



Volume 33, Number 48 Thursday, December 7, 2017

REDISCOVERING A RELIQ OF THE PAST

by William Halliar



The Old Waterford Inn as it stands today. Photo by Paul Kemiell

Why here?

A question I always ask myself when driving across country, finding little communities nestled amid cornfields and forests. Why settle here, raise families and start businesses? Why put down roots, live and die here, call this place home?

La Porte County and Northwest Indiana have many such communities that emerged over the last 150 years or so. Some continued to grow and prosper, their names familiar to us now. Others outlived their usefulness and faded into history, a distant memory with almost nothing to attest to the fact that anyone lived and worked there.

Johnson Road connects two of the county's most prosperous and historic communities: La Porte and Michigan City. Hundreds of vehicles travel its smooth asphalt surface daily without a thought as to the whys and hows of its existence.

How many know that Johnson Road was once called Waterford Road or Trail Creek Trail? Who knew the road was renamed in the early 1900s for George B. Johnson of Michigan City, who was influential in the "Good Roads" movement in Indiana that led to the paving and other improvements of what is now Dunes Highway?

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REDISCOVERING

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Travelling northwest from La Porte to Michigan City, a thoughtful person might notice, here and there, a quaint barn and well-tended farm, wondering about what brought these people to this place. Just north of La Porte County Public Library's fine new Coolspring branch, between County Road 400 North and West Pahs Road, just before crossing Interstate 94, is an unusual brick building on the west side of the road. It sits far below grade level of the present Johnson Road overpass and seems somewhat old-fashioned and out of place. It is easy to miss this relic as you speed by.

This was an old stagecoach stop, a saloon, a resting place for weary travelers, the halfway point between La Porte and Michigan City.

This was the Old Waterford Inn.

Few would suspect this was once the hub of a thriving community. An early historian states in 1904 that Waterford boasted "a grist mill, a Methodist Church, a German Baptist, often called Dunkard Church, a schoolhouse, a saloon and a few dwelling houses." It was considered a flourishing business center.



What brought people there? Why call it Waterford, and what were the dreams of the men and women who founded this small community?

These were my questions. I consulted with my friend, La Porte County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz, who referred me to a volume written by Michigan City's Matthew Kubik in 1992 titled The History of

The Waterford Inn, Coolspring Township, LaPorte County, Indiana. Kubik, at the time of the writing, was associate professor of architectural engineering technology at Indiana University and Purdue University. He owned the property on which the old stagecoach stop that became the Waterford Inn was located. Kubik was the expert I needed.

Today, the area as seen on maps is described by Wikipedia as an "unincorporated community in Coolspring Township in LaPorte Indiana." Perhaps Waterford was named for the ancient Irish town of Waterford, a name of Norse origins. Or perhaps it was because it



was here one had to “ford” several creeks between La Porte and Michigan City.

Once upon a time, when bridges were expensive and difficult to build, roads would simply end when encountering a stream and pick up on the other side. Horses and wagons would literally drive through the middle of the water, fording the stream.

My first order of business was to explore the area and see for myself what remains of the once-thriving village.



Joining The Beacher's Bill Halliar (right) for the exploration of the old Waterford Inn are (from left) Matt Kubik, Karen Reeder and Jim Retseck.
Photo by Paul Kemiell

I mounted an expedition one fine October day. The group of intrepid explorers included: Kubik; Jim Retseck, Michigan City Historical Society president and great-grandson of a former proprietor of the old inn; Karen Reeder, Old Lighthouse Museum's office manager; and Beacher photographer Paul Kemiell.

Wearing boots and outdoor protection from the swamp and brambles, we tramped into the woods to see what we could find. The old inn still stands, looking pretty elegant for all of its years, fancy brickwork and multi-paned windows still glinting proudly in the autumn sun. We were looking for the remnants of lakes and earthen dams along Trail Creek that once powered the saw mills and grist mills that were the backbone of this once-thriving community. Today, most of the area is designated a public fishing area by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Only traces of what was once there are visible after close inspection.

As we tramped through the woods, we discovered the remains of an old earth dam and the concrete abutments or foundations of a bridge that once carried the interurban electric train from La Porte to Michigan City.

Walking along in the hushed silence of the woods, the only sound the crunch of fallen leaves under our feet, it was almost possible to feel the pulse of the

Continued on Page 4

DEAR FRIENDS OF THIS COLUMN HAPPY HOLIDAYS

A wonderful fall we have had!! But the storms constantly moving the beaches and dunes concern me.

I have no idea how long Lake Michigan water will remain relatively high, and the winds will continue to blow and move sand. I have never seen so many beaches decimated since I arrived on the scene in 1978. It feels worse than 1987 and 1988, but I do remember that the erosion along Stops 36 through 40 threatened the road in that time. The water level then was higher than now by almost a foot.

We must remember that dunes want to move, and have continued to move and change, for over 10,000 years. There have been times when the changes were severe, usually when the lake level was high and we had storms. There have been times when the changes were slight usually because the water levels were down and we had fewer storms.

There are definitely cycles of erosion and accretion. But I have a feeling the cycles are becoming less regular.

When we think of “protecting the dunes,” we really mean “protecting the neighbors” because what we humans construct rarely stops the movement of the sand when the wind blows.

I am OK with the dunes winning. But I will continue to look for ways to work with the dunes so humans can better enjoy living among them.

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REDISCOVERING Continued from Page 3

busy little mills that once graced artificial lakes created to power their wooden gears. Here, the whine of saw blades could once be heard turning trees of the great virgin forest into the lumber to build homes. Heavy stone wheels spun on wooden axles, grinding wheat to flour to feed the people of La Porte County.

As we stumbled over roots and climbed through hallows and over hillocks, Retseck began to tell stories of his great-grandfather, and his days at the Waterford Inn. Kubik shared facts from his research and personal experience living here. What better place to hear these stories and contemplate these facts than in the woods and around the rushing streams where the drama unfolded, as told by people with roots in the land?



Most of the area near the old inn is designated a public fishing area by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Photo by Paul Kemiell

Native Americans first discovered this area, so abundant with fish and game. Perhaps it was a place where many animal paths crossed, the well-worn traces of creatures seeking fresh water to drink. For certain, three major streams of the region crossed at this place. Still today, Wolf Creek, Waterford Creek and Trail Creek meet at this location.

The Old Lighthouse Museum houses a beautiful and extensive collection of arrowheads, stone knives, even stone plowheads found in the Waterford area that attest to the many people who crossed these well-worn paths over time, the Native Americans who, from the time before recorded history, explored this area and called it home.

When Europeans first explored the Northwest Territory, they followed the existing Indian paths that paralleled the animal traces along the water routes. As the paths became more heavily travelled, Waterford became a crossing place of roads.

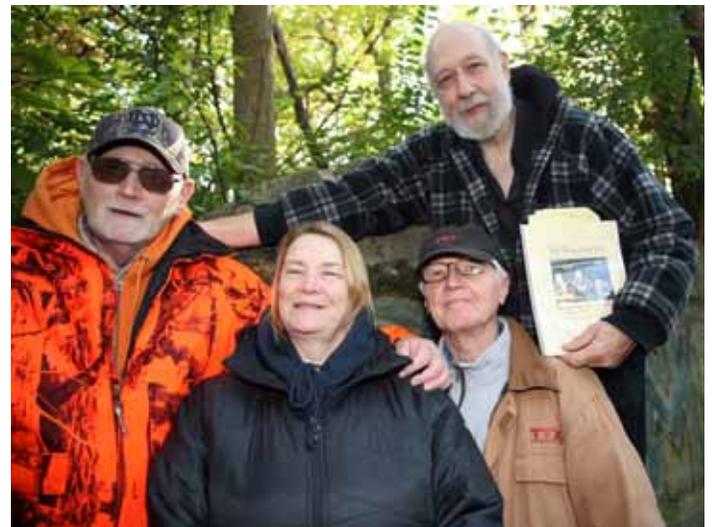
Early travelers between crude settlements followed these trails through the woods and over dunes that connected Indian villages with each other and their hunting grounds. A stranger to the area could not find his way without a guide for fear of becoming lost.

As the Romans learned centuries earlier, a civilization could not prosper and be held together socially and economically without efficient communication of goods and information. It became obvious good roads would be the connection to make their world prosper, and hold their communities together.

Roads followed ancient Indian trails, and here in the area that became known as Waterford, three important trails crossed in close proximity, forming a triangle that would become the center of the thriving little community. In 1831, a road between Michigan City and Lafayette, Ind., was cut through the woods and another crossing it, named the Yellow River Road that headed east to Fort Wayne. A third road connected Michigan City to La Porte. This road still exists, known today as Johnson Road.

These early roads were little more than paths cleared through the woods to make the pathways easier to follow. They were rutted and swampy. Early vehicles would sink up to their axles in wet weather. In 1849, La Porte County commissioners granted permission to Union Plank Road Co. to construct a plank road from Michigan City through the Waterford area to carry grain from local farms to the port at Michigan City.

Plank roads, or puncheon roads, made of heavy split, smooth-faced logs, were dirt paths covered in a series of boards that would carry wheeled vehicles over rough and soggy terrain. These roads were often toll roads, and farmers either would pay a fee to use them or trade time for maintenance for the use of the roadway. These roads were the early turnpikes of the region. They were called the “poor man’s railroad.”



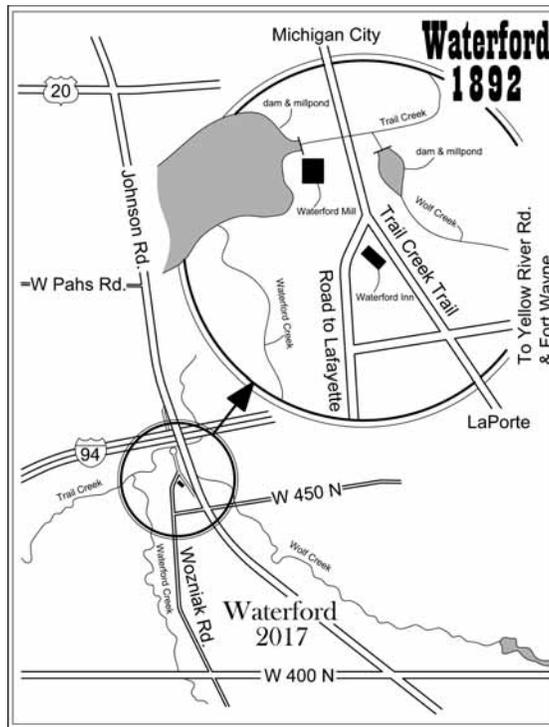
Matt Kubik (right) holds a copy of his book that offers a detailed account of the Waterford area. He's pictured with (from left) Jim Retseck, Karen Reeder and Bill Halliar.

According to Kubik’s book, an article in the April 6, 1850, issue of *The LaPorte County Whig* reported that a local farmer said, “It is a fact that when the wagon got to the end of the planks and stuck on the heavy dirt road, every horse stopped and looked around.”

Swift streams that flowed year-round in Northwest Indiana provided the power in an age before electricity or the harnessing of steam. Streams could be dammed, creating ponds that would afford the necessary water power to turn great wheels attached to pinion gears. These could turn heavy grinding stones, even saw blades for turning the trees of the dune's virgin forests, into the lumber needed to build new cities.

At Waterford, three such streams converged. Here was an excellent location for building earth dams for controlling water flow and creating the head pressure needed to turn great water wheels. Here, Wolf Creek and Waterford Creek flowed into Trail Creek, creating a powerful stream that flowed strongly all year long, as it still does today.

Throughout La Porte County in the early 1800s, such streams were sought out as construction sites for water-powered mills. In 1849, there were



A map, designed by Bill Halliar, that explores the area surrounding the Old Waterford Inn in 1892.

49 sawmills in the county. By 1860, there were more than 60.

In Waterford, at the nexus of the Wolf, Waterford and Trail creeks, were two such mills with earth dams and ponds backed up behind them to provide the power.

In 1833, Nathan B. Johnson settled with his family at this crossroads of trails, streams and future plank roads. What better place to set up a business community? Thus, the village of Waterford began to develop. At this time, the area was considered one of the wildest in the county. Game was plentiful, and Indians still roamed the woods. The first mill was built by Johnson in 1833 and a second in 1836.

In 1836, Johnson recorded the plat plan of the town of Waterford at the La Porte County Courthouse. It was laid out at the crossroads of streams and Indian trails.

The dream of a town was born.

Continued on Page 6



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REDISCOVERING

Continued from Page 5



An undated photo of the old Waterford mill.

It might be imagined that at this crossroads of travel in the county, a roadhouse, inn and saloon would be a welcome resting place for travelers or farmers carrying goods to market. In 1836, the business-minded Johnson built an inn and in 1838 was granted a tavern license for the sum of \$15. Early photographs of the inn show a three-story building with the bottom floor made of brick, quite possibly made from local sources, with upper floors constructed of wood.

Many people traveled the road between La Porte and Michigan City in those days, and one of the many visitors at the old inn could have been the famous orator Daniel Webster. In 1837, Webster spent a day in La Porte delivering a lecture and afterwards was transported over the dusty roads to Michigan City, where he spoke again at the foot of the old Hoosier Slide.

The old Waterford Inn sat midway between the two cities, about 7½ miles from each, and it is not hard to imagine that Webster, known to imbibe occasionally, would have stopped at the inn for a bit of refreshment before continuing his long journey.

The Waterford Inn was a typical public building of the times and served many functions in the pioneer community. It often was a gathering place for everyone who lived in the small community. In the dining room, one could often attend a church service, serve on a jury in a court trial, even attend the

performance of an itinerate actor or musician.

On Friday, Dec. 12, 1890, tragedy struck as the old Waterford Inn caught fire and burned to the ground before the fire equipment of the day could contain it. All was lost, including post office equipment, the contents of a general store owned by Mike Timm and John Kuhn, which was housed within the inn, the contents of the saloon and all of the household goods of the inn's tenants.



The Old Waterford Inn, rebuilt after the 1890 fire.

Kuhn, Retseck's great-grandfather, rebuilt the Waterford Inn as a two-story building, and the structure continued to be used as a general store and saloon. The building again was remodeled sometime in the 1920s and gained quite a reputation for the place to go for a good time. Gambling abounded and the liquor flowed freely. The mills continued to operate on the ponds created by damming Wolf and Trail creeks until about 1909, when the big dam on Trail Creek gave out.

The old Waterford Inn continued as a general store operated by the Wellman family, where it was said that everything from "sewing supplies to food, general merchandise" and candy could be purchased.

When Interstate 94 was constructed, connecting Illinois and Michigan through Northwest Indiana, a bridge was built to carry Johnson Road over the expressway. A slightly new route was created over Trail Creek and the expressway, the old route of Johnson Road past the front door of the inn and past the old mills, was cut in half and abandoned to all but local traffic, and those wanting to fish in the stream of Trail Creek that still follows along the edge of the expressway.

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REDISCOVERING

Continued from Page 6

In 1903, an electric interurban train between La Porte and Michigan City — a story to be told in another issue — was routed down Johnson Road, right past the door of the inn. While the mills disappeared and the little village that surrounds them fell to ruin and was forgotten, the fortunes of the Old Waterford Inn continued, and the story is being written even today.

The property has changed hands many times, sometimes in profitable business transactions, sometimes in a sheriff's sale, yet the memories survive. If only the land could speak and tell its tale of life experienced in a growing pioneer village.

There is so much more to the story than can ever be related in this short space. So much history, so many people who lived and worked and called Waterford their home over the years.

In 1992, Kubik wrote the definitive history of Waterford. His book can be found at La Porte County Public Library's main and Coolspring branches. Kubik is retired, but active as a multi-media artist and designer with a gallery at 617 Franklin St. One of his ongoing projects is a revised, updated and expanded version of his book, which will be available when completed via the internet. Publication is expected by late spring 2018.

The Fern Eddy Schultz Research Library at La Porte County Historical Society Museum is an excellent source of information about Waterford and so many other topics. By appointment, Schultz can share her stories with anyone interested.

The Old Lighthouse Museum has an extensive archive of history, with knowledgeable docents to guide anyone interested through the story.

(William Halliar plans to continue his journey through La Porte County's past in upcoming stories.)



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Wit and Honesty Propel Lovely “Lady Bird”

by Andrew Tallackson



Saoirse Ronan (left) and Laurie Metcalf are at the top of their game in Greta Gerwig’s “Lady Bird.”

Many people, I suspect, will identify with “Lady Bird,” actress Greta Gerwig’s marvelous directorial debut. Having grown up in Sacramento, where the film is set, she understands how cloistered communities sometimes can choke the life out of their inhabitants.

The family at the core of Gerwig’s semi-autobiographical film, which she wrote, is suffocating in each other’s presence. The movie, however, isn’t sour, but refreshingly witty and perceptive. Coming-of-age tales frequently descend into cliché, where life comes crashing down with a thud. Not so here. “Lady Bird” knows its flawed characters inside and out, with closing scenes that are remarkably profound and unexpectedly moving.

What helps is that Gerwig culls awards-worthy work out of her female leads, Saoirse Ronan and Laurie Metcalf.

Ronan, a twice Oscar-nominated actress, gets better with each movie. “Brooklyn,” in fact, was 2015’s most all-around wonderful picture. Here, she gives a tremendous performance of steely determination amid smothering parental control. As Christine “Lady Bird” McPherson, she’s a high school senior living in Sacramento in 2002. Her family is on the lower end of the middle-class spectrum, struggling, sending Christine to a Catholic high school solely out of concern over public-school safety.

Christine exists within the fringes of high-school life. She’s average – smart, but not exceptionally so, pretty, but in a plain way – but Ronan makes Lady Bird savvy enough to realize it. She’s not snide nor smarmy. Her rebelliousness is more out of boredom with daily monotony.

Her mother, Marion, is another story. Metcalf, a Steppenwolf veteran in a gonzo performance, creates a woman so consumed with failure, it invades

every fiber of her being. Constantly belittling her daughter is like comfort food for the defeated: If Marion’s life sucks, then, by all means, so should her daughter’s.

Men factor into their lives – Lady Bird’s depressed father (playwright Tracy Letts), school crushes (Lucas Hedges, Timothée Chalamet) – but their inadequacies do not derail Lady Bird. They’re just the next step in the haphazard struggle toward adulthood.

A lesser film might have punished Lady Bird for her rebellious determination. But Gerwig keeps the movie light and airy. Like the film’s protagonist, she never lingers on the setbacks, instead rolling with the punches. Refreshing, too, is that Gerwig does not reduce Catholic school life to easy punchlines. There is rigidity, but empathy among the nuns and teaching staff.

The closing scenes arrive at universal truths, beautifully conveyed by Ronan through a single phone call. The waning days of high school fixate in such detail on the greener grass elsewhere, no one lives in “the now.” No one listens to each other. It is only when removed from that life can Lady Bird appreciate the love that *was* present all along.

What a gem this movie is.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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The 23rd Annual Holiday at the Pops Concert is Saturday, Dec. 9, at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

This year's concert features La Porte County Symphony Orchestra, directed by Philip Bauman, and guest artists Saige Brumbaugh, Tom Coe, James Neary, Kaden Slay and The Singing Company of La Porte's Children's Choir, directed by Matthew Nelson.

The traditional chocolate-dipped pretzels will be sold, as well as other treats and finger food from Indiana Deli. Wine, beers, mixed drinks, soda and water will be available at cash bars in the balcony and on the main floor.

The concert is hosted by the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte, with proceeds benefiting the Children's Fund, which assists health and wellness programs such as Lil' F.I.S.H. Club, Get Fit, Get Active! and Impact Concussion Testing.

Main floor tables seat 10 people and cost \$500 or \$600, depending on the placement on the auditorium floor.



Guests enjoy the music and decorations of the 2016 Holiday at the Pops concert.

Balcony tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Doors open at 6 p.m. the day of the event to give attendees time to check coats and pick seats. The concert starts at 7 p.m. Balcony tickets may still be available at the door the night of the event; however, last year's concert sold out.

Visit holidaypopslaporte.org for reservations or more details.

Harbor Country Singers

Harbor Country Singers, a community chorus based in Three Oaks, Mich., will present its second Christmas concert series Tuesday and Friday, Dec. 12 and 15.

The schedule is (all times Eastern) 7 p.m. Dec. 12 at Three Oaks United Methodist, 2 Sycamore St. East, and 7 p.m. Dec. 15 at Converge Community Church, 601 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich.

HCS members will perform popular carols and lesser-known seasonal melodies. They also will lead audiences in sing-alongs, with special musical accompaniment.

Refreshments will be served. Admission is free, but contributions are welcome.

Harbor Country Singers is a program through the Three Oaks Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St.

FUMC Women's Annual Cookie Walk

The 17th annual Christmas Cookie Walk is from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 9, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

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Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC

CEO, Co-Founder, Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

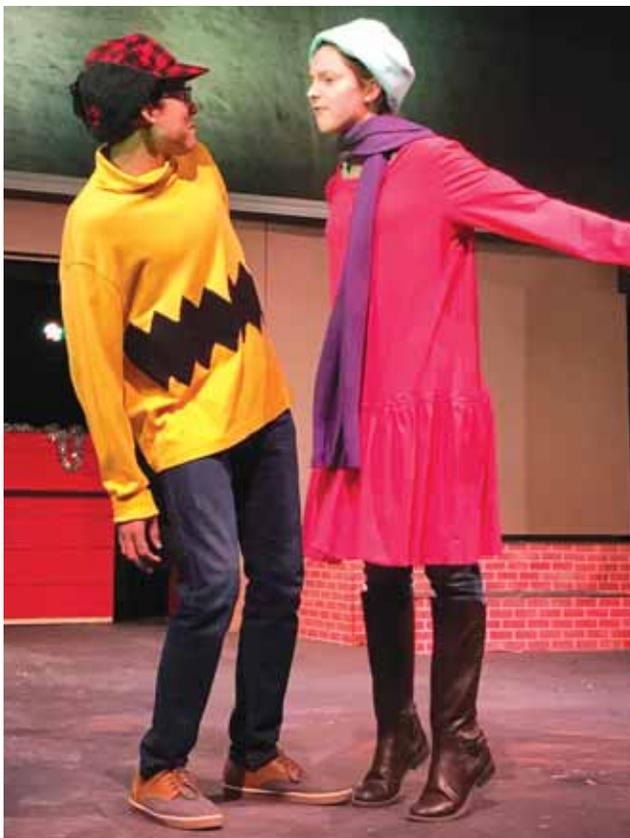
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La Porte Little Theatre to Present Two One-Act Holiday Shows

La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St., will present two one-act plays this Christmas season, opening with "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" and closing with "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

Performances are Friday through Sunday, Dec. 8-10 and 15-17. Times are 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8, 15 and 16 and 2 p.m. Dec. 9, 10 and 17. Both shows are directed by Bonnie Quigley.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," related by the narrator, Beth (Norah Gartland), details a traditional Christmas pageant gone astray when the town troublemakers, the Herdmans, attend church and take over the pageant's lead roles. Beth's mother, Grace (Katy Gartland), becomes the director by default, determined



Cast members rehearse a scene from "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

to make the show the best Christmas pageant ever.

For the first time in the area, "A Charlie Brown Christmas" finds the Peanuts gang discovering the true meaning of Christmas. Quigley double-cast the leading roles so more children can shine: Charlie Brown (Wrigley Hemphill and Anthony Garcia), Lucy (Olivia Lemon and Sydney Varnak), Snoopy (Alayna Tuholski and Natalie Gartland), Linus (Dylan Fritzen) and Schroeder (Daniel Burgess).

Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and children. They can be purchased at Roxy Music Shop, 1012 Lincolnway, and Thaddeus C. Gallery, 822 Lincolnway, as well as online at laportelittletheatreclub.com or by calling (219) 362-5113.



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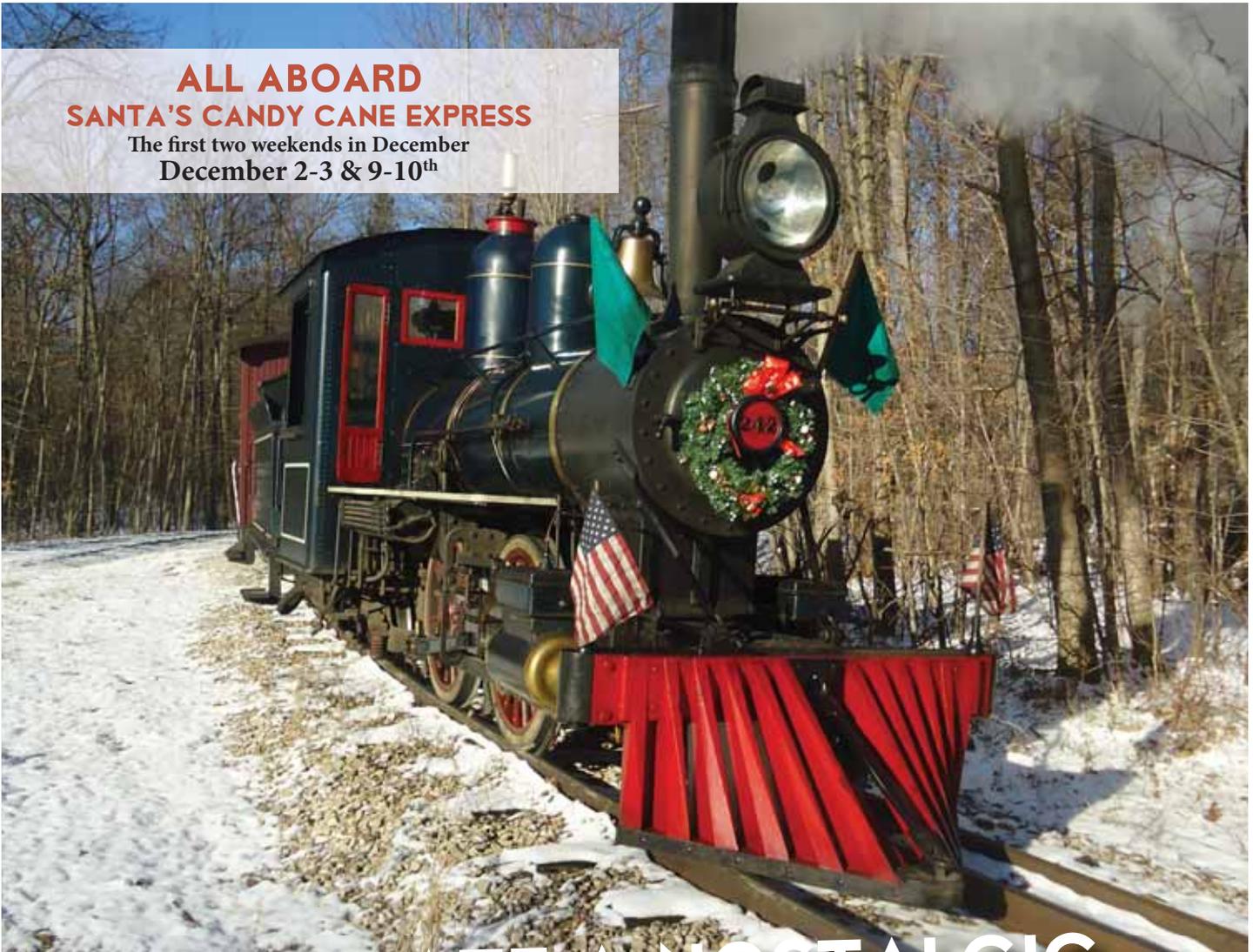
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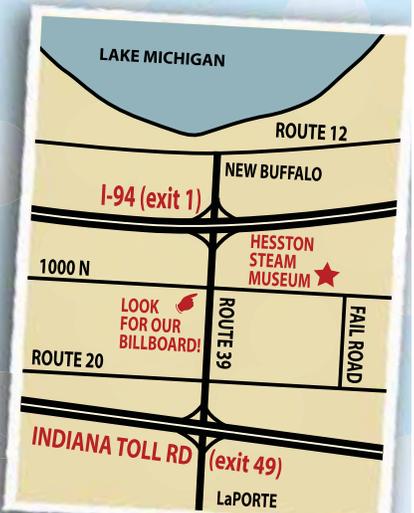
Museum Campus opens at 11:30 trains run 12:00 - 5:00 CDT

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Doc's Soda Fountain opens at 9:00 for breakfast. See website for details.

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“What’s It ART About?”

Ever wonder why you like a painting or reproduction so much?

Would you have liked to talk about a piece of art you saw in the news, wondering, “Why in the world is this considered art?”

“What’s It ART About?” might just be the place for you. At 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., people can take any piece of art or art reproduction to discuss. After a short introduction to the visual language of art, I will lead a sharing of the attendees’ art and views. As an artist, and having taught art appreciation for many years, I know that all feelings and views are to be accepted, that they make good starting places for questions and discussion.



Wyeth’s “Christina’s World.”

We will talk about what is really there besides the story: color, shapes, light and dark. An example of looking at what’s really there is contrasting the well-loved piece, Wyeth’s “Christina’s World,” with changes in just a few real elements: color and placement/composition. A very different feel is created, as in Thomas James Robaczewski’s “Christina’s World Parody.” Robaczewski’s vivid green and highly contrasting, yet smaller and closer figure creates a different tone than Wyeth’s subtle colors and figure. The real basics of art, color, shape, value and composition expand meaning for the viewer.



Thomas James Robaczewski’s “Christina’s World Parody.”

ART & ABOUT

Robert Stanley



“Woman I” by Wilhelm deKooning.

Paying attention to what’s really there can arouse the mind. For example, the abstract “Woman I” by Wilhelm deKooning at first might be alarming because it is not our usual idea of a woman. The shapes are angular, even aggressive. The red-orange and acid yellow-green colors clash. The

brushstrokes are vigorous. Putting them together, we find a view of a woman that is not at all Playboyish. This is a powerful figure, the “ugly” abstraction revealing something potentially beautiful and truthful about the inner strength of women.

Such realizations as these are the goal of “What’s It ART About?,” to see the reality of shapes, colors, etc., and talk about how they make a piece more lovable or challenging. So, bring your art or reproductions, or just come and join “What’s It ART About?”



A little about me.

I am a painter and computer artist who wrote several computer programs on looking at art and presented them at conferences.

I have exhibited artworks around the country and Europe while teaching high school in Cincinnati, then at colleges in Pennsylvania and Illinois. My art has been seen at The William Penn Museum in Harrisburg, Pa., *Musée d’Art Contemporain*, Chamaliere, France, Valparaiso University’s Brauer Museum of Art, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Koehnline Museum, Hyde Park Art Center and Evanston (Ill.) Art Center, as well as many other venues.

I taught art and art appreciation at Harrisburg Area Community College for several years, finishing off my teaching career at Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, Ill., while exhibiting in Chicago and nationally.

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High-Ability Programs Spotlited



Students, teachers and principals from Joy, Knapp and Springfield elementary schools gave a presentation to the Michigan City Area Schools board Nov. 28 highlighting programming for gifted and talented students. The presentation centered on activities in multi-age GT classrooms involving solar robots, a forensic simulation and a collaborative writing project, among others. MCAS offers cluster programs for high-ability students in grades 1-3, multi-age classrooms at three GT centers serving grades 4-6 and high-ability tracks at the middle school level. In addition, a pilot program now serves 28 eighth-graders taking advanced coursework for three class periods each day at Michigan City High School.



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Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Beginning German and Spanish Classes at 9:10 a.m. Saturdays, Dec. 9, 16, 23 and 30.**

Each class is eight weeks long. German starts at 9:10 a.m. and Spanish at 10:15 a.m. The German class will cover basic expressions, grammar and pronunciation. The Spanish class will cover greetings, words and phrases about family, home, hobbies, telling time and shopping. Call Al Tieken at (219) 878-8519 for details.

• **Checking Your Blood Pressure at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 11, in the meeting room.**

Community Advocates of Northern Indiana will present the program, followed by free blood pressure screenings.

• **Holiday Craft for Kids at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, in Youth Services.**

Children 3 and older accompanied by an adult can make an elf doorknob hanger decoration. All materials are provided. Children must be present to receive supplies.

• **Christmas Angels Among Us at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, in the meeting room.**

Ange Benz leads the program. Call (219) 874-3754 for more information.

• **Mitten Tree and Food Drive.**

Library staff are collecting mittens, gloves, hats and scarves to decorate the holiday tree. Donations will be sent to The Salvation Army. Staff also are collecting non-perishable food items for the local food pantry. A box is located near the circulation desk through Jan. 5.

• **Volunteers Needed for VITA Tax Program.**

Volunteers are needed at least one day a week during the tax season (February-April) for the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. The IRS provides some training, and volunteers must pass the VITA test through the intermediate level. Testing and training are online.

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

Bowling Bash

Leadership La Porte County will present its seventh annual Bowling Bash from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, at Thunderbird Bowling Lanes, 1251 Pine Lake Ave., La Porte.

The top scoring team will be named champs, with prizes awarded for best team attire and more. Team registration include three games of bowling, shoes, pizza and soft drinks for four bowlers. "Adult" beverages will be available for purchase.

Individual bowlers cost \$25 and teams of four \$100. Visit tinyurl.com/yblm5vxd to register.

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A Walk to Remember



With sunny skies and temperatures hovering at around 45 degrees, it was the perfect day to stop by Friendship Botanic Gardens for the annual Turkey Walk on Thanksgiving Day. The event not only gave visitors a chance to “walk off” the holiday meal, but also celebrated Native American Heritage Month. *Beacher* photographer Paul Kemiell noted some visitors came from as far as Germany, Norway, South Korea and Costa Rica.

“Bringing Nature Home” Awards Recognize Local Organizations, Gardeners



The ArcelorMittal group includes (from left): Susan Kirt, site photographer; Laura Milkert of The Field Museum; Myrna Newgent of the Friends of Shirley Heinze; and Matt Bartz and Mark Atkinson of ArcelorMittal.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust has recognized three organizations and six people for incorporating native plants in landscaping projects and gardens.

The annual “Bringing Nature Home” program was established in 2011 to highlight the role native vegetation plays in providing food, shelter and migration “waystations” for insects, birds and other wildlife. The Friends of Shirley Heinze, a volunteer arm of the land trust, selects and inspects entrants in Lake, Porter and La Porte counties, and the St. Joseph County Parks Department performs the same function in that area.

This year’s organizational recipients are: Arcelor-Mittal’s Global Research and Development Center; Gary’s Department of Green Urbanism and Stormwater Management; and Munster’s Department of Parks and Recreation.



The Gary group includes (from left): Delores Brown of the City of Gary; Kamia Ivy and Sandy O’Brien of Ecorealm Landscape; Brenda Scott Henry of the City of Gary; and Henry Jones and Warren Buckler of the Friends of Shirley Heinze.

ArcelorMittal restored 10 acres of globally rare dune-and-swale habitat on its campus at 3001 E. Columbus Drive in East Chicago. The Field Museum and The Nature Conservancy were partners in the project that saw the cessation of mowing on seven acres of remnant prairie and the installation of natives on another three acres.

Gary established a 4,600-square-foot native planting along the east side of the Gary Redevelopment Commission’s building, 839 Broadway, using native plant species well-suited to the site’s conditions.



Warren Buckler of the Friends of Shirley Heinze presents the individual awards to Collette Jen (on behalf of Nicole Jen), John Clevering, Ken and Carol Sibbrell, Deborah Mar and Jim Doran.

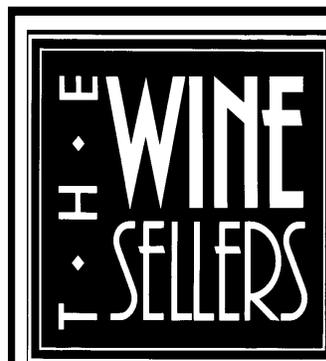
Munster undertook a variety of native planting projects at its 200-acre Centennial Park, 1005 S. Centennial Drive. They include: a 30-acre planting on a landfill; three acres of natural area around a built pond, including native aquatic plants, and a bird and butterfly garden; three vegetated bioswales in the parking area; and a half-acre planting along public walkways.

This year’s recipients in the individual gardener category are: Deborah Marr, South Bend; Ken and Carol Sibbrell, Valparaiso; John Clevering, Dyer; James Doran, Ogden Dunes; and Nicole Jen, Munster.

Visit tinyurl.com/qarccqo for more details.



The Town of Munster group includes (from left): Myrna Newgent, Laura Henderson and Henry Jones of the Friends of Shirley Heinze; Rodney Potts and Greg Vitale of Munster Parks and Recreation; and Warren Buckler and Tim Griffin of the Friends of Shirley Heinze.



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“Sounds of the Season”

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra will present “Sounds of the Season” at 7:30 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 9, at Lake Michigan College’s Mendel Center Mainstage, Benton Harbor, Mich.



Harris

The guest conductor is Caleb Harris, who has an active career as a conductor, pianist, chamber musician and vocal/opera coach. He has served as a guest conductor with many orchestras, including Frankfurt Symphony, Dubrovnik

Symphony and Utah Symphony.

Also featured at the concert are the vocal talents of four area choruses led by David Carew and James Kraus Jr.: the Southwest Michigan Symphony Chorus, Southwestern Michigan College Concert Choir, Lake Michigan College Concert Choir and Chorlennium, a newly-formed professional choral collective comprised of area music educators and singers.



Carew

The ensemble, which will feature more than 120 people, will perform holiday classics with the orchestra, as well as an a cappella set. Musical highlights include “Sleigh Ride,” “Twelve Days of Christmas,” “Polar Express Suite” and “O Holy Night,” with tenor Paul Mow as soloist.

Directing the 120 choral ensemble is Carew, now in his 12th year as Southwestern Michigan College director of choral activities. He also is the founding conductor of the newly retitled Southwest Michigan Symphony Chorus (formerly Citadel Symphony Chorus), which has served as the primary choir for the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra since 2010.

A chorus master class led by Harris is from 12:30 to 3 p.m. EST Friday, Dec. 8, in the Lake Michigan College band room. Choirs from St. Joseph High School, Southwestern Michigan College and Lake Michigan College will perform pieces and receive feedback and suggestions from Harris. The event is free and open to the public.

A pre-concert conversation is at 6:30 p.m. EST in the north training room, with pre-concert lobby music provided by Music Makers string and percussion students. A post-concert reception is in the north lobby.

The ticket cost is:

- Zone A: adults — \$35/full-time students — \$5.
- Zone B: adults — \$20/full-time students — \$5.

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“One City, One Sound” Set for Dec. 14

Festive music will fill the air as more than 900 vocalists and instrumentalists kick off the holiday season at Michigan City Area Schools’ “One City, One Sound” concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, in Michigan City High School’s gymnasium.

Admission is free; however, those attending can take a canned good, non-perishable food item or monetary donation to The Salvation Army.

This year’s program will feature:

- 403 voices in a chorus of sixth-graders from all eight Michigan City elementary schools.
- 160 voices in a chorus of students from Barker and Krueger middle schools.
- 122 voices in the Michigan City High School Concert Choir, Treble Chorale and “City Singers.”
- 145 instrumentalists in a seventh- and eighth-grade band.
- 96 instrumentalists from the MCHS bands.

Each group will perform individually, and the opening and closing numbers will involve all bands and choruses in “It’s the Holiday Season” and Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus.” Other numbers include “Grinch!,” “The Littlest Carol,” “Believe” and “Mas-



ters in this Hall.” Music teachers from throughout MCAS will lead their groups. The combined numbers will be directed by MCHS Choral Director Michelle Howisen and band director Frank Gast.

The concert will be broadcast live on Channel 98 educational TV. It also will air live on WEFM (95.9 FM).

Pahs Road in the area of MCHS will be closed to westbound traffic prior to the concert, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. During this time, all traffic departing the school will be routed east on Pahs to Johnson Road.

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New Buffalo Streetscape Project

New Buffalo, in partnership with the New Buffalo Downtown Development Authority, is in the final phase of making improvements to the community's downtown area.

The work will result in the much-needed replacement of water and sewer lines, as well as a new streetscape.

New Buffalo DDA staff provided this information with answers to specific questions about the project:

Question: What amenities will be included and what will they look like, including street lights, gardens, refuse containers, public seating, bicycle racks, etc.?

Response: The final amenity package will include new decorative street lights, benches, trash receptacles, landscape beds, bicycle racks and public art. Information is available at regularly-scheduled DDA and Design and Visual Impact subcommittee meetings. Visit www.cityofnewbuffalo.org for meeting schedules.

Q: Why did the city decide on parallel parking on North Whittaker Street, how many parking spaces will be available in the Central Business District after Phase 2 is completed (compared with pre-project spaces) and, with the elimination of angle parking, where are spaces located?

R: The decision to convert to parallel parking on North Whittaker Street was based on discussions and feedback during numerous public meetings. Factors included safety, creation of a pedestrian-friendly downtown, developing a year-round CBD economy and the opportunity to create parking in adjacent areas. After Phase 2 is complete, the total net, on-street parking spaces in the CBD will be an increase of 34 spaces. Angel and pull-in spaces are still available on Thompson, Barton, Mechanic and Merchant streets, and in the new parking lot at North Barton and West Mechanic streets.

Holiday Harmonies

The annual Friends of New Buffalo Library's Holiday Harmonies community sing-along is at 2:30 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 10, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Musicians and vocalists from The School of American Music will lead old-fashioned Christmas carols and holiday favorites, with printed lyrics available. Light seasonal refreshments will be available.

Holiday Harmonies is the final program in the 2017 Community Forum Series sponsored by the Friends of New Buffalo Library and underwritten in part by The Pokagon Fund.

Call the library at (269) 469-2933, follow the Facebook link at newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org or email new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com for details.

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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

- **Knit Wits and Pearls of Wisdom at 9 a.m. Thursdays, Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 28, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

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

- **Decorating Gingerbread Houses on Thursday, Dec. 7, at Hageman Library.**

Adults and children 5 and older can participate. Materials will be provided, but candy donations are accepted. Space is limited, and registration is required for each of the eight sessions starting at 12:30 p.m., then every 30 minutes through 4 p.m. Visit the library or call (219) 926-9080 to register.

- **Teen Library Council from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Teens in grades 6-12 can recommend library programs, books and other programs for Teen Services. Community service hours are available.

- **Chesterton Writing Group at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The group is open to adult writers – fiction or nonfiction — of all levels, whether published or unpublished. Attendees share their work and learn about publishing.



Westchester Public Library volunteer Marianne Davison reads a holiday story to families at last year's Jingle Bell Jamboree.

- **Jingle Bell Jamboree from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Hageman Library.**

Children can listen to holiday stories, sing holiday songs and go through a series of holiday activities, including a photo booth, snowball buckets, snowman bowling, reindeer ring toss and cookie walk. They also will make reindeer food and edible snowmen.

- **Make-N-Take Holiday Ornament Craft Time on Saturdays, Dec. 9 and 16, at Thomas Library.**

Stop by the children's department at any time to create something new for the Christmas tree or winter décor. A new holiday ornament is planned every week while supplies last.

- **A traditional Victorian Christmas Party from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Make traditional Christmas ornaments with Museum Educator Susan Swarner and enjoy a visit with Santa from 1 to 2 p.m. Stay for Christmas caroling with Dot Pakan on the Hillstrom organ from 2 to 3 p.m. Rory McMahan will read a Victorian-era Christmas story at 3 p.m.

- **Tinker, Create, Invent, and Have Fun! from 3:30 to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11, at Hageman Library.**

The program revolves around science, design, engineering and art through hands-on, project-based work. Space is limited to 12 children, and registration is required in person or call (219) 926-9080.

- **Bifocal Bookies at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, at Hageman Library.**

The focus is Rebeca Entel's "Fingerprints of a Previous Owner." Copies are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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Holiday Tradition



The children of Long Beach Country Club members gathered Nov. 25 at the club to help celebrate during the annual tree-lighting ceremony.

ICS Holiday Open House

Independent Cat Society, 4061 S. County Line Road, Westville, will present its holiday open house Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 9-10.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

The event includes refreshments, a bake sale, cat toys and catnip. Donations of canned cat food (Friskies pate, Fancy Feast), dry food, treats, paper plates, paper towels, laundry detergent and other essential items will be accepted. Toys for the cats are welcome.

Call (219) 785-4936, email shelter@catsociety.org or visit www.catsociety.org for details.

Radio Harbor Country Benefit

The Eighth Annual Fritz Olsen Gallery Benefit for Radio Harbor Country, complete with food, drinks and comedy, is from 5 to 8 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 9, at Fritz Olsen Fine Art, 6914 Holloway Drive, Sawyer, Mich.a

Three 10-minute plays starring members of “Deliciously Absurd Radio Theatre” are planned at 6 p.m. EST. Written by Gail Isaacson, they star Gina Mclaughlin, Arnie Saks and Carina Carrera.

The suggested donation is \$20. All proceeds benefit Radio Harbor Country.

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Glowing Lights Nights

Christmas tree lights will be the only illumination during Barker Mansion's annual Glowing Lights Nights from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 9, 16 and 30.

The public can take a self-guided tour of all three floors, which local non-profit groups decorated for the holiday season. Guests can vote for their favorite Christmas tree; the winning non-profit group receives a cash prize to further their mission.



Healthline's tree last year in the Barker Mansion foyer.

Michigan City local Anthony Holt will play Christmas carols on the Drawing Room piano each night of the event. Another highlight is the opportunity to view a train display set up in the third-story ballroom by Hesston Steam Museum, which features the smallest working steam engine in its collection.

The cost is \$8 per adult and \$5 per senior or youth 15 and younger. Reservations are not necessary.

Barker Mansion is located at 631 Washington St. Visit www.BarkerMansion.com for details.

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Polish-American Cultural Society

The Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana, Michigan City Chapter, meets at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the former St. Mary's School, 321 W. 11th St.

Meetings are open to anyone interested in learning about the Polish language, history and culture. Call Theresa Child at (219) 464-1369, email polam-nwi@yahoo.com or visit "Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana" on facebook for more information.

AAUW Meeting

The American Association of University Women, Michigan City Affiliate, will meet at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Portofino Grill, 3233 N. Indiana 39, La Porte.

Lunch is followed by a tour at La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

Membership is open to anyone with an associate or higher degree from an accredited college or university. Call Gail Ludwig at (219) 926-2874 for more details.

Sullair Honorees Christmas Meeting

The Sullair Disconnected Compressor Honorees, which consists of former employees who have resigned, retired or were fired, will host the annual Christmas meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, at Galveston Steakhouse, 10 Commerce Square.

The cost is \$10 per person, and a cash bar is planned. Donations and guests are welcome. Those attending are encouraged to send an RSVP by email to SDCH.Reunion@gmail.com

Duneland Weavers Guild

Duneland Weavers Guild meets at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Westchester Public Library's Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

A potluck luncheon follows the annual silent auction and raffle. The meeting begins with Show 'n Tell. Visitors and potential members are welcome.

Visit www.dunelandweaversguild.org for more information.

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Lunch With the League



Purdue University Northwest Chancellor Thomas Keon will speak at Lunch With the League at noon Tuesday, Dec. 12, at Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St.

The program is presented by League of Women Voters of La Porte County.

Keon has successfully led the merger of two Purdue campuses. The program focus will be how

PNW is vital to Northwest Indiana's economic, educational, environmental and cultural achievements.

Attendees do not have to be League members, and reservations are not required. Those present can buy lunch from the menu. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and orders are taken as tables fill up.

Email the League at LWVLaPorte@gmail.com for more details.

New Troy Indoor Flea Market

New Troy Community Center's Indoor Flea Market, which offers everything from local crafts and collectibles to antiques and locally grown food, is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST Saturdays, Dec. 9 and 16.

Vendor spaces cost \$13 and include a table and chair. Proceeds from space rentals benefit the center, an all-volunteer facility run by the non-profit Friends of New Troy.

Admission is free. Visitors can buy a hot lunch.

The center is located at 13372 California Road. The flea market continues the second and third Saturdays of each month through April. A map is available on the Facebook page NewTroyFleaMarket.

Call Donald at (773) 803-9773 for details.

Sons of Norway Scandiana Lodge

Sons of Norway Scandiana Lodge will host a Norwegian Christmas evening at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Westchester Public Library's Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Hors d'oeuvres are at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and a Christmas program with Norwegian Christmas music and dancing around the Christmas tree.

Call Darlene Henderson at (219) 221-6641 for more information.

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Through the Ethereal

Robert Rothermel's latest exhibit, "Through the Ethereal," runs through Dec. 29 in the Area Artist Association Gallery at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. The collection features encaustic mixed-media pieces created with hot wax. Rothermel is a member of the Area Artists Association and Southern Shore Art Association.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

• **Holiday Traditions in the Dunes from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Bailly Homestead, Chellberg Farm and Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

A traditional Swedish Christmas will be presented at Chellberg Farm. In the farmhouse, volunteers in traditional dress explain Swedish holiday customs, as well as decorations on display, and present Santa Lucia and her story while Jul Tomte (Santa) listens to children's wishes in the parlor.

Then, meet Papa and learn how the Santa Lucia legend is celebrated in many Swedish households. Finish the tour in the kitchen, where various Swedish foods of the holiday season will be displayed and a traditional holiday cookie given to each visitor.

From 1 to 3 p.m. at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, children make traditional holiday decorations and put them up on the Christmas tree or take them home. Traditional stories and songs are planned.

The Chellberg Farm parking lot is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12 in Porter.

• **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

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

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.

Cookie Walk and Bazaar

St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Cool-spring Ave., will present its 13th Annual Cookie Walk and Bazaar from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9.

Cookies and crafts of all varieties, shapes and sizes will be available. The cookie cost is \$8 per pound. Call (219) 879-9415 for details.



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Students View Teacher's Exhibit



Barker Middle School teacher Kelly Tokoly-Rothermel took the Top 10 students in her Digital Arts classes on a field trip to Lubeznik Center for the Arts. It was there, in addition to experiencing the other exhibits, that she gave a private tour of her exhibit, "The Adventures of Rock-n-Roll Art Goddess," that appeared in the Area Artists Association Gallery. The exhibit, a larger-than-life comic, is the first strip in her series that begins a personal journey in the arts she plans to continue and turn into a comic book series.

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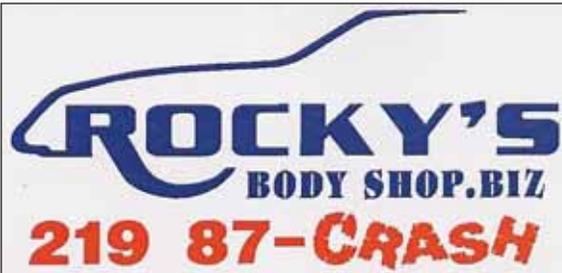


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Paladin Celebrates Milestone



Ralph P. poses with his Surber Award, which recognizes an individual's growth over the past year.

Paladin Inc. celebrated the spirit of service at its annual dinner Oct. 21 at Blue Chip Casino.

Paladin was created through a merger between Michiana Resources and Parents and Friends.

Michiana Resources, founded in 1967 by Richard Surber, provided and/or facilitated resources and services for people with disabilities. Parents and Friends, founded in 1976 by Joan Coleman, provided direct support and residential services to intellectually-disabled individuals. The merger finalized July 1, 2017. The La Porte office is at 2354 U.S. 35 and the Michigan City office at 4315 E. Michigan Blvd.

Honored as "community partners" during the event were La Porte County Family YMCA, Lakeview Christian Church and St. Andrews Products.

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will end its Night Sky Hike by viewing the meteor shower above New Buffalo Elementary School's athletic field.

The program is at 7 p.m. EST Wednesday, Dec. 13. The land portion is led by HCH President Pat Fisher, steward of the four miles of trails and 60 acres of forested dune and wetland habitats covered by the New Buffalo Area Schools Nature Study Trails and adjoining Chikaming Open Lands Turtle Creek Preserve. The evening's outing will cover about one mile of trail behind the elementary school. Participants should take flashlights. Red cellophane will be supplied for covering lenses to aid night vision.

Moving to the open field (dress accordingly) and hot chocolate, HCH Vice President Stacey LaRocco will discuss the Geminid Meteor Shower that will be nearing its peak. As COL project coordinator, LaRocco is versed in the annual showers that can include upwards of 120 to 160 meteors per hour during optimal conditions.

The group will gather at the circle drive at the south end of New Buffalo Elementary School, 12291 Lubke Road (Detroit Street). A map with directions is available at harborcountryhikers.com

Before the Night Sky Hike event, HCH will lead a session on customizing hiking sticks at 10 a.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 9, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

HCH members will share tips on enhancing a basic stick with a custom grip and attachments, such as a mount for cameras and binoculars. Materials and tools will be provided, and official HCH sticks will be available for \$10.

Stellar Runner



Michigan City High School senior Loukas Karallas was honored at the Nov. 28 Michigan City Area Schools board meeting for reaching the IHSAA State Finals in cross country this fall. Karallas, who is only in his second year on the team, was named to the All-DAC conference team this fall; he trimmed an impressive 53 seconds off his previous finish time at semi-state, finishing 14th this year. This qualified him to run at the IHSAA State Finals in Terre Haute, where he finished 71st out of 208 elite runners. Pictured are (from left) MCAS Board Member Theresa Edwards, Karallas and Cross Country Coach Mike Liss.



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

- Trinity Lutheran Church, 907 Michigan Ave., La Porte, 1 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, La Porte, noon to 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11.

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.

Holiday Depression Program

Albert Gay from the Indiana Prevention Resource Center will present the free training program “Effectively Dealing with Trauma that the Holidays Trigger” from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 8.

The meeting location is the United Way/Northern Indiana Education Foundation Library, 402 E. Franklin St.

Sponsored by the La Porte County Sheriff’s Office, training reveals how trauma impacts employees, friends, family and youth around the holidays, risk factors that lead to mental-health problems and ways to build protection and reduce impact.

Call Stephen Gill at (219) 964-4857 to register.



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Dec. 9-10 — Candy Cane Express, Hesston Steam Museum, 1201 E. County Road 1000 North, La Porte. Cost: adults/\$5, children 3-12/\$3, children 3 & younger/free. Info: www.hesston.org, (219) 778-2783.

Dec. 9, 16, 30 — Glowing Lights Nights, 4-6 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$8/adult, \$5/seniors, youth 15 & younger. Info: www.BarkerMansion.com

Dec. 10 — “What’s It ART About? with Robert Stanley, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Dec. 10 — Holiday Harmonies community sing-along, 2:30 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Free. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Dec. 12 — Lunch With the League, Purdue University Northwest Chancellor Thomas Keon, noon, Patrick’s Grille, 4125 Franklin St. Info: LWVLaPorte@gmail.com

Dec. 12 — Holiday Craft for Kids, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Dec. 12, 15 — Harbor Country Singers Christmas concert series. Schedule (all times Eastern): 7 p.m. Dec. 12 @ Three Oaks United Methodist, 2 Sycamore St. East, 7 p.m. Dec. 15 @ Converge Community Church, 601 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich. Free.

Dec. 13 — Harbor Country Hikers, 7 p.m. EST, circle drive @ New Buffalo Elementary School, 12291 Lubke Road. Info: harborcountryhikers.com

Through Dec. 29 — Robert Rothermel’s “Through the Ethereal,” Area Artist Association Gallery @ Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Through December — World War I exhibit, La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportecountyhistory.org, (219) 324-6767.

In the Region

Dec. 8-9 — Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar, noon-7 p.m., Valparaiso International Center, 309 E. Lincolnway.

Dec. 9 — Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, “Sounds of the Season,” 7:30 p.m. EST, Lake Michigan College’s Mendel Center Mainstage, Benton Harbor, Mich. Info/tickets: www.smso.org, (269) 982-4030.

Dec. 9 — Radio Harbor Country benefit, 5-8 p.m. EST, Fritz Olsen Fine Art, 6914 Holloway Drive, Sawyer, Mich. Suggested donation: \$20.

Dec. 9-10 — Holiday Makers Market, noon-5 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: boxfactoryforthearts.org, (269) 932-2397.

Dec. 9, 16 — Indoor flea market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free. Info: (773) 803-9773.

Dec. 10 — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.



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

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

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Dunescape Condo, 4th Floor, 2BR/2BA, available Nov.-May. \$1,100/mo + utilities. Call/text Cari @ Merrion Realty @ (219) 898-5412.

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3. Queen Pins	30.5	17.5

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Sue Luegers	185
2. Mary Lou McFadden	184
3. Jill Jankowski	177
4. Sue Labovitz	171
4. Peg King	171
5. Ann Bogart	169
6. Lenore Hadaway	167
7. Cindy Beck	165
8. Diana Holt	157
9. Dottie Brinkman (series)	410

SPLITS

1. Peg King	3-7-10
2. Ginny Hogan	4-10
3. Tammy Nelmar	5-7
4. Margie Midkiff	3-10
5. Nancy Klausner	4-5
6. Tammy Vouri	3-7

STRIKES

Four — Sue Luegers.

Three — Lenore Hadaway, Polly Fletcher, Mary Lou McFadden

More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.

Second Saturday Gallery Talk

The next Second Saturday Gallery Talk is from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Exhibitions Curator CarolAnn Brown will discuss "Fragile Codes" and "In the Abstract." Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org for more details.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Usual Santas: A Collection of Soho Crime Christmas Capers

edited by Peter Lovesey (*hardcover, \$19.99 retail in bookstores and on-line; also available as an eBook*)

The Christmas season is in full swing, and I have started writing out my Christmas cards (where has the year gone?!). I even found time to pick up this nifty little collection of Christmas short stories written by mystery writers of the Soho Crime division of Soho Press. Be warned, they are not all love, peace and candy canes! Oh no. There is black comedy, revenge, poetic justice and lots more. OK, there are also several feel-good moments, too.

The book is divided into three sections containing 18 stories: “Joy to the World” — *Various Acts of Kindness at Christmas*; “Silent Night” — *The Darkest of Holiday Noir*; and “I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus” — *and Other Holiday Secrets*. Here’s a sampling of what to expect in each group...

This first section contains six short stories that represent the feel-good aspect of the holiday...although the first one could be classified as black comedy: An elderly lady living in an apartment building continues to hear the couple right above her fight. Actually, the hitting comes from the husband and the bruises from the wife. One Christmas, the old woman has had enough. What she does will surely surprise you!

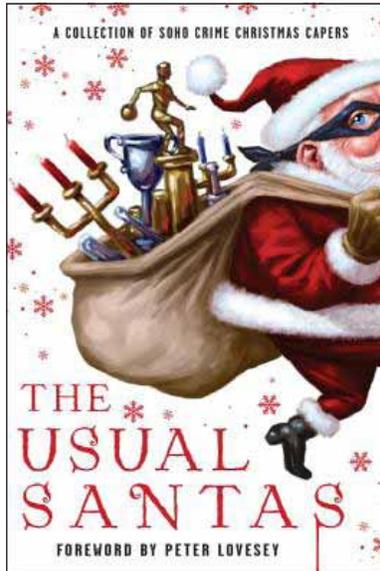
In Cuba, a woman approaches a private detective about retrieving her jewels from a house she fled when Castro took over. It turns out to be a convoluted story with a twisty ending.

Then there’s the Morman family robbed like so many of their neighbors. The surprise comes when the thief is one of their own. What will the husband, a Morman bishop, do? Will the man of cloth practice what he preaches? Another surprise ending.

The second section, “Silent Night,” has some international flavor to it. One story takes place in Thailand and would make Alfred Hitchcock proud. Talk about cosmic karma!

Other stories in the section take us to Ireland, New York City’s Chinatown and a P.O.W. camp in North Korea in 1953...how far will a man go to stay alive?

Another story explores finding a murdered family just before Christmas. They were tortured and dismembered. Do you tell the relatives the truth of what happened? Or give them peace of mind?



The third section, “I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus,” brings more interesting and unexpected scenarios. Editor Peter Lovesey goes to modern day England to bring a young woman in touch with Christmas Past on a train to uncover family secrets.

One of my favorite mystery writers, Cara Black, has written a touching story about Irene Adler. Remember her from Sherlock Holmes? Now dead, Adler has left her daughter a telling letter about her true life and Holmes. A great angle on a character who only appeared once in Holmes’ adventures.

The most surprising of characters is the one with Niccolo Machiavelli. Not a religious man by nature, he is surprised to have his boss, Cesare Borgia, talk to him of gift-giving at this holy season. But it’s not the kind of gifts you and I would give!

The most international flavor of stories, “When the Time Came,” takes place in Denmark. A young African refugee trying to get to her boyfriend in Sweden goes into labor in an abandoned building in Copenhagen. She is found by three Middle Eastern men there to rob the unfinished apartment building. One calls a nurse he knows to come help. Then there’s a dead man, the police...and what else could possibly go wrong? Maybe it will all go right.

Lovesey tells us in his forward that “*goodwill rules*” at this time of year, “*But not without exception.*” You see, crime statistics spike — pickpockets and shoplifters abound, homes are broken into, packages stolen right off your front doorstep. The list goes on. All these things provide great material for crime writers. Each writer has contributed a story that brings out all the good and bad in people. Whether it’s 1804 London, modern-day Paris or the mountains of the western U.S., this is a different kind of Christmas story collection. Richard Paul Evans or Nicholas Sparks, it’s not.

So, if you have a bookish friend who happens to love mysteries, this would be a well-appreciated gift — pick up one for yourself, too!

Publishers Weekly (starred review): “This is the perfect holiday gift for mystery fans.”

Booklist: “Each bite-size mystery in this winning collection is a gift.”

For more than 25 years, Soho Crime has been publishing crime fiction set in countries all over the world. Check out its list of titles at the end of this collection, or visit www.sohocrime.com

Till next time, happy reading!

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302 Birch Tree Lane Michigan City \$119,000

Sell your lawnmower and move right in! This wonderful condo has updated kitchen, crown molding and tasteful neutral decor. Affordable living with many amenities! Enjoy the pool or trek on down to the beach! Association dues include heat, water and common area maintenance.

413 Autumn Trail Michigan City \$189,000

Wonderful Edgewood Forest unit in Michigan City! Nestled within the woods, this 1,865 sqft 2-bedroom 2-full bath condo has an open floorplan with sliding doors that lead to rear deck. Additional room on second floor can be third bedroom, den or office. 2-car garage. Association maintains landscaping & outside maintenance through all seasons.

805 Birch Tree Lane Michigan City \$176,000

Best of both worlds! Enjoy low maintenance 3-bedroom 3-bath condo living within a beach community! Only one of four units this size. Wonderful amenities include garage, private patio and pool area. Beautiful common area. Association fee includes gas, trash, water, grass, snow removal and all of the pool maintenance.

202 N. Lake Ave. #EW \$1,076,000

Family compound? Rental property? You decide! Both units for sale separately, as well as the entire building. 202 N. Lake Ave. is a well-maintained beach compound with 2 separate townhomes: 202 East and 202 West. Each unit has 4 floors, private rooftops and views of Lake Michigan. West unit has 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and East unit has 3 bedrooms, 4 baths. Each has parking for 4 (8 total spaces)!

333 Lake Shore Drive Sheridan Beach \$220,000

Beautiful condo with lake views and walking distance to Lake Michigan! 2-bed, 2-bath unit with a beautiful kitchen, living room, dining area and den. Attached garage and storage is under unit. Wonderful viewing deck with pool and hot tub. Walking distance to Washington Park, zoo, marina, lighthouse, restaurants and more.

3307 Calumet Trail Duneland Beach \$439,900

Living is easy in this generously proportioned 2-story residence on a double lot in desirable Duneland Beach. The floorplan encompasses four spacious bedrooms with plenty of storage, three bathrooms and a kitchen that flows to the eating area. The master bedroom is complete with walk-in closet and master bath. Large living room and rec room on main floor, finished basement. Wonderful screened-in porch overlooks expansive yard and deck with above ground pool. Perfect for a yearround family or as a summer retreat, this home is a 4-minute walk to the beach!

8757 W. Joliet Road Westville \$259,000

This magnificent 3-bedroom 2.5-bath home is graced with country charm, spatial front porch and 1.25 acres of privacy! Most of the interior is built from reclaimed barn wood and beams. New oak floors and ceramic tile throughout the house. Sprawling entertaining spaces flow from the great room to outdoor patio to stunning acreage. Wonderful studio/she/he shed with heat and air conditioning in tranquil setting. Full unfinished basement and large 2-car garage. Schools right down the street!



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