, canned beer went on sale (in Richmond, VA) for the first time.

On January 24, 1985, the space shuttle *Discovery* was launched from Cape Canaveral, FL, on the first secret, all-military shuttle mission.

On January 24, 1986, photos from *Voyager 2* revealed 10 previously unknown moons were in orbit around Uranus.

On January 24, 1996, the FDA approved Olestra, the nation's first zero-calorie artificial fat.

On January 25, 1915, telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell inaugurated transcontinental phone service with a call from New York to San Francisco.

On January 25, 1947, gangster Al Capone died in Palm Island, FL; he was 48 years old.

On January 25, 1949, the new nation of Israel held its first election.

On January 25, 1959, the "jet age" opened in the United States when American airlines scheduled the first transcontinental flight (from New York to Los Angeles) of a Boeing 707.

On January 25, 1961, President John Kennedy held the first presidential news conference to be televised live.

On January 25, 1995, the defense gave its opening statement in the O.J. Simpson trial in Los Angeles, saying Simpson was the victim of a "rush to judgment" by authorities who had mishandled evidence and ignored witnesses.

On January 26, 1784, Benjamin Franklin, in a letter to his daughter, Sarah Bache, disapproved of the eagle as a symbol of the United States. His reasons: "I wish that the Bald Eagle had not been chosen as the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character; like those among Men who live by Sharping and Robbing, he is generally poor, and often very lousy. The Turkey is a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original Native of America."

On January 26, 1838, Tennessee became the first state to enact a prohibition law, whose stated purpose was: "to repeal all laws licensing tippling houses." While it put a stop to legal drinking, the main effect of the law was to improve the financial status of bootleggers and moonshiners.

On January 26, 1958, 170 were presumed drowned when a Japanese ferry vanished in the Inland Sea of Japan.

On January 26, 1967, the "Great Blizzard of '67" began piling up snow (eventually totaling in excess of two feet), and bringing many Midwest cities, including Chicago, to a virtual standstill.

On January 26, 1986, the Chicago Bears won Super Bowl XX, defeating the New England Patriots by a score of 46 to 10.

On January 26, 1988, the Andrew Lloyd Weber musical "Phantom of the Opera" opened at Broadway's Majestic Theater.

On January 27, 1854, the first regularly scheduled trains began rolling on the Canadian Great Western Railway.

On January 27, 1880, Thomas Edison was granted a patent for an incandescent light.

On January 27, 1967, at Cape Kennedy, FL, astronauts "Gus" Grissom, Edward White, and Roger Chaffee died in a flash fire during a routine test aboard their *Apollo I* spacecraft.

On January 27, 1978, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio were declared federal disaster areas as severe winter storms swept the areas.

On January 28, 1878, the first daily college newspaper, the *Yale News*, began publication in New Haven.

On January 28, 1986, before millions of horrified television viewers, the space shuttle *Challenger* exploded over the Atlantic Ocean, bringing death to the seven Astronauts (including school teacher Christa McAuliffe) aboard.

On January 29, 1845, "The Raven," Edgar Allen Poe's most famous poem, was first published in the *New York Evening News*.

On January 29, 1936, Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson, and Walter Johnson were elected as the first members of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

On January 29, 1954, Oprah Winfrey was born in Kosciusko, MS.



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Activities to Explore**In the Local Area:**

January 23 — "Travels in Thailand," 1 p.m., La Porte County Library's Coolspring branch, 7089 W. County Road 400 North.

January 23-25 — 25th Annual Notre Dame Student Film Festival, Notre Dame Browning Cinema. Screenings: 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. EST. Tickets: \$7/general public, \$6/faculty and staff, \$5/seniors (65 and older), \$4/students. Buy at <http://performingarts.nd.edu>, call (574) 631-2800 or at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center ticket office, noon-6 p.m. EST Mon. thru Fri.

January 24 — Ice sculpture demonstrations, 3-6 p.m., downtown La Porte businesses. Info: [www.cityoflaporte.com/\(219\)326-9600](http://www.cityoflaporte.com/(219)326-9600).

January 24 — The Purdue University-North Central American Sign Language Club ASL Coffee-house, 5:30-8 p.m., Uptown Café, 1400 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso. Info: www.aslclub.info

January 25 — Family Art Night, noon-2 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., Michigan City. Free, but registration required. Info: (219) 874-4900/lubeznikcenter.org

January 25 — Michigan City SummerFest Melt-down, 5-11 p.m., Michigan City Senior Center, 2 on the Lake, Michigan City. Tickets: \$20/person, table of eight/\$150, available at La Porte County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Marquette Mall. Info: mcsummerfest.org

January 25 — "Creativity Deep Dive: An Immersion Workshop," 9 a.m.-5 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theatre, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Cost: \$250. Register: [www.acorntheater.com/\(269\)756-3879](http://www.acorntheater.com/(269)756-3879).

January 25 — Saturday open mic with Miles Nielsen and The Rusted Hearts, 7:30 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theatre, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Free. Register: [www.acorntheater.com/\(269\)756-3879](http://www.acorntheater.com/(269)756-3879).

January 25 — "The American Civil War: A Series on the Major Battles," 10 a.m.-noon, Bertha Wood room at Westchester Public Library's Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

January 26 — "Celebrate Elvis' Birthday," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Includes showing of concert film "That's the Way It Is." Rescheduled from Jan. 5. Info: (219) 873-3049.

January 26 — The Kiwanis Club of La Porte annual pancake breakfast fundraiser, 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., La Porte National Guard Armory, 516 Lincolnway.

January 27 — "The Origins and Evolution of Ska — from Jamaica, to England, to the U.S. and the Rest of the World," noon-1 p.m., Purdue University-North Central Library-Science-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02. Free. Info: www.pnc.edu/honors



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January 28 — Harbor Country Book Club meeting, 12:30 p.m. EST, Michigan Thyme, 107 N. Whitaker St., New Buffalo, Mich. Book: Allen Eckert's "The Frontiersman."

January 29 — "Eating Well for Living Healthy" series, 3:30-5 p.m., Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Subject: "Eating Well on a Low Budget: Don't Let the Poor Economy Threaten Your Diet and Health." Info: (219) 926-7696.

January 30 — Documentary screening: Zach Skiles' "Veterans on Killing," 6:30 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., Michigan City. Info: (219) 874-4900/lubeznikcenter.org

Through February 28 — Valentine display, La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte. Cost: \$3/La Porte County residents, \$6 out-of-county. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Through May 9 — Catherine Reed exhibit "Explosion of Color," first floor north study area of Purdue University-North Central Technology Building. Building hours: 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat., 1-5 p.m. Sun. during school semester.

Farther Afield:

January 25 — Indoor flea market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free admission. Info: Janna/(773) 275-1514, Del/(269) 985-3087, info@centerofthe-world.net

January 25 — Kids on Stage Glee Club, 7:30 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10/general admission, \$8/students and seniors, free/children 12 and younger. Info: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org/

January 26 — Virtual tour of Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons national parks, 3 p.m. EST, Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich. Cost: \$3/adults. Info: (269) 927-4832.

January 31 — Evening of dueling pianos, a Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra fundraiser, 7 p.m. EST, The Vineland Center, 1155 Vineland Road, St. Joseph, Mich. Info/tickets: (269) 982-4030/www.smso.org

Through March 15 — "Discovering the Forest: Paintings by Robert Johnson," South Shore Arts Crown Point branch, 123 N. Main St. Exhibit hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Sat. Info: www.southshoreartsonline.org

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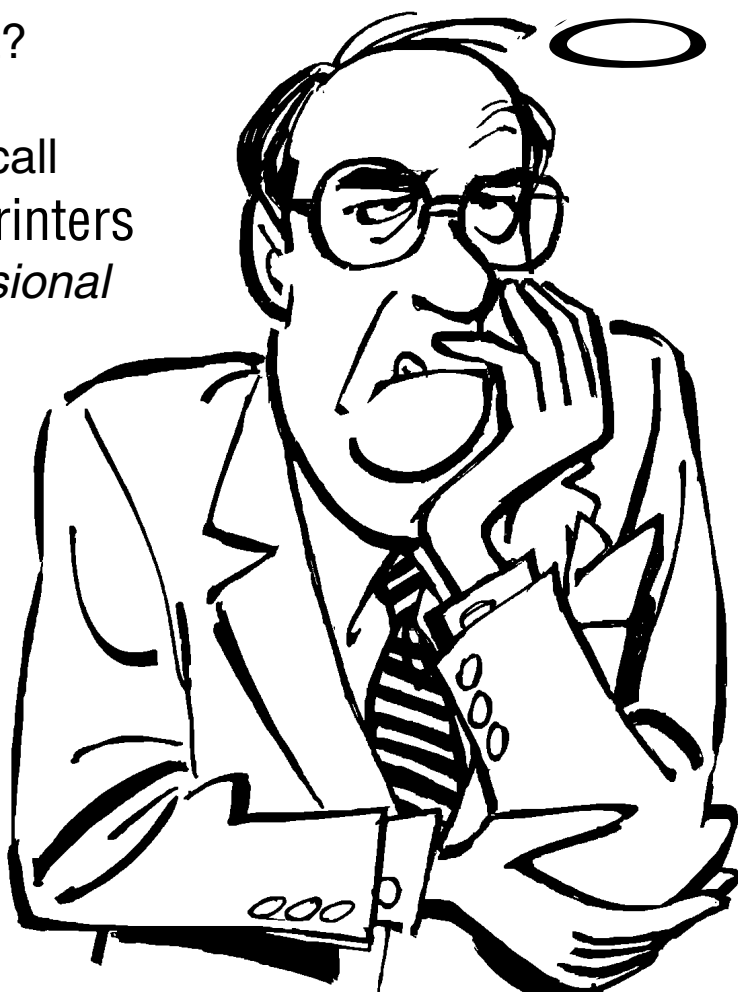
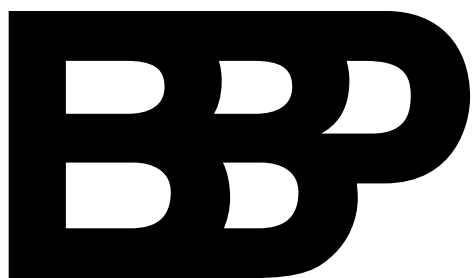
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Catherine Reed Exhibit

The Purdue University-North Central Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series is presenting the exhibit "Explosion of Color" by Catherine Reed.

Born in southern Indiana, Reed earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Indiana University. For the past 23 years, she has worked in management for two Fortune Five energy companies in marketing, sales and consulting.



Her art features mixed media on canvas. Art has always been her passion, according to a press release, but she put that on hold for years. After a sequence of unexplainable events, a chance meeting with an independent art professional and encouragement from a well-known Southern artist, she renewed her interest in painting.

She has exhibited at shows and galleries in Louisville, Ky., and in Atlanta. She and her husband live in Shelby County, Ky.

Most of her pieces at PNC are for sale. The free exhibit runs through May 9 in the first floor north study area of the PNC Technology Building. Building hours are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday during the school semester; otherwise, the building is closed Sunday.

Maple Syrup Tapping Workshop

Learn how to make maple syrup at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at Deep River County Park, 9410 Old Lincoln Highway, Hobart, Ind.

Anyone with access to large maple trees can use a few supplies and a little instruction to make pure maple syrup at home.

Through the program, learn how and when to tap the trees, how to collect and preserve the sap and what it takes to produce the syrup. Participants may already have a drill, buckets, camp stove or gas grill, bottles and pans. Other items, such as spiles, filters and sap buckets, may be purchased at the workshop.

The fee is \$5 per family and is payable in advance. Register by calling (219) 769-7275. Visit www.lake-countyparks.com for more information.

Zoobilee 2014

Tickets are available for "Stayin' Alive," the Washington Park Zoological Society's Zoobilee 2014 fundraiser, which is Saturday, April 12, at Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa, 777 Blue Chip Drive, Michigan City.

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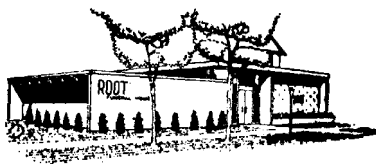
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**2 BR, 1.75 BA Condo in Karwick Glen available now! \$900/mo + utilities.
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ing room, loft overlooking living room with wood-planked cathedral ceiling,
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LONG BEACH COVE LOT with 163 ft. of Lake Clair shoreline, \$139,000.
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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Yellow Eyes of Crocodiles by Katherine Pancol (oversize paperback \$16 retail)

I read this book alternating laughter with tears, sadness with pure joy and the complete love of life this story instills in readers.

Gushing?

You bet.

It doesn't take many pages to realize this is a special story, indeed. From the 12th century to modern-day Paris and the wilds of Kenya, we get to know a most unusual family.

Josephine Cortez and Iris Dupin are sisters and as different as night and day. Josephine is a 12th century researcher: quiet, reserved and, she admits to the mirror, having let herself go. She's packed on a few pounds, doesn't care about the clothes she wears or the lack of makeup on her face.

Iris, on the other hand, is the gorgeous, self-assured woman with perfect hair, clothes and makeup. Ever since she was a teen, men and women turned to admire her timeless beauty. And, she knew it...

Then, there is the sisters' mother, Henriette, currently married to Marcel, the rags-to-riches manufacturer who lets his wife rule the roost. What a mistake he's soon to find out. Henriette makes it no secret she adores Iris and looks down on Josephine with disdain.

Iris is married to Philippe, a successful and very rich corporate lawyer. *"He was successful and couldn't understand why everyone else wasn't as well."* So, basically, Iris is the trophy wife. She provided Philippe with a son and spent her days having drinks with friends and shopping. As Iris likes to say, *"Doing nothing is an art."*

Josephine is married to Antoine, an out-of-work executive for about a year now. They have two daughters: teenage Hortense, who has the beauty and self-assuredness of her aunt Iris, and younger daughter Zoe. They live just outside Paris in Courbovoie.

Feeling sorry for himself, Antoine soon takes up with a mistress, Mylene Corbier, a hairdresser. To make matters worse, now he's taking off with her to manage a crocodile farm in Kenya. What's a mother to do? Now, Josephine must find a way to provide money for her and the girls.

One night at a party Philippe and Iris attend, Iris finds herself across the table from a prominent publisher. She decides to impress him by telling him she was going to write a book. Say what? Iris could only spell Givenchy. When pressed for a subject, she can only think of her sister and blurts out that it would be about the 12th century. Now, the guy wants to see a manuscript in six months. Time to talk to dear sister Jo.

Iris pleads with Jo to write her a book that she would have published in her name, but all the money would go to Jo. Given her current situation, it's a sweet deal. Fighting her conscience, it turns out to be a short fight when Jo discovers the deal is worth \$50,000 euros. Can Jo keep her secret, especially when the book hits the best-seller list?

There is lots more fun to come in this delightful story of family, deception, love and crocodiles.

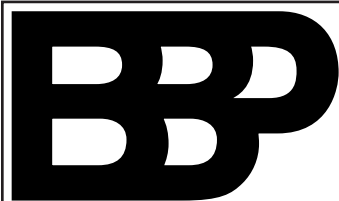
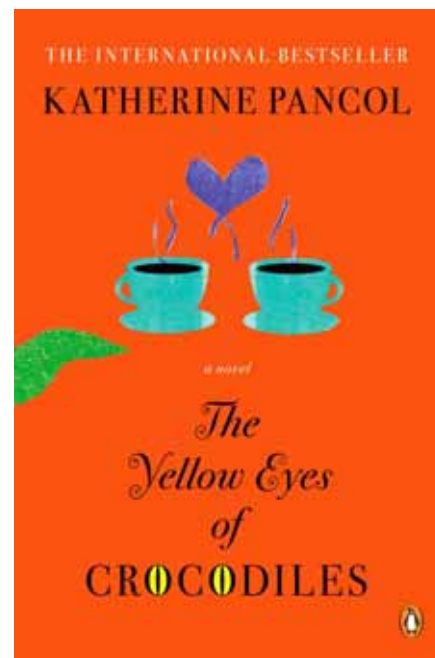
The book includes a reader's guide that features a conversation with the author and possible questions for book club members to discuss.

About The Yellow Eyes of Crocodiles, author Elizabeth Buchan said: "There is a gorgeous and invigorating zip and sparkle to the writing. You read it with a big smile."

And, yes, I did.

Pancol is one of France's best-known authors, with books translated into 31 languages. The Yellow Eyes of Crocodiles won the Prix de Maison de la Presse for Best Novel of the Year when it was published in France in 2006.

Till next time, happy reading!



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**2940 Lake Shore Drive
Long Beach • \$1,700,000**

3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Many windows, two fireplaces, library, master bedroom suite. Two rooms on upper level for sleeping space. Walk out lower level leads to patio & rear yard. Three levels of living. Lake front home with 60 feet of frontage.



**2051 Lake Shore Drive
Long Beach • \$679,000**

4 bedrooms, 4 baths. Three fireplaces, den, private master bath. Beautiful kitchen open to family room. Finished walk-out lower level with huge rec room & bath. Deck, rear patio & beach shower. Sprawling hillside ranch with 80 feet of frontage.



**2205 Lake Shore Drive
Long Beach • \$499,000**

4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Walk out lower level with rec room, bedroom or office & sliders to patio. Private master bath. Rear entrance with deep two car garage. Newer high efficiency furnace. Stunning lake views & just steps to beach access at Stop 22.



**48109 W. McKean Drive
Grand Beach • \$449,000**

3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Two rooms in lower level that could be used for extra sleeping space. Living room with limestone fireplace. Three season cabana, in-ground 20x40 pool off deck with partial lake view. Short stroll to the beach, one block away.



**1400 Lake Shore Drive
Sheridan Beach • \$449,000**

5 bedrooms, 2 baths. Bright open floor plan includes granite counters, stainless appliances, new carpet, wood floor laminate & ceramic tile and most new windows. Fireplace in living room. Renovated home in 2011 with great rental potential.



**2607 Fairway Drive
Long Beach • \$435,000**

3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Living & dining room with hardwood floors. Den with fireplace. Office/studio & sun room overlooking lake. Irrigation system, oversized two car garage & boat dock. New roof '13. Extensive views of golf course & Lake Claire.



**10 Marine Drive A-7
Michigan City • \$185,000**

1 bedroom plus loft, 2 baths. Living room opens to dining area with sliders to balcony with beautiful water view. Spiral staircase to loft area. Main bedroom dressing area with closet & beautiful bathroom with jetted tub. Boat slip included.



**2206 Bayview Drive
The Shores • \$136,000**

2 bedrooms, 2 baths. View of Lake Claire from the living room, kitchen & master bedroom. Gas fireplace in living room. Appliances remain. Private master bath. Many upgrades since 2008. Quiet community close to many conveniences.



**201 Washington Park Blvd.
Lake Hills • \$115,000**

Currently 1 bedroom, 1 bath home that could be converted into two bedrooms if desired. Kitchen appliances remain including washer & dryer. Clean, full dry basement. Beautifully landscaped. Walking distance to the beach.

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36 Karwick Glen

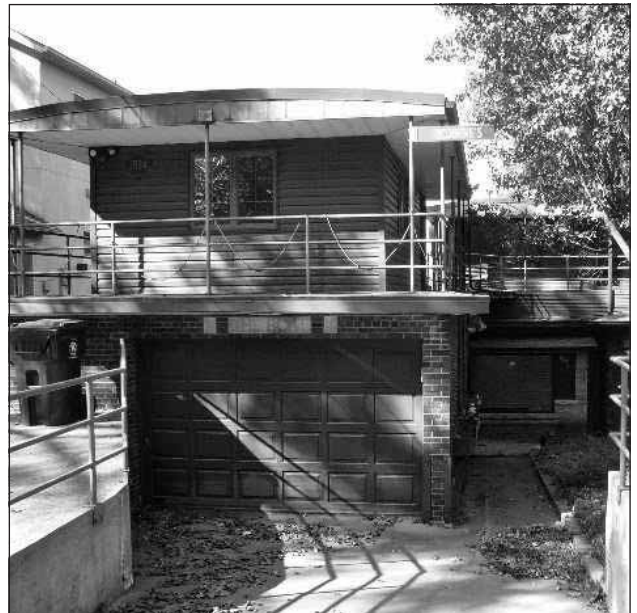
Beautiful two bedroom Karwick Glen Drive condo with sunny, secluded patio. Main floor living space flows gently from kitchen to living room, featuring a gas fireplace and dining area. A brand-new stair case leads to second floor loft space, office nook, laundry and main bedroom suite.

\$137,000

1524 Lake Shore Drive

The Boat House is an historic Long Beach home on 60 feet of Lake Michigan beach, originally built for and displayed at the Century of Progress Exposition, Chicago's Great World's Fair of 1933 and 1934. The Boat was brought over from Chicago in the Spring of 1935 and placed on a home foundation. 3400 sq ft of living space, including large glassed-in party room and huge sun room on 2nd floor, with unobstructed lake views.

\$969,000



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