



Volume 32, Number 7 Thursday, February 25, 2016

# The Life of a Leapling

For some, Feb. 29 is Cause for Celebration

by Connie Kuzydym

**B**eth Pishkur first comprehended she had a unique birthday when she was 4.

Her uncle, legendary newspaper photographer Bill Swedenberg, took a photo of her and another boy because they were the youngest leap day babies in Michigan City that year. Their mothers also shared the same hospital room when their leaplings were born.

On average, though, how much thought do people give to this being a leap year?

Perhaps once every four years, we should



Beth (McKee) Pishkur appeared in the newspaper with fellow leapling Mark Westphal, and joined by their mothers, as they celebrated their fourth birthdays on Feb. 29, 1960. The two were the youngest leap year children in Michigan City that year.



take more than a moment to reflect on February having 29 days instead of its usual 28. Why? Because that extra day brings balance to our lives.

The Gregorian calendar, which we live by, has only 365 days in a year. It takes the Earth approximately  $365 \frac{1}{4}$  days to circle once around the sun. To keep the calendar aligned with the Earth's revolution around the sun, an extra day, Feb. 29, is added nearly every four years to the calendar. Without it, the calendar would become out of sync with the seasons. Can you imagine the havoc it could create in on our lives? We eventually would celebrate Christmas in July, or a winter birthday in the spring...

Leap day does create a bit of excitement for those born on that day. Most of us probably don't give a second thought to our birth date appearing on the calendar because it's always there. Imagine what it would be like to see your birth date on the calendar only once every four years.

Beth's uncle, newspaper photographer Bill Swedenberg, snapped a second photo of her and Mark together on a tricycle.

These days, celebrating another passing year on her actual birth date is still fun, but Beth, a Michigan City resident, registered nurse and Michigan

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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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## The Life Continued from Page 1

City Area Schools board member, doesn't get overly excited.

"It's just odd because you never really can say most of the time it's your birthday," she said. "It's sort of a boring birthday because it's not there half the time. It's odd. Your number isn't even showing up."

On non-leap years, Beth celebrates her birthday on Feb. 28.



Beth on Feb. 29, 1996, celebrating her 40th, or "11th," birthday.

The middle child of five in her family, she recalls being teased by siblings and schoolmates. As a child of the 1950s and 1960s, though, one did not dwell on those kinds of things.

"My siblings would say it's not really your birthday today (Feb. 28), it's tomorrow, we'll tell you Happy Birthday tomorrow. Then, when March 1st came, they would say it's not your birthday today either. It was yesterday. You missed it," she recalled. "Then (at school), it was the same way. The kids would be confused, and they would say you really don't have a birthday."

Beth was in her early teens when her unique birthday became just that.

"It never bothered me after 16 because that was a real birthday..." she said. "After that, I got used to telling people it's my birthday today. Then, I would have to say, but it's not really, because it's tomorrow and today. They would always be confused. Very few people catch it when you say you are born on Feb. 29."



A family celebration for Beth's 44th birthday on Feb. 29, 2000. Pictured are (back row, from left) Bob, Pat, Roger and Mike McKee. The front row is Beth (from left), Betty McKee and Ellie Johnson.

On the years when Beth did celebrate her birthday on leap day, her mom would do something special.

"Growing up in the '50s and '60s, they didn't celebrate every birthday with a party like they do nowadays," she said. "On my real birthday, I got to have friends over."

On non-leap day birthdays, her mom baked a cake and made her favorite meal on Feb. 28.

In speaking with Beth, she comes across as positive, upbeat and funny.

"I have a very distinct personality," she said. "I'm very excited about everything, and I'm very outgoing. I call it being star crossed. It's there and it's gone in like a minute."

"I say I'm different because I'm a leap year baby, and there's just something about that day. You're special."

This year reflects a milestone birthday as Beth starts a new decade.

"I keep telling everybody (at work) that it's my 15th birthday," she said. "I wish I could wear a coming out formal that the Hispanic population has at the quinceañera parties, but I think I would look kind of silly coming to work in a big fluffy dress. I'd almost do it if I could get my hands on one of them. My kids would love it."



**F**or La Porte native Ashley Hazelgrove, now an Indiana University-Bloomington police officer, having a leap day birthday was fun when she was growing up.

"I'm not sure at which age I understood what it was," she said. "For as long as I can remember, I thought it was a normal thing. I think my parents did a good job explaining it."

She does not recall being teased in school about having a leap day birthday. Rather, in elementary and middle school, when she was asked to tell something interesting about herself, having a Leap Day birthday was what she shared. Even now, after graduating college, she continues to educate people because many do not understand this special day.



Ashley Hazelgrove's parents took her to Mexico for her previous leap birthday in 2012.

Ashley did have a fun back-and-forth point with her brother, who would tell her she could not celebrate her birthday on Feb. 28 because she was not actually in this world on that day, so she had to celebrate on March 1. If you think about it, he's right. She was born at 5:56 p.m. on Feb. 29.

What a conundrum!

Ashley positively embraces the uniqueness of her birthday.

"It's still my birthday every year," Ashley said, "but deep down, I think every four years when it is leap day, there's something extra special about it, when I can actually say it's the 29th and it's my birthday. That's always been kind of a neat thing."

In non-leap years, the most-asked question is, when does she celebrate her birthday?

Continued on Page 4



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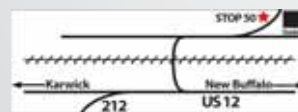
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## The Life Continued from Page 3

"I kind of think of it as both days, the 28th and the 1st," she said. "I say I get two birthdays when it's not a leap year."

Ashley recalls her family always making her birthdays special. When she turned 20 — a leap year birthday — her parents took just her to Mexico that summer.

Ashley can recall only two instances where her unique birthday caused problems.

Once was with a cashier at a Bloomington grocer who wouldn't sell her margarita mix on her 21st birthday. Her license read Date of Birth 2/29. He kept saying, today is the 28th. When she asked what the next day was, he told her the 1st. He kept telling her he couldn't sell it to her, so she asked for the manager.

The other instance: Online, Leap Day is sometimes not included. A medical survey she took at IU did not include the 29th. She finds it interesting that software is built that does not include the date. The question arises, does the programmer not know it exists, or is it a typo?

Like Beth, Ashley is positive, upbeat and funny.

"I feel like I'm open to anything. I try not to be

judgmental," she said. "I'm an acceptable person. Maybe that has something to do with that day. By having it, it's a unique thing, so then it allows me to accept unique things in other people. I'm not sure if it's my birthday or how I was raised."

For Terry Hazelgrove, Ashley's mother, her expected due date was not leap day.

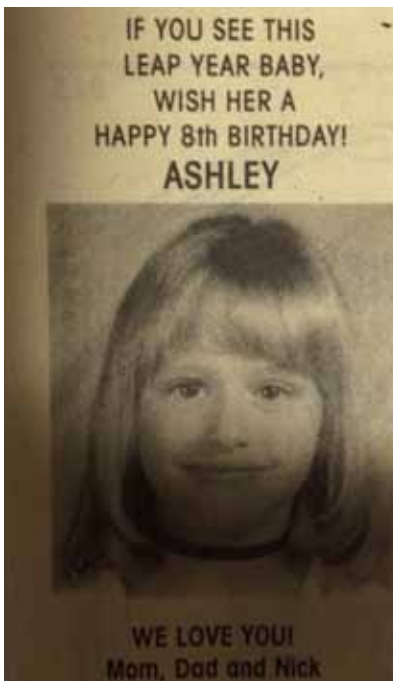
"She (Ashley) would always say to me, 'Why did you have me then (leap day),' " Terry recalled, telling her daughter with a chuckle, "'Of course, I had no control over that...I probably wanted you to come out a lot sooner'."

Every year, the family made a big deal of Ashley's birthday, celebrating with relatives and friends either on Feb. 28 or March 1 if it was not a leap year. Ashley celebrated by having sleepovers, going skating or whatever she was into at the time.

Like her daughter, one of the questions Terry gets asked most is, when do they celebrate Ashley's birthday?

"Some people don't get it when you say my daughter gets a real birthday this year," Terry said.

Within that statement lies the beauty of being a leapling. When celebrating milestone birthdays such as 16, 40, 60, 80, they can say they really are only celebrating their 4, 10, 15 or 20th birthday.



One way the Hazelgrove family celebrated Ashley's eighth birthday.



The Hazelgrove clan — Ashley is second from the right — during a July 4 gathering.

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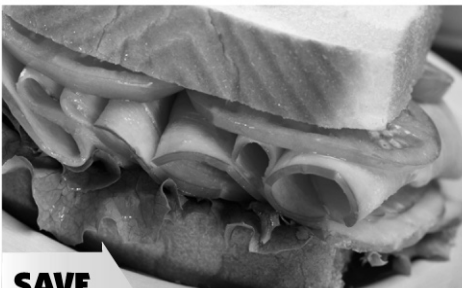
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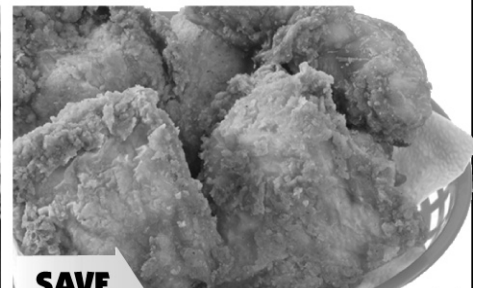
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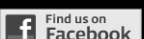
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Did you realize a Hoosier wrote “Take Me Out to the Ball Game”?

Are you aware that Florence Henderson and Red Skelton hailed from Indiana?

These are just a few of the facts and tunes celebrated in “Hoosiers in Music — Celebrating 200 Years,” researched, written and directed by La Porte’s Bruce Johnson as a musical tribute in honor of Indiana’s bicentennial. Performances are Feb. 26-28 and March 4-6 at La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times are 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.



The cast rehearses a musical number from “Hoosiers in Music — Celebrating 200 Years.”

The show features the lives and music of well-known Hoosier composers such as Paul Dresser, Hoagy Carmichael and Cole Porter, and contemporary writers such as “Babyface” Edmonds, Bill and Gloria Gaither and John Mellencamp. The lives and music of famous performers from Indiana will be highlighted as well, including Crystal Gayle, Michael Jackson and

The Jackson 5.

The show has been officially endorsed by the Indiana Bicentennial Commission as a Legacy Project to help celebrate the state’s history, and is listed on the Indiana Bicentennial website. All seats are \$12. Reservations are strongly urged by calling (219) 362-5113 or online at [laportelittletheatreclub.com](http://laportelittletheatreclub.com)

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## Model Unit Featured at Artspace Open House

The curious and the creative can find out what's been going on during the \$13.7 million renovation of Michigan City's historic Warren Building when the doors open to the public for its second open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 2.

Renamed Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, the fully renovated seven-story building in the 700 block of Franklin Street is a mixed-use project with 44 affordable live/work units for artists and their families.

Highlighting the open house tour is the model unit designed and installed by studioROMA Design/Build and furnished with items from La Porte County Habitat for Humanity Restore.

"It was exciting to create a living space using recycled and sustainable materials," Matt Kubik, the model unit's designer, said.

Kubik will be on hand during the open house to explain the design features.

The fourth-floor one-bedroom unit has an open



The fourth-floor one-bedroom unit designed by studioROMA.

plan living room/work space and kitchen area. Large north-facing windows provide a view of the Uptown Arts District and Lake Michigan. Starting with the empty open space, Kubik created a separate casual seating area and an artist's work area defined by a drafting table. The focus of the room is a large black-and-white mural painted by Kubik depicting Michigan City scenes. Other artwork on display in the model unit was provided by members of Southern Shore Art Association, 749 Franklin St.

Items specially designed and built for the unit include a multi-level kitchen island with a tiled top. A lighted room divider created from pierced metal panels separates the kitchen from the casual

seating area. Furnishings include a leather couch, glass top side tables, marble top cabinets and coffee table and several unique light fixtures.

All items on display in the model unit will be for sale to support Habitat for Humanity.

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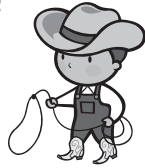
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## Kintzele Offers Last Mansion Tour

After a 24-year career as Barker Mansion's housekeeper and tour guide, Mary Kintzele is retiring.

Kintzele began working at the mansion in 1991 after learning of the position while volunteering at Chellberg Farm. Since then, she has, for many, been the face of Barker Mansion.



Mary Kintzele appears at Barker Mansion with a Barker family relative.

During her tenure, Kintzele not only cared for the structure, but also made the building come alive to patrons through stories of the architecture and Barker legacy. She especially enjoyed leading field trips and decorating the mansion for Christmas.

Friends and acquaintances are invited to join Kintzele for her last official mansion tour at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27. Reservations are required by calling (219) 873-1520.

Barker Mansion is located at 631 Washington St. Visit [www.BarkerMansion.com](http://www.BarkerMansion.com) for details.



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## Maple Sugar Time at Gardens

International Friendship Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, will host its free annual Maple Sugar Time from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28.

Visitors can take a self-guided nature walk through old-growth woodland trails before stopping by the maple sugaring station to learn how North America's early inhabitants produced maple syrup.



Volunteer Jude Rakowski explains the process of making maple syrup at a previous Maple Sugar Time.

Longtime garden volunteer Jude Rakowski will demonstrate harvesting and boiling Red Maple sap to make a foodstuff that was crucial to the survival of early settlers.

Rakowski gathers and chops wood the entire year to fuel the fires used to boil the maple sap. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make just one gallon of syrup.

Call (219) 878-9885 for more information, or visit [friendshipgardens.org](http://friendshipgardens.org) or Friendship Gardens on facebook.

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## Celebrating a Milestone

Marquette Catholic High School celebrated 130 years in faith education during a special event Feb. 12 at the Richard and Louise Scholl Student Center. Thanks to Patti Baxter for providing the photos.



Beth (Rosevear) Steele (from left), Irene Rosevear, Stephen Rogers, Juli-Ann Merrion, Frannie Merrion, Ed Merrion, June Salmon and Mike Salmon.



Julie White (left) and Christine Roder



Tricia Sakich (from left), Joan Flanagan, MaryBeth Roberts, Sarah Williams and Patti Baxter.

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## Do You Have Photos from Elston's 1966 Championship Season?

Starting March 3, *The Beacher* will begin a series by Matt Werner, author of the award-winning "Season of Upsets," about the 1966 Elston boys basketball state championship.

If you have photos from that time, from shots at school, to pep rallies, to citywide decorations, we'd love to publish them with the stories.

Contact Editor Drew Tallackson at (219) 879-0088 or [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com) if interested.

## Bowl For the Cure

The Michigan City Women's Bowling Association will hold its Bowl For the Cure bowl-a-thon Saturday, Feb. 27, at Lakeshore Lanes, 2820 E. Michigan Blvd.

Check-in is at 5 p.m., with bowling at 6 p.m. The 9-pin no-tap format includes three games. Each person is asked to have family and friends sponsor them.

Last year's event raised \$8,920 to Franciscan St. Anthony Health and IU Health La Porte Hospital Women's Centers.

## State Honors Long Beach Doctor

Long Beach resident Richard Houck is retiring after spending 46 years on the Franciscan St. Anthony Health-Michigan City medical staff.

He is revered by patients, colleagues and, as it turns out, the Indiana General Assembly.

Lawmakers recently adopted a resolution, saluting the services of the Michigan City native and ophthalmologist who, it said, "has dedicated his life to helping those in need and is the embodiment of all that is good in mankind."



Richard Houck (center) appears with Matthew Troy (left), hospital medical staff president, and hospital president Dean Mazzoni.

The resolution was introduced by state Reps. Scott Pelath, D-Michigan City, and Thomas Dermody, R-La Porte; and sponsored by state Sens. Karen Tallian, D-Portage, and James Arnold, D-La Porte. It was presented on their behalf by Dr. Vidya Kora at a retirement celebration at the Indiana Education Foundation location here.

The resolution documented the Air Force veteran's personal, education and career history, and praised his community services and associated honors, among them a 2014 Good Samaritan Service Award and a 2006 Distinguished Hoosier honor presented by then-governor Mitch Daniels.

Houck and wife, Jean, have volunteered since 1970 at International Friendship Gardens here, where he has served as board president. He likewise cofounded the Northern Indiana Association for Children with Learning Disabilities.

Houck has served as hospital medical staff president, La Porte County Medical Society president and as an Indiana State Medical Association trustee and assistant treasurer.



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Of all Hollywood's awards ceremonies, the one that induces the most severe case of the willies is the Oscars.

Some years, it's true, winners are foregone conclusions. Back in 1998, the fever-pitch momentum carrying James Cameron's "Titanic" at the box office succinctly translated to Oscar gold. Eleven trophies, to be precise. In 2013, Meryl Streep declared Daniel-Day Lewis the winner for Best Actor having only partially opened the envelope. Was there any doubt the actor's turn as our nation's 16th president — practically canonized by audiences *and* historians — would leave the ceremony empty-handed?

The 2015 Academy Awards, however, should revert to its most wily state. The reason? Upsets never go down without a fight.

In other words, anything goes.

Where things turn dicey are the top two honors and writing categories. All that Golden Globes love for "The Revenant"? It's there for Leonardo DiCaprio, but reception has cooled to the film itself. "The Big Short," Adam McKay's whip-smart look at the 2008 economic crisis, took the top honor from The Producer's Guild. Quietly, but steadily amassing one honor after another is "Spotlight," the greatest newspaper film since "All the President's Men."

So how does this correlate with *The Beacher's* first Beat the Editor contest? I foresee correctly guessing five to six categories. So, all readers whose accurate selections exceed mine will be placed into a drawing to win gift certificates from our contest sponsors, Hammer's Restaurant and Holly's Restaurant & Pub.

Because the March 3 *Beacher* will be completed by the time the Oscars are over late Sunday, Feb. 28, we'll reveal our contest winner in the March 10 edition. So, without further ado, the nominees are:

#### BEST PICTURE

**"The Big Short"; "Bridge of Spies"; "Brooklyn"; "Mad Max: Fury Road"; "The Martian"; "The Revenant"; "Room"; "Spotlight."**



"Spotlight"

**WHO WILL WIN:** Years from now, "Spotlight" will still be shown in classrooms, at colleges and in festivals. It is a sterling example of journalism's unflinching quest to protect the public's right know. It also is a devastating reminder that communities

cannot sweep under the rug the atrocities committed against children.

**WHO SHOULD WIN:** "Spotlight," but "Brooklyn" put a smile on my face like few films have, while "Mad Max: Fury Road" is the most visionary of the lot. Movies at their best transport us to worlds heretofore unseen, and the universe of "Fury Road" can't be fully appreciated in one sitting. For my money, it was the wildest ride of 2015.

#### BEST DIRECTOR

**Lenny Abrahamson, "Room"; Alejandro Iñárritu, "The Revenant"; George Miller, "Mad Max: Fury Road"; Tom McCarthy, "Spotlight"; Adam McKay, "The Big Short."**



George Miller

**WHO WILL AND SHOULD WIN:** Conventional wisdom says Iñárritu will be the third director in history to score back-to-back Oscars, having won in 2014 for "Birdman." "The Revenant," for all its flaws, is a visual triumph. However, this category loves to play the wild card, to reward nominees with visionary works.

It's like the academy's way of saying, "Hey, we *really* dug your movie, but we gotta give Best Picture to something more awards worthy." It happened in 2013 when Alphonso Cuarón won for "Gravity," in 2012 when Ang Lee won for "Life of Pi" and Lee again in 2005 for "Brokeback Mountain." That's why **Miller** seems the likely upset. "Mad Max" is his baby. The look, feel and tone of the picture — it's all him. You can argue the movie is plotless, but you can't deny the experience of it is like no other.

#### BEST ACTOR

**Bryan Cranston, "Trumbo"; Matt Damon, "The Martian"; Leonardo DiCaprio, "The Revenant"; Michael Fassbender, "Steve Jobs"; Eddie Redmayne, "The Danish Girl."**



Leonardo DiCaprio

**WHO WILL WIN:** Duh. Overlooked one time too many, **DiCaprio** is the evening's safest best for his physically impressive performance.

**WHO SHOULD WIN:** A 9-year-old boy who wasn't even nominated. **Jacob Tremblay's** performance in "Room" as Jack, a child who's lived every waking moment held hostage with his mother in a shed, is astonishing on every level. One hour into the film,

by Andrew Tallackson

# Predicting the Oscars

when he finally escapes, the sequence is agonizing, moving, heartbreaking — all because of him. His performance won the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role. What were Oscar voters thinking in not considering him? His age? Pooh on that.

#### BEST ACTRESS

**Cate Blanchett, "Carol"; Brie Larson, "Room"; Jennifer Lawrence, "Joy"; Charlotte Rampling, "45 Years"; and Saoirse Ronan, "Brooklyn."**

**WHO WILL AND SHOULD WIN:** No contest: **Larson.** Her raw, fierce, uncompromising performance as a woman existing in pure survival mode is a testament to the primal strength of motherhood.



Brie Larson

#### BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

**Christian Bale, "The Big Short"; Tom Hardy, "The Revenant"; Mark Ruffalo, "Spotlight"; Mark Rylance, "Bridge of Spies"; Sylvester Stallone, "Creed."**

**WHO WILL WIN:** **Stallone.** Everyone's rooting for him, and not just for sentimental reasons. "Creed" offers some of his finest moments on screen.

**WHO SHOULD WIN:** Stallone...but **Hardy** would be a juicy upset. "The Revenant" is relentlessly grim for 2 1/2 hours, yet Hardy enlivens it with twisted, voracious zeal.



Sylvester Stallone

#### BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

**Rooney Mara, "Carol"; Jennifer Jason Leigh, "The Hateful Eight"; Alicia Vikander, "The Danish Girl"; Kate Winslet, "Steve Jobs"; Rachel McAdams, "Spotlight."**

**WHO WILL WIN:** A two-horse race between Vikander and Winslet. The latter disappeared entirely into her role as Steve Jobs' long-suffering assistant. It took me five minutes to realize that was her. But this has been **Vikander's** year, starting with her chilling work in "Ex Machina" and now her lively turn in "The Danish Girl," where she exists



Alicia Vikander

on another plane from everyone else. She barrels through scenes with a smile on her face that suggests she knows a lot more than she's telling.

**WHO SHOULD WIN:** Again, someone who wasn't nominated. Chicago native **Joan Allen** is extraordinary in "Room," playing a woman barely holding it together after her daughter, long thought dead, is returned to her. When her grandson tells her he loves her, Allen's inability to rein in her character's composure is one of the year's most heart-rending moments.

#### BEST SCREENPLAY

**"Spotlight," Josh Singer & Tom McCarthy; "Bridge of Spies," Matt Charman and Ethan Coen & Joel Coen; "Ex Machina," Alex Garland; "Inside Out," screenplay by Pete Docter, Meg LeFauve, Josh Cooley; original story by Pete Docter, Ronnie del Carmen; "Straight Outta Compton," screenplay by Jonathan Herman & Andrea Berloff; story by S. Leigh Savidge & Alan Wenkus and Andrea Berloff.**

**WHO WILL AND SHOULD WIN:** "Spotlight" is diligent cinematic journalism. It covers a lot of ground and, remarkably, gets it right. Few have denied the film's accuracy. This is a rare case where Hollywood "done good."

#### BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

**"The Big Short," Charles Randolph & Adam McKay; "Brooklyn," Nick Hornby; "Carol," Phyllis Nagy; "The Martian," Drew Goddard; "Room," Emma Donoghue.**



The Big Short

**WHO WILL WIN:** "The Big Short," for wading through exceptionally difficult material — tough to follow for anyone not well-versed in Wall Street lingo — and finding a sly way of explaining it (Margot Robbie in a hot tub, anyone?)

**WHO SHOULD WIN:** "The Martian" is equally tough source material, firmly rooted in science, not action. Goddard nonetheless achieved something tricky. He never dumbed down Andy Weir's novel while preserving its snarky humor.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)



## Westchester Public Library

*The following programs are available:*

• **Knit Wits and Pearls of Wisdom at 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

The weekly meeting is open to the skilled and novices, with no registration required.

• **Teen Scene: Board Gaming from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Teens in grades 6-12 are invited. No registration is necessary.

• **Rainbow Loom from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, at Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Children in grades 3-6 create rainbow loom bracelets. Looms and rubber bands are supplied, but participants can take their own. Supplies are limited. Registration is required in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Duplo Club from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, at Thomas Library's Children's Department.**

Geared towards preschoolers ages 2-5, registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.



• **Teen Movie Night: "The Last Witch Hunter" at 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, at the Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The movie is rated PG-13. Free popcorn will be served.

• **Dr. Seuss and The Shape of Things from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, at the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Children will listen to Dr. Seuss books, play the shape guessing game and try a rhyming contest. Registration is necessary in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **The Unnamed Guild of Gamers from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Events will include a fifth edition "Dungeons & Dragons" campaign, as well as "Munchkin" and "Pandemic."

• **Adult Coloring Program from 6 to 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter, and at the same time the third Monday of the month at Thomas Library.**

Registration can be done in person or by phone at (219) 926-7696 for Thomas Library or (219) 926-9080 for Hageman Library.

• **Minecraft Meet-up from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 2 and 16, at Thomas Library.**

Registration is required and must be done in person. The WPL Gaming Policy and Rules of Conduct must be signed upon registration as well. Parents are welcome to attend, but required for youth 10 and younger.

• **Pokemon League from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through May 24 at Thomas Library.**

The program is aimed at children in first grade and older. Attendees learn to make decks of 60 cards. They don't need to take anything unless wanting to take a starter pack of cards.

• **Children's Crochet Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays through June 29 in the Children's Department at Thomas Library.**

Attendees learn beginning crochet from instructor Sadie Steciuch. Children should take a size G crochet hook and skein of medium weight yarn. Register by calling (219) 926-7696.

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## Chesterton Art Center

*The following programs are offered through Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.:*

• **Artwork from Chesterton Montessori School is on display Feb. 25 through March 2, with an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26.**

This year, the theme is “talking with color.” In a workshop-style format, students have learned art history and information about relevant artists, and played with a variety of materials and methods.

Approximately 45 students from grades one through six will participate in the exhibit.

• **Local painter Mark VanderVinne will host Critique Night at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 2.**

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 take 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.

• **Long Beach resident George Kassal will offer “Beyond the Basics Digital Photography” from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, March 9 and 16.**

The two-session workshop will help beginning users of digital cameras move beyond basic control to an intermediate skill level. Class will start with a quick



A Chesterton Montessori School student works on her piece for the exhibit.

review, then explore creative controls to take advantage of more advanced features. Hands-on exercises will include simple portraits, night photography and holiday decorations, flowers and closeups, using the flash, group shots and special effects.

Students should take a camera and manual. The cost is \$45, with members receiving a \$5 discount.

• **“Color Between the Wines” adult coloring club from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 9.**

The club will provide all materials (coloring pages and crayons), as well as free adult beverages. Participants can take books, pencils and pens. This is not a structured class, but a social opportunity to decompress while using a creative outlet.

• **Mara Wible will teach a different jewelry class from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays.**

The lineup is: March 1 — Crochet Bracelet, \$25, no prior experience required; March 8 — Crystal Pendant, \$25; March 15 — Byzantine Bracelet, \$30; March 22 — Found Object Pendant, \$25, if possible, take beach glass or special found object; March 29 — Netted Seed Bead Bracelet, \$30.

In a number of the classes, participants will work with small beads, so take appropriate glasses. Supplies are included for each class, and members receive a \$5 discount per class. There is a three-person minimum, and students must be signed up no later than the day prior to the start of class. In some cases, a project may not be completed in the two-hour time slot.

Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) for more information.



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## Michigan City Public Library

*The following programs are available at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.:*

• **Art à la Carte: Winter Craft at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25.**

Make a penguin thermometer, with all materials provided. Children 4-10 with an adult must be present to receive craft supplies.

• **Basket Weaving at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 27.**

Margie Warner is the instructor. All materials are provided. Registration and a \$10 deposit are required. Stop by Circulation to see the basket and verify the cost.

Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information on library programming.

## "Bison-tennial" Public Art Project

United Way of La Porte County will facilitate the "Bison-tennial" Public Art Project in partnership with the La Porte County Indiana Bicentennial Committee.

This is an officially endorsed legacy project designed to celebrate Indiana's history and unique features.

A call went out for La Porte County artists to decorate a 5-foot-tall fiberglass bison for public display throughout the county. Sierra Mullican, La Porte, an art student at Indiana University-South Bend, will decorate the La Porte County bison. The state's goal is that at least one — if not a herd — of bison will be on display in each of Indiana's 92 counties.



Jane Daley of La Porte County Convention & Visitors Bureau and Kris Pate of United Way of La Porte County appear with the fiberglass bison.

The bison has been delivered to La Porte County Convention & Visitors Bureau's Marquette Mall office, where it will be decorated. It is expected to be complete by the end of February, and make local appearances throughout the spring and summer. The piece also will be highlighted along the Bicentennial Torch Relay route heading through the county Saturday, Oct. 8, and culminating in Washington Park for a county-wide bicentennial celebration.

Businesses and organizations are encouraged to help sponsor the La Porte County Indiana Bicentennial Committee by making donations to support projects and activities. Credit card payments can be made at [tinyurl.com/zexyzq8](http://tinyurl.com/zexyzq8), or mail a check made out to Unity Foundation, P.O. Box 527, Michigan City, IN 46360. Put "Bicentennial" in the memo line.

Email [mbishop@laportecounty.org](mailto:mbishop@laportecounty.org), call (219) 326-6808, Ext. 2253, or visit La Porte County Bicentennial 2016 on Facebook for more information.

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## “Breaking Bach 2”

Michigan City Chamber Music Festival will present the free concert “Breaking Bach 2” at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St., Michigan City.

The concert, featuring violinists Zofia Glashauser and Nic Orbovich and pianist Jennifer Muniz, will showcase extreme violin and piano virtuosity in some of the repertoire’s most challenging and beloved favorites, including works by Sergei Prokofiev, Dmitri Shostakovich and J.S. Bach.

Glashauser, well-known to MCCMF audiences, is the concertmaster for South Bend Symphony Orchestra and Lira Orchestra of Chicago, and has performed concertos by Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Wieniawski, Vieuxtemps and Tartini with orchestras around the world.

Orbovich, a MCCMF co-founder, is director of music ministries at First Presbyterian Church. He has received medals and been a prize winner in international competitions, including the Fischhoff National, and Her Royal Majesty’s International Competition at King’s College, Aberdeen, Scotland.

Call (219) 561-1939 or visit [www.mccmf.org](http://www.mccmf.org) for more information.

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## “The Annotated Swan Lake Ballet”



Metamorphosis Traveling Theatre is touring “The Annotated Swan Lake Ballet.” Performances are: 9 and 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 29, and 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 2, at Head Start classes (the former Niemann School), Michigan City. Call MTT at (219) 872-4813 for more information.

## Service League Has Coupon Books

The Service League of Michigan City has Community Days books available at its office, 301 E. Garfield St.

The books, which cost \$5, can be used from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26-27. The donation directly benefits the Service League.

A Swingbelly’s give back day is March 8. Coupons are available at the office, with the League receiving a percent of the meal cost.

League office hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

## Education for Caregivers Series

The Lunch & Learn Education for Caregivers series continues with “The Language of the Heart: Communication Changes” from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, at Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave.

The speaker is Tara Trevino, administrator at The Arbors. The program is free, but lunch reservations are required at least three days in advance. Call (800) 552-7928, Ext. 7132.

## “Breakfast at Galveston”

The Michigan City High School Girls Tennis Team will host its “Breakfast at Galveston” from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 5, at Galveston Steakhouse, 10 Commerce Square.

Biscuits and gravy, French toast, eggs, sausage and drinks are included for \$6 in advance or \$7 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the Athletic Director’s office or from any team member.

# Winter Warmup

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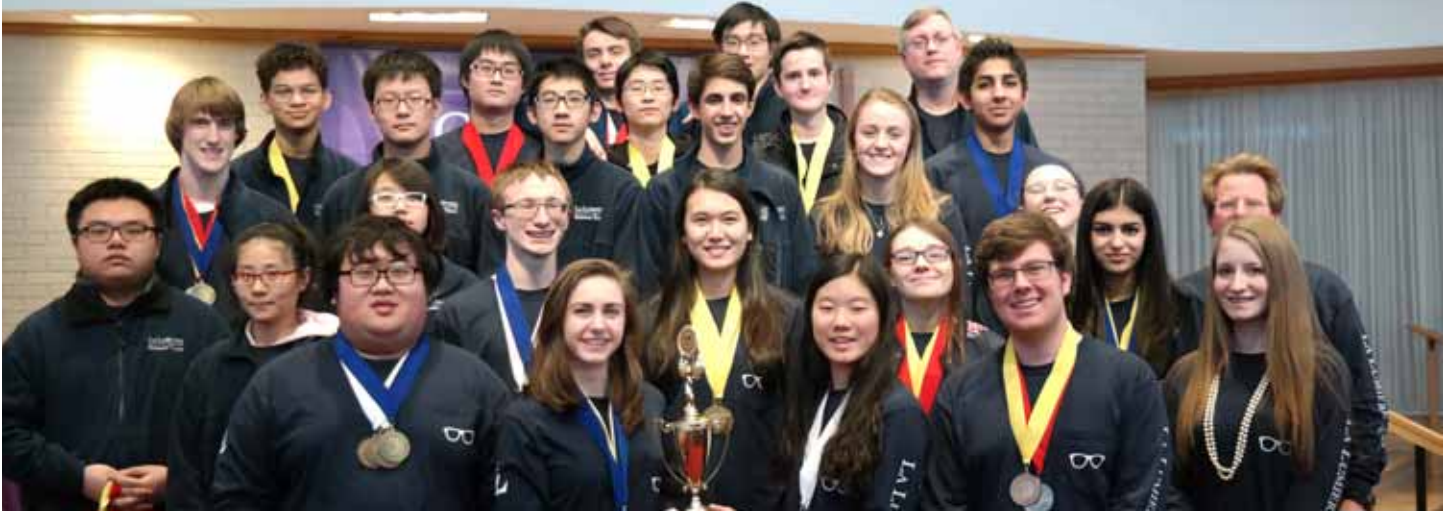
## La Lumiere Competes in Science Olympiad

La Lumiere School's Science Olympiad team traveled to Goshen College on Feb. 13 to compete in the Indiana Science Olympiad Regional Tournament.

LaLu competed against 12 teams in 23 science events and earned second place overall. The team earned first place in five events, second place in five

events and third place in three events. That qualifies the team to participate in the Indiana State Science Olympiad Finals on Saturday, March 19, at Indiana University-Bloomington.

The following LaLu students took home medals for the following science events:



The 2015-2016 La Lu Science Olympiad team is: (Row 1, from left): Yuyang (Peter) Zhang, Megan Gillen, Janice Baek, Nolan Grieger and Natalie McGuckin. Row 2 (from left): Shunzhang (Lee) Li, Yang (Kathy) Kong, Qingyuan (Season) Wu, Sean Russell, Haohao (Maggie) Chen, Rowena Quinn, Zoe Surma, Shivani Patel and Bryan Smith. Row 3 (from left): Noah Schuster, Zifei (Vincent) Chen, Yifan (Iven) Jiang, Tucker Magill and Haley Harkness. Row 4 (from left): Isaac Houston, Zicheng (Tom) Ren, Luyuan (Andy) Hang, John August Hendricks and Hasan Nasar. Row 5 (from left): Matt Peters, Bozhao (Connor) Zhang and Ken Andert.

### First Place

- Bridge Building: Janice Baek, Ulsan, South Korea; Yuyang (Peter) Zhang, Beijing, China.
- Cell Biology: Megan Gillen, La Porte; Noah Schuster, La Porte.
- Forensics: Megan Gillen, La Porte; Shivani Patel, Granger.
- Fossils: Sean Russell, North Liberty; Zoe Surma, La Porte.
- Invasive Species: Haley Harkness, Valparaiso; Hasan Nasar, Chesterton.

### Second Place

- Air Trajectory: Shunzhang (Lee) Li, Shanghai, China; Zicheng (Tom) Ren, Wuxi, China.
- Astronomy: Nolan Grieger, La Porte; Matt Peters, Goshen.

- Disease Detectives: Haley Harkness, Valparaiso; Noah Schuster, La Porte.
- Geologic Mapping: Sean Russell, North Liberty; Zoe Surma, La Porte.
- Wind Power: Rowena Quinn, La Porte; Zicheng (Tom) Ren, Wuxi, China.

### Third Place

- Dynamic Planet Oceanography: Janice Baek, Ulsan, South Korea; Yuyang (Peter) Zhang, Beijing, China.
- Electric Vehicle: Matt Peters, Goshen; Sean Russell, North Liberty.
- Experimental Design: Janice Baek, Ulsan, South Korea; Megan Gillen, La Porte; and Yuyang (Peter) Zhang, Beijing, China.

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## MCHS Students Win Art Awards

Three Michigan City High School artists received awards at the 2016 Scholastic Art Awards competition in South Bend.

Their work will be on exhibit through Feb. 27 at South Bend Museum of Art, which is located in The Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St.



Grant Wyse (from left), Kaitlin Emerick and Ryan Solano.

The juried contest features the best work from more than 2,500 students across Northwest Indiana and Southwest Michigan. Student work that receives the highest rating, a Gold Key, is sent to New York City to compete at the national level.

Earning awards were:

- Grant Wyse, who earned a Gold Key for his mixed-media project. His work will compete at the national level.
- Kaitlin Emerick, whose photo collage earned a Silver Key. Her artwork also received an honorable mention.
- Ryan Solano, whose photograph of a bee received a Silver Key. He also received an honorable mention award.

## Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

*The following programs are available:*

• **You Can't Get There From Here Anymore!** from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.

Join retired ranger Darryl Blink for a look into the lakeshore's early days and development.

• **A Patchwork of History Passed Down at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Peggy Whitlow will share her family heritage through quiltmaking, a tradition passed down by her grandmother, a former slave. Family quilts dating to the 1800s will be on display.

• **Find Your Park Film Series on Saturdays and Sundays.**

Explore a different National Park Service site through films shown at 2 p.m. Saturdays at the Paul H. Douglas Center and 2 p.m. Sundays at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. Call the park's information line at (219) 395-1882 for this week's film.

• **Open House at the Douglas Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Family friendly activities include the chance to borrow cross country skis if there is enough snow. Visitors also can feed the center's resident turtles and fish, or just explore the center's exhibits.

• **"Kid's Rule" from 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Join a ranger in the Visitor Center's activity room for stories and activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

*The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is on Lake Street in Gary. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.*

## Michiana Clowns

Michiana Clowns had a Valentine theme featuring "Stupid Cupid" for its February meeting.

In addition to customary silly business, Cupid conducted a trivia quiz, with prizes awarded for the best answers. Members exchanged pink elephant gifts appropriate to the occasion. "Hyacinth" brought Valentine refreshments.

This month's clowns of the month are Chips and Orky. Each received a framed self photo and a special medal marking the occasion.

The group will sponsor a Junior Joey (clown younger than 16) to attend next month's World Clown Convention in Orlando, Fla. A "Stratosphere" magic prop was auctioned to help raise some of the funds.

March 19 is the annual Michiana Clowns Appreciation Dinner. Clowns signed up to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Michigan City in March, and the Blossomtime Parade in St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, Mich., in May.



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## Indiana Dunes State Park

*The following programs are offered:*

### Saturday, Feb. 27

#### • 10 a.m. — Snowshoe Shuffle.

Meet a park interpreter at the Nature Center for an introduction to the mode of winter transportation. Then, try on a pair and take a short walk through the winter woods. A short hike is planned if there isn't enough snow.

#### • 2 p.m. — Winter Beach Walk.

Join a naturalist at the beach pavilion for a 45-minute winter hike to explore recent storm damage, as well as possible ice-shelf formations.

### Sunday, Feb. 28

#### • 10 a.m. — Feed the Birds.

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

#### • 2 p.m. — Dunes Birding: Crash Course.

Meet State Park Interpreter Brad Bumgardner in the Nature Center auditorium for a three-hour introduction to birding, including the history of ornithology, common dune birds, bird banding and leading bird walks. Registration is required, and there is a \$10 workshop fee.

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

## PEO Chapter DF

PEO Chapter DF has welcomed three initiates as new sisters, including Karen Lyness, Linda Pompeii and Mary Ann Jensen.

During fall meetings, Chapter DF programs focused on topics such as fashion, big-time game hunting in the Yukon with Dennis Wolter, the art of designing and making quilts by Katie Gielow and philosophical musings by Ross Blythe on "What if the Hokey Pokey Is What It's All About?"

Official business included a visit from state representative Mary Lee McFarland in early October.

Fundraisers for the coming year will provide educational opportunities for women whose education was interrupted and want to return to college.

## Health Secrets of Dark Chocolate

La Porte County Extension Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, Suite A, La Porte, will host the free program "The Health Secrets of Dark Chocolate" at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 3.

The program features a tasting, as well as discussion about the history and health benefits of dark chocolate. Healthy recipes will be provided. Registration is required by calling (219) 324-9407.

## Reaching Out



Valentine's Day may bring out the joy of celebrating with loved ones, but it can be difficult for those grieving the recent death of a spouse. Taking that into consideration, Geisen-Carlisle Funeral Home staff hosted a special lunch for people they served in the past two years. Widows, widowers and their guests gathered at Pottawattomie Country Club for the funeral home's third annual "Bingo Lunch," where guests could win prizes. "We know being in this business that after you lose someone close, milestones and holidays can be rough," funeral home owner Larry Geisen said. "This is one of our programs that can bring a little bit of comfort during that difficult time."

## Sarett Nature Center

An Owl Prowl is at 7 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 27, at Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.

Wear warm clothes, and take a small flashlight. The cost is \$3. Call (269) 927-4832 to register.

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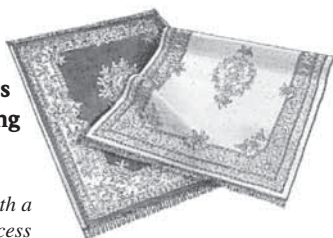
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## MCAS Kindergarten/Pre-K Roundup

Michigan City Area Schools will conduct kindergarten and preschool registration for the 2016-2017 school year Thursday, Feb. 25.

Kindergarten students must be 5 by Aug. 1, 2016. Pre-K students must be 3 by Aug. 1, 2016. Roundup is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at all MCAS elementary buildings Feb. 25, which also is the date of after-school parent-teacher conferences.

Kindergarten students should be enrolled at the school that serves the area in which they live:

- Coolspring Elementary, 9121 W. County Road 300 North.
- Edgewood Elementary, 502 Boyd Circle.
- Joy Elementary, 1600 E. Coolspring Ave.
- Knapp Elementary, 321 Bolka Ave.
- Lake Hills Elementary, 201 Ferguson Road.
- Marsh Elementary, 401 E. Homer St.
- Pine Elementary, 1660 County Line Road.
- Springfield Elementary, 3054 W. County Road 800 North.

Pre-K Roundup also is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 25. School-based Pre-K programs are offered in partnership with La Porte County Family YMCA and Imagination Station at Coolspring, Knapp, Marsh, Springfield and Pine (also serving Edgewood, Joy and Lake Hills students). There are tuition fees associated with Pre-K programs; however, need-based scholarships are available and CCDF vouchers accepted.

Parents who need assistance to determine which school their child will attend may contact the MCAS Transportation Department at (219) 873-2127. For all other questions regarding Pre-K and K Roundup, contact the school where your child will be enrolled.

Parents should take the following information to kindergarten/Pre-K roundup:

- The child's official birth certificate from the state Board of Health.
- An updated record of the child's immunizations.
- The parent/guardian's driver's license or state photo ID.
- Emergency contact information.
- Proof of residency (a utility bill, property tax bill, lease agreement on business letterhead, public assistance documentation).

Information and application forms for MCAS Magnet School programs will be available at Kindergarten Roundup. They also will be available beginning Feb. 25 at <http://EducateMC.net/magnets>

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2. Queen Pins	18	6
3. Lady Strikers	15	9

### HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Mary Lou McFadden	184
2. Margie Midkiff	176
3. June Salmon	168
4. Cindy Beck	166
5. Tammy Vouri (series)	422

### SPLITS

Margie Midkiff	5-10
Sue Luegers	5-7

### THREE STRIKES IN A ROW

Cindy Beck

### FOUR STRIKES IN A ROW

Mary Lou McFadden



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*The American Red Cross La Porte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobiles:*

- Marquette High School, 306 W. 10th St., Michigan City, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26. Each student who recruits one presenting donor will receive a slapwatch while supplies last.
- IU Health La Porte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, La Porte, 8 a.m. to noon Monday, Feb. 29.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, Michigan City, noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 1.

*Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) for more information.*



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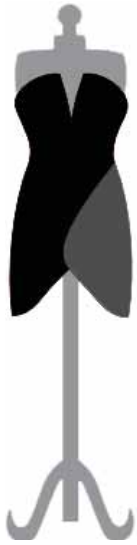
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## Activities to Explore

### In the Local Area:

**Feb. 25** — Art à la Carte: Winter Craft, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Feb. 25** — Dunes Learning Center screening, "The Land: An Adventure Play Documentary," 6-8 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Tickets: \$5. Reservations: [tinyurl.com/hfpdxdf](http://tinyurl.com/hfpdxdf)

**Feb. 25** — Comedy Showcase, 7 p.m., The Nest, 803 Franklin St. Tickets: \$5. Info: (219) 262-5200.

**Feb. 25-29** — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "The Lady in the Van." Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. Fri., Sat. & Mon., & 3 p.m. Sun. *Also:* "Oscar-Nominated Short Films — Live Action." Not Rated. Times: 6 p.m. Thur./9 p.m. Sat. *Also:* "Oscar Nominated Short Films — Animated." Not Rated. Times: 9 p.m. Fri./12:30 p.m. Sun. *Also:* "Oscar Nominated Short Films — Documentary." Not Rated. Time: 2 p.m. Sat. All times Eastern. Info: [vickerstheatre.com](http://vickerstheatre.com)

**Feb. 26** — Opening reception, Chesterton Montessori School artwork, 5-7 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 1165 S. Fourth St. Info: [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com), (219) 926-4711.

**Feb. 26** — "You Can't Get There From Here Any-more!," 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**Feb. 26-28, March 4-6** — "Hoosiers in Music — Celebrating 200 Years," La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7 p.m. Fri. & Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$12. Reservations: (219) 362-5113, [laportelittletheatreclub.com](http://laportelittletheatreclub.com)

**Feb. 27** — La Porte County Amateur Radio Club Cabin Fever Hamfest, 7 a.m.-1 p.m., La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., La Porte. Cost: \$7. Info: (219) 448-0832, [cabinfeverhamfest@gmail.com](mailto:cabinfeverhamfest@gmail.com)

**Feb. 27** — Final Mary Kintzele Barker Mansion tour, 1 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Reservations: (219) 873-1520.

**Feb. 27** — A Patchwork of History Passed Down, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**Feb. 27** — Winter Beach Walk, 2 p.m., beach pavilion @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Feb. 27** — Michigan City Chamber Music Festival free concert, "Breaking Bach 2," 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St., Michigan City. Info: (219) 561-1939, [www.mccmf.org](http://www.mccmf.org)

**Feb. 27** — Michigan City Women's Bowling Association Bowl For the Cure bowl-a-thon, Lakeshore Lanes, 2820 E. Michigan Blvd. Check-in/5 p.m., bowling/6 p.m.

**Feb. 27** — Teen Movie Night, "The Last Witch Hunter," 5 p.m., Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**Feb. 28** — Free annual Maple Sugar Time, noon-



## Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

3 p.m., International Friendship Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Info: (219) 878-9885.

**Feb. 28** — Dunes Birding: Crash Course, 2 p.m., Nature Center Auditorium @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Cost: \$10. Registration: (219) 926-1390.

**Feb. 28** — Emerging Artist Series, James Neary and Brittany Lee Moffitt, 5 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [www.acorntheater.com](http://www.acorntheater.com), (269) 756-3879.

**Feb. 29 — LEAP DAY.**

**March 1** — Dr. Seuss and The Shape of Things, 3:15-4:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**March 3** — "The Health Secrets of Dark Chocolate," 1:30 p.m., La Porte County Extension Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, Suite A, La Porte. Free. Registration: (219) 324-9407.

**Through February** — "Vintage Valentines," La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte. Museum hours: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tue.-Sat. Info: [www.laportecountyhistory.org](http://www.laportecountyhistory.org), (219) 324-6767.

**Mondays** — Codependents Anonymous (CoDA), 6 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (219) 879-3817.

**Wednesdays** — Al-Anon meetings, 6-7 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (708) 927-5287.

**Farther Afield:**

**Feb. 24-March 20** — "The 39 Steps," The Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster. Times: 2 p.m. Wed. & Thur, 7:30 p.m. Fri. & Sat., 2:30 p.m. Sun., select Thursday and Sunday nights and Saturday matinees. Tickets: \$40-\$44. Tickets: (219) 836-3255, [Tickets.com](http://Tickets.com)

**Feb. 26** — "Get The Led Out: the 'American Led Zeppelin'," 7:30 p.m. EST, The Lerner Theatre, 410 S. Main St., Elkhart. Tickets: [thelerner.com](http://thelerner.com), (574) 293-4469, (800) 294-8223.

**Feb. 27** — Indoor Flea Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Info: (773) 275-1514.

**Feb. 27** — Owl Prowl, 7 p.m. EST, Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich. Cost: \$3. Info: (269) 927-4832.

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## LaLu Choir Earns Gold Medal

La Lumiere School's Concert Choir received a gold medal at the Indiana State School Music Association District Solo and Ensemble competition.

Held Saturday, Jan. 30, at Kankakee Valley Middle School in Wheatfield, Ind., the choir is directed by Brad Poore and includes: Julia Goodman, a junior from La Porte; Isaac Houston, a junior from Niles, Mich.; J.H. Lee, a junior from Seoul, South Korea; Amelia Murphy, a junior from La Porte; Emma Patterson, a junior from South Bend; Cassidy Rehrer, a sophomore from South Bend; Nick Rogers, a sophomore from La Porte; and Stephanie Zaccone, a junior from Michigan City. They sang Orazio Vecchi's "Fa Una Canzona."



The La Lumiere School Concert Choir includes (front row, from left) Cassidy Rehrer, Julia Goodman, Stephanie Zaccone and Emma Patterson. The back row is (from left) J.H. Lee, Nick Rogers, Brad Poore, Isaac Houston, Savannah Starr and Amelia Murphy.

The honor qualifies the choir for state competition on Saturday, Feb. 20, in Indianapolis.

In addition to the choir ensemble, Savannah Starr, Michigan City, and Emma Patterson, South Bend, made solo performances. Starr earned a silver medal for her piano solo of Debussy's "Arabesque No. 1," while Patterson earned two silver medals: one for her piano solo of Chopin's "Polonaise in G Minor" and another for her vocal solo performance of "Dream Valley, a poem by William Blake set to music and composed by Roger Quilter.

## Social Media Campaign Honored

Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International honored the #myMichiganCity loyalty campaign with a Bronze Adrian Award for digital marketing excellence.

The Adrian Awards are the largest global travel marketing competition.

This year's contest garnered more than 1,300 entries from around the world, and judged by executives from all sectors of the industry.

The #myMichiganCity loyalty campaign was created to provide the city with a social media voice, and leverage user-generated content from those who visit, live and work in Michigan City.

## La Porte County Parks



All registrations/questions go through the Red Mill County Park Administrative Office, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, La Porte. Call (219) 325-8315 or visit [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org) for more information.

### Stroller, Baby and You

Aimed at toddlers and preschoolers, programs include music, dance, storytelling and a hike (weather permitting).

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, March 7 and 14, and April 4 and 18, at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Call at least one week in advance to register.

### Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first. The schedule is:

- March 9 — Hello Down There.
- April 6 — Flower Power.
- April 13 — 1 Bird, 2 Birds, 3 Birds.

### Senior Lifestyles

Join the free 55+ Club, a social club designed for adults 55 and older to learn and explore various types of nature. Free coffee is served to participants. The group meets from 9 to 10 a.m. at Luhr County Park Nature Center. Call at least one week in advance to register. The schedule is:

- March 2 — "Arthritis and Our Joints," Dr. Sarah Bancroft; also, free bone density testing.
- April 6 — "Birds and How to Attract Them to Your Home," Potawatomi Audubon Society.

### Shake Off the Winter Blues

Stop by Luhr County Park Nature Center for a hands-on encounter with the natural world, along with free coffee or hot tea, from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 9.

Guests can view displays and native live animals, and watch birds and squirrels play in the wildlife viewing area.

### Spa Day at the Park

A variety of booths will have sample services and/or products to share and sell from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 12, at Red Mill County Park's Pat Smith Hall.

The first 50 present receive a goodie bag. No pre-registration is required.



## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**Chains** by Laurie Halse Anderson (paperback, \$8.99 in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

*"She cannot chain my soul. Yes, she could hurt me. She'd already done so. But what was one more beating? A flogging, even? I would bleed, or not. Scar, or not. Live, or not. ...she could not hurt my soul, not unless I gave it to her."*

Those are the words of 13-year-old Isobel, a slave in the American colonies in 1776. This book, while a novel, shows us the life of a slave at that time told in such personal terms and gut-wrenching reality, it shouldn't be overlooked.

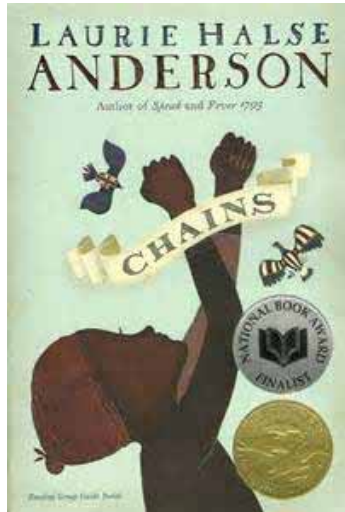
So why tell a story about Isobel? This book brings up some interesting points based on the author's extensive research. In fact, each chapter starts with a few lines from a letter or newspaper article from 1776 that, when coupled with Isobel's story, give a more in-depth look at the lives of people who lived the war, but had no control over their destinies.

I make this recommendation in honor of Black History Month because of the story's humanity, not because of dates or statistics about the war. It is a story about a part of the American Revolutionary War that is generally overlooked—the part slaves played during this time and what their lives were like, focusing on New York City.

It's easy to think of July 4, 1776, our day of independence, as the end of the war. Oh no. There was still much fighting and dying to do. Battles raged on. One side won, then the other. New York City was almost burned to the ground, and still neither side would give up.

While the colonists and Royalists fought it out, there was a part of the population caught in the middle: the indentured servants and slaves. This book is told in the voice of Isobel. She and her younger sister, Ruth, were owned by Miss Mary Finch, an elderly spinster of Rhode Island. Miss Finch has just died as the story opens. She has been kind to the girls and even taught Isobel to read and write. That's how Isobel knew Miss Finch put the girls' freedom in her will. However, her nephew and only living heir, Mr. Roberts, did not believe the girl because the lawyer with the will fled the city and headed north. Case closed. A slave's word did not trump a white man's word.

Anxious only for money, Roberts sells the girls to a Loyalist, Elihu Lockton, and his wife. In Newport, they put the girls on a ship to New York City, Isobel now realizing all hopes of becoming free are gone.



Being the invisible part of the household, Isobel can see and hear things her Loyalist owner and his friends are plotting. The water well in town is a gathering place for people. She meets Curzon, a black boy with the Patriots. When he learns who she is owned by, he persuades her to steal information and pass it on to the Patriots. Become a spy for the colonists? Why should she risk her life for them? Curzon says the colonists will set her free. She's been lied to before, why believe this now? Especially since it seems the colonists are losing.

She decides to help Curzon and makes several dangerous late-night runs to pass on crucial information about Lockton and the Loyalists' plans, even though getting caught would cost her more than her freedom. Later, when things go badly for the colonists, Curzon and his group are caught and thrown in prison. Again, Isobel risks her life, taking leftover food scraps to the prison.

What happens to Isobel and Curzon after this cannot be told by me; you need to read it for yourself—you will be moved by Isobel's story, I have no doubt. The prose in this book is extraordinary in its brutal, but real descriptions of what a slave in this time and this place could expect. It shows how servitude and constant dehumanizing change a person, either making them decide to merely survive or keep looking for a way to "cross the River Jordan." It is hard to believe this book is listed as a read for pre-teens. Certainly, there is nothing childish in either the story nor the manner of telling it.

Chains is an amazing story told in a mature voice by a very small girl trying to survive in a very large world that seems to have forgotten she exists.

Isobel's story continues in Forge, the second in the trilogy called "Seeds of America," and will conclude with the third book, Ashes, which will be released in October.

From *Kirkus Review*: Anderson brilliantly recreates New York City in the summer of 1776, viewed through the eyes of a remarkable heroine.

From *Publishers Weekly*: "Anderson packs so much detail into her evocation of wartime New York City that readers will see the turmoil and confusion of the times..."

Chains was a National Book Award finalist and winner of the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction. Anderson is the author of many other books that have garnered many prestigious awards. Her website is [www.writerlady.com](http://www.writerlady.com)

Till next time, happy reading!



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\$35/hr plus other potential bonuses! **Call (269) 588-9600 for interview**  
**appointment.**

### **WANT TO SELL**

**ART SUPPLY GIFT SETS FOR BUDDING ARTISTS – FIRME'S**  
(2 Stores) 11th & Franklin Streets, Michigan City - 219/874-3455  
Hwy 12, Beverly Shores - Just West of Traffic Light - 219/874-4003.

### **GARAGE SALES, ESTATE SALES, ETC.**

#### **The Good Things Sale**

A fabulous collection of furniture, housewares, art, lamps, linens, chairs,  
dishes, tools, electronics, toys, gardening items, etc. It's time to gather all  
your Good Things to participate in this great sale

#### **Shopping Dates:**

**March 19, 10-2 p.m.**

Shop first for the best selection

**March 20, Noon-4 p.m.**

Take it away day, up to 50% discounts and considering offers

Participation drop-off appointments scheduled March 1-14, on the hour,  
Mon.-Fri. from 10-4 p.m. with a few evening and weekend appointments  
upon request.

### **WANT TO BUY**

**WANTED:** I buy all types of antiques and collectibles, including toys,  
advertising, military items and more. **Call Matt at (219) 794-6500.**

**Seeking vintage furniture for home:** French provincial high-back  
chairs, lamps and rugs, wing back chairs, grandfather clock. Please  
call (219) 871-9064.

### **WANT TO RENT/LEASE/SHARE**

Seeking quiet tenant for upper apartment in well-maintained build-  
ing. \$575, all inclusive. \$500 security deposit. No smoking, no pets.  
Call (219) 872-5162.

### **REAL ESTATE**

#### **COMMERCIAL – RENTALS/LEASE/SELL**

##### **Equilibrium Vacation Rentals LLC**

We provide full service property management.  
(219) 898-1060 • [equilibriumrentals@yahoo.com](mailto:equilibriumrentals@yahoo.com)

#### **RENTALS INDIANA**

**Stop 31.** Nicely furn. 3BR, 2BA with 3-season porch. Family room. WiFi.  
Winter/spring available for \$895/mo +util. Short or long term. \$1,850/wk.  
summer rental avail. W/D. No smoking, no pets. 4-min. walk to beautiful  
beach. See VRBO #372192. **Call Pat at 708-361-8240.**

**WATERFRONT APTS** for rent in MC. Furnished-utilities, WiFi/TV incl.  
1BR \$775/mo., 2BR \$975/mo. Sec. dep. Call Pete at (219) 871-9187.

**Summer rental. Stop 37.** 4BR/3BA, AC, WiFi/cable. 300 ft to beach  
access. Contact [nmarkey11@hotmail.com](mailto:nmarkey11@hotmail.com)

#### **RENTALS MICHIGAN**

##### **Heart of New Buffalo**

**Available now!** Two bedroom, one bath condo with a large private  
deck and one private parking spot located in a residential area in  
the heart of New Buffalo. The unit is a 3-minute walk to shops and a  
10-minute walk to the lake. The building is well lit and the surround-  
ing area quiet and safe. Rent is \$550 per month and does not include  
utilities. Please contact Milt for more information. (708) 334-9955.

Apply for this property at [www.terrafirmainvestments.org](http://www.terrafirmainvestments.org).

## **Delta Sigma Club Science Fair**

Purdue University-North Central Delta Sigma  
science club will sponsor a science fair open to stu-  
dents in grades 3-8 on Saturday, April 2.

Setup will begin at 8 a.m. the day of the fair.  
Judging is at 10 a.m., with awards presented at  
11:30 a.m. There is no registration fee.

Those who register get a free T-shirt, but supplies  
are limited. Participants may register by March 2  
at [tinyurl.com/ht5yqgn](http://tinyurl.com/ht5yqgn)

Delta Sigma members are hosting the event to  
introduce younger students who enjoy science to a  
professional science-fair setting, Anna Zipay, Delta  
Sigma vice president and secretary, said.

"The science fair participants will be able to in-  
teract with PNC biology students, as well as the  
judges, who are PNC biology and chemistry profes-  
sors," she continued.

Many Delta Sigma members believe participat-  
ing in science fairs fostered an interest in science  
and, ultimately, embarking on a science degree.

PNC faculty members participating as judges are:  
Lindsay Gielda, assistant professor of biology; Jus-  
tin Poling, biology lab assistant; Michelle Spauld-  
ing, assistant professor of biology; Jessica Thomas,  
assistant professor of chemistry; and Aaron Warren,  
associate professor of physics.





**Micky Gallas**  
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## Micky Gallas Properties

(219) 874-7070

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**NEW PRICE**



### **3527 Calumet Trail** **Duneland Beach • \$439,000**

Contemporary 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath ranch with outdoor entertaining areas including pool surrounded by expansive deck overlooking waterfall. Living room has vaulted ceiling & opens to family room with fireplace. Spacious kitchen, sun room, master bedroom suite with sitting room. Finished lower level, whole house generator, alarm & in-ground sprinklers.



**NEW PRICE**



### **218 Loran Road** **Lake Hills • \$179,900**

Located on two lots in Lake Hills, this open concept 4 bedroom, 3 bath home has been completely remodeled. The list of updates includes 200 amp electrical, plumbing, insulation, double hung tilt in/out windows, flooring, drywall, appliances, newer furnace & a/c, new water lines from the main & new sewer lines to the main. Oversized 2-car garage.



**NEW LISTING**

**VACANT LOT  
CLOSE TO  
THE BEACH!**



### **702 Lake Shore Drive** **Sheridan Beach • \$99,000**

Great corner lot on the corner of Illinois & Lake Shore Drive just a few steps to the beach! Lot dimensions are 100x49. City services available. Residential zoning. Come and see what this building site can offer you with your creative plans. Close to Marina Park, zoo, great restaurants & casino.

## You're the Key to Our 20 Years of Success



Shirl Bacztub, GRI (219) 874-5642  
Judi Donaldson, GRI (219) 879-1411  
Jamie Follmer (219) 851-2164  
Jordan Gallas (219) 861-3659

\*Licensed in Indiana and Michigan

Susan Kelley, CRS (312) 622-7445  
Tina Kelly\* (219) 873-3680  
Karen Kmiecik-Pavy, GRI (219) 210-0494

Daiva Mockaitis, GRI (219) 670-0982  
Line Mullins\*\* (708) 790-3676  
Barb Pinks (574) 876-5967  
Pat Tym\*, ABR, CRS, GRI, SRES (219) 210-0324

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## Duneland Beach at its Finest!



### 3317 Marquette Trail Duneland Beach

Close enough to Lake Michigan to hear the breaking waves, yet quiet & peaceful for complete relaxation. This 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home has been completely redone & ready for summer fun.

New kitchen with Viking stove, built-in table & bench, new cabinetry, lighting, floor, appliances and is flooded with sunlight from many windows. Living room offers lovely wood floors & wet bar. Lower level rec room is warmed by newly tiled fireplace. Gardens surrounding heated in-ground pool & includes a built-in landscaped area & stone patio for hot tub level & gas fed fire pit.

*Offered for \$899,000*



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## LONG BEACH REALTY

1401 Lake Shore Drive ~ 3100 Lake Shore Drive  
219.874.5209 ~ 219.872.1432

[www.longbeachrealty.net](http://www.longbeachrealty.net)

*Family Owned and Operated Since 1920*



### 1200 Springland Avenue, Michigan City



This unique 1922 home is a masterwork directly influenced by Gustav Stickley and Frank Lloyd Wright. Named Singing Pines, it was constructed as a weekend estate for a manufacturing executive. Arts and crafts elements include an open floorplan with high-beamed ceilings, three fireplaces, including an oversized fieldstone fireplace in the living room, large country kitchen and vintage light fixtures.

Additional features include marble topped bar, greenhouse/summer room, newer windows and a heated artists loft above the garage. The home sits on 3+ acres and backs up to Michigan City's forest preserve, Memorial Park. You have woodland views from every angle. The multi-level lot includes multiple artesian springs, a fish pond, creek and a 1,100 sq ft deck overlooking the virgin duneland oak forest.

**\$399,000**



Doug Waters\*  
GRI  
Principal Broker

Doug Waters\*, Principal Broker, GRI 219-877-7290  
Sandy Rubenstein\*, Managing Broker, 219-879-7525  
June Livinghouse\*, Broker, ABR, GRI 219-878-3888  
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\*\*Licensed in Illinois and Indiana



Sandy  
Rubenstein\*  
Managing Broker

