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Life at Bike Speed

by Kim Nowatzke

It was a challenging, unbelievable, unforgettable idea. And they just rolled with it.

Later this month, Dr. Rob Liddell and Mark Dean, with assistance from Tim Salley, will have completed their goal of cycling across America, beginning in Seattle and ending at Washington, D.C., for a total of more than 3,000 miles.

Liddell, 63, born and raised in Long Beach, and Dean have enjoyed plenty of active adventures during their time as friends and neighbors over the past 20 years. They accomplished a cycling trip to Italy and other impressive one-day, 200-mile rides from their hometown in Seattle to Portland. They biked 150 miles around Washington's Mount Ranier, participated in the Alcatraz Sharkfest Swim and independently finished their fair share of triathlons.

That's why five years ago, Liddell suggested a cycling trip across the entire United States. Right away, Dean was on board.

After working as a diagnostic radiologist in the Seattle area for 34 years, Liddell, 63, was semi-retired. He is the son of the late Dr.



Mark Dean (from left), Sarah Liddell Thompson (Rob's sister) and Rob Liddell are photographed in Deedsville, Ind., where they hopped on the Nickel Plate Trail.

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Charles Liddell, a general surgeon who practiced in Michigan City for 38 years. Rob's late mother, Dorothea Liddell, was an area principal and teacher, as well as the former Marquette Foundation executive director. After graduating from La Lumiere School, followed by earning his bachelor's degree from Purdue University, he took a summer job at Yellowstone National Park as a dishwasher. It caused him to "fall in love with the West." Consequently, when Liddell completed medical school at the University of Rochester in Rochester, N.Y., he finished additional training at the University of Washington in Seattle, eventually settling there.

The pieces for the trip continued to fall into place when Dean, also 63, retired in May. An investment banker, he was a managing director with Citi Community Capital, which finances the construction, acquisition and rehabilitation of affordable multi-family rental units. He spent 38 years in the industry.

Dean's old friend, 59-year-old Tim Salley, was recruited to travel by vehicle ahead of the cyclists to the next designated resting place along their route. Affectionately dubbed "Cookie Tim," he makes sure the two cyclists eat healthy breakfasts and fuel up with carb-heavy, nutritious meals at the end of their daily treks. Sometimes, the day's travels allow the three to meet up for lunch, too. Salley officially retired in October 2019 after 36 years in the food-

service industry; 20 of these were in sales with Sodexo, a comprehensive food-services and facilities management company.

"It was perfect timing for a lot of this to happen," Salley said. "I always wanted to see the Black Hills and America, and this was one way I could do it."

So, Dean said, "we recruited him. The final domino fell, and the whole thing was going to work."

Next on the list was the purchase of their Rockwood Roo camper, complete with three queen-size beds and a big Ford truck to pull it.

That's when the reality of the trip hit home with the travelers' three wives: Marti Liddell, Michelle Dean and Mary Kate Salley.

"We had to get the OK from our wives," Liddell said. "At first, they were in disbelief, but when we bought the trailer and truck, they knew we were serious."



Mark Dean (right) was joined by his college roommate, Kelly Greenwood, who lives in Spokane, Wash., for part of the ride.

Dean admitted, "There was a moment of panic when they realized we were going to do it, and a period of adjustment."

Now, their wives are their biggest supporters, planning to meet their husbands, along with other family members and friends, at the "finish line."

Being away from their wives has been "one of the biggest difficulties," Liddell said. "We talk at least once a day. It's tough. We're very close to our wives."

Liddell, Dean and Salley also decided to turn their dream into a cross-country fundraiser in which all proceeds go to fight veterans' homelessness. Interested supporters can pledge pennies or dollars per mile to the Elks Veteran's Assis-

tance Fund. To date, the three have raised \$7,500 for the cause.

On May 7, Liddell and Dean dipped their back tires in the Pacific Ocean at Puget Sound, with plans to finish their course with their front tires touching the Atlantic Ocean in New York. With complications from COVID-19, the three altered their itinerary and opted for Washington, D.C., which also made the trip shorter and safer.

They've documented their trip on their Facebook and Instagram pages, "Rideusa2020," and on a smartphone app called "Relive." It gives a three-dimensional satellite snapshot of their route through a short animation video showcasing highlights, even what the route's topography looks like.



Mark Dean (left) and Rob Liddell hold up their ever-changing informational sign in Montana.

Liddell and Dean cover approximately 60 miles per day, riding for three days in a row, then resting on the fourth day. When their trip is complete on the expected date of Oct. 26 or 27, they will have spent about 90 days on their bikes.

Right away, the cyclists faced the Cascades Range of mountains and trails covered with two feet of snow, through which they had to walk their bikes. An old railroad tunnel on the bike trail was closed for the season due to snow, so they literally had to take their bikes apart to sneak under the gate.

"A lot of the old railroad tracks have been retired and converted into hiking, biking and horse trails," Liddell explained.

Later on, there were days when the temperatures reached 103 degrees. Liddell and Dean would start out at 5 a.m. to avoid as much heat as possible, checking wind speed and wind direction daily.

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Bike Speed

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“Wind is our friend,” Liddell said, noting that winds prevail from the west, and cycling across the United States always is recommended from the west to the east.

He estimated he and Dean will end up traveling on bike trails about 25 percent of the trip. This was the case for most of Washington and Idaho. Much of this was along Coeur d’Alene Lake, beautifully situated in a mountain setting. Next on the trip were the Rocky Mountains in Idaho and Montana, where they were snowed upon.

“It was steep going up and steep going down,” Liddell said.

Dean echoed that statement.

“We like to tease Tim that on a bike, there’s no such thing as little hills or a little distance,” he said. “Things look very differently on a bike. There’s different smells – you feel things differently.”

Liddell continued.

“We’re experiencing life at bike speed,” he said. “Going through so slowly allows us to savor moments. We have realized how massive this country is.”

It took the cyclists nine days to cross the length of Nebraska. Fortunately, they were able to cover 190 miles of that on the Cowboy Trail.

Along the way, the three men have enjoyed meeting up with friends, some of whom have cycled with them for part of the journey. Liddell’s older sister, Florence Liddell DeWitt, and his brother-in-law, Tom Dewitt, accompanied them on their trip from Richmond, Ind., into Ohio. Also former Long Beach residents, the DeWitts now live in Cincinnati.

In addition, Liddell’s younger sister, Sarah, nephew, Jack Thompson, niece, Emma Thompson, and Emma’s boyfriend, Dylan McClain, joined them on the beautiful Cardinal Greenway Trail in Indiana



Mark Dean and Rob Liddell, together with Tim “Cookie” Salley, begin their RideUSA2020 trip by dipping the back wheels of their bikes into the Pacific Ocean at Puget Sound on May 7.

from the Marion area to Richmond.

During another section of the trip, Dean’s college roommate, Kelly Greenwood, who lives in Spokane, Wash., met up with the RideUSA2020 cyclists.

Liddell and Dean each use two bikes. One is designed for riding on roads and the other trail bike has better suspension and wider tires. These gravel bikes were what the pair rode by Mount Rushmore and the Badlands in South Dakota, and Devils Tower and the Black Hills of Wyoming. Their safety equipment not only includes helmets, but also blinking lights mounted on the front and back of their bikes. Because Salley is meeting them on set points on their journey, the two are fortunate in that they don’t have to take all of their gear along with them.



Rob Liddell (from left), Tim “Cookie” Salley and Mark Dean pose in front of the Rockwood Roo camper while visiting Rob’s younger sister, Sarah Liddell Thompson, and her family in Long Beach.

They have been impressed with the cautious consideration from drivers on roads and highways; truckers regularly switch to another lane if possible when passing.

“People worry about us more than we worry about us,” Liddell said. Yet, “once we hit the Great Allegheny Passage trail in Pittsburgh, I will be more relieved because we will only be on trails then.”

The trip had a short hiatus for about a month when Dean’s brief medical situation, which involved atrial fibrillation and low blood pressure, pushed the pause button at Ashland, Mont. On Day 28 and at more than 1,200 miles into the ride, the group initially backtracked two hours to Billings, Mont., for medical care, then back to Seattle. Ultimately, this setback allowed them to avoid the extreme heat in the Midwest.

The group returned to the road from Billings on Aug. 27 and continued through Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and then Indiana, where they stopped for a short visit in Long Beach with Liddell’s sister, Sarah Liddell Thompson. For the rest of the trip, they are riding briefly into West Virginia, then Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washing-

ton, D.C., and finally Chesapeake Bay, where they will be joined by family and friends.

“We’ll ride past the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Memorial and then down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol,” Liddell said. “Then, we will ride another 40 miles east to Chesapeake Bay. We’ll get there right before the election and then clear out.”

Followers through social media enjoy their infamous dances, such as the Chicken Dance, as they enter a new state.

“We find ways to entertain ourselves,” Salley said. “We’re not boring.”

On Day 60, as they entered Indiana and performed the Hokey Pokey, local resident Deb Risley asked if they were OK. Soon, they met other members of the family, Rick and Matt Risley, in Kentland.

“After hearing our story, Deb said, ‘We’re farmers. Do you want to take a ride on a combine?’ They were so kind to give us a ride in the combine and explain their lives to us,” Liddell said. “They said, ‘This is not our job — it is our lifestyle.’ We thanked them for feeding the world. I will never forget them for their kindness and willingness to invite two strangers into their lives and proudly explain who they were.”

On their journey, they also had the chance to chat with another farmer in Illinois and “ask stupid city-boy questions such as how one knows when it’s time



Mark Dean and Rob Liddell are photographed in front of the Risley family combine in Indiana.

to harvest crops,” Liddell said.

All three will never forget the miles and miles of corn and other crops they encountered over the past few months.

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Bike Speed Continued from Page 5

“That is why America is so great,” Liddell said. “We can feed ourselves because of all the resources.”

They also won’t forget their quest for the best chicken fried steak. They found “the most fantastic” ones at a tiny family-owned restaurant in Wisdom, Mont. (with a population under 100) and have been in search of a better one since. So far, none can compare.

And on Day 2 of their journey, there was the “scary-looking guy” named Justin who lent a helping hand by showing them the best way to scale a tunnel. He was riding from Granite Falls, Wash., to Chelan, Wash. (about 200 miles) on a one-speed bike to help out his brother with a chronic illness.

One of the first times the group interacted with people was at a lunch counter in Tekoa, a small farming town in Washington.

“The kindness of people is really great,” Salley said. “They think that it’s great that we are doing this through the pandemic.”

Liddell admitted that because of COVID-19, for the most part, “one of our goals of meeting people, hanging out and telling stories hasn’t been possible.”

He related how the trio hoped to ask people along the way what their own bucket lists were, but that hasn’t quite happened.

Describing himself as “very social,” Salley said although he’s had significantly less contact with others than expected, he’s still managed to meet people in restaurants along the way.

“This is not the trip we planned because of COVID,” Dean added. “This is the trip we have because

of COVID.”

Being outdoors all day, then isolated together in the trailer, Liddell said he actually feels less nervous than hanging out in Seattle, which they left under quarantine.

Despite the pandemic, the memorable impact of the trip on the three is clearly evident.

“It’s done what I wanted,” Liddell assured. “It’s slowed down the pace of life. Our time on Earth is limited, and this is the time to ride across America at bike speed. I couldn’t have done this with my job and small kids, and I won’t be able to in 15 years. I hope to live the rest of my life doing things I want to do at the pace I want to do them.”

Dean agreed.

“It’s impacted me a lot more than I expected,” he said. “It’s made me a better husband – more patient. I worked, and that was what I did. I was more self-absorbed. It’s given me a better appreciation for diversity and the contributions across America.”

And Salley? “It gives me a bigger appreciation for what I have and for what I’ve worked for,” he said. “It’s given you a renewed sense of people and what they care about.”

He recalled three different people in Indiana and Illinois stopping just to see if the cyclists were OK, and the “Midwestern – actually, in general – rural niceness” in America.

“They will give you the time of day,” Dean said.

“We all live in a very big city and been very successful. This kind of a trip can really ground you.”

(Donations to the cause can be made through Facebook at RideUSA2020.)



Family and more joined the cyclists on the beautiful Cardinal Greenway Trail from the Marion, Ind., area to Richmond, Ind. Pictured are (from left) Dylan McClain (Emma’s boyfriend), Jack Thompson (Rob Liddell’s nephew), Sarah Liddell Thompson (Liddell’s younger sister), Emma Thompson (Liddell’s niece) and Rob Liddell.

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New Legacy Gallery Installation



The subjects of Jamie McNeill's works range from a fawn (left) to the former pump house in Long Beach (right).

The Legacy Center at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church will host work by Jamie McNeill as its next installation through Jan. 4, 2021.

Largely self-taught, McNeill's subjects range from a herd of bison, titled "Snow Army," to a fawn aptly-titled "Wary." The Indiana Department of Natural resources has used a few of his nature renderings

for educational and identification purposes.

McNeill's style employs pastels and colored pencil to portray landscapes and nature. Wildlife has always fascinated him, stemming from a lifetime of hunting and fishing. His first experience as an artist was in grade school during church services, according to a press release, continually drawing the same whitetail deer so it would come out just right.

McNeill's Legacy Center exhibit also features a subject familiar to locals and vacation homeowners: the former pump house on Lake Shore Drive.

The Legacy Center, 1719 E. Barker Ave., is a multi-use gathering space for community and parish functions. The Gallery Wall aims to link the parish with the arts community. Center hours are 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Enter through the doors off Esther Street. Email jessicar@qas.org for more details.

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Thanks to a partnership with EL Education and Access LaPorte County Media, educational videos are airing daily weekdays on Cable Channel 98.

The videos align with Michigan City Area Schools literacy lessons in kindergarten, first-grade and second-grade classrooms. They were created by EL Education, which provides a new language-arts curriculum used at the elementary level.

The videos, which run about 15 to 30 minutes each, will be shown at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. First up is kindergarten, then Grade 1 and Grade 2 at these times.

The videos eventually will be added to www.accesslaportecounty.org

Spooky Stables Cinema

Reins of Life will host "Spooky Stables Cinema," a family friendly drive-in movie, every Friday in October at the South Bend barn, 55200 Quince Road.

Each movie, according to a press release, is "a classic and licensed approved Halloween special."

The schedule is:

- Oct. 23 — "The House with the Clock in its Walls" (2018).
- Oct. 30 — "Scooby-Doo" (2002).

Also planned are a raffle, swag and concessions. Printed menus are available at the entry gate. No smoking or alcohol are allowed.

Single car passes cost \$20. Gates open at 6:45 p.m. EDT, with showings at dusk (about 7:30 p.m. EDT). Tickets are available at www.reinssoflife.org

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Three *Beacher*-area residents are among those awarded in Midwest Museum of American Art's 42nd Elkhart Juried Regional.

The major survey of current trends features artists from 20 northern Indiana counties and four southern Michigan counties. This year, 199 artists submitted 344 works in all media; the exhibit features 136 works by 111 artists.

Awards presented to artists totaled more than \$20,000, making the event the largest cash-awards show in Michiana. The judges were Karen Bondarchuk, professor and area coordinator of Foundation Art at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, and Condesa Croninger, art director at 20 North Gallery, Toledo, Ohio.

In the Jurors Awards, Louise Pappageorge, Three Oaks, Mich., won Best Sculpture for "Black Widow," which involved lace, crochet, wire and acrylic.

Among the Purchase Award winners, Frances Cox, Michiana Shores, took the Susan & Mark Henshaw Purchase Award for "Fruit Bowl with Ribbon," an oil on canvas. Suzanne Koenigsberg, Union Pier, Mich., took the Cornerstone CPA Group Purchase Award for a ceramic platter.

The exhibit continues through Dec. 20. Museum hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$10 per adult, \$6 for ages 8-12, \$8 for ages 13-18 and \$8 for college students with ID. Masks are required.

The museum is located at 429 S. Main St., Elkhart, Ind. Call (574) 293-6660 for details.

Michigan City Farmer's Market

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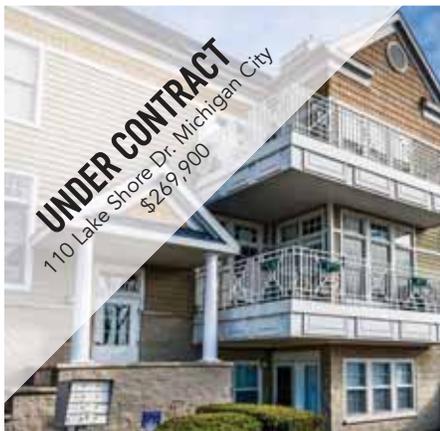
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Neale Family Foundation Supports Boys & Girls Clubs

Boys & Girls Clubs of LaPorte County has received a Neale Family Foundation grant to support costs associated with its daytime clubs and enhanced safety/sanitization protocols amid COVID-19.

In response to Michigan City Area Schools' decision to offer school virtually for the first quarter, BGCLPC spent the past eight weeks launching and operating expanded programming at Pine and Springfield elementary schools, and its Charles R. Westcott Club, serving 155 children ages 4-15.

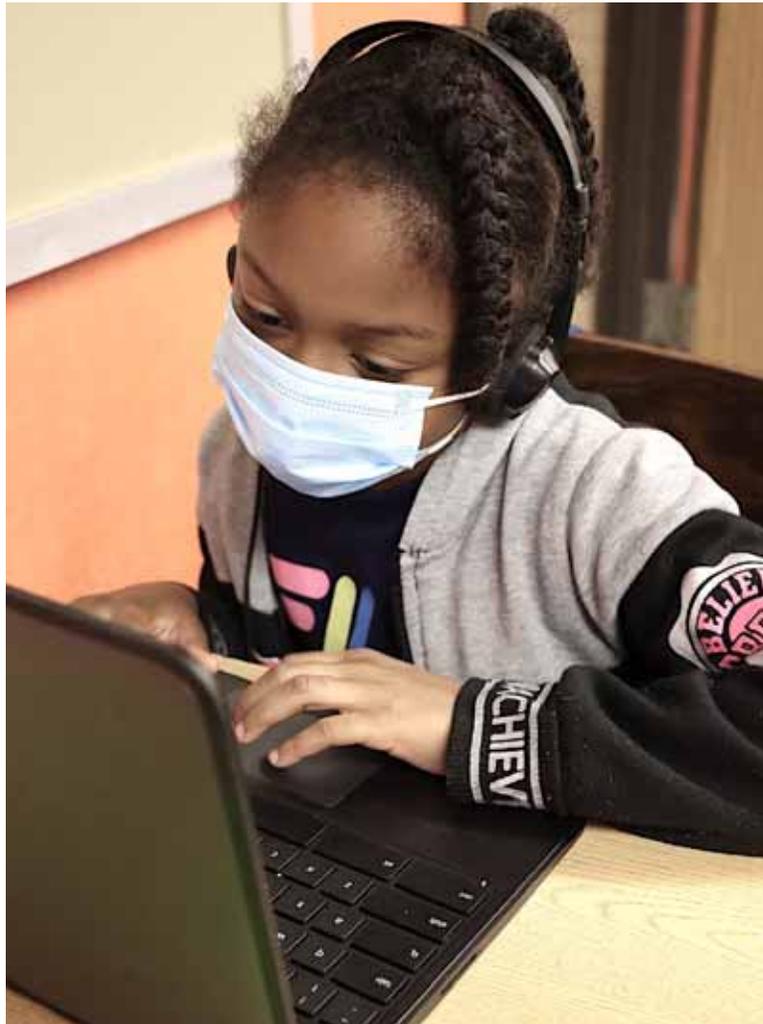
As a non-profit offering free services, BGCLPC relies on community support.

"As we prepared for the 2020/2021 school year, we knew we wanted to be creative and find new ways to create impact for kids and families," Michelle Shirk, BGCLPC chief executive officer, said in a press release. "Operating 10.5 hours a day at the Westcott Club and providing virtual learning support across three sites definitely fit the bill.

"We are very grateful to the Neale Family Foundation for stepping in to help cover the increased costs of safely serving our community's youth."

The Arizona-based charitable foundation supports a variety of organizations, promoting self-sufficiency, excellence and innovation in education, children and youth programs, arts and culture, and health and medical research.

During the past eight weeks, staff at all three BGCLPC clubs have emphasized children's core academic needs are met while incorporating activities that promote character and healthy lifestyles, including: outdoor recreation, art and dance instruction, story time, table games like air hockey and billiards, and pizza parties. BGCLPC wrapped up its



daytime programming model Tuesday, Oct. 13, in preparation for a return to in-person school. Many current club members will attend the organization's traditional afterschool programming, which launches Wednesday, Oct. 21, at its Pine, Springfield and Westcott clubs.

Visit www.bgclpc.org for more details.

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Honoring Those Who Make a Difference



The Michigan City Lions Club presented the 2020 Lion of the Year Award to DeNita Ton. The award honors outstanding service, loyalty and devotion to Lionism. Ton has been a club member for 21 years. During that time, she has served as assistant secretary, membership chairman, tail twister, bell ringing chairman, chairman and creator of the Lion's DeNita Tones, board member, chairman of Lion's news reporting staff, chaplain, public relations and other services. The award was presented at the Creek Ridge County Park Lion's Shelter.



The Michigan City Lions Club recently presented the Clifford D. Arnold Memorial Award to Department of Water Works Superintendent Randy Russell. Arnold was a former LaPorte County sheriff, Indiana state representative, Michigan City mayor and Michigan City Area Schools school board member. Russell has been with the Department of Water Works for 45 years, 33 of which he served as superintendent. Arnold was mayor when he was appointed superintendent. He and Russell also were dedicated Michigan City Lions Club members. Pictured are (from left) Bill Rosevear, Stephanie Shepline, Russell, DeNita Ton and Irene Rosevear.

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-Jennifer H., Daughter of Memory Care Resident

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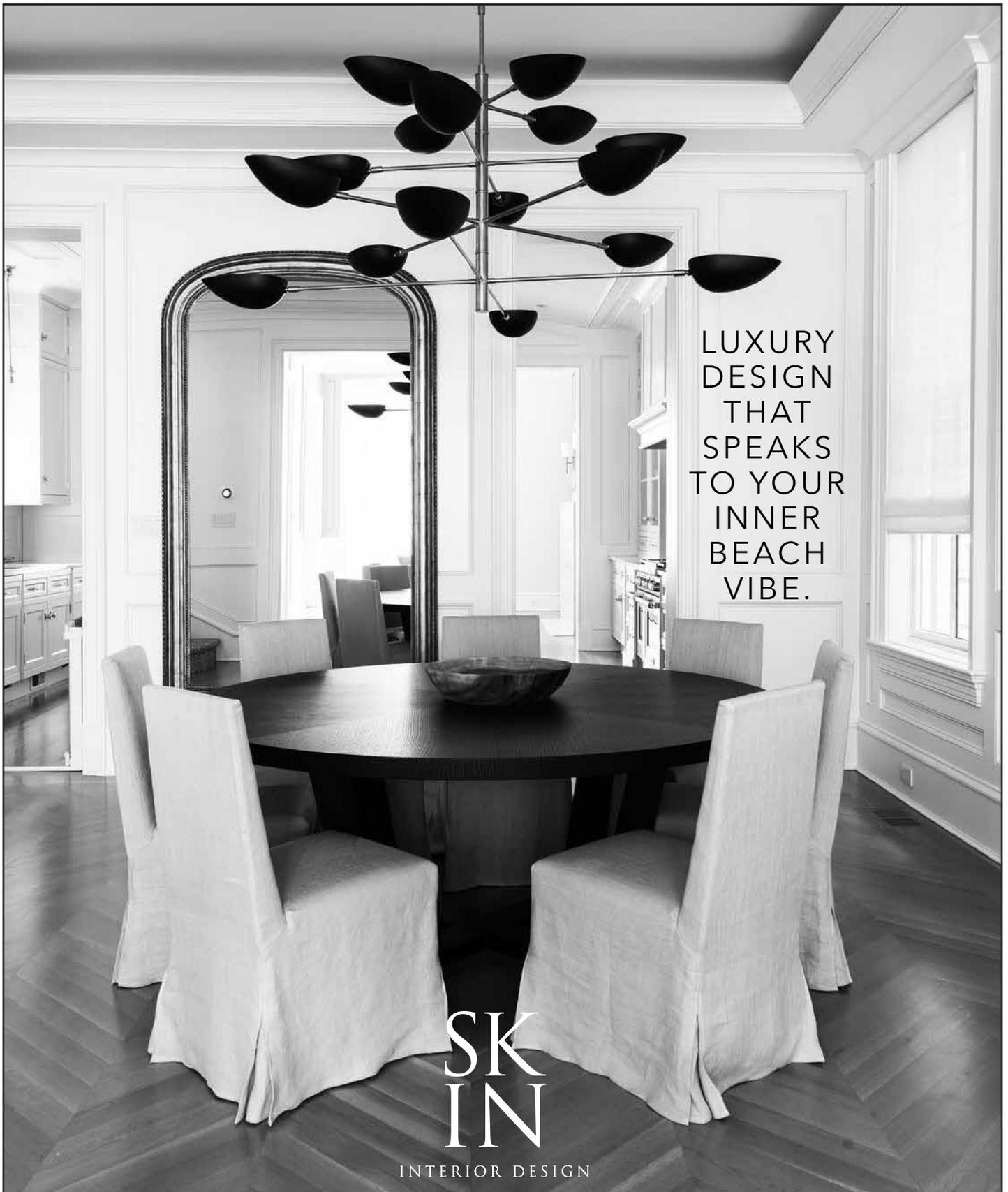


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Gentrification Takes a Gentle Ribbing in “Vampires vs. the Bronx”

by Andrew Tallackson



Bobby Carter (Gerald W. Jones III, from left), Miguel Martinez (Jaden Michael) and Luis Acosta (Gregory Diaz IV) try to thwart vampires from taking over their community in “Vampires vs. the Bronx,” now streaming on Netflix.

The premise, alone, of “Vampires vs. the Bronx” is outrageously funny. I mean, think about it. A group of uppity whites trying to gentrify the Bronx actually is a nest of vampires prepped to bleed it dry. Social satire doesn’t get more direct than that.

What’s disappointing about the film, now streaming on Netflix, is that the jabs frequently don’t go for the jugular — pun intended. This could have been Mel Brooks by way of Spike Lee, so in some ways, “Vampires vs. the Bronx” is a missed opportunity. That the movie still makes you laugh with a healthy dose of street smarts and nostalgia transforms it into a low-budget treat. Think “The Lost Boys” by way of “Stranger Things.”

“Vampires vs. the Bronx” would have been at home in the ’80s alongside movies like “The Goonies” and “The Monster Squad.” Creature features where adults are clueless, and only teens are savvy enough to realize the threat right beneath everyone’s noses is of the supernatural variety. But whereas those films featured all-white casts, the characters in “Vampires vs. the Bronx” are black and Hispanic, a demographic largely ignored in ’80s horror or, if they did exist, met with grisly fates early in the carnage count.

Director Oz Rodriguez and his co-writer, Blaise Hemingway, get all the horror tropes right. Miguel Martinez (Jaden Michael), Bobby Carter (Gerald W. Jones III) and Luis Acosta (Gregory Diaz IV) are three average teens in the Bronx. Nerdy in some respects — Luis, conveniently enough, is reading Ste-



“Vampires vs. the Bronx”

Running time: 85 minutes. Streaming on Netflix. Rated PG-13 for violence, language and some suggestive references

phen King’s “Salem’s Lot” — but standing by each other’s side at every turn. They are apprehensive, though, at all the beloved hot spots going under: local businesses active in the community for years. Turns out, a mysterious group — all white, present only at night — is the culprit. These vampires have a “familiar” (Shea Whigham), a human who does all the daytime negotiating, the deals “closed” at night when the bloodsuckers swing into action.

As satire, that concept, in itself, is hilarious. What I kept waiting for, though, were froufrou white businesses popping up, this corner of the Bronx transformed into a milquetoast vision of upwardly mobile whiteness. That would have been uproarious. “Vampires vs. the Bronx,” however, does not push the social commentary, opting instead to affectionately recreate the last act of “The Lost Boys” in which the three boys, accompanied by the inquisitive Rita (Coco Jones), head into the vampire’s lair for one final battle.

The heart of “Vampires vs. the Bronx,” the laughs, come from the community under siege. The Bronx very much is its own character in the movie. Marching to its own beat. Half the community is glued to its smartphones. One young girl, in fact,

blasts past others recording live podcasts about her garish style, life in town. When one of the vampires, decked out in colonial garb, is dissed by his prey



The joke of the film is that its vampires are all white and intent on gentrifying the area.

as looking like the cast of “Hamilton,” the line earns a double laugh: one because it comes out of nowhere and, two, because of how appropriate the job is.

Movie nerds will appreciate the logo for the gentrification efforts — named after “Nosferatu” director F.W. Murnau and including a likeness of Vlad the Impaler — and the final battle, in which the community rallies behind the four teens, contains a single line of dialogue that is out-of-control,

laugh-out-loud funny.

Over the past decade, we’ve been inundated with tales of teen vampires and zombies. Dreamboat bloodsuckers who sparkle in the sunlight, flesh-eating ghouls that stretch a TV series way past its prime. “Vampires vs. the Bronx,” by comparison, has the courage to laugh at its title monsters. Maybe not as savagely as we might have hoped, but a good laugh none the less.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **Boo-tiful Birds at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 24.**

Join naturalists in the Nature Center’s bird-feeding observation room to learn about birds and help with the feeders. Registration is required because attendance is limited.

- **Pumpkin Decorating from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24.**

Meet at the Nature Center’s fire ring for a pumpkin craft, with free pumpkins provided by the Friends of Indiana Dunes. Registration is required because attendance is limited.

- **Owl Prowl at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24.**

Join a naturalist to walk from the campground gate to try and call nearby owls. Registration is required because attendance is limited.

- **Spooky Snakes at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 25.**

Meet at the Nature Center to learn about snakes.

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

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It's Not for Everyone...But for



Vigilantes out to stop corrupt super heroes in "The Boys" are (from left) William "Billy" Butcher (Karl Urban), Hugh "Hughie" Campbell (Jack Quaid), Kimiko Miyashiro (Karen Fukuhara), Frenchie (Tomer Capon) and Marvin T. "Mother's" Milk (Laz Alonso).

by Andrew Tallackson

"The Boys" is rude. Crude. Prepped to provoke. I love the show...because it's rude. Crude. Prepped to provoke.

No child, heck, no *teen* should be allowed near this Amazon Prime series, which just wrapped its second season. Based on the comic book by Garth Ennis and Darick Robertson, it exists in extremes.

Thing is, "The Boys" isn't profane for profanity's sake. It is angry and subversive with a point to make, its pulse on our disillusioned sociopolitical climate. If Marvel envisions a cut-and-dried world where good and evil are clearly defined, "The Boys" muddies the waters. If super heroes did exist, I suspect they'd be closer to these secretly corrupt, arrogant, heavily marketed miscreants.

"The Seven," as it's called, is a group of super heroes adored by the American public and controlled by Vought International, which created them. That's one of the show's spins on the super-hero origin story. Its crime fighters were not born with their gifts, but secretly administered them through a drug known as Compound V.

Vought keeps close tabs on The Seven's every move, marketed through movies, toys and public appearances. The most powerful and unstable is the Superman-like Homelander (Antony Starr), whose

all-American boy-next-door image is a disguise as thick as his weighty costume. Homelander is one notch away from Joaquin Phoenix's Joker: a psychotic mind losing its grip on reality.

His No. 2 is the Wonder Woman(ish) Queen Maeve (Dominique McElligott), who in private is a lesbian with a longtime partner. In Season 2, she is reluctantly outed and Vought capitalizes on the news. Celebrates it, in fact, not because the corporation supports inclusion, but because their movies now can reach a broader audience.

Cynical, indeed. "The Boys" delights in deconstructing the myth of the super hero, piece by rancid piece, where the idealized, romanticized vision of an American hero as perfected by Marvel is nothing more than a thinly concealed sham.

If The Seven tests the outer reaches of political correctness, their foes — vigilantes known as "The Boys" — are a riot. The ringleader is William "Billy" Butcher, a former Royal Marine Commando with a hatred for Homelander. He's played by Karl Urban (Bones in the "Star Trek" reboots) in a performance that will go down as his defining role. His Billy is like a shaggy pit bull on meth. Billy is so blinded by rage, he's lost all filters, any indicators he recognizes right from wrong. Urban blazes through Vought encounters with heck-if-I-care bravado, spouting dialogue that makes you laugh twice: first for how

the Brave, “The Boys” is a Blast



Season 2 of “The Boys” allows the women, specifically Starlight (Erin Moriarty, center) and Queen Maeve (Dominique McElligott, right), to stand their ground against the sinister Stormfront (Aya Cash).

outrageous it is, second for how it stings.

Billy’s team is comic gold. Jack Quaid — son of Dennis — is a deadpan delight as Hugh “Hughie” Campbell, the heart and soul of the team drawn into Billy’s crusade after drug-addicted Seven member A-Train (Jessie T. Usher) accidentally kills his girlfriend. Quaid spends most of the series gazing at Billy like a squashed cockroach. However, his relationship with Starlight, new member of the Seven, affords “The Boys” a rare sweet side. Played by the wonderful Erin Moriarty, Starlight works in secret with Hughie, willing to take Vought down after discovering how corrupt it is.

Killer casting, indeed, is key in terms of Billy’s team, which also includes: the sly Laz Alonso as the paternal Marvin T. “Mother’s” Milk; Tomer Capon as the crafty Frenchie; and my favorite, Karen Fukuhara’s Kimiko Miyashiro, a destructive mute whose face is a roadmap of brilliant comic timing.

If the first season established the characters, along with Vought’s sinister intentions, Season 2 is about exposing Vought, both by Butcher’s crew and a desperate few within The Seven. The sophomore season loses none of its punch, right off the bat, in fact, with a funeral for super hero Translucence, visible in his glass coffin only by an indentation in the pillows, the ceremony closing with Star-

light performing a song titled “Never Truly Vanish.” I haven’t laughed that loudly during a TV show since, well, nothing comes to mind right now.

If Elisabeth Shue’s icy Madelyn Stillwell served as the primary villain of Season 1, Aya Cash steals all the thunder — literally — in Season 2 as Stormfront. She’s new to The Seven, and the performance is a brilliant balancing act. Flipping political correctness the bird, she grows far more dangerous with each passing episode: a bigot whose mission harkens back to Nazi Germany. Watch Cash in scenes with Moriarty. She can lace a sympathetic “awww” while sipping a latte with darkly sinister subtext. She’s simultaneously hilarious and frightening. Her presence

is pure social commentary on the resurgence of racial unrest in our country, the way hatespeak is carefully marketed and tolerated.

For the most part, “The Boys” juggles well its massive cast of characters, although A-Train and Chace Crawford, as the aquatic ex-Supe known as “The Deep,” are the least fleshed-out in Season 2.

Nonetheless, the latest season builds to a rousing, explosive finish, where the boys take a backseat to the ladies in the fight against Stormfront.

“The Boys” is Amazon Prime’s most-watched show. So successful is it, a third season, along with a spinoff show, are in the works. If it sounds like it’s not your cup of tea, it isn’t. And for the curious, let’s just say...you’ve been warned.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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Within the process of creating any form of art, visual or performance-based, there is that moment in which the artist becomes immersed in the act of creation: a time for personal expression and thought. Artists are a product of the time they live in, and the resulting work always resonates and exposes in some way their soul, their humanity.

Time plays a substantial role in this development, execution and completion of a work of art. We've all heard various quotes about time, such as "time is of the essence," or "always be on time," or even "it's only a matter of time." The concept of "time" has been around as long as there have been human beings capable of articulating it. For artists, too, that theme can be a subject unto itself, or it can inspire to create legacy work that harkens in some way to a prior, current or even future time.

This month, we explore creative output by a number of fine artists recalling time by visiting four specific area art destinations.

When it comes to revisiting a more carefree, pre-pandemic time, you could do no better than stopping by Thaddeus C. Gallery and The Art Barn, where you can relax, recall and reflect.



Laura Krentz's acrylic work, "Rogers Lakewood Bridge."



"Lavender Farm," watercolor pens by Sandy Appleby.

The Art Barn, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso, offers a burst of fresh air with its Dune-land Plein Air Painters exhibit that closes Nov. 1.

It has long been a tradition of artists working outside, subject to the vagaries of nature, to produce impressions of light and color within a specific time and place. This group exhibit struck me with its timelessness and reflection on a quality of life, and the very human need for space and countryside. This awareness of remembered "normalcy" — order, place and pleasures — resulted in a welcome sense of transformative peacefulness from a time before.

The exhibit is a delight, a soothing balm for the soul, with 22 DPAP members represented. The range of represented locations is very good. The painted scenes stretch from Beverly Shores to Niles, Mich., and more. Be sure to drop by and see this fine show. Open hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.

Thaddeus C. Gallery, 822 Lincolnway, LaPorte, continues a tradition of high quality art, presented in a variety of media housed in a beautifully hung, light-filled space. Paintings, glassworks, prints and more are professionally and thoughtfully arranged.

Visiting with co-owner Laura Cutler, I learned that earlier this year, the gallery space was rearranged. The actual gallery floor and wall space have been reduced, but not by much, to make room for other ventures. Current paintings especially bring a nostalgic, lighthearted, colorful, expressive mood.



Artwork at Thaddeus C. Gallery, LaPorte.

A Time for Art and Humanity

by Linda Weigel

"Art is when a human tells another human what it is to be human."

Adrian Elmer



"Art in the Time of COVID," which features the paintings of Kuhn Hong.

are on display in the NIPSCO Art Education Studio at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.



"Not All Heroes Wear Capes" by Kuhn Hong.

Dr. Hong's paintings honoring nurses, medical staff, essential workers and paramedics will leave you moved. I guarantee. By the time I finished viewing each piece, I had to go back and look again, especially the individual portraits. Viewing each heroic face makes it unequivocally clear the truly serious nature of the pandemic. These are our fellow citizens, there for all of us, and Hong gifts us with a sense of reverence and respect, of honesty and truth in the execution of his fine paintings.

This is an absolute must-see for anyone who loves

It felt reassuring to wander the gallery appreciating the style and range of talent.

Open hours are 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday-Saturday.

"Art is the highest expression of the human spirit."

Joyce Carol Oates
Art of the moment can be seen as a highest expression of the human spirit. For me, this is fulfilled by the absolutely stunning paintings executed by retired medical doctor and artist Kuhn Hong. Titled "Art in the Time of COVID," these wonderful works

art. The show ends Oct. 31. Current hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday (closed Tuesday) and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. weekends.

"Art is a way of survival."

Yoko Ono

While in survival mode, look to the future of art and the many forms it can take. One could do no better than "Through My Eyes" at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., to enjoy an exhibit of retrospective and current 2-D and 3-D works by Linda Lee Ligocki. It closes Nov. 9.

Ligocki's output is prolific, and she has worked over the years in several media and within several chosen themes. Wander the two gallery spaces and discover works arranged by those themes.

For instance, "The Family of Humankind" takes in a series of watercolor and/or acrylic on rag or canvas works. "Five Elements...I Ching" features watercolor/acrylic on canvas and is inspired "by the ongoing fascination of Chinese, Asian and Tibetan Art, their symbolic calligraphic language..." according to the artist's statement. These pieces and more reflect a previous era of work by the artist. However, Ligocki's latest explorations in design and color, "Elements and Principles," featuring oil and ink drawing on transparent archival vellum present a new, highly original approach to color, light and design.

By combining transparency with a limited color palette and deliberate mark making, the artist has created an entirely new approach to drawing/painting the likes of which I first experienced in 2018 at her ArtPrize installation in Grand Rapids, Mich. Ligocki's largest work in that show, "Tribute to the Grammar of Architectural Ornamentation," is now on exhibit at CAC. The stacking of the large colored transparent layers (48" x 66") creates an abstracted sense of space and color, which can be continually reformatted by shifting the layers back and forth.



"Tribute to the Grammar of Architectural Ornamentation" by Linda Lee Ligocki.

In addition to this major work, Ligocki has succeeded in providing multiple smaller versions that also could be rearranged at will, layer by layer, creating entirely new shifts in color and forms. The moving back and forth of transparent layers represents a shift from past to future, a push and pull from what was to what can be, to possibilities.

Stop by and see this impressive retrospective before it closes. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.

The Run Returns

Nearly 100 runners and walkers participated in the first fall edition of the St. Stan's/Trail Creek 5K on Saturday, Oct. 10, at Nelson Park.

The race typically is held the first Saturday in June but was postponed to October because of COVID-19. The farthest participant, it should be noted, came from South Carolina.

First place in the female open division was 20-year-old Claire Salyer, LaPorte, third place overall with a time of 19:48.7. Taking first in the male

open division and overall winner was 55-year-old Jeff Mescal, Hebron, with a time of 17:20.8.

Female age division winners were: 14 and younger, Brooklyn Scruggs with a time of 27:41; 20-29: Morgan Laux with a time of 25:14; 30-39: Gabrielle Biciunas with a time of 21:56.1; 40-49: Suzanne Gesse with a time of 24:52; 50-59: Jackie Fultz, Holly, Mich., with a time of 27:53; 60-69: Kathy Hilbrich with a time of 28:01; and 70 and older: Pat Wadle with a time of 50:19.9.



Male age division winners were: 14 and younger, Matthew Hugley with a time of 37:57.9; 15-19: Braydon Flores with a time of 25:35; 20-29: Joe Salyer with a time of 20:21; 30-39: Tyler Evans with a time of 22:57.8; 40-49: Chris Hopper with a time of 24:52; 50-59: Darin Salyer with a time of 20:35.9; 60-69: Robert Earl with a time of 20:17; and 70 and older: Tom Hutmacher with a time of 27:41.

Top three male finishers were: Jeff Mescal, overall winner; Luke Salyer, second overall with a time of 17:53; and Todd Bailey, fifth overall with a time of 20:14.9.

Top three female finishers were: Claire Salyer, third overall; Christina Boughton, fourth overall with a time of 19:56; and Stephanie Burkholder, 11th overall with a time of 21:14.9.

The first female walker was Judy Bartels with a time of 43:45. The first male walker was Brian Grieger with a time of 36:17.

Race director Patrick Kroehler thanked all participants, volunteers and sponsors. All proceeds benefit church repairs. Next year's event is June 5, 2021.

(All photos by Paul Kemiel.)



WHO SHOULD YOU VOTE FOR? TRUMP OR BIDEN?**DO YOU BELIEVE A DYING PATIENT HAS THE RIGHT TO TRY ANY TREATMENT OPTION?**

TRUMP YES: Signed the Right To Try Bill into law

BIDEN NO: Will rescind all Trump Executive Orders

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE ENERGY INDEPENDENT?

TRUMP YES: Ended Foreign Energy Dependence. Enables the US to pull our military out of Middle East. **LOWER PRICES AT THE PUMP.** Reduced carbon emissions to **WORLD'S** lowest.

BIDEN NO: His Climate Plan will eliminate fossil fuels

DO YOU SUPPORT THE WALL ON OUR SOUTHERN BORDER?

TRUMP YES: Stops illegal immigrants, child trafficking, drugs and criminals (MS-13) Trump wants immigrants to come through legal channels on a merit based system.

BIDEN NO: Will stop construction, make illegals, citizens & taxpayer pay for their healthcare.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN LATE TERM ABORTION?

TRUMP NO: Believes it is barbaric and infanticide.

BIDEN YES: "It is a woman's right."

DO YOU BELIEVE IN A STRONG MILITARY?

TRUMP YES: Rebuilt military to world finest "peace through strength" Wants out of all wars.

BIDEN MAYBE: Obama/Biden left the military depleted. Launched airstrikes or military raids in at least 7 countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia, and Pakistan.

DO YOU WANT EVERY CHILD TO HAVE THE BEST EDUCATION?

TRUMP YES: Supports school of choice--tax dollars follow the student to their school of choice.

BIDEN NO: Common core standards-- child attends the school of their zip code.

DO YOU WANT TO STOP POLITICAL CORRUPTION & POLITICAL SELF ENRICHMENT?

TRUMP YES: Wants to end political corruption in both parties

BIDEN NO: His family made millions by Ukraine, Russia, China, and Iraq for no experience.

DO YOU WANT THE US OUT OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND ENDLESS WARS?

TRUMP YES: US is energy independent, eliminated ISIS, killed Abu Bhakr Al-Baghdadi & Qasem Soleimani, in addition to creating peace deals.

BIDEN MAYBE: Biden/Obama gave \$1.5 billion in CASH to Iran, let ISIS build a caliphate, forced regime change in Libya, and did not support Israel.

DO YOU SUPPORT OUR MILITARY?

TRUMP YES: Created VA Choice Act & VA Accountability Act, in addition he meets families of each & every fallen hero at Dover's Airforce Base when they are brought home to be laid to rest.

BIDEN MAYBE: Told our troops to "shut up and clap for that you stupid bastards"

DO YOU WANT OUR COUNTRY TO BE AMERICA FIRST?

TRUMP YES: Has negotiated trade deals with China, EU, India, South Korea, Japan, Mexico & Canada (USMCA) leveling the playing field for the US & bringing jobs back to US.

BIDEN MAYBE: Supported bad deals that sold out the US. NAFTA, TPP, China joining WTO.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN STACKING THE SUPREME COURT?

TRUMP NO: Upholds the current 9 judge supreme court system.

BIDEN MAYBE: Will not answer the question. Says he will answer after the election.

DO YOU HAVE A RETIREMENT ACCOUNT INVESTED IN THE STOCK MARKET?

TRUMP: On election day 2016 the DOW was at 18,333 & even with the pandemic the DOW is 28,837 today. 36% GAIN! Leading indicator of how our economy is headed!

BIDEN: With bad trade deals, adding regulations, Biden's climate plan, & tax hikes-- the DOW will drop massively in value. Capital gains tax will go from 23.8% to 39.6%.

DO YOU BELIEVE THE U.S. IS PAYING THE HIGHEST DRUG PRICES IN THE WORLD?

TRUMP YES: Enacted the "most-favored-nation price" beginning January 2021--the US will pay the lowest world price. Trump will always protect pre existing conditions.

BIDEN NO: Supported Obamacare which has tripled health insurance premiums. It is not healthcare! It is insurance. Did nothing to lower drug prices.

DO YOU BELIEVE PEOPLE SHOULD BE HONEST AND FORTHRIGHT?

TRUMP YES: Always speaks his mind & is "too" honest for most people.

BIDEN NO: Flip flops, creates "gaffs" which is a nice way of saying he is untruthful or racist. Biden stated on The Breakfast Club radio show with host Charlamagne that "if you don't vote for Joe Biden then you ain't black", disrespecting all black americans.

DO YOU WANT WORLD PEACE?

TRUMP YES: Nominated 3 Nobel Peace Prizes. Abraham Accords. Brought UAE & Israel and Bahrain & Israel together. Nominated for normalization deal between Kosovo & Serbia. Even, Rob Roos, Dutch Parliament stated to EU. "They believe that they (EU) embody the good and that Trump embodies evil. But a closer look at Trump's actual record can only lead to the conclusion that he has devoted his presidency to world peace, and with considerable success"

BIDEN NO: BIDEN accomplished? Spent 47 years in politics & has an estimated net worth between \$9 & \$24 million. How does that add up in Public service? Biden is out for himself.

DO YOU WANT TRUMP'S TAX CUTS REPEALED?

TRUMP NO: Average family has approximately 3.3% of income tax savings.

BIDEN YES: Will raise taxes on the corporations which are incentive to leave the US.

DO YOU WANT THE ECONOMY LOCKED DOWN AGAIN?

TRUMP NO: CDC now says "lockdowns are not good for prolonged control of the virus, all they do is make poor people poorer"

BIDEN YES: "I will listen to the science" Which science?

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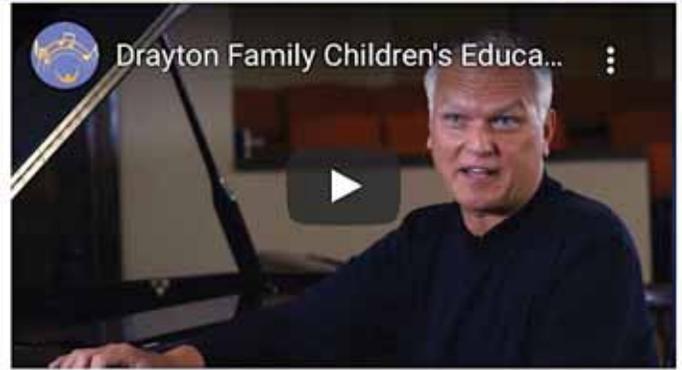
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LCSO Children's Concerts



[View / Download the Education Guide:](#)

[2020 Education Guide](#)

A screenshot of the link within the LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra webpage containing the children's concert content.

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra will present the 32nd annual Drayton Family Children's Education Concerts virtually.

The online educational video, a decision made in light of COVID-19, replaces the in-person concerts that attract more than 5,000 educators and students annually. Titled "Elements & Emotions of Music," the 45-minute presentation was created by Rick DeJonge, guest conductor of the children's concerts for the past two seasons. DeJonge weaves the elements of music with performances by the LCSO and a small ensemble. An accompanying educational guide prepared by Megan Sullivan of LaPorte Middle School corresponds with the video, offering state standards and classroom activities.

Visit tinyurl.com/y52hcxw4 to watch the video and read the education guide. The video also is available on the LCSO's YouTube channel.

Visit www.lcso.net for more details.

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Fernwood Botanical Garden

• **Dog Days of Summer from 8 to 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 24.**

Take pets for a walk, with no registration required. Check in at arrival.

• **Mindfulness in Nature for Kids from 4 to 6:15 p.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 24.**

The program aims to help children ages 6-10 relax and restore in nature so they respond to stress more skillfully. The focus is paying attention, making better choices, regulating emotions and solving problems. Visit tinyurl.com/y3z2aydp to register or for more details.

Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve is located at 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Call (269) 695-6491 or visit www.fernwoodbotanical.org for more information and to confirm the status of classes.



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American Red Cross

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

- First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St., 1-7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23.
- Queen of All Saints, 606 S. Woodland Ave., 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24.
- LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27.
- Michigan City Fire Training Center, 2510 E. Michigan Blvd., 12:30-5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27.

Those who donate in October have a chance to win a \$1,000 Amazon.com gift card. 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. Visit rcblood.org/together for more details.

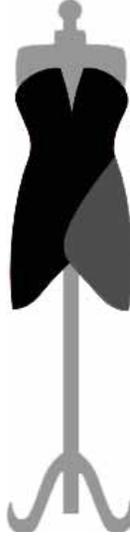
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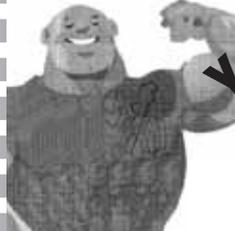
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Michigan City Public Library

The library is open, but with restrictions in place. Until further notice, hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. There is no public seating. The library also follows LaPorte County Health Department's Public Health Order Face Covering Mandate by requiring masks inside the building. Every individual must wear a face covering over his/her nose and mouth at indoor areas open to the public. The circulation and reference desks will have masks available for \$1.

The following services have been temporarily suspended: public programs and meetings; literacy tutoring; MakerSpace/3-D printing; study rooms; home-bound service; interlibrary loan; puppets; puzzles; blocks and children's AWE computers in Youth Services; Ellison die cut machine; public faxing; microfilm use; magazine/book sale; and acceptance of donations.

Access is limited to the computer lab: One session (up to one hour) per person per day is allowed. Due to social-distancing guidelines, only one person at a station at a time. Children are not allowed in the computer lab with parents/guardians.

One computer is reserved for genealogy research, with time limited to one hour per person per day.

Four charging tables allow a limit of 30 minutes per use (no seating is available at these stations).

WiFi is available throughout the building and exterior/parking lot.

The following virtual programming is scheduled:

- Halloween Craft on Monday, Oct. 26. Stop by Youth Services for supplies.
- Halloween Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28. A live video will be posted at 10 a.m. Stop by Youth Services for a kids "trick or treat" bag.
- "Ghosts of Route 66" virtual presentation through Nov. 1. The program covers communities along Route 66 that contain legends of ghosts, spirits and supernatural sightings. Presented by Windy City Road Warrior, the program can be viewed at tinyurl.com/yxngtnmn
- The library in October will celebrate Eric Carle, author of The Very Hungry Caterpillar and illustrator of Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? Families can pick up a weekly craft/activity kit. The schedule is: Week 4: Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me; and Week 5: Mister Seahorse.
- Storytime and Crafts to Go at 10 a.m. Wednesdays. A new storytime video, aimed at children through age 5, will be posted on the website at 10 a.m. Wednesdays. Each video is available for two weeks at the following link: www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/. New take-home crafts are available Wednesdays to accompany the virtual storytimes. Visit the Youth Services desk to get them. Contact the Youth Services department at (219) 873-3045 for more details.

Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.



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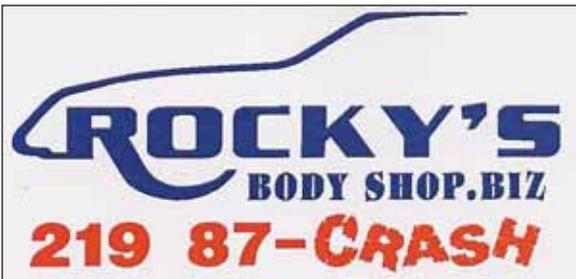
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Halloween Trick or Treat Hours

The following trick-or-treat hours are planned for Saturday, Oct. 31:

- Michigan City, Trail Creek: 4 to 6 p.m.
- LaPorte: 5 to 7 p.m.
- Three Oaks, Mich.: 4 to 6 p.m. EDT.

In Long Beach, families are encouraged to only stop by homes with porch lights on.

Also, LaPorte County Family YMCA, 901 Michigan Ave., will host a Halloween Family Fun Night from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30. Costumes are encouraged, and dancing, games and other activities are planned.

Preserving Women's Legacy Grant

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch will present the Preserving Women's Legacy Grant "Big \$40,000 Check" to the Celebrating Naomi Anderson Project.

The ceremony, in which the check will be presented to Michigan City Mainstreet Association President Abby May, is at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

The money will be used by a committee to honor Naomi Bowman Talbert Anderson — African-American suffragist and Michigan City native — with a sculpture, mosaic or mural in the city's Charles R. Westcott Park.



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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Oct. 23, 24 — “Private Blackout Tour: Myth, Lore and Legend,” 7-9:30 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Advance group tickets required. Info/reservations: www.barkermansion.com, (219) 873-1520.

Oct. 24 — Boo-tiful Birds, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Registration required: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 24 — Pumpkin Decorating, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Registration required: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 24 — Acorn Homegrown! Fall Fest, 3:30 p.m. EDT. Location disclosed before event. General seating: \$35; reserved premium seating: additional \$2. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Oct. 24 — Owl Prowl, 7 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Registration required: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 25 — Spooky Snakes, 10:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Registration required: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 26 — Halloween Craft, Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Supplies @ Youth Services. Info: www.mclib.org

Oct. 28 — Halloween Story Time through Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Posted on website @ 10 a.m. Info: www.mclib.org

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

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

Through Nov. 1 — “Ghosts of Route 66” virtual presentation, through Michigan City Public Library. Web link: tinyurl.com/yxnngtmm

In the Region

Oct. 24 — Dog Days of Summer, 8-10 a.m. EDT, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Info: (269) 695-6491, www.fernwoodbotanical.org

Oct. 24 — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Madeline Bertrand County Park, 3038 Adams Road in Niles, Mich. Info: www.harborcountyhikers.com

Oct. 24 — Mindfulness in Nature for Kids, 4-6:15 p.m. EDT, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Registration: tinyurl.com/y3z2aydp

Through Nov. 9 — “Through My Eyes,” 2-D and 3-D works by Linda Ligoeki, Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. Info: www.chesterton-art.com.

Through Jan. 4, 2021 — Works by Jamie McNeil, Queen of All Saints Catholic Church Legacy Center, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Gallery hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Info: jessicar@qas.org



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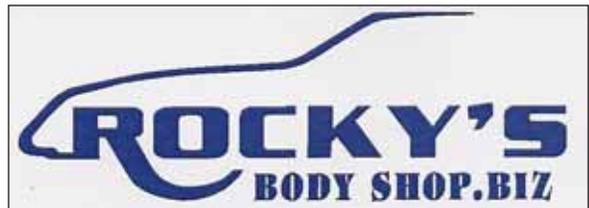
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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Cardiff, By the Sea: Four Novellas of Suspense by Joyce Carol Oates (hardcover, \$26 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 402 pages.)

Publishers Weekly calls Oates “the grand mistress of ghoulishness,” and this collection proves it: Her latest is perfect for the autumnal/Halloween season.

What can you say about an author who knows how to get into your mind, plant seeds of doubt and fear that grow to scenes of unexplainable happenings? I say, she had me at Page 1...

Her ghoulishness comes more in the form of psychological horror, the “am I dreaming or is this really happening?” The four women in these stories face situations they could never have imagined. How do they cope? Will they have the strength to confront the evil men do, and the evil that transcends all reasoning? These four stories may only be novellas, but they pack a punch reserved for much longer novels.

Another thing. Oates doesn’t just describe a person on the outside: She manages to get inside that person. Physicality is one thing, but what’s inside? What makes a person tick and, ultimately, do the things they do?

Here’s a peek at what you can expect...

Cardiff, by the Sea — 170 pages. “*In the dark smelly place beneath the sink. Behind the drainpipes. She has made herself small enough to hide here... Clare scarcely remembers at all. That is a fact.*”

In this first novella, Clare Seidel is a young college student who knows she was adopted at 2 years, 9 months. Why would a parent wait almost three years to decide she didn’t want her daughter? That answer might be forthcoming when she receives a phone call from Lucius Fischer, who says he’s a lawyer for the late Maude Donegal — Clare’s birth grandmother. She left her estate to Clare in Cardiff, Maine. Clare travels to Maine and meets some relatives — two very strange old-maid aunts and an even stranger former-priest uncle who are unwilling to give information about her parents. Clare talks to people and searches old records, where she finds the unthinkable truth about her parents. None of this sounds real until memories come floating to the surface. And why does the sisters’ food and drink make her sick?

Miao Dao — 88 pages. “*The news was stunning. Like walking on a floor that begins to shift and slide.*”

Mia’s father walked out on her, her two younger brothers and mother. Before he left, Mia tried to be-

friend one of the feral cats behind their house; he threatened to shoot them. Finally, one white kitten didn’t run away from her, and she hid him in her room. In a dream, the name Miao Dao is given for the kitten and a promise she will never be alone. Such a nice little cat, such a good companion to Mia. Right? As she grows older, she finds that boys are bullies like her father, and she withdraws into herself. Mom’s new husband proves to be no better... and a sexual predator, too. After the unexplained murder of a student, she begins to wonder about the dream and its revelation.

Phantomwise: 1972 — 78 pages. “*Still she haunts me, phantomwise.*”

Alyce Urquhart, a 19-year-old philosophy student, is singled out by professor Simon Meech. “*Afterward she would realize how subtly he was guiding her...*” Their meetings finally culminate in an affair and a pregnancy. She doesn’t tell him about the baby. A visiting professor, Roland B__, takes her under his wing, even pays her for being his assistant and archivist. But maybe he expects more from Alyce...he tells

her she reminds him of the Alice who was the model for Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland. Despite the creepiness, Alyce realizes Roland needs her. Where will this all end up?

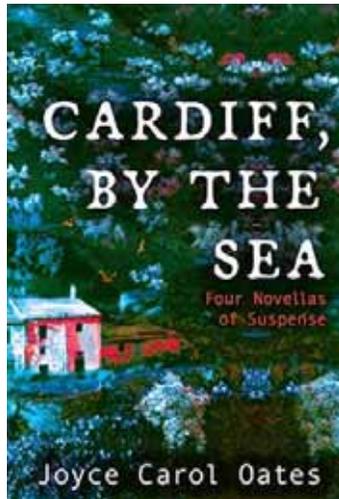
The Surviving Child — 65 pages. “*Is madness contagious?*”

Elisabeth is a 28-year-old student who meets and falls in love with widower Alexander Hendricks, director of a wealthy arts foundation established by his grandfather. They marry, and he takes her back to the family mansion in Wainscott, Mass.

Alexander’s first wife, the famous poet known as N.K., killed herself and their daughter, Clea. A son, Stefan, was spared, or maybe he hid. It was never determined because the boy won’t talk about that day. Now, Elisabeth is trying to connect with the boy while voices and faraway specters haunt her days and nights. “*Is madness contagious?*” She might find out.

Oates, 82, published her first book in 1963; numerous books followed. This volume contains previously unpublished works. My introduction to Oates’ work was in 1990 when Because it is Bitter and Because it is My Heart was nominated for the National Book Award in Fiction. She previously won the National Book Award in 1970. Many more literary achievements were to come. In 2010, she received the President’s National Humanities Medal.

Till next time, happy reading!





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June fell in love with being a real estate agent because of the great satisfaction that comes with putting the right property with the perfect clients. After the many years she's been in real estate, there is a sense of pride seeing people in the same properties that she originally sold to the owners many years ago. She also enjoys helping people make smart decisions by providing her knowledge and educating the buyers. June has a strong sense of pride for her integrity and knowledge of the area.

June's family bought a house in Long Beach in October of 1976. Coming from the East Coast, they naturally gravitated towards the lake. "We appreciated the community because they had an excellent school system (which no longer exists). It was a diverse area because of the Steel Mills, and there was a good mix of upper to middle class," says June. "Times have changed, but I love the Chicago influence and thank those residents for contributing to our community." She believes there is a strong urban influence without the hustle and bustle of Chicago. "The contributions they make to our area is incredible for our local businesses and restaurants."

Helping the community has always been important for June. She has volunteered many hours over the past 15 years to Meals on Wheels. Previously, she worked at the Long Beach fire department as a volunteer EMT and First Responder for 8 years.

Questions about the Long Beach area's ins, outs, rules or regulations? As a true, long time Long Beach resident, June can answer most questions or quickly find the resources to help!

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