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Seeds for the Future

by Edmund Lawler



Pedestrians walk, while some take a break, along the newly renovated sidewalks in New Buffalo.

The view from U.S. 12 and North Whittaker Street that slopes past downtown storefronts, beyond the bridge and to Lake Michigan's shimmering waters has always been unique, even among sparkling beach towns like South Haven, Saugatuck and Holland.

And it just got a whole lot better.

North Whittaker Street's unsightly power poles and overhead wires, highway-style streetlights, narrow sidewalks and the wide swath of pavement that

some said resembled an oversized parking lot are gone. In its place is a more human streetscape featuring broader, handicapped-accessible sidewalks, benches and other seating, underground wires and attractive streetlights. New trees, perennials and native grasses line the reconstructed street. Pedestrians are most welcome.

Robert Kemper, New Buffalo's Downtown Development Authority chairman, is one of the leading visionaries of the project that's been 15 years in the making.

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A dog gets a drink from one of the new pet-friendly drinking fountains, which includes a dog watering dish.

“North Whittaker Street will now be a gathering place for the community,” Kemper says. “It’s much more like a small-town Main Street. Previously, Whittaker Street felt like it was more of a parking lot, more committed to vehicular traffic than it was to people. We took the ‘highway’ out of downtown. We wanted to bring back a more human feel.”

They did just that thanks to funding that included a voter-approved \$4 million bond issue and a \$1.6 million grant from The Pokagon Fund. Kemper helped lead the New Buffalo Downtown Opening Celebration that featured a brass band, the unveiling of a new sculpture by local artist Fritz Olsen and congratulatory speeches, all followed by the regular Thursday Farmer’s Market.

Beneath the fresh layers of asphalt on the near-

ly 200-year-old street lie upgraded sewer and water pipes, as well as lines for gas and electricity. Although invisible, the investments beneath the street are enormously important to future growth, as new and existing businesses can easily tap into those infrastructural improvements, says Kemper, a longtime local business owner.

“When a business comes along and expresses interest, we can say, ‘No problem. We can connect to the water, to the electric, whatever you need,’” Kemper says. “And it makes it easier and safer to make repairs down the line.”

The streetscape and infrastructural improvements, he says, are the seeds for the city’s future economic development. Downtown’s new look has already sparked conversations about future plans for the half-built, now-raised retail/condo development site that has left a block-long gap along North Whittaker Street.

“There have been some recent conversations with developers about the site,” Kemper says. “But it had gone pretty silent for three years before that, so there’s reason to be encouraged.”

The streetscape project has required some artful compromises, according to Kemper.

“We wanted to protect the view that’s uniquely New Buffalo while enhancing our connection to the beach,” he says. “The big boats still need to be towed down Whittaker to the marina, so the street could not become too narrow.”

To lend the street a more attractive look, the



Pedestrians rest on the town’s new stone benches.

switch was made from angle parking to parallel parking. Visitors are no longer greeted by the tailpipes of parked cars. However, the change reduced the number of slots along Whittaker, which concerned some merchants. But with new parking spaces on Barton and Mechanic streets, downtown has a net gain of 47 parking spots, Kemper says.

Another encouraging development: The city and New Buffalo Township are working together to create a more pleasing route to the lakefront for visitors. The previously frosty relationship between the two government bodies has now thawed, and they are working closely on a corridor-improvement project that ties into the North Whittaker Street improvements.



One of several people wearing an "I survived the Whittaker Street construction project" T-shirt.

"The township is working on an Exit 1 gateway plan on I-94 so that it no longer looks like a highway offramp with just a fast-food restaurant and a motel," Kemper says. "The gateway project combined with the downtown improvements will create a much stronger sense of place with more trees and lighting and sidewalks."

Mayor Lou O'Donnell IV says he's relieved that what he described as a "Cold War" between the city and township appears to be over. The city, itself, had been roiled by toxic internal politics.

"We're finally moving ahead and recognizing the full potential of the community," O'Donnell says.

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Seeds for the Future

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Robert Kemper, New Buffalo Downtown Development Authority chairman, addresses the crowd.

"We're all more open-minded and agree that we want to make lives better for ourselves and our families by bringing in more culture and opportunities."

Residents are excited about downtown's fresh face, he says, adding, "But I've actually heard more about the repaved side streets and new sidewalks around downtown."

"People don't come downtown every day, but they do spend time on their own streets, some of which haven't been improved for 30 to 50 years. I think we've created a safer, more walkable community, especially for our younger people and our residents with disabilities."

He noted that because the bids on the downtown project came in lower than expected, some of the surplus was spent on improving many of the neigh-

borhood streets and sidewalks.

Downtown Development Authority officials also stress the streetscape project was completed on time and on budget. Organized in three phases, Phase 3 was completed a week after Memorial Day. Rain caused a few delays, but construction and engineering crews worked overtime to make up for any loss time.

Lori Robinson, who owns a New Buffalo massage therapy business, marveled at the reimagined downtown streetscape on the day of the civic celebration.

"They did a beautiful job," she said. "This means great things for New Buffalo. Downtown will be like a permanent street party. It has a nice small-town feel here by the lake."

(All photos by Bob Wellinski)



A marching band leads the parade through New Buffalo's downtown.



New Buffalo Mayor Lou O'Donnell IV (left) and Robert Kemper perform the official ribbon cutting.

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Dull Villains Only Drawback of “Ant-Man and the Wasp”

by Andrew Tallackson



Scott Lang (Paul Rudd) and Hope Pym (Evangeline Lilly) attempt a daring rescue in “Ant-Man and the Wasp.”

Before Marvel’s logo even flashes across the screen, “Ant-Man and the Wasp” gleefully piques your curiosity. Scientist Hank Pym (Michael Douglas), long convinced his wife (Michelle Pfeiffer) was beyond resurrecting from a microscopic state, now believes his daughter Hope (Evangeline Lilly) can orchestrate a daring rescue.

It is a delicious setup, and with Thanos having wiped out half the Marvel universe in “Avengers: Infinity War,” can it be that “Ant-Man and the Wasp” is content solely on rescuing the fractured Pym family?

Alas, that is not the case. Sequels these days believe more *is* more, so we have three – count ‘em *three* – villains who bog down this otherwise lively sequel that matches the charm of the 2015 original. The novelty of that film, if you recall, was its disarming sense of humor. Director Peyton Reed gave the action a playfulness that melded Paul Rudd’s snark shtick in the title role with the sly hipness of something like Vince Vaughn’s “Swingers.”

Reed is back as director, and his smartest move is to give Lilly a role that proves she’s more than just ornamental eye candy. The actress is clever, whip smart, fierce, a welcome contrast to Rudd’s slacker hero, Scott Lang, who’s on house arrest after skipping town, as we saw in “Captain America: Civil War,” to engage in a little super hero smackdown. The scenes between Hope and Scott are a riot, with Lilly the deadpan “straight man” to Rudd’s arrested development.

(For the film’s best line, check Scott’s reaction to Hope’s emotional hide-and-seek memory.)

Reed knows, too, that he’s sitting on comic gold with Michael Peña as Luis, Scott’s former cell mate. Luis is a chipper chatterbox, his own best audience, and when we again experience Luis in full Luis mode – rapid edits to convey different speakers, but all heard in Luis’ voice – “Ant-Man and the Wasp” is hilarious.

Scott, Hope, Hank, Luis – they are more than enough to carry a movie. So why do we need Walter Goggins (FX’s “Justified”), a fine actor on any other day, playing a snooze of a criminal who wants to steal Hank’s technology? Or the great Laurence Fishburne (“The Matrix”) as a former colleague of Hank’s who – yawn – waffles between loyalty and betrayal? Or Hannah John-Kamen as Ghost, who can “phase” through objects? Of the three, she’s the most intriguing, but only because her costume looks like it was lifted from a J.J. Abrams space saga.

Too many characters, not enough breathing room. Thankfully, the movie barrels toward a bright finish, and a tantalizing mid-credits sequence that taps into the shocking finale of “Infinity War.”

Without question, “Ant-Man and the Wasp” is fun. The cliffhanger finale – again, don’t leave the theater as the credits roll – sets the stage for a dynamite clash of titans large and small.

No additional threats required, though.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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Teaming Up for the 30th Annual SW Michigan Team Birdathon

The future of the 31st Annual SW Michigan Team Birdathon is uncertain, but there is no doubt the 30th Annual on May 19 was a successful tribute to teamwork and the hard work over 30 years by Event Coordinator Kip Miller.

The indefatigable naturalist, birder, bicyclist and all-around outdoorsman announced at Love Creek Nature Center after the all-day event that no date had been set for the 2019 birdathon because he was stepping down after 30 years.

"It's been a good run," he said, clearly *verklemt*.

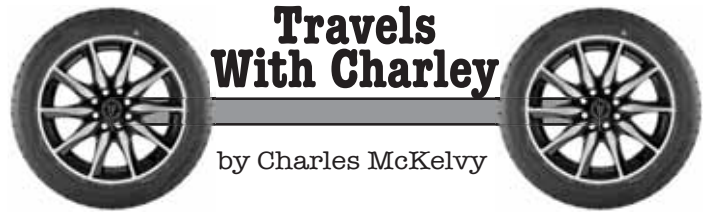
Then, the 70+ birders on 17 teams leapt to their feet and gave Kip the standing ovation he so richly deserved for sustaining a beloved day of birding in Berrien County, Mich., that sees some teams hitting the back roads, overlooks and beaches right after midnight, while others, such as the team I travel with, the Sapsuckers, starting at a more leisurely 5 a.m.

But whatever time one has started over the years, one has had an incredible day, largely thanks to the hard work of Kip Miller.

So if I didn't say it already, let me say it now: "Thank you, Kip. You the man!"



Kip Miller, proving once again he is one with the birds.



by Charles McKelvy

And as the exhausted birders departed Love Creek on May 19, there was a buzz about who might replace Kip in 2019 and keep birdathon going. No news as of this writing, but stay tuned.

Anyway, back to the 30th Annual SW Michigan Team Birdathon, and the full day of fun I had with my fellow Sapsuckers: team leader and naturalist Pat Underwood, executive officer Brad Anderson and able-bodied birders Elizabeth Gravitt and Rita Wetmore. Alas, Natalie was not able to join us because the ground we planned to cover was too rough for her slowly recovering hip muscle, so we had to bird on without my dear wife.

But she did send me forth at 4 a.m. EDT May 19 with a bag full of her famous hummus sandwiches, and she promised to be ready for birding adventures in the near future.

I collected Brad at his Bridgman home at 4:15 a.m., and we motored east to Love Creek Nature Center at 9292 Huckleberry Road in Berrien Center. Pat was waiting for us in the parking lot with our team vehicle, a Berrien County Parks van with sliding side doors and the full-marine package (more on that in a bit).



The Sapsuckers demonstrate relaxed birding at Warren Dunes State Park.

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Pat Underwood was undeterred by water over the road during Birdathon.

whip-poor-wills and nighthawks. We heard plenty from the former, but nothing from the latter, so we motored westward on Lemon Creek Road and got some good birds in a flooded farm field, including a green heron. Who knew?

But we certainly knew we were in for a wet day of birding when we arrived at the Floral Lane side of Warren Dunes State Park and started slogging through the mud, muck and ankle-deep puddles. All but Brad had donned water-proof footwear, so



A red-breasted grosbeak by yours truly. See the bird, identify the bird, paint the bird.

we took a detour to Brad's nearby house so he could change into more appropriate shoes, get out of the rain on his back deck and spot a whole slew of birds, including two tom turkeys guarding the front yard.

Brad's wife, Hannah, graciously invited us to use the indoor facilities — always a big hit on birdathon.

We returned to Warren Dunes, knocked off all manner of elusive birds, including the worm-eating warbler, and then, in keeping with Rita's directive to take it easy, easily settled in at the beach just as the sun was burning through the fog and mist. We took our lunch and some short naps at the beach while occasionally checking the spotting scope for

Rita, who lobbied the Sapsuckers for a more relaxed birdathon pace, joined us in good order with a goodly supply of her classic ginger snaps. Then, Elizabeth appeared shortly before 5 a.m., and off we went into darkest Berrien County to listen for such night birds as

the usual suspects: common loons, Caspian terns and, of course, the ubiquitous ring-billed and herring gulls.

Tough work, but somebody had to do it. Then, we blasted off for a tour of select south-county spots and got a Brewer's blackbird or two on Avery Road south of U.S. 12.

We were aiming for a team best of 140+ species for the day, but the birds just weren't there for us, no matter how hard we tried.



Water. Water everywhere and not a bird to be seen.

And we went all out and all over a flooded road to reach an access point along the St. Joseph River south of St. Joseph to hear and possibly see a prothonotary warbler or two. To ensure our success, Pat and I played catch by a flooded field with a real baseball, then said warbler appeared long enough for us to check it off. Then back to civilization on the flooded road, with the trusty county van proving once again it had marine capabilities. Rita, who was sitting all the way back, was none too thrilled, but we assured her we'd rescue her at once if we were swept out to sea.

We converged on Love Creek at 7 p.m. with the other six teams and thus heard Kip Miller not only announce his retirement as event coordinator, but also report that we 70+ birders raised more than \$25,000 for a variety of local and regional conservation organizations, while recording a total of 188 species of birds in Berrien County in a single day.

Again, next year's SW Michigan Team Birdathon awaits a worthy successor to Kip Miller, but we Berrien birders are confident the right person will take his perch.

Until then, please know there will be plenty of local birding outings later this year with Kip Miller and the Berrien Birding Club. Visit www.berrien-county.org/434/birding.

Good birding!



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Musical by Creator of "Rent" Debuts at Canterbury

Canterbury Summer Theatre will present the area debut of "Tick, Tick... Boom!," the musical-comedy by "Rent" composer Jonathan Larson, on July 18-28 at Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St.

"Tick, Tick...Boom!" originally was written as an autobiographical monologue with rock music, performed by Larson himself, and reflected his disappointment with the poor response to an earlier musical he composed.

After Larson's unexpected death at 35, on the eve of "Rent's" opening, his solo piece was reworked by playwright David Auburn, best known for "Proof," and arranger Stephen Oremus into a three-character musical, debuting off-Broadway in 2001.

Since then, the show has had an off-West End production, a West End production, an American national tour, two off-Broadway revivals in 2014 and 2016, and numerous local and international productions.

Set in 1990, the story centers on Jon, a composer, and the sacrifices he faces to achieve his big break in theater. His girlfriend, Susan, wants to get married and move out of the city; his best friend, Michael, is making big bucks on Madison Avenue, and yet, Jon is still waiting tables and trying to write the great American musical.

The cast is led by Canterbury veteran Jesse Kortus, along with Rosa Campbell and Andrew



Rosa Campbell, Jesse Kortus and Andrew Palmintier star in "Tick, Tick...Boom!"

Palmintier. Kortus has appeared in Canterbury shows such as "Boeing Boeing," "First Date" and "Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical," as well as "The Turn of the Screw," for which he won a national acting award presented at the Kennedy Center.

In their first season at Canterbury, Campbell and Palmintier are studying theater at Northwestern State University. Campbell was seen earlier this season in "The Bikinis" and "Grace-land," while Palmintier appeared in the latter produc-

tion, as well as "End of the Rainbow." He also serves as choreographer for "Tick, Tick...Boom!"

The production is staged by Canterbury music director John Berst. He is director of musical theatre at the University of New Hampshire, and directed last season's production of "Love, Linda — The Life of Mrs. Cole Porter." Berst has worked throughout the U.S. and Canada as a professional actor, director and music director.

Scenic design is handled by Michael Rogers. The lighting designer is Adam Whisman, with costuming by Lari Leber. Allison Claggett is production stage manager.

Performances are at 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Fridays and 6:30 p.m. Saturdays. Tickets are \$16-\$17, with discounts for seniors and students. Call (219) 874-4269 or email info@canterburytheatre.org for reservations.

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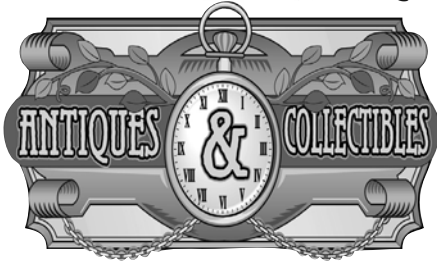


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Michigan City Public Library

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

- **Summer Reading Program: Lip Sync Battle! at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 12.**

Contestants can lip sync to popular songs. Lyrics and craft microphones will be provided, with the best performance of each song winning a small prize. Craft supplies to make a microphone will be available to take home or work on as contestants perform. Those who wish to watch are welcome.

- **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, July 12.**

The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Friday, July 13.**

Walk-ins are welcome, or make an appointment by calling (800) RED CROSS or visiting redcross-blood.org, then put in the sponsor code "mcplib."

- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays, July 18 and 25.**

Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag.



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

Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival

The 2018 Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, which kicks off Friday, July 13, offers everything from comedy to intense drama.

First up is Shakespeare After Hours at 9 p.m. EDT Friday, July 13, at LangLab. The event embraces The Bard's bawdy side, with no children allowed. Reservations for the free festivities can be made at shakespeare.nd.edu

The next day offers ShakeScenes at 2 p.m. EDT Saturday, July 14, at Washington Hall. Reservations for the free mashup of Shakespeare's "greatest hits" are at shakespeare.nd.edu

The touring company will present Shakespeare's comedy, "The Merchant of Venice," on July 15 through Aug. 20 at locations throughout Michiana, including Dewey Cannon Park in Three Oaks, Mich. That show is at 6:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 4.

Opening Aug. 14 is a presentation by the professional company of "Othello."

Gallery Celebrates Anniversary

Blink Contemporary Art, 1709 Franklin St., will celebrate its 10th anniversary by showcasing artists who've exhibited there over the past decade.

A reception is from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, July 14. Visit www.blinkcontemporaryart.com for more details.

Construction @ Brauer Museum

Construction on the east side of Valparaiso University has made access to the Center for the Arts and Brauer Museum of Art difficult.



The only public entrance to the Center for the Arts is the west entrance (pictured here).

The only public entrance to the Center for the Arts is the west entrance.

The museum is open this summer from noon to 5 p.m. daily, except Mondays. Call the VU Police Department at (219) 464-5430 or follow the campus signs that say VUCA PARKING for instructions on where to park.

Visit valpo.edu/brauer-museum-of-art for additional information.



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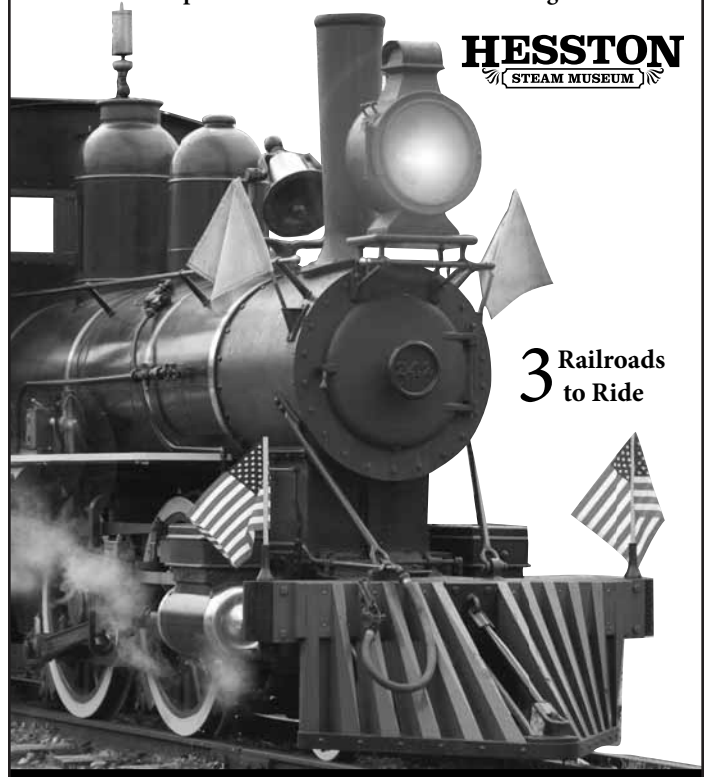
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"Man of La Mancha"

Dunes Summer Theatre will present a concert version of "Man of La Mancha" at 7 p.m. Friday, July 13, and 2 p.m. Sunday, July 15, at the Michiana Shores theater, 288 Shady Oak Drive.

Written by Dale Wasserman, with lyrics by Joe Darion, the tale is set in the late 16th century, when failed author-soldier-actor-tax collector Miguel de Cervantes is thrown into a dungeon, along with manservant Sancho, for foreclosing on a monastery. Fellow prisoners attack the duo, eager to steal the contents of the large trunk Cervantes has brought with him. However, a sympathetic criminal known as "the Governor" suggests setting up a mock trial. Only if Cervantes is guilty will he have to hand over his possessions. In telling his tale, Cervantes transforms into the "mad" knight, Don Quixote.

Dunes resident actors include Miggie Snyder, Hannah Williams, Mac Westcott, Sydney Crutcher, Jorah Fleming, Patrick Regner, Hannah Williams, Alecia Pagnotta and Derek Demkowicz. Local actors include Eileen Long, Rick Quarles, Sheree Gudeman, Lindsey Baugh, Joe Stewart and Matthew Byerly.

Dunes Artistic Director Jeffrey Baumgartner, directs the production, with classical Spanish guitarist Peter Aglinksas providing accompaniment.

Part of the "Jackson Series," tickets are \$20. Visit dunesartsfoundation.org or call (219) 879-7509 for reservations.

Patriotic Parade Winners

Winners in the Michigan City 2018 Patriotic Parade have been announced.

The categories are:

- High School Entry — First Place, Michigan City High School Cheerleaders; Second Place — New Prairie High School Marching Cougars.
- Auto/Motorcycle Club — First Place, Four A's Car Club; Second Place, Great Lakers Auto Club.
- Dance/Gymnastics — First Place, Indiana Xtreme Elite Cheer & Dance; Second Place — Platinum Gymnastics.
- Equestrian — First Place, Reins of Life; Second Place — Councilwoman Sharon Carnes.
- Float, Commercial — First Place, Haunted Hills Hospital; Second Place — Fast Eddies.
- Float, Non-Profit — First Place, Remembering Our Veterans Inc.; Second Place, Danny Bruce DAV Post 23.
- Youth Band/Drill Team — First Place, Michigan City Soul Steppers; Second Place, Mount Calvary Marching Knights.
- Patriotic Themed — First Place, Geisen-Carlisle Funeral Home; Queen of All Saints Cub Scouts; Boy Scout Troop 876; Second Place, LaPorte County Commissioner Connie Gramarossa.

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Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series

The 17th season of the Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series continues Wednesday, July 18, at Christ Church (the former First Congregationalist Church), 531 Washington St.

All performances are free and at 12:15 p.m. Wednesdays.



Matt Gerhard

Performing July 18 is Matt Gerhard, who is director of music at Kokomo Zion United Methodist Church and choral assistant at Northwestern Middle School/High School in Kokomo. He graduated with a degree in church music from Olivet Nazarene University and a Master's Degree in choral conducting from California Baptist University.

Gerhard has performed programs of classical organ music, theater organ music and gospel piano music for various churches and other organizations. He is first vice president of the Central Indiana Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, registrar and Pipe Organ Festival coordinator for the Indianapolis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and a Kokomo Symphony Orchestra board member. He also is a member of the Indiana Choral Directors Association.

Also of note, the 1891 Roosevelt Opus 506 tracker organ is in need of a new home. Call Ann Dobie at (219) 608-5358 for details.



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Cardboard Boat Race

It is an event that inspires as much laughter as it does excitement.

The Cardboard Boat Race is Saturday, July 21, at Washington Park Marina. Registration starts at 10:30 a.m., with the race at noon. The theme — a first for the event — is Washington Park Zoo's 90th birthday. Pick a favorite zoo animal (or more than one) and build a boat that represents the animal in some way.



Cardboard for the race is available at Captain Ed's Furniture, 400 E. U.S. 20.

Cardboard to build a boat is available through Capt. Ed Beutner at Captain Ed's Furniture, 400 E. U.S. 20. The event is ideal for youth groups,

families, coworkers — anyone up for a little friendly competition.

The race is sponsored by Capt. Ed's, WIMS Radio, Michigan City Parks and Recreation and *The Beacher Business Printers*. Copies of the rules may be picked up at these locations as well.



The race inspires as much laughter as it does excitement.

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Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff

Artists from across the United States will arrive in St. Joseph, Mich., to showcase fine arts and crafts during the 57th annual Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff.

The event is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT Saturday, July 14, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT Sunday, July 15, at Lake Bluff Park in downtown St. Joseph.

Nearly 1,000 artists applied to be one of the juried artists at the event. This year, 200 new and returning artists representing 11 media categories will participate.

The Friday Night Block Party to kick off the festival is from 5 to 10 p.m. EDT Friday, July 13, at Pearl Street and the Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library Garden. The suggested donation is \$5. Local fare includes The Livery Microbrewery's beers, Lake Michigan Vintners' wines and food trucks from Baja Gringo and Nosh Village. Entertainment includes a local trio, The Backups, and a rock/funk jam band from Ann Arbor, Mich., Pajamas. The opening act is Jack Adams.

The Beer & Wine Garden, open from noon to 6 p.m. EDT Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, features brews from The Livery Microbrewery, Michigan wines from Lake Michigan Vintners and food from Nosh Village. Music by local performers and yard games are planned.

Food carts in the concession area at Lake Boulevard and Broad Street will sell farm-to-table fare



and additional favorite treats, with entertainment provided by 98.3 (The Coast).

The Krasl Kid's Zone, where children create make-and-take artwork, is both days, with donations welcome.

The Children's Art Purchase Program targets youth interested in starting their own collection. Some of the artists will sell select works for \$10 and less.

Participating artists have a "CAPP" sign on their booth.

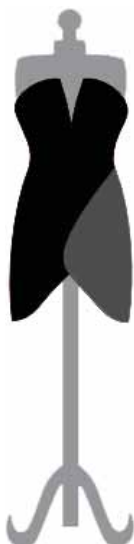
Per City of St. Joseph ordinance, pets are not allowed. Free parking and shuttle service are available at Kelley's Bowl, 2705 Cleveland Ave., and in the Edgewater business district at 511 Renaissance Drive. Shuttle buses will run continuously to drop off and pick up guests at Ship Street and Lake Boulevard one hour before and one hour after the KAF. A \$1 per person donation is requested.

Visit krasl.org for more details.

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A Holiday to Remember

by Andrew Tallackson



The heat was stifling, with many an onlooker grateful for the shade of a copious tree. Parents slathered sunscreen on the faces of restless youngsters, eager to scurry across the street once candy was tossed their way. And with a cacophony of sirens, Long Beach's Fourth of July Parade commenced, the participants anxious to unveil their creative undertakings. Walking along the parade route, snapping as many photos as is humanly possible, I was struck by the vibrant sense of community. Families huddled together. Children hoisted onto shoulders of adoring parents. Couples, hands affectionately clasped together. Longtime friends, thankful for another holiday in each other's company. It was, as always, a tremendous success. A special thanks to Norm Bruemmer for providing *The Beacher* with the official results for the parade, hosted each year by Long Beach Civic Association.



- Winners are listed by the entry name, then the family that presented it:
- Floats**
 - Surfing USA," Rehor.
 - Surfin' Long Beach, Kravitz.
 - Costumes**
 - "Sister Jean," Kennedy.
 - Bicycles**
 - "My 1st 4th of July," Gondeck.
 - "Van Gieson Bike," Van Gieson.
 - Buggy, Wagon, Stroller**
 - "Transformers," Tiedeman.
 - "Pirates of the Lake," Leahys.
 - Golf Carts**
 - "Don't You Love Long Beach Donuts," Kause, Quadt.
 - "Worship, Work & Win," Luetkemeyer.
 - "Fourthnite L.B.," Lutterbach.
 - "Nun Better Than Loyola," Haverstock, McFarland.
 - "L.B. Breakfast Club," Norris.
 - "The Greatest Showman," Sobkowiak.
 - "Summer Surfing Uncle Sam," Cuevas, Carrara.
 - "Welcome to L.B.," Smith.
 - "Sparklarrgh I & II," Milbee, Breen.
 - "Tumbledore's Army," Straturan.





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--Lebron James, the best basketball player on the planet, overcoming his condition, and winning three NBA Championships.

--and former Indiana Senator Richard Lugar, overcoming, and not allowing his condition to stop him from becoming the longest serving Indiana Senator in history.

Have you ever been out on the streets or maybe just at home enjoying your day when --boom-- all of a sudden you feel your equilibrium is off and suddenly feel like you're going to fall?

You get a bit dizzy, unsteady, and you have to sit down.

It's those moments when you look around the people around you and feel like no one else understands what you're going through.

I understand. I know I do. My mom has a bad case of it and I have it too...to the point where I have...

...disappointed my children because I can't attend their volleyball and basketball games because of it...

...missed celebrating my anniversary with my wife because I just didn't feel steady enough to go out...

...felt frustrated because I just didn't feel like myself...

...gotten so concerned because my mom started falling...

But my mom and I overcame. Just like Nicolas Cage, Lebron James, and Sen. Lugar did.

My name is Dr. Arlan Alburo. I am the Founder of Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists.

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...afraid that they might fall...or fall again...

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...scared because their world spins as they move or lay a certain way...

...resigned...and hopeless...thinking that they can't be helped...they are here at my office attending my Balance and Dizziness Workshop.

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You will learn the 3 most common causes of balance problems...dizziness...and unsteadiness.

I will show you a sure fire way to pick the right treatment for the cause of your condition.

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Sincerely,



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"Sidetracked" Exhibit

The Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway, will present Steven Schwab's "Sidetracked" on July 13-Aug. 5, with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. July 13.

An avid Cubs fan, Schwab takes his camera to Wrigley Field and has captured key moments in the game. In 1998, he took the definitive photos of Sammy Sosa's 61st and 62nd home runs, photos the National Baseball Hall of Fame selected for its permanent collection in Cooperstown, N.Y. The photos also were published in Baseball: 100 Classic Moments in the History of the Game, as well as numerous other books. In addition, the Chicago Historical Society exhibited the photos in 1999, and the photo of the 62nd home run was painted by New York artist Andy Jurinko on a 7x7 canvas for an exhibit and made into 600 numbered lithographs.



Works in the exhibit are intentionally blurred to offer a sense of motion.

Having grown up in Hyde Park, Schwab spent many hours viewing the Museum of Science and Industry model train exhibit, leading to a lifelong love of trains and train stations.

The photos in this exhibit were taken in Paris, Florence, The Hague, Tokyo, New York and Beverly Shores. They are intentionally blurred to give them a sense of motion.

Schwab lives in Chicago and Beverly Shores. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fri.-Sun.

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Noon Time Talks

Midwest Museum of Art will present its popular "Noon Time Talks" Series from 12:20 to 1 p.m. EDT Thursdays.

The schedule is:

- **July 12 and 19 — Film: "The Hairy Who" Parts II and III, respectively.**

Director/Curator Brian Byrn introduces artists known collectively as the Chicago Imagists.

- **July 26 — Talk: "Remembered."**

Byrn discusses artwork collected as Memorial Purchase Awards in the past 40 years from Elkhart Juried Regional exhibits.

- **Aug. 2 and 9 — Talk: "American Modernism" Parts I and II, respectively.**

Byrn illustrates some of the artists represented in the current spotlight exhibit.

- **Aug. 16 — Film: "David Smith, Sculptor."**

The film presents the American abstract expressionist sculptor born in Decatur, Ind.

- **Aug. 23 — Talk: "The Golden Age of Illustration."**

Byrn discusses important names of the period from 1890 to 1930.

- **Aug. 30 — Talk: Allen Stewart, Hall of Heroes director.**

Stewart is the founder of the Elkhart Comic-Con that hosted more than 10,000 people last year.

- **Sept. 6 — Talk: John Thompson of Indiana University-South Bend.**

Thompson shares his experiences with graphic novels and the comic book industry.

- **Sept. 13 — Film: "Roy Lichtenstein."**

The POP artist is highlighted through interviews from the 1960s to the 1970s.

The museum is located at 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Call (574) 293-6660 for more details.

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“Avenue Q”

Young People's Theatre Co. Inc. will present the Tony-winning “Avenue Q” for a two-weekend run starting Friday, July 13, at The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St.

Winner of the Tony “Triple Crown” for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book, the musical-comedy with puppets tells the story of a recent college grad named Princeton who moves into a shabby New York apartment on Avenue Q. He soon discovers that, although the residents seem nice, it's clear this is not your ordinary neighborhood. Together, Princeton and his newfound friends struggle to find jobs, dates and a purpose in life.

Because the original show contained elements inappropriate for high-schoolers, Music Theatre International worked with the “Avenue Q” authors to create an adaptation that maintains the dramatic (and comedic) integrity of the piece, while making it more appropriate for younger audiences.

The YPTC cast includes:

- Princeton – Logan Hoskins.
- Kate Monster – Cloe Jancosek.
- Nicky – Christopher Woods.
- Nicky's Right Hand – Jed Ottersen.
- Rod – Giovanni Tapia.
- Trekkie Monster – Max Principe, Tristan Ellis.
- Lucy – Laurel Blankenship.
- The Bad Idea Bears – Victoria Horne, Jenna Dawson.
- Mrs. Thistlewat – Julia Miller.
- Brian – Kody Smith.
- Christmas Eve – Sophia Gardner-Orbovich.
- Gary Coleman – Mia Taylor.
- Newcomer – Trent Kaercher.
- Ricky – Trinity Clayton.

The production staff:

- Director – Aaron Garrett.
- Assistant Director – Kody Smith.
- Music Director – Bill Woods.
- Choreographer – Laurel Blankenship.
- Technical Director – Arturo Pozos.
- Stage Manager – Armand Pozos.
- Costumer – Sue Vail.
- Puppet Wrangler – Tommy Komay.

Performances are Friday through Sunday, July 13-15 and 20-22. Friday and Saturday performances start at 7 p.m. and Sunday performances at 2 p.m. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Advance sales are at www.yptcinc.com or at the door the evening/afternoon of the performance.

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

• **Mount Baldy Summit Hike from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Fridays and 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 4 p.m. Sundays.**

The Mount Baldy parking lot and beach are open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The dune, however, is still closed for general public use, so the ranger-led hike offers a chance to experience the dune as much as is possible. No reservations are required. The parking lot is located off U.S. 12.

• **Campfire on the Beach from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, July 13, at Kemil Beach.**

View a sunset while listening to live music. The beach parking lot is off East State Park Road.

• **Beginning Birding from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays through Sept. 1 at the Great Marsh Trail.**

A ranger leads the hike. Meet at the parking lot on Broadway north of the Beverly Shores train station.

• **Junior Wildland Firefighter Program from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 14, at Dune-wood Campground Amphitheatre, 645 Broadway Ave., Beverly Shores.**

Meet the IDNL's fire crew and learn about their jobs and equipment. Children then receive a Junior Wildland Firefighter activity book and patch. The 30-minute program is repeated throughout the day.

• **Pinhook Bog Open House from noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays through Sept. 8.**

Talk a self-guided tour of the bog and talk to rangers along the trail for a better understanding of the site filled with carnivorous plants and orchids. Arrive by 2 p.m. to allow about one hour to walk the trail and tour the bog. The bog parking lot is at 700 N. Wozniak Road in Michigan City.

• **Urban Farming Fun from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 14, at the Paul H. Douglas Center.**

Learn tips and tricks of starting a vegetable garden from park rangers and volunteers.

• **Science Saturdays from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 14, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet scientists conducting research in IDNL. Following a short presentation, guests head outside to see their work.

• **Stargazing Through Telescopes from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, July 14, at the Kemil Beach parking lot.**

Join members from the Chicago Astronomical Society, Michiana Astronomical Society and Calumet Astronomical Society with their telescopes. Dress for the weather and, if possible, take binoculars. The beach parking lot is off East State Park Road.

• **Indiana Dunes Fishing Festival at 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 14-15.**

Fishing locations are in Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Newton and Jasper counties. Weigh-in sites are Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk and Rogers Lake-wood Park in Valparaiso. Visit the program's Facebook event page for updates, or call (219) 395-1882.

• **Volunteer at Miller Woods from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.**

Join staff and fellow volunteers to help restore the Miller Woods oak savanna. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and equipment will be provided. Dress for the weather, and be prepared to walk off trail.

• **Beach Fun Saturdays from 1 p.m. to about 30 minutes past sunset every Saturday through Sept. 1 at West Beach.**

Try a kayak or paddleboard starting at 1 p.m. All equipment is provided for free. A one-hour sunset hike on the Dune Succession Trail starts at 7 p.m. from the Ranger Contact Station in the north end of the parking lot. A beach campfire, complete with marshmallow toasting, starts shortly before sunset. Meet at the West Beach parking lot, 376 N. County Line Road, Portage. A \$6 per car parking fee is charged until 7 p.m. Take a picnic dinner and warmer clothing for the evening sunset and beach campfire.

• **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, July 15.**

Explore the grounds of both historic homes, and learn about early settlers and farmers who came to the region in the 1800s. Park at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.

• **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, July 15, at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.

• **World Listening Day Program and Sound Hike from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 15, at The Paul H. Douglas Center.**

Leaders are part of the Chicago-based Midwest Society for Acoustic Ecology. Participants encounter listening experiences along the Miller Woods Trail, and consider how soundscapes experienced here relate to wildlife conservation and an appreciation of Northwest Indiana's ecology.

• **Feed the Farm Animals at Chellberg Farm from 4 to 5 p.m. Sundays through Oct. 28.**

The farm's current residents include cows, pigs and chickens. The animals are at the farm through a partnership with Dunes Learning Center, Friends of Indiana Dunes, 4-H Club of Porter County and the FFA of Westville. Chellberg Farm is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12 in Porter.

• **Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion from 8 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 18, at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road.**

Catch a Lake Michigan sunset from the pavilion, and roast marshmallows from the fireplace.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

• **Wetland Wonders, 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday, July 12.**

Meet at the Nature Center for the hands-on program.

• **Drama in the Dunes, 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, July 12.**

Learn how nature can inspire acting through different exercises. No experience is needed. Attendees can participate once or weekly, with ensuing dates July 19 and 26 and Aug. 2 and 9. Visit www.dramainthedunes.com for details.

• **Park Plays, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 12.**

Park Plays features local theater groups presenting shows and excerpts from classic Shakespeare, to contemporary musical, to improv. Take a blanket or beach chair to the west side of the pavilion.

• **Sunset Yoga, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 12.**

The class for all levels is taught by Duneland YMCA instructors. The cost per class is \$10, which is paid to the instructor. A \$40 five-class pass is available. Classes cancel in case of inclement weather. Take a yoga mat or towel. The program is located near the beach pavilion.

• **Savanna Saunter, 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, July 13.**

Join a naturalist at the nature center for the hike exploring oak savanna habitats of the dunes.

• **Fun with Furs, 3 to 4 p.m. Friday, July 13.**

Meet at the Nature Center for the interactive program on dunes mammals.

• **Sand Sculpture Contest, 7 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 14.**

The theme of the 21st annual event is "Movies." The registration table opens by 9 a.m. for the first 25 teams, but groups may begin as early as 7 a.m. Judging starts after 11:30 a.m., with awards given

after 12:30 p.m. Visitors can vote in the People's Choice Award. Friends of the Indiana Dunes provides prizes to contest winners.

• **The Sun Did It!, 3 to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 14.**

Meet at the Nature Center to learn about solar energy.

• **Fabulous Fireflies!, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, July 14.**

Meet at the Nature Center to learn about the insects through a short hike and program.

• **Beach Yoga, 9 to 10 a.m. Sunday, July 15, and Tuesday, July 17.**

The class for all levels is taught by Duneland YMCA instructors. The cost per class is \$10, which is paid to the instructor. A \$40 five-class pass is available. Classes cancel in case of inclement weather. Take a yoga mat or towel. The program is located near the beach pavilion.

• **Nature's Camo Hike, 10 to 11 a.m. Sunday, July 15.**

Meet at the nature center for the hike that centers on camouflage amid dunes habitats.

• **Tea Time, 3 to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 15.**

Meet at the Nature Center for the free taste testing of teas made with natural items.

• **A High Tech Scavenger Hunt, 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, July 16.**

Meet at the Nature Center to learn about geocaching, and take a stab at finding one. Prizes for children are planned.

• **Awesome Amphibians, 3 to 4 p.m. Monday, July 16.**

Meet at the Nature Center to explore the differences and similarities between Dunes amphibians during a short hike to the marsh.

• **Dunes Explorer Summer Day Camp, 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, July 16-20.**

Aimed at youth 6-8, the cost is \$29 per child. On Friday, camp lasts until 3 p.m. Call the nature center at (219) 926-1390 to register.

• **Feed the Birds, 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 17.**

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

• **Turtle Time, 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 18.**

Meet at the Nature Center for a look at turtles that live in the dunes, then get in a circle and let them crawl around.



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.

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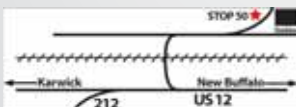
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LCSO A La Carte Fundraiser

Last summer, a performance by a Beatles cover band proved so popular, Tim King knew a Motown cover band would be a great followup as a LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra A La Carte fundraiser.

"Last year...many people were dancing in the aisles or up front," King said in a press release. "Others were singing along or clapping. We received so many comments about how much fun it was."

So this year, the featured group is Chicago's "Fantasy Band Featuring Lady Patice and the Motown Reflections" at 8 p.m. Saturday, July 14, at Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores.

Kevin Noland joins King as one of the co-hosts.

"After hearing this band perform in Chicago, Tim and I knew we had to bring them over here," Noland said in a release. "They are really great musicians and singers. You will hear plenty of Motown songs that remind you of The Temptations, The Four Tops, The Supremes, Martha and the Vandellas and Tina Turner, among others."

The venue will accommodate 150 people, and the cost is \$50 per person, which includes an open beer and wine bar. The concert concludes by 10 p.m.

King is chairing the A La Carte series, now in its fifth year. The parties and events are typically held in people's homes or businesses. The hosts pay the costs, so all ticket proceeds aid the symphony.

The season began with a free preview party in May, which served as a way to generate early interest in the upcoming season of parties and events.

"The preview party was a big success, with half of the parties for this year selling out that night," King said.

Visit LCSO.net and click on the "A La Carte" icon on the top of the page to reach the Motown event for reservations. Tickets also can be ordered by calling (219) 362-9020 or purchased at the door.



Fantasy Band Featuring Lady Patice and the Motown Reflections.



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Chesterton Art Center

A new five-week session of Monday Night Ceramics starts from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, July 16, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Beginning students will develop fundamental wheel-throwing techniques, while returning students refine techniques to create more complex forms. Instructor Tom Cernius will perform short demonstrations while assisting students individually to improve throwing skills. Hand-building and sculpture are encouraged. Students can try slab-building, pinch-pot hand-building and basic sculptural techniques, including figurine/small statue construction. All pieces will be glazed during the final class.

The cost is \$135, with members receiving a \$25 discount. The cost of clay is an additional \$15, payable to the instructor on the first day of class. All other supplies are included.

Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com for details.

LaPorte County Public Library

The following program is at the main branch of LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave.:

• **Mo' Beat Blues from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 17.**

Samuel and Janice Lozada, known as Mo' Beat Blues, perform popular and original tunes on the harmonica.

The following program is at the Coolspring branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North:

• **Superhero Secrets from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 18.**

The program explores the science behind super heroes. Children can take a photo with their favorite superhero, or villain, using a green screen.



Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

Summer Behind the Scenes Tour

Ever wondered what's behind closed doors at Barker Mansion?

The popular Behind the Scenes Tours — the next set for 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 18 — journeys into normally off-limits nooks and crannies of the building. Guests discover remnants of the past, such as the central vacuum system, furnace and intricate electrical panels.

The cost is \$15 per adult and \$10 per senior or youth 15 and younger. Advance registration is required at Eventbrite.

The mansion is located at 631 Washington St. Visit www.barkermansion.com or call (219) 873-1520 for details.




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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **NorthShore Health Center free blood-pressure screenings from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, July 12, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter, and 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, July 18, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Interested patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

• **Lego Club from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 13, at the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Children build around a different theme using the library's Legos. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Bandstand Concert & Movie Series on Friday, July 13, at the Thomas Centennial Park bandstand in downtown Chesterton**

Lee Murdock performs at 7 p.m., followed by a screening of "Early Man," at 8 p.m.

• **WPL Movies in July, "Tomb Raider," at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 14, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave.**

The movie is Rated PG-13.

• **WPL Movies in July, "A Quiet Place," at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, July 15, at The Baugher Center.**

The movie is Rated PG-13.

• **Ukulele Rocks from 3 to 4 p.m. Sundays in July in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The program targets students 10-17 who finished the Intro to Ukulele Class. The schedule is: July 15, "Bad Moon Rising" by Creedence Clearwater Revival; July 22, "Let it Be" by The Beatles; and July 29, "Rock Around the Clock" by Bill Haley or "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg (student's choice.) Space is limited, and registration is required.



Alicia Vikander stars in "Tomb Raider," which will be shown at The Baugher Center.

The library has ukuleles that can be checked out; however, those with ukuleles should indicate so. Call (219) 926-7696 to register.

• **The Messier The Better for 9- to 30-month-olds at 10 a.m. Monday, July 16, at Hageman.**

Miss Ronnie will lead children in singing songs and an art experience. Dress to get messy.

• **Superhero Shoes Craft Program for Tweens from 3 to 4 p.m. Monday, July 16, at Hageman Library.**

Aimed at children 7-12, tweens should take a new or clean older pair of canvas shoes. Supplies to decorate them will be provided. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-9080.

• **Bits & Bytes series, iOS devices, from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 17, and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, July 19, in the Thomas Library Serials/Automation Department.**

Registration is required by visiting or calling the IT Department at (219) 926-7696, or registering at www.wpl.lib.in.us. Click on the Bits & Bytes link.

• **Robert Smith's Historic Structures of North Porter County is from 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 18, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Smith will lead a visual journey of historic buildings in Pine and Westchester townships. No registration is necessary.

• **Minecraft Meet-up at 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 18, 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.



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American Red Cross

The American Red Cross LaPorte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobiles:

- Trinity Lutheran Church, 907 Michigan Ave., LaPorte, 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 17.
- Indiana Department of Transportation, 315 E. Boyd Blvd., LaPorte, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 18.

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 for more details.

"Dollars for Dogs"

"Dollars for Dogs," a fundraiser to support a dog park near the old Pine Elementary School, is from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, July 15, at Kabelin Ace Hardware, 432 St. John Road.

The fundraiser includes a hot dog-grilling event, cold drinks, chips and brownies, with each item costing \$1.

Free Community Ice Cream Social

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, U.S. 12 and Moore Road, will host a free community ice cream social from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, July 15.

Games and activities for children are planned, along with beverages for sale.

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Summer Educator Workshop Series

Formal and non-formal educators are invited to workshops focusing on science in national parks from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, July 24-27, at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

Researchers doing fieldwork at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and other locations will provide resources and hands-on activities to enhance classroom teaching. Daily topics include:

- Tuesday, July 24: Exploring Citizen Science.
- Wednesday, July 25: Exploring the World of Sounds.
- Thursday, July 26: Invasive Species.
- Friday, July 27: Your Local Waters.

Educators can choose one day or all four. Tuesday's workshop focuses on ways to get students collecting data and monitoring natural ecosystems. On Wednesday, participants learn about "singing insects" from researcher Carl Strang. The invasive species workshop covers land- and water-based threats, and how educators and students can help manage and identify these species. Friday's workshop includes a boat cruise on Lake Michigan.

Registration is \$30 per workshop or \$100 for the entire series. Each day includes lunch and materials. Register at www.duneslearningcenter.org/public. Pre-registration is required by Thursday, July 19. The Paul H. Douglas Center is located on Lake Street north of U.S. 12 in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood.

The series was funded through a grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the National Park Service. It is co-sponsored by the IDNL and Dunes Learning Center. Visit www.duneslearningcenter.org/public or call Dunes Learning Center at (219) 395-9555 for more details.

New Buffalo Library Program

Brian Viers, entrepreneur and founder of Viers Coffee, will speak about his book, "Silent Partner," at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, July 19, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Viers is a writer and speaker who lives with his wife, Sharon, in the Chicago area and St. Petersburg, Fla. "Silent Partner" delves into the lure and mystique of Chicago's organized crime.

Copies of the book will be sold at the event.

Yoga Retreat

Bright Angel Retreat, a new facility for performing artists in Union Pier, Mich., is sponsoring a three-day yoga retreat July 20-22.

The retreat utilizes all aspects of yoga, mindfulness meditation and narrative journaling. It is limited to 12 participants. Certified yoga teacher and social worker Linda Mackay is the instructor.

Register at Eventbrite. Bright Angel is located at 10005 Community Hall Road.



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"At the Movies" Exhibit

Long Beach resident Hal Higdon will showcase his exhibit, "At the Movies," in July and August at Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich.



Hal Higdon is photographed with his work at Vickers Theatre.

"There's a long line for artists looking to showcase their art at the Vickers," Higdon said in a press release. "Vickers manager Bill Lindblom and I agreed on a time frame two summers ago, so I have had two years to prepare paintings that hopefully will speak to the Vickers' movie-loving customers."

Included are several works featuring old-time movie projectors similar to those displayed in the movie house, coupled with posters of films from an earlier era of film-watching, "everything from 'King Kong' to 'Frankenstein,'" Higdon said, "films I saw new while growing up on the south side of Chicago."

The exhibit continues through Labor Day.

Michigan City Video Fest

Organizers of the fourth annual Michigan City Video Fest are accepting submissions for the event held the first weekend in October.

Dates and venues will be announced later. Priority goes to local videomakers and subject matter, although top concern is the highest quality material possible. All genres will be considered, including animation, documentaries, commercials and trailers. The preference is videos shorter than 10 minutes. Invitations may be extended for longer form videos.

The submission form is available at MCVideoFest.com. Visit Facebook.com/MCVideoFest for details.

Cat Shelter Used Book Sale

Independent Cat Society will host its ICS Abridged Used Book Sale on Saturday and Sunday, July 14-15, at the Valparaiso Moose Lodge, 108 Indiana Ave.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Visitors can browse books, enter raffles, sample baked goods and buy ICS merchandise. Call (219) 785-4936 or email shelter@catsociety.org for details.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

July 11-12 — Arts in the Park, LaPorte's Fox Park. July 11: LaPorte City Band/July 12: PT & the Cruisers. Pre-show music/6:15 p.m., concerts/7 p.m. Info: www.artsintheparklaporte.com

July 11-14 — "End of the Rainbow," Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Times: 2 p.m. Wed.-Thur., 7:30 p.m. Fri., 6:30 p.m. Sat. Tickets: \$16-\$17. Info: (219) 874-4269, info@canterburytheatre.org

July 12 — Summer Reading Program: Lip Sync Battle!, 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

July 13 — Taste and Tribute Concert with Johnny V, 5-9 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Cost: \$5/13 & older, free/12 & younger. Reservations: www.friendshipgardens.org, (219) 878-9885.

July 13 — Reception, Steven Schwab's "Side-tracked," 5-7 p.m., Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

July 13, 15 — "Man of La Mancha" (concert version), Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 7 p.m. July 13/2 p.m. July 15. Tickets: \$20. Reservations: (219) 879-7509, dunesartsfoundation.org

July 13-17 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Disobedience." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Tue. *Also Showing:* "Tully." Rated R. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

July 13-15, 20-22 — Young Peoples Theatre Co., "Avenue Q," The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$5/students. Available @ door, online @ www.yptcinc.com/tickets

July 14 — Sand Sculpture Contest, 7 a.m.-noon, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

July 14 — Gallery Talk, "Warhol: Icon & Influence," 10 a.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

July 14 — 10th anniversary celebration, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Blink Contemporary Art, 1709 Franklin St. Info: www.blinkcontemporaryart.com

July 14 — Stargazing Through Telescopes, 8:30-10:30 p.m., Kemil Beach parking lot, East State Park Road. Info: (219) 395-1882.

July 14-15 — Indiana Dunes Fishing Festival, 9 a.m. Info: (219) 395-1882.

July 15 — "Dollars for Dogs" fundraiser, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Kabelin Ace Hardware, 432 St. John Road.

July 15 — Free community ice cream social, 1-3 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, U.S. 12 and Moore Road.

July 17 — Mo' Beat Blues, 10-11 a.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org



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July 18 — Superhero Secrets, 5-7 p.m., Cool-spring Branch Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

July 18 — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, Matt Gerhard, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church (the former First Congregationalist Church), 531 Washington St. Free. Info: (219) 608-5358.

July 18 — Robert Smith's Historic Structures of North Porter County, 2-3 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

July 18 — Behind the Scenes Tour, 7 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$15/adults, \$10/senior or youth 15 & younger. Reservations: Eventbrite.

July 18-28 — "Tick, Tick...Boom!," Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Times: 2 p.m. Wed.-Thur., 7:30 p.m. Fri., 6:30 p.m. Sat. Tickets: \$16-\$17. Info: (219) 874-4269, info@canterburytheatre.org

Through Oct. 13 — "Warhol: Icon & Influence," Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

Saturdays — St. Stanislaus of Michigan City farmers market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. through Oct. 27, parking lot next to tennis courts. Info: ssmcfarmer-smarket@gmail.com, (219) 851-1785.

Saturdays — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Eighth and Washington streets. Through October.

Saturdays — La Porte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway & Monroe. Info: www.facebook.com/laportefarmersmarket

In the Region

July 14-15 — Independent Cat Society Abridged Used Book Sale, Valparaiso Moose Lodge, 108 Indiana Ave. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat./11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Info: (219) 785-4936.

July 14-15 — Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff, Lake Bluff Park, downtown St. Joseph, Mich. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-6 p.m. July 14/10 a.m.-5 p.m. July 15. Info: krasl.org

Saturdays — Beach Fun Saturdays, 1 p.m.-30 minutes past sunset, West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Portage.

Support Groups

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

Mondays, Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m. Mon./Franciscan St. Anthony Health, 301 W. Homer St., 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: <https://oa.org>, (219) 879-0300.

Wednesdays — Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group for Caregivers, 2 p.m., third Wednesday of each month, Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Info: (888) 303-0180.

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



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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.

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You're invited to participate in the Good Things Market, a curated consignment sale featuring home decor, furniture, linens, tools, sports equipment, electronics, small appliances, beach toys, etc. We are filling up fast. Limited dropoff appointments are being scheduled for July 12-15. Call Susan at (219) 861-6188 or email thegirlfriendsale@gmail.com to submit up to 25 items into the sale. There is a \$15 fee to participate, and you will receive 50% proceeds from your items sold. Our good cause for this market is the Long Beach Community Center courtyard garden beautification project. Take a few extra pieces for donation to help this great cause. You do not have to participate in this market to contribute items and support this project.

Sale Dates:

Saturday, July 21, 10a.m.-2 p.m.

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Visit our Facebook page at TheGirlfriendSale for more details on how to participate and for a preview of our So Good items as they arrive.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Nightblind by Ragnar Jonasson (hardcover, \$25.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

"A police officer's killer had to be caught. Things like this weren't supposed to happen in Iceland, the most peaceful place on earth."

Nordic crime noir has made a big splash in the U.S. literary scene. Names like Steig Larsson, Jo Nesbø and Yrsa Sigurdardottir are now well-known and well-read for their edgy, sometimes very dark storylines. Maybe it's all those sunless days and nights in the winter that provide the impetus for writing dark-crime mystery novels!

Jonasson came to the attention of American readers several years ago with his first novel, *Snowblind*. I was taken with his sharp-as-ice style that introduced me to interesting characters living in Iceland, a place not known for a high crime rate. His descriptions of the seasons and people make you want to go there and see it all for yourself — in this case, Siglufjörður, the country's northernmost city. What's interesting is that the town really does exist — maps of the country and town can be seen in the front of the book. It's a coastal town staring up at the Arctic Circle, surrounded by massive mountains and devoid of sunlight Nov. 15-Jan. 28. The town was the largest herring port in Iceland until the late 1960s.

At the end of the book, Jonasson gives many thanks to the town's citizens for allowing him to use it for his novel's setting. Obviously, he doesn't want his readers to think Siglufjörður really is a hotbed of Icelandic crime!

Jonasson's description of the town and its inhabitants goes a long way in conveying how a murder here will not be easy to solve.

Only two policemen are stationed here: Inspector Herjólfur and policeman Ari Thór Arason. One rainy, cold, miserable late autumn night, Herjólfur is out on rounds. Ari Thór, who should have been on duty that night, is home recuperating from the flu.

There's light coming from an old abandoned house on a cliff overlooking the sea. Herjólfur goes to investigate. A shot rings out, and he is on the ground.

Early the next morning, a frantic call to Ari Thór from Herjólfur's wife, Helena, has him up and out the door. Helena has not seen nor heard from her husband since he went to work last night. And, he's not answering his phone.

Ari Thór finds Herjólfur outside the old house, shot and barely alive. Not one clue at the scene.

A former Siglufjörður policeman, and Ari Thór's old boss, Tómas, is sent from Reykjavík to lead an investigation. Herjólfur is in a coma, but soon dies without being able to tell who shot him. Now, police are looking for a murderer.

Where do you begin looking for a murderer in supposedly the most peaceful place on earth? Who do you question? Everywhere and everyone.

Just because you live in a small town where gossip runs rampant doesn't mean this murder will be solved quickly. Although a relative newcomer to the town, Ari Thór sums up the town best: *"a place where everyone was connected and nobody could be trusted completely."*

Herjólfur's teen son provides an interesting start-off point: the old abandoned house is known as a place for drug deals. That leads Ari Thór and Tómas to Addi Gunna, a former drug dealer, now an old man, but still with his finger on the pulse of the drug trade. He's cagey, but finally offers that Elín Reyndal, the deputy mayor, is a regular customer for drugs. She

also has an abusive ex-boyfriend who has been looking for her...and maybe the news coverage of this murder just might lead him right to her front door.

Then there's the mayor himself. Not a local, got his job through influence of town councillor, Ottó Nielson. So what's the connection there?

Then the kicker — local history teacher at the college, Ingólfur, comes forward with news that his shotgun killed Herjólfur! Not by him, of course. The gun was stolen from his house.

Entries from an old journal are squeezed between chapters on the investigation. They seem to have come from a mental-health facility. So who was in the looney bin?

It's an interesting group of suspects, but nothing leads anywhere until...uh, uh, I refuse to reveal any more!

Well paced, strong characterizations and a setting definitely worth your attention. I say, hail to Nordic noir! A great addition to the crime mystery genre.

Jonasson was born in Iceland. He is a lawyer and writer in Reykjavík. He is the cofounder of the Reykjavík international crime-writing festival Iceland Noir.

Till next time, happy reading!



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