



Volume 35, Number 18 Thursday, May 9, 2019

A PLAN FOR VICTORY

by William Halliar



This photo shows employees filling shells with powder.

Take a drive down U.S. 35 south of LaPorte, past the grand façade of LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, and you might pass all-too quickly the colorful sign for the little town of Kingsbury on the west side of the road.

Kingsbury 2019 is a sleepy little settlement that probably has not changed much since its founding by pioneer members of the Kingsbury family, whose ancestral roots trace back to medieval Warwickshire, England. The community established in 1835 once

had a thriving population that made a living at several mills built on nearby streams, as well as a blacksmith shop. It took the name of the founding family, whose moniker translates to “The King’s Fortress.”

Today, Kingsbury has 95 houses and is populated by fewer than 300 people. Kingsbury Town Council President Jeff Matchette and Fire Chief Mark Ritter, who is a third-generation “Kingsburyite,” point out with pride the various historic locations in their

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A KOP employee inspects shells on a conveyor belt.

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tiny town that can all be seen from a single vantage point in front of the volunteer fire station.

Today, it might be hard to imagine the important role the folks of Kingsbury and surrounding communities played in winning World War II, fought to defeat what Winston Churchill warned could well introduce to the world the “Abyss of a new dark ages made all the more sinister and perhaps more protracted by the lights of perverted science.”

In 1918, after the armistice for World War I was signed, people were tired of war. It is estimated more than 40 million casualties occurred: 15-19 million military deaths; more than 23 million wounded, with more than eight million civilian casualties. More than three million Americans died in the four-year conflict, including my great uncle. The horrors of war were beyond comprehension, and the world wanted to get on with life.

But even after so great a sacrifice of life to the cause of peace, the world, and especially Germany, continued to seethe with resentment. It seemed only a matter of time battles would have to be fought again and peace established once and for all.

In the publication “Kingsbury: A Venture in Teamwork” (copyright 1946, Todd & Brown), the opening paragraphs introduce the dilemma of the times. The result was an endeavor and enterprise right here, in the heart of northern Indiana, that would help change the shape of the modern world, and our landscape along with it.

According to “A Venture in Teamwork,” “Kingsbury (the Kingsbury Ordnance Plant — KOP) would not have been a reality had a few farsighted men in ordnance failed to do some constructive

thinking as far back as 1937.” During this time, Mussolini, Hitler and Japan’s Hirohito were arming themselves “with all possible speed.” Many in the United States, on the other hand, were “ignoring the thought of arms, in the vain hope that, God willing, arms would not be necessary.”

A handful of visionary ordnance experts in the U.S. military began to make plans in the face of again going to war and requiring a knowledge of munitions and weapons, and the means to produce them rapidly and in great numbers. It was their goal to bridge the knowledge gap between World War I and the coming world conflict. What would a

modern ordnance plant look like? Where would it be built, and who could be enlisted to do such dangerous work and operate the plant?

These men of vision drafted a plan that included specifications for sites that would provide the best possible locations for such munition factories. These specifications included:

1. Adequate area for construction (between 12,000 and 25,000 sparsely settled acres was required), and the ground should be nearly level.

2. The ideal location must be serviced

by at least two railroads.

3. The area must have access by well-paved roads
4. Adequate water supply, availability of raw materials and a nearby labor force.

Ominously, the specification required the location to allow strategic support in the event of enemy invasion, should that occur.

In 1940, President Franklin Roosevelt approved the building of 73 plants in the continental United States dedicated to creating bullets and large shells for artillery.

The land around the city of LaPorte already had been scoped out by ordnance planners. Although



The official welcome sign to Kingsbury.

LaPorte had a population of only 16,000 people in 1940, there were several towns fewer than 25 miles away with much larger populations, so an adequate workforce would not be a problem. A geological survey revealed many wells; some up to 200 feet in depth could provide upwards of several million gallons of water a day. If these failed, the nearby Kankakee River could be relied upon as a further water source.

Railroads and paved highways, combined with the natural terrain and water sources, made a location near LaPorte perfect. The U.S. military made plans to buy up farmland from locals who were, sometimes, more than willing to give up their land for a good price. They were offered \$40 an acre, since the United States was still in the grips of the Great Depression.

At this juncture, the people of the little town of Kingsbury learning of the military's intent to buy land, and to not only build a dangerous ammunition plant, but also housing to accommodate its workers, rallied together, annexing property surrounding the town and banning the building of temporary housing. Kingsbury incorporated as a town in March 1941; thus, its citizens saved their community from the encroachment of outsiders. Curiously, as property was purchased for the plant, including the little town of Tracy, homes, as well as graveyards, had to be removed. Many of the older residents of these little remote towns now lay in the cemetery at Kingsbury.



A Kingsbury Ordnance Plant bus pickup point for employees.

Progress began on the new ordnance plant as surrounding properties were acquired. A name had to be chosen for the new plant that was the fourth of 73 to be constructed across the United States. According to LaPorte County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz, since Kingsbury was well-established and would not be removed, and had a post office, the

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About the Photos

Special thanks to archivist Mike Fleming for providing *The Beacher* with historical photos. William Halliar took the photos of the site today.

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new plant would be christened after its post office address: Kingsbury Ordnance Plant.

Maj. W.J. D'Espinosa, commanding officer of the plant for the U.S. Quartermaster Corps, demanded "speedy construction." Work began in haste; existing houses and graveyards were removed. In a few months, most of the nearly 400 buildings that would comprise the complex were already completed. Seventy miles of railroad tracks were laid for the plant, while 80 miles of newly paved roads were constructed around buildings and leading up the six guard houses with 10 lanes of traffic 500 feet wide at the entrance to the plant. More than 20,000 square yards of parking lots were created.

Todd & Brown Construction Co. out of New York directed the project, while construction crews of Bates and Rogers carried out the work, all to the designs of architects Giffels, Vallet and Cole.

The result was a wonder to see, although all was very top secret, and no one who worked at the plant or lived in the area spoke much of the project to outsiders. The latest in cutting edge construction methods were used to speed the process. The walls of buildings were constructed of concrete poured into removable forms: a process new at the time. For electrical power, a diesel-electric plant was set up on the grounds. Three engines could produce 3,000 horsepower each to make the KOP self-sufficient.

Soon, the plant was ready to begin operation, and on Aug. 21, 1941, the first 60 millimeter test shell rolled off the production line and was presented to then Indiana Gov. Henry Schricker by commanding officer D'Espinosa. Production of ammunition began in earnest. America and KOP was ready for the horrible fight to come.

In 1942, at its peak, the KOP produced 180,000 fuses, 46,671 40-millimeter shells and 500,000 rounds of 20-millimeter ammunition each and every day. That same year, 20,785 people were employed at the plant, seven days a week.

KOP gave opportunities to many women to work and support the effort of America's troops during the Second World War. At its peak, 7000 women were employed at the plant doing dangerous work in this patriotic endeavor.

As the war began in earnest, ever more workers were needed. Men and women were recruited from as far away as Canada and Alabama. A group of 150 patriotic Jamaicans arrived at KOP with only the clothes on their backs, only to discover the harshness of Northwest Indiana winters. They received winter clothing only after petitioning the U.S. government for relief.

Such an influx of workers required places to live, even to raise families in relative comfort. In some cases, barracks were built in neighboring towns, but more often small villages sprang up near the plant to house the ever-growing workforce.

Advertisement for workers at the time read, "Kingsbury is a good place to work & Northern Indiana is a Good Place to Live," and several communities were created to relieve the housing shortage.

Maple Terrace was described as originally built as having "accommodations" for 400 families, as being the "home" of many KOP workers. It boasted a plentiful supply of fresh water, sewage disposal and "electrical facilities." It had single-family homes plus units for two, four and six families. The homes were heated with coal or fuel oil.

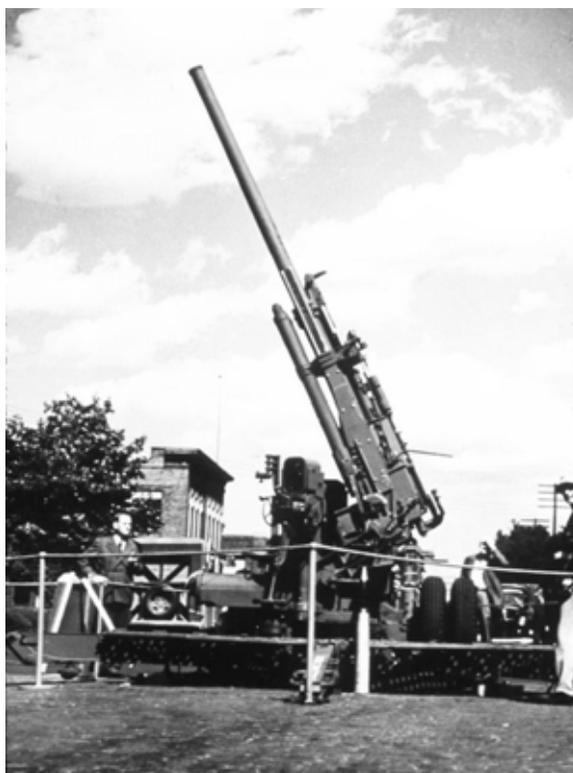
(Maple Terrace, located off 18th street in LaPorte, eventually was annexed by the city.)

Kingsford Heights, originally named "Victory City" by President Roosevelt himself, was described at the time as having "about 200 homes supplied with basic furniture; others are unfurnished." A shopping center was built as part of the community.

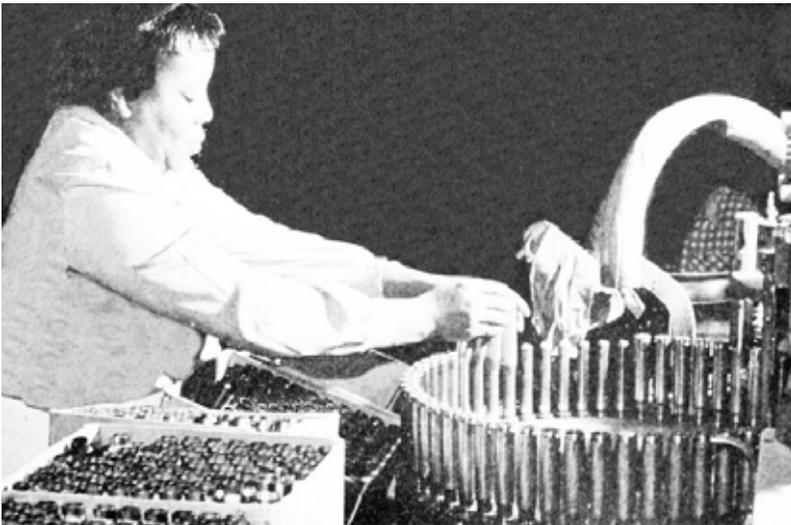
Rents in these two communities ranged from \$27.50 per month to \$35. A bus service was established by KOP to service Maple Terrace, Kingsford Heights and surrounding communities to bring workers into the plant.

While the accommodations of Maple Terrace and Kingsford Heights may not seem luxurious to us in 2019, it must be remembered, America in the early 1940s was just coming out of the Great Depression, and many employees came from backward areas of the country. It was not unusual for workers coming up from the Deep South to never have seen a light bulb or experience in-door plumbing. It was reported by one woman that some of her new co-workers did not know what a bathtub was.

In 1982, Hazel Bellinger of Walkerton, who was 82 at the time, was interviewed by a reporter who



A World War II 90mm anti-aircraft gun with shells made at KOP.



An employee fills 20mm shells with powder

asked about her days at KOP. She was one of the first women hired there, and it was her job to make fuses for live ammunition. She said if you could walk in the door upright, you were hired, but, "No one was wanted who drank too much, and no smoking was allowed."

Hazel said "the most difficult thing for the women was being searched; both men and women were frisked before and after work." Walter, "Dude" Calvert, a local historian and photographer who was recruited to head up the "Identification Department,"

recalls that the FBI did security spot checks of KOP. Not much would slip by their attention. What happened at KOP was top secret: 170 guards kept the \$47 million plant secure night and day, so not much is known about the operation, save personal remembrances.

Hazel's remembrances continue.

"No one wore any metal jewelry or hairpins," she said. That was just too dangerous. "People often worked seven days a week with seldom a weekend off," but they did make the princely sum of \$2 an hour.

She recalls that when workers were first hired, they trained for their dangerous jobs by using sugar and cornmeal to simulate gunpowder and nitroglycerin. "When we switched to the real thing," she said, "many showed their cowardice and quit.

"We either towed the mark, or out the gate we went."

One time, Hazel had finished a particularly difficult project and lay down next to a loaded shell to take a break. Her boss came by and asked if it did not bother her to be so close to such high explosives. Hazel quipped, "Well, at least if it went off, you wouldn't have to bury me."

There were occasional mishaps. Perhaps Hazel, in jest, was recalling the recent newspaper story of a

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girl at a similar factory who literally disintegrated when a shell she was working on exploded. Two women who were standing nearby were partially shielded from the blast by the first girl's dismembered body, but both were seriously injured, one fatally.

Hazel proudly recalled, "I worked to make all the pellets (fuses) I could. Those out there fighting weren't whining, and I was out to help win the war."

During the Korean War, Fern Eddy Schultz began working at KOP just two years out of high school. For the first two years after graduating, she worked at Indiana State Prison. At KOP, Fern was secretary to the loading supervisor, a position that gave her responsibility over all of the clerks in the facility. For this position, she had a high security clearance and could move about fairly freely throughout the facility.

Fern remembers eight concrete bunkers running parallel to each other, each numbered and placed a mile apart so an accidental explosion in one building would not damage its neighbors. Some buildings were built partially underground to offer some protection to adjoining buildings in case of accidental detonations. Each building housed an assembly line, and each had its own clockhouse for the work-



LaPorte County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz, discussing her days at Kingsbury Ordnance Plant.

ers. Fern worked in Building 2128.

Workers who handled black powder were paid more because they had the most dangerous job. They wore white cotton "powder suits" and special shoes with no nails or metal in them that could cause sparks. Brave souls who handled Tetryl, which is highly explosive and used as a booster in fuses to set off the main charge, were known for the orange color the chemical gave to their skin.

All supplies arrived at the plant by rail. She remembers a place in the compound called "The Burning Grounds," where test rounds were fired to prove and test their deadlines.

The managers of KOP tried to maintain a family atmosphere. There were sports teams, a little theater group, even a newspaper called *The Pellet Press* that offered local news and reports of what was happening on the frontlines of the war.

Ammunition from each U.S. plant was marked as to location of manufacture; thus, shells from Kingsbury Ordnance Plant were marked KOP. Women working on the line began "blessing" the shells they made with bright red kisses plastered on the sides of the shiny brass shell casings. As might be expected, the government at first discouraged this non-conformity, but eventually saw the blessings as a great morale booster to the boys on the front.

The Sept. 22, 1944, issue of *The Pellet Press* ran the headline, "Two Kingsbury Shells Down Two Planes on the Anzio Beach." The following story told how KOP line inspector Martha Piescott, who had blessed the shells with her own lips, received letters from soldiers in the field telling her how accurate the shells were. She continued to correspond with them throughout the remainder of the war.

Yet another story said, "Just keep pouring us ammunition and we will shoot it up," also reporting that "Enormous Quantities of KOP ammunition used on beachhead."

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A KOP "March" was written and performed to bolster the patriotism of workers. It expresses sentiments of those involved and the patriotism of the day (words and music by Morton Hague):

"Keep 'em flying, keep those planes in the air, and do a job today that backs the boys over there, while they are fighting for your home and mine.

"Kingsbury Ordnance will get there on time; ten thousand tanks and jeeps are needing land mines and shell, to show those Axis powers we've got a new kind of hell.

"Your share in freedom is shells worked today; that's the American plan for victory...Fight the Kingsbury way!"

At the war's end in 1945, most of the ordnance plants across the country were shut down, but KOP and a sister plant in Iowa were put on reserve. That is, they were closed, but kept in a condition that would keep them prepared to be brought on line within six months. Many KOP employees found work in the region's steel mills, the women returned home, building families with returning soldiers.

Production at KOP was ramped up again in 1949 for the start of the Korean War, which was fought between 1950 and 1953. But the methods of warfare had changed. Never again would such large quantities of gunpowder- and nitroglycerin-packed ammunition be required. Operation was transferred to the American Safety Razor Corp. in 1957, and the plant shut down in 1959. Final operations wrapped up in 1962. A 1961 *Herald-Argus* article announced more than 1,000 buildings would be offered for sale to private buyers at the former KOP location.

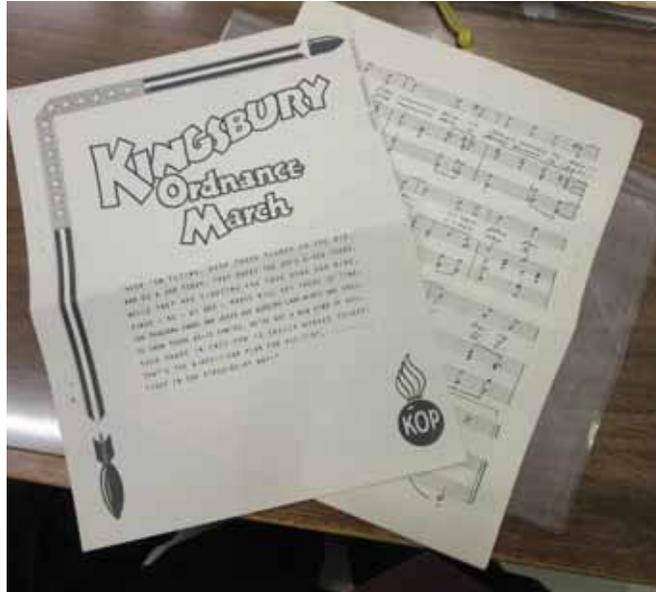
Historian Walter Calvert noted much of the equipment was too large to move off site, so trenches were dug in the sand and equipment buried. The buildings were left abandoned for "Urban Spelunk-

ers" to explore.

In 1965, the Federal government deeded 7,280 acres of the old ordnance property to the state and it became the Kingsbury Fish and Wildlife Area. Some parcels of land were returned to farming, and what remained eventually became the home of Kingsbury Industrial Park.

Most people today travelling along U.S. 35 hardly notice the colorful new sign for the sleepy little town of Kingsbury, much less pay attention to the Kingsbury Industrial Park entrance, but if you take the time to drive through the wildlife area, you can still see traces of the old KOP. Some buildings still stand: concrete bunkers hunker under grassy slopes where once giant shells were exploded for testing. There are areas marked off against trespassers warning of ground still contaminated from exploding ordnance. One urban legend even speaks of unexploded shells that remain in the ground to this day.

So much history, so many families raised, and the great work done to support the winning of a war that would save the free world.



The sheet music for the KOP "March."

So much history, so many families raised, and the great work done to support the winning of a war that would save the free world.



Two of the remaining bunkers today.

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Finding Inspiration in an Unlikely Place

I don't make a habit of seeking inspiration in the ladies restroom, but today's pick-me-up was timely. Normally, my work week starts off slow, with a loose schedule of insignificant tasks. Everything I tackled today went awry. It felt like somebody left open a cabinet door I found shin first. Finding a method to laugh off the mishaps of the day was unexpected and welcomed.

For the better part of a week, I've had a problem with a key on my laptop. The letter "g" is stuck. Not just sticky, but frozen. Whenever it's depressed, no character appears. For a writer, a sticky key is annoying, a frozen key a nightmare. To make matters worse, the spell checker doesn't always kick in, so I've resorted to manually copying and pasting a "g" where it needs to be. Do you have any idea how many words there are in the English language with the letter "g"?

When my "g" stopped performing, I struggled for about a half hour before nabbing a genius bar appointment at a mall Apple store. You know the drill. Five days out, the open slot I nabbed bumped hard into the dinner hour. Over the weekend, my "g" and me had frustrating writing sessions, so when the sun rose this morning, I did a happy dance. Finally, it was Monday: the day of unsticking my "g." I was determined to be early for my repair. One minute past 4:30 and I knew the Apple gatekeepers would drop me from the queue and tell me to reschedule.

My fancy watch is partially to blame for almost missing the longed-for genius bar appointment. In strapping it on this morning, I noticed it had gone the way of my sticky "g." With just over an hour before I was due at the Apple store, I dashed into the jewelers. Leaving it for repair, my cell phone would function as a timepiece in its absence.

During the trek across town from the jeweler to the mall, traffic built up behind a fender bender. As I checked the dashboard clock, I noticed the tire pressure warning light was on. (You can't make this stuff up.) The driver's side tire has been an intermittent issue, and I cursed the timing. The air kiosk at my friendly Mobil would have to wait. Fingers crossed I wasn't about to have a flat.

Loaded down with my computer backpack and wearing ballet flats, I hustled through the crowded mall parking lot, skirted around oblivious shoppers

That Girl, This Life

Julie Ryan McGue

and landed at Apple's threshold completely out of breath. With one minute to spare, I'd honored my time slot, but the technician didn't. I waited a whopping 20 minutes before he finally sauntered over. His face gleamed with appropriate Apple cheer as I explained my sticky "g" dilemma. With a nod and another smile, he disappeared into the back room with my computer.

Five minutes later, my laptop sported a new key, but this "g" was an identical twin to the old one — she was sticky, too. The ultimate solution was as appealing as being bumped from an oversold flight: mail in my computer for a keyboard overhaul, the turnaround time estimated at seven days. If you're writing a monthly column, crafting a memoir and enrolled in an online course, being unplugged for 24 hours, much less seven days, is unthinkable.

Don't you have a backup computer, the Apple guy asked? Uh, yeah, except my ancient laptop isn't easily accessible. I glared at the familiar sight of a frozen "g" and sent ugly thoughts towards the ineffective and tardy Apple technician. I made the sterling choice to wait and deal with the extended service scheme until my old computer nestled in my hands.

So, I walked out of the Apple store in full possession of my laptop, no watch and praying to all my favorite patron saints that in my absence, the driver side front tire wasn't kissing the pavement. Jumping back into rush hour traffic, I praised my trusty saints and called my favorite Mexican joint for takeout. Who tempts fate by cooking when the afternoon trembled with mechanical failures?

Since my take-out wasn't ready, I ventured into the restroom. The two regular stalls were occupied, but the handicapped one was free. I lucked into a bathroom the size of a small apartment. With plenty of hooks to hang up my purse and sweater, the room was clean, possessed a full roll of toilet paper and held a toilet bowl *and* sink. It offered another bonus: a mural. "Hey Gorgeous" was stenciled in huge silver letters across the wall. Chuckling out loud, I washed up and left a hefty tip with the hostess.

It's not every day you leave a public bathroom with a smile on your face, especially on the heels of an afternoon wrought with minor fiascos. With the scent of home-cooked Mexican tickling my taste buds and the memory of the bathroom mural perking up my mood, my grin survived the drive home. Focusing on the bathroom's cheeky compliment, I forgot about the tire warning light, the watch and my frozen "g." Those pesky problems will sort themselves out over time. I'm not letting anything else spoil the remainder of my Monday.



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Monday Musicale Student Awards Competition Winners

Winners in Monday Musicale’s 2019 Student Awards Competition performed in concert Sunday, April 28, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.



Senior Division winners are: (bottom row, from left) Aglaja Petrova, Monday Musicale Award; and Madeline Martino, Mildred Bowman Memorial Award. The top row is (from left) Andrew Walma, Marilyn Whiten Memorial Award; Victorio Sirugo, First Congregational Church Award; and Aidan Feeney, Lee Meyer Piano Award/James J. Guerrucci Music Achievement Award. Not present was Victoria Horne, Dr. LaTourette Stockwell Memorial Scholarship.

Honorees in grades four through 12 received certificates, ribbons, engraved plaques and scholarships totaling \$3,100. Auditions were held April 14 at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.



Junior Division winners are: (bottom row, from left) James Mandeville, Elementary Piano; and Hunter Zdyb, Middle School Instrumental. The top row is (from left) Brooklynn Wade, Middle School Voice/Joy Carson Memorial Award; and Hannah Feeney, Middle School Piano.

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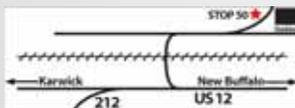
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Seasonal Traditions: Art Attack and Zine & Small Print Fest

by Linda Weigel

The 26th annual Art Attack in Harbor Country (April 26-28), promoted as celebrating “All that is Art,” offered galleries, open houses, music, food and more.

The weather may not have been cooperative Saturday and Sunday, but Friday was a great day to appreciate a wide range of crafts and fine arts.

Art Attack is spread out along Red Arrow Highway, from New Buffalo north to Sawyer and as far east as Three Oaks. Venues differed on opening times and dates, and a careful reading of the promotional brochure or Harbor Country website provided the necessary guide.



Examples of Jeff Lieb wearable art.

I began my excursion Friday in New Buffalo, stopping by Indian Summer Boutique, 439 S. Whittaker St., which featured the new spring line of wearable art jewelry by Jeff Lieb. His designs incorporate elements such as crystal, stone, aluminum, rubber and vintage findings. Dramatic and colorful, the organic nature of the work often included spiral and flowing symbol-like patterns reminiscent of ancient Celtic designs.

Local Color Gallery, 16187 Red Arrow Highway in Union Pier, highlighted seaglass jewelry by Carol and Mark Hall of White Light Production, as well as paintings, prints, sculptures, ceramics and photography.

The Halls have been producing their art for 32 years, originally using only “ocean-tumbled glass collected on the beach in the Bahamas and recycled glass. As their work gained popularity and the glass



Local Color Gallery in Union Pier, Mich.

supply dwindled, they started producing seaglass in their studio,” according to an artist’s statement.

Local Color Gallery was established in 1984 and now displays work by more than 90 artists. The gallery is easy to locate, and the range of work for sale is tempting and nicely presented.

Fredman Design Group, 15998 Red Arrow Highway in Union Pier, has been in the interior design business for more than 40 years.

For Art Attack, it highlighted reclaimed wood and furniture pieces by Aronson Woodworks, creators of custom handcrafted furniture in Iowa. The



Examples from Aronson Woodworks: the round “Cookie Serving Boards” and “Yin & Yang Serving Boards.”

If You Go

- Indian Summer Boutique, open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT daily.
- Local Color Gallery, open noon to 5 p.m. EDT daily.
- Fredman Design Group, open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT daily.
- Sweet Pea Studio, contact owner Mimi Edgerton at (269) 426-1790 for times.
- Studio b. Gallery, open Friday to Sunday.
- Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekends.

beauty and uniqueness of Aronson furniture and accessories is stunning, emphasizing their new finish called Claize, which is unlike anything I have seen. I loved the contemporary feel, and how the trademarked finish enhanced the woodgrain. The building, itself, is filled with numerous examples of these and other stunning works, including many other striking wall pieces I greatly admired.

Sweet Pea Studio, 5794 Sawyer Road in Sawyer, is located behind the home of owner Mimi Edgerton. Together with her mother, they represent a 60-year history of creating custom-painted furniture. Recently, they introduced a new line of hand-painted tin ceiling tile designs: mini artworks that would delight any farmhouse-chic shopper.



A recycled/hand painted bureau at Sweet Pea Studio.

This is very much a vintage-styled, cozy shop completely opposite in presentation and objects to the Fredman Design Group. Regardless, both sites represent the variety and range of hand-painted, reclaimed and recycled artistic visionary possibilities available to the region.

Studio b. Gallery, 114 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, is a working artist studio and retail space for the greeting card line, Occasionally Speaking. It also includes paintings, sculpture, jewelry and prints. The Occasionally Speaking line of printed cards are rich in textural quality, created using soy ink on 100 percent cotton stationery imported from Italy and featuring letter-pressed quotes on a creamy background. Letter-pressed works are not printed digitally, but rather on a traditional press with movable metal type: classy, and a revival of a highly skilled, artisanal form.



A Studio b. Gallery wall of art and Occasionally Speaking cards.



Artist Suzy Vance.

For the second year, Lubeznik Center for the Arts hosted the Zine and Small Print Fest.

Poets, artists and self-publishers filled the Hyndman Gallery April 27 with a host of exciting artistic efforts. Education Director Hannah Hammond-Hagman did a superb organizational job combining the upstairs zine and small print artists with the downstairs poetry readings and more.

Hammond said this was a “better crowd than last year, and the show was equally as great. The poetry readings and opportunities for local and visiting artists were excellent. It was fantastic and a well-attended event, with over 330 people coming through! Everyone enjoyed themselves and the vendors were really happy.”

The range and variety of work was showcased at rows of tables, often piled high with original published works and small accessories.

The event would not have been possible without the support of partners Mythos Publication, Rachel Calerone, Calumet Artist Residency and Michigan City Public Library, as well as sponsors LaPorte Seamless Gutters and Michigan City Mainstreet Association.



Artist Casey King's display.

Personally, I am already looking forward to next year's event. Meanwhile, if you missed attending the festival, the exhibit “Material Culture” continues through May 24 in the downstairs NIPSCO Gallery. It includes copies of many of the artists' original zines as shown in the event.



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“Rush” Exhibit

LaPorte's Thaddeus C. Gallery will present “Rush,” its first summer-season exhibit, through June 8, with an opening reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, May 11.



“Crashing Wave,” Cui Ji's oil on canvas.

Artwork inspired by summer is the focus. Indiana-based artists, as well as those from Chicago, New York, Pittsburg, Beijing and England, will be on display, including Billy Pozzo, John Hoogeveen, Bec Young, Cui Ji, Shaun Slifer, P. Charles and Kristine Virsis.

The exhibit will remain open late Saturday, June 8, which is Cruise Night in Downtown LaPorte.

The gallery is located at 822 Lincolnway, LaPorte. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and by appointment. Call (219) 326-8626 or email info@thaddeusc.com for more details.

Chamber Networking Event

The Michigan City Chamber of Commerce invites members, non-members and community groups to participate in its Community & Business EXPO from 3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, May 16, at Blue Chip Casino's Stardust Event Center.

In addition, area artists and non-profits are encouraged to participate.

Eateries, including Bartlett's Fish Camp, Barker Pub, Quaker Steak & Lube and Zorn Brew Works, will offer food and drink samples. Exhibitors will have giveaways and prize drawings, while WEFM will broadcast live from 3 to 5 p.m.

Contact the chamber at (219) 874-6221 or email info@MCACchamber.com for details.



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2. Don't "spike" your trees. Spiking causes wounds that lead to infection and tree decline. Anyone who spikes trees is causing long-term damage to the trees.
3. Avoid damage to the roots. Large trucks cause soil compaction and digging up roots cause frayed wounds that can't heal and create access points for pathogens (fungi) that start root rot and weaken the trees structural stability. Lawn mowers can also cause damage to the root flares.
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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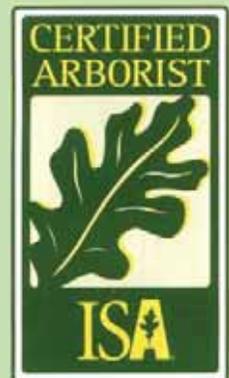
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WHAT WOULD YOU LOVE TO DO IF YOU WERE NOT UNSTEADY ON YOUR FEET?

Dear Fellow NW Indiana Resident,

Imagine the thrill of going to your grandkids' ballgame, maybe baseball or soccer – and not having to worry about losing your balance.

And think of the look on the faces of your friends when you jitterbug or swing your way through that dance floor.

Or how would you like to tend to that garden of yours and not have to wonder if you'll get dizzy when you bend over.

These things are possible and can come true.

You can get steadier on your feet ...and regain your balance confidence.

But you need to do something...

They say in any issue, in this case unsteadiness or dizziness, there are 3 ways to approach it.

The first way is the worst...IGNORE it.

Ignoring does not mean you are not vocal about it.

People tend to blame age...thinking that unsteadiness is normal as we get older.

They say they don't have time...and their balance is nothing to be concerned about.

However, deep inside, they know something is wrong.

The second way people approach a balance issue is to PATCH it.

Patching in its' worst form is giving up on the things we love to do.

I've met a lot of patients who have given up...

Walking...hiking...golfing...dancing...shopping...

And all the simple things in their daily life they used to enjoy...all because they are unsteady.

If only people knew...

There is a best way to approach a balance, unsteadiness or dizziness issue...

HANDLE it!

But how do you handle it?

FREE Balance and Dizziness Workshop

It starts with attending my FREE Balance and Dizziness Workshop.

During the workshop, I will discuss in detail:

- The 3 components of balance control that help keep you steady.
- How to know if each component is working properly the way it's supposed to (these are simple tests you can do on your own without any expensive equipment. The 3rd test is what people usually fail the most).
- Simple techniques to strengthen all 3 components (we will do them together during the workshop; one of them you would have never thought would make such a big difference).
- Top 3 things you can do to decrease your risk of falling (people who fail the tests and don't do anything about it are at 3x higher risk of falling)

So call my office now at (219) 380-0809 in LaPorte and secure your spot for my Balance and Dizziness Workshop..

- Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists- LaPorte office **Tuesday, May 21, from 5-6 PM** at 1405 E. Lincolnway Suite B (across Indiana 2 from Walmart, in the same building as Hair Fitness).

This workshop is FREE, but I am only taking 20 attendees due to space constraints.

Sincerely,



Dr. Arlan Albuero, PT, DPT, MTC
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P.S. As a bonus, all attendees receive a copy of my most recently published report on the **Top 8 Secrets to Improve Balance and Prevent falling.**

P.P.S. Call (219) 380-0809 in LaPorte now to secure your spot for my Balance and Dizziness Workshop on **Tuesday, May 21.**

Lions Club Scholars Awards Luncheon



Pictured are: (from left) Cindy Hall, Michigan City Lions scholarship chairwoman; Barbara Eason-Watkins, Michigan City Area Schools superintendent; Brandon Fortner – Ed Paine Mathematics; Cornell Branch – Ed Paine Social Studies; Autumn Reynolds – Ed Paine English; Kera Cannan – Ed Paine Science; Sydney Starks – Lions Memorial Scholarship; Amanda Sparks – Warren Jones Memorial Scholarship; MCHS Principal Candy Van Buskirk; and Linda Meyer of MCHS.

The Michigan City Lions Club recently held its Scholars Awards luncheon in which the ninth-grade Scholastic Achievement Awards and Lions Club memorial scholarship for 12th-graders were awarded.

Each year, the club recognizes outstanding ninth-graders in English, social studies, math and science to remember lion Ed Paine, who served as the international Lions president in 1942-1943.

Michigan City High School ninth-graders receiving the Ed Paine award were: Autumn Reynolds — English; Cornell Branch — social studies; Brandon Fortner — math; and Kera Cannan — science.

Marquette High School ninth-graders receiving the Ed Paine award were: Ella Gage — English; Hanson Huang — social studies; Devin Singh — math; and Maria Hoang — science.

The Memorial Scholarship, a tribute to deceased members, goes to a graduating senior who demonstrates outstanding achievement in leadership, scholarship and service to their school and community.

The 2019 winner from Marquette High School was Benjamin Pizarek. He has been involved in everything from theater and Science Olympiad to

cross country and soccer, along with many other school and community activities. He also received the Eagle Scout Award, working more than 150 hours to build a concession stand, new fence and gate for the Queen of all Saints athletic field. The project also included raising nearly \$1,500 to fund the project and recruiting volunteers.

Pizarek will attend Purdue West Lafayette to pursue a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering technology, starting classes this summer.

The 2019 MCHS winner was Sydney Starks, who is involved in many school and community activities, including National Honor Society, Spanish Club, student council, United Way and Leadership LaPorte County. She was named Defensive Player of the Year in 2017 for soccer and is the senior class president for 2019. She has volunteered for Salvation Army and the Northern Indiana Food Bank. She will attend Indiana University Bloomington and major in marketing and inclusiveness.

Gary Bartholomew, Denise Lipke and other former Elston alumni provided a special \$1,000 scholarship in honor of the late Lion Warren Jones for his commitment to education and the club.

The honor went to MCHS senior Amanda Sparks, who is involved in many organizations, including the Japanese Club and Japanese National Honor Society, Mathletes and student council. She has volunteered for The Salvation Army, St. Paul's soup kitchen and Junior Achievement. She will attend Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis studying health sciences, hoping to become a pediatric physician's assistant.

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Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra

Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra's Winds, Concert Strings, Encore Strings and Youth Symphony will perform at 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, May 12, at Howard Performing Arts Center, 4160 E. Campus Circle Drive, Berrien Springs, Mich.

The LMYO is an educational component of Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, targeting Southwest Michigan musicians from kindergarten to college senior. The four ensembles reflect the advancement to more complex music as students progress on their instruments. Membership is by audition. There are four public concerts each year, and the program includes scholarships to summer music camps, sectional rehearsals with SMSO members and free tickets to SMSO concerts.



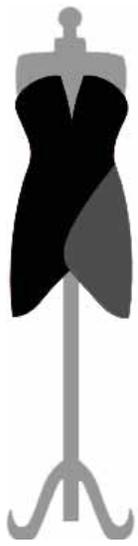
Zhang

The May 12 concert features Kathy Zhang playing "Zigeunerweisen Opus 20 (Gypsy Airs)" and a cello highlight from the Encore Strings. Zhang, the concertmaster of St. Joseph High School Orchestras, has participated in LMYO for eight years.

The groups are conducted by Mark Hollandsworth (LMYO Winds), Beth Oeseburg (Concert Strings), Rachel Cabanilla-Sinnett (Encore Strings) and Burke Lokey (Youth Symphony). This is Hollandsworth's first time conducting the LMYO Winds.

The program includes selections from "Beauty and the Beast" (Concert Strings), Bizet's "Carmen" (Encore Strings) and "Symphony No. 9 ('New World') Opus 95" (Youth Symphony).

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and seniors. Call (269) 982-4030 or visit www.smso.org for more details.



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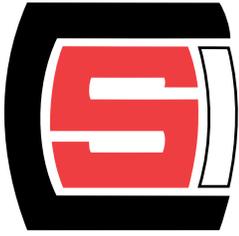
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Michigan City in Bloom

Editor's note — The Michigan City in Bloom committee submitted this letter.

The Michigan City in Bloom Committee met in early April to discuss how effective our efforts to beautify Michigan City were last year.

Our new approach in 2018 of rewarding businesses, private residences, not-for-profits, schools and churches who have clean, well-kept front yards, and who attempt to add some beauty to their curb appeal in the form of real flowers, shrubs or other landscape features, was a resounding success. We were able to identify so many beautiful yards that might not have ever been brought to our attention. As a result, we will continue with this format of making a concerted effort to explore Michigan City looking for beautiful yards and relying upon citizens to notify us of yards they believe are noteworthy. No yard is too small! However lovely backyards may be, they will not be considered for our purposes. All gardens/ yards must be visible from the street. In addition, you must be a Civil City resident of Michigan City.

If you receive a postcard from us, it will inform you we've noticed your efforts. You can bring the postcard to Michigan City Senior Center in Washington Park, and you will be rewarded with a sign to place in your yard. When gardens are maintained from year to year, stickers (indicating the current year) will be given to place on the original yard sign, so please preserve your sign during the winter.

Yes, you can nominate yards, including your own, by private messaging us on our Facebook page, by email at marooney@comcast.net or by calling Debbie Wilson, Planning Department/City of Michigan City, at (219) 873-1419, Ext. 2027.

If you haven't done so already, please "like" us on FB: Michigan City in Bloom. Let's make Michigan City even more beautiful than ever!

Documents That Shaped America

In four consecutive weeks starting May 15, classes at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St., will take a deeper look into documents that shaped America.

Those documents include the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and a selection of amendments and articles, and a handful of important U.S. court cases.

The presenter is John "Pat" O'Leary, an active member of the State Bar of Michigan, past president of the Detroit Bar Association, adjunct professor at the University of Detroit Mercy Law School, adjunct professor at Purdue University and continuing education educator affiliated with The University of Notre Dame.

Class size is limited. Sign up in person at the front desk or call (269) 469-2933.



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“Bringing Nature Home” Awards

July 15 is the application deadline for Shirley Heinze Land Trust’s ninth annual “Bringing Nature Home” Awards.

The initiative recognizes those who landscape their grounds or yards using plant species native to Northwest Indiana. Businesses, institutions, public agencies, landscapers and home gardeners are eligible. Founded by The Friends of Shirley Heinze, the program takes its name from a book written by native-plant advocate Douglas Tallamy.

Plantings in Lake, Porter, LaPorte and St. Joseph counties are eligible, with assistance from the St. Joseph County Parks Department for applicants in its area. Full program details and an application are at www.heinzetrust.org/bringing-nature-home.html. Arrangements will be made to visit the plantings after the application is received.

Visit www.heinzetrust.org, call (219) 242-8558 or access its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/heinzetrust for more details.



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Behind-the-Scenes Tour

Learn about the inner workings of South Bend’s historic 38-room Oliver Mansion during the “Gaslights & Granite Boulders” tour at 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, May 11.

Conducted by Deputy Executive Director Kristie Erickson, the tour demonstrates the evolution of the house’s technology by showcasing the current electrical project. It also will take guests to areas of the 12,000 square-foot home not seen on regular tours, such as the pump house, attic and lower levels of the mansion and Carriage House.

Admission is \$25, or \$20 for members. Tickets are limited, with reservations required by calling (574) 235-9664 or at www.historymuseumSB.org

The mansion is located at 808 W. Washington St.

Sons of Norway

Jim Nelson, Sons of Norway Scandiana Lodge president and genealogical researcher, will discuss Ancestors.com at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 9, at The Bauler Center, 100 Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

A potluck featuring Swedish waffles is at 5:30 p.m. Call (219) 877-7097 for more information.

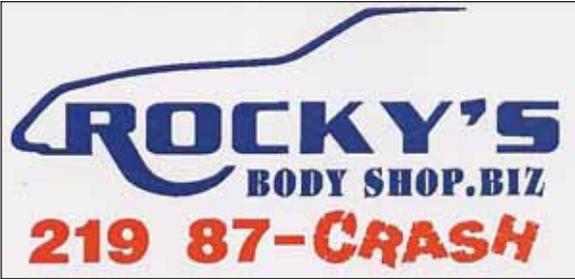
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Indiana Dunes National Park

The following programs are planned:

• **Migration Birding Hike from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, May 11, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Brad Bumgardner, birding expert and Indiana Audubon Society executive director, leads the program that heads by carpool to the month's birding spot. Types of birds sighted can vary and are based on recent sightings of the previous week to determine what locations to visit. Take binoculars, and dress for the weather.

• **Art in the National Park from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturdays through May 11 at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet local artists who use the dunes as inspiration to take photos, paint, draw or write. Programs may be inside or outside.

• **Mother's Day Wildflower Hike from 10-11:30 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 12, at Heron Rookery.**

Join a ranger for a hike to see what woodland flowers are blooming. Be prepared for muddy conditions. Meet at the east parking lot on County Road 600 East in Michigan City.

• **A ranger will lead a two-hour tour of IDNP in one of the park's 16-passenger buses from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 12.**

The tour meets at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. After a brief introduction, participants board for the tour, which is free, but reservations are required by calling (219) 395-1882.

• **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sundays through May 26 at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

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.



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Women in Leadership

Kim Becker, co-founder of Hello Gorgeous! of Hope Inc., will speak on "Winning the Network Game" during the next Women in Leadership of LaPorte County meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St.

Becker's presentation will include the definition of, and two types of, networking, the networking game face and seven steps of effective networking.

The non-profit Hello Gorgeous! provides free professional makeovers and cosmetic education to women battling all cancers. She has been a business owner, keynote speaker, author and national educator for more than 25 years.

The May meeting is sponsored by Nora Akins, a human resource compliance performance consultant. It is open to guests. Reservations can be made at www.women-in-leadership.com



Becker

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **A Cold Blooded Brunch at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 11.**

Stop by the Nature Center to watch reptiles and amphibians eat their morning meals.

- **High Dune Hike at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 11.**

Meet a naturalist at the nature center for a hike to the summit of the state's highest sand dune. Wear hiking shoes.

- **Mother's Day Craft from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 12.**

Stop by the Nature Center Auditorium to make a free craft from natural materials.



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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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin
 (Never known to fail.)
 Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Makerspace: open lab hours at 3 p.m. Thursdays in May.**

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

• **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, May 9.**

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

• **Needle Arts League at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays in May.**

Membership to the group, formerly known as the Knit Club, is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome.

• **Monday Musicale: Music...a Magic Key at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 11.**

The annual concert celebrates National Music Week.

• **Story Time at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., at 11 a.m. Monday, May 13.**

The Story Time Crew presents stories, songs, activities and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive your child's name tag. The program is appropriate for children birth-5 accompanied by an adult.

• **Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 13.**

The foreign-policy discussion program returns for its 21st season. The discussion is "A Tested Relationship: The U.S. and Mexico." Reading material is available at the circulation desk.

• **Story Time Graduation at 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, and 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 15.**

The library will honor Story Time participants — ages birth through 5 accompanied by an adult — with a celebration. Arrive early to receive the child's name tag. Dress up and take cameras.

• **CoderDojo at 5 p.m. Monday, May 15.**

The free club for ages 8-18 explores programming such as Ozobots, Spheros, Chibi Chips and 3-D modeling. Coding tools include Scratch, Hopscotch and MakeCode. Children 12 and younger must have a parent attend. Visit the library's CoderDojo page or contact Jonathan at jlovet@mclib.org for details.

• **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.

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **NorthShore Health Center free blood-pressure screenings from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, May 9, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Interested patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

• **“Raised Bed Vegetable Gardening for Beginners” from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9, at Hageman Library.**

Purdue Advanced Master Gardener Joann Brown Rose will reveal how to plan, build and plant a raised garden bed. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-9080.

• **Bits & Bytes series, Manage Your Passwords, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9, in the Thomas Library Serials/Automation Department, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

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

• **Music at the Museum from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9, at Westchester Township Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

The Flashbacks will perform. Members are: Suzanne Keldsen, playing guitar, recorders and fiddle; Julietta Raby, playing fiddle, mandolin and guitar; Nancy Cairns on dulcimer and ukulele; Paul Mache playing guitar and banjo; and Marti Pizzini on autoharp, dulcimer and guitar.

• **Lego Club from 4 to 5 p.m. Friday, May 10, at the Thomas Library Children’s Department.**

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

• **Maker Mondays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, May 13, in the Thomas Library upstairs IT classroom.**

Local software engineer Adam Johnson will lead a hands-on program, appropriate for patrons 12 and older, about Arduino circuit devices.

• **DIY Pot Painting from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, at Thomas Branch.**

The program for adults focuses on crafting designs, and painting flower and herb mini pots. Call (219) 926-7696 to register.

Genealogical Society

The LaPorte County Genealogical Society meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the LaPorte park department building, 250 Pine Lake Ave.

After the business meeting, William Adams and Kim Wiseman will present “The Vacant Chair: Civil War Soldiers and Widows.”

Visitors are welcome. Visit <http://lpcgs.blogspot.com> for more details.



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Better Hearing & Speech Forum

The Michigan City Human Rights Commission, in celebrating Better Hearing & Speech Month, will present the Better Hearing & Speech Forum from 5 to 6:15 p.m. Thursday, May 9, in Room A142 at Michigan City High School, 8466 Pahs Road.

Stacy Attar, director of Michigan City Area Schools' Student Support Services, along with Susan Baldwin and Lori Jones, MCAS Deaf & Hard of Hearing educators, and Allison Hauser and Collin Oswald, MCAS speech language pathologists, will discuss services, therapies and devices available at MCAS, along with signs, symptoms and treatments associated with hearing loss and communication disorders.

Other speakers include Dyer Precinct Committeewoman Kim Mettache, who is hard of hearing, and Michigan City High School student Candice Parish, who will share her experiences as a hard of hearing student.

Following the forum, the ASL Club will presents "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" during a Pops Night concert at 7 p.m. May 9 at the school.

Visit www.emichigancity.com/cityhall/departments/humanrights for more details.

5x5 Benefit Exhibit

Regional artists have united to support the annual "5x5" exhibit that benefits Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway, with an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, May 10.

Proceeds support the non-profit museum and its programs. Each participating artist donated his/her work, with those involved ranging from established, to mid-career and emerging artists.

At the reception, the first person to "claim" a particular piece of art adds it to his/her collection. Those interested buy a "claim tag(s)" for \$55 each, available before and during the show. Visitors enter the exhibit space, find their favorite piece(s) and place their claim tag proximate to the piece they would like. If the artwork already has been "claimed," it's not available.

Call (219) 229-1483 for details.

Lunch & Learn Series

"Grieving the Alzheimer's Diagnosis" is the topic of the next free "Lunch & Learn" program from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, at Rittenhouse Village at Michigan City, 4300 Cleveland Ave.

Programs in the series allow caregivers to learn about relevant topics and network with fellow caregivers. A free lunch is provided to caregivers who make advance reservations by calling (800) 552-7928, Ext. 7132.



American Red Cross

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

- Edgewood Elementary School, 502 Boyd Circle, 1:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9.
- St. Paul Lutheran Church, 106 E. County Road 1100 North, Chesterton, noon-6 p.m. Thursday, May 9.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, May 13.

Give through June 10 and get a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. 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.

Call for Artists

Local artists are invited to create chairs, benches, stools and footstools for the second Chair Affair, an auction fundraiser in late June.

The funds will support Neighbor by Neighbor, a social-service program in its second year of linking residents in Chikaming, New Buffalo and Three Oaks townships with resources and social services. Primarily funded by The Pokagon Fund, it served more than 100 people in its first year.

Chair Affair is from 7 to 8:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, June 26, at 19 North, 19 N. Elm St., which is upstairs from the new Kitchen & Pantry in downtown Three Oaks.

Artistic creations can be for indoor and/or outdoor display. A local art critic will select the top 10 chairs to be sold in the live auction. The remaining chairs will be sold by silent auction. A limited number of free chairs are available upon request, or artists can secure their own items to donate.

Visit www.nbyharborcountry.org or call (269) 231-0648 for details. More information is available by contacting Linnea Berg at (248) 990-4685.

Noon Time Talk Series

The Noon Time Talk Series continues with Ruthmere Museum Executive Director Bill Firstenberg at 12:20 p.m. EDT Thursday, May 9, at Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.

Firstenberg will discuss the Ruthmere campus through anecdotes and back stories, along with a preview of summer events.

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

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“Egg-Stravagant” Results



Friendship Botanic Gardens on Easter Sunday (April 21) hosted its largest crowds yet during the third annual Easter “Egg-Stravaganza” Egg Hunt. More than 2,000 children and adults from across the region hunted for eggs filled with candy and toys, met the Easter Bunny and pet a live rabbit. Begun in 2016, the event continues to grow, with this year featuring a record 15,000 eggs sprinkled across the grounds. FBG is located at 2055 E. U.S. 12.

Fernwood Botanical Garden

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

• **Nature Saplings: Frogs from 2 to 3 p.m. EDT Friday, May 10.**

The program is aimed at young children with an adult. The cost is \$5 per child/adult pair (the cost for members is \$4).

• **All About Reptiles from 2 to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, May 11.**

Children 6-10 learn about reptiles of the region. The cost is \$10 (members cost \$8).



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

New Buffalo Township Library

A meeting to learn about English as a Second Language, and future conversational/grammar sessions, is at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, May 14, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

No registration is required, and all levels of English are welcome. The meeting is in the Pokgagon Room.

Also, “Chef Night: Spring at Granor Farm with Chef Abra Berens” is at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, May 21, at Granor Farm, 3480 Warren Woods Road, Three Oaks, Mich.

Arrive at the farm on time. The event includes a pre-demo tour before settling in at the farmhouse for a cooking demonstration and tasting with Abra, author of Ruffage: A Practical Guide to Vegetables, which will be available for sale.

The cost is \$35 per person, with proceeds benefiting the Friends of the Library. Interested participants can sign up at the library’s front desk, 33 N. Thompson St., with cash or check only.

Unity Foundation Grant Application

Applications are online for Unity Foundation of LaPorte County’s 2019 Community Fund Grants, also known as “Power for Good” grants.

In 2018, more than \$140,000 went to more than 80 local nonprofit projects. The grants are supported by earnings from unrestricted “Community Funds.”

The application is available at uflc.net/grants/community-grants/ to all non-profit 501(c)(3) groups in, or serving, LaPorte County residents.

A committee of local volunteers evaluates and awards grants of up to \$3,000 each. Eligible projects and programs fall into numerous categories, including, but not limited to, arts and culture, health, human services, environment, education and projects.

The submission deadline is 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 26. Organizations may submit two separate project grants for consideration.

Native Plant Presentation, Sale

The Berrien Conservation District will host a Native Plant Presentation and Sale from 1 to 3 p.m. EDT Wednesday, May 29, at Bridgman (Mich.) Public Library, 4460 Lake St.

Vern Stephens from Designs by Nature Nursery will discuss native plant characteristics and care, and picking the right plant. A question-and-answer session is planned.

At 3 p.m. EDT, the district will sell native wildflowers and grasses until 5:30 p.m. EDT. Pre-orders can be picked up then. Pre-orders are encouraged, the deadline being Monday, May 13. Order forms are available at the library or conservation district, 3334 Edgewood Road, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Call (269) 471-9111, Ext. 3, for a form or more details, or download a form at www.berriencd.org

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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 for more details.

Cardboard Weaving Class

Hemlock Heather will reveal how to make a rug coaster from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday or Sunday, May 11 or 12, at Luhr Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

The class is aimed at 13 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$5. Pre-registration and payment are required.

Make and Take Craft Weekends

The free program is from 1 to 4 p.m. May 25 and 26, June 8 and 9, July 20 and 21, and Aug. 17 and 18 at Luhr Park Nature Center.

No pre-registration is required. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Crafts are available while supplies last.

Joyful Movement, "Shake, Rattle and Move"

Appropriate for all ages and abilities, the low-impact mindfulness program emphasizes stretching, meditation and heart pumping.

The cost is \$10 per session. Times are 4 to 4:45 p.m. Session 1 is: May 28 and 30, June 4 and 6, June 11 and 13, and June 18 and 20. Session 2 is: July 16 and 18, July 23 and 25, July 30, Aug. 1 and Aug. 6 and 8. The minimum participants required is four and the maximum 10.

Pre-registration is required by calling (219) 325-8315 one week before the session's start.

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. June 3 and 17, July 1, 15 and 29, and Aug. 12 and 26 at Luhr County Park. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Family Fishing Nights

The free program is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. June 19 and July 18 at Luhr County Park.

All ages are welcome. A limited number of poles and bait are available. No fishing licenses are required, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance.

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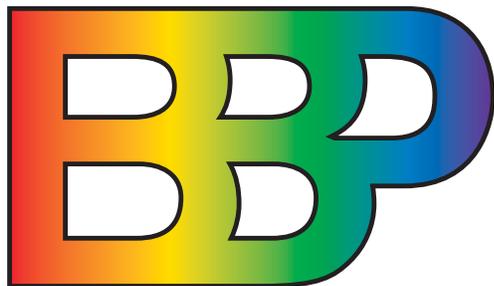
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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

May 9 — “Raised Bed Vegetable Gardening for Beginners,” 1-2:30 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter. Registration: (219) 926-9080.

May 10 — Opening reception, “5x5” exhibit, 5-7 p.m., Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: (219) 229-1483.

May 10-12 — “Anne of Green Gables,” LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$12/students. Reservations. www.laportelittletheatreclub.com

May 10-12, 17-19 — “Musical of Musicals, the Musical,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: Fri.-Sat./7:30 p.m., Sun./2 p.m. Tickets: \$15, \$10/children 12 & younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.footlightplayers.org

May 10-13 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* “Diane.” Not Rated. Times: 6:15 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* “Woman at War.” Not Rated. In Icelandic, Spanish, English and Ukraine with subtitles. Times: 3 & 9 p.m. Sat./3 p.m. Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

May 11 — Migration Birding Hike, 8-10 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

May 11 — Monday Musicale: Music...a Magic Key, 3 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 11 — Opening reception, “Rush,” 5-8 p.m., Thaddeus C. Gallery, 822 Lincolnway, LaPorte. Info: (219) 326-8626.

May 11 — “Lyrical Liberation: Open Mic, Slam Poetry & Birthday Celebration,” 7:30 p.m., P.A.R.C., 1713 Franklin St. 21+.

May 11 — Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young Tribute — Marrakesh Express, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30. Info: acornlive.org

May 12 — **MOTHER’S DAY.**

May 12 — Mother’s Day at the Zoo, Washington Park Zoo. Free admission for mothers/grandmothers with paid child admission.

May 12 — Mother’s Day at Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Time: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission for mothers.

May 12 — Mother’s Day Wildflower Hike, 10-11:30 & 1-2:30 p.m., Heron Rookery east parking lot, County Road 600 East, Michigan City. Info: (219) 395-1882.

May 12 — Mother’s Day Craft, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 14-15 — Workshop, “Through the Lens,” 5:30-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

May 15 — DIY Pot Painting, 6-7:30 p.m., West-

chester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-7696.

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

In the Region

May 10 — Solo concert, 8:30 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Admission: \$15. Reservations: (269) 983-3688 boxfactoryforthearts.org

May 10-19 — “The Clean House,” Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (Eastern): 7:30 p.m. May 10, 11, 17, 18, 3 p.m. May 12, 19. Tickets: adults/\$21, students & seniors (62+)/\$19. Reservations: (574) 848-4116, elkhartcivictheatre.org/tickets

May 11 — All About Reptiles, 2-4 p.m. EDT, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Cost: \$10, members/\$8. Info: www.fernwoodbotanical.org, (269) 695-6491.

May 12 — Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra concert, 4 p.m. EDT, Howard Performing Arts Center, 4160 E. Campus Circle Drive, Berrien Springs, Mich. Tickets: \$5/adults, \$3/children & seniors. Info: (269) 982-4030, www.smsso.org

Through May 12 — Valparaiso University Juried Art Student Exhibition and Senior Showcase, Brauer Museum of Art, 1709 Chapel Drive. Info: (219) 464-5276, valpo.edu/brauer-museum-of-art

Through May 16 — “A Symphony of Color” exhibit, watercolor artist Lee Bauman, The Village Gallery @ Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. Info: (219) 465-1591.

Sundays through May 26 — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, Lake Street, north of U.S. 12, Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.

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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VINTAGE GOODS: Now open 5 W. Ash St., Three Oaks MI
Open Wed.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. EDT

Farmhouse, shabby, prims, boutique clothing, jewelry
Come out and take a look!

LAST CHANCE TO SHOP THE GIRLFRIEND SALE

The Girlfriend Sale's famous 50% off day is Saturday, 5/11, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. It's a day of fashion, laughter and GIRLFRIENDS!

We have 2 rooms filled with fashion for all styles, shapes and budgets. Start in our designer room with select brand new designer fashion and accessories from high-end boutiques at 50%-70% off retail. Plus, explore our Pink Line racks with new and gently worn items handpicked from the thousands of pieces we receive, including higher end designer items, unique finds, what's hot now and anything else we love. Then, hit the consignment room for fashion, accessories and shoes curated from more than 100 participants. It's all about finding the style that lets you break free and be bold!

Check out our Facebook page @thegirlfriendsale for sneak peeks of our new designer fashion and Pink Line racks

SALE DATES

Sat 5/11 — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (50% off day)

Sat 5/18 — 10 a.m.-noon (Giveback Day: Proceeds for the Samaritan Center and LaPorte County Junior Achievement.

Be sure to stop off at the ATM and take advantage of our speedy cash only check out line and obey all parking signs.

Long Beach Community Center
2501 Oriole Trail Rm #11
Long Beach, IN

DECORATIVE ESTATE SALE - FABULOUS GIFTS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

2509 Shorewood Drive, Long Beach
Thurs.-Fri., May 9-10, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Porcelains, flower arrangements, glassware, art, whimsical items, furniture, artwork, nice twin bed, 2 queen luxury beds, one with canopy frame, antique, sterling and costume jewelry, rugs, side-by-side & regular refrigerator.

Go to www.estatesales.net for pictures.

WANT TO BUY

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

I BUY JEWELRY • STERLING, GOLD, COSTUME

Will come to your home. **Call Lorelei @ (219) 872-5000**

WANT TO RENT/LEASE/SHARE

Looking for furnished home available to rent by the month Minimum 1 month, maximum 11 months. Pet-friendly ideal, but not mandatory. Contact Linda for more details: LindaHServices@gmail.com

REAL ESTATE

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Sheridan Beach, 1BR, off-street parking, laundry room. Year lease, no pets. Utilities incl. \$650/mo. **Call (219) 879-2195 or (219) 873-5220.**

Long Beach Summer Rental

Beautiful home near Stop 23 on Lake Shore Drive Recently renovated, 4BR/3BA. High-end furnishings, chef-equipped kitchen, incredible Lake Michigan views. Minimum of 30-day rental per Long Beach regulations. (312) 282-6143

 **REAL ESTATE FOR SALE** 

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Log cabin, 2BR with loft & sleeping porch. Completely renovated inside and out. New kitchen & appliances. Fully furnished, turn-key operation.

By appointment & pre-qualification required. A must see!

Call (630) 207-3648 and leave a message.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Freefall by Jessica Barry (hardcover, \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 349 pages)

A small private plane crashes in the Colorado Rockies. The pilot is found dead at the scene. Allison Carpenter, the only passenger, is presumed dead, although her body is not recovered.

End of story? Not by a long shot...

This is the story of a broken relationship between mother and daughter that spills out with



all the emotion and misspoke words that tear apart and bind them together. But wait, I'm getting ahead of myself — there's so much more to this twisted tale of misguided anger, misguided remorse and the real meaning of self-worth.

Chapters alternate from Allison to her mother, Maggie. It doesn't take long to see the death of Allison's father put a wedge between them two years ago.

Allison leaves the house in Maine and moves to California. Maggie feels responsible for the rift because she helped her dying husband end his suffering, without Allison having a chance to say goodbye.

Meanwhile, in the Rockies, what do you suppose goes through your mind when you're lost and starving? Allison awakens from the plane crash and starts making her way down the mountain, somehow knowing someone will be along shortly to finish the job the plane crash failed to do. Who would want her dead? Questions like that are the stuff of nightmares.

Her fiancé, Ben Gardner, is the CEO of Prexiline Industries, a big pharma company. Maybe, just maybe, the answer lies there somehow. All Allison knows are the words told to her not long before she got on that plane: *"Cover your tracks... You need to be prepared to run. If you think for a second that he's on to you, you need to disappear."*

Chapter by chapter, a story emerges, one of a girl in a downward spiral of booze and drugs determined to make it on her own and failing miserably until she meets Gardner. But will he be her salva-

tion or downfall?

The flip side story shows Maggie as a mother, guilty about not knowing where her daughter has been these past two years and blaming herself for Allison's presumed death, but not accepting that death without a body to mourn. She starts an arduous journey of uncovering Allison's life since leaving home and finding her: dead or alive.

Allison's harrowing trek through thick forests and down slippery slopes makes her remember her father's teachings about wilderness survival. This keeps her alive until she makes it to a hunting lodge. Still afraid of something or someone out to get her, she can't bring herself to trust anyone — reasons the reader learns in bits and pieces from her memories. When she realizes her mother might be in danger because of her mistakes, the race is on to get home. As she is almost to the family home in Maine, a stranger is already at Maggie's door...

Allison and Maggie are strong female characters, each trying to survive in their own way, both physically and emotionally...perhaps they have more in common than either of them thought.

Freefall is more than a mystery. It's the bond between a mother and a daughter that neither time nor circumstances can break. A wonderful read — cover to cover.

Poetry Book Takes a Look at Life and Everything

If poetry speaks to you, I recommend a slim volume called *All My Life: New and Selected Poems* by Dearborn, Mich., poet Gary Evan McCormick. It contains poems about self, family and everyday things that touch our life and soul. He reminds us of the simple joys of an early morning on a lake, the mews of newborn kittens, a companionable walk with your dog and the music of our life, all



McCormick

spilling out in a collection that will make you smile and perhaps remember a special moment in your life, too.

McCormick is a member of the Academy of American Poets, Poetry Society of Michigan (from which he has won several awards), Berrien Arts Guild, Box Factory, Krasl Art Center and Berrien County Historical Association.

All My Life is being sold exclusively at The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich., which will receive 100 percent of the proceeds. Call the Box Factory at (269) 983-3688 for more details.

Till next time, happy reading!

happy mother's day



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