CLARKDALE ARIZONA HOSTS TOUR OF BUILDINGS AND HOMES

by Paula McHugh

If living high on a ridge defines the upper crust, then the town of Clarkdale probably had it right. Lower Clarkdale, down a steep decline in the road, once represented the blue-collar strata of men who worked the copper smelter jobs of the United Verde mining company.

Tourists to the Verde Valley in Arizona might overlook the town proper, opting instead to motor their way directly to the Verde Canyon Railroad depot for a leisurely train tour of Sycamore Canyon. They may stop short of Clarkdale’s town center by detouring off to Tuzigoot National Monument, or they may actually roll through town past the historic bandstand on their way to the other historic mining town of Jerome, hugging the side of a mountain. Clarkdale’s history could be said to be the sedate sibling to the rough and rowdy, not to mention once extremely fire-prone Jerome.

The one exception to Clarkdale’s rather quiet reputation might have been the attempted bank robbery and shootout in 1928 in the center of town. A reenactment of that Bank of Arizona robbery was performed by actors from Prescott’s Blue Rose Theatre Group as a highlight of Clarkdale’s third annual Home and Building Tour in December. The real robbers, career criminals Willard J. Forrester and Earl Nelson arrived in town from Oklahoma, and their robbery attempt had a bad ending. They were after the United Verde’s sizeable payroll. They held

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Robbers run from the bank with their loot towards the getaway car. The bank robbery reenactment and shootout reflects a colorful piece of Clarkdale history from 1928.

The Spanish Colonial Revival home, boasting a tile roof, arcaded porch and stucco walls, is located in Upper Clarkdale, where the white collar workers of United Verde Copper Company lived. The home was built in 1930.
fifteen hostages plus bank manager David Saunders, who lied to the criminals that the payroll had not yet arrived. As the robbers fled with the $35 thousand Saunders did hand over, the gutsy manager managed to pull off two shots from a pistol he kept behind the counter. Out in the street, lawman Jim Roberts saw the commotion and quickly reacted with his Colt .45. He managed to shoot Forrester, the getaway driver, directly between the eyes. The car careened to a stop and Nelson was quickly captured. Lee Snyder, a witness to the real robbery and who had been standing in the line of fire, escaped death thanks to his pocket watch. And the players acting out the robbery received a fine ovation from the spectators lined up along the street for the day’s tour.

Starting from the Clarkdale Historical Museum, whose basement holds the remnants of the town’s early jail, vans shuttled tour goers to five homes on the tour. For someone accustomed to similar home tours in the Midwest, the distinctly western, small-town version was a culture shock. All of the tour homes were humble in comparison to this writer’s tours in Galena, Illinois and in Beacher country. The four architectural styles represented in Clarkdale’s 2011 tour were a two-room bungalow, a neoclassical four-room home, a Craftsman-style home built in 1913, and a Spanish Colonial revival house built in 1930. The latter two homes, located in upper Clarkdale, displayed the fancier styles more attainable to the white collar workers when the town was established. Upper administration smelter workers had the “privilege” of renting their brick homes from the copper company. A few standard upgrades included a garage, a sleeping porch, and maple floors.

Note that we aren’t talking about mansions here—the company town was built in 1912 for workers by William A. Clark, who owned Jerome’s copper mine and needed a new smelter location. Clarkdale boasts the “most preserved and largest historical district in Arizona,” according to the Clarkdale Historical Society. And Clark, reported to be especially proud of his town, reaped close to $100,000 per day from his copper smelter. Additionally, the copper baron was a U.S. senator from Montana who wielded plenty of power.

Among the four buildings on display, the former Clarkdale High School is soon to become a copper museum, with a planned opening in June. Tour goers had an opportunity to peek inside to see the collection of copper vessels—ranging from elaborate samovars to kettles, urns, and much more. The museum’s grand opening coincides with Arizona’s 2012 Centennial, promising dozens of activities throughout the state.
This Neoclassical home in lower Clarkdale was originally built as a duplex, each having just two rooms with a screened front entry. Constructed in 1914, this was one of 18 built in this style for blue collar workers.

The oldest home on the tour, this 1913-built Neoclassical has four rooms. Originally it had a glass sleeping porch in the rear and an indoor bathroom with shower. Located in lower Clarkdale, the home was meant for a blue collar worker.
The Clarkdale Memorial Clubhouse, built at Clark’s request as a recreational facility for the smelter workers, is a sprawling, well-preserved Spanish Colonial style structure that once housed an auditorium, men’s and ladies’ lounges, a reading room, and bowling alley. The town swimming pool sits behind it. The handsome building is used today for town council meetings and community events. Clustered nearby is the town’s police department, public library, and town hall. The town library was originally a church, and the police station had been a hospital, whose lower level housed the morgue.

Town historians prefer to name the two distinctive areas of Clarkdale “Upper Town” and “Lower Town.” In the blue collar neighborhood, this visitor became confounded by some of the street names.

First North street is one block north of Main, Second North is two blocks from Main, and well, it follows with Third North. In Upper Town, First, Second, and Third South streets prevail. If you live on any of those streets, locals know you live up the hill, in what was designated the white-collar area. The two acre town square is a popular gathering place for locals near and far to enjoy summer concerts and other special events.

Next door neighbors to Cottonwood, the town of Clarkdale boasts around 3400 people within its 7.5 square miles. The Yavapai-Apache trust lands skirt the western border. The mine and smelter closed in 1953, and in 1957, the town became incorporated. As the state gears up its celebration of its centennial, Clarkdale, founded the year of Arizona’s statehood, would be a good place to plan a visit.
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3339 LASALLE TRAIL
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Ranch style home in Duneland Beach featuring great floor plan. Home is larger than it looks offering 1760 sq. ft. on main level and 1088 sq. ft. on lower level. Master suite is 2 bedroom and small and could easily be converted to a den. Large screen porch overlooking level yard and in ground pool. Ellen Holloway @219-878-3721

$375,000

118 WESTWOOD DRIVE
SHORELAND HILLS

Bull limestone, iron rail and milled stairs define the stairway to main living area. 2 fireplaces/4 bedrooms.2.5 baths. Master bath including tub and his and hers vanities. The lower level offers rec room, wet bar and hardwood floors, and area for storage or office. Bonnie Meyer @ 874.2000

$444,000

3711 POWHATAN TRAIL
MICHIGAN SHORES

Pella windows surround spacious great room with 10’ ceiling, wood burning stove and built-in cabinets. The very private master suite comes with a hot tub and shower. Front screened in porch, stone fireplace in oversized garage. Large basement with easy access for toys of any size. Bonnie Meyer @ 874.2000

$525,000

3008 NORTHMOOR TRAIL
LONG BEACH

Historic stone/brick/frame home surrounded by nature with lakeviews. Family room with second fireplace. Property is oh so quiet while close to the beach. Bonnie Meyer @ 874.2000

$579,000

904 LAKE SHORE DRIVE
MICHIGAN CITY

Beautiful Lake Michigan views from all levels of this stately abode. Contemporary architectural appeal: 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, including to-die-for master suite. Great room with milled stairs leading to family room & over 1300 sq. ft. of additional entertaining space with jaw-dropping lake views. Larry Middleton @ 874.2121

$610,00

1205 LAKE SHORE DRIVE
MICHIGAN CITY

This home features 6 plus bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Open concept living/ dining/ kitchen area. Walkout basement is finished with family room, extra bedroom and full bath. Great screen porch and rear deck for outdoors entertaining. Huge lot and easy access to the beach. Larry Middleton @ 874.2121

$779,000

1617 LAKE SHORE DRIVE
LONG BEACH

Easy one level living includes master bedroom with sunroom, laundry/ kitchen, guest room with fireplace and wet bar/2 screened porches. The master bedroom includes two bedrooms and a bath. Outside hot tub, full deck and a private outdoor shower. Bonnie Meyer @ 874.2000

$789,000

1537-B LAKE SHORE DRIVE
MICHIGAN CITY

Three and one half levels with majestic Lake Michigan views from all levels of this stately abode. Contemporary architectural appeal: 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, including to-die-for master suite. Great room with milled stairs leading to family room & over 1300 sq. ft. of additional entertaining space with jaw-dropping lake views. Larry Middleton @ 874.2121

$2,349,000

2914 LAKE SHORE DRIVE
LONG BEACH

Carved marble, pegged oak floors, built in bookshelf, copper, brass and brick built into this Lake Michigan lakefront home. 12’ of sandy frontage on the lake. Improvised kitchen, the outdoor bar and grill complex, beach level/guest rooms and game room, brick fireplace and central sound. Rick Remijas Jr. @ 773-908-1969

$484,900

2503 SHOREWOOD DRIVE
LONG BEACH

This home is better than new. Beautiful home in Hidden Shores in Long Beach. High end finishes throughout. Quality stainless steel appliances. Open concept, high ceilings, hardwood floors, 3 gas fireplaces, beautiful luxury bathrooms, full finished walkout basement. Larry Middleton @ 874.2121

$395,000

413 OUTLOOK COVE DR. #413
LAPORTE

Maple flooring, maple cabinetry, gas fireplace, granite countertops, all appliances. Two bedrooms, two baths. Deck has retractable awning. Boat slip, indoor garage with 2 parking spaces, pool, exercise room. Security system. Cindy Schoof @ 219-363-9979

$315,000

3207 N BRIAR LEAF COURT
LAPORTE

Hardwood floors, quality carpet, stainless steel appliances, Corian counters tops, marble fireplace in the living room, vaulted ceilings, beautiful ceramic master bath, large closets, full basements with built in window, all appliances remain, including washer and dryer, security system. Larry Middleton @ 874.2121

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Singles Valentine Dinner/Dance

Parents Without Partners Chapter 193 will be hosting a Valentine Party Dinner/Dance on Sat., Feb. 4, at the Skwiat American Legion Post 451, Michigan City.

Bring a dish to pass; dinner at 6:30 p.m. Dancing to “Jerry of Jammin’ With Jerry” from 7:30-11 p.m. Admission is $7; everyone is invited. If you are a new member, the first dance is free. For more information, phone 423/744-4732.

Community Concert Series in LaPorte

Three superb entertainers blend their talents into one delightful show as part of the Community Concert Series in LaPorte.

Jody Briskey and Drew Jansen (the “Miss” and one of the “Hits” from “3 Hits and a Miss” fame) join pianist/entertainer Jimmy Martin to create a delightful cabaret show. All three are consummate showmen and have lot of experience in front of delighted audiences.

ThreeStyle will be in LaPorte on Tues., Feb. 7th at the Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., at 7 p.m.

ThreeStyle--based in Minneapolis--is a dynamite trio of performers with great credentials: Audience member will know Jody Briskey from her days with the very popular show “3 Hits and a Miss,” and as Judy Garland in the long running show at the History Theater, and as Tony Sandler’s singing partner. She has a great voice and she lights up the stage with her sparkling personality.

Drew Jansen, also a member of “3 Hits and a Miss” is the composer of the music for the extremely popular Church Basement Ladies show. Drew has a smooth baritone voice and he will carry an electronic keyboard to supplement the background accompaniment. As a composer, Drew is clever with melodies and lyrics so look for a couple of original tunes in the show.

Jimmy Martin is the piano player/singer from “Just Friends” as well as accompanist for such luminaries as Carmel Quinn, Bea Arthur and Tony Sandler. Jimmy has also performed at the Guthrie Theater and at Carnegie Hall.

This Cabaret style evening will feature well-known and loved favorites from the likes of Judy Garland, Rosemary Clooney and Patti Page--to classics like “Moon River” and “Malaguena.” Thrown in for good measure are some ragtime riffs and unique doings at the piano as well as some hoots from the hilarious Church Basement Ladies musicals. All in all ThreeStyle makes for an easy evening of popular song and lots of laughs.

This concert is part of the 2011-12 Community Concert Series. Tickets for the public will be available at the door: adults/$15.00 and students through high school/$5.00. For more info, contact Bill Burger at 219/362-5292 or Beth LeRoy at 219/362-8262.

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109 Bittersweet Trl, Shoreland Hills
This cozy home is situated on two lots just 2 blocks from the shores of Lake Michigan. A terrific summer retreat or year-around living. 4 nice-sized bedrooms and beautiful new kitchen and family/rec room. Fenced backyard and a nice deck for summertime grilling and entertaining. Storage shed for garden/yard implements. Just think...a short walk to the beach!

$279,900

12 Bristol, Kimball Woods
You know you are home as soon as you walk in the door. The rooms are all custom hand painted. The floors are hardwood and porcelain tile. The fireplace is oak and granite. The master bedroom has his and hers closets, a full bathroom with whirlpool tub and waterfall faucet surrounded by tile. 4 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths in all plus a finished basement for entertaining!

$380,000

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Imagine Music Concert Series in Valpo

The 2012 Imagine Music Concert Series at the Memorial Opera House in Valparaiso will kick off on Sat., Jan. 28. The 7:30 p.m. concert will feature Jim Peterik, the legendary singer-songwriter of *The Ides of March* and *Survivor*. Jim and friends will perform such hits as “Vehicle,” “LA Goodbye,” and “Eye of the Tiger.”

Tickets for the concert ($25/$35) are available at the Memorial Opera House box office, 104 E. Indiana Ave., Valparaiso, or by phone at 219/548-9137 or online at www.mohlive.com.

Other concerts in the series will include Dave Alvin & The Guilty Ones on March 10; Kim Richey on May 5; The Smithereens on Sept. 22; and Shawn Mullins on Nov. 3.

At the Lubeznik Art Center

Saturday, February 4 -- 11 a.m.-noon

**Opera Appreciation with Dennis Brittain**

Did you miss January’s Opera Appreciation class at Lubeznik Center? Never fear! Opera buff and educator Dennis Brittain is back and ready to prep you for upcoming broadcasts of the Metropolitan Opera’s Peabody and Emmy Award-winning series “The Met: Live in HD” at Michigan City’s AMC Showplace Cinema including Wagner’s “Götterdämmerung” on February 11 and Verdi’s “Ernani” on February 25. Reservations are required and a $3 donation is requested.

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. 2nd. St., Michigan City. 874-4900.

Great Decisions Discussion Group

The foreign policy discussion program Great Decisions returns for a 14th season at the Michigan City Public Library. The discussions begin in February. Reading material is available and space is limited. For more information, phone 873-3049.
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Big & Small...We’ve Got Them All

2010 Melrose Drive • Long Beach
$179,000
3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Living room with fireplace & is open to the dining room. Nice size kitchen. Large screen porch with fan. Enclosed porch could also be used for sitting room. Located on a quiet street, this lovely home is close to a park & within walking distance to the beach. Good rental potential.

6584 Callaway • Michigan City
$145,900
3 bedrooms, 2 baths. New carpeting. Spacious kitchen with stainless appliances & is open to dining area. Lower level family room with walk out to rear yard & patio. Sprinkler system. 1.73 acres of beautiful land with a stream at the rear of the property. Additional adjoining acre of property is available.

504 Birch Tree Lane • Long Beach Pointe
$97,500
2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Spacious living room with adjoining dining area that has sliders to rear balcony. Cabinets extending from kitchen into dining area offering great storage. Easy living close to many conveniences. Association pool for summer enjoyment. Garage space included. Clean, updated & inviting unit.

109 Riviera Drive • Suburban Estates
$146,900
2 bedrooms, 1.75 baths. Beautiful one level condo with an open floor plan. Large kitchen has stainless steel appliances. Sliders to outdoor patio. Master bedroom has a walk-in closet & attached bath. One car attached garage & storage shed. Maintenance free living. This condo is very well maintained & move in ready.

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**Oliver Love Story Focus of Program**

Dave Bainbridge, Senior Curator at the Center for History, and Kristie Erickson, the museum’s Special Project Curator, will give a joint presentation on the Oliver family at Insights in History, taking place at 1:30 p.m. Eastern time on Wed., Feb. 1, at the Center for History, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend, Indiana.

Bainbridge will talk about the romance and marriage of Joseph Oliver, Jr., and Ellinor McMillin. Joseph Oliver, Jr., was the third child of J.D. and Anna Oliver, who built the 38-room Oliver Mansion in South Bend in 1895-96. Erickson will give a presentation about “Unseen Treasures of the Oliver Mansion.” Admission is $3 or $1/members, and reservations are required by January 30; phone (574) 235-9664 or visit www.centerforhistory.org

The program will also include a guided tour of the exhibit “Unseen Treasures of the Oliver Mansion.”

**Neil Simon Play at Footlight Theatre**

Footlight Players will present the Neil Simon comedy “Chapter Two” beginning on Friday, February 3rd at 8 p.m. Directed by theatre veteran Jan Rice, the play tells the story of recent widower, writer George Schneider, who is encouraged by his younger brother Leo to start dating again.

Additional performance dates are February 4 & 5 and 9-12. There will be a “Patron Appreciation Reception” immediately following the February 5th performance at the neighboring Blink Art Gallery. Burns Harbor photographer Al Cash will be displaying some of his framed work during this period in the Footlight lobby.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday curtains are at 8 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Doors open 15 minutes prior to curtain. All tickets are $12. Reservations are recommended and may be made by calling 219-874-4035 or online at www.footlight-players.org/reservations.html. Footlight Theatre is located at 1705 Franklin Street, Michigan City.
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**Sculpture in Search of a Title Winners**

Fritz Olsen Sculptures is pleased to announce the winners of its eleventh annual Sculpture in Search of a Title competition. During this annual event, visitors to the gallery are invited to submit a title for a new work of art.

The untitled abstract sculpture by Fritz Olsen was created of antique weights, steel and stone. After sifting through over 800 submissions, judges selected two winners this year. Jan Caudell, a South Bend resident shared first prize with Ernie Summers of Long Beach for their titles, “Weighting at the Altar” and “Her Royal Highness and Lady in Weighting” respectively.

An honorable mention has been awarded to Kristin Skinner of Sawyer for her title, “Cheese!” Congratulations to the winners and to all who entered this year’s competition. The 2012 competition will begin during Art Attack weekend, when nationally recognized artist Fritz Olsen will unveil a new work in search of a title.

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**2nd Annual Heart Failure Awareness**

Indiana University Health LaPorte Hospital dieticians, clinicians, fitness staff and heart failure nurses have joined together to hold the second annual heart failure awareness event at Al’s East Supermarket at 702 E. Lincolnway on Sat., Feb. 4 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Al's Supermarket staff will conduct cooking demonstrations and offer a variety of heart healthy food samples. They will also showcase new products designed to help lower sodium intake. The IU Health LaPorte Hospital staff will be there to hand out information about heart failure and high blood pressure. For more information phone 219.326.2309 or toll free 800.235.6204, ext. 2309.
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Meals prepared based on your personal preferences. Non-stop activities. And a staff always ready with a smile and a helping hand. That’s the The Arbors at Michigan City. We provide Michigan City with a whole host of services: short-term rehabilitation, our Legacy Lane memory care neighborhood, skilled nursing services, respite care and adult day services. We also offer in- and out-patient physical, speech and occupational therapy, peritoneal dialysis and palliative care. Come see just how good life can be at our campus. Call or stop by today for more information or to schedule your personal tour.
Buchanan, MI “Thrill on the Hill” Event

Buchanan, Michigan is planning its first annual event – “Thrill on the Hill” – to be held Fri., Jan. 27, and Sat., Jan. 28. This event is the City’s first official winter event, and the purpose of the event is for people of all ages to have FUN!!!

Chief Marx came up with the idea for the event after talking with folks from Vassar MI, a small town near Frankenmuth, about the same size as Buchanan. The Vassar folks decided to close off a hill in their downtown last year after a big blizzard and let everyone tube down the hill. They had over 3,000 people show up!!!! People stood in line for hours to tube down the hill, and all the restaurants ran out of food! So, the thought was, if they can do it, we can do it!!

Front Street will be closed starting Friday at 1:00 p.m. from Liberty Street to Redbud Trail. Detour routes will be marked. Tubing will begin on Friday evening as a VIP event from 6-9 p.m. The City will auction off the first run (sign up at City Hall) and a VIP pass entitles you to unlimited tubing Friday night and all day Saturday. VIP patrons only on Friday night.

On Saturday, tubing will begin at 11 a.m. and continue all day until 8 p.m. There will be a “kiddy” run for children under 44 inches in height, which will be in the westbound lane (on the American Legion side) from the west Legion entrance down to Redbud. The “adult” run will be in the eastbound lane (Hoven Funeral Home) from Liberty all the way down to Redbud. There will be barriers at Redbud and fire and safety personnel will be out in full force.

Wristbands are your ticket to the event. VIP wristbands are $10.00, and regular wristbands are $3:00. Wristbands are being sold at City Hall prior to the event, and will be sold at the registration tent at McCoy Creek Park (Duckpond) parking lot on Friday and Saturday. Everyone MUST sign a waiver form and parents must sign for minors. THE CITY WILL SUPPLY THE TUBES!!! The City has purchased tubes in both adult and child size, so all you have to do is show up! SLEDS and TOBOGGANS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED. TUBES ONLY!

There will be warming stations at the American Legion and Moose Lodge and in the McCoy Creek Park parking lot – and in Kevin Barker’s building if needed.

So far, we know that Sandy at Sandy’s Floral boutique has a children’s event planned at her store and, George will have free hot chocolate for coupon holders at the Hilltop Cafe (available when wristbands are purchased). More will be added.

There is a “No Snow” date of February 10 and 11 in the event of continued uncharacteristically balmy weather. Watch for updates on the City website, www.cityofbuchanan.com

Dear Readers of New Buffalo Times,

THE NEW BUFFALO TIMES will resume publication in early March following a facelift and a move to a new location.

You will soon be able to follow the progress on Facebook, Twitter and www.newbuffalotimes.com along with contact information.

Pardon the interruption, but it will be well worth the wait!

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year,

Dee Dee Duhn
Publisher New Buffalo Times
Night of the Zombie-Q B.B.Q Bash

Saturday, January 28th, from 8 p.m.-3 a.m., zombies will be taking over J&B B.B.Q Shack for a night of live music, zombie dancing, food, and fundraising. The Michigan City Zombie Walk 2012 Committee in association with Wicked Jester Entertainment Inc. and J&B B.B.Q Shack will be hosting the local event.

Bands “Ungrateful Sons,” “Walking Alone,” “No Shelter,” and “Rai Lazerc” will be playing to the zombie horde in an effort to collect food donations for local charities. With a non-perishable food item the cover is $2, $3 without. Participants are also encouraged to dress as their favorite zombie character. This is an adult event, 21 and over only.

Michigan City Zombie Walk Committee is a local group of zombie and horror enthusiasts dedicated to promoting Michigan City’s first zombie walk this summer.

“A zombie walk is just one more way to garner support and donations from the general public. We’re simply a group of people who want to help, but also have fun doing it,” says Mel Bilderback a MCZW Committee member. All proceeds from MCZW events are donated to local food charities.

For more information go to facebook.com/MCZW2012.
THE Reinventing Retirement: Joan Chesterton Shares Love of Artists with Area Audiences

by Laurie Wink

Joan Chesterton officially retired from a faculty position at Purdue University North Central in 1998. Since then she has had a series of love affairs with artists.

Chesterton draws on her experience in art history and education to delight area audiences with lectures on visual arts. She pulls people in with a combination of insightful observations and irreverent asides. Although she doesn’t take questions during the presentations because of a one-hour time limit, she loves interacting with attendees before and afterwards.

“The motivation is to share my enthusiasm,” she says. “We look at beauty together. People really want to talk about art they’ve seen or things they love. Some are very informed and others don’t know (much) about art.”

Chesterton collaborates with three women to produce her lectures. Leading the charge has been Judy Jacobi, assistant vice chancellor of marketing and community relations at Purdue University North Central, who created the PNC Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series that sponsors the talks. Venues for the events have been provided by Carolyn Saxton, executive director of the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, and Robin Kohn, director of public relations at the Michigan City Public Library.

Chesterton’s qualifications include bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English and art history from the University of Illinois Chicago. She has held various positions at the Des Moines Art Museum, the Milwaukee Art Museum and the Dayton Art Institute. She says art spoke to her at an early age.

“I had no impulse to draw or sculpt or paint,” Chesterton says “I am a true amateur, meaning ‘a lover of art.’ I need to be near it. It’s a life-long love.”

For many years, the museum positions immersed her in European art. Then a pivotal experience at the Art Institute of Chicago turned her on to American art.

Chesterton channeled her curiosity about contemporary artists into the lecture, “What’s Happening in American Art? (And How Did We Get Here?),” presented in November at the Michigan City Library and at PNC. The talk focused on an eclectic mix of painters, sculptors, photographers and architects.

Chesterton’s wide-ranging intellectual interests in visual arts have led to presentations on: American Art of the 1930s, ’50s and ’60s, a three-part series; Sculpture Then and Now, a two-part series; Icons with Nikons; Flight to Freedom, on European artists who sought refuge from the Holocaust in the United States; La Belle Epoque: A Beautiful Era; and Beyond the Arches: Selected Works from McDonald’s Corporate Art Collection.”

Chesterton was delighted to find out that Barbara Stodola is equally ardent about art. Stodola has a degree in art history from the University of Chicago and frequently writes about the arts for The Beacher. The two aficionados have visited the Getty Museum in Los Angeles and multiple museums in New York City.

“Hanging from two wires was Jackson Pollock’s “Lavender Mist,” she recalls. “I was so struck by it. It was so contrary to anything I had seen. From there I was led to others in the school of abstract expressionism.”

Now Chesterton is driven to learn about contemporary artists. With that aim in mind, she visited the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis last summer to see some of the rising stars.

“I went to cleanse my palette,” she says. “I wanted to refresh my thinking.”

Having once been blown away by Jackson Pollock, Chesterton has a new favorite in Julie Mehretu. According to the Walker website, Mehretu “combines a personal language of signs and symbols with architectural imagery to create her elaborate semi-abstractions.”

Chesterton says one of the by-products of an addiction to art is the tendency to accumulate lots of books.
Barbara Stodola and Joan Chesterton stand in front of the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, one of many art Meccas they’ve explored together.

“In New York we went to every single museum and to theater in the evening,” Chesterton says. “It’s not everybody’s cup of tea.”

Before moving from Chicago to the beach area 25 years ago, Chesterton held executive positions in training and development at Encyclopedia Britannica and Zurich Insurance Company. From 1988 to 1998, she was a highly-regarded faculty member of Organizational Leadership and Supervision at Purdue University North Central. During that time, she divided her time between teaching courses – she developed five of them in the OLS program – and consulting with businesses and industries in Northwest Indiana and Chicago.

She had an active consulting business until 2005 and continues to take on projects that come from former clients. Most recently, she conducted a management workshop for Central States Manufacturing, Inc. in Michigan City.

While this octogenarian has a head for business and for managing organizations, her heart has always been in art.

“I have been going to museums all my life,” she says. “There is something to me that is so enriching about being in the presence of great art.”

Chesterton’s ready wit is never far from the surface, as evidenced by the comment, “When I’m done with art, I’d like to be a singer in a blues band.”

Anyone who knows her wouldn’t be surprised if she pulled it off.

**Basket Weaving at MC Public Library**

*Saturday, January 28, 9:15 a.m.*

A Basket Weaving class will be held at the Michigan City Public Library. Margie Warner teaches a single-session class and each person takes home a basket. A $10 non-refundable deposit is required for materials and prices vary. Sign up and see the basket at the library circulation desk. Phone 219-873-3042 for more information.
Housing Needed for Summer Employees

The National Park Service is in serious need of short-term housing near Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore for the summer’s seasonal workforce of park rangers, guides, maintenance workers, and research aids, according to Superintendent Constantine Dillon.

“Many of our summer employees experience difficulty in finding suitable short-term housing. Most of these employees are either college students or just starting their careers and have limited budgets. Many apartment owners will not lease or rent for less than six months or a year. We are looking for temporary, (two to six months), housing, preferably furnished apartments or rooms with cooking privileges,” said Dillon.

Persons interested in receiving referrals for summer renters from Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore should contact Administrative Program Assistant Bill Martin, at 219-395-1751.

South Bend Comic Book Convention

The South Bend Comic Book Convention will be held Sat., Jan. 28 at the Comfort Suites, 52933 US 933 (the corner of Cleveland and US 31) in South Bend IN just north of the Indiana Tollway (I-80 / I-90) @ exit 77. The convention will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and admission is free. Dealers will be on hand with comics from the golden age to present along with a variety of related collectible items. They will also be buying comics you might have had lying around for years and no longer want. For more information, phone Alan at 309 657-1599 or visit www.epguides.com/comics

Harbor Country Book Club


Monthly meetings are at 7:00 p.m. MI time (please note, this is a new time), on the last Tuesday of the month at the Harbor Grand Hotel in New Buffalo and are open to anyone interested in joining members to discuss the book. Copies of the books can be purchased at New Buffalo Books.

Audition Notice

Footlight Players will be performing “Funny Money,” directed by Dee Piotrowski, on April 13-15 & 19-22 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St., Michigan City.

Auditions will be held on Feb. 12 & 13, 7-9 p.m. with cast requirements as follows: 2 women (30-50ish), 6 men (30-50ish) However one man is a cameo only appearing at the end of the show.

Phone the theatre for more info: 219-874-4035.
Last Saturday Film Series

The Maud Preston Palenske (St. Joseph) Library and the Box Factory for the Arts begin 2012 with a new partnership and a new film series on the last Saturday of each month. The adult-rated films, shown at 7:30 p.m. MI time, are free to the public.

Stephanie Masin, Library Director, approached the Film Committee of the Box Factory with the idea for the new partnership which will show award-winning Independent and foreign films as part of the Last Saturday Film Series. Staff from the library and the Box Factory will alternate hosting the series; however, all films will be shown at the Box Factory, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI. After the screening, DVDs of the films will be available for circulation by the library.

“Protektor,” the winner of 9 Czech film academy awards, will be shown on January 28th. The film is set in Prague at the outbreak of WWII and centers on the story of radio reporter Emil who is married to Hana, a famous film star who is oblivious to the Nazi threat. Hana’s Jewish heritage precipitates her fall from the height of her career to the bottom of the social ladder and a marriage in crisis.

For more on this new partnership, contact Stephanie Masin at 269-983-7167 or publiclibrary@sjcity.com or Judy Sokolowski at 269-983-2875 or jasoko@sbcglobal.net

Readers Group at Coolspring Library

The Coolspring Branch Library of La Porte County Public Library, 400N & Johnson Rd., Michigan City, will host a Readers Group discussion on the best selling novel The Help by Kathryn Stockett at 7:00 p.m., on Tues., Jan. 31. The story is about a young southern woman who interviews maids about their shocking real lives for a book she is writing. The Help was also made into a popular movie last summer. The book may be requested for check-out in regular or large print, on CD, and as an e-book. You may also check out the movie on DVD.

For more information, phone 879-3272.

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Winter Driving Tips from INDOT

**INDOT Urges Drivers To Remember “Ice and Snow, Take It Slow”**

As the snow falls in northern Indiana, the Indiana Department of Transportation’s (INDOT) LaPorte District has plow and salt trucks ready to treat the roads.

Once again this winter, drivers will be able to track road conditions across the state. During snow and ice events, www.TrafficWise.in.gov will be updated to let drivers know if road conditions are good, fair or difficult. The information will also be available by calling 800-261-ROAD (7623).

“We’re encouraging Hoosier drivers to remember proper winter driving techniques,” said Mike McPhillips, LaPorte District Deputy Commissioner. He also urged drivers to be alert while driving near snow plows on all state and local roads. The LaPorte District maintains 5,688 lane miles of state roads, including 560 lane miles of interstate.

INDOT is encouraging drivers to ready their vehicles for winter and review the driving tips below to prepare for a safe winter:

- *ACCELERATE GRADUALLY* on ice or snow to avoid slipping and sliding
- *DRIVE SLOWLY* and carefully to avoid rear-end collisions and sliding on curves
- *ALLOW GREATER DISTANCE* behind the car ahead; it takes more time to stop on snow and ice
- *BRAKE EARLY*, break slowly, never slam on the brakes; if you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it; if you don’t, gently pump the pedal
- *NO CRUISE CONTROL*, avoid abrupt steering maneuvers
- *MAINTAIN GOOD VISIBILITY*, stay alert
- *GIVE SNOWPLOWS ROOM* to operate; don’t tailgate or try to pass

For additional winter driving tips, visit www.winterdrivingsafety.in.gov

**Tech Help Desk at Thomas Library**

Westchester Public Library offers the Tech Help Desk (previously the Computer Clinic) for patrons in need of computer help. The Tech Help Desk is free one-on-one technology help on a first come first serve basis. No registration is necessary.

The Help Desk will be open on Mondays from 5-6 p.m., Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m., and Fridays from 10-11 a.m. in the Serials/Automation Department at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Staff will do their best to address computer problems as well as specific topics of your choice, such as cell phones, eReaders, tables, email, Internet, or any other technology assistance you require. If the problem is severe enough, staff may recommend that you see a computer professional to solve the problem. Bring in laptops or electronic devices, but please do not bring desktop computers to the Help Desk. Computers are available for use during Help Desk hours. For more information, phone the Automation/Serials Department at 219/926-7696.
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**American Red Cross Blood Drives**

- **Wed., Feb. 1, 3:30-7:30 p.m.**
  Northwest Athletic Club, 301 W. Kieffer Road, Michigan City. Phone 879-4401 to schedule your appointment.
- **Tues., Feb. 7, noon-6 p.m.**
  St. John’s United Church of Christ in the Fellowship Hall, 101 St. John Road in Michigan City.
- **Wed., Feb. 8, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.**
  First Church of God in the gymnasium, 2020 E. Lincolnway in LaPorte.
- **Fri., Feb. 10, noon-6 p.m.**
  Marquette High School in the Library, 306 W. Tenth St., Michigan City. Come to donate and receive a Fannie Mae Chocolate Pop. Phone (219) 877-2290 to schedule your blood donation appointment.

To schedule an appointment to donate, phone 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org for more information. Individuals who are 17 years of age, meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height) and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. Please bring your Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive ID when you come to donate.

**The Daley Column**

*submitted by Jane Daley, LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau*

**Live Blues and Jazz & A Taste of the South!**

Stony Gardens will present Blues and Jazz every Saturday in their restaurant and event center, in Marquette Mall, Michigan City. They will alternate between live Blues, and live Jazz performances.

Stony Gardens opens at 5 p.m. and will be serving dinner while their patrons enjoy live music. There is no charge for admission.

Stony Gardens specializes in Woodfire Gourmet Turkey in Herb & Garlic, Caribbean Jerk, and Cajun flavors. Within the Stony Gardens facility is the Restaurant “Black-Eyed P” which serves Southern Style Fusion cuisine. On January 28 you can groove to the tunes of “The C4 Band,” that specialize in Blues, Rock and Reggae.

**Take your Valentine on a Trail Ride!**

Pleasant Heights Stables has a lovely group of calm stable horses for trail rides. Experienced and first-time riders alike can take comfort on their well-trained horses, as you explore 100 acres of rolling wooded, and open field scenery. Please view the web site at www.pleasantheightstables.com for details. Pleasant Heights Stables is located at 0707 N Shebel Road, Michigan City; phone 219-324-7433.

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Door price is $20

Come Celebrate National Go Red Day!
Andrews U. Faculty Present Recital

Andrews University Department of Music professors Carla Trynchuk and Chi Yong Yun will present a recital of violin and piano pieces on Sat., Jan. 28, 2012, at 7 p.m. MI time at the Howard Performing Arts Center on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

This faculty recital features works by French composers and pieces including Sonata in D Major, Op. 9, No. 3 by Jean Marie Leclair, Camille Saint-Saëns' Sonata No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 75, and Sonata in A Major by César Franck.

Violinist Carla Trynchuk has performed as a soloist and recitalist throughout North America and Europe. A graduate of The Juilliard School of Music, Trynchuk was granted the Bachelor and Master of Music degrees studying under Dorothy DeLay and Hyo Kang. She has given master classes worldwide and has served as an adjudicator for string competitions and festivals throughout the United States and Canada. Trynchuk is currently professor of music and director of the string program at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Pianist Chi Yong Yun is the director of piano studies at Andrews University. Yun was born in Seoul, Korea, and moved to the United States at the age of 6. The recipient of many honors and awards, she received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees with honors from Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University as a Thomson Star Fellow. Yun is currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with the internationally acclaimed pianist Ian Hobson.

Her performances as a recitalist, collaborative musician and lecturer, have taken her throughout United States, Korea and Europe.

Phone the Howard Performing Arts Center box office at 269-471-3560 or 888-467-6442 to purchase tickets for this faculty recital. Tickets are $10 for general admission; $5 for AU faculty and staff, and free for all students. Special rates apply for groups and Flex Series tickets. Learn more by visiting www.howard.andrews.edu

The Howard Performing Arts Center is a premier 850-seat concert hall on the campus of Andrews University, located one-half mile east of the U.S. 31 Bypass in Berrien Springs, Michigan.
You regularly read in these pages about all the wonderful classes and activities offered at Fernwood Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve in nearby Niles, Michigan.

But did you ever encounter an article or press release about a bird stuffing class with Head Naturalist Wendy Jones? No?

Well, pour yourself a fresh cup of hot chocolate and settle in your favorite chair for a true-life account of how three intrepid birders joined the learned naturalist at the Nature Center for a full four hours or more of preparing four avian specimens for display and demonstration.

And so you know, those three birders were Rhoda Johnson of Berrien Springs, and Natalie and Charley McKelvy of Harbert, and the four specimens were: a female bluebird, a male bluebird, a female hairy woodpecker, and a female northern flicker.

And, as to how we four would gather on a sunny winter's day at Fernwood to stuff birds, why way back in the old year of 2011 Wendy Jones and I got to talking at the Nature Center about how birds are prepared for demonstration, and she took us to her freezer full of dead birds and mammals and said she was in great need of volunteers to head out to Fernwood after the holidays and help her stuff some birds.

How could we possibly pass up such an amazing opportunity and learning experience?

So we didn't, and so on the winter day in question, we met Rhoda Johnson at Fernwood and walked into the Nature Center where the totally organized Head Naturalist had everything at the ready.

And by everything, I do mean the four defrosted birds and individual dissecting kits for each of us. Plus, cornmeal, Borax, Q-tips, and cotton for, well, we'll get to all that in a minute, or not.
Wendy gives the author some good, orderly direction.

Not so easy with our feathered friends.
As were to painfully discover during Bird Stuffing 101. The trick, you see, is to carefully—oh so carefully—separate the little birdie from its carcass without tearing its delicate skin.

Natalie, who raced off at the beginning of the class, encountered just such difficulty when she began separating her male bluebird’s skin from its body at the tail section.

Suffice it to say, we had as a grand a day of bird stuffing at Fernwood as one could ever hope to have, and Natalie and I even found time after class to experience the snow-clad gardens and tranquil forest.

Oh, and yes, we stopped in the gift store and bought some really fancy Italian soap with which to wash up when we got home.

For your own edification, phone Fernwood at 269-695-6491 or 269-683-8653 and find out what fun you can have as a volunteer bird stuffer. Or not.
Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

January 26 -- Open House for new offices of Solid Waste District, Soil & Water Conservation District, Purdue Extension, and the Small Animal Hospital. 2-6 pm at 2857 W. State Rd. 2, LaPorte (on the LaPorte Co. fairgrounds). Tours, refreshments, door prizes, games, displays, music and more. Public invited; more at 219-324-9407.

January 27 -- FUN AT WORK DAY

January 27 -- See the popular film “Secretariat” about the record breaking Triple Crown Champion race horse. Free refreshments included 6 pm at Coolspring Branch Library, 400N & Johnson Rd., MC. Info: 879-3272.

January 27 -- PNC American Sign Language Club ASL Coffeehouse. 6-9 pm at Cornucopia Coffee Company, 210 Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN. Open to the public. Info: www.aslclub.info

January 27-28, February 3-5, 9-11 -- “The Goat” by Edward Albee. Performed at Chicago Street Theatre, 154 W. Chicago St., Valparaiso, IN. Thurs/Fri/Sat 8 pm; Sun/2:30 pm. Adult material; not for children. Tix $18/adults, $15/seniors (62+), students and veterans; reserve at 219-464-1636, ext. 1 or www.chicagostreet.org

January 28 -- LaPorte WinterFEST Ice Fishing Derby. 7 am-4 pm at Cummings Lodge on Stone and Pine Lakes. This event is sponsored by Rotary, LaPorte Parks, and Friends of Fishing. Prizes to longest fish in several categories. Adm. $10/adult, $5/child if preregistered by Jan. 27. Free parking. Info: Mike Sutton, msutton58@comcast.net; 219/510-3193.


January 28 -- Snowshoe Hike at IN Dunes National Lakeshore. 1-2:30 pm. Meet at Calumet Dune Interpretive Center, corner of US Hwy 12 & Kemil Rd. Limited number of snowshoes will be available. Info: Ryan Koepke at 219/395-1882.

January 28 -- American Babies (alt-country music) performing at Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St., MC. 10 pm. Info: 219.879.4677.

January 29 -- NATIONAL PUZZLE DAY

January 31 -- Story Times at MC Public Library. 10 am for birth thru 5 years with an adult. More info at 873-3045.

February 2 -- GROUNDHOGS DAY - will he see his shadow? If not, 6 more wks. of winter!

February 3 -- February Uptown Art Walk. 5-8 pm north Franklin Street and surrounding area. Art,
music, refreshments and more. Free adm.

**February 3-5, 9-12** -- “Chapter Two” by Neil Simon at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St., MC. Thurs/Fri/Sat 8 pm; Sun/2 pm. Tix $12; reserve at 219-874-4035 or www.footlightplayers.org/reservations

**February 3-12** -- Coastline Children’s Film Festival featuring short films from the NY International Children’s Film Festival. Held at The Acorn Theater, Three Oaks, and the New Buffalo Performing Arts Center at the Middle/High School. Adm. $1 donation. Film descriptions and schedules at www.brookviewschool.org or phone 269-925-3544.

**February 4-5** -- Winter Fest Weekend in New Buffalo. Free sleigh rides & ice sculpting noon-5 pm downtown; ice skating at Judy’s Motel both days; Bev’s 2nd Season Ball 6:30 pm Sat. at Heston Hills Banquet Center; Sunday breakfast at Michigan Thyme; and lots more. Info: www.newbuffalo.org or 888-660-6222.

**February 7** -- Community Concert Series: Three-Style. 7 pm at the LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., LaPorte. Tix $15/adults, $5/students thru high school at the door. Info: Bill at 219/362-5292 or Beth at 219/362-8262. Story elsewhere this issue.

**Farther Afield:**

**January 27-28** -- “Thrill on the Hill” winter event in downtown Buchanan, Michigan. Tube down the hill Fri/6-9 pm; Sat/11 am-8 pm. City will supply the tubes. Related story this issue. www.cityofbuchanan.com


**January 28** -- Last Saturday Film Series: “Protektor,” a Czech film academy award winner (adult rated). 7:30 pm MI time at Box Factory, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI. Admission free. Info: Judy Sokolowski, 269-983-2875.

**January 29** -- Winter Organ Recital featuring Dr. Gail Archer, College Organist at Vassar College will be held at 3 pm at St. Mary of the Lake, 6060 Miller Ave., Gary, IN. No adm. charge; free-will offering will be taken. Info: 219-882-6079. Story elsewhere this issue.

**February 10** -- “A Valentine Tradition” concert by the Northwest Indiana Symphony featuring Di Wu, piano. 6:30 pm pre-concert lecture, 7:30 pm concert. Held in The Auditorium at Bethal Church, on Broadway, south of US 30 in Crown Point, IN. Tix $20-$60/adults, $10/students; reserve at 219-836-0525 or email info@nisorchestra.org

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I Gave My Heart to Know This by Ellen Baker

This is a story that will long stay in your mind and in your heart. I found myself lingering over the characters and the paths they took long after the last page was turned. I found myself asking “what if?” as much as “how come?” That’s the effect they story has on the reader. These are men and women who come alive on the page, who make you feel something for them, whether anger or compassion, love or contempt. It’s not often you read a book that brings about that kind of response.

The story starts out in 1925 in a small community in far northern Wisconsin. A bitter, cold start to the winter and Violet Maki is in labor, alone on her farm, and has to walk to her neighbor at the next farm to get help for this, her first baby. By herself since her husband, Jago, left her along and took the car four days ago, knowing her time was near. But that was typical of him. He disappeared frequently, God himself only knowing where he went. Violet gives birth to not one, but two babies! Twins, a boy and girl she names Lena and Derrick.

Fast forward to the farm in 1999 and Julia comes to “house-sit” for her aunt and uncle so they can RV on a vacation around the western states. Julia, a wannabe professional photographer, is trying to get over the accidental death of her boyfriend. The farm will be a needed distraction as she plans on doing some redecorating for her aunt. A trunk in the barn piques her interest and she hauls it in the house. What she finds sets her on a journey to finding out the answers to questions about her family that no one would talk about, or perhaps, didn’t know about.

Back to 1944, and Violet and her daughter Lena are now working at the shipyard on Lake Superior, helping make needed ships for the war. They make friends with Grace, a statuesque blond and welder the guys have nicknamed “Hotshot.” She longs to leave the town and go to California and be a seamstress to the stars.

Violet is angry with Jago when he signs papers for 17 year-old Derrick to join the Navy. He is assigned to an aircraft carrier in the Pacific. Lena talks Grace into writing to him even though the two have never met. Derrick’s letters become increasingly more intimate, hinting at a relationship Grace isn’t interested in since she has a boyfriend also in the service. When Derrick is listed missing in action, Grace feels guilty and Lena goes into total denial, declaring he is not dead and will return some day.

Grace also loses her boyfriend, Alec, to the war and finds solace in the arms of Joe, a former airman who was sent home after contracting rheumatic fever. One day at work, she is suddenly throwing up...

What happens to women thrown into the workforce because of war, what happens to their relationships and families is brilliantly brought to life as the war throws all of their lives into a swirling vortex that spits them out, changed forever.

The skillful blending of past and present shows us how misplaced loyalties, secrets, loss and unfulfilled dreams can cast a shadow that spans generations.

Best selling author Elizabeth Berg said, “I loved reading this powerful and poignant book, which, though it acknowledges pain, regret, and remorse, ultimately is a celebration of life.”

Ellen Baker is also the author of Keeping the House which won the 2008 Great Lakes Book Award for Fiction and was named one of the Chicago Tribune’s Favorite Books of the Year. She lives in Minnesota. Visit her web site at www.ellenbakernovels.com

Till next time, happy reading!
Spring is just around the corner! Build your dream home on one of these properties! Call Today and Get Started as soon as the ground thaws!

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**28 Mayfield Dr., Michigan City**
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**307 W Michigan, New Buffalo**
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**309 W Michigan, New Buffalo**
The Perfect Site for Your Future available at this 66 x 132 lot! Ready to build and backs up to a wooded ravine! This area is dotted with new construction homes in the desirable New Buffalo Area Schools neighborhood. Come take a look!

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**Birchmont, New Buffalo**
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**28 Fairway Drive, Long Beach**
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David Angus @ 219-898-7009

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