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A Legacy Lives On

by Drew White



With 18 girls and six boys Indiana High School Athletic Association sectional titles since Elston and Rogers consolidated in 1995, no high school sport has demonstrated more sustained team success than tennis at Michigan City High School.

The architect behind those programs was Norm Bruemmer. A social studies teacher at Elston, then City, Bruemmer coached the Wolves' boys from 1995 to 2007 and the City girls from 1995 until retiring from coaching in 2011. He was at the helm for 21 of the Wolves' 24 sectional titles.

Now eight years removed from his coaching career, Bruemmer has been bestowed an honor that sees to it his contributions to the MCHS tennis programs live on for decades to come. The recently refurbished tennis courts at MCHS are now the "Norm Bruemmer Ten-



Norm Bruemmer is photographed beneath the tennis courts entrance with the sign naming them "The Bruem." Photo provided by Betsy Kohn

nis Courts."

Several coaches with connections to Bruemmer spearheaded the effort: current girls coach Amanda Stolarz; current boys coach Mike Tsugawa; former City assistant Chris Alber; Earl Cunningham, the current Marquette boys and former City coach; Don Varda, the former City and current LaPorte head coach; former City girls head coach Rudy Kohn; longtime Northwest Athletic Club tennis pros Reggie Sanderson and Tom Bour; and Bruemmer's son Beau, who teaches social studies at the high school.

Newly installed signs at the tennis courts commemorate Bruemmer's accomplishments. Two secondary signs at each entrance use his nickname, letting players of the future know they are entering "The Bruem."

"There are a lot of
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memories,” Bruemmer said on Sept. 17, prior to a ceremony to mark the renaming of the courts. “Some of my highest highs and lowest lows were out here over the years.”

Among those speaking at the unveiling was MCAS Superintendent Barbara Eason-Watkins.

“Norm Bruemmer has positively impacted countless MCAS students,” she said. “In 2016, he was inducted into the Michigan City Area Schools ‘Wall of Fame,’ the highest honor bestowed upon a former employee.

“We are so honored to be part of this afternoon’s ceremony recognizing his dedication and service to the district as an educator and coach.”

Indeed, the new name for the tennis courts, and the ceremony unveiling it to the public, are an honor for the man who has called Long Beach home since 1974. He and his wife, Pat, also a retired teacher, have lived in their current Long Beach home for 35 years. In addition to Beau, they have a daughter,



Norm Bruemmer chats with Michigan City Area Schools Superintendent Barbara Eason-Watkins. Photo provided by Betsy Kohn



The well-attended ceremony to name the refurbished tennis courts the “Norm Bruemmer Tennis Courts.” Photo provided by Betsy Kohn



The ceremony included photos of Norm Bruemmer's teams by year, as well as newspaper clippings and other memorabilia.
Photo provided by Betsy Kohn

Kelley, who lives in Encinitas, Calif, and two grandchildren: Alyssa, 16, and Brynn, 8.

Over the years, Long Beach has remained an integral part of Norm's and Pat's lives. They've been longtime members of the Long Beach Civic Association, having chaired the annual Long Beach July 4th Parade for more than 30 years.

"We would not live anywhere else," he said of his community. "We love the uniqueness and history of the area, in a home built in 1929, as well as the close proximity to Lake Michigan."

And while the honor of having the MCHS tennis courts named after him seems an individualistic one, Bruemmer is quick to note the success with which he is attributed was the work of many.

"I certainly didn't accomplish any of this by myself," Bruemmer said in his speech. "I was lucky enough to have such dedicated and knowledgeable assistant coaches who did a wonderful job of developing our young players at the JV level."

Bruemmer also knows it was the players who took to the court and won the points, games and sets needed to receive his accolades.

"Every kid was really valuable, and they knew their point was very important," Bruemmer said. "We had to have a lot of parity in our lineup from top to bottom. We won a lot of matches at our No. 3 singles and No. 2 doubles."

Those kids still keep in touch with Bruemmer, who credits social media with allowing him to main-

Continued on Page 4

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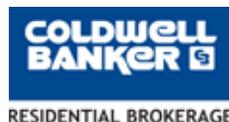
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tain relationships with former players to this day.

It was his former players, in fact, who contributed to what Bruemmer says remains his favorite coaching moment at the facility now named after him.

“It was a Chesterton match for a conference title in the late spring,” Bruemmer reminisced. “Somebody said, ‘Look around at the stands.’ When I did, they were filled with former players who came back to support us. Our kids were very loyal to us. We always tried to create a welcoming, family-type relationship with our teams so the kids always knew they could come back and be welcome.”

According to Bruemmer, he spent 25 years as a coach, split up into two segments. He coached the Red Devils in the late '70s and early '80s before taking time off to spend with his children. When his kids reached high school age in the early '90s, the positions were open at Elston and he returned to the courts.

With the Wolves, Bruemmer handed over the reins of the boys program in 2007. He retired from the classroom in 2010, but stayed on to coach the girls through the spring 2011 season.

On the girls' side, Bruemmer coached the Wolves for 16 seasons, winning sectional titles in all but one of those seasons.

“The titles that we won, none of them were easy,” Bruemmer said of the girls' run. “LaPorte was a first-class team. Marquette and Tommy Bour always brought good teams. Joel (Hostetler) over at New Prairie developed an excellent program. A lot of them were 3-2 victories.”

With his name permanently etched on the courts

he once called his second home, Bruemmer hopes his accomplishments help drive future generations.

“It is very humbling,” Bruemmer said. “A lot of people aren't aware of what we did, so it's nice to bring that back up again, especially to the current teams.”

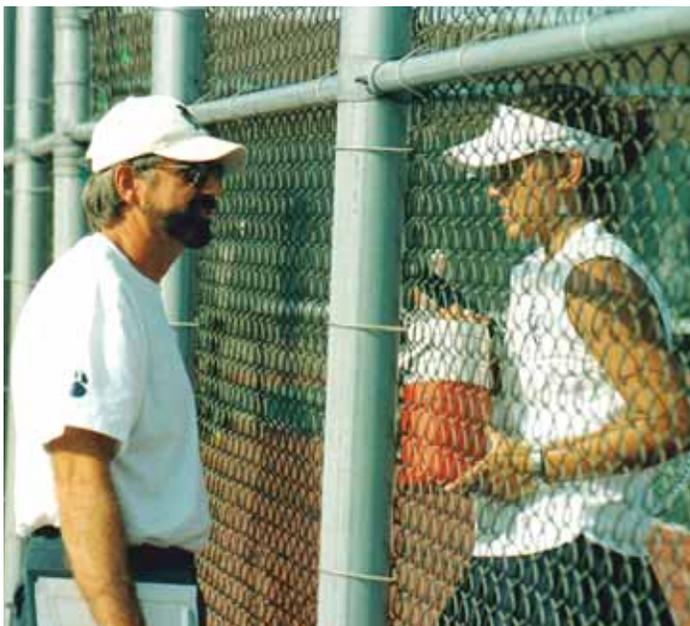


The sign designating the tennis courts as the “Norm Bruemmer Tennis Courts.” Photo by Drew White.

With a variety of hobbies and activities, Bruemmer keeps busy in his post tennis days. While his memories are fond, he is making the most out of his time now.

“I don't miss the grind, particularly of the spring season,” he says. “With the weather, it's always really tough. The boys season starts so early, it cuts into your summer. There's a point in time where you just have to give it up.

“I've been away from it for eight seasons, so it's easier to reflect now.”



Norm Bruemmer, talking with player Melissa Sands. Photo provided by Bruemmer.



Nicole White talks with Norm Bruemmer in this 2005 photo. White went on to be an assistant tennis coach in Valparaiso.

Mike Tsugawa's Letter to the MCAS School Board

Editor's note — Mike Tsugawa shared with The Beacher his beautifully written letter to the school board, which is reprinted here in its entirety.

Picture these people: a 5-year-old girl grinning from ear to ear, holding a racket bigger than herself that Mom just bought at Kmart. Seven young men who got crushed by LaPorte 5-0 in the regular season playing the tennis of their lives to win a sectional no one believed was possible. A tennis coach in his 40s who owes all his knowledge and patience to the mentor who took him in, and went on to produce coaches himself. Dozens and dozens of college students and young adults who came out of the woodwork from wherever they were to come home and watch a high school tennis match, and reconnect with their tennis family and their hometown.

Norm Bruemmer is a deserving member of our MCHS Hall of Fame already, but our recognition of his stellar classroom career does not mean that we recognize the hundreds, if not thousands, of young people who got their tennis career start, or maybe just a little exercise, or maybe even a first job as an instructor in one of his camps, or went on to the IHSAA state tourney as an individual, or the teams that hoisted conference and sectional and even regional titles (Bruem may be MC's winningest ever coach, and he certainly put a lot of sectional titles in our gym rafters, with over 350 career wins), or how many coaches got their start or got better at what they do because they worked with him.

In 2002, Bruem and Earl Cunningham took a wet-behind-the-ears teacher in his first year on as a volunteer,

merely because the young man, who they knew nothing about, said he wanted to help. The young man certainly could play tennis, but knew less than nothing about teaching the game, much less running a practice or building a team. Bruem showed me patience and kindness when I deserved neither, listened more than he talked and led by example. Fifteen years later, I am still at it, and still not half the coach, mentor, leader or listener he was. Bruem built families on these courts, not teams. Somehow, the least skilled player had as much fun at every match and practice as the best player, because Bruem knows how to treat people and help them get the most out of themselves.

And the best part of Bruem's tennis legacy is probably not his teams. The summer camps were come-one-come-all affairs where the kids came by the truckload. Some to learn tennis because they themselves wanted to, some because they did not want to play a different sport, some because the parents wanted them out of their hair for a few hours. Bruem took every one of those kids from tiny to teenager, made them feel welcome and wanted, and got them all to believe they could play one of the hardest sports there is to learn. When those kids got their camp shirt, a Bruem high-five and a nickname (a Bruem trademark), the smiles went on for miles. Some never played tennis again, some played for other schools later on, but for that camp time, they were having a blast and making memories.

Tennis-with-Bruem touched so many lives and made so many smiles, it is clear as day to me that the MCHS courts are truly the house that he built



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Breaking Rules Can Be Rewarding

Most of the time, when rules are broken, there are consequences.

Recently, I transgressed. I didn't get caught, and may I suggest such audacious behavior was doubly rewarded.

My husband and I sold and emptied our downtown Chicago condo. We crammed our SUV and headed south to deposit the furnishings at our winter getaway. One hour into the 18-hour drive, our pregnant daughter in New Jersey texted. She was in the hospital with preeclampsia. Two weeks from full term, our grandson was making an early debut.

First babies take their time, even when induced. We crossed the Florida state line, stuffed belongings into the condo's cupboards and closets, grabbed a few hours of sleep and repacked for a morning flight to Newark. First stop: the Mother-Child unit to cuddle and welcome a healthy, but small grandson. Second stop: my daughter's home to put order in an unassembled nursery.

Before my grandson arrived home, I racked up seven round trips to the hospital, three jaunts to unfamiliar grocery and drug stores, and washed and folded countless baskets of tiny baby clothes and blankets. The getting-ready-for-baby-to-come-home to do list made me (almost) forget the chaos I left in Florida. Mostly, I longed for a familiar bed and pillow, and the return of my yoga and daily walk routine. So, once the baby and his parents were home and napping, I treated myself to a walk.

Between my daughter's home and town, signs for a nature area appeared. My sneakers left the unforgiving, cement sidewalk to crunch on acorns and wood chips. Instead of car exhaust and grass clippings, the scent of decaying leaves, damp earth and sweet clover drifted around me in a light, late-summer breeze. As I ambled along the path, a faint, rhythmic rush like water trickling intensified. When the narrow trail emptied into a clearing, I surveyed a rich landscape hidden from the bustling village road.

Water careened over a metal plate beneath a narrow, wooden footbridge. A lagoon, its root beer-

That Girl, This Life

Julie Ryan McGue

colored water, meandered helter-skelter through shoulder-high wetland grasses. Here and there, box turtles paddled and climbed onto sunny perches. Milk pods and seed-heads swayed like the bows in an orchestral string section. Like a magnet, the tranquility of the preserve pulled me deeper into its core. My shoulders dropped away from my ears and the pounding at my temples abated.

At the back of the lagoon, the mulched path split. Preventing me from accessing the water's edge were two orange cones and a white metal sign stating: DO NOT WALK ON PATH DURING CONSTRUCTION.

Beyond the roadblock, I spied movement in the center of the lagoon. I cursed the sign, observing the fluttering profile of a bird coming to rest in the water. A blue heron. Snooping around the orange cones, I spied impressions scarring the newly constructed trail. Deer, dogs and man-made treads. I looked over my shoulder for other pedestrians. Squinting, I scanned the trail for signs of construction. Nobody. Nothing. Like a kid stealing a Snickers from a candy aisle, I scampered around the orange cones and made a beeline to the lagoon's shore. Poised, as if hunting for a mid-morning snack, a mature blue heron held court. From my back pocket, I fished out my iPhone, captured the image and posted my prize to Instagram.

I retreated to the fork where the orange cones and white metal warning sign sat stonily. Ignoring them again, I picked up the adjacent trail, which looped around the back of a deserted grammar school playground. I emerged from the woods onto a residential sidewalk. On the baseball diamond ahead of me, I made out the shape of what I thought was a loose dog rolling in the mud around first base. As the animal somersaulted in the dust, scratching maniacally, something about the dog seemed peculiar. The thin lengthy tail and lanky form screamed canine, but the small, triangular face did not. I crept closer, grabbing for my cell phone. Fifteen feet in front of me was not a household pet freed from a fenced-in yard, but an immature fox with a nasty case of fleas.

Hiking back to my daughter's house, I reflected upon my flagrant rule breaking. I was lucky. Trail construction was on hiatus, forest rangers were absent and so were other hikers who may have frightened off the heron and fox. One thing led to another. Travel and stress encouraged my disobedience, and that reckless behavior led to multiple rewards. Not often the case, if ever. Twice blessed for taking a risk, for venturing out in strange surroundings, and for being in the right place at the right time.

(Julie McGue is a Duneland Beach resident.)



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Protecting and improving a beach and community for all to share

It takes many community members to achieve the accomplishments listed below.

We thank all those volunteer community members recognized here
and other community members who helped in assisting them.

- Sound fiscal control has allowed the Town to improve current services and support future infrastructure
- Comprehensive Town Insurance review is saving the Town **\$28,000 per year** with improved coverages
- LB Community Center rental rate review now brings in an additional **\$28,000 per year** in additional revenue & experienced volunteers reduced the Center's operating expenses by **\$20,000 per year**.
- Town 911 Dispatcher service transfer to LaPorte County saved the Town **\$71,000 per year** with no deterioration in services to community.
- Increased income from annual police contract with Duneland Beach and Michiana Shores bringing in additional **\$44,000 per year**.
- Revised Town Employee vacation & sick time rules saving the Town **\$5100 per year**.
- 2019 Long Beach Community Center listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**.
- Volunteers upgraded the LB Community Center A/C system to forgo costly cooling tower replacement at a savings of over **\$40,000**.
- Complete Refurbishment of Melrose Park: Playground equipment, Fencing, Irrigation System, to conform with all **State and Federal safety requirements**.
- Replacement of LB Community Center roof with all shingles donated by GAF saving the town **\$21,000**.
- Installed new backstops, repaved tennis courts, installed new benches, refurbished bulletin board, log bench and installed irrigation system in Community Center Park.
- **\$65,000** recovery of lease rental reimbursements from IN Dept. of Local Govt. Finance.
- Refurbished Beach **Stops 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26 and 30; 14 and 18** are in progress with remaining Stops to be completed in 2020.
- Street Dept. fixed **Beach Stop 22 and Beach Stop 23** erosion issues at savings of more than **\$90,000**.
- Established a Long Beach Park beautification program to plan scheduled landscaping improvements to Town.
- Improved building codes with aid of **IN State Building and Fire and Safety Commission**.
- **Building Commission** established **viewable published permits and contractor registrations**
- Reinstated the Building Height Ordinance with the aid and recommendations of the **IN State Fire Marshal** that had been eliminated under previous town administrations. **Long Beach was the only Municipality in the state that did not have a building Height Ordinance**
- Increased cumulative capital development fund by **\$200,000 per year** to make Town capital improvements.
- Reclaimed Town owned **Public Beach Stops** that were encroached upon by adjoining property.
- Purchased 3 new police vehicles, 2 new leaf machines, and a front loader for the Street Dept.
- Implemented a required Engineer study and was awarded **\$600,000** for paving of roads
- Created **Comprehensive Plan** with hundreds of residents participating in its creation.
- Established the shoreline protection ordinance in conjunction with **DNR, IDEM, and Army Corps of Engineers** to preserve the lakefront
- Created, with Haas Engineering, a Pavement Asset Mgt. plan for **all 22 miles of Long Beach roads**.
- Moon Valley improvements
- Long Beach Park Board purchased new and larger ice rink for kids and families
- Agreement with MC Sanitary District to install sewers on Lakeshore Drive

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We thank all those listed below for their dedication to our community!

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Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

Nick Meyer

We would especially like to thank the **Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department** and **Long Beach Police Department** for their protection and safety throughout the community!

Westville Pumpkin Festival is This Weekend

Westville Pumpkin Festival, set for Oct. 4-6, includes two new entertainment tent additions: Westville's Got Talent and Sound Bites Karaoke.

The festival, presented by Westville Tri Kappa at Prairie Meadow Park, kicks off Friday with the crowning of festival royalty and the teen dance, coming to a close with the Tri Kappa gift basket raffle drawing on Sunday, Oct. 6.

All ages are welcome to participate in Westville's Got Talent and help choose the winners. Pumpkin Palooza will feature live music by Junior and the Igniters, along with adult beverages and family friendly games. Admission is free to both events.

The fall weekend also includes vendors, games,

a parade, 5K run/walk, bingo and a garden and antique tractor pull. Seasonal activities include pumpkin decorating and a pumpkin bake-off. Pumpkin

baked goods are at the Tri Kappa booth, and food vendors can be found throughout the festival.

Friday features a fish fry by Westville United Methodist Church. Saturday's pork chop dinner is by Westville Volunteer Fire Department, and Sunday features a pancake breakfast by the Westville Lions Club. A Kids Fun Run is Saturday and a 3-on-3 basketball event Sunday.

Visit www.westvillepumpkinfestival.com or Facebook for more details.

Promoting culture, education and charity, Tri Kappa returns all proceeds back to the community.



Pumpkin decorating remains a popular activity at Westville Pumpkin Festival.



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First Friday @ Lubeznik Center

Peter Aglinskas, recipient of Chicago Cultural Department's "Artists International" Award, returns to perform during First Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 4 at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Aglinskas, according to a press release, infuses his music with jazz, soul and rock, with technique rooted in the classical music tradition.

Center staff also will celebrate two exhibits: Jamiah Calvin's "The Healing" in the NIPSCO Art Education Studio, and work by Carol Estes and Kevin Firme in the Area Artists' Association Gallery.



Aglinskas

In "The Healing," which runs through Oct. 25, Calvin explores the complex beauty of human nature, according to a press release.

Refreshments and a cash bar will be available. Call (219) 874-4900 or visit lubeznikcenter.org for more details.

First Fridays @ Barker Mansion

Local award-winning artist Peggy Davis is this month's featured artist during First Friday Art Walk from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 4 at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.

Davis creates bright, colorful landscapes in acrylic. Her works will be displayed in the Drawing Room. Visitors also can explore the first floor and gardens for free. Refreshments will be served and a film on the Barker family history shown.



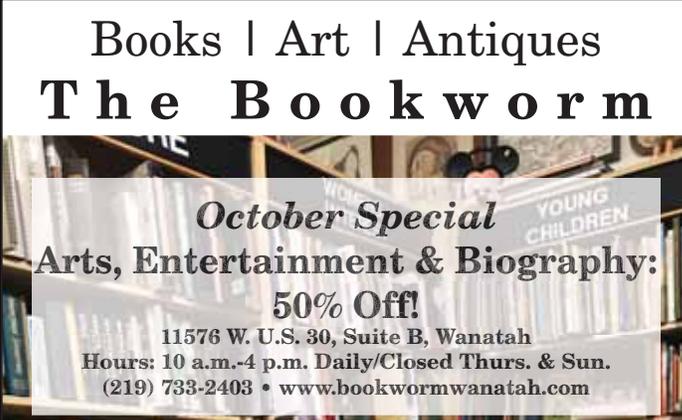
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Lunch With the League

Sheila Brillson Matias will speak at the next Lunch With The League at noon Tuesday, Oct. 8, at Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St.

The program is hosted by The League of Women Voters of LaPorte County.

Brillson Matias, a former Michigan City mayor, will speak about her first nine months as one of three county commissioners. She also is executive director of the Leadership Institute at Purdue Northwest and Society of Innovators at Purdue Northwest. At the institute, she connects university talent and resources with community needs.



The public is invited, and reservations are not required. A donation is requested from non-members. Attendees should arrive at 11:30 a.m. to buy lunch from the menu.

Visit lwvlaporte.org or email lwvlaporte@gmail.com for more details.

Spring Creek Schoolhouse Benefit

A fundraiser to restore the one-room Spring Creek Schoolhouse at Donner and Three Oaks roads is from 2:30 to 5 p.m. EDT Sunday, Oct. 6, at the nearby Lynn and Allen Turner Farm, 5787 Spring Creek Road, Three Oaks, Mich.

The featured speaker is Myrna Grove, author of The Legacy of the One-Room School House and other books on 1800s Midwest pioneer life. The construction company will present restoration plans, while appetizers and beverages will be served.

Tickets may be purchased through a link at www.springcreekschoolhouse.org under the donate tab, or by sending a check to Three Oaks Township Hall, c/o Spring Creek Schoolhouse Donation, P.O. Box 55, Three Oaks, Mich., 49128.

The Spring Creek Schoolhouse Restoration Committee received a \$10,000 matching grant from the Frederick S. Upton Foundation. Funds from the event will help complete the match. The project also has received a \$20,000 Pokagon Fund grant, a \$25,000 commitment from Three Oaks Township and a \$15,000 pledge from Turner.

The first phase of the \$164,000 project includes securing the building and adding an accessible entrance. Once restored, the building will contain period pieces and be available for community gatherings and Region of Three Oaks Museum programs.

New Southern Shore Art Exhibit

"Weather or Not?," a new exhibit that illustrates weather as a major factor in people's lives, debuts with a First Friday reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 4 at Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St.

The images may highlight a sunny day at the lake, a child stomping in a puddle, the aftermath of a flood or blizzard and snow-covered trees.

Refreshments will be served during the exhibit opening. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

Visit www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com or visit the SSAA Facebook page for more details.



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LOOKING AT THE NATIONAL STATS IN REAL ESTATE

A report from the National Association of Real Estate I received Sept. 25, 2019.

Sales of existing single-family homes, town-homes, condos and co-ops grew 1.3 percent in August to hit an annual rate of 5.49 million, the National Association of Realtors reported last week. Compared to the same period a year ago, August's sales were 2.6 percent higher than August 2018's pace of 5.35 million.

Falling mortgage rates primarily drove the sales-rate increase, according to NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun.

"As expected, buyers are finding it hard to resist the current rates," Yun noted in a public statement. "The desire to take advantage of these promising conditions is leading more buyers to the market."

"Sales are up, but inventory numbers remain low and are thereby pushing up home prices," he continued. "Homebuilders need to ramp up new housing, as the failure to increase construction will put home prices in danger of increasing at a faster pace than income."

To Yun's point, housing inventory at the end of August dipped to 1.86 million existing homes for sale, marking a 4.1-month supply at August's sales pace. Compared to a year ago, August's inventory was 2.6 percent down from 1.91 million units in August 2018.

Looking at price, August's median price for existing homes of all types was \$278,200, which was 4.7 percent higher than August 2018's \$265,600. August's increase marks the 90th consecutive month of year-over-year price gains.

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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 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursdays.**

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

• **Bookmarks at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4.**

Therese Oniski will review Barbara Kingsolver's "Unsheltered." The program is rescheduled from Sept. 20.

• **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 8, 15, 22 and 29, and 10 a.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 9, 16, 23 30.**

Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag.

• **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.

Community Concert Association

The LaPorte Community Concert Association will present Harps & Chords at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, at the Kesling Middle School auditorium, 306 E. 18th St., LaPorte.

Harps & Chords is an emerging New York City duo featuring harpist Jacqueline Kerrod and vocalist Daisy Press. Performing contemporary and popular music from various decades, they have appeared at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and Radio City Music Hall. Repertoire includes classic Beatles songs such as "And I Love Her" and "Maybe I'm Amazed," Elvis songs, including "Can't Help Falling in Love," and Bob Dylan classics like "Make You Feel My Love."

The concert is part of the 2019-2020 concert season ticket. Individual tickets at the door cost \$15 for adults and \$5 for students through high school. Call (219) 362-8262 or (219) 362-5292 for details.

Enter Kesling from the back parking lot using Door 9 and follow signs to the auditorium.

Mission Quilt Sale

The eighth annual Mission Quilt Sale is from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 5, at LaPorte Missionary Church, 104 E. 18th St.

More than 200 quilts will be available.

All-State Choir



Michigan City High School sophomore Savannah Holley has been selected for the 2020 Indiana All-State Honor Choir. She will represent the school when the choir performs at the Indiana Music Educators Convention on Jan. 17-19, 2020, in Fort Wayne. Holley is one of only five sopranos from the region selected for the choir through a competitive audition process.



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Indiana Dunes National Park

The following programs are planned:

- **Outdoor Adventure Festival on Friday through Sunday, Oct. 4-6.**

Supported by Friends of Indiana Dunes and more than 20 partners, the festival includes more than 70 events. Centered at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, it showcases activities such as hiking, paddling, biking, geo-caching, photography, birding and yoga.

Held in Porter, LaPorte and Lake counties, it includes paddling trips on the Little Calumet River, Lake Michigan and Lake George, dozens of hikes led by experts and access to natural areas not normally open to the public.

Many events have limited spaces and fill up quickly, so registration is highly recommended. There is a \$10 festival fee per adult (18 and older) good for all three days. Children 17 and younger are free. Visit www.dunesoutdoorfestival.com to register.

(The ensuing list of Indiana Dunes State Park activities are part of the festival.)

- **Biking & Birding from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Take bikes, with the park providing binoculars, during the trek that offers basic birding techniques.

- **Playdate in the Nature Play Zone from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Explore Miller Woods, build a fort, climb a tree, create nature art and feed the resident fish, turtles, snakes, toads and frogs. Dress for the weather.

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

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

- **Bog Gone Wild from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, at Pinhook Bog and Upland Trail.**

The hike's starting point is the Pinhook Bog parking lot, 946 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City.

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

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

- **Feed the Farm Animals at Chellberg Farm from 4:30 to 5 p.m. Sundays.**

The farm includes cows, pigs, goats, chickens and turkeys.



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.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **The Three Dune Challenge from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4.**

Ascend Indiana's largest sand dunes. Meet at the campground shelter by site 113, then head up Trail 4 to Mount Tom, followed by Holden and Jackson to earn a 3DC sticker.

- **Trail 9 is Fine Hike from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 5.**

Join a naturalist at the Nature Center for the 3.5-mile hike. Wear hiking shoes and take water.

- **Build a Geo-Birdhouse from 10 to 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 5.**

Northwest Indiana Geocachers members will show examples of caches made from natural or recycled materials. Visitors then assemble a geo-bird house from a kit. Take a cordless screwdriver if having one. Decorate a birdhouse with tempera paints or permanent spray colors, or take it home to embellish.

- **Photography Hike from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5.**

Meet dunes photographer Edward Byrne and a naturalist at the Nature Center for the hike along Trail 7 to Lake Michigan and back. Visitors learn not only natural history, but also good spots and tips for photo composition.



Byrne

- **Owl Prowl at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5.**

Join a naturalist to walk from the campground gate to try and call nearby owls.

- **Morning Bird Hike from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 6.**

Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center for the easy walk searching for birds. Take binoculars or borrow a pair from the state park.



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

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LaPorte County Public Library

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

• **Maker Mondays from 3-5 p.m. Mondays through Oct. 28.**

Each month highlights a different skill and lab equipment. September focuses on video production and October 3-D modeling and printing.

• **STEAM Sandbox from 3-5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday through Oct. 31.**

Students in third grade and older move up through levels, earning a certificate for each completed. They work independently and chart their progress as they complete hands-on projects that include web literacy, fixer skills, circuitry, game design and coding.

• **Organize Your Family History from 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Oct. 8.**

Emphasizing genealogy research, learn how to use the library's online resources, and receive forms and tips for keeping records.

The following program is at the Coolspring branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North:

• **Caregiver University from 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays.**

The schedule is: Oct. 8 — Caring for Aging Parents at Home; Oct. 22 — Alzheimer's and Dementia; Nov. 5 — Aging and the Law: Living Wills, Guardianships and More; and Nov. 19 — End of Life Care and Planning.



Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

Fall Gathering of Motorcycles

The seventh Fall Gathering of Motorcycles is Sunday, Oct. 6, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine (the Salvatorian Fathers), 5755 Pennsylvania St., Merrillville.

Mass (in Polish) will be celebrated at noon, followed by a picnic on the shrine grounds. Menu items and prices vary. The event is held rain or shine. Call (219) 884-0714.

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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

- **NorthShore Health Center free blood-pressure screenings from 10-11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 3, at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton, and 10 a.m.-noon Thursday, Oct. 10, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Interested patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

- **Bits & Bytes series, Android for Beginners, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3, in the Thomas Library Serials/Automation Department.**

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.

- **Chesterton Cubing Club from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, at Thomas Library.**

Anyone interested in Rubik's Cube is welcome.

- **Cat Yoga from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Presented with Independent Cat Society, an East Wind Studios instructor will lead the free class for individuals 18 and older. ICS will bring adoptable cats and kittens to socialize and stretch with participants. Take a mat. ICS donations may be made for cat care. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

- **Eighth Annual History Hunt from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5.**

The hunt begins at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot. The focus is historical sites within the National Park, playing games and solving riddles. It is about four miles and covers some uneven terrain; some areas are not accessible by car. Participants must begin by 3 p.m. Registration is not required. The parking lot is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.

- **Knitting Together from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Area knitters, and those who crochet or do needlework, are invited.

- **Alzheimer's Association Presents "Effective Communication Strategies" from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, at the Thomas Branch Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The program explains how communication takes place, and explores changes in communication that occur throughout the disease.

- **"Off the Hook" Kids Crochet, an eight-week program from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays at the Thomas Branch Children's Department.**

Children ages 9-12 learn the basics of crocheting, including the five main stitches and pattern reading. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

MCAS Launches App

The latest news and information from Michigan City Area Schools now is available on smartphones and mobile devices with a new app.

MCAS is partnering with Blackboard to expand its communications outreach with a free mobile app through iTunes and Google Play app stores.

The app will offer a constantly updated feed of district news and events, with photos and links to the MCAS website. Other features include quick access to student grades and attendance, school menus, a tip line, and school/staff contact information. The app can be customized to select specific schools for news and updates. Users also can receive push notifications to receive breaking news, updates about school closures and calendar changes.

To download the app, search for "Michigan City Area Schools" in the App Store or Google Play.



Color Canter 5k Walk/Run

The 2019 Horse and Pony Color Canter 5k walk/run is at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2.

A color run is an event in which participants run while colored chalk is tossed at them at various stages of the route. The LaPorte County 4-H Horse and Pony Youth Ambassador and Club Vice President Hallee Petri are the event coordinators, the goal being to raise money for area nonprofits.

Those showcased include: Samaritan Counseling Centers, LaPorte County YMCA, Reins of Life, The Jaycees, LaPorte County 4-H and the LaPorte County Small Animal Shelter.

The event is a 4-H Ambassador project. Sign up or make a donation at www.lp4horse.com. The first 50 participants to register receive a free swag bag.



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★ We will reduce legal fees by making a sincere and good faith effort by resolving disputes.

FACT: During this current town councils' term they have authorized \$549,868.41 in legal fees equivalent to over \$11,500 per month. Do you really want to elect the Long Beach Party candidates and reach the \$1,000,000 level in the next 4 years? Do you realize this money comes from you the taxpayers of Long Beach? This isn't the Jerry Lewis Telethon where Ed roles the numbers.

★ We will govern within a doctrine of truth and justice for all.

The new Town Council would appoint an independent board to review and report on whether town ordinances are enforced in a fair and equitable manner as well as address any potential "conflict of interest" issues by any employee or committee member.

FACT: A conflict of interest appears to exist in the current building department. During the last 3.5 years, over \$140,000 of your taxpayer dollars have been paid for building inspector and commissioner salaries.

★ Are you aware the town council without public input are taking steps to build a new fire station and purchase another truck?

FACT: WELL OVER a million dollar project ties the town to a long term debt load. Will the tax payers have a special assessment or has the town budgeted using our tax dollars? An honest, open dialogue is in order between the town council and its taxpayers to better understand if there are other viable options before putting us all into debt.

★ Rescind Lakefront lobbyist for the Town of Long Beach.

FACT: \$25,000 of tax payers monies are being used for a lobbyist regarding beach rights? Our current town council is using taxpayer dollars against their own tax payers. Did you know that the beach stops cannot be taken away. Period. They are town property, paid for by all taxpayers and specifically deeded to allow all town resident access to and from the beach. Because of this you will always have a beach to sit on and a lake to get in to. Let us reallocate those funds to serve a better purpose.



Jim DEHNER
INDEPENDENT

- ▶ Active resident and homeowner in Long Beach community for over 16 years
- ▶ Tenant in the LB Community Center with an Insurance and Financial Services firm since 2011
- ▶ Volunteer on multiple community boards
- ▶ Graduate of the University of Notre Dame with a B.A. degree in Government



Mary Lou MCFADDEN
DEMOCRAT

- ▶ Community involved resident of Long Beach for over 40 years
- ▶ Retired human resource professional and educator in local schools
- ▶ Previous elected official and member of the Long Beach Town Council from 2003-2012
- ▶ A voice of reason wherever she goes



Tom MCDONALD
REPUBLICAN

- ▶ Respected resident of Long Beach for 23 years
- ▶ Marine Corps veteran and steel industry executive with strong leadership qualities
- ▶ Extensive area volunteer experience marked by effective arbitration and communication skills
- ▶ Management abilities that assure cooperation among various factions



Mike JOHNSTONE
REPUBLICAN

- ▶ Resident of Long Beach for over 17 years
- ▶ 27 years of community involvement in Chicago and Long Beach
- ▶ Strong desire to see good government practices in our town
- ▶ Commitment to approach issues cooperatively and evenly with fairness for all

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Get Steady On Your Feet

Conference on Balance

SATURDAY, OCT. 19, FROM 10 AM TO 2 PM

Dear NW Indiana Neighbor-

We will cover the following topics during the conference:

- What do your feet and toes have to do with balance?
- Why your eyes might be the issue and what you can do about it (it's not a new pair of glasses)
- What is the "inner ear," and how can it be strengthened?
- Does hearing have something to do with balance?
- Does what you eat have an impact on your balance? What should you be eating?
- Why is core and leg strength not enough to maintain good balance?
- How do medications impact your balance ability?
- Could it be your blood pressure? Or is it neuropathy?
- How can you predict your risk of falling and be proactive in preventing falls?
- And much more...

Who Is This For?

The "Get Steady on Your Feet" Conference on Balance is for those who are already experiencing some negative changes in their balance ability, and is for those who want to be proactive when it comes to their balance and stability.

A Health Conference Unlike Any Other

This "Get Steady on Your Feet" Conference on Balance is a unique event. It's only open for men and women over 60, because statistics show that 1/3 of people over 60 fall every year.

This is a private event strictly limited to 30 attendees only due to its design: this will be an interactive and intimate event packed with 4 hours of actionable information in all things balance and stability.

There will be no vendors and no sales pitches for any services. The whole conference is centered around interactive learning to help each attendee improve their balance and stability.

What's Included with Your Registration

Your registration includes a:

- Healthy lunch

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- A comprehensive balance report on the Top 8 Secrets To Improve Your Balance and Prevent Falling
- Detailed instruction sheets that target each component of balance control to help you get steadier on your feet

As a bonus, each attendee gets a free 20-minute balance screening to be scheduled the following week after the conference (some locations will include a test on the state-of-the-art NASA technology Smart Balance Master equipment, typically a \$150 test).

How Much Does it Cost?

There is a non-refundable \$25 discounted registration fee to save your spot if you register by Oct. 7 (regular rate of \$50 after Oct. 7).

The registration cost is our way of pre-qualifying those who are serious about making a change in their balance ability and are committed to implementing what they will learn at the conference.

What You Need To Do

Call the location you would like to attend:

Highland:	(219) 301-7961	Valparaiso:	(219) 548-8770
Crown Point:	(219) 310-8278	LaPorte:	(219) 380-0809

You then will get a confirmation email and/or confirmation letter in the mail. It will include directions and maps to the conference venues.

See you at the conference.



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PS- This is a private event strictly limited to 30 attendees only at each location.

PPS- Register by Oct. 7 and pay only \$25 to save your spot (regular rate of \$50 after Oct. 7)

PPPS- Call the location you would like to attend NOW:

Highland:	(219) 301-7961	Valparaiso:	(219) 548-8770
Crown Point:	(219) 310-8278	LaPorte:	(219) 380-0809

Giving Reins of Life a Boost



Visit Michigan City LaPorte and Michigan City Park Department have donated \$4095.25 to Reins of Life Inc. The money was raised during the first Great Lakes Grand Prix Golf Outing at Michigan City Municipal Golf Course. Reins of Life improves quality of life for children and adults with disabilities through equine-assisted therapy. Pictured are (from left) Amy Riehle (CVB), Jeremy Kienitz (Michigan City Park Department), Linda Simmons (CVB), Dorota Janik (Reins of Life), Randall Harris (Reins), Jane Daley (CVB), Gail Johnson (CVB) and Dale Cooper (CVB)

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Three Oaks History Challenge

The "Fabulous Region of Three Oaks History Challenge" debuts at 5 p.m. EDT Sunday, Oct. 6, at Froehlich's Kitchen & Pantry, 19 N. Elm St.

The contest for local history buffs and trivia fans supports The Region of Three Oaks Museum, 5 Featherbone Ave. Contestants answer multiple-choice questions about the past and present of Three Oaks and nearby towns. While results are tabulated, TROTOM Board Member Nick Bogert will reveal the answers and provide background in an illustrated presentation. Attendees can sample food and drinks. Top finishers receive prizes. Many answers can be found in current museum displays.

A \$5 donation is required, and TROTOM will benefit from a Froehlich's give-back donation for the evening as well.

Visit www.regionofthreeoaksmuseum.com for more details.

Michigan City Video Fest

Two sites will house the fifth annual Michigan City Video Fest this weekend.

The event kicks off at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, at The Nest, 803 Franklin St., then at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 5-6, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

Each session features different projects, including locally produced music videos, murder mysteries and causal glimpses of life on the southern shore. Featured videos include a Pecan-O-Thon Pledge Drive, a big production musical based on the life of the inventor of dental floss, and several visits from Captain Ambivalent.

Visit MCVideoFest.com and [Facebook.com/MCVideoFest](https://www.facebook.com/MCVideoFest) for more details.

Genealogical Society

The LaPorte County Genealogical Society meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, at the LaPorte City Parks Department, 250 Pine Lake Ave.

The featured program is "Life in a Vigo County Orphanage. Society member Theresa Lebo is the presenter. A business meeting precedes the presentation, and light refreshments are available

Guests are welcome. More information is available at sites.rootsweb.com/~inlcigs/

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Chesterton Art Center

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

• **An opening reception for the Mary Ann Pals-Larry Jensen exhibit “In Our Nature” from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6.**

The exhibit, which runs through Oct. 30, will showcase pastel pieces from Pals and mixed media from Jensen, all with a nature theme.

Pals is a Chesterton-based pastel and charcoal artist. A member of Great Lakes Pastel Society and Chicago Pastel Painters, she also received Master Circle status from the International Association of Pastel Societies. Jensen, who specializes in woodturning, was accepted in 2009 as Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore’s Artist-in-Residence. For the required exhibit, he created the book Turning Timbers, showing art turnings from 41 trees indigenous to the National Lakeshore. This year, he created a companion book, In My Nature, using the same format as the original: 41 trees, plus five additional.

During the reception, Pals will do a pastel demonstration of a fall scene using Ludwig Pastels. Jensen will have show ‘n tell, with samples of various woods he incorporates into his work.

• **Steve Bensing will lead a photo walk from 12:45 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5.**

All participants will meet at the center and start with a group photo. From there, guests can capture activities, shops and color in downtown Chesterton. The European Market is one stop, along with street scenes. Afterward, everyone can reconvene at the center for food and fellowship.

Register at worldwidephotowalk.com/walk/downtown-chesterton/

• **Deb Armstrong’s three-week daytime Cell Phone Photography Class starting from 10 a.m. to noon Monday, Oct. 7.**

The class covers basic settings on a smartphone,



Larry Jensen (above) and Mary Ann Pals (below).



quick camera access, shooting modes, focus and exposure lock, shooting in HDR mode, live mode, location tagging, zoom, flash and selfie mode. Other topics include stabilizing the camera, active focus, choosing background and lighting, and composition.

Each student should take their smart phone to class. The cost is \$80, with members receiving a \$20 discount.



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Fernwood Botanical Garden

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

• **Vin-Nidra Yoga from 2 to 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, Oct. 6.**

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

• **Chicago Cemeteries, Statues and Monuments Bus Trip from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT Friday, Oct. 11.**

The event includes two guided walking tours. It starts at Lincoln Park with art historian-educator Krista August, who specializes in investigating and curating the history behind local landmarks. Next up is a Chicago Architecture Center tour of Grace-land Cemetery, designed by landscape architects H.W.S. Cleveland and Ossian Simonds. Register by Oct. 4.

• **Insights on planting and garden design by Roy Diblik from 2 to 3:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 12.**

Diblik has worked on public and community projects across the country, including the Lurie Garden at Millennium Park, the Louis Sullivan Arch Garden at The Art Institute of Chicago and Fernwood's Entry Garden. Register by Oct. 8.

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

Students to Lead Anti-Bullying Effort

Fifty two Michigan City High School students who completed Hey U.G.L.Y.'s Stop Bullying Task Force Boot Camp will lead two student-led bullying/suicide prevention assemblies.

Both assemblies are Friday, Oct. 4, at the Michigan City High School Auditorium, 8466 W. Pahs Road. Ninth- and 11th-graders will lead the first one at 8:20 a.m., followed by the second assembly, led by 10th- and 12th-graders, at 9:15 a.m.

Students will be joined by Michigan City's Victor Vargas, a rapper and author of Almost Bullied to Death, and Wendy Martin, a recording artist/singer/songwriter.

The students will launch Hey U.G.L.Y.'s I SEE BULLYING app developed with Michigan City Police Department to help students, in real time, safely come to the aid of someone being bullied. They also will debut Hey U.G.L.Y.'s new bullying/suicide prevention song, "We All Hurt Sometimes," which they co-wrote with Martin, who will perform the song with the students singing chorus. Martin will sing "You Are Braver Than You Know," which she wrote.



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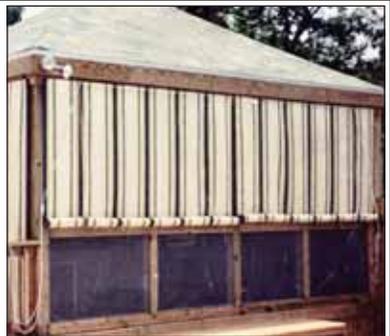




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American Red Cross

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

- Indian Trail Elementary School, 3214 S. Indiana 104, LaPorte, 2 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7.

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.

“Little Shop” Box Office Hours

LaPorte Little Theatre Club has scheduled box office hours for its upcoming production of “Little Shop of Horrors.”

Saturday box office hours are from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 5 at the theater, 218 A St.

Performances are Oct. 11-13 and 18-20. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students. Tickets also are available at laportelittletheatreclub.com



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.

JROTC Supports School, Community

Michigan City High School’s Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps has started the school year by hitting the deck running.



Cadets wash cars to raise money for United Way.

The cadets have done 11 Color Guards and five additional community service events. The Color Guards included six football games, the LaPorte County Veterans Court graduation, the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony, Veterans of Foreign Wars Veteran of the Year Award Dinner and MCHS Homecoming Parade. Other community service events included the Michigan City Area Schools Back-to-School Rally and United Way Car Wash.

The cadets will continue to support the school, including all remaining football games and Halloween night at Ames Field on Oct. 24.

MCHS will host a free military drill competition from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26. Nine schools from Indiana and Chicagoland are expected to compete.

“Our goal is to return to the National Marine Championship for the third consecutive year,” Maj. Tom McGrath, the senior Marine instructor, said in a press release. “Only 16 schools out of the 250 Marine schools nationally get to go. This first meet will be a good indication of how much progress we have made toward that goal.”

MCHS also will host a Veterans Day ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 11, in the school gym. This event, featuring the school band, choir and JROTC, is open to the public. All veterans will be honored. The guest speaker is State Rep. Pat Boy.



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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.

Early Celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day

Decorate a paper bag vest during the free program from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday or Sunday, Oct. 5-6, at Luhr Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Handouts of recipes for squash soup and corn bread will be available.

No pre-registration is required.

Chalk It Up

Families can design and make reusable vinyl transfer and chalk paste from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, at Luhr County Park.

Aimed at children 4 and older, adults will make a 9x12 framed piece and children 5x7 two-sided pieces. A minimum of five participants and a maximum of 24 are required. The cost is \$25 per pair (adult and one child) and \$5 for each additional child.

Registration and payment are due at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first.

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. Oct. 7 and 28, Nov. 18 and 25, and Dec. 2 and 16 at Luhr County Park. Call at least one week in advance to register.

Lincoln Trail Fun Run/Walk

The non-competitive 5K Fun Run/Walk, which celebrates the new portion of the Lincoln Memorial Trail, is at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, at Bluhm County Park, 3855 S. County Road 1100 West, Westville. Meet at the Grove Shelter.

The trail connects the park to the town. The surface is mostly paved and flat. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult. There is no cost, but pre-registration is required by Oct. 4. Call (219) 325-8315.

Spa Experience PJ Party

Aimed at girls ages 10-18, the event is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21, at Luhr County Park.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$15 per couple and \$10 for each additional girl. The requirement is a minimum of 10 people and a maximum of 30. Registration and payment are due at least on week in advance or until full.

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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.

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**Prayer to the
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Shirley Heinze Bus Tour

Monday, Oct. 7, is the deadline to reserve seats for Shirley Heinze Land Trust's educational bus tour along the Little Calumet River east branch and its tributaries in LaPorte and Porter counties.

The tour is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12. It will highlight conservation work along the river at a number of Shirley Heinze-protected properties, as well as county, town and national park properties being restored.

Stops will be made at Red Mill County Park in LaPorte, Frame Little Calumet Conservation Area in Michigan City, Dale B. Engquist Nature Preserve, Wykes-Plampin Nature Preserve and Keith Richard Walner Nature Preserve in Chesterton, Hawthorne Park in Porter, Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve in Chesterton and Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk. Staff members will provide insights on land conservation and Northwest Indiana's ecology and geology.

Guest speakers include: Paul Labovitz, Indiana Dunes National Park superintendent; Annette Hansen, executive director of Izaak Walton League Porter County Chapter; and Katie Rizer, Coffee Creek Watershed Conservancy executive director.

The bus will depart promptly at 8 a.m. from Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 Indiana 49, Porter. It will stop for lunch at Meadowbrook Conservation Center & Nature Preserve in Valparaiso, with food provided by Third Coast Spice Cafe. The bus will return to the visitor center at 3 p.m.

The cost is \$40 per person. Reservations are required online at www.heinzetrust.org or by calling (219) 242-8558. Seating is limited, so early reservations are advised. The bus is restroom-equipped.

Harbor Country Hikers

The next Harbor Country Hikers outing involves the Indiana Dunes Great Marsh Trail at Beverly Shores at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 5.

Harbor Country Hikers President Pat Fisher will share why the trail is one of his favorite fall hikes, leading the group through the popular birding site with views of the largest wetland complex in the Lake Michigan watershed.

The hike is 1 1/2 miles. The walk can continue beyond the marsh, up Broadway and west onto Beverly Drive, for those interested. Take a camera and binoculars, fall weather gear, wetland boots, bug spray and drinking water. The hike will last about two hours. The group will meet in the south parking lot, which is on Broadway north of U.S. 12.

Harbor Country Hikers events are open to adults and children accompanied by an adult. Membership costs \$20 for individuals or \$30 for families. Visit harborcountryhikers.com for weather cancellations, a membership form or more details.

Residency Certificate Awards

The LaPorte County Genealogical Society on Sept. 11 presented its annual Residency Certificate awards.



Anne Durrant (from left), Carol Lloyd and Ron Hyer.

Committee Chairwoman Fern Eddy Schultz and committee members Anne Durrant and Alan Zeller, reviewed and approved these certificates:

- Pioneer Family for a documented ancestor in LaPorte County from 1841-1860. Recognized were: Carol Lloyd, whose ancestor, Nehemiah Pratt, was an early settler in Cass Township; and Anne Durrant and her son, David Durrant, whose ancestor, Joseph Pizarek, was in LaPorte County by 1855.
- Settler Family for an ancestor living in LaPorte County from 1860-1880. This honor went to Ron Hyer for his ancestor, Christoph Heuer.
- Civil War Family for a documented ancestor from LaPorte County who served in the Union Army. This honor went to Ron Hyer for George Walker, who served in Company D of the 136th Indiana Regiment.

Visit lpcgs.blogspot.com for information on an application. The submission deadline each year is July 31. The primary purposes of the program are to:

- Identify and honor the memory of the earliest LaPorte County pioneers and veterans.
- Show the proved pioneer's and veteran's lasting mark on the county.

The society also presents First Family Certificates, honoring families or individuals living in the county before Dec. 31, 1841.

Blessing of the Animals

The Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich., will host its annual Blessing of the Animals at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 5.

All kinds of animals are welcome. Take a donation of pet food, toys, blankets, towels or bleach for the church pet ministry that supports Berrien County Animal Control and the Humane Society of Southwestern Michigan.



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NB Library Community Forum

Climate change is the focus of the next Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum at 6 p.m. EDT Monday, Oct. 7, , 33 N. Thompson St.

Indiana Dunes National Park Superintendent Paul Labovitz will look at the future of sport fishing in Lake Michigan, and how climate change is impacting recreation.

Upcoming programs include: "Nature Photography with Your Smart Phone" on Saturday, Oct. 12; "The Day the Music Died" on Tuesday, Oct. 29; "Casey and the Flying Fortress" on Monday, Nov. 11; and "Wessel Whittaker and the First Days of New Buffalo" on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

Follow the Facebook link at newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org or email new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com for more details.



Labovitz

"Resiliency" Exhibit at KAC

"Resiliency," a new exhibit at Krasl Art Center, explores the process of adapting to adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats and stress.

Running Oct. 4-Dec. 1, an opening reception starts at 5:30 p.m. EDT Friday, Oct. 4, at the center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.

The exhibit features work by contemporary artists from across the nation. The goal is to raise awareness of what resiliency means, as well as its critical importance to individuals and communities. The project drew inspiration from a dialogue between KAC and Spectrum Health Lakeland. In 2016, SHL completed a Community Health Needs Assessment in which mental health emerged as the most urgent need throughout Berrien County.

The artists include: Rachel Corbin, drawing, Nashville, Tenn.; Alli Farkas, painting, Dowagiac, Mich.; Christina Fontenelle, visual art and dance, Chicago; John Gutoskey, printmaking, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Ginnie Hsu, illustration, Upstate New York; Olivia Hunter, photography, New York; the monarq, painting, Seattle; Sergio Goimez, painting, Chicago; and Martina Nehrling, painting, Chicago.

The opening reception kicks off with a discussion on community resiliency by SHL's Tasha Turner. The party, which begins at 6 p.m. EDT, includes a cash bar, small bites and an artist dance performance by Fontenelle at 7 p.m. EDT.

"Resiliency" also is the theme of the 2019 Member's Exhibit. Each year, KAC members can submit one new work that addresses the current year's exhibit theme. All media, styles and skill sets are accepted. Collaborative efforts are encouraged, and performance pieces will be considered. Those interested in participating, but are not a current member, should visit krasl.org or stop by for more details. Works will be accepted Dec. 1-2, and the exhibit runs Dec. 6-Jan. 20.

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2. Alley Katz	9	3
3. Wine-ettes, Blue Shoes, Pin Pals, Bitchin Bowlers	8	4

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. June Salmon	171
2. Mary Lou McFadden	169
3. Nancy Kubath	161
4. Janet Miernicki	159
5. Margie Midkiff	158
5. Ann Bogart	158
5. Sue Luegers	158
6. Tammy Nelmar	150
6. Ginny Hogan	150
6. Deb Frederick	150
7. Peg King (series)	423
8. Barb Macudzinski (series)	410

SPLITS

Diana Holt	5-10
Ann Bogart	3-10
Jean St.Peter	3-10
Nancy Klausner	3-10
Kim Stokes	3-10 (2)
Tina Sonderby	1-3-10



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

The Village Gallery

Valparaiso's The Village Gallery will showcase fine-art works by five Valparaiso University junior art majors through Nov. 14.

The artists are: Emily Gustin, Kristen Haling, Ryann Lutz, Amoreena Roll and Madison Wilson. Richard Brauer, Valparaiso University professor emeritus and Brauer Museum of Art director, was the juror, having selected 16 works.

The Village Gallery, located in Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Visit www.pinesvillage.org for details.



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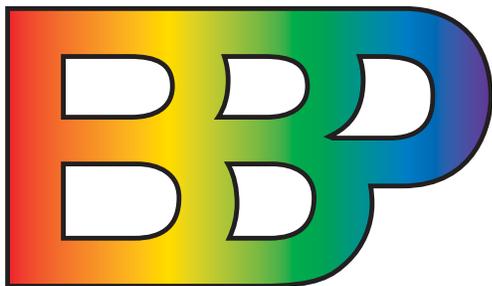
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Grand Prix Attendance, Earnings

A total of 212,600 people visited the 11th annual Great Lakes Grand Prix on Aug. 2-4, generating \$13.6 million for LaPorte County's economy.

That's according to a report prepared for Visit Michigan City LaPorte Convention & Visitors Bureau by Certec Inc., a marketing-analysis group based in Lexington, Ky.

The report shows out-of-town visitors spent \$9.1 million on direct expenditures such as food, beverages, shopping and transportation, accounting for a large portion of this year's \$13.6 million in earnings. In addition, local residents contributed an additional \$518,100 in direct spending.

Jobs directly related to the Grand Prix provided more than \$3 million in wages to LaPorte County workers, the report showed, and non-local visitor spending, alone, generated \$3.6 million in tax revenues, with \$705,800 going to local government.

Other race-weekend events greatly contributed to the Grand Prix's overall success, the report showed. The Taste of Michigan City, sponsored by the Michigan City Mainstreet Association, drew 15,000 visitors on Friday, while 7,000 visited Washington Park that day, taking advantage of vendors and entertainment. On Saturday, 50,000 visitors headed to the Taste of Michigan City, Boat Parade and Party, and another 50,000 to the park for the races and other activities. On Sunday, park attendance grew to 90,000 for the races.

Nearly one-third of visitors attended the Grand Prix weekend for the first time, the report said, and many took advantage of at least two other activities in the area, including the beach, Blue Chip Casino, Washington Park Zoo and Hesston Steam Museum.

Tutor Training

READ LaPorte County Inc. will host a tutor training from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11, in Meeting Room B at LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave.

Retired reading teacher Mary Heath leads the first session on children, who may be tutored at a school during the day or a community location outside of school time. The next session centers on adults who grew up speaking a language other than English. A break for a complimentary lunch is at noon. At 1 p.m., the subject is tutoring adults who grew up speaking English.

There is no registration charge, but those attending the lunch must email mhedge8@comcast.net by Wednesday, Oct. 9.

READ LaPorte County Inc. is a United Way agency. A waiting list exists of students of all ages who want to be tutored in reading, math, speaking English and digital literacy skills.

Visit www.readlaportecounty.org for details.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Oct. 3 — History on Tap, 6-8 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Free. Info: (219) 873-1520, barkermansion.com

Oct. 4 — First Friday in the Chapel, LaPorte High School Mixed Chorale, noon, LaPorte Hospital chapel, 1007 Lincolnway. Free. Info: (219) 325-7633.

Oct. 4 — Bookmarks, Barbara Kingsolver's "Unsheltered," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Oct. 4 — First Friday Art Walk, 5-8 p.m., Uptown Arts District (downtown Michigan City).

Oct. 4 — First Friday: Peter Aglinskis, 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: lubeznikcenter.org

Oct. 4 — Artist Peggy Davis, 5-8 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Info: (219) 873-1520, www.barkermansion.com

Oct. 4 — Opening reception, Duneland Plain Air Painters, 5-8 p.m., The Rising Phoenix Gallery, 2803 Franklin St. Info: (480) 206-0964.

Oct. 4 — Opening, "Weather or Not?," 5-8 p.m., Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St. Visit: www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com

Oct. 4 — Journeyman—A Tribute to Eric Clapton, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30. Reservations: acornlive.org

Oct. 4-6 — Michigan City Video Fest, 7 p.m. Oct. 4 @ The Nest, 803 Franklin St., 2 p.m. Oct. 5-6 @ Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: MCVideoFest.com

Oct. 4-6 — Westville Pumpkin Festival, Prairie Meadow Park. Info: www.westvillepumpkinfestival.com, Facebook.

Oct. 4-6 — Outdoor Adventure Festival, LaPorte/Lake/Porter counties. Cost: \$10/adult, 17 & younger/free. Registration: www.dunesoutdoorfestival.com

Oct. 4-7 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Blinded by the Light." Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. Fri., 7 p.m. Sat., 6 p.m. Sun.-Mon. *Also:* "Where'd You Go Bernadette?" Rated PG-13. Times: 9 p.m. Fri., 3:45 p.m. Sat., 2:45 p.m. Sun. *Also:* "Manhattan Short Film Festival." Not Rated. Time: Noon Oct. 5. Admission: \$15. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

Oct. 5 — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Indiana Dunes Great Marsh Trail @ Beverly Shores. Info: harborcountryhikers.com

Oct. 5 — Mission Quilt Sale, 9 a.m.-noon, LaPorte Missionary Church, 104 E. 18th St.

Oct. 5 — Horse and Pony Color Canter 5k walk/run, 9 a.m., LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2. Registration: www.lp4horse.com

Oct. 5 — Cat Yoga, 10-11 a.m., The Baugher Cen-

ter, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Free. Registration: (219) 926-7696.

Oct. 5 — Photo walk, 12:45-3 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: (219) 926-4711.

Oct. 5 — Eighth Annual History Hunt, 1-4 p.m., Bailly/Chellberg parking lot, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter.

Oct. 5 — Photography Hike, 2-3:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 6 — Morning Bird Hike, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 6 — Opening reception, "In Our Nature," 2-4 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: (219) 926-4711.

Oct. 6 — "Fabulous Region of Three Oaks History Challenge," 5 p.m. EDT, Froehlich's Kitchen & Pantry, 19 N. Elm St. Cost: \$5 donation. Info: www.regionofthreeoaksmuseum.com

Oct. 7 — Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum, 6 p.m. EDT, library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org

Oct. 8 — Organize Your Family History, 10:30 a.m.-noon, LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 8 — Lunch With The League, noon, Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St. Info: lwvlaporte.org, lwvlaporte@gmail.com

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

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

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

In the Region

Oct. 4 — Opening reception, "Resiliency," 5:30 p.m. EDT, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: krasl.org

Oct. 4 — Unwrapped at the Box, Jared Rabin Band, 7 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Free-will donation. Info: (269) 983-3688, boxfactoryforthearts.org

Oct. 4 — The Big Payback: 10 Year Anniversary Show, 8:30 p.m. EDT, The GhostLight Theatre, 101 Hinkley St., Benton Harbor, Mich. Tickets: \$20/advance, \$25/door. Reservations: SMSO.org, (269) 982-4030.

Oct. 4-5 — Elkhart Civic Theatre Youth Theatre, "Disney's Frozen Jr.," Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (Eastern): 7 p.m. Oct. 4-5. Reservations: (574) 848-4116, elkhartcivictheatre.org

Oct. 5 — Biking & Birding, 8:30-11:30 a.m., The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt (*oversize paperback, \$20 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 771 pages*)

The film version of this 2013 Pulitzer Prize winner is a dud, so I have heard. Some reviewers said it had promise, but wasn't handled well. Most agreed with my editor, Andrew Tallackson, who wrote, "*It flatlines from the word go and never recovers.*" Ouch.

I hate to say I told you so — no, not really, I take great pleasure in those words — but this is one more example of how Hollywood, in its own demented way, can take a perfectly good book and turn it into something at best mediocre and at worst atrocious.

But "good book" is a misnomer. This is a great book. They don't give out Pulitzers like peanuts. Their standards are high, and their short lists contain the best of the best.

So please don't let the taste of an unfulfilling movie stop you from seeking out this book, and don't let the size of the book discourage you from reading what may be the best project you've ever taken on. My prediction: It will take your breath away.

Told in the first person, the first chapter has Theo Decker talking of longing and remembrances, especially about his mother: "*Things would have turned out better if she had lived.*" But she dies in an explosion at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in N.Y.C., an event the 13-year-old Theo barely survives. But not before she points out "The Goldfinch" to Theo: a lovely, but small painting done on wood by Carel Fabricius, a student of Rembrandt. Theo is more interested in a girl his age walking with who must be her grandfather. Then the explosion — Theo's alive, though in shock — "*I looked around, trying to get my bearings, deranged from the crack on the head...*" He discovers the grandfather alive — barely. Before he dies, he gives Theo a ring and says to take it, along with "The Goldfinch" painting, to James "Hobie" Hobart. Theo remembers him, but from where? Was the old man a friend of his mother's? Theo stumbles out of the museum. No one sees him.

That one scene sets up everything that is to come — an epic tale of one of the most amazing coming-of-age stories ever. Tartt's description of Theo and the effects of the bomb on him physically and mentally shows you why this is a story to be read and savored. No motion picture can show what is going on in this boy's mind, only Tartt's amazing prose. He doesn't know what to do after the explosion. Where is his mother? Phone calls to locate her only get the welfare depart-

ment involved, and they soon track him down. Does he have other family? The scary part is being carted off to some strangers, so he comes up with the name Balfours: He went to school with their son, Andy.

Later, he will look up James Hobart and return the ring, still not saying anything about the painting. He discovers the girl in the museum, Pippa, didn't die, she was there with Hobie. Pippa will be the unrequited love of Theo's life.

Life seems good, for awhile, but soon the father who deserted him and his mother shows up with his girlfriend, and Theo is on a plane to Las Vegas with them. This segment covers Theo's middle teen years, meeting Boris, a Russian student who extends his education to include sex, shoplifting, drugs and alcohol. All the while Theo is hiding the painting of the bird, now too afraid to come forward with it.

He finally runs away, returns to NYC and shows up on Hobie's doorstep. He gladly takes him in. The story jumps to a 26-year-old Theo whose feelings are now a mish-mash, leading him to do things he knows he shouldn't do, but guilt and the fear that Hobie will find out about the painting, now locked away in a storage unit, will be his undoing.

But it is the character of Theo who is deeply explored here. The reader is invited in, not just to his physical growth, but to the essence of who he is, how what happened that day in the museum sent him on a whole new journey he couldn't have imagined, the feelings he couldn't express to anyone. We explore the persona he let the world see, while keeping inside the horrors of the explosion and his guilt at keeping the painting.

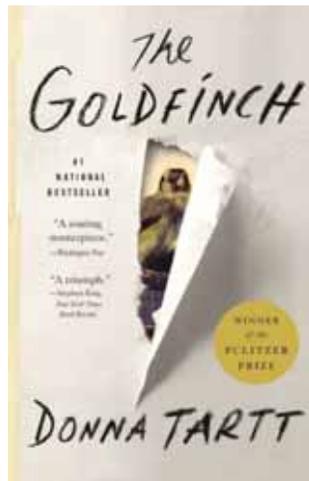
And "The Goldfinch?" That little painting is at the core of everything Theo does and everything that happens to him. Why can't he give it up?

The last 12 pages give an older Theo's look at life and the painting's meaning to him. Hobie once told him: "*Beauty alters the grain of reality.*" Theo now says: "*And I keep thinking too of the more conventional wisdom: namely, that the pursuit of pure beauty is a trap, a fast track to bitterness and sorrow, that beauty has to be wedded to something more meaningful.*"

No movie, no matter who the director is or who the big stars are, can give this depth of feeling and understanding. And that's why the movie fell flat.

In the final analysis, I think *The Canadian Globe* and *Mail* said it best: "*'The Goldfinch' should have never flown away from its literary perch.*" Amen.

Till next time, happy reading!



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