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Something exciting is happening in downtown LaPorte.

Driving along Lincolnway, a large mural is developing, one that illustrates stories and history of the city. Colorful, complex, narrative, this 108-foot-long painting captures the attention, enticing one to discover Plaza 618, a small pocket park with tables, bright umbrellas, a splash pad, Joyful Noise Musical Instrument Sculpture and, of course, the mural.

“Collectively, the idea of a mural has been talked about for a long time,” according to Laura Krentz, an artist/art educator and wife of Mayor Mark Krentz. “It was the dream of the city planner, Beth Shrader. When planning the plaza originally, it was always a hope to have a mural.”

This is the story of dedication, determination, generosity and great design.

# Dedication, Design, Determination

*“Art can bridge a community with such positivity.”*

Thaddeus Cutler

by Linda Weigel

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Billy Pozzo (left) and Tom Torluemke work on the Plaza 618 mural.



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# Dedication

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## Plaza Development

LaPorte has a long history of supporting music and theater. LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra, LaPorte Little Theatre Club, Arts in the Park and summer concerts provide great entertainment not just for city residents, but also the county. Public art, visual art, however, have not been a prominent factor. What a delight, then, for the city to achieve a high quality mural, and in such a relatively short time span.

The process began in early 2014 when the city determined the former Woolworth building at Lincolnway and Monroe Street needed to come down.

“It was a safety issue,” Shrader says, “and it was purchased and then demolished with the help of the Development Commission and the Urban Enterprise Association. They joined forces, took the building down, had to demo a bit more underneath because there had been a basement, and then prepped the site for a plaza.

“We had kind of vetted a number of things that could go there. We talked about if whether we wanted another building there so it could house a business and be on the tax rolls. Some folks talked

about parking.”

Later, questions of insufficient parking space were determined to be “more of a perception problem than an availability problem,” Shrader said, and not an issue. Also under consideration was an enclosed structure of some kind to house various businesses. However, those costs were prohibitive, she said. In the end, it was determined an open-air plaza was the best use: a place for citizens to congregate, take a lunch break, meet up, let children play and enrich the city’s cultural life.

The next step involved raising money to fund the plaza and develop a feasible design. Then-Mayor Blair Milo appointed Bert Cook and John Salisbury as the main team charged with going out into the community seeking large donations. Cook is LaPorte Economic Advancement Partnership’s executive director. Salisbury is an Edward Jones investment advisor and community member. The two proved successful, especially with IU Health LaPorte Hospital, which provided a large seed donation. The city also received a substantial grant from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs in partnership with the Indiana Office of Tourism Development through its Placed Based Investment Fund. These state-funding agencies are used by cities for

community and economic development. What they could not raise through large business donations or grants was accomplished with smaller donations by people throughout the community. A GoFundMe page, for example, was set up.

Secondly, the city needed an illustrated design for the project — critical for going forward. Don Bowman, a local, retired landscape architect, had been meeting with the committee during the initial stages. Now that a plaza had been approved, he came up with the design. In fact, Bowman’s portrait is included in one of the mural’s painted frames.

The plaza was under construction during the summer and then fall of 2016, culminating in work on the splash pad. It opened in earnest summer 2017. The mural was not part of the initial development plan.

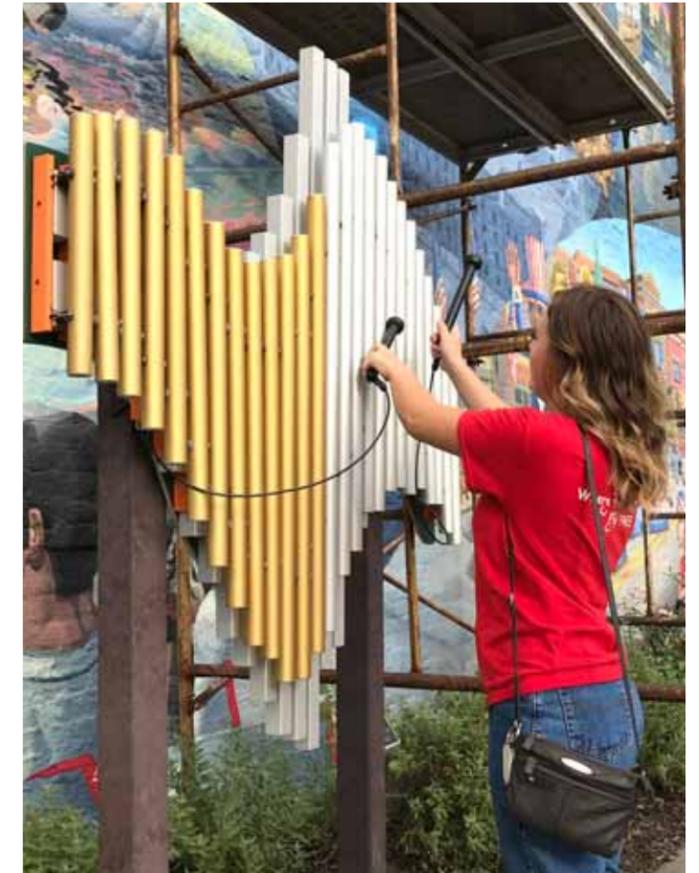
Significantly included in the plaza was the Joyful Noise Musical Instrument Sculpture, located dead center along the 108’ long back wall.

“The Joyful Noise project spearheaded the idea that we could do large-scale, creative projects within the city,” says artist Thaddeus Cutler, who served on the committee for the plaza development.

“These instruments get played and are now located all over the city in various parks. All the different sponsoring groups such as Kiwanis, Rotary, American Licorice Company and, again, LaPorte Enterprise Association sponsored this idea.”

The beauty of the Plaza 618 instrument is that it is interactive, fun and sits dead center to the long back wall. It is not uncommon to see children visiting the splash pad and running back and forth between the two, playing a few notes at the instrument before returning to the fountain.

“When it was done,” Cutler says, “I think we all



The Joyful Noise Musical Instrument Sculpture.

just breathed a collective sigh of relief and were like, ‘OK, I don’t want to think about the plaza for at least a year.’ It’s been nothing but the plaza.”

Obviously, a time out was much needed to recharge and rethink the next step forward.

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The Plaza 618 mural in progress on Lincolnway in downtown LaPorte.

# Dedication

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*"We always wanted, or I always envisioned, a nice big mural there."*

Beth Shrader

## The Mural Project

As Laura Cutler watched the progress made in the plaza — plants growing, tables and umbrellas installed — she recalled a recent conversation.

"Beth (Shrader) secured these colored umbrellas, and the kids were using the splash pad, and all these things were happening," she said. "Thaddeus and I kept walking (by the plaza) and when we started talking, I said that when I worked for The Center for Visual and Performing Arts under John Cain, I met a lot of mural artists over there. Could we possibly start looking to see what it would cost, and just on our own let's start vetting some."



Thaddeus and Laura Cutler

Laura Cutler had the contacts for mural artists and, most importantly, wanted to secure an Indiana artist for the job. In a bit of serendipity, she was contacted by Donna Catalano of South Shore Arts Association to serve as a grant panelist for the Tippecanoe Arts Federation Grant.

"So, I got tapped and who did I sit next to? Linda Dorman, Tom Torluemke's wife. And I didn't know her, but I knew of him. I knew of his mural on the NIPSCO Substation No. 9 in Hammond because I used to manage the gallery there. It's a huge two-story mural that he did about 20 years ago. I was familiar with him as an artist and his work. I knew his name."

While talking during their

lunch break, Cutler discovered how busy Torluemke was and feared he would be out of their reach. He was in demand. He was highly successful, making what later developed simply miraculous. Fortunately, Dorman contacted the Cutlers, and they in turn invited them both to visit LaPorte. At the time, Thaddeus was downtown director for the Main Street Association, and there were three different building sites where owners said they would welcome a mural. After walking around, Torluemke was particularly struck by the plaza and the possibilities there.

That was the fall of 2017. By spring of 2018, things began to accelerate.

□

*"Hey, let's create a group of all like-minded people. You know, who want to focus on visual arts, and let's just get people with all these different talents together and let's just see if we can do this, make this happen."*

Laura Cutler

Meanwhile, the Visual Arts Council formed under the umbrella of Greater LaPorte Economic Development Corp., which has since been absorbed into LaPorte Economic Advancement Partnership. This made it possible for the council to utilize a 501(c)(3) tax status, making it eligible for grants and donations: the key component to raising the necessary funds for wall preparation and artists' fee.

"Because Thaddeus and I know there's a lot of art support here, people who support the gallery (she and Thaddeus own Thaddeus C Gallery on Lincolnway), people who are wanting some public art here, we thought that with all our connections, why don't we just start something, get a few like-minded people and also people who have some education behind them in terms of public arts and private art," Cutler said.



Don Bowman's original design for the plaza.

Consequently, the VAC features six professional members:

- A mayor sympathetic to, and enthusiastic for, a mural: Krentz is a former art business owner.
- A city planner, Shrader, who knew the developmental background, understood where the project was headed and was familiar with grant applications.
- Professional artistic voices: Gregg Hertzlieb, a city resident and director of Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art; Laura Krentz, artist/art educator and art-business owner; and the Cutlers. Laura also serves as a LaPorte city councilwoman.

Seeking a professional muralist was next. The artist commissioned to create LaPorte's mural must be someone who could do a job that fit well with the city. Since this was going to be a first of its kind in LaPorte, it needed to be someone with a unique voice and a vision, as well as a track record for successful results.

"As it turned out, we looked at all these different artists, and Tom (Torluemke) made the best sense because, historically, he goes into a community, meets people, researches, just dives in and gets to know the community taking all of that information and creating a story of his own," Laura Cutler says.

"He gets inspired, but we don't mess with the

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A child enjoys the splash pad at Plaza 618.



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# Dedication

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inspiration. He gets to use what inspires him and then comes back with the design.”

Once hired, the mayor’s office provided the seed money for Torluemke to complete the mural design. He agreed to “do his research over three or four months, come back with a design that we could review and approve, and then from there we would fund raise what it would take to have the mural,” Cutler said.

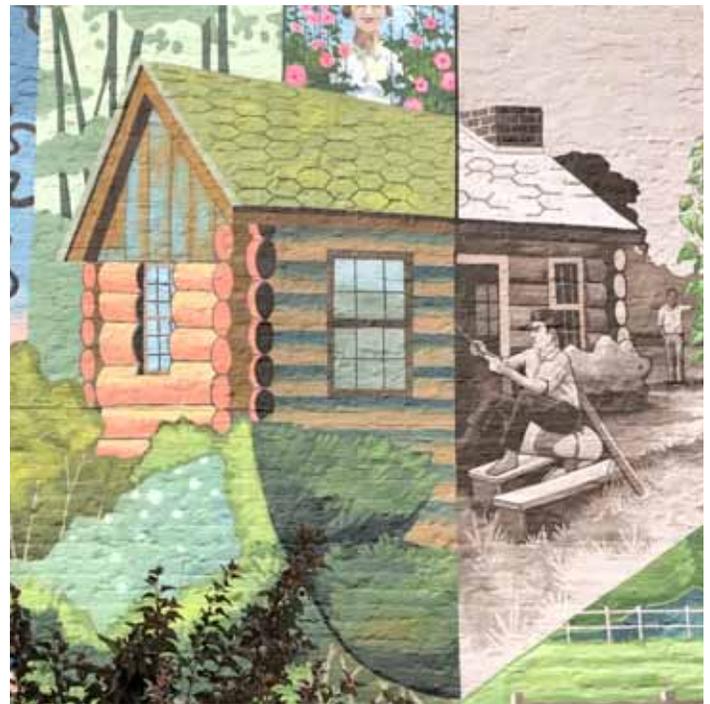
Finally, the actual execution of the mural project could begin. First up was taking a closer look at the brick wall upon which the mural was to be painted. It needed to be carefully inspected to make any necessary repairs before priming. The lesson here was, expect the unexpected.

At first, the wall appeared to be in fairly good condition. After priming, and upon another inspection, it became obvious additional work was needed due to reoccurring leaks. There was no point in hiring professionals to paint the mural if the foundation upon which it was resting was not in top condition. Multiple bids were submitted, with Shrader overseeing the process. In the meantime, contact was made with the UEA, a statewide organization granting monies to urban enterprise zones. Its 80/20 grant program made it possible to finish the final repairs. Harvey Adams of AA Rain-Tite Roofing completed the work, and now the artists were ready to begin.

□

## The Artists

Torluemke was, indeed, a superb choice for the project. Well-versed in all aspects from design to execution, his track record included: University Of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Indianapolis-Marion County Central Library; Indiana State University Booker T. Washington Community Center, Terre Haute; Unity Plaza in East



The portion of the mural that features an early cabin on the left and Don Bowman’s father constructing his cabin to the right.

Chicago, Ind; West Lafayette mural; and Substation No. 9 in Hammond.

His credentials were outstanding.

Upon accepting the commission to design the mural, Torluemke immersed himself in LaPorte history and lore. He visited and spent time at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum. He attended the Mayor’s Ball, talking to residents, interviewing and absorbing stories. He continued researching. He looked at thousands of photos and created drawings of the people, places and stories he heard. County Historian Fern Eddy, considered a “living historical encyclopedia of LaPorte,” was a valued resource. The experience of meeting her, with all the images of significant citizens circling his imagination, re-

Continued on Page 8



Tom Torluemke’s presentation on the final design for the mural during an event for donors. Photos courtesy of Linda Dorman

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# Dedication

Continued from Page 6

sulted in incorporating a collage of framed faces being tossed into the air by Fern herself. Along the way, he discovered that Bowman, the designer of Plaza 618, had a father who built a log cabin, which he maintained for years. Bowman's father also was a local letter carrier. He included him in the mural on the left-hand side. On the right side, he included a very tall letter carrier discovered in his photographic research.

After several months of research, he distilled his vision to seven principal stories with 40 narratives and three major concepts. He then began loosely drawing on tracing paper, which eventually became large with complicated narratives, later selecting the strongest story and reworking his design. The overall structural theme for the mural was lakes, water and nature, linking everything together.

Once the research and design were completed, a donor unveiling and presentation was held at Thaddeus C Gallery, with Torluemke presenting his original design illustration while relaying the story of the mural. The response was so strong that afterwards, several donors expressed the desire to be notified for the next project.

"Another great takeaway from that night was the gentleman, who is the mailman – tallest figure in the mural – in real life he is actually one of the tallest people in LaPorte, nearing 7' and a twin'," Thaddeus Cutler said. "What was interesting was, I've known him for a long time. He's a good friend, and when he came in to deliver our mail one day, we

had all the donation info out for VAC and he says, 'What are you raising money for?' I said, 'Oh, we're going to get a mural.' He goes, 'How much do I have to give to get on the list?' I replied, 'Well, like \$50 would be fine.' He replied, 'How about \$100.' He wrote us a \$100 check right there. Gave it to us and I thought, 'That's so generous of him!'

"Well, how strange the universe is, especially with art and how everything is connected," Cutler said. "He donates before there is ever a design. Tom is sifting through photographs online of LaPorte people, comes across him and says, 'I want to put that tall mailman in it. There's something about that guy.' They don't even know each other. Later at the unveiling, there's the tall mailman standing at the bar and Tom's like, 'What are you doing here? I didn't know they invite the people I put in the mural.' And he goes, 'I gave money.' It was great!"

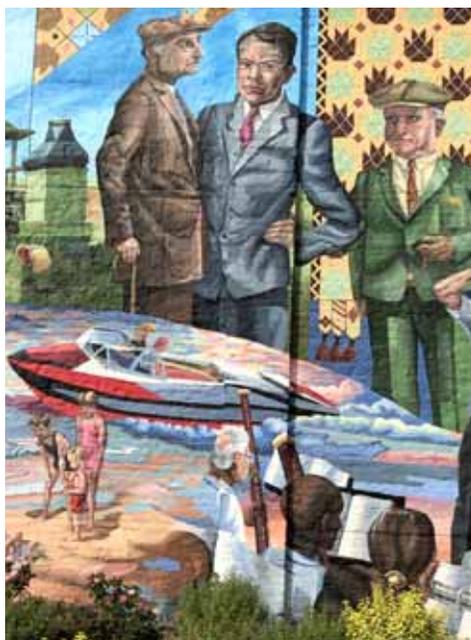
Unexplainable, unexpected connections such as this make the intimacy and revelations of the mural even more impactful and special, reiterating that the artists selected to create this art installation not only were the most talented, but also the best for the job.

Interestingly, Laura Cutler relayed a heartfelt story with special connections to the mural.

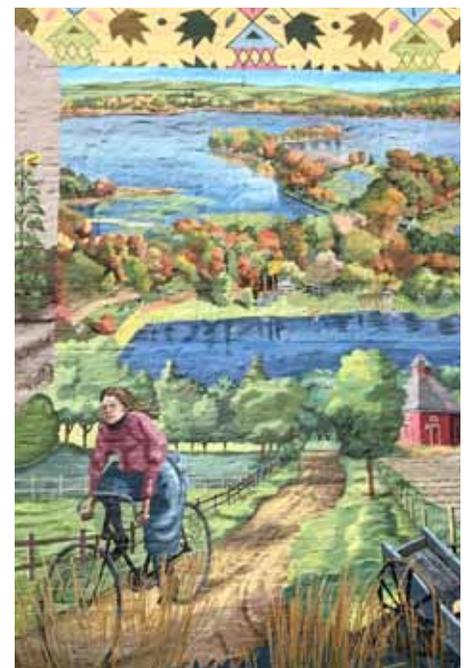
Julie West Schroder and her foundation Play for Jake was founded in memory of her son, who had a heart attack and died on the high school football field. Currently on the right side of the mural is a sketched-out scene based on a photo of the Slicer football team charging through a torn banner. Julie lives nearby and had been watching with fascination the development of the mural. One day, she stopped by, and it was just Torluemke painting,



The mural begins with a representation of Native Americans



Prominent manufacturers represented in the mural include: Herbert W. Fox, Fox Woolen Mills; Edward A. Rumley, Rumely Co.; and Hallett H. Kessler, Kessler Furniture Store.



Note the Door Prairie barn in the background of the mural.

and she asked if he would like a cold drink. She returned with an espresso for him, and he began to relay the stories in the mural. She was fascinated.

“He starts showing her that, well, down here it’s just drawn in and not painted,” Cutler said. “But now, this is the neat, energized drawing of these teams smashing through...and she just stops and gets chills and she touches him and says, “That was the game in honor of my son where the two teams came together and held the smashed sign that said Play for Jake, and it’s on the mural. My son is now forever on this mural!”

Again, unexpected connections make this public artwork personal and momentous. Call it intuition or divine intervention, such revelations can be an unexplainable moment of recognition, and somehow Torluemke had locked into that.

Weather always is a factor in working outdoors, and frequent rains held things off for a while, but eventually the skies cleared and work began.

Torluemke arrives early in the morning to begin working, usually around 5:30 a.m., and stops by noon when the sun shifts and illuminates the space such that it is now too bright to work. The changes in light affect the ability to match colors accurately. Torluemke’s assistant, Billy Pozzo, arrives a bit later and continues on past noon for a while. Five days a week, weather permitting, the colorful images slowly emerge: strikingly beautiful and exciting at the same time. I have driven past the plaza numerous times just for the joy of discovery and the unveiling of new figures, designs and backgrounds. The overlapping forms and transitions between one scene and the next are wonderful. The marching band is an example of strong perspective as it recedes into space, giving the viewer a true sense of the passage of time. The aerial view of the downtown is another highlight and again emphasizes distance, space and time.

Read the mural from left to right as you link past to present. The story of LaPorte begins with the early Native Peoples and progresses from there. Take a moment to note that directly behind the Joyful Noise instrument is a large conductor, placed as though he is conducting the “story” of the mural. As you stand there, you, the viewer, becomes part of the story itself.

I feel fortunate to have watched both these artists at work. Pozzo, a successful artist in his own right, has been with Torluemke, painting side-by-side for



Agriculture factors into the mural’s narrative.

28 years, and what struck me while watching them work together is how complementary their painting styles are. Two painters seamlessly matching up their brush strokes; color mixing and more is not common or an easy thing to achieve. In this case, you cannot discern where one artist stops and the other starts, which is simply amazing. Depending on the weather, the mural will be completed soon or some time mid-September. Twenty-four hours after the final stroke, the mural will be sealed with UV protecting clear coats.

This entire project was a community effort on many levels and a triumph. Not surprisingly, plans are being made to create a video about the mural and its stories, which will be available

online. Lesson plans for educators are on the horizon: a wonderful teaching tool for history, community pride and the cultural life of LaPorte.



Billy Pozzo (left) and Tom Torluemke, the two artists working on the mural.

During the course of my research and many visits to Plaza 618, I was never alone. LaPorte’s downtown is mere blocks from residential housing. This pocket park is a strong attraction for those who live nearby and those working downtown.

Plaza 618 and the mural are a real gift to the City of LaPorte and its citizens.



## Much-Hyped “Farewell” is Curiously Unsatisfying

by Andrew Tallackson



The family of a woman with terminal lung cancer keeps the diagnosis a secret from her in “The Farewell.”

What am I missing here?

“The Farewell” tells a story so quirky, it could only be based on fact. Writer-director Lulu Wang was inspired by her Chinese grandmother, who was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer, but the family kept it a secret, concocting a fake wedding as the catalyst for one big “happy” reunion.

Sounds bittersweet: an offbeat family film with warm insights that speaks to all audiences. Between rapturous reviews, lively talk-show interviews and social media posts tagging it as a touching “comedy,” I was prepped for one of the year’s best.

“The Farewell,” let’s make this clear, is not a comedy. Not by a long shot. It is a sincere, well-acted, but depressing, at times agonizingly slow film with no payoff.

Why the disconnect between my frustrated reaction and the Rotten Tomatoes-endorsed promos?

Maybe it’s that Wang had a great story, but should have let someone else tell it. Her film is not especially well made, and it lacks the universal truths of, say, “My Big Fat Greek Wedding.”

It does give Awkwafina a role that proves she’s capable of more. The comedian made a splash last year in “Crazy Rich Asians” and “Ocean’s 8,” each time playing the giddy, motormouth court jester, but here, she is wonderfully restrained, the emotions she spills forth raw and genuine. She plays Billi, an aspiring Chinese-American writer living in New York, floundering, yet close to her grandmother, Nai Nai (Shuzhen Zhao), who still lives in China. Nai Nai’s secret cancer diagnosis assembles the entire family in China, but here is where the film goes wrong.

A great ethnic family film sinks or swims on its moments of truth, when audiences recognize aspects of themselves and smile accordingly.

★ ★ 1/2

### “The Farewell”

Running time: 100 minutes. Rated PG for thematic material, brief language and some smoking

In “The Farewell,” Nai Nai is blissfully unaware of her diagnosis because Chinese custom dictates the family, *not* her, bear the burden of her grief so she can live her final days happy. There is something profoundly moving about that, but the family dynamic here is muted. Nai Nai’s children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews are a discontented lot, frustrated with life and with each other, and they mostly sit around and stare: glum and disillusioned. We don’t feel attached to the family, and Nai Nai is an overbearing tsunami of a woman. As comedy, the wedding, itself, and its unwilling bride and groom, are a curiously flat, botched misfire.

Visually, Wang’s film looks cruddy, and her camera frequently lingers on symbolic nothingness, or amps up opera music on the soundtrack. It reeks of arty pretentiousness. And just when it seems the movie is building to an emotional climax, the resolution feels rushed and hollow.

The past 18 months have shown an uptick in films with Asian leads, not just “Crazy Rich Asians,” but also the winning Netflix comedy “Always Be My Maybe.” You want to like “The Farewell.” You feel like an ogre for attacking it. But stack it up against a truly great film like “The Joy Luck Club” and, well, there’s no comparison.

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

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## Hoosier Star Conductor, Contestants Announced

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra is gearing up for its 14th annual Hoosier Star competition at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., LaPorte.



Willis

The event is a fundraiser for the symphony. Returning as conductor is Alastair Willis, South Bend Symphony Orchestra music director. Previous conducting positions for the Grammy nominee include Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Florida Orchestra, Seattle Symphony and Cincinnati Symphony. In demand as a guest conductor, he has appeared with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra and San Francisco Symphony.

The 10 finalists are:

### YOUTH DIVISION

- Jamileh Cornejo — LaPorte.
- Joseph Giuliani — LaPorte.
- Rebecca Lane — Portage.
- Ella Moon — Crown Point.
- Raul Palma — LaPorte.

### ADULT DIVISION

- Laura Carns — Hebron.
- Billy Cox — Hobart.
- Clara Hooton — New Carlisle.
- Tim Hester — Wheatfield.
- Joseph Stewart — Michigan City.

The adult winner receives \$1,000 and the youth

winner \$500. Each finalist will sing a song of their choice with LCSO, directed by Alastair Willis.

Tickets are available at [www.hoosierstar.com](http://www.hoosierstar.com) or at:

- Roxy Music Shop, 1012 Lincolnway, LaPorte.
- LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1010 Ridge St.
- Visit Michigan City LaPorte, 4072 Franklin St., Michigan City.

Tickets are \$15, or \$5 for 12 and younger. Indiana Deli, Ivy Tech, Little's Chocolates and a cash bar will be available. Doors open at 6 p.m.

## LCSO Auditions

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra will host auditions for the 2019-2020 season from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27, at LaPorte High School (Door 15), 602 F St.

Vacancies include: Principal Second Violin; Principal Viola; Principal Bass; Second Bassoon; Percussion; Section Violin; Section Cello; Section Trumpet; Student Apprentices (2019-2020 School Year).

LCSO is a per-service orchestra offering contracts on an annual basis. All positions are paid, and mileage is paid for non-La Porte County residents. The 60-piece orchestra includes musicians from Michigan City, LaPorte, Chesterton, Valparaiso, Merrillville, South Bend and Michigan.

More details, including audition requirements, are at [www.LCSO.net](http://www.LCSO.net), or contact Personnel Manager Morgan Sleeper at [lcsopersonnel@gmail.com](mailto:lcsopersonnel@gmail.com)



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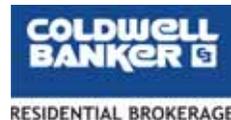
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## Historical Society Museum to Host Traveling Exhibit

The LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., will host “The Golden Age: Indiana Literature (1880-1920),” on Sept. 4-28.

The traveling exhibit is on loan from the Indiana Historical Society, which maintains the nation’s research library and archives on the history of Indiana and the Old Northwest. It emphasizes Hoosier authors, their literary contributions and impact on the social conventions of the time.

Drawn from collections at the Indiana Historical Society, Indiana State Library and Indiana University Lilly Library, the exhibit explores what came to be known as the “Golden Age of Indiana Literature.” The period corresponded with growth in other cultural areas, including the Hoosier group of landscape painters, and prominence of Indiana composers such as Paul Dresser.

From 1880 to 1920, Hoosier authors achieved national prominence and popular acclaim. A 1947 study found that Indiana authors ranked second to New York in the number of best-sellers produced in the previous 40 years. The exhibit examines many writers, but concentrates on the lives and careers of four individuals: George Ade, Meredith Nicholson, Booth Tarkington and James Whitcomb Riley.

Other popular Indiana authors during this period were: Lew Wallace (“Ben Hur”); Maurice Thompson (“Alice of Old Vincennes”); Theodore Dreiser (“Sister Carrie”); Edward Eggleston (“The Hoosier School-

master”); Frank McKinney Hubbard (cartoon Abe Martin), George Barr McCutcheon (“Brewster’s Millions”) and Gene Stratton-Porter (“A Girl of the Limberlost”).

Ade, a writer, columnist and playwright, was born in Kentland and is best known for his fables and descriptions of urban life in his column, “Stories of the Streets and of the Town.” His fables earned him the nickname of the “Aesop of Indiana.” Several of his plays, including “The County Chairman” (1903) and “The College Widow” (1904), were produced for Broadway, and also adapted into movies.

Nicholson, Crawfordsville, was a writer, columnist and poet. Three of his books were best-sellers, including “The House of a Thousand Candles” (No. 4 in 1906), “The Port of Missing Men” (No. 3 in 1907) and “A Hoosier Chronicle” (No. 5 in 1912).

Tarkington, Indianapolis, was best known for his novels “The Magnificent Ambersons” and “Alice Adams.” He is one of only three novelists to win the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction more than once, along with William Faulkner and John Updike. In the 1910s and 1920s, he was considered America’s greatest living author. Several of his stories were adapted to films.

Riley, Greenfield, became known as “America’s best-loved poet.”

Contact the museum at (219) 324-6767 or at [info@laportecountyhistory.org](mailto:info@laportecountyhistory.org) for more details.



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Ade



Nicholson

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4. Protect the roots out to the drip line from any activity other than foot traffic. The drip line is simply the outside edge of the canopy. On a mature open grown oak, it can be a circle of 60 feet in diameter.
5. Consult an ISA Certified Arborist before doing anything to your tree.

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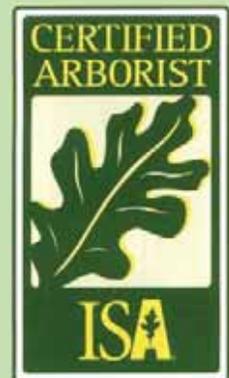
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## Tour de LaPorte is This Weekend

Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte's Tour de LaPorte, a biking-running-walking event to benefit cancer patients in the community, is Friday-Sunday, Aug. 23-25, at Cummings Lodge, 350 Grangemouth Road, LaPorte.

The schedule is:

### Friday, Aug. 23

- Early packet pickup and on-site registration: 2-7:30 p.m.
- Rotary Club of LaPorte Spaghetti Dinner: 4-7 p.m.
- 5K Trail Run/Walk registration and check-in: 4:30-5 p.m.
- 5K Trail Run/Walk: 5:30 p.m.

### Saturday, Aug. 24

- On-site registration and pre-registered check-in: 5:30 a.m. to 30 minutes prior to the event start.
- Half Marathon Run: 6:30 a.m.
- 10K Run: 7:15 a.m.
- 5K Run: 7:45 a.m.
- 5K Walk: 8 a.m.
- Awards start at approximately 8:45 a.m. (10K, 5K, then Half Marathon)
- Mini Fun Run: Approximately 9:30 a.m.

### Sunday, Aug. 25

- On-site registration and pre-registered check-in:



6-9:30 a.m.

- 100-mile and 60-mile group start: 6:30 a.m.
  - 40-mile group start: 7:30 a.m.
  - 25-mile and 15-mile group start: 8:30 a.m.
  - 5-Mile: No group start or lead vehicle.
- All cyclists may leave at any time from 6-9:30 a.m., but group start times are encouraged.

Visit [tourdelaporte.org](http://tourdelaporte.org) for more details.



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# A Revised Classic Makes Its Dunes Summer Theatre Debut

by Andrew Tallackson

Studs Terkel, the late-great writer, broadcaster and historian, knew that getting average Americans to talk about themselves — their loves, likes and dislikes — required a degree of patience on the interviewer's behalf. Rote yes-or-no replies do not scratch the surface. Truth emerges by digging deeper, step by gradual step, when people feel at ease, unburdened by the positive or negative impact their words may have.

One of the finest examples of Terkel's gift for culling the best out of those he interviewed is 1974's *Working: People Talk About What They Do All Day and How They Feel About What They Do*. Three years later, it debuted at Chicago's esteemed Goodman Theatre before arriving on Broadway one year later, directed by no less than "Godspell" creator Stephen Schwartz.

So it is only fitting that one of Goodman Theatre's own, Steve Scott, is helming an updated version of "Working," complete with two new songs by Lin-Manuel Miranda ("Hamilton"), at Dunes Summer Theatre, the production kicking off a three-weekend run Friday, Aug. 23.

The musical may appear effortless in concept and staging, but Scott says, don't let that fool you.

"It's bigger than you think," Scott said during a phone interview with *The Beacher*. "There are a lot of moving parts, a series of songs and speeches, so you're finding some way to put all this on stage so that it isn't repetitive, so you're not seeing the same pictures and the same people in the same places.

"The actors — everyone plays more than one role. In some cases, four or five roles, so you have to help them delineate the differences between all the characters, and that is always a challenge. It's definitely more complicated than it looks. It's always harder to make something complicated look simple."

If anyone is up to the challenge, though, it's Scott. A member of Goodman's artistic collective, he was its producer for more than 30 years, overseeing more than 200 productions. Directing credits range from "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" and "Dinner With Friends," to the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Wit" and six years of helming a Goodman holiday tradition, "A Christmas Carol" (1989-1992 and 2011-2012). He's also directed shows at Northlight Theatre, Silk Road Rising, American Blues Theater, A Red Orchid Theatre, Redtwist Theatre, Shattered

Globe Theatre and Eclipse Theatre Co.

Toss six Jeff Award nominations into the mix and you have the most capable hands possible. Chatting with Scott, however, there is no trace of ego, no hubris that can follow those with venerable resumes.

"I told the cast at a recent rehearsal that every day I worked there (Goodman Theatre), for the many years I was there, there was always a moment when I thought, 'My God, I'm really doing this.'

"I grew up in Kansas City, and I'd heard of it, but I'd never been there. I moved to Chicago in 1980, and it was always one of those mythical places. So being part of it, I counted myself very fortunate."

Was there any pressure in staging "A Christmas Carol," which for untold thousands is a requisite part of their holiday season?

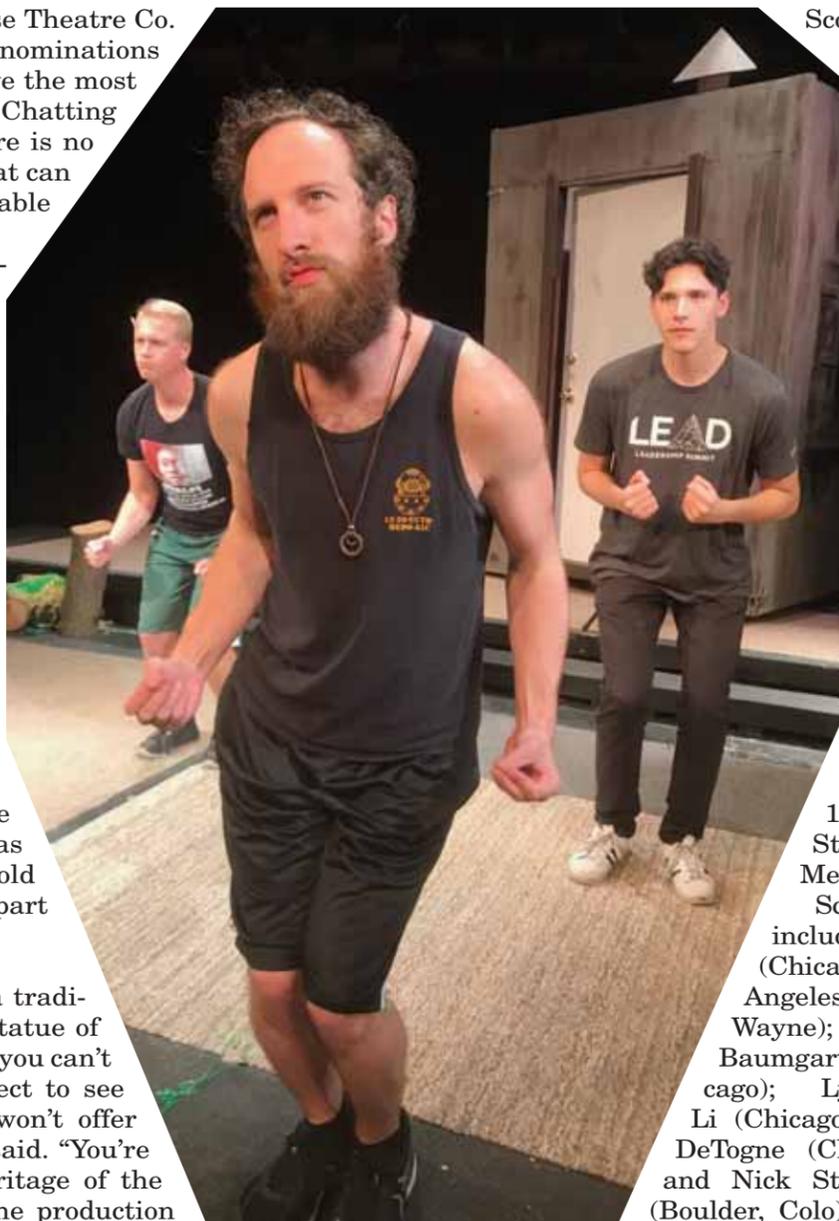
Scott chuckles.

"You're stepping into a tradition, like directing the Statue of Liberty. There are things you can't change, that people expect to see every year, things you won't offer a different take on," he said. "You're always aware of the heritage of the production, how much the production means to people every year."

One year, for instance, the character of Fred, Scrooge's nephew and only living relative, was changed to Frida, Scrooge's niece, which Scott says added "some texture" to the show. The switch, however, didn't take well with a few audience members.

"They do not shy away from telling me what they think," Scott said, laughing.

It was longtime friend and fellow Goodman talent Jeffrey Baumgartner who brought Scott to the Dunes last year to direct "The Spitfire Grill." Baumgartner is the theater group's producing artistic director, blending local performers with regional and national talent for summer shows.



During rehearsals for "Working," Max DeTogne sings "Brother Trucker," with backup from Nick Stockwell (left) and Corydon Melgoza (right).

Scott was no stranger to the Dunes. He and his husband own a home in Long Beach, having come to the area since the mid-1990s and attending Dunes productions.

This is not the first time Dunes Summer Theatre has staged "Working," but it does mark the debut of the Lin-Manuel Miranda update, which also revises characters to include more contemporary professions, such as a hedge-fund manager and UPS delivery man.

The Dunes Summer Theatre setting, by the way, is fitting on an another level. Terkel, himself, once performed on the Dunes stage during a 1950s production of John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men."

Scott's cast for "Working" includes: Alexandria Neyhart (Chicago); Corydon Melgoza (Los Angeles); Dori Erwin Collins (Fort Wayne); Eileen Long (Furnessville); Baumgartner; Jenna Fawcett (Chicago); Lynnette Li (Chicago); Max DeTogne (Chicago), and Nick Stockwell (Boulder, Colo). Some of the performers, Scott has worked with before. Others are fresh faces, and that excited him.

"They're doing great," he said of the cast. "It's a big show to put up in three weeks, but the music is gorgeous, and the actors are really, really good. They come from a wide range of interests and talents, and it's always interesting to bring together a disparate group of people and form into one big family."

Last year, did Scott experi-

ence "culture shock," if you will, in transitioning from the hallowed Goodman Theatre stage to the folksy, outdoors setting at the Dunes?

Not at all.

"Before I even moved to Chicago, I did summer stock in Chicago," he said. "I know what the whole routine is: the communal living and working, being out in the boonies, not close to anything. I loved that when I was younger, so it was a lot of fun to come out here and explore that."

And having now worked two summer seasons at the Dunes, would Scott return in the future? Absolutely.

"I have been very fortunate, both in my life at the Goodman and as a freelance director, to have had the chance to direct most of the great playwrights, most of the plays I wanted to do," he said.

"The best thing about my career is that it has been so varied, and I got to do so many different things. Here, at the Dunes, I will work here as long as they will have me!"

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

## If You Go

"Working" will be presented Aug. 23-25, Aug. 30-31 and Sept. 1, and Sept. 6-8 at Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times are 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. General admission is \$20, while seniors and students cost \$18. Reservations can be made at [www.dunesartsfoundation.org](http://www.dunesartsfoundation.org) or by calling (219) 879-7509



Steve Scott, in rehearsal for "A Christmas Carol" at the Goodman Theatre.

## Indiana Dunes National Park

*The following programs are planned:*

• **Beachside with a Ranger from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays through Sept. 6 at the West Beach parking lot.**

Learn about the park's preservation story, including challenges the region faced and the largest threats today. The parking lot is located at 376 N. County Line Road.

• **Drop-in Volunteering at West Beach from 2 to 3 p.m. Fridays through Sept. 6.**

Join staff and fellow volunteers in helping care for the site. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and equipment will be provided. West Beach parking lot is 376 N. County Line Road, Portage.

• **Mount Baldy Summit Hike from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Fridays through Aug. 30.**

The Mount Baldy parking lot and beach are open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily after being closed for the last several years. The dune, however, is still closed for general public use, so the ranger-led hike offers the chance to experience the dune as much as is possible. No reservations are required. The parking lot is located off U.S. 12. Also offered is Mount Baldy Open House from 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays through Sept. 8. Explore the issues and science surrounding the dune.

• **Campground Program from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23, at Dunewood Campground Amphitheater.**

Join a ranger and fellow campers for a program showcasing the park's diversity and recreational opportunities. The campground is at Broadway and U.S. 12 in Beverly Shores.

• **Pinhook Bog Open House from noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays through Sept. 7.**

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

• **National Park Service Birthday Celebration from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, at Paul H**

**Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Celebrate the NPS' 103rd birthday by taking part in a short play about its earliest days. Afterward, view a musical photo tour of national parks. Cake will be served.

• **Art in the National Park from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturdays through Nov. 9 at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road.**

Learn how to paint the dunes. A canvas and paint are provided for the free class. Registration is required, and the class is limited to 20 adult painters. Be prepared to park in auxiliary sites during the summer due to parking congestion. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information and to register.

• **BARK Ranger Hike from 4 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, at West Beach.**

Participants can take a leashed pet on the hike, which could be as long as three miles and include walking along the beach. Take a leash, pickup bags and water. Pets will receive a free BARK Ranger dog tag. Meet at the West Beach parking lot, 376 N. County Line Road, Portage. There is a \$6 per car fee from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

• **Stargazing from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, at the Kemil Beach parking area.**

Members from Chicago Astronomical Society, Michiana Astronomical Society and Calumet Astronomical Society will attend with telescopes. Dress for the weather. Take binoculars. The Kemil Beach parking lot is located at 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton.

• **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays through Sept. 1.**

Explore the grounds of both historic homes, and learn about early settlers and farmers who came to the region in the 1800s. Park at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot.

• **Wonders of Wildlife — Monarchs from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25, at The Paul H. Douglas Center.**

Search outside for monarchs, learn about their life cycles and how to help the struggling butterfly.

• **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sundays through Nov. 24 at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

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

• **Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 28, at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk.**

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

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

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## Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **Leapin' Lizards Hike from 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 22.**

The program involves a moderate hike to seek out the only lizard species in the Indiana Dunes.

- **Marvelous Monarchs from 3 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22.**

Meet at the Nature Center to learn about monarchs and their migration.

- **Feed the Birds at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 23, and Sunday, Aug. 25.**

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

- **Glacial Goodies at 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23.**

Enjoy ice cream with toppings, while supplies last, and while learning about glacial drift in the Indiana Dunes landscape.

- **Wetland Wander at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 24.**

Take a 45-minute hike into the dune wetlands to explore breeding birds and underwater critters.

- **Reptile Review at 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24.**

The 45-minute discovery program, held at the Nature Center outside program area, includes discussion on turtles, snakes and lizards.

- **Morning Bird Walk at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 25.**

Take binoculars or borrow a pair for an easy walk searching for birds.

- **Beach Mysteries at 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25.**

Meet at the Nature Center to identify items found on the beach.

- **Photo Scavenger Hunt at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 26.**

Take a camera or phone to the Nature Center for the game that includes a list and prizes.

- **Geology Rocks Hike at 3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 26.**

Learn the story behind the dunes' changing landscape during the moderate hike.

- **Ant Lion Safari at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27.**

Join a naturalist at the Nature Center for the short discovery walk.

- **Turtle Time at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27.**

Meet outside the nature center to learn more about turtles.

- **Fur-tastic Show n' Tell from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 28.**

Stop by the Nature Center for a look at mammals of the dunes.

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

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### It Takes a Village

The 25th annual Leprechaun Hunt, a benefit for other-abled adults living at Rolling Prairie's Sharing Meadows, was a resounding success on Sunday, Aug. 4. Presented by the Share Foundation with the Handicapped, a foundation staff member told *The Beacher* the event raised about \$100,000 from community support. Families could hunt for one of 33 Leprechauns hiding on the site's 185 acres, with cash prizes totaling \$5,600. The day also included entertainment by New Element, The Doolin Clan, The Ploughboys and Magic by Kalita, hayrides, a bounce house, fishing, an obstacle course and plenty of food.

All photos by Bob Wellinski







## LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League

**Aug. 15, 2019**  
**Event: Mixer Day**

### "B" Flight

**Low Net:** Pat Kelley  
**Low Putts:** Pat Kelley

### "C" Flight

**Low Net:** Rima Binder  
**Low Putts:** Tina Sonderby

### "D" Flight

**Low Net:** Regina Bradley  
**Low Putts:** Carol Sullivan

### Sunken Approach

Pat Kelley Hole 1  
Jean St. Peter Hole 6

**Aug. 8, 2019**  
**Event: President's Cup**  
**Winner: Joan Carey**

### "A" Flight

**Low Net:** Sue Luegers  
**Low Putts:** Sue Luegers

### "B" Flight

**Low Net:** Kathy Kenefick  
**Low Putts:** Babs Ward

### "C" Flight

**Low Net:** Tina Sonderby  
**Low Putts:** Rima Binder

### "D" Flight

**Low Net:** Barbara Hall  
**Low Putts:** Alison Kolb

### Birdies

Sue Luegers Hole 10

### Sunken Approach

Joan Carey Hole 1  
Rima Binder Hole 5



Joan Carey is photographed at Long Beach Country Club course, having been named the 2019 Nine-Hole President's Cup champion.

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**Fourth Friday @ The Vic**

Valparaiso International Center will host a presentation on Spain during its First Friday series at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23, in the Montague/Urschel Gallery of Porter County Museum, 20 Indiana Ave.

Marisa Garcia-Verdugo, Purdue University Northwest professor and interim chair of the Department of Political Science, Economics and World Languages and Cultures, is this month's speaker. Born in Spain, she came to the U.S. to earn a master's degree at Michigan State University. She earned a doctorate at the State University of New York at Albany. She taught at several other colleges before accepting her current position. She lives in Valparaiso with her two adult daughters.

Garcia-Verdugo will discuss the culture and diversity of her native Spain, with a special emphasis on her home region in the west of the country.

The Montague/Urschel Gallery is behind the Aster Gray Shop at Indiana Avenue and Franklin Street. The entrance is located off Franklin. Visit [www.valpovic.org](http://www.valpovic.org) or through social media: @valpovic

**"Flash" Hikes**

Harbor Country Hikers is trying something new: "flash" hikes announced two or three days in advance through email notices to HCH's mailing list.

"This is just another opportunity for our members and others to get out a bit more often than our normal twice-a-month format," HCH treasurer/co-founder Bob Mueller said in a press release. "We'll have no theme or leader, just a walk in the woods."

The frequency and location of flash hikes, he added, will depend partly on how well-received they are. Those interested can get on the mailing list by sending their email addresses to [harborcountryhikers@gmail.com](mailto:harborcountryhikers@gmail.com)

Membership is encouraged; however, events are open to all and children accompanied by an adult. Membership costs \$20 for individuals or \$30 for families. Visit [harborcountryhikers.com](http://harborcountryhikers.com) for details.

**Westchester Public Library**

*The following programs are available:*

- **Herbs 101 from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, in the Thomas Branch Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Advanced Master Gardener Jill Kilhefner, Valparaiso, will discuss growing, using and preserving herbs. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

- **WPL Movies in August: "Avengers: Endgame" at 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, at The Baughner Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The movie is Rated PG-13. Free popcorn is served.

## Lyric Opera in the Gardens

Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, will host Lyric Opera of Chicago performers who will preview the 2019-2020 season during “Lyric Opera in the Gardens” from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25.

The performance starts at 4 p.m. Those who arrive at 3 p.m. can sample wine, beer, other beverages and light appetizers while strolling through the gardens, trails and meadows.

The event includes performances by Chicago Lyric Opera artists Kimberly Jones, Maia Surace and Cornelius Johnson. The program will include arias from Mozart’s “Don Giovanni,” Puccini’s “Madame Butterfly” and Broadway favorites “Porgy and Bess,” “42nd Street,” “Showboat” and “Hamilton!”

General admission tickets are available on Eventbrite for \$45. They also will be sold at the door the day of the event. Premium seating tickets are sold out. Light appetizers are included with each ticket. A cash bar with beer and wine will be on site.

All proceeds assist continued restoration and maintenance at the Gardens.

Visit [www.friendshipgardens.org](http://www.friendshipgardens.org) or call (219) 878-9885 for details.



Johnson



Jones



Surace

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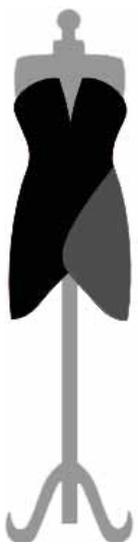
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*The American Red Cross LaPorte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobiles:*

- Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1237 E. Coolspring Ave., 3-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22.
- Palko Services, 4991 W. U.S. 20, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23.
- LaPorte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 26.
- Michigan City Fire Training Center, 2510 E. Michigan Blvd., 12:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 28.

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



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**NPS Seeks Farmer's Market Vendors**

The National Park Service is seeking regional vendors for a small farmer's market Fridays during the fall harvest season at Chellberg Farm.

Potential vendors include local farmers, specialty food producers, food trucks and artisans.

Chellberg Farm is managed by the park's volunteer program in partnership with Dunes Learning Center.

The market will operate every Friday afternoon mid-September through November. All products must be grown, raised, produced, caught or gathered by the vendor in the region, and be pre-approved before being sold at the market.

Federal regulations require any individuals or groups selling food or other items in a national park to obtain a Commercial Use Authorization permit. Completed applications for a permit include a \$100 payment to cover the costs of processing the request. Vendors also must comply with county and Federal health regulations.

Contact Amber Siewin at (219) 395-1859 or email [amber\\_siewin@nps.gov](mailto:amber_siewin@nps.gov) for an application. The deadline is Sept. 30. Selected applicants must provide valid proof of insurance and current ServSafe certifications for all employees.

Chellberg Farm is located 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter.

**Sons of Norway Annual Picnic**

The Sons of Norway will hold its annual picnic at noon Sunday, Aug. 25, at Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12.

The picnic is planned on the Celebration side of the gardens. Anyone interested in Scandinavian culture is welcome. Golf cart rides are offered to the shelter from the parking lot.

Garden tours are planned. Swedish sausages will be grilled, with other offerings including buns and condiments, water and ice. Take a dish to share and tableware. Lingonberry Jam will present Scandinavian music. The game of Kubb will be set up for those interested in playing or watching.

The event moves to the shelter if it rains. Call (219) 877-7097 for details.

**Fox Park Music Fest 11**

Fox Park Music Fest 11, a family friendly event presented by the Guardian Riders, is from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, at LaPorte's Fox Park.

The event supports local active duty military, veterans and the less fortunate. It features live bands, food vendors, beer gardens, face painting, bounce houses, games and free haircuts.

Tickets are \$8 at the gate. Visit the event on facebook for more details.

## Music in the Gardens

The seven-piece Whistle Pigs, a close-knit family of musicians, takes center stage during Music in the Gardens from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. EDT Friday, Aug. 23, in The History Museum's Oliver Gardens.

The event is in partnership with 88.1 WVPE as part of the Four Winds Entertainment Series.



The Whistle Pigs.

The Whistle Pigs performs contemporary, classic rock, jazz and rhythm and blues. Tickets, which are \$5, can be purchased at the door. Food and drinks are sold; no carry-in foods or beverages are permitted. Guests can take lawn chairs or blankets.

The event is held rain or shine. Guests also can browse through the museum's exhibits, including "Keepers of the Fire: The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi," "The Final Frontier: Bendix and the Apollo Program," "A Credit to the Community: The TCU Story" and "75 Years of Women in Leadership: Junior League of South Bend."

The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Visit [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org) or call (574) 235-9664 for details.



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### Chesterton Art Center

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

• **Judy Gregurich and Mark Montgomery will teach an eight-week Stained Glass Open Studio starting from 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 3.**

The class is for students who took a previous stained glass class at the center. They will experiment with different types of textured clear glass, copper foil overlay and sand blasting (etching). The focus is texture rather than color. If time allows, a brief introduction on decorative soldering is planned.

Students also may work on their own projects at their own pace, with assistance as needed from the instructors.

The limit is eight students, who must provide their own tools and supplies. The cost is \$105, with members receiving a \$30 discount. All students must register and pay prior to the first class.

• **Local painter Mark VanderVinne will host Critique Night at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4.**

Artists can take a piece at any stage, from conception to the final version, with all ability levels and styles invited.

Guests may simply listen; however, participation is encouraged. While being a safe environment, it is a critique involving advice and insight into the effectiveness of the work or artistic concept.

• **Life Drawing Open Studio from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 4 and 18.**

Being an open studio setting, artists should take supplies and clean up afterward. Organizer Ivan Chermel can provide some guidance, but the class is not structured.

Artists can use any media, including pencil, charcoal, pastel or paints. Typically, fully clothed models are used. On rare occasion, a professional, partially clad or nude model is used.

The cost of each session is \$15, and students must pre-register.

Visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) to register or for more details.

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## Wine Making History Program

The Region of Three Oaks Museum will host a program on the long history of area wine making at 5 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 24, at Café Gulistan, 13591 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich.

Wine expert Rick Cooper and TROTOM Board Member Nick Bogert will present a pictorial look at an industry that peaked in the 1960s, faltered after that, but now is enjoying a revival. That history includes arson fires, a controversial religious sect, even prisoners of war helping process local grapes. Cooper will offer his perspective on where the local industry stands now, and where it's headed.

Those attending can sample local vintages and light bites. Admission for the museum fundraiser is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Membership sign-up for \$10 will be available.

## Noon Time Talk Series

The Noon Time Talk Series continues with the "40 on 40 Project" at 12:20 p.m. EDT Thursday, Aug. 22, at Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.

Curator Brian Byrn will introduce the project managed by Kathy Zienty, Todd Hoover and Earl Vandygriff in conjunction with the museum's 40th anniversary. A few participating artists will give informal commentary.

Admission is \$5. Members are free. Call (574) 293-6660 for details.

## Supervisor Training Series

Nora Akins will present the 12-week training series "What All Supervisors Should Know" on Sept. 3-Nov. 13 at LaPorte and Michigan City locations.

Approved for 12 LEUs, the series is focused on positive employee relations and related laws.

The LaPorte series is every other Tuesday, from 8 to 9:45 a.m., at The Blue Heron. The Michigan City series is every other Wednesday, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., at Patrick's Grille.

Tuition, which costs \$500 per person, includes breakfast or lunch. Contact Akins at (219) 873-1735 or nora@managepeopleright.com for details.

## Dog Days 2019

Dog Days 2019, hosted by Friends of LaPorte County Animal Shelters Inc., is from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, in the Draft Horse Barn at LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2.

The fourth annual event features rescues, shelters, animal-related products, veterinarians and groomers.



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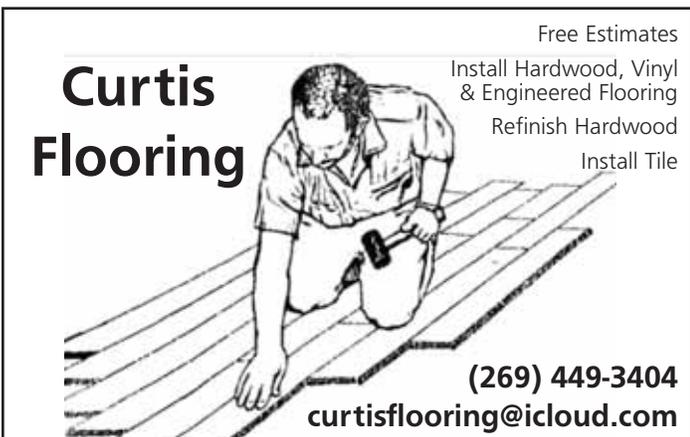
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**Fernwood Botanical Garden**

The following programs are through Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich.:

• **Vin-Nidra Yoga from 2 to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 24.**

Weather permitting, the first hour involves conscious Vinyasa Yoga in the gardens, the second hour a stroll to the river platform for Yoga Nidra (yogic sleep). The cost is \$24, while members pay \$20.

• **Wild Ones Meeting from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. EDT Sunday, Aug. 25.**

Learn about restoring native plants, natural landscapes and pollinators to backyards and local communities. Visit [www.wildones.org](http://www.wildones.org) or contact Heather Catania at [skaarcata@aol.com](mailto:skaarcat@aol.com) for details.

• **In the Clark Art Gallery: New work by Linda Huston Freel through Sept. 29.**

South Bend artist Linda Huston Freel uses nature as her primary subject matter.

Call (269) 695-6491 or visit [www.fernwoodbotanical.org](http://www.fernwoodbotanical.org) for more information and to confirm the status of classes.

**Michigan City Public Library**

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

• **Makerspace: open lab hours from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursdays.**

Youth ages 6-18 create with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend.

• **Saving a Century of Progress: Rebirth of the Homes at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24.**

Robin Carlascio and Theresa Badovich will present a program on the beginnings and rebirth of the Century of Progress Homes.

• **Learning Center Volunteers Needed.**

The Learning Center needs volunteer tutors for children and adults. Students need assistance in: reading, math, high school equivalency and English as a Second Language. All supplies and training are provided. All that's required are two hours a week. Contact Jessica Hoffmaster at (219) 873-3043 or stop by the center for more information.

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



**Michigan City Farmers Market**  
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
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For inquiries: Market Manager Kia Bergerson  
[michigancityfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:michigancityfarmersmarket@gmail.com)  
(219) 210-2055

## La Porte County Parks



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

### Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking.

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Aug. 26, Sept. 16 and 23, Oct. 7 and 28, Nov. 18 and 25, and Dec. 2 and 16 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

### Zentangle Animal

The coloring and tile craft project is from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 31, at Luhr County Park.

The program is for 13 and older. The cost is \$20 per person. Hemlock Heather is the instructor. All supplies will be provided; children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration and payment are required on or before Aug. 22.

### Northern Indiana Walk for PKD

The two-mile Northern Indiana Walk for PKD is Saturday, Sept. 7, at Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North.

Check-in is at 10 a.m., with the walk at 11:15 a.m. Register at [www.walkforpkd.org/northernindiana](http://www.walkforpkd.org/northernindiana), or contact the walk coordinator at [northernindianawalk@pkdcure.org](mailto:northernindianawalk@pkdcure.org) for information.

Polycystic Kidney Disease affects thousands of Americans, and 12.5 million children and adults worldwide. There is no treatment or cure.

### Healthy Lifestyles

The free social club that emphasizes quality of life meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

Programs focus on health trends, gardening, medical information and balancing active lifestyles. Call at least one week in advance to sign up (the maximum allowed is 30). The schedule is:

- Sept. 11 — "Clean It Up With Homemade Cleaners," Gee-Burns.
- Oct. 2 — Medicare 2020: an overview of any changes in coverage and enrollment.

### Shelter and Hall Reservations

Call (219) 325-8315 to make reservations for one of many picnic shelters at any of the four county parks, or Pat Smith Hall at Red Mill County Park for a family function.



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### Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

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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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## Activities to Explore

### In the Area:

**Aug. 22** — Leapin’ Lizards Hike, 10-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Aug. 22** — Herbs 101, 6-7 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Registration: (219) 926-7696.

**Aug. 23** — Little Something’s Debut CD Release with opener Valerie Ingle, 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$18. Reservations: acornlive.org

**Aug. 23-25** — Tour de LaPorte, Cummings Lodge, 350 Grangemouth Road, LaPorte. Info: tourdelaporte.org

**Aug. 23-28** — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* “Yesterday.” Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon., 7 p.m. Tue.-Wed. Also: “The Last Black Man in San Francisco.” Rated R. Times: 9 p.m. Fri., 2:45 p.m. Sat. Also: “Maiden.” Rated PG. Times: 9 p.m. Sat., 3 p.m. Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

**Aug. 23-25, Aug. 30-31 & Sept. 1, Sept. 6-8** — “Working,” Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat./2 p.m. Sun. General admission: \$20, seniors & students/\$18. Reservations: (219) 879-7509, www.dunesartsfoundation.org

**Aug. 24** — Fox Park Music Fest 11, 11 a.m.-11 p.m., LaPorte’s Fox Park. Tickets: \$8.

**Aug. 24** — Saving a Century of Progress: Rebirth of the Homes, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Aug. 24** — WPL Movies in August: “Avengers: Endgame,” 3 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**Aug. 24** — Dog Days, 4-7 p.m., Draft Horse Barn @ LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2.

**Aug. 24** — Region of Three Oaks Museum fundraiser, 5 p.m. EDT, Café Gulistan, 13591 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich. Cost: \$30/members, \$35/non-members.

**Aug. 24** — Music in the Park, Andreas Kapsalis, 6:30 p.m. EDT, Dewey Cannon Park, Three Oaks, Mich. Free, donations accepted. Info: www.harborarts.com

**Aug. 24** — Stargazing, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Kemil Beach parking area, 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**Aug. 24-25** — Watercolor sale (Dave Knoebber), 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EDT, Art Loft Studio & Gallery, 10232 Wilson Road, New Buffalo, Mich. Info: (630) 441-8976.

**Aug. 24-25** — 33rd Annual Mill Pond Festival, Mill Pond, Union Mills.

**Aug. 25** — Lyric Opera in the Gardens, 3-6 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Tickets: \$45 on EventBrite. Info: (219) 878-9885, www.

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**Aug. 28-29** — Arts in the Park, 7 p.m., Dennis Smith Amphitheater @ Fox Park, LaPorte. Schedule: Aug. 28/Jerica Paliga, pre-concert/Guitar Madness; Aug. 29/Tom Milo Band, pre-concert/ballroom dancing with Dance Sophisticates & Guitar Madness Finale.

**Aug. 26** — Geology Rocks Hike, 3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Through Oct. 5** — Art exhibit, former LaPorte resident Roland Lee Hockett, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2504 Indiana Ave.

**Saturdays through October** — Michigan City Mainstreet Association Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Washington streets.

**Saturdays through Oct. 26** — LaPorte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway parking lot next to Mucho Mas.

**Sundays through Sept. 8** — Mount Baldy Open House, 1-4 p.m., parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: (219) 395-1882.

### In the Region

**Aug. 23** — Valparaiso International Center First Friday series, 7 p.m., Montague/Urschel Gallery @ Porter County Museum, 20 Indiana Ave. Info: www.valpovic.org

**Aug. 23** — Lake Effect Jazz Big Band, 7 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Cost: \$10. Info: (269) 983-3688, boxfactoryforthearts.org

**Aug. 24** — National Park Service Birthday Celebration, 1-2 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**Aug. 25** — Open Mic Night at the Box with hosts Nikki Gauthier/Rob Skibbe, 7-9 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Performer reservation: nikki@boxfactoryforthearts.org. Donations accepted.

### Support Groups

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

**Mondays, Fridays** — Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m. Mon./Franciscan Hospital Clair of Assisi Room, 3500 Franciscan Way; 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: https://oa.org, (219) 879-0300.

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

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

**Thursdays** — Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families, 6 p.m., Franciscan Health Michigan City, Maria Theresia Conference Room C, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: (219) 801-1296.

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4BR/3.5 BA. Newly rehabbed. Open concept, vaulted ceilings, granite and marble countertops, stainless steel appliances, large porch, writers shed. \$399,000. 3% to cooperating brokers. No listing calls please. ll. Broker/Owner. **Call Caroline Rogers at (312) 498-1444**

**Beautiful 5BR/2BA cabin for sale by owner.** Michiana Shores. 1,800 sq. ft. Wood-burning fireplace, hardwood throughout. \$325,000. **Call (847) 769-7800 or email [linkorinternational@gmail.com](mailto:linkorinternational@gmail.com)**

**Beautiful, 2BR, 2BA villa on Briar Leaf golf course for sale by owner.** Open concept on one level, with cherry floors and vaulted ceilings. Golf course view from front and back of unit. Maintenance-free living 15 minutes from Lake Michigan, with golf and fine dining just steps away. \$299,000. **Leave a message at (219) 362-8610 or email [Thirdcoast903@gmail.com](mailto:Thirdcoast903@gmail.com)**

**Harbor Country Book Club**

Harbor Country Book Club meets at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, Aug. 29, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The selection is Pam Jenoff's "Lost Girls of Paris." The Sept. 26 selection is A.J. Finn's "The Woman in the Window."

**Mill Pond Festival**

The 33rd Annual Mill Pond Festival is Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 24-25, at Mill Pond in Union Mills.

The event includes live entertainment, food, crafts, kids games, a beer garden, car show, horse-shoes, kids run, parade, Elvis Tribute and fireworks.



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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**The Turn of the Key** by Ruth Ware (hardcover, \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 336 pages)

“If it’s too good to be true, then it probably is.”

How many times have we heard that one? Rowan Caine should have heeded that old saying and moved on. But there’s another old saying, “Hope springs eternal in the human breast.” And that old saying probably describes Rowan more...

“Dear Mr. Wrexham,

Please help me. I **didn’t** kill anyone.”

That’s what all killers say, right?

But, maybe this once, Rowan Caine is telling the truth — or at least a part of it. Her story is told in the form of a letter she sends to a solicitor in London. Let’s start at the beginning...

Red flags should have popped up as she reads the advert for a live-in nanny in Scotland. First off, she notices the outrageous salary — very high — plus the chance to be a live-in nanny in a real Scottish highland estate far away from the crowded, dirty streets of London where she lives. Like I said, too good to be true?

Rowan is in a crappy job, with crappy pay and a crappy supervisor...how long does it take her to answer the advert? Not long.

The parents seeking a nanny are Sandra and Bill Elincourt, both architects. They own an old Scottish house that is all Victorian from the front made odd by an all modern addition in the back. “...*everything was either self-consciously original or glaringly modern, with no attempt to integrate the two.*”

It’s all run by apps on their phones or panels on the walls — lights, heat, a/c, music, hidden cameras, baby monitor, music, even opening and closing the drapes. How high tech can you go?!

Rowan earns an interview. Sandra seems nice enough. Bill is out of town. There are three girls at home: Petra, 18 months, Ellie, 5, and Maddie, 8. Another daughter, Rhiannon, 14, is away at school. A sign on her door — “*stay the f--- out!*” — says a lot about the teenager and her attitude.

There’s a local woman who comes in to clean and cook for several hours a day who looks at Rowan as if she just slipped the family silver in her pocket; and then there’s Jack Grant, all-around handyman and easy on the eyes.

The Elincourts, like Rowan, are London imports. No local Scot would buy the place because, you see, it’s haunted. It’s a fact first brought out that interview day when, about to leave, Maddie comes up to

Rowan and whispers to her, “*Don’t come here...The ghosts wouldn’t like it.*” It sounds silly, but the child seemed genuinely scared.

Rowan is hired, and she no sooner gets in the door when Sandra tells her she and Bill must leave for an important conference for the next week. Is that a problem? Rowan has barely unpacked, Sandra gives her a tour of the house and a rundown on the panels and phone apps...it’s all a little overwhelming, but what choice does she have? She will be alone with the girls until the weekend when Rhiannon comes home from school.

The first day is a disaster. Petra cries constantly, and the other girls are just difficult.

But that would be nothing compared to *things* that start happening. Rowan may never get a good night’s sleep again...

Something wakes her up. It’s footsteps over her head. Except there’s no “over her head,” just the roof. But there is a locked door at the far end of her room. No key fits the lock. Too many times, the technical stuff goes crazy, but only when Rowan is alone. Other more strange and disturbing occurrences seem to happen that alternately make her look like the fool, or worse, a very bad nanny. Rowan soon discovers Maddie is sneaky and controlling of El-

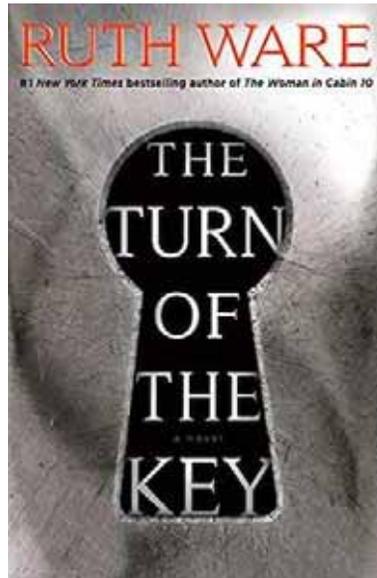
lie. Maddie feigns innocence, of course. But can the children be the perpetrators? Or just the conduits for something more insidious?

It gets worse, much worse — real Gothic keep-looking-over-your-shoulder stuff. Rowan begins to fear for her life as well as her sanity. It can’t all be Rowan’s imagination — some of it is way too personal. Maybe the stories told in the village are true, maybe something evil still lives in this house, because when a dead body is discovered, Rowan is the main suspect. And, she has a weak defense.

The story doesn’t end here though, there’s more to reveal. As in all her books, Ware knows how far to push the envelope, how to leave clues like autumn leaves scattered about, each chapter ending leaving you teetering on a precipice. The final pages would make Alfred Hitchcock proud, establishing her as a preeminent 21st century author. Her four previous novels are: [In a Dark, Dark Wood](#), [The Woman in Cabin 10](#), [The Lying Game](#) and [The Death of Mrs. Westaway](#).

Ware is British and lives in Sussex on the south coast of England. Website: [RuthWare.com](http://RuthWare.com); Twitter and Instagram @RuthWareWriter

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### **117 Northbrook Drive, Shoreland Hills \$319,000**

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### **2025 Juneway Drive, Long Beach \$420,000**

So much room! This wonderful Long Beach home has a spacious open floorplan. There is room for everyone, yet there is plenty of privacy to be had. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths.



### **2817 Roslyn Trail, Long Beach \$359,000**

Many Scandinavian and Italian influences throughout this 5BR/2.5 BA home. Large master bedroom with bath, with 3 additional bds on the main floor. Open kitchen concept flows to the rear decks.

***Beachgoers! Not only have we remodeled, but we also have a new outdoor edition to our Stop 31 office! Complimentary foot shower for beach users! Come by and give us a visit!***



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