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PFC. DANIEL D. BRUCE
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A Hero's Sacrifice

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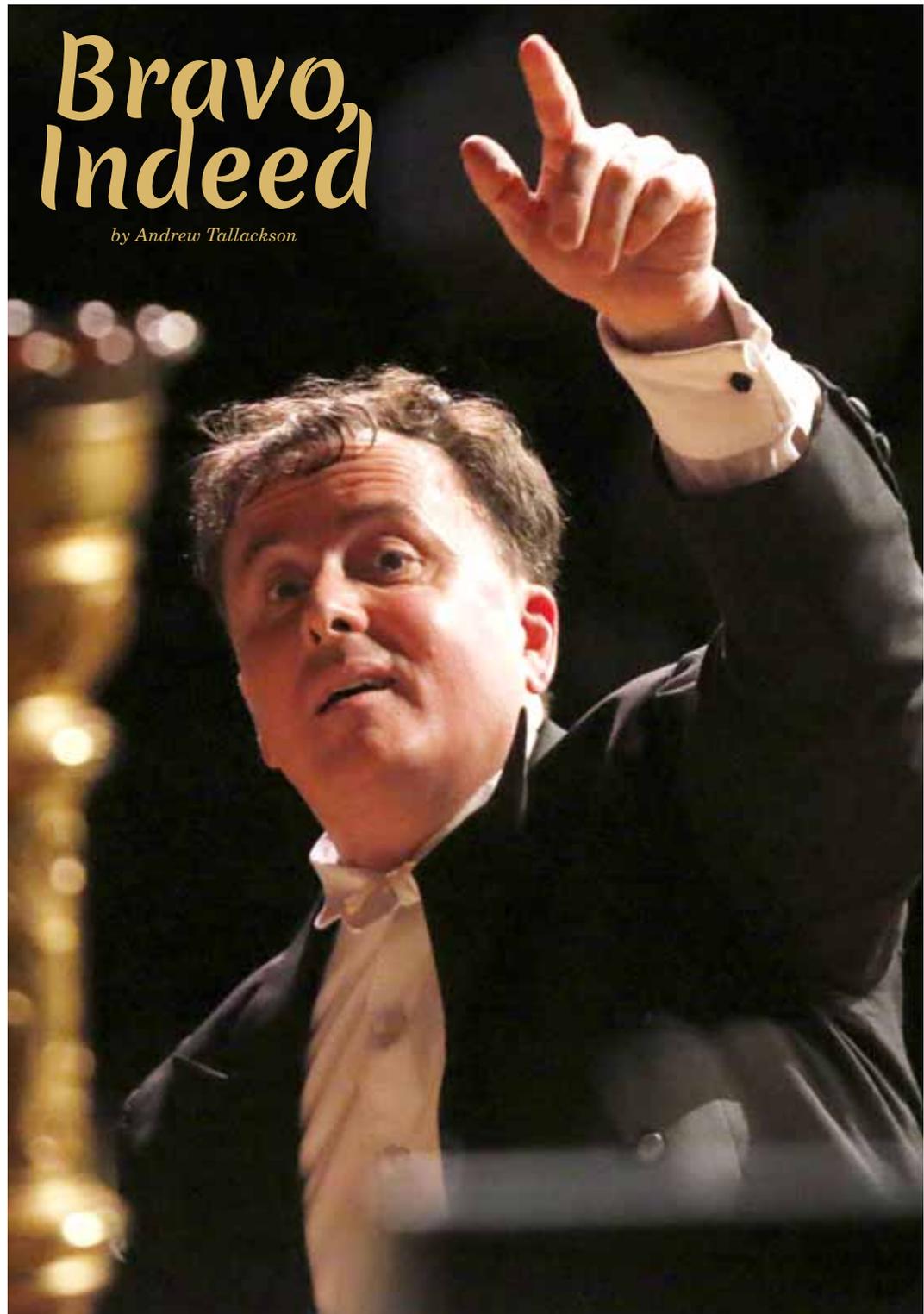
Alexander Platt knows how to guide an orchestra to one rousing, audience-pleasing finish.

Right off the bat, in fact.

The third conductor candidate in LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra's series, "Bravo, Maestro! The Search Begins," Platt on May 4 chose as his palette for the night a tribute to Broadway greats Rodgers & Hammerstein. Opting for a chronological journey through their finest works, he began with "The Carousel Waltz" from the duo's 1945 classic, "Carousel."

The selection, Platt told concertgoers, was one envied by no less than Richard Strauss, the praise arriving a few years shy of the German composer's passing. An intimidating introduction, to be sure, but within seconds after his baton swept the musicians into performance, it was clear he and the orchestra were one. His right hand busied with the baton, Platt's left hand clenched and vibrated, his fingers pointed, to help produce the right accents at key moments. He was bringing out the best in the musicians, especially the string sections — a lush component of any Rodgers & Hammerstein work.

At the end, he teased out the music with a



Bravo, Indeed

by Andrew Tallackson

Alexander Platt often was quite animated at the podium during the May 4 concert. All photos by Bob Wellinski

slight pause, followed by huge crescendos for a triumphant finish.

There was a split second of hushed silence, then the audience went wild with applause, cheers and whistles. It was the communal equivalent of shouting "wow" from the rafters.

Platt turned to face the jubilant praise, his face a blend of pride, relief and immense satisfaction, enough so to dish out the tongue-in-cheek quip, "Well, good night, everyone."

Two days after the concert, Platt told *The Beacher*, "Tuesday, the first rehearsal, I just knew there was great potential and it was going to get better and better, and that was *just* what happened.

"It felt good, from where I was at the podium. The way the orchestra was getting better and better from that Saturday morning rehearsal. It's such a thrill when the performance, itself, is the great performance. Sometimes, the dress rehearsal is the great performance."



Alexander Platt leads LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra in performance May 4 at LaPorte Civic Auditorium.

Platt's appearance with LCSO brought to a close the first half of its "Bravo, Maestro!" series, the concert following equally enthusiastic responses to conductor candidates Russell Ger this past November and Maria Mercedes Garcia Diaz in March. The 2019-2020 season resumes the search with Carolyn Watson in November, Wilbur Lin in March 2020 and Christopher Fashun in May 2020.

Platt certainly has the musical chops to fill the post. He is the music director of LaCrosse Symphony and Wisconsin Philharmonic, his summers spent in the Hudson River Valley as music director of the Maverick Concerts in Woodstock, N.Y., the country's oldest summer chamber-music festival. He also spent 22 years as music director of Marion (Ind.) Philharmonic Orchestra.

Trained in the viola, and as an Episcopal Church

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Bravo, Indeed

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chorister, he attended Yale University, leading a concert series as resident conductor at the Yale Center for British Art.

Glance at his resume, from hosting Detroit Symphony Orchestra's live webcasts to recording with violinist Rachel Barton Pine, and the list of accomplishments is immense and impressive.

Platt, 54, describes himself as a journeyman conductor based out of Chicago for the past 25 years. Now, he yearns for a satisfying professional life closer to home.

"I've never really had a job where I could do most of my work and sleep in my own bed," he said with a laugh. "You turn 50, and that starts to get to you. To be (working) in LaPorte, what more could I want?"

"Everything about LaPorte was wonderful. It really was," he continued. "And, it's a beautiful lakefront community. It's all I could want."

During the May 4 concert at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., Platt appeared at ease both as conductor and as tour guide through Rodgers & Hammerstein masterworks.



Magic Baton Auction winner Ashley Dickinson leads the orchestra in "Stars & Stripes Forever."

Following that stirring piece, it was back to the Broadway composers with "The King & I," "Flower Drum Song" and music from "The Sound of Music." With each selection, Platt gave the audience behind-the-scenes tidbits about the composers, the show itself and how it was received by critics and the public. He also used the music to pay homage to American composer and arranger Robert Russell Bennett, who was closely associated with Rodgers & Hammerstein as their orchestrator. By the end, Platt's vast knowledge and

engaging personality helped provide a clear view of how the composers applied classical and operatic tools to engage contemporary audiences through musical theater.

The evening came to a goosebumps close through a performance of "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" from "The Sound of Music," complete with soloists Tim King



Tim King and Diane Perigo help perform "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" to conclude the concert.

and Diane Perigo, and the LCSO Chorus with Illumination. Chorus members appeared not only in front of the audience, but also lined the walls of the main floor, creating what's referred to as a "wall of sound" for the listener.

Platt, however, does not take credit for the effect the piece had on the audience. He praises King, who also doubles as LCSO's interim executive director, and Choral Conductor Becky Osborn. He also lavished praise on Interim Director Charles Steck for preparing the musicians before his arrival, and for his considerable input on the musical numbers.

"Chuck is such a terrific guy — what a great guy," Platt said. "He also had great advice (with the music): what to add, what to cut."

Platt emphasizes how much he appreciated the flexibility of orchestra staff and musicians. Take, for instance, the concert program book, which stated "The King & I" would appear during the first half of the show. Preferring to introduce the music in chronological order, by year in terms of Broadway debuts, Platt asked that "South Pacific" be moved to the first half and "The King & I" to the second half...despite the fact that the program books were printed.

"I have worked with orchestras where people would have been incredibly flustered if the change had been made," he said. "Everyone here was so easygoing. When I changed the order, everyone was so positive and courteous. So truly professional. They do the job they need to do because there is no ego. It's really beautiful."

Platt said he'd been told beforehand LaPorte Civic's acoustics might not yield the sound he was ac-

customed to, but Platt says he was not disappointed, going so far during the concert as to call the Civic's auditorium and its setup — complete with tables on the main floor — “a charming, wonderful room.”

During his interview with *The Beacher* two days later, he expanded on that remark, saying, “I had no problem with it (the Civic) at all. Conducting, it's all about judging a room acoustically and getting the

orchestra to play to that room.”

Immensely satisfied by Saturday's performance, Platt says if chosen as LCSO's new conductor, his skills and strengths can be an asset.

“I have a sense of passion, a sense of history, a sense of culture and a true sense of commitment,” he said. “There is no one who will be more committed to LaPorte than I will be.”

Continued on Page 6



Alexander Platt conducts the orchestra and a large group of singers during the performance.



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LCSO: Platt's Concert a Rousing Success

by Connie Kuzydym

The window shades were lifted, allowing the night sky to shine in LaPorte Civic Auditorium during LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra's final concert of the season. How apropos, as selections from "The Sound of Music," "Oklahoma" and "South Pacific" lend themselves to an outdoor feel.

The LCSO's May concert typically features pop music. Alexander Platt suggested an all Rodgers & Hammerstein program using music arranged by prominent orchestrator Robert Russell Bennett. LCSO Interim Executive Director Tim King liked the suggestion, confident it would be an easy program to promote. Interim Music Director Chuck Steck was pleased with the amazing Bennett arrangements.

Two weeks prior, two rehearsals were held with Steck at the helm. Upon his arrival the Monday before the concert, Platt took the reins and rehearsed with the musicians three times. If you think about it, they rehearse five times. That, in itself, is admirable.

Platt knew the music well. Dynamic and expressive in style, he was extremely intuitive, quickly seeing the orchestra's response and knowing how much more to ask of them.

"This concert was a challenge to play the music he chose," Steck said. "While you don't necessarily think that Rodgers & Hammerstein is huge orchestral mega literature, the charts were just as difficult as some of the symphonies we've done (Beethoven, Dvorák), because they go and they go. There are so many transitions. That was one of the things he (Platt) did so well was, as the music was changing, he could become those changes with his conducting, with his hands, as well as his body."

The transformation King witnessed in the orchestra from Tuesday to Friday through Platt was impressive.

"There's a certain style to Rodgers & Hammerstein, a certain style of playing," King said. "By Friday night, he had the style he wanted out of them."



Chuck Steck performs with the LCSO during the May 4 concert.

Style is nuances in the music, not necessarily written in the score, but what the performers bring to the music. Musicians must be ready for them. During rehearsals, Platt would often say, watch for this, watch for that. The musicians had no choice but to keep an eye on the conductor.

Steck assembled a chorus, prior to the conductor's arrival, to sing "You'll Never Walk Alone" from "Carousel" and "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" from "The Sound of Music".

"It was a wonderful evening," Steck said. "Not often, you're able to reach out and grab the audience by the heart."

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LCSO Continued from Page 6

King added, "It was done so well, so musically from the heart. It just grabbed me."

From a musician's perspective, Steck looks back on the week with Platt as a positive experience.

"The biggest thing was, everybody walked away loving the whole musical experience," Steck said.

"When you can play music and play it that well, then you know you've found a conductor who is able to take you there. Everybody that's a musician, they live for that end product. Don't kid yourself, we all love that applause. We love it when people come up and tell us that their happy.

"The general opinion right now is it was a positive experience, and he did a great job of taking us where we wanted to go."

From an administrative side, King feels Platt probably has the best read on what a community organization should be like. He understands it is a regional group. He also has the ability to easily adjust and engage with anyone he meets, whether it is high school band students, donors, patrons or staff.

As King has said in a prior interview, a gauge of a successful concert, for him, is if people stick around afterwards. And stick they did. He also witnessed something he had not seen in his time here.

"In the orchestra world, when musicians want to clap for the conductor, if they like him or her, the strings can't do that cause they're holding their instrument, they're holding their bow, so they stomp their feet," King said. "That's their applause. And, buddy, did they stomp their feet Saturday...I heard majorly stomping of their feet. It shocked me a little because I had not heard that before."

It should be noted, Platt and the musicians not only received a standing ovation at the end of the concert, but also at the close of the first half. Steck and King both agree applause after the first act seemed like it didn't want to end.

The "Bravo Maestro" search is now halfway through its candidates, and King could not be happier.

"I've been really really impressed with each individual that's come in, and how they have made the

orchestra sound better in their own way," he said. "They have made an impression in literally five days. All three of them have made an impression. I have no doubt that next season, those three will make the same impression."

Steck is in a unique position. Being interim music director, he understands the challenges of conducting, yet as a musician, he is being conducted by a



Tim King (left) chats with Alexander Platt at the concert at LaPorte Civic Auditorium.

guest maestro.

"I'm going to defer this now to about the people sitting in front of them. It was Alexander (Platt) who brought this up," Steck said. "He's so right, when you go and become a guest in somebody's house, when you're up there conducting, you know whether they want you to be there or not. He talked about being there for a Saturday concert, being there on Friday night and people just kind of staring at you. We've all been in that boat. With this orchestra, (everyone) was digging in to give the conductor everything they were trying to get.

"I'm already in contact with the conductors for next year with their programming ideas...and there's a lot of exciting ideas going on. If the orchestra responds even close to the way they have responded this year, I think it's just going to be amazing."



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The Last of Its Kind in LaPorte County

by William Halliar

To a person who loves to read and finds inspiration, solace and new horizons between the yellowed, fragrant pages of old books, The Bookworm is a home away from home.

Located at 11577 W. U.S. 30 in Wanatah, it may be the last of its kind in LaPorte County: a used and rare book store that also has antiques, all of it just a short drive from the shores of Lake Michigan. It tops the “must see” list as a place to visit for all who love a good book.

Step through the front door, and you can feel wonder, magic and adventure in the air. Unlike a library with books neatly arranged on symmetrical shelves of softly muted colors, arranged in Dewey Decimal order, here, a riot

of colorful volumes are arranged roughly by topic on ceiling-height bookcases. The books spill off the shelves in colorful arrays, like leaves on a crisp fall day. Precarious stacks on the floor create mountains of books containing stories, adventures, knowledge, thoughts and ideas.

Take a deep breath as you enter and savor the smell of ink, leather and more — the scent of a world beyond the confines of Northwest Indiana. Author Sarah MacLean, in the book *The Rogue Not Taken*, opines, “Happiness. That’s what books smell like.” To a lover of reading, The Bookworm is a very happy place.

As Virginia Wolf so aptly put it, “*Second-hand books are wild books, homeless books; they have come together in flocks of variegated feather, and have a charm which the domesticated volumes of the library lack.*”

Ask yourself, when you reach for a volume whose cover is ever so slightly worn and faded, as you perhaps note a dedication or name inscribed on the inside cover, who has read these words before and held this very volume in their hands and savored its contents?

Although E-Readers today are all the craze, there is something magical about holding a real book in



Piles of cookbooks available to readers

your hands. There is a smell and a feel, especially with an old copy of a book once owned, loved and read by another. You can run your fingertips over the old signature and almost connect with another soul through the yellowed pages of a volume that another has read before you.

The Bookworm is not a used bookstore in the commonly understood way, but seems more a portal to other worlds and cultures, perhaps other universes. Time spent within its book-lined walls invites the reader to a place away from the everyday world. The Bookworm, for all of its charming disarray, is a one-of-a-kind fantasyland for those who love books. It would be quite easy to get lost within the

stacks of books, which spill onto the floor.

Laurie Koselke, owner and curator of this unusual collection of literature and prose, has been in the business of selling books since she opened her first store in Wanatah in 1974. Over the years, she has been a busy wife and mother of three children, and pursued various educational opportunities and other careers. However, books, and



Laurie Koselke shows a few interesting covers to older books available at the bookstore.

the life of a book seller, have always been a sort of passion.

Laurie and her husband, Bud, form the perfect partnership. He handles the paperwork and mundane side of the business, while Laurie enjoys working with people who enter the store. Most who visit once return again and again to enjoy the eclectic atmosphere. Some even help out with a few chores now and again, simply to be part of this unique enterprise.



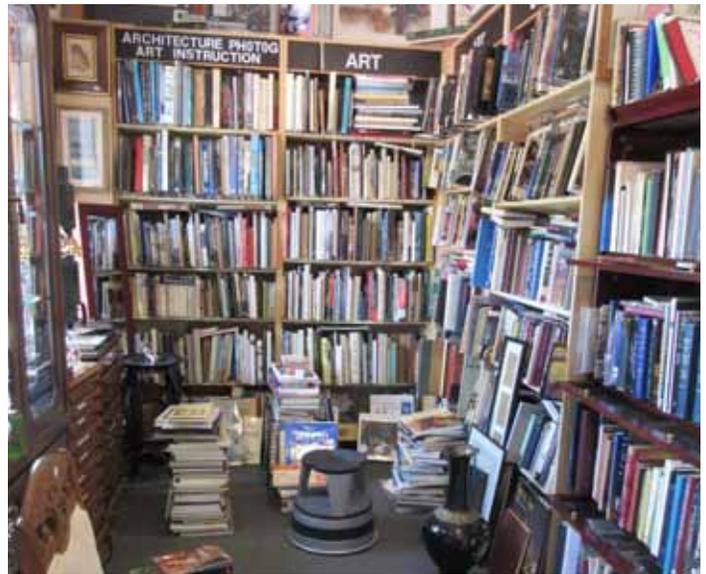
Tom Joyce, a rare book appraiser, describes the illustrations in a book available at the store.

Tom Joyce, a close friend and associate of Laurie's who specializes in appraising rare books, autographs and maps, often lends a hand in determining the age and value of certain volumes. His work area overflows with books bound in leather and cloth, in layers of fiction, fantasy and history awaiting his special attention.

Laurie has loved books since she was a little girl, and the little bookstore reflects that affection. It is filled with many colorful, sometimes rare and unusual volumes. Over the years, she has become friends with most of her customers, and chooses books to fill her shelves that will interest them.

"This store is just for fun," Laurie says. "Look around, browse, sit down and read. If you want to buy something, I say, goodie!!"

Laurie likes to showcase things that are "different" and unique. Besides the incredible book collection, she carries artwork, antiques and jewelry. All of these colors, textures and curious collections combine to make The Bookworm a celebration of sensory wonders.



Bookcases reach the ceiling with shelves and shelves of books.

When you meet Laurie, her joy of life, love of books, learning and curiosity for the unusual rub off on you. She often offers monthly specials on books and sometimes has "oddball" specials on unusual antiques and jewelry. Sometimes, collections of books come her way, and Laurie is able to share them with her reading friends. She recently purchased a collection of "Oz" books written by L. Frank Baum. The first of 14 in this series, written by Baum, was published in 1900. Laurie's colorful collection is a delightful reminder of childhood dreams.

Laurie says with a smile that she is heartened by the many young people who enjoy her store. She carries a large selection of volumes for children and youth in colorful displays to attract early readers and teens.

When you visit The Bookworm, you will feel immediately welcome. Laurie will greet you and encourage you to browse and enjoy the unusual collections. Antique cabinets stand here and there, and you will be encouraged to open all the drawers and explore the treasures within. It is a guarantee that if you enjoy books, you will leave with more than one volume that brings hours of reading pleasure.

(All photos by William Halliar.)

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About the Cover



For our Memorial Day cover, we wanted to pay tribute to a true American hero.

USMC Private 1st Class Daniel Dean Bruce. Or, as we all know him, Danny Bruce.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of his death. On March 1, 1969, the 18-year-old Michigan City native saved the lives of three fellow Marines by racing away with a satchel of lethal explosives thrown into their bunker in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam. He posthumously received the Medal of

Honor, and his name appears in a mess hall at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia, and at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Last year, *Beacher* photographer Paul Kemiell assembled members of American Legion Skwiat Post 451 at the memorial. Pictured are (from left) Robert East, Hank Wroblewski, the late Frank Burgess and Ted Yagelski.

Paul also took the stunning photo that appears on our cover.

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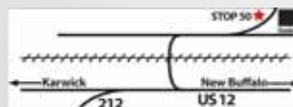
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The Chicago Skyway, outrageously expensive as it is, is my guilty pleasure.

I recently indulged that costly vice when traveling to Monastery of the Holy Cross in Chicago’s Bridgeport neighborhood. My dear wife Natalie serves as our Chicken Financial Officer, or CFO, constantly urging me to cut costs whenever possible, especially when tempted to take the Skyway.

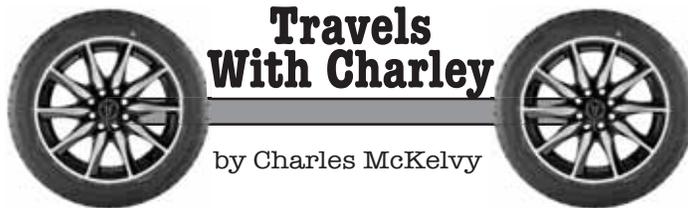
So, when I make my regular pilgrimages to the monastery at 31st and Aberdeen on da Sout’ Side, she will say something like, “Leave early and avoid the Skyway. It’s costing more than \$5 each way, and...”

Two-axle vehicles were paying \$5.30 for the privilege of riding over Mayor Richard J. Daley’s toll bridge when I wrote this. By the time this is published, that amount may well have increased, which is why you should check chicagoskyway.org before heading to Chicago.

Oh, and by the way, those with seven or more axles were paying \$43.70 for flying high over the Calumet River during the peak hours of 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. CDT. But I digress. I should be getting on with my recent trip to Bridgeport.

So, I listened to my own, personal CFO during that recent trip to Chicago’s South Side, dutifully exiting the Indiana Toll Road at the west end and shooting up to the monastery by way of: Indianapolis Boulevard, Ewing Avenue (the bridge was down, thank God!), South Shore Drive past the South Shore Cultural Center — which I will feature this travel season — and finally up Lake Shore Drive to 31st Street. Having given myself plenty of time, I arrived with more than a few minutes to spare.

But on the day of this particular visit, we were planning to attend an evening concert at Howard Performing Arts Center — another upcoming feature — at Andrews University



Travels With Charley

by Charles McKelvy

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in Berrien Springs, Mich., so I received a dispensation from Herself to return home the “fast way,” meaning: the Dan Ryan Expressway to the Skyway to the Indiana Toll Road to Interstate 94. You know, the costly alternative to a straight shot on I-94 all the way home to Harbert, Mich.

Well, traffic on the Dan Ryan was heavy and getting heavier as I approached the Skyway ramp, but when ascending to the road less traveled, I pretty much had the elevated roadway to myself. I enjoyed a commanding view of the South Shore neighborhood in which I spent the first six years of my life, and got to see some serious rail action on the Norfolk Southern tracks that parallel the Skyway.

When it came to paying the exorbitant toll, I left that to the trusty I-PASS mounted on our windshield, subsequently musing, “Ooohhh, I’m gonna be in trouble with the CFO when I get home.”

Then, I remembered, the CFO Herself authorized this profligate waste of our fixed income and motored merrily on my way via the aforementioned Indiana Toll Road and the always-entertaining I-94. I returned home to Harbert in plenty of time for us to find good seats at the Howard Performing Arts Center. Life was good, thanks to the Chicago Skyway, which was built in 1958 at a \$101 million cost and originally known as the Calumet Skyway.

Natalie said the \$5.30 Skyway toll was money well spent, because the so-called Skyway shortcut best served our purposes.

We have many friends, however, who dispute that, arguing one saves maybe four minutes at most by taking the Skyway/Toll Road short-cut.

Take, for example, my good friend and Bridgeport native Joe Rochetto. Joe often joins me for trips to the monastery and White Sox games, absolutely insisting we

bypass the Skyway both ways. Yes, I-94 might be scarier and the Skyway prettier, but Joe insists one saves no more than four minutes taking the Skyway shortcut. Plus, Joe has a total aversion to shelling out more than five bucks to fly over the Calumet River.

If Joe has his way, we’ll take U.S. 12 all the way to Chicago and pick up Indianapolis Boulevard at the state line. But that means giving ourselves extra time, and there was the time when Joe didn’t have those spare minutes. He wanted to beat feet back to Vickers Theatre in Three Oaks, Mich., right after a concert at the monastery and, as we approached the Skyway ramp, said: “All right. You win. We’re taking the Skyway home.”

As luck would have it, the view of the skyline from the steel-truss bridge, known as the “High Bridge,” was obscured by fog.

“But,” as I said, “the fog is mighty pretty from up here on the High Bridge. On a clear night, we’d see the skyline and Lake Michigan.”

Joe was clearly intent on catching the show in Three Oaks and, thanks to the Skyway, made it to the show before they rolled the final preview.

“See,” I said, “the Skyway came through for you. And for less than 10 bucks.”

“At that price, it should have flown us across the lake,” Joe said.

Such sour grapes for the privilege of driving on a 7.8-mile-long toll road in Chicago, with or without a view of the skyline.

So, there you have it, my outrageously expensive guilty pleasure: the Chicago Skyway Toll Bridge System.

If I’ve devilishly managed to tempt you to fall from financial grace and take that costly ride, do check out the latest rates at chicagoskyway.org



An Amtrak passenger’s view of the Chicago Skyway.



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40 Years & Counting: Kevin Firme, Artist/Sculptor

Editor's note — This is the latest installment in our series on Area Artists Association's 40th anniversary.

"A sculptor is a person who is interested in the shape of things, a poet in words, a musician by sounds."

Henry Moore



Kevin Firme, photo courtesy of Valerie Taglieri.

Sculptor, printmaker, painter and more, Kevin Firme has been a serious, committed artist for more than 40 years.

He was one of the founding members of Area Artists Association and its second president. Still active in the group today, he is an astute observer and, not unlike many other contemporary artists, incorporates a keen appreciation for the natural world, central to his current art.

Firme completed his undergraduate work at DePaul University, majoring in sculpture and painting, then began graduate studies at Bard College in upstate New York, finishing at The University of Notre Dame. Afterward, he completed a residency at the Karolyi Foundation, started in 1959 in Vence, France, by Countess Katalin Karolyi in tribute to her husband as a place for artists to work freely. The foundation provided him with uninterrupted time to work on incorporating color into his drawings, and to travel to various art collections studying works by Giovanni Belini, Jean Tinguely and others. Upon his return, he began two part-time teaching jobs at Notre Dame. Since 2003, he has served as an adjunct assistant professor at Valparaiso University.

Three of his biggest influences are sculptors David Smith and Richard Hunt and Italian painter and print-



Pastel drawings by Kevin Firme

maker Giorgio Morandi, the latter specializing in still-life subjects with subtle tonality and simple subjects.

Firme's art has evolved over the years, becoming more simplified, less abstract, more realistic and color infused.

"My works are about the search for shape," he said. "I am trying to get abstract compositions in a shallow space, which allows for more variety."

Firme's drawings of plants and their reflected roots are based on the arrow arum (*peltandra virginica*) of the same family as the Jack-in-the-pulpit. It is an aquatic perennial found in wetlands throughout the eastern U.S., including our region.

"I have been drawing them for years," he said. "They serve as a microcosm of the landscape I see here every day. I am interested in their shape, gesture and pictorial space on a reflective surface."

"They are sculptural compositions with a definite space. It is a wetland plant so I can render the reflections and volume of the stems, which I like. I find myself modeling the volumes with the pastel, building the color until I am satisfied."

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Firme's exhibit at Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts. Photo courtesy of Valerie Taglieri

Color has been added to my interests as I work with the medium.”

The drawings, themselves, can be generally recognizable as plant forms. However, the balance, overlapping forms, subtle variations in tone and shape make for a composition more complex than initially perceived to be. Organic shapes and lines move across the surface with ballet-like twisting and turning in synchronized rhythmical patterns.

□

“Movement, change, light, growth and decay are the life blood of nature, the energies that I try to tap through my work.”

Andy Goldsworthy

Firme’s interest in nature continues with 10-foot pieces of straight stock forged steel, using heat to form the curves and bends in the metal, thus eliciting a sense of movement and choreography similar to his pastel works. One cannot resist wanting to move around each piece to fully appreciate the delicate nature of the now transformed rods and changing perspectives.

“I am building a dynamic space with the material,” he said. “I take the shapes and movement from the plants as a starting point to build a volume. It is possible to see the repetition of shapes from the drawings to the sculptures.”

The sculptural works are not only sympathetic with the drawings, but also stand on their own as graceful works. They are not static, but rather gestural, organic lines in free-flowing space, firmly fixed and deceptively visually light. Some even project a suggestion of the figurative, which is surprisingly rewarding.

□

From Nov. 30, 2018, to Jan. 6, 2019, Firme presented his latest one-man show, “Aroid Arum Art,” at the Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts in Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. With 24 paintings and 20 sculptures, the room was filled with his extensive and comprehensive works. The opening was well-attended, the exhibit well-received.

□

Contact Firme for additional information at (219) 874-4003 or thefeedstore@yahoo.com. Be sure, too, to follow the AAA on Facebook or at www.areaartistsassociation.org for more details on upcoming shows, including the commemorative 40th anniversary exhibit.

(Continuing the 40th anniversary theme, July will feature Rolling Prairie artist Clifford Peterson.)

□

“Artists don’t make objects. Artists make mythologies.”

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Hesston Steam Museum Kicks off 63rd Season

Hesston Steam Museum will observe the start to its 63rd season by celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Golden Spike and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad.

It's all part of Memorial Day festivities Saturday through Monday at the beloved attraction, 1201 E. County Road 1000 North.

Major work has been done on the Glacier Pass portion of the railroad to improve drainage, decrease elevation of the track — to ease wear and tear on locomotives — and enhance the scenery.

Trains include the 67-ton 1929 Shay logging locomotive that departs from a replica 1900s-era depot. Other riding options range from full sized to miniature.

The museum also showcases a working steam-



Miniature trains are just a few of the options available during Memorial Day festivities at Hesston Steam Museum.

powered sawmill with a 60-inch blade, LaPorte's first electric generator and a blacksmith shop where iron is turned into handcrafted works of art.

Hand-scooped ice cream treats and sodas made from traditional recipes are for sale in the restored vintage soda fountain and ice cream parlor, Doc's Soda Fountain. Breakfast also is served at Doc's from 9 to 11 a.m. The Smokehouse will offer various smoked meats topped with sauce Saturday and Sunday.

The museum officially opens at 11:30 a.m. and runs until 5

p.m. Train fares are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 3-12.

Visit www.hesston.org or call (219) 778-2783 (weekends) for more information.

Aunt Kitty's Spring Yard Sale
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Items may be dropped off Friday June 7th from 9am to 3pm at the shelter. NO clothing or large furniture please!

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Dog Days



Lou Falat submitted this photo, taken a few weeks ago, of his dog, Simba. Lou says Simba "lives in Sheridan Beach and loves the area."

Radio Harbor Country Bike & Brunch

The seventh annual Radio Harbor Country Bike & Brunch is at 8:30 a.m. EDT Sunday, June 2.

Departing from the private farm/studio of a local artist, riders of all levels can try 15-, 30- or 45-mile loops through Harbor Country backroads.

After the ride is a gourmet brunch of locally grown and prepared food, including: Luisa's Cafe, Harbert Swedish Bakery, Sawyer Garden Center, Red Arrow Road House, Flagship Specialty Foods and Fish Market, Heston Supper Club, The Peasant's Pantry, Whistle Stop Grocery and Infusco Coffee Roasters.

The ride is limited to the first 150 registrants. Register online at radioharborcountry.org. Email bikenbrunch.wrhc@gmail.com with questions.

YMCA Teen Night

YMCA Teen Night is from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, May 24, at LaPorte County Family YMCA Elston Branch, 1202 Spring St.

The evening includes karaoke and dance contests. All participants who have not completed a waiver will need to have one signed by a parent. Waivers can be found at www.lpymca.org

Contact Kathy Workman at (219) 221-4055 for more details.



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More Details: WWW.ThreeOaksFlagDay.Com

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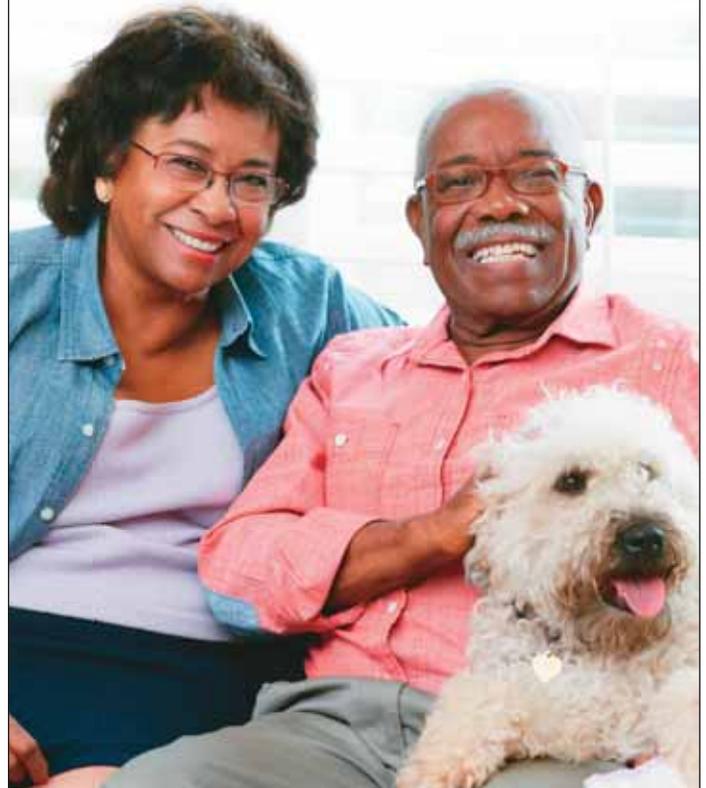
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Salads

- Antipasto Salad**\$9.45
- Genoa Salami, Ham, Black Olives, Onions, Tomatoes, Peppers & Mozzarella on Fresh Crisp Lettuce*
- Caesar Salad**\$5.35
- Fresh Romaine Lettuce, Parmesan Cheese*
- Chicken Caesar Salad**\$7.45
- Fresh Chicken Strips, Fresh Romaine Lettuce, Parmesan Cheese*
- Spinach Salad**\$9.45
- Fresh Spinach, Cheese, Fruit*
- House Salad**\$3.95
- Fresh Romaine Lettuce, Onions, Tomatoes & Peppers*
- Chopped Salad**\$2.50
- Additional Charge*

Dressings: Honey Mustard, Ranch, Caesar, Lite Italian, Golden Italian, Bleu Cheese, Honey French, Raspberry Vinaigrette, Balsamic Vinaigrette
Croutons .45

Pasta

- Homemade Lasagna with garlic bread**\$10.95
- Layers of mozzarella & ricotta sandwiched between our own special blend of meat sauce and noodles*
- Mostaccioli with garlic bread**\$10.50
- Hearty penne pasta with our own Marinara, Meat Sauce with Italian Sausage or Meatballs (add \$1.75)*
- Chicken Alfredo with garlic bread**\$10.95
- 100% Chicken Breast with thick & creamy alfredo sauce*

Sandwiches

- Stromboli or Combo Strom**\$7.25
- Choice of: Italian Beef, Sausage or Veggie with pizza sauce, mozzarella & choice of peppers on toasted French Bread*
- Meatball Sub**\$6.35
- Tasty meatballs and pizza sauce on French Bread*
- Italian Beef or Sausage**\$6.35
- Tender roast beef or grilled sausage on French Bread*
- Combination**\$7.60
- Tasty Italian Beef and Sausage together on French Bread*
- Breaded Chicken Breast**\$6.95
- Served with lettuce, tomato, pickle & onion on the side*
- BLT**\$6.95
- Served with lettuce, tomato, pickle & onion on the side*
- Chicken Parmesan Sandwich**\$7.60
- Breaded Chicken with pizza sauce & melted mozzarella & parmesan*
- Turkey & Bacon Sub**\$6.95
- Hand sliced turkey, bacon & melted mozzarella on French Bread with lettuce, tomato, pickle & onion on the side*
- 1/2 **lb. Angus Hamburger**\$7.95
- All-American favorite with lettuce, tomato, pickle & onion on the side*
- Bacon Bleu Burger**\$9.95
- 1/2 lb. Angus Burger with bacon & melted bleu cheese on Pretzel Bun*
- Hamburger Special**\$10.95
- 1/2 lb. Angus Burger, French Fries & 16 oz. Drink*
- Ham & Cheese**\$6.25
- Hot Ham and Cheese served on a Pretzel Bun or Texas Toast*
- Pork Tenderloin**\$7.25
- Breaded Pork Tenderloin served with lettuce, tomato, pickle and onion on the side*
- Grilled Cheese**\$4.25

The Miller Pizzas

(all pizza prices are CHEESE Only)

Thin Crust - Hand rolled and crispy thin!
 Sm. 10" Med. 12" Lg. 14" XLg. 16"
 \$10.00 \$11.50 \$13.25 \$15.40

Deep Dish - Extra thick. Customer favorite!
 Sm. 10" Med. 12" Lg. 14" XLg. 16"
 \$11.50 \$12.85 \$14.65 \$17.05

Chicago Stuffed - Authentic pizza pie!
 Sm. 10" Med. 12" Lg. 14" XLg. 16"
 \$12.60 \$13.95 \$15.75 \$18.15

Gluten Free Crust Small \$14.80
(One Size Only)

Beach Blanket (Calzone w/ 1 topping)\$9.50

Add your Favorite Toppings:
 \$0.95 \$1.25 \$1.50 \$1.75

<i>Sausage</i>	<i>Mushrooms</i>	<i>Tomatoes</i>
<i>Pepperoni</i>	<i>Green Peppers</i>	<i>Pineapple</i>
<i>Ham</i>	<i>Onion</i>	<i>Banana Peppers</i>
<i>Ground Beef</i>	<i>Green Olives</i>	<i>Jalapenos</i>
Bacon*	<i>Black Olives</i>	<i>Giardinera</i>
Italian Beef*	<i>Fresh Garlic</i>	Artichokes*
Chicken*	<i>Fresh Spinach</i>	Anchovies*
Canadian Bacon*	*double topping price	

Choose Your Sauce:

\$0.95 \$1.25 \$1.50 \$1.75

Olive Oil • Homemade Alfredo Sauce • Pesto • BBQ Sauce • Ranch
Our Very Own Homemade Pizza Sauce (Standard)

Customer Favorites:

BBQ Chicken Pizza • Italian Beef & Banana Pepper Pizza, Stuffed Alfredo with Spinach, Chicken & Garlic Pizza

MPC Lunch Special

Served Monday thru Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2 Slices of Pizza & 16 oz. drink\$5.61

Kid's Menu

- Chicken Fingers (2) and Fries**\$4.35
- Personal Pan Pizza (1-topping)**\$5.00
- Noodles and 1 Breadstick**\$5.50
- Choice of Sauce - Marinara or Butter*
- 2 **Breadsticks**\$1.89
- 4 **Mozzarella Sticks**\$3.00

Desserts

Zarlengo's Italian Ice & Gelato

Other Choices available and will vary - Please Ask

Beverages

Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Dr. Pepper, Mountain Dew, Sierra Mist, Root Beer, Lemonade, Raspberry Tea, Fresh Brewed Tea, Coffee
 \$1.99/16 oz. \$2.50/32 oz.
Free Refills

Milk or Juice\$1.55
Sport Cap Bottled Water\$2.00

Beer & Wine List Available

EXPERIENCE FUN



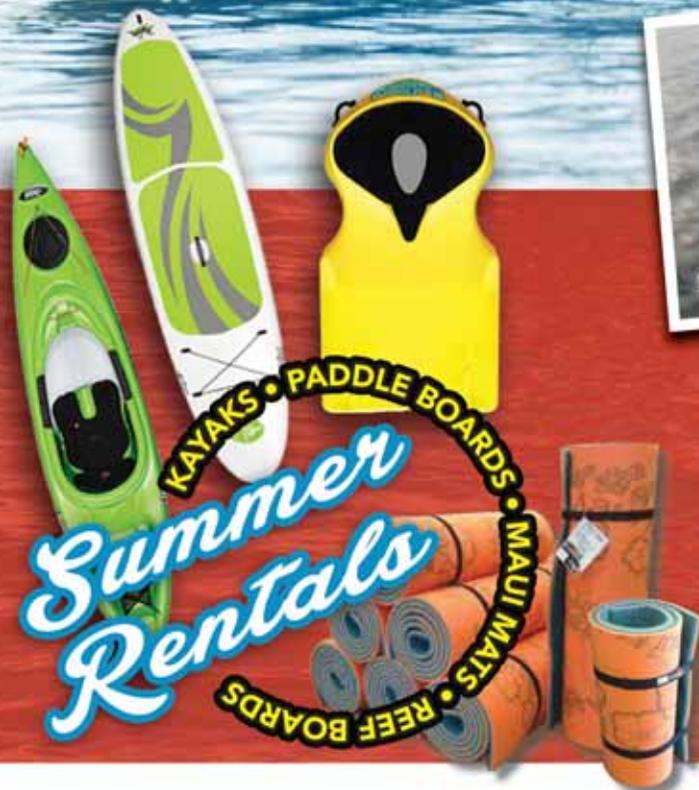
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JUNE 7TH

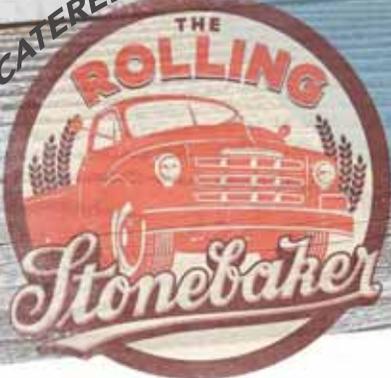
11AM-2PM

FOR MORE INFO

269.231.5153

18853 W US-12
New Buffalo, MI

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C & A Arborists Inc. Employee Gains Certified Treecare Safety Professional Status

Michael Dombrowski recently completed the Certified Treecare Safety Professional (CTSP) program offered by the Tree Care Industry Association. The CTSP program allows key employees at a given company to become certified tree care safety experts, thereby empowering and encouraging a culture of safety within that organization.

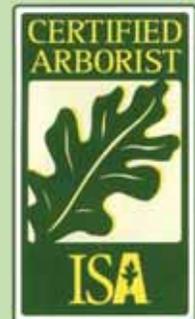
Maintaining a Certified Treecare Safety Professional on staff means that organizations are committed to safe practices in arboricultural operations. CTSP's are kept abreast of the latest technological advances and safety practices. They must commit to ongoing education in the safety field in order to maintain their certification.

CTSP's must complete a study guide, attend a two-day training workshop, and pass a rigorous exam. Once certified, CTSP's must complete at least 30 hours of training others, or receiving education themselves, every three years.

Consumers can have greater peace of mind with the knowledge that hiring a tree care company with a CTSP on staff helps to ensure safe and professional arboricultural work on their property.

**C & A
ARBORISTS**

**WE ARE
COMMITTED
TO SAFETY!**



Christian Siewert MI-0549A
ISA Certified Arborist on Staff

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4137 COMANCHE TRAIL • MICHIANA VILLAGE, MI
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Discover easy living in this updated ranch home in Michiana Village, Michigan. Absolutely wonderful contemporary classic feeling from the awesome exterior with attached 2 car garage to the entry way and modern layout of this 3 bedroom home. The kitchen is to the left and has exquisite dark wood cabinetry and stainless appliances and island and opens to the great room with lots of windows and natural light and a stone fireplace. Two bedrooms and bath off the great room and the master suite is in its own wing to the right of the entry for privacy. Gorgeous wood floors throughout. Fabulous patio for outdoor entertaining. Single level living at its finest! Short walk to the beautiful beach on Lake Michigan. A stunner!

3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
Offered at \$424,000



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OPEN HOUSE • MON 5/27 • 1-3 PM (CT)



3415 LAKE SHORE DRIVE
 Duneland Beach, Indiana
 9 BEDROOMS/11 BATHS
 \$3,750,000



2968 LAKE SHORE DRIVE
 Long Beach, Indiana
 5 BEDROOMS/4.5 BATHS
 \$2,475,000



1524 LAKE SHORE DRIVE
 Long Beach, Indiana
 4 BEDROOMS/3.5 BATHS
 \$1,369,000

OPEN HOUSE • SAT 5/25 • 10 AM -12 PM (CT)



2039 LAKE SHORE DRIVE
 Long Beach, Indiana
 5 BEDROOMS/3.5 BATHS
 \$995,000

OPEN HOUSE • SUN 5/26 • 10 AM -12 PM (CT)



2012 SOMERSET ROAD
 Long Beach, Indiana
 3 BEDROOMS/2.5 BATHS
 \$699,000



2124 AVONDALE DRIVE
 Long Beach, Indiana
 4 BEDROOMS/2.5 BATHS
 \$499,000

OPEN HOUSE • MON 5/27 • 10 AM -12 PM (CT)



207 WESTWOOD DRIVE
 Michigan City, Indiana
 4 BEDROOMS/3.5 BATHS
 \$399,000

OPEN HOUSE • SAT 5/25 • 10 AM -12 PM (CT)



1610 NICHOLS COURT
 Long Beach, Indiana
 3 BEDROOMS/2 BATHS
 \$399,000

OPEN HOUSE • SUN 5/26 • 10 AM -12 PM (CT)



316 DREAMWOLD WAY
 Michiana Shores, Indiana
 2 BEDROOMS/1 BATH
 \$334,000



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**6752 E. 50 N., Mill Creek, IN
\$299,000**

Serene acres, inspiring "Mill Creek House". 3 BRs, 2 BAs, wood-burning stove, fireplace, screen and covered porches, balcony, pond, 4-car garage.



**4140 Hillside Tr., Michiana Village, MI
\$475,000**

Close to Lake MI, privacy, large wooded site, 2 BRs, 1 BA, fieldstone fireplace, knotty pine panelling, wood floors, deck, play house for kids of all ages.



**201 Georgia Ave., Sheridan Beach, IN
\$710,000**

Deep, sandy Lake Michigan Beach, 3 BRs 3 BAs, balcony, deck, screened porch, indoor-to-outdoor lake living with breezes and views, garage and basement.



**2507 Shorewood Dr., Long Beach, IN
\$429,900**

Masterful Long Beach Home, 4 BRs, 3 BAs, close to beach and Country Club, perfect for summer living and entertaining, fireplace, steam shower, hardwood, stainless, extra large garage.



**115 N. Lake Ave., Sheridan Beach, IN
\$375,000**

Charmer, 50 steps to Lake MI beach, 4 BRs, 2 BAs, indoor beach shower, private deck, flower beds, rec room, wet bar, private parking, garage and storage.



**Dune Acres, IN
\$149,000-169,000**

Lake Michigan Private Beach! Only 6 available, .82-1.7 acre wooded building sites, private gated community, rail or road to Chicago.



**3515 Calumet Tr., Duneland Beach, IN
\$269,000**

Coveted private community, Lake MI association beach, best value, 4 BRs 2 BAs. Sleeps a crowd, two family rooms, fireplace, screened porch, two-car garage.



**47103 Oak Ave., Grand Beach, MI
\$395,000**

Cottage or Lake House, 4 BRs 2 BAs, dining room plus breakfast bar, fireplace, wood floors, sunny disposition, shed, adjacent wooded site available for \$190,000.



**47105 Oak Ave., Grand Beach, MI
\$190,000**

Permitted wooded building site, central knoll perfect for your Grand Beach dream home, short golf cart ride to sandy Lake Michigan beach.



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2146 N Karwick Rd., Long Beach, IN 46360

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313 Outlook Cove, LaPorte • \$289,000

This condo offers two bedrooms with a den that can function as a third. The master suite overlooks the lake with fireplace, private bathroom and walk-in closet. Open concept living room with fireplace, dining room and an updated kitchen, granite countertops, stainless appliances and sizable pantry with two large sliding glass doors that lead to the balcony overlooking the marina. This unit includes two indoor parking spaces, complete with additional gated storage. An optional boat slip in the private Outlook Cove's marina is available for purchase.



2700 Oriole Trail, Long Beach • \$749,000

This elegantly relaxed English Manor home on over half acre in coveted Long Beach has been tastefully updated while maintaining its authentic historic charm. Soaring ceilings, two stone fireplaces, marble and hardwood flooring throughout. Magnificent 2-story terrazzo bridal staircase, English country kitchen with inviting curved window seating. Expansive family room with 16 mirrored wet bar. Four bedrooms, five bathrooms including palatial master suite with bathroom spa and private deck.

LORA SCHMITT, Associate Broker
Coldwell Banker Residential
219-575-2412 Mobile • 269-469-3950 Office
loraschmitt1@gmail.com



New Coldwell Banker Office 2146 N. Karwick Rd., Long Beach, IN.



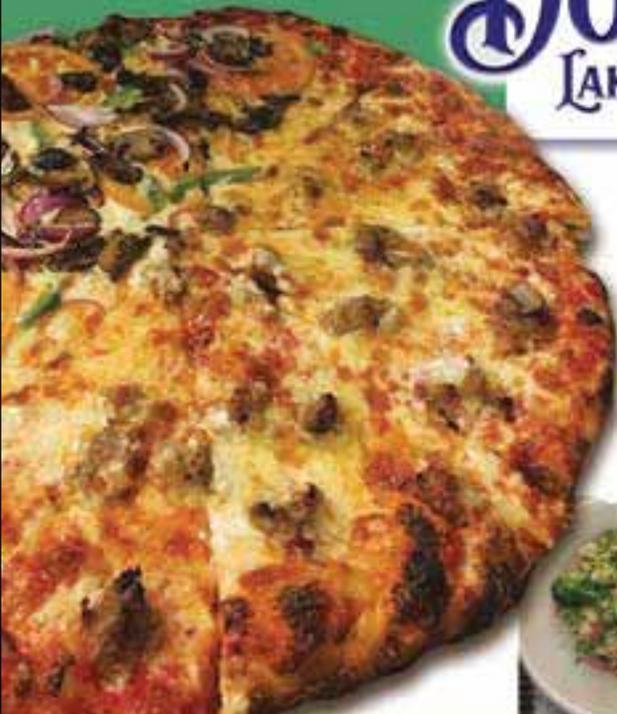
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47238 PERKINS BLVD, GRAND BEACH, MI



It is with great pleasure that I present this Grand Beach landmark! Home to one family for over 40 years. This elegant residence has been maintained with love and care and is ready to welcome her next family. Sitting high overlooking the Grand Beach Golf Course on four lots contributes to the expansive feeling of this property. The grand circular drive leads to the front entrance where a warm welcome awaits. The large living room leads to a dining room on the right and a sun porch on the left, perfect for family gatherings. The kitchen overlooks the dining area and connects to another den. In addition to the main house, there is 600 sf Coach House and garage on the grounds for additional family guests. And don't forget the pool and lush landscaping! Perfect for entertaining, the pool includes a dining surround and barbeque amidst a lovely garden setting. **\$1,495,000**

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GolfmoreEstates.com



45328 FAIRWAY DRIVE, NEW BUFFALO, MI

Fabulous 3,049 sq ft 4 bedroom, 3½ bath beach home in exclusive Golfmore Estates! Construction almost complete; bedrooms virtually staged to inspire you! **\$1,150,000**



10100 TOWNLINE AVENUE, UNION PIER, MI

Gordon Beach-beach rights with this wonderful home on a .63 acre corner lot. Two fireplaces, living room vaulted ceilings, and an open floor plan to custom kitchen and dining. **\$949,000**



31 CAMP MADRON ROAD, BUCHANAN, MI

Beautiful wooded homesite surrounded by 216 acres of nature; a perfect Michigan retreat: inland lake, beach, hiking & skiing trails, orchard, garden, stream, forest, peace and quiet. **\$529,000**



39 CAMP MADRON ROAD, BUCHANAN, MI

This property is priced to sell! Light, bright & cheery, this 3 bedroom 2½ bath home offers great entertaining space. Open concept, Living Room with wood burning fireplace. **\$318,000**



4559 TRAILS END, ST JOSEPH
Stunning custom 8 br, 9 ba. Appx 408 feet of St Joseph River. Fox Ridge Estates. \$3,200,000
BETTY M. BIERNACKI 269.469.8300



11791 MARQUETTE DR, NEW BUFFALO
Riviera Community 5 br, 4 ba w/appx 100 ft of low bluff Lake Michigan frontage. \$2,400,000
ROB GOW & CHRIS PFAUSER 269.469.8300



3605 LAKE SHORE DRIVE, MICHIANA SHORES
Spectacular Lake Michigan views. 2 br, 2 ba on appx .40-acre lot with frontage. \$1,600,000
BETTY BIERNACKI 269.469.8300



1260 RYDER ROAD, CHESTERTON
Custom built in 2005 on appx 1 acre in Sand Creek. Classic 6 br, 4.5 ba 2-sty. \$1,099,000
HILARY PENDER 269.469.8300



5 SUMMIT DRIVE, DUNE ACRES
Dune Acres 5 br, 4.5 ba flooded with light. Private, dune top, natural setting. \$879,000
HILARY PENDER 269.469.8300



11854 MARQUETTE DR, NEW BUFFALO
4 br, 2 ba. Double lot between Galien River, across street from Riviera Beach. \$875,000
JOHN REAGAN 269.469.8300



6 CIRCLE DRIVE, DUNE ACRES
Dune Acres. Complete update/remodel. 3 br, 3.5 ba designed by Jerome Hyndman. \$799,900
AMY WENTLAND 269.469.8300



9440 CALIFORNIA RD, UNION PIER
Home and guest house. 2 br, 2 ba. Spacious wooded lot. Living rm fplc. Deck. \$649,000
CHARLES HEAVER 269.469.8300



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1830 TOUR TRACE, CHESTERTON
Sand Creek 5 br, 4.5 ba. Open floorplan and cathedral ceilings. 3-car garage. \$599,999
AMY WENTLAND 269.469.8300



3836 MICHIANA DRIVE, MICHIANA
Marvelous floorplan, completely redone. 5 br, 3.5 ba. Rec rm w/pool table, fplc. \$599,000
CHRISTINA KELLY 269.469.8300



4155 CHOCTAW TRL, NEW BUFFALO
Amazing Michiana 4 br, 2 ba post/beam constructed home. Only 5 blocks to beach. \$575,000
KAREN LARKIN-JOHNSON 269.469.8300



18590 FOREST BEACH DR, NEW BUFFALO
Forest Beach cottage, close to New Buffalo. 5 br, 4 ba lake house. Assoc pool. \$549,000
KAREN LARKIN-JOHNSON 269.469.8300



18459 DUNECREST DR 32, NEW BUFFALO
2-level Villa home. 3 br, 4 ba. Over 2,000 appx sq ft. Designer-quality finishes. \$494,500
ROB GOW & CHRIS PFAUSER 269.469.8300



4155 CHOCTAW TRL A, NEW BUFFALO
Michiana's amazing 4 br, 2 ba, post/beam constructed-home. 5 blocks to beach. \$475,000
KAREN LARKIN-JOHNSON 269.469.8300



1908 MONROVIA DRIVE, LONG BEACH
Charming 3 br, 2 ba Long Beach Lake home. Great rm fplc, vault ceiling. Deck. \$398,700
CHRISTINA KELLY 269.469.8300



12 POWHATAN DRIVE, MICHIANA SHORES
Near Lake Michigan 3 br, 2 ba ranch cottage. Michiana Shores. Totally renovated. \$379,500
RICHARD REMIJAS 269.469.8300



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18590 Chase Lane

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58 Magnolia Trail

\$434,500

The Woodlands, new in 2017, 3 BR /3 bath/2-car garage contemporary on 1.6 private wooded acres, sharing community pool. Custom construction, 5 star energy rated, maple flooring, porcelain tile, quartz surfaces, cedar exterior, metal roof, Pella windows/doors. 58MagnoliaTrl.C21.com



71 Timber Trail

\$449,999

PRICE LOWERED. Custom designed/ built, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2-car garage, 1.67 acres. Community pool/tennis/golf courts, just 1 hr. to Chicago. Main floor master, vaulted family room, multiple decks & porches, surrounded by custom flagstone, gravel paths and songbirds. 71TimberTrl.C21.com



906-906 1/2 N. Franklin St.

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2826 Lake Shore Drive

5 bed / 8 bath • 2826LakeShoreDr.info • \$3,290,000

Impossible to reproduce - this magical oasis was expertly crafted, offering character and drama one rarely finds - and designed for the family that loves to entertain at the beach! 80 feet of beach frontage and 110 feet at the street. This multi-level masterpiece has an elevator, 5 bdrms/8 baths, 3 fireplaces: in master bedroom, double sided option in main floor living room, and another in the family room in the pub! Exceptional open floor plan, floor to ceiling windows, chef's kitchen, whole house surround sound, lower level pub complete with 2 wall mounted TV's, kegerator, wine fridge, ice maker and poker table, 8 seat movie theater, large guest quarters above garage with full bath, beach level bunk room with full bath & kitchenette, pergola covered beach side deck with built in grilling station. Lower level of garage on beach side has excellent storage for watercraft. There is absolutely nothing more you could want in a beach house!

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107 Carolina Avenue

3 bed / 2 bath • 107Carolina.info • \$380,000

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3818 Hiawatha Drive

2 bed / 2 bath
3818Hiawatha.info
\$369,000



121 Thomas Blvd

4 bed / 4 bath
121Thomas.info
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308 Beachwalk Lane

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308Beachwalk.info
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 Post-game fireworks

SATURDAY MAY 25TH

Game starts at 7:05 pm | Gates open at 5 pm
 Flat Screen Saturday—Every inning a fan will win a 55-inch flat screen TV

SUNDAY MAY 26TH

Game starts at 7:05 pm | Gates open at 5 pm
 Military Appreciation Day—Active duty & military veterans receive 2 free tickets to the game
 Post-game fireworks

MONDAY MAY 27TH

Memorial Day

Game starts at 2:05 pm | Gates open at 12 pm
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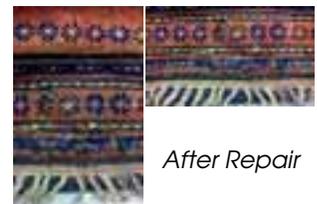
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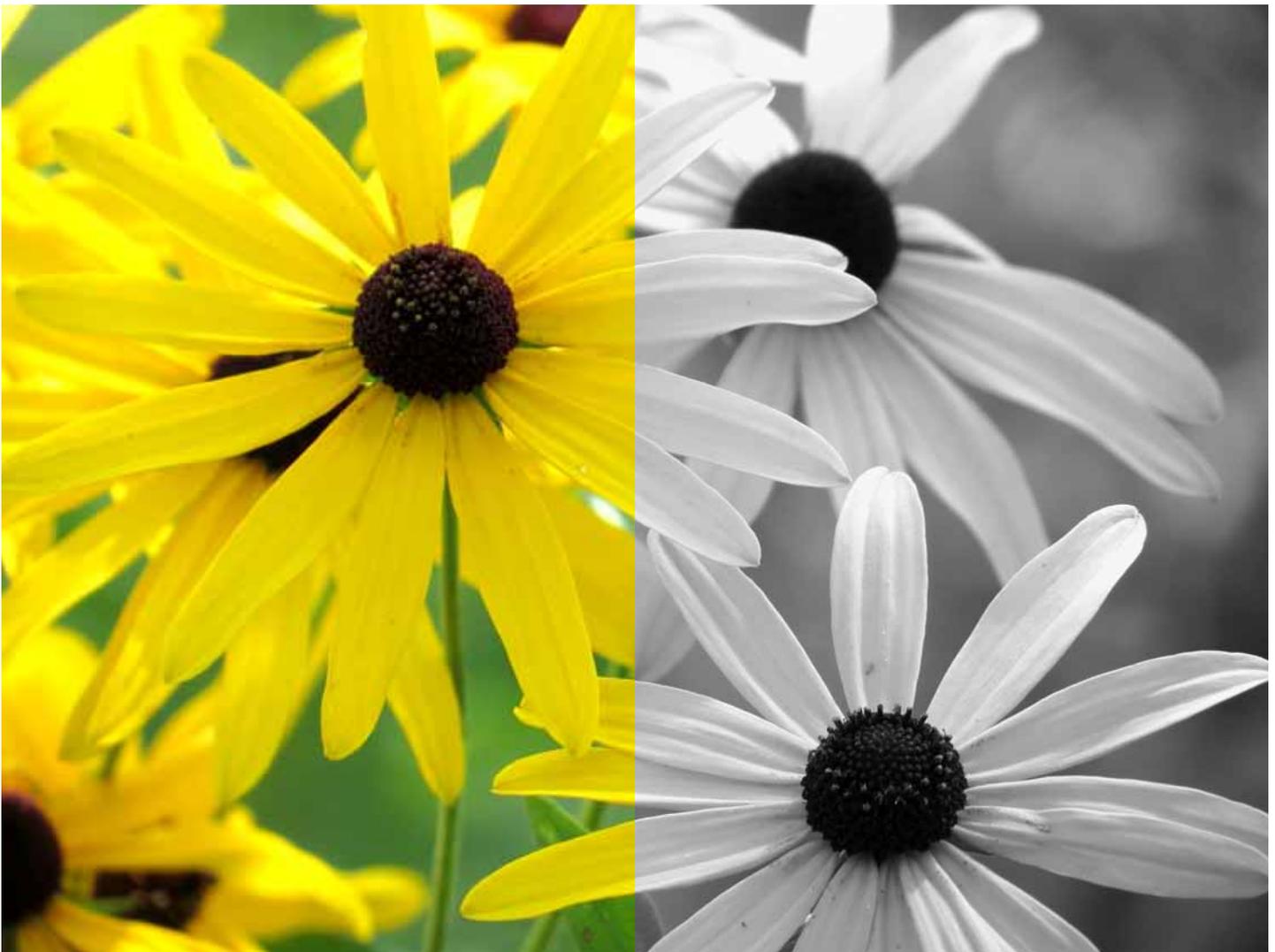
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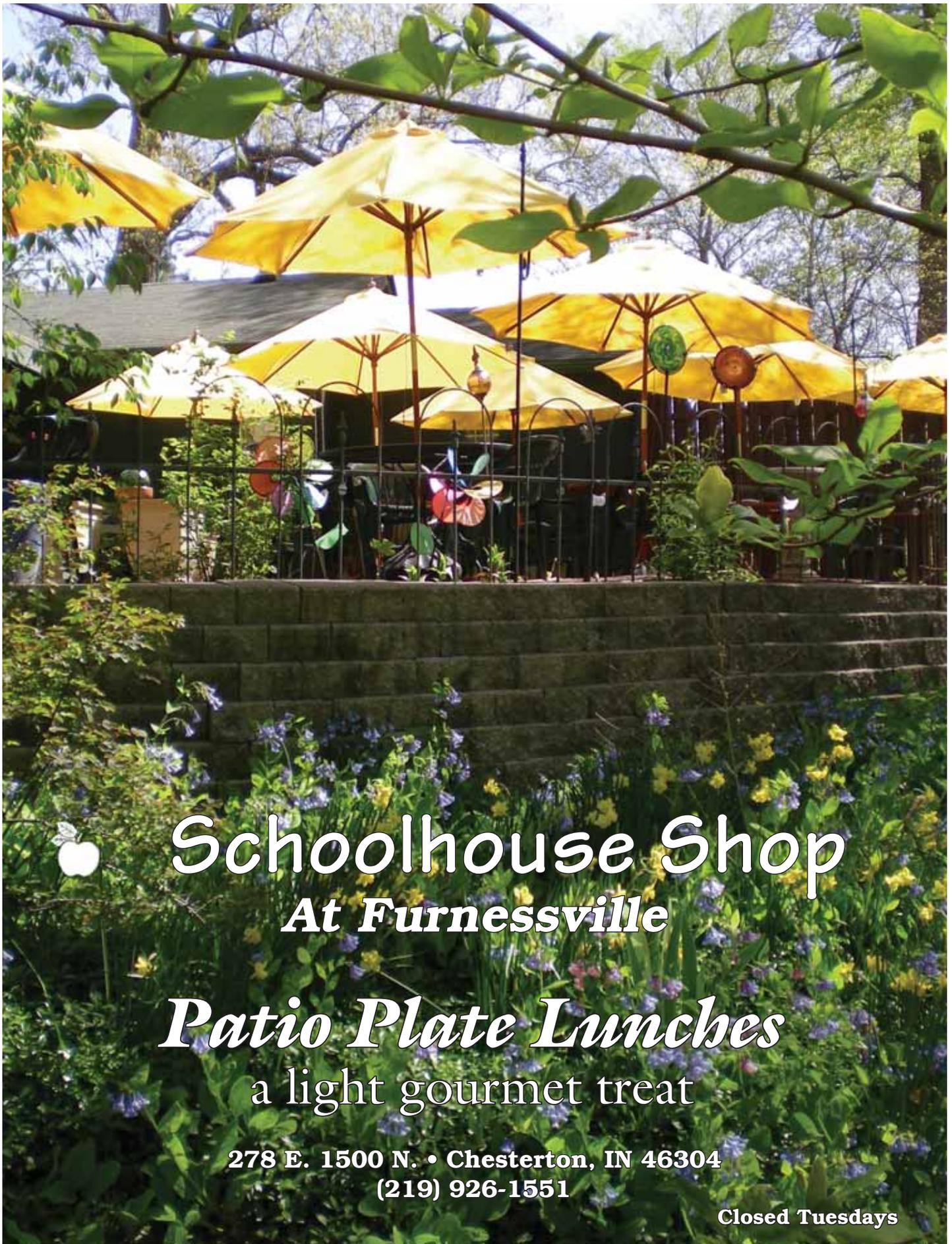


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Bring this ad for a **Free Single Fare Train Ride** with purchase of same.

Not valid Labor Day Weekend. Offer not valid in combination with any other offer. No Cash Value. Free ticket equal or lesser value. One per guest per day. Expires: 1/1/20

Steam Powered Sawmill & other exhibits will be in operation.

Visit Doc's



A 1930 vintage Soda Fountain for lunch & ice cream.

New Breakfast Buffet Served 9 - 11:00

Just minutes off I-94 (Exit 1) or Indiana Toll Road (Exit 49)

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

Weekends and holidays though the summer and fall.

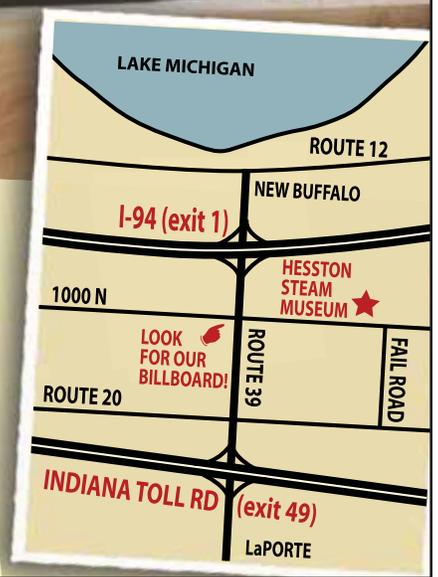
Doc's Soda Fountain opens at 9:00 for breakfast. See website for details.

www.hesston.org

Look for the billboard at CR 1000 North and IN-39

GPS: 1201 East 1000 North LaPorte, IN 46350

Hesston Steam Museum



Marrakesh - In Michiana?

Thoughts from someone who truly loves her home...

I wanted to create a sanctuary that when I came home I'd feel at peace. Believe I accomplished this by including nature, sound, color, fire, water and LOVE. Much of the design is inspired by my travels to Bali and of course Marrakesh. Created especially for sound, the Water feature sets the stage for Calm. Balinese Paradise (*Lake Michigan style*) welcomes you in rear yard – ideal for yoga, meditation and small or large gatherings. My home's design has made it ideal for entertaining with the flow from the back garden through the great room and on to the front patio...

Special treat for your imagination – rear garden has a glimpse into the “*enchanted forest*” just behind the water goddess, as she rises from her frog pond!

*Elements of tranquility from outside in
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YOUR SHOULDER FAILING YOU??

Dear NW Indiana Neighbor,

There's not a whole lot worse than an achy irritated shoulder.

It can cause an unexpected sharp pain just reaching out a certain way...it can almost drop you to your knees.

It can ruin your night...making it impossible to get a good night sleep...and what's worse, you wake up cranky.

It can change the way you put on your shirt...or for the ladies, your bra...because it's just too painful to do it the way you used to.

It can stop you from enjoying daily simple tasks...making you frustrated...forcing you to take more pain pills than you would care to admit.

And for golfers out there...it can ruin your game...getting scores you're too embarrassed to tell...your friends are probably wondering why you even care to play!

Top 3 Causes Why Your Shoulders Are Failing You

There are 3 most common causes of shoulder pain.

Cause #1 is arthritis. The most common form of arthritis in the shoulder is "osteoarthritis." The joint wears out and may crop up as you age.

You start to feel and hear irritating and alarming noises from your shoulder as you try to move your arm.

You might respond to arthritis pain by reducing your shoulder movements...but this can backfire and cause tightness or stiffness in the soft tissues of your shoulder joint. This can lead to significant pain when moving the shoulder...and worst, it can cause your shoulder joint to freeze up.

Cause #2 is tendinitis and bursitis. Shoulders are prone to overuse injuries from repetitive tasks, such as overhead lifting. This often shows up in the form of tendinitis, an inflammation of the tendons, and bursitis, inflammation of the bursa.

The bursa is a fluid-filled sac between tendons and bones that allows them to glide easily. If the bursa is inflamed, the tendons may scrape against the shoulder bones resulting in weakness or tearing. Sharp, thunderbolt-like pain that drops you on your knees can be a telltale sign.

Cause #3 is rotator cuff tendon tears. The rotator cuff is a group of four muscles that runs from your shoulder blade into the top end of your arm bone.

When torn (there are 3 grades of tears), you'll experience pain and weakness as you try to raise your arm overhead, or when reaching behind the back, such as with women trying to strap on their bra.

How To Get Back Your Healthy Shoulders

Attend my FREE Rotator Cuff and Shoulder Pain Workshop. I am presenting this on the following dates and locations:

- **5 PM Wednesday, June 5, 2019**, at our **LaPorte** office (1405 E. Lincolnway, Suite B)
- **6 PM Thursday, June 6, 2019**, at our **Valparaiso** office (3125 Calumet Ave., Suite 8)

I will discuss in detail during the workshop:

- *How to find out what's causing your shoulder pain without having to get an X-ray or an MRI (yes...I'll show you ways to test it yourself).*
- *How to correct the cause of your pain and speed up the healing process without relying on medications, injections or surgery (one of the techniques I'll share takes only 3 minutes to do on your own every day...patients can't believe how much difference it can make).*
- *How to prevent your shoulder from getting worse, and avoid the single biggest mistake shoulder pain sufferers make (unfortunately, this is a mistake a lot of people make that results in unnecessary surgery).*

Due to space constraints, I am only taking 20 attendees for each location. **To hold your spot, please call:**

- **(219) 380-0809 in LaPorte**
- **(219) 202-2500 in Valparaiso**

Sincerely,



Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC

Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

PS- Call (219) 380-0809 in LaPorte or (219) 202-2500 in Valpo to hold your spot for my FREE Rotator Cuff and Shoulder Pain Workshop on Wednesday, June 5, in LaPorte, and Thursday, June 6, in Valpo.

PPS- Due to space constraints, I am only taking 20 attendees for each location.

LaPorte County High School Students Attend Leadership Program



Students in the annual leadership program pose for a group photo.

Leadership LaPorte County recently completed its annual high school leadership program with more than 50 local high-schoolers participating.

Each LaPorte County high school was asked to nominate five students. The schools included: La Crosse, La Lumiere, LaPorte, Marquette Catholic, Michigan City, New Prairie, South Central and Westville. One home-schooled student also participated. Four all-day sessions were held at different locations around the county: Red Mill County Park, LaPorte County Complex and Cummings Lodge. Facilitators were Leadership Executive Director Monica Komaskinski, and Jim Jessup, a founding Leadership LaPorte County board member and longtime volunteer.

Nine students from last year's class served as student leaders. They were: Andréa Franklin (LaPorte); Peyton Rodgers (Westville); Logan Notaro (South Central); Kate Zientarski (Marquette); Sydney Moody (New Prairie); Mya Morrow (LaCrosse); Trevor Cary (La Lumiere); and Julia Miller (Michigan City). A Unity Foundation community grant funded the program.

The students participated in activities to enhance skills such as communication, problem solving, team building, collaboration and decision-making. At the opening session, they did a personality assessment to better understand group dynamics and individual personality traits. At the County Complex, the group toured the county jail, heard from Sheriff John Boyd and interviewed a panel of offenders. Sonshine Troche and Jenny Rohrer from Worthy Women Recovery Home gave a message on compassion and maintaining a positive self-image.

The final session featured a panel of young professionals, including Bert Cook, Carrie Campbell and Justin Kiel. The panelists held a question-and-

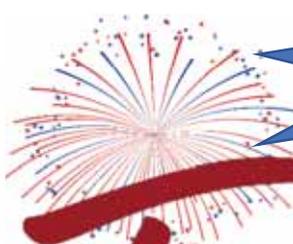


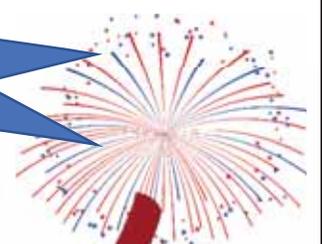
The program's student leaders.

answer session with students, discussing their leadership journey. The students also reported on their team community service projects which included Lake Michigan beach cleanup, a fundraiser for Riley Hospital for Children, military care packages and homeless center donations. Each participant received a certificate of completion and a commemorative T-shirt.

Next year's student leaders were chosen. They are: Olivia Zarantonello and Jimmy Marony (LaPorte); Kaitlyn Bishop (Westville); Brady Glisic (South Central); Luke Trinks (Marquette); Chase Ketterer (New Prairie); Natalie Buckman (La Crosse); Jibreel Hoskins (Michigan City); Elena Sofia Alick (La Lumiere); and Owen Ott (home-school).

Call Komaskinski at (219) 325-8223 or email info@leadershiplaportecounty.com for details.





LONG BEACH 45th

Fourth of July

CELEBRATION

EVENT DETAILS

- Parade begins at 10:00 AM

Participants should be at the Long Beach Community Center by 9:30 AM for judging.

Trophies will be awarded in the following categories:

Bicycle | Stroller/Wagon/Trike | Golf Cart
Float | Walking Group

Awards Presented at 11:00 AM

- No business or political entries or advertising
- No cars (unless pulling a float)
- No dogs (this will be strictly enforced)
- Alcoholic beverage consumption requires an ID

Live music during the event by local band!

FOOD

10 AM - 1 PM

Best Brats on the Beach

Grilled Hot Dogs

Ice Cold Beer and Soft Drinks

Mike's Lemonade

Bags of Chips

Ice Cream Treats

2019 T-SHIRTS

On sale at Karwick Plaza every Saturday/Sunday from 9-12 beginning June 22nd and then in the park during the event.

Fireworks start at dusk



Proudly Sponsored by the Long Beach Civic Association

They Will Not Be Forgotten

For the past four years, Joanne Janisch has been gathering the names of LaPorte County veterans who died during the past year.

Janisch is a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars

Auxiliary Post 1130 in LaPorte. Her sister-in-law, Jean Chlupacek, assembled the lists before her. The mission is to ensure these individuals, and how they served their country, are not forgotten.

Wayne Graffis	5/1/18	Army	William Mondt	7/29/18	Korea
Glenn Zeman	5/5/18	Army Nat. Guard	Alan Mansfield	7/29/18	Air Force
William Berby Jr.	5/7/18	Korea	Trent Murman	8/1/18	Navy
Daryl Rogers	5/14/18	IN Nat. Guard	Richard Linzing	8/3/18	Army
Roy Hudson Jr.	5/15/18	Army	Rada Pejic MD	8/6/18	Navy
Harold Bernacchi	5/15/18	WWII	Charles Trottier	8/6/18	Army
Gregory Mansfield	5/16/18	Navy	Oliver West	8/7/18	Army
Richard Heisman	5/16/18	Navy	John Crakes	8/10/18	Vietnam
Franklin Lenz	5/16/18	Army	Melvin Shinn	8/11/18	Army
Kenneth Smith	5/17/18	Vietnam	Fred Elkins	8/14/18	WWII
David "Lee Roy" Altman	5/19/18	Korea	Marilyn Nowatzke	8/15/18	Marine
Rev. Fr. Joseph Angotti	5/20/18	Armed Services	William Landers	8/16/18	WWII
Marvin Carter	5/21/18	Marine	Jimmy Thomas	8/19/18	Vietnam
John Tapocik	5/21/18	Army	Paul Miller	8/20/18	WWII
Daniel Wilson	5/24/18	Army	Jeremiah Burke	8/22/18	WWII
Thomas Mulhern	5/24/18	Army	Carlos Barnes	8/26/18	Marine
Charles Vorm	5/24/18	Mer. Marine	Arthur Cyphers Sr.	8/26/18	Army
Norman Alderson	5/26/18	Army	Adolph "AJ" Kentaft	8/26/18	WWII
William Thompson	5/28/18	Vietnam	Terry Schroeder	8/27/18	Vietnam
Eugene Franckowski	5/29/18	Korea	Bruce Steinke	8/28/18	Army
James Grogan	5/30/18	Army, Nat. Guard	Raymond Bentley	8/28/18	Korea
Ronald Green	5/30/18	Vietnam	Wayne Tarnow	8/29/18	Korea
Joseph Kosiba	5/31/18	Vietnam	Carl Fidanza	9/1/18	Marine
Jeffry Manis	6/1/18	Army Nat. Guard	John Schultz	9/4/18	Navy
Dennis Regan	6/1/18	Korea	Raymond Christoph	9/5/18	WWII
Teddy Salzar	6/3/18	Vietnam	Lloyd Chapman	9/7/18	Korea
Kenneth Czarnecki	6/4/18	Navy	Robert Wagoner	9/7/18	Navy
James Chase MD	6/5/18	Navy	Richard Bruemmer	9/8/18	Vietnam
George "Al" Finney	6/7/18	Army	Edward McConnell	9/13/18	Vietnam
Lynn Brownlee	6/12/18	Korea	Ralph Howes	9/13/18	WWII
Harry Moore	6/13/18	Korea	Edward Garbacik Sr.	9/14/18	Army
Larry Dombrowsky	6/13/18	Vietnam	Glenn "Corky" Siddall	9/14/18	Vietnam
John Holmes Jr.	6/15/18	Marine	Robert Moyer	9/16/18	Vietnam
John Yussum	6/16/18	Army	Linda Wiseman	9/16/18	Navy
Donald Machler	6/16/18	Korea	Chester Box	9/17/18	Army
Frank Burgess	6/19/18	Army	Forrest Bair	9/20/18	Air Force
Chris Davis	6/21/18	Air Force	Joseph Plis	10/2/18	Army
Donald Michaels	6/22/18	Army	Jeanne Janisch	10/3/18	Army
Milton Harde	6/25/18	Navy - Army	Charles Lowry	10/4/18	Air Force
Eugene Levendowski	6/28/18	Vietnam	Eugene Weliver	10/5/18	Korea
Marck Wilcox	6/29/18	Vietnam	Steve Cigan	10/5/18	Army Reserves
LeRoy Lewis	7/1/18	Korea	Terrence Manuszak	10/9/18	Army
William Walter	7/2/18	Navy	F. Bendon Rhoades	10/16/18	WWII
James Ebersole	7/5/18	Army	Glenn Boo	10/17/18	Army
Peter Vitkus	7/5/18	National Guard	David Collin Sr.	10/26/18	Army
Todd Gumns	7/6/18	Marine	John Zink	10/28/18	Army
Walter Quinlan	7/9/18	Korea	Frank Mirka	10/29/18	Army
William Koch	7/12/18	Korea	Warren Jones	11/2/18	WWII
Johnie Newcomb	7/14/18	Marine	Keith Mills	11/3/18	Vietnam
Roger Volk	7/22/18	Vietnam	Matthew Kelly	11/3/18	Army
Richard Delco	7/24/18	Army	William Hudock	11/3/18	Vietnam
Charles Sanders	7/27/18	Army	Thaddeus Bolakowski	11/5/18	Marine

Robert Wedow	11/6/18	Air Force	William Hatchel	2/7/19	Army
Bobbie Davis	11/14/18	Navy	Richard Blank	2/8/19	WWII
John Wallace	11/14/18	WWII	Dr. David Gilchrist	2/8/19	Army, Reserves
Ronald Corsbie	11/15/18	Air Force	Robert Novitzke	2/10/19	Army Reserve
John Spear	11/22/18	Army	Alvin Kreske Sr.	2/12/19	WWII
Deacon Daniel Bowmar	11/22/18	Korea	David Breitzka	2/13/19	Army
Larry Brown	11/25/18	Army	Charles Huyette	2/17/19	Korea
Clarence Howard Jr.	11/30/18	Army	Robert Paul	2/18/19	Coast Guard
James Bentley	12/1/18	Air Force	John Sweeney	2/19/19	Air Force
Frank Nowak	12/2/18	Air Force	Max Ungerank	2/21/19	WWII
Jerry Schliephake	12/2/18	Army	Michael Van Scyoc	2/24/19	Air Force
Lewis Ridenour	12/2/18	Air Force	Arthur Schrader	2/26/19	Navy
Carl DePaul	12/5/18	Marine	David Larson	2/28/19	Army Reserve
Phillip Severs	12/5/18	Marine	Donald Blank	3/1/19	WWII
Duane Hastings	12/7/18	Vietnam	John Grott	3/4/19	Marines
Wilbur Eggert	12/8/18	Army	Edward Wroblewski	3/6/19	National Guard
Richard Land	12/9/18	Army	Gary Henderson	3/6/19	Army
Thomas Griffin	12/10/18	Army	Warren Jones	3/9/19	Army
Harold "Rosie" Rosenow	12/10/18	Korea	Earnest Daniels	3/13/19	Air Force
Eugene Biller	12/13/18	Army Air Corps	Ronald Kubit	3/13/19	Coast Guard
Larry Dalton	12/18/18	Air Force	Ned Lathrop	3/13/19	Army
Dennis Lawson	12/19/18	Vietnam	Gerald Wiencek	3/20/19	Navy
Thomas Thompson	12/19/18	Army	David Warren	3/21/19	Army
James Weiss	12/20/18	WWII	Ray "Art" Miller	3/23/19	Army
Thomas Mroz	12/21/18	Army Sp. Forces	Raymond Schoenfeld	3/25/19	Army
Alfred Maselbas	12/21/18	WWII	John Topa	3/28/19	WWII
Joseph Frasure	12/23/18	Air Force	Thomas Seibert	3/30/19	Korea
Thomas Hootman	12/24/18	WWII	Audry "Bo" McCarty	3/30/19	Army
Wallace Yentes	12/25/18	WWII	Robert Johnson	4/2/19	Navy
Chester Smith	12/25/18	Army	Wayne Reicher	4/2/19	Army
Kenneth Baker	12/26/18	WWII	Robert Rubeck	4/4/19	Vietnam
Frederick Waller	12/26/18	WWII	Randall Schwarzkopf	4/7/19	Army
Bruce Ludwig	12/29/18	Vietnam	James Bell	4/8/19	Korea
Howard Tobias	12/31/18	WWII	John Smith	4/12/19	Army
Arthur Goede	1/4/19	Korea	Joseph Gatz	4/12/19	Navy
Richard Loomis	1/10/19	Army	Charles Dickman	4/16/19	Marines
Jerome Nichols	1/14/19	Korea	Patrick Bergerson	4/16/19	Vietnam
Kenneth Henriott	1/16/19	Marine	Herold "Bud" Walters	4/16/19	WWII
Robert Burns	1/16/19	Army	Donald Hinton	4/17/19	Des. Storm, Shield
John Weeks	1/17/19	Korea	Donald Holda	4/18/19	Korea
Dean Davidson	1/18/19	Korea	Travis Shipley Sr.	4/19/19	Air Force
John Molinaro	1/19/19	Army	Thomas Knotts	4/20/19	Army
Michael McGuire	1/20/19	Vietnam	Donald Zalac MD	4/20/19	Army
Paul "Mac" McCormick	1/23/19	Air Nat. Guard	Edward Frank	4/21/19	Air Force
Lawrence Wozniak	1/24/19	Marine	Roland Gropp	4/25/19	WWII
Arlen Fosburgh	1/25/19	Vietnam	Betsy Berry	4/26/19	Navy
Richard Waltman	1/25/19	Vietnam	Herbert Holtgren	4/26/19	Army
Edward Feikes	1/26/19	Air Force	Gerald Henrichs	4/27/19	Vietnam
Blossom Levins	1/28/19	Navy Waves	Eugene Ruggles	4/28/19	WWII
Gary Cooley	1/30/19	Army	Maurice Hurni	5/1/19	WWII
James Gayheart	1/31/19	National Guard	David Moon	5/1/19	Army Reserves
James Nichols	1/31/19	Army	Therlo Jenner	5/3/19	Army
Richard Woods	1/31/19	Army	Asa Reid Sr.	5/4/19	Army
Jimmie Hacker	2/1/19	Marine	Michael Minichiello	5/4/19	Vietnam
Eugene Hayman	2/1/19	Army Nat. Guard	George Childress	5/6/19	Army
Marvin Kominiarek Jr.	2/2/19	Army	Harold Bynum	5/6/19	Air Force
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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.

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.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first.

The schedule is:

- June 12 — 1 Fish, 2 Fish.
- June 26 — Play Trail Adventure.
- July 17 — Butterfly Fun.

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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Chesterton Art Center

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

• **Dick Church will offer a six-week Beginning/Intermediate Watercolor class starting from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, May 31.**

Church will lead students through a variety of watercolor techniques. The cost is \$95, with members receiving a \$20 discount. Supplies are not included. Church will discuss supplies with all beginners to start the class.

• **Judy Gregurich and Mark Montgomery will host two Stained Glass classes starting from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, June 4.**

In "Beginning Stained Glass," students learn the art of copper foil stained glass. Tools and supplies are included. The cost is \$260, with members receiving a \$30 discount.

"Stained Glass Open Studio" is for students who have taken a stained glass class at the center. Students experiment with different types of textured clear glass, copper foil overlay and sand blasting (etching). They also may work on their own projects at their own pace, with assistance as needed from instructors.

Students must provide tools and supplies. The cost is \$105, with members receiving a \$30 discount. Both classes are eight weeks. All students must register and pay before the first class.

• **Four weeks of Kids Summer Art Camps.**

Each camp runs Monday through Thursday, with ages 4-7 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and ages 8 and older from 12 to 2:30 p.m. Children will paint, explore and create. The schedule is: Week 1 — June 10-13, "Pop/Fizzy Art Week;" Week 2 — June 24-27, "Tropical Art Week;" Week 3 — July 15-18, "Fiesta Art Week;" and Week 4 — July 22-25, "National Park Art Week."

The cost each week is \$90, with members receiving a \$20 discount. Reservations must be made no later than the Friday before the camp begins.

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



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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.

- **Graphic Novel Book Club for Teens at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 23.**

The focus this month is Shazam. The group is aimed at teens 13-18. Stop by Youth Services for more information.

- **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.

- **Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 28.**

The foreign-policy discussion program concludes its 21st season with "The State of the State Department." Reading material is available at the circulation desk.

- **Library Hours.**

The library will open at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 23, due to a staff meeting. It will close Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day. Afterward, it will be closed Sundays through Sept. 1.

- **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.



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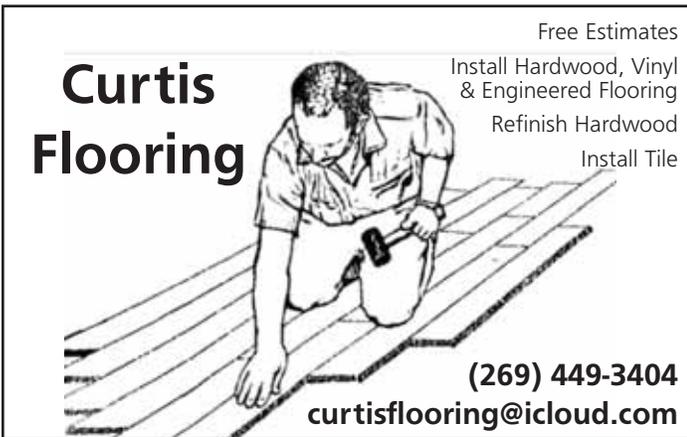
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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

• **Critters in the Campground from 7 to 8 p.m. Friday, May 24.**

Join a naturalist at the campground shelter next to campsite 113 for treats and information on upcoming programs.

• **Volunteer Beach Cleanup with the Friends of Indiana Dunes at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 25.**

Meet Friends of Indiana Dunes Board Member Paul Stofko at the main beach pavilion. Trash bags and gloves are provided.

• **High Dunes Hike at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 25.**

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

• **Ssssnakes Alive! at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 25.**

Meet at the Nature Center to view snakes and learn more about them.

• **Sense-ational Night Hike at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 25.**

Meet at the Nature Center for a hike and hands-on activities.

• **Ant Lion Safari at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 26.**

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

• **Sun Fun at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 26.**

Celebrating National Sunscreen Day, the program at the Nature Center auditorium involves solar facts and a craft.

• **Spider Sniffing Saunter at 8 p.m. Sunday, May 26.**

Meet at the Nature Center to learn the technique for finding spiders' eyes at night along the trail.

• **Dunes Creek Hike at 10:30 a.m. Monday, May 27.**

Meet a naturalist at the campground shelter next to campsite 113 for a program on the creek that flows through the dunes.

• **Turtle Time at 3 p.m. Monday, May 27.**

Meet outside the nature center to learn more about turtles.



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.



Beverly Shores Garden & Art Walk

June 1, 11 am-3 pm. Seven Bartlett Home gardens with plein-air artists. Ticket includes raffle for original watercolor or \$100 garden basket.

\$10/advance; \$15 at the door. absr.org or (708) 794-6474.

Indiana Dunes National Park

The following programs are planned:

- **Mount Baldy Summit Sunset Hike from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, May 24.**

Meet at the Mount Baldy parking lot off U.S. 12 for a ranger-led hike. The parking lot and beach are open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. The dune, however, is still closed for general public use.

- **Pinhook Bog Open House from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 25.**

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.

- **Science in the National Lakeshore from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 25, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet local experts and scientists conducting research, followed by a short hike. Dress for the weather.

- **Stargazing from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, May 25, 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 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 26.**

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

- **Feeding Time at Chellberg Farm at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, May 26.**

Join a ranger for the 30-minute program. The farm is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12 in Porter.

- **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.

- **Movie Screenings at the Visitor Center from 2 to 3 p.m. Monday, May 27.**

Join a ranger for a screening of a national park or outdoor-related documentary.



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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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!

Memorial Celebration

A memorial celebration honoring veterans is at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 25, at the Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

The program includes a 21-gun salute by a local American Legion post, and a special program by Michigan City Area Schools middle-schoolers.

Refreshments will be served. Call (219) 229-1483 or visit thedepotmag.org for details.

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- Meet your Councilman and neighbors
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Be sure to note our 2019 meeting dates:

May 25th, July 13th and August 31st

For more information visit: www.sheridanbeachhomeowners.com



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Straighten Up

Wherever you are right now, look around. Whether it is at home or in a public place, subtly look at the people around you. How would you grade their posture? Are they slouching over at a table, or do they sit tall, like they have a board taped to their back? Or maybe one of the million variations in between.

You have been told this since you were a kid, maybe even with a not-so-delicate poke with a hard object or finger to the lower back: “Sit up straight!” To which most kids do for about 10 seconds before slouching back over again.

But now, you’re older, feeling achy, tight, some muscles overworked, some muscles underworked. Hmm, maybe this was one of those things you should’ve listened to....

Have no fear, though. Like with exercising, eating healthy and changing bad habits, it is never too late. It’s amazing what small movements can do to improve big problems. Poor posture can lead to stress on your joints, tendons and ligaments. And because of this extra stress, something as simple as good posture gone bad can lower quality of life.

This is a list of five exercises to fix that slouch. To make it even easier, these are five exercises you can do at home without equipment, so you REALLY have no reason not to do it! At the gym, I also preach functional training, which comes back to moving your body as it was meant to move, which is not seated on a machine. However, everyone starts at a different place on their fitness journey, and with different injuries and ailments. So these exercises can be performed seated, but to reap more benefits and recruit more body parts and muscles, try them standing.

Pectoral Massage

Tight muscles in your chest can make it difficult to pull your shoulders back and down. One way to overcome this is to increase tissue mobility through self-massage.

Begin by rolling the shoulders back and down. Make a fist with the right hand and gently press your knuckles into the left pectoral muscle next to the sternum. Place the palm of your left hand on top of the fist for added pressure. Slowly drive the knuckles across the muscle toward the shoulder joint. Lift the hand, returning it to the starting position, and repeat.



The Fitness Rebellion

by Kevin Scott

Shoulder External Rotations

Internal rotation is a common problem. External rotation can help. Sometimes, finding the culprit of one problem leads you to the total opposite side of the body. Roll the shoulders back and down. Tuck your pelvis slightly to maintain a neutral lower-back position throughout the exercise. Slowly twist the wrists until the thumbs point away from the body. Hold for a few seconds and release. Repeat.

Hip Flexor Stretch

As I mentioned above, start this stretch on your knee the first few times. Once that isn’t as challenging, stand up and repeat the movements. Start in a kneeling lunge position (one knee on the floor, the other leg bent 90 degrees in front of you with foot flat). Lift from the crown of the head to elongate the spine. From here, drive the hip of the kneeling leg in a gentle thrusting pattern to achieve the stretch. Hold for a few seconds, then release and repeat. Perform the exercise several times for both hips. Place something soft under the knee if necessary.

Hip Hinge and Fly

This exercise improves your ability to extend your upper back. Place feet hip distance apart, and hinge at the hips while angling the upper body forward. Try to slightly arch the lower back by lifting the tailbone. Retract and depress the shoulder blades. Start with the arms extended and palms clasped together directly in front of the chest. Then, slowly swing the arms out to the sides of the body at about shoulder height with a slight external shoulder rotation, and pause when you feel contraction in the upper posterior muscles and a stretch in the chest muscles. Release and repeat.

Chin Tuck

This exercise stretches the muscles of the neck, allowing the skull to return to a more neutral, balanced position while the spine is lengthened. Stand with your hips and shoulders against a wall. Heels can be slightly off the wall. Lifting through the crown of the head, gently bring the chin down toward the throat while pressing the back of the head against the wall for a few seconds. Rest and repeat.



Give these a try and think of the famous song by The Police, “Every Breath You Take”: *“Every move you make. Every bond you break. Every step you take. I’ll be watching you.”*

Oh, wait. Wrong quote... Try this: *“I want to get old gracefully. I want to have good posture, I want to be healthy and be an example to my children.”*

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“Regional Industrial Insights”



Kathy Los-Rathburn is photographed with one of her works.

Award-winning artist Kathy Los-Rathburn’s exhibit “Regional Industrial Insights” continues through July 11 at Valparaiso’s The Village Gallery.

The works, according to a press release, “capture the complex beauty and nature of the region’s industrial landscape.”

An Indiana native, Los-Rathburn received her formal training as a realist in watercolor at Chicago’s American Academy of Art. She has taught watercolor art at the American Academy of Art, Purdue University and many local art organizations and groups. She also teaches drawing and painting in her studio.

The Village Gallery is located at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (219) 465-1591 for details.



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

- A.K. Smith Career Center, 817 Lafayette St., 7:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Thursday, May 23.
- LaPorte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, May 24.
- Pine Elementary School, 1660 County Line Road, 1:30-6 p.m. Friday, May 24.
- Golden Living Center-Fountainview Terrace, 1900 Andrew Ave., LaPorte, 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, May 28.

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.

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Fernwood Botanical Garden

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

- **Tallgrass Prairie Walk from 2 to 3:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, May 25.**

The hike includes searching for lupine, wild white indigo, alum root and shooting star. The cost is \$12, or \$10 for members.

- **Garden Party tickets.**

Tickets are on sale for Garden Party 2019, which is from 6 to 9 p.m. EDT Saturday, June 15. The event serves as an annual fundraiser. Anyone interested in sponsorships can email erowland@fernwoodbotanical.org.

- **Eugene Larkin Retrospective through June 2.**

On display are collages and woodblock prints abstracted from nature by the Minnesota artist.

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

Food Vendors Sought for Concert

The National Park Service is seeking food trucks and other self-contained food-service vendors for the Aug. 2 Northwest Indiana Symphony concert at West Beach.

The event is expected to draw anywhere from 1,200 to 2,000 visitors.

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

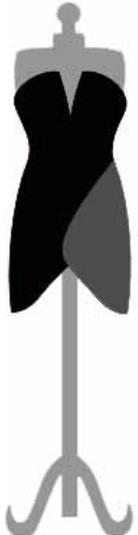
Visit www.nps.gov/indu or email Amber Siewin at amber_siewin@nps.gov for an application or more details. Completed applications must be received no later than July 12. Selected applicants must provide valid proof of insurance and current ServSafe certifications for all employees.

Noon Time Talk Series

The Noon Time Talk Series continues with Craig Gibson, Premier Arts executive artistic director, at 12:20 p.m. EDT Thursday, May 23, at Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.

Gibson will discuss the Premier Arts Youth Program and highlight his 2019 season, which includes "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

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



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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.

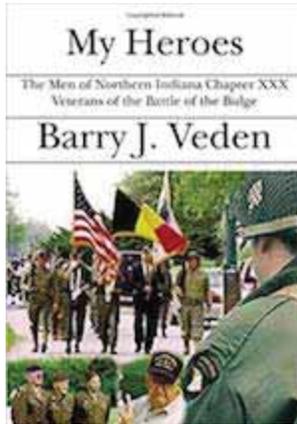
Battle of the Bulge Presentation

Barry Veden will offer a presentation on the Battle of the Bulge at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 25, at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

Veden is the author of My Heroes: The Men of Northern Indiana Chapter XXX Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. The book contains interviews with more than 30 northern Indiana World War II veterans. Barry's father, Edward, was seriously injured during the battle.

In 1997, Barry Veden was named editor of *The Bulge Battle News*, a publication for WWII veterans. His other books include The First One Hundred Years of Northern Indiana Public Service Company and Coming of Age on the Appalachian Trail.

Veden will sell copies of his book after the museum presentation.



LaPorte County Public Library

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

- **Stories & More from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Fridays.**

Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities that include using iPads to build early literacy skills.

- **Tinker Tuesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays.**

Teens and adults can use the Cricut Maker, the complete Adobe Creative Cloud, including Photoshop, Illustrator, Spark and Lightroom, and the 3-D printer.



Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

Silk Stocking Row Walking Tour

Barker Mansion's first summer walking tour for 2019 explores the architecture and history of the neighborhood around the mansion, called "Silk Stocking Row" in the Barkers' time.

The tour is from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 25, starting at the mansion, 631 Washington St. It highlights millionaires and movers of historic Michigan City, as well as the immigrant workers who built their fortunes and the city.

The tour covers approximately one mile. In the event of rain, a special mansion tour will be offered. Tickets, which are \$5, can be purchased on Eventbrite or by calling the mansion at (219) 873-1520. Visit www.barkermansion.com for details.

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"B" Flight

First Place: Vicki Hill

Second Place: Claudia Brennan

Third Place: Melanie Davis

"C" Flight

First Place: Gloria McMahon

Second Place: Rima Binder

Third Place: Kathie Mole

Long Beach Large Item Pickup

A one-day large item pickup for Long Beach is Monday, June 3.

Residents should have all items by the edge of the street (not in the street) in the same area where garbage containers are placed by 6 a.m. June 3.

No tires, batteries, household chemicals, TVs, paints, tires, electronics, cement or appliances with freon are accepted. Bundle sticks and carpet in batches less than 4 feet.

Harbor Country Book Club

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

The selection is James Baldwin's "If Beale Street Could Talk." The June 27 selection is Ann Patchett's "Commonwealth."



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.

St. Stanislaus 5K Run and Walk

St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, with cooperation from the Town of Trail Creek, will hold the seventh annual St. Stanislaus 5K (3.1 mile) run at 8 a.m. Saturday, June 1, at Nelson Park.

Race proceeds will fund much-needed repairs to the church.

Plaques are given in eight age divisions for women, men and children, and the top three overall female and male runners, as well as the top female and male walkers.

Entry forms are available at St. Stanislaus School, Trail Creek Town Hall and Robert Tylicz Appliance. Download an entry form at ststanstc5Krunwalk.com, or enter at RunSignUp.com, then enter the key word "St. Stans 5k." Or, mail the completed form with payment to St. Stanislaus Parish, 109 Ann St., Michigan City, IN 46360.

Registration in person can be done at:

- St. Stanislaus Church Hall, 109 Ann St., from 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, May 31. The \$20 fee includes a T-shirt, while the cost for children 13 and younger is \$15.
- Day of the event from 6 to 7:30 a.m. June 1 at Nelson Park. The cost is \$25, but due to limited quantities, there is no guarantee of a T-shirt.

The race is sponsored by Robert Tylicz Appliance, St. Andrews Products, Members Advantage Credit Union, Ott/Haverstock Funeral Chapel, GIS Insurance, Castle Ford/Lincoln and Snyder & Associates. Call St. Stanislaus School at (219) 879-9281 or Race Director Patrick Kroehler at pjk226@yahoo.com 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.

East Tennessee State Graduation

The granddaughter of a former Long Beach resident has graduated from East Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Arts in history and a double minor in French and criminology.



Margaret Hayden is the daughter of Patty and Joe Hayden, County Kildare, Ireland, and the granddaughter of Gerry and Bruce Meyer. Patty grew up at Stop 26.

Margaret will start work on a master's degree in history at ETSU. She has received a tuition scholarship for the duration of her two-year program.

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.

"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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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

May 23 — Graphic Novel Book Club for Teens, 5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 24 — YMCA Teen Night, 5-8 p.m., LaPorte County Family YMCA Elston Branch, 1202 Spring St. Info: (219) 221-4055.

May 24 — Mount Baldy Summit Sunset Hike, 7-8:30 p.m., parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: (219) 395-1882.

May 24-30 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* “Amazing Grace.” Rated G. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon., 7 p.m. Tues.-Thurs. *Also:* “The Best of Enemies.” Rated PG-13. Times: 2:30 & 9:15 p.m. Sat./2:30 p.m. Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

May 25 — Silk Stocking Row Walking Tour, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Tickets: \$5. Reservations: Eventbrite, (219) 873-1520.

May 25 — Memorial Day celebration, 11 a.m., Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: (219) 229-1483, thedepotmag.org

May 25 — Battle of the Bulge presentation, 1 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

May 25 — Reely Dan — Steely Dan Tribute, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30. Reservations: acornlive.org

May 25 — Stargazing, 8:30-10:30 p.m., Kemil Beach parking area, 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton. Info: (219) 395-1882.

May 25 — Sense-ational Night Hike, 8 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 25-27 — Opening weekend, Hesston Steam Museum, 1201 E. County Road 1000 North. Museum opens @ 11:30 a.m./rides thru 5 p.m. Fares: \$5/adults, \$3/children 3-12. Info: www.hesston.org, (219) 778-2783.

May 27 — MEMORIAL DAY.

May 27 — Memorial Day parade, 10 a.m. EDT, downtown New Buffalo, Mich. Info: (269) 469-0770.

May 27 — Military Members Day, Washington Park Zoo, 100 Lake Shore Drive. Admission: free to military.

May 27 — Dunes Creek Hike, 10:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

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.

In the Region May 25 — Tallgrass Prairie

Walk, 2-3:30 p.m. EDT, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Cost: \$12, \$10/members. Info: www.fernwoodbotanical.org, (269) 695-6491.

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.

Westchester Public Library

The following program is available:

• **Bits & Bytes series, How To Teach Yourself Pert'neer Anything, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, May 23, 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.

NB Memorial Day Parade

The Memorial Day parade in New Buffalo, Mich., is Monday, May 27.

The parade leaves downtown New Buffalo and proceeds along U.S. 12 to the cemetery for a memorial service. Lineup starts at 9 a.m. EDT at City Hall, with the parade kicking off at 10 a.m. EDT.

The event is hosted by American Legion Post 169. Call (269) 469-0770 for more details.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Lost Traveller by Sheila Connolly (hardcover, \$26.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 327 pages)

“She hadn’t killed the guy in the ravine, but she was going to do her best to find out who had. She was taking this personally.”

Sheila Connolly is an exceptional writer of “cozy mysteries” — stories with less gore, less sordid storylines and less bad language. They are driven more by strong characters and interesting locales. That doesn’t mean they are uninteresting, not at all. I would call them more Agatha Christie than Raymond Chandler.

Connolly is known for her Apple Orchard Mysteries and Museum Mysteries. She also has an eBook reader series called the Relatively Dead Mysteries. This series, the County Cork Mysteries, is her latest, which started with Buried in a Bog — a book that persuaded me her writing style and character-driven stories will be on my reading list from now on. The Lost Traveller is her sixth book in the series.

Each book is a standalone story because Connolly gives you enough background to understand how a young woman from Boston now owns and runs a pub in Ireland.

A friend of Maura’s grandmother in Ireland, Old Mick, had no family and put her in his will, leaving his pub and small cottage to her. Grandmother is now dead, and there is nothing holding Maura to Boston. Why not see what it looks like? If nothing else, it will be a great vacation...

It’s been a year now since Maura moved to Ireland permanently, and she’s still learning new things about life in a small rural Irish town. Along with the pub came 17-year-old Rose and Mick, more Maura’s age, and slowly becoming more to her on a personal level.

There’s also Old Billy, the octogenarian who lives at the end of the building and shuffles in each morning, taking up residence in a comfortable chair by the fireplace. Full of wit and wisdom, Billy also is a font of knowledge about Ireland, especially County Cork.

There is a larger room behind the bar where bands used to play. Maura, with help from Mick and Rose, has reintroduced music, hoping to bring in more customers to make a decent living.

Problem is, the three of them can’t handle the front bar *and* the back room on band nights, and Maura is not familiar enough with the area to know

how to recruit more bartenders and waitresses.

Taking her lunch out back of the pub one day, staring down at the river bordering her property, she is discouraged to see what seems to be a bundle of garbage floating under the bridge. Upon closer inspection, Maura is shocked to discover the bundle is a dead man!

She phones her friend, Sean Murphy, local garda (police), and soon, more police and the coroner are swarming over the area.

For a small village where everyone knows everyone else and their business, this deceased man is a mystery. To begin with, his face was bashed in, making a solid identification almost impossible.

Maura is worried. She has enough troubles looking for help. Now, this murder might drive people away from the pub. Maura is determined to do her own investigation. She is bewildered how such an insular place can have no knowledge of the dead man.

This is when she learns about Irish travellers, the small ethnic group with no fixed home except for the trailer or tent they live in, wherever they won’t get kicked out.

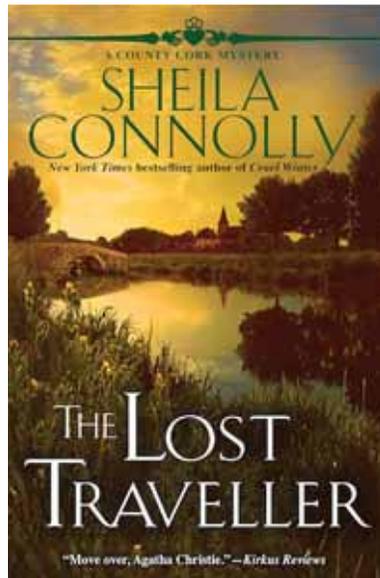
Maura’s questioning about how to find help for the pub, get the kitchen

going to serve food and continue the music nights gets tangled up in these travellers and a few other things she wasn’t expecting...*“Along the way, she wondered how she had come to be in the middle of this mess. A bloody murder, angry gang members, human trafficking?”*

This is a well-conceived story, combining many elements that seem totally unrelated until the end. Maura is a strong-willed young woman who is finding her voice and place in Ireland. More importantly, she has found a place she can call home.

To me, reading can be more than an entertaining occupation. Sometimes, stories like this one have me Googling to discover more — like about Irish travellers. They are a separate ethnic group in Ireland with a population at about 30,000. In Irish, their name means *“the walking people.”* Shelta is their spoken language — meant to keep it secret from outsiders. Unfortunately, many of them have been thieves and con artists, giving the whole a bad reputation. This information made me understand their role in the story. Learning about the travellers and Maura’s determination to solve the mystery makes this one of the best stories in the series.

Till next time, *sláinte!* and happy reading!



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