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A Thing of Beauty

by William Halliar



Thanks to photographer Josh McIntyre for taking this photo for *The Beacher*.

LaPorte County can boast many a natural vista to inspire the eye of those who visit our Lake Michigan shore. Ask 100 people, and you will get 100 answers about what is most inspiring. To some, it is our unparalleled fiery sunsets, or the Chicago skyline across sparkling clear waves. To others, it is the gently rolling sands of the Indiana Dunes or the brightly colored flowers of Friendship Botanic Gardens.

Some appreciate the creations of man, considering them objects of beauty as well. The tall, graceful observation tower at Washington Park Zoo, or the curving arch of a movable bridge. These are beautiful not only for their artistic form and style, but also for their usefulness to man and the community.

Michigan City's Franklin Street bridge truly is unique — a thing of beauty. People who visit our beach and old lighthouse stop whatever they are doing when the klaxon sounds, watching as the old bridge begins its slow ascent towards the sky.

The untold thousands each year who cross Trail Creek may not think twice about the bridge that takes them over the narrow channel. Folks may sit in their cars, fuming, as they wait what may seem endless minutes as the old bridge moves silently up to allow the passing of a tall mast, then settles back into place on smooth babbitt bearings.

"This bridge is an amazing structure: We are lucky to have it," says Andy Skwiat. He's with

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A Thing of Beauty

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Marques Electric Inc., and the project team leader on a recent renovation project that brought the old bridge back to a condition that approaches brand new. Tom Walma, manager and project engineer at Harrison Electric Inc., which oversaw the replacement of electric drive motors and brakes for the bridge, speaks of his amazement, that even though the bridge is 90 years old, operating gears show hardly any wear because the tolerances have been held so closely and the bridge so well-maintained.



Workers adjust the gears inside the bridge.

When the old Michigan Road from the Ohio River through Indianapolis to the mouth of Trail Creek was completed in 1834, the vision of a usable harbor at Michigan City was only a dream. The mouth of Trail Creek as it entered Lake Michigan was considered a “natural harbor,” but it was hardly navigable.

Fixed wooden bridges spanned the creek in several places. Early reports tell us that as early as 1833, a timber bridge was built across the creek, and in 1842 a more permanent structure erected by Addison Blair. In 1836, the first commercial ship, Sea Serpent, docked at the mouth of Trail Creek and in 1837, the first harbor light, a lantern mounted on a high post, was installed.

Another more permanent bridge was constructed in 1858, only to be torn down in the 1880s. That was when it became obvious the creek had to be dredged and the harbor expended for larger ships, accommodating the burgeoning lumber and grain trade that would become Michigan City harbor’s mainstay. It was in 1858 that the area saw the construction of our old lighthouse that replaced a conical-shaped structure located on the grounds since 1837.

According to an article written on Feb. 12, 1983, by Walter C. Calvert, *“In 1883 all of the bridges were removed and the creek was dredged, deepened and straightened for a distance of one mile. The town operated ferries at the foot of Franklin and another at Fourth Street which replaced the many bridges.”*

In another article from *The Evening Dispatch* on May 20, 1932, titled “Pioneer Resident Pens Story of Franklin Street Bridge Problem,” the author writes of the ferries, *“Earlier, I think, they had to scull the ferry but afterwards they put a chain across the creek. The ferry was not so bad until the ice came in, which the tugs soon broke up, but with the floating ice it was still hazardous.”*

A bridge was needed, but what kind of bridge would allow ships to pass

by while still being available for vehicular and foot traffic to the lakefront?

Enter Michigan City Mayor Martin T. Krueger (1853-1945). His vision for what would become Washington Park is the stuff of legends. According to historian Bob Kaser, when Krueger became mayor of the city in 1889, the lakefront could be described as “a squalid Skid Row.” After a visit to Chicago’s Lincoln Park, he began to dream of such a fine lakefront park for his hometown. The dream of such a park “haunted” Krueger.

After what Krueger described as *“a long uphill battle,”* he obtained approval to build a bridge over the now navigable creek.

The swing bridge Krueger built in the middle of the creek was dubbed, "The Bridge that made Washington Park a reality." Krueger's bridge was built in 1892-1893 on a pillar of stone and steel in the middle of Trail Creek. It allowed vehicles and foot traffic to cross the creek, then swing in a direction parallel to the flow of the creek to allow large ships access to turning basins further inland.



The first bridge circa 1891, with the old lighthouse in the background

Krueger's swing bridge was replaced in 1906 by a single-span "lift bridge" made of steel and wood. This second bridge had problems from its first day. Headlines of an Oct. 3, 1907, Michigan City newspaper inform readers, "The New Bridge Makes a Bow." It continues, "*Structure has its own ideas about going up and down,*" not a good idea for a public bridge. The conclusion was that the "*motors failed to do their work.*"



The second bridge circa 1908.

As the public assembled to watch the test of the new bridge, it was reported by the same paper that, "*through the entire afternoon and up until nearly 5 o'clock Superintendent Inglesby and his assistants teased the bridge to come down from its lofty position but their efforts proved to no avail.*" Suddenly, the big span came down seemingly of its own accord. It was later determined the motors and drive train were at fault.

At the time this second bridge was installed, locals bragged it was taller than any bridge structure in

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A Thing of Beauty

Continued from Page 3

Chicago. *The Evening News* on Aug. 20, 1907, boasted: "When completed the bascule bridge at Franklin Street will be 30 feet higher than any similar structure in the city of Chicago. It will be 106 feet above the street level, while the highest lift in Chicago is only 78 feet." Perhaps this height, and the size and weight of the single span, proved the bridge's undoing since wind shear causes great strain on such a structure and must be taken into consideration as the bridge is designed.

This second bridge came to a sudden end when on June 24, 1910, it was struck by the stern of the steam ship *United States*, which was being towed backwards by a tug. The single span of wood and steel came crashing into Trail Creek, only to be resurrected as a shadow of its former self.



The second bridge collapsed on June 24, 1910.

A temporary pontoon bridge was quickly built, with some cross traffic taken up again by harbor residents with ferry boats.



The third bridge circa 1925-1929.

A quick fix was to construct a third bridge out of parts salvaged from the second bridge. It also was a single-span structure with a design much like that of the bridge it replaced. The weight of the single span proved to be too much for the drive system. In July 1930, the main drive shaft cracked. The bridge

could not open or close; thus, the third movable bridge over Trail Creek bit the dust.

The fourth and present movable bridge, being a double-span bascule design, was a thing of beauty since its birth on a designer's drawing board. It was dedicated in May 1932. A newspaper at the time reported that the "Big Bridge was Perfect." The article continued that the bridge was "raised and lowered many times without a squeak or a grind...proving entirely satisfactory."



Photographer Josh McIntyre took this photo for The Beacher.

The new bridge (now in service for 90 years) is a bascule bridge. It weighs 500 tons and cost \$280,000 to build in 1932. A bascule bridge is a movable one with a counter weight that delicately balances with the weight of the cantilevered structure of the bridge to aid in lifting. The Franklin Street bridge is so precisely balanced, a single span can be lifted with a hand crank if need be.

The name bascule comes from the French term for "balance scale." The design has an interesting history with its origin in medieval Normandy, where it was used in ancient castles to span the moat and secure the main gate as a door.

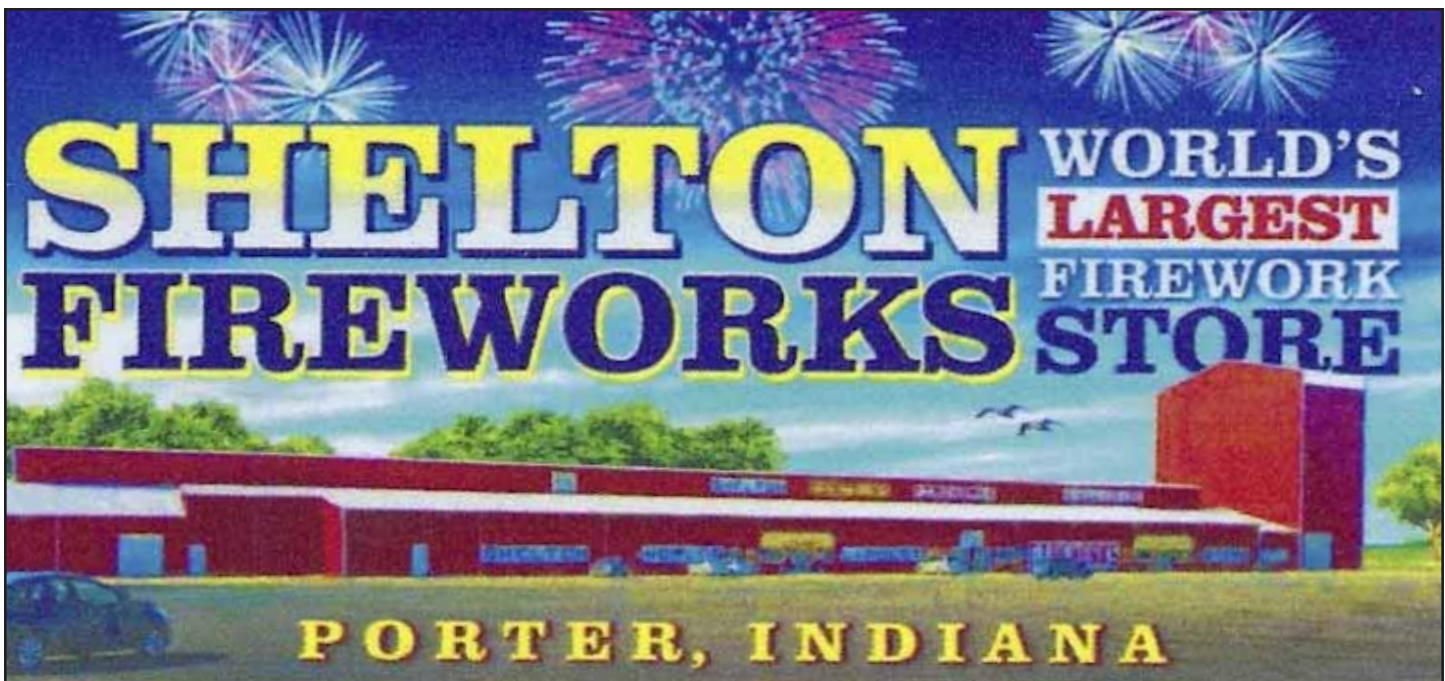
Amsterdam can claim to have the most bascule bridges in the world, while our large metropolitan neighbor to the west has the honor of being home to the most bascule bridges in the United States, with nearly 40 over the Chicago River alone.

In Indiana, there is but one bascule bridge. It spans our very own Trail Creek. It is 90 years young this year. A well-maintained wonder of engineering.

It is, indeed, a thing of beauty.



Some of the detail involved in the bridge's motors.



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Three Oaks Museum Display, Special Events

The Region of Three Oaks Museum will celebrate Three Oaks High School with a new exhibit that debuts Saturday, June 11.

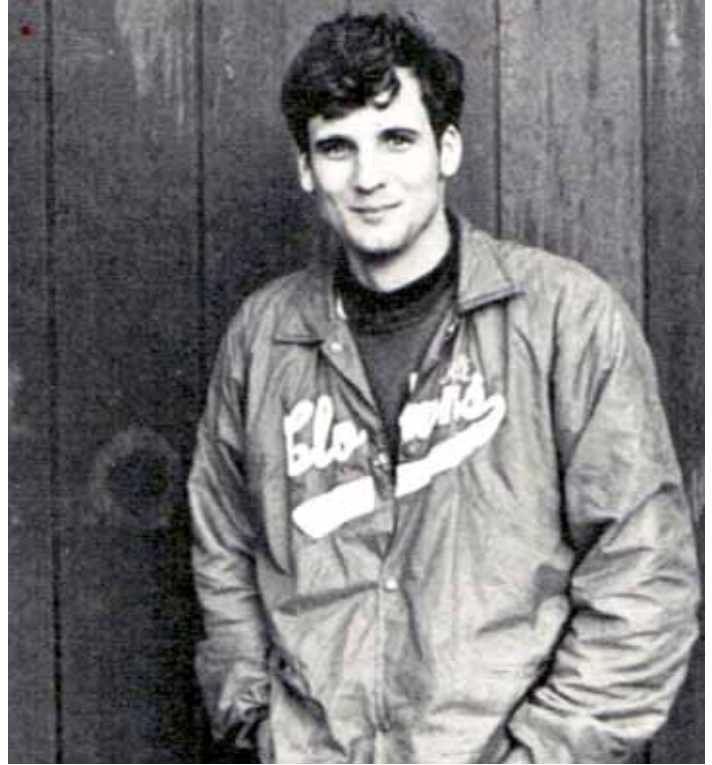
Three Oaks High School closed in 1966 when Three Oaks merged with New Troy schools to form River Valley School District. The exhibit includes uniforms of athletes, cheerleaders and band members, as well as other memorabilia.

The display coincides with a long-delayed reunion for Three Oaks "Oakers," which was postponed by COVID-19.

Also June 11, the museum will offer a walking tour of Three Oaks' Elm Street. TROTOM board member Nick Bogert has been collecting images and stories of Elm Street history for more than two years. During the four-block tour, Bogert will tell the "stories behind the storefronts," and show photos of Elm Street in decades past on a computer screen. The tour begins at 1 p.m. EDT at the museum, 5 Featherbone Ave. The tour is free; however, donations are welcome.

At 3 p.m. EDT is a program sponsored by Three Oaks' The Biggest Little Baseball Museum.

Bill Heward, who started his education at Three Oaks Elementary, will share his experience with the last of the barnstorming baseball teams: the Indianapolis Clowns. He spent four seasons with the



A photo of Bill Heward during his time with the Indianapolis Clowns.

team and wrote Some Are Called Clowns, reflecting on his time with them.

A 1967 River Valley High School graduate, Heward became an Ohio State University professor. He has written and contributed to several books on behavioral analysis, and given lectures and workshops in more than 20 countries. He has published more than 100 journal articles and nine books about behavior analysis.

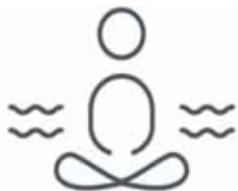
The museum is open from noon-5 p.m. EDT Friday-Sunday through October. Visit www.regionofthreeoaksmuseum.com for more details.



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LaPorte County Parks Staff Eager to Unveil Inclusive Playground

by Kim Nowatzke

All photos provided



Equal play for all.

That's the goal behind Bluhm County Park's new inclusive playground that is nearing completion.

"Traditional playgrounds, even those that are handicapped accessible, can often leave kids with special needs feeling isolated or separated from the group," said Laura Moyer, LaPorte County Parks recreation and education programmer. "This will help all children learn how to play together, regardless of abilities. I love that it features equipment that is accessible to parents and children, and that is tailored toward every child, with and without disabilities. On top of it being wheelchair accessible, there are areas for children with autism and for children with hearing disabilities."

The playground is not only a first for LaPorte County Parks, but also one of the few such play areas in the state, she said. Bluhm Park is located at 3855 S. County Road 1100 West



in Westville.

The special playground, which replaces a structure more than 20 years old, was supported by a \$250,000 Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte grant. In addition, the LaPorte County council and commissioners approved \$70,000 to pave the parking lot. The LaPorte County Park Foundation will contribute more than \$50,000 to install a new restroom with running water and a septic system.

"We are glad to finally have an all-inclusive playground at one of our county parks," LaPorte County Parks Superintendent Jeremy Kienitz said. "It is something we've talked about for a long time and just never had the funds to tackle."

Thanking all the agencies that helped fund the effort, Kienitz added, "This was truly a collaborative effort that we expect to enhance the quality of life for the people of LaPorte County for years to come."

The 5,576-square-foot playground, titled Unlimited Play, contains a spinner, swings (including one with a backrest), a rock-climbing area, five ramp and alternative climber pathways, a double slide for side-by-side parallel play and other unique jungle gym attractions. There are sensory panels for manipulative, imaginative, social, tactical and musical play. There's also an age-appropriate structure for 2- to 5-year-olds, in addition to the main one designed for 5- to 12-year-olds.

"The goal is having a play area for all abilities to interact by stretching their imagination, testing a variety of physical challenges and spending time having fun together," Moyer said.

In addition to Unlimited Play, there is a Quiet Grove area that combines the soothing benefits of nature with sensory activities to help children alleviate stress without having to leave the playground. The shelter is perfect for socially distant gatherings.

The new playground offers wheelchair access up to a 60" deck with more than 72 feet of ramp play, including a transfer station. The surface material is an engineered wood fiber, which is ADA accessible. At press time, the play area is open, but not entirely complete for wheelchair access. The parks department hopes to have the entire project completed by July, provided the materials and products come in as planned.

"Accessible playground equipment offers benefits for all children," Moyer said. "For children who have mobility or other challenges, a handicap-accessible playground allows them to play, too. Something as simple as accessible surfacing can make playground equipment navigable for wheelchairs and the people who use them. For children with challenges, accessible play areas and wheelchair-accessible playground equipment let them play and be children, just like everyone else. Play is crucial for human development, the growth of social skills and self-confidence."

An inclusive playground benefits kids without disabilities, too.

"Connecting with children of different backgrounds and abilities encourages empathy, as well as social and emotional skills that will benefit children throughout their entire lives," Moyer continued. "Children who can cooperate and play with children of all ability levels and all backgrounds will be more prepared for a diverse world and workplace as adults."

And a playground such as Unlimited Play benefits more than just children.



"We tend to think that it's the child we need to accommodate," Moyer added. "Yet there are far more parents and grandparents with disabilities than children. Cross-generational play is imperative to building strong families. Adults who have mobility issues can benefit from wheelchair-accessible playgrounds because these playgrounds allow them to go to the park with their child and spend time together. Inclusive play areas also allow adults of varying ages and abilities to actively engage with the children in their care. The playground can become a truly multi-generational gathering space for community enjoyment, socialization, healthy bodies and imaginative fun."

Two special events are planned to celebrate the new playground. First, an Inclusive Play event is from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday, July 17. Crafts and music are planned. Call (219) 325-8315 to register. Then, an Inclusive Playground Grand Opening with a ribbon-cutting is at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 13. The ceremony includes refreshments, a dedication talk, LaPorte County Parks giveaways and coloring pages of the playground.

(Visit www.laportecountyparks.org or the "LaPorte County Parks" page on Facebook for more details.)

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The Michigan City High School Athletic Booster Club announced senior student athletes who received the Athletic Booster Club Scholarship.

Students must be in good standing, have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA, have two varsity letters, with one

in his/her senior year, be attending a college, university or trade school, and their parents/guardians must be club members for three of their four years of high school. The scholarship is paid for through the 50/50 raffle at home football and boys basketball games.

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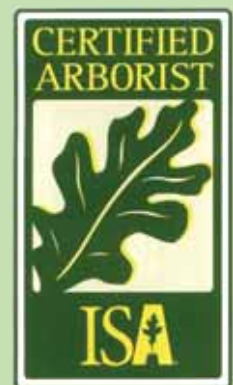
Five Tips for Taking Care of Your Trees

1. Don't prune ANY oaks from April 15th to September 30th. Oak wilt spreads readily during this time. Oak wilt will immediately kill any infected trees and will spread to your trees via root grafts if your neighbor prunes their oaks and they get infected. There is no treatment or cure for infected trees. Prevention is your Only choice.
2. Don't "spike" your trees. Spiking causes wounds that lead to infection and tree decline. Anyone who spikes trees is causing long-term damage to the trees.
3. Avoid damage to the roots. Large trucks cause soil compaction and digging up roots cause frayed wounds that can't heal and create access points for pathogens (fungi) that start root rot and weaken the trees structural stability. Lawn mowers can also cause damage to the root flares.
4. Keep a good amount of natural leaf litter and organic matter covering the roots under the canopy. Blowing leaves away from your trees can kill the fibrous roots by drying the exposed soil.
5. Consult an ISA Certified Arborist before doing anything to your tree.

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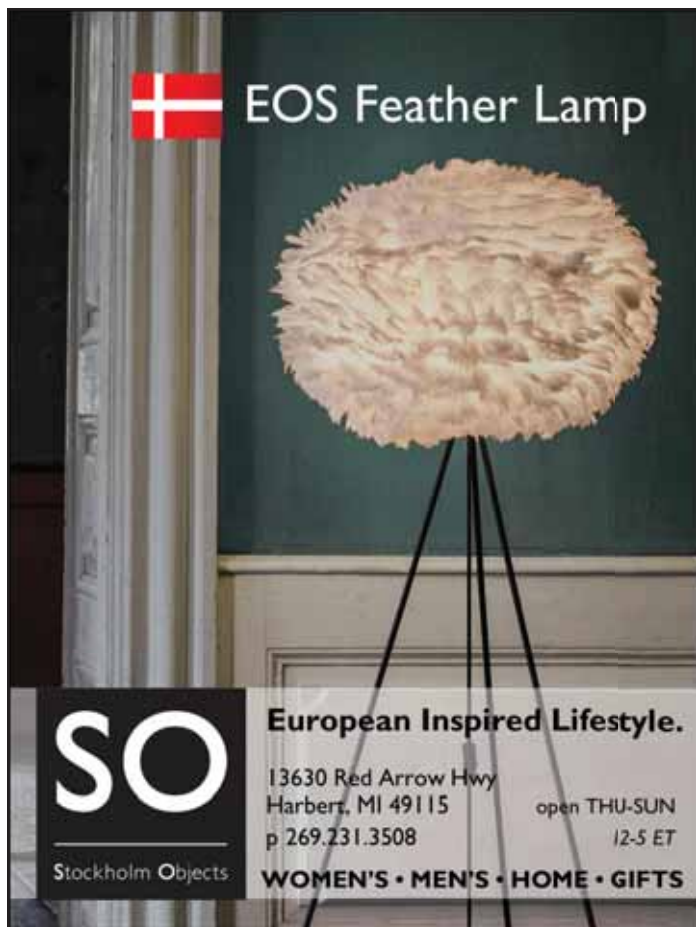
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Michigan City Municipal Band

Michigan City Municipal Band's 154th season begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 9, at Washington Park's Guy F. Foreman Bicentennial Amphitheater.

The season consists of 10 free Thursday concerts through Aug. 11. All concerts last about an hour. Soloists include Gunnery Sgt. Hiram Diaz, euphonium, from the U.S. Marine Band (July 28); Dr. George Wolfe, saxophone (June 23); Anne Marie Bice, soprano (June 16 and 30); and Rick AmRhein, baritone/narrator (July 14). Additional soloists will be announced later in the season.

The world premiere of "Where the Stormy Winds Blow" by Dr. Jesse Ayers is July 14.



Jeffrey Scott Doebl (left)
and Quincy Ford.

It is based on a true story, recorded in the Library of Congress, about a Lake Michigan shipwreck. AmRhein will serve as narrator and baritone soloist, and the audience will be invited to sing along with a Lake Michigan sea shanty. On July 28, Tom Davoren's "Concerto for Euphonium and Band" will showcase the band with Diaz.

The June 9 concert repertoire is:

- "Fanfare for the Common Man," by Aaron Copland.
- "Sinatra in Concert," arr. Jerry Nowak.
- "A Hymn of Peace," by Daniel Chisham.
- "Heartbeat Song," by Kelly Clarkson.
- "Grandmother Song," by Brent Michael Davids.
- "Don't Stop Me Now," by Freddie Mercury.
- "Who's That Masked Man?," by Jay Bocook.
- "Prayer for Ukraine," by Mykola Lysenko.
- "How Far I'll Go," by Lin-Manuel Miranda.
- "America, the Beautiful," arr. Warren Barker.

The band's two opening numbers honor the late Bruce Fischer, who played percussion in the band for several decades.

To provide some levity in the wake of the pandemic, the band will present a medley of famous characters who wear masks: The Phantom of the Opera, The Lone Ranger, The Incredibles and Spider-Man. They are featured in the piece "Who's That Masked Man?"

Jeffrey Scott Doebl is the conductor, Quincy Ford the assistant conductor and Rick Carlson the announcer. Parking on Lake Shore Drive is prohibited; it is available in lots closest to the amphitheater, as well as at the senior center. Entrance to the park is free with a park sticker; otherwise, there is a fee.



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Michigan City Public Library

Michigan City Public Library's circulation/front lobby area is open to the public.

The front doors are open. Public seating is available, and the computer lab is open. Hours are: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday and closed Sundays.

The following programs are scheduled:

- **Duneland Stamp Club from 4-5 p.m. Thursday, June 9.** The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.
- **MCPL Podcast Episode Release at 9 a.m. Friday, June 10.** "Discussions with Miss Dana" includes upcoming books and interviews with a librarian. Listen on Buzzsprout or through www.mclib.org/podcast.
- **Chalk the Walk from 1-2 p.m. Monday, June 13.** Help decorate the sidewalk with ocean animals and scenes celebrating the Summer Reading Program theme (the program starts June 12). Dress to get messy and for the weather. Contact Miss Dana at dwolf@mclib.org or call (219) 873-3045 for more details.
- **Summer Reading Program Kick-Off: The Magic of Steve Kellogg from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday, June 15.** The family program is free.
- **Tinkercad 3-D Modeling from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, June 15.** Youth ages 9-17 get an

introduction to 3-D design, art and printing. No prior experience is necessary. Participants get a free 3-D print of their creations (printing time is limited to five hours per participant). Registration is required. Call Dave at (219) 873-3045 for details.

- **Needle Arts Club from 5:30-7 p.m. Mondays in June (except June 20.** Membership to the group, formerly known as the Knit Club, is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome.
- **Makerspace: open lab hours from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in June.** Youth ages 6-17 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.
- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays.** Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Check out previous story time videos through the library's YouTube channel, Facebook page and website.
- **Virtual Story Time with Take-Home Craft.** A new storytime video is posted at 10 a.m. Wednesdays on the library website and YouTube channel at www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/. Visit Youth Services to get the craft! The program is aimed at children through age 5. Contact the Youth Services department at (219) 873-3045 for more details.

Two new services are available:

- ComicsPlus offers unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga. Popular titles include Avatar: The Last Airbender & The Legend of Korra, Big Nate, Bone, Disney Princesses, Geronimo Stilton, Stranger Things, Locke & Key and American Gods. Patrons need a current library card and PIN.
- The app Library NewsStand includes 7,000 titles of digital magazines and newspapers in more than 60 language, including: *Newsweek*, *Fast Company*, *Forbes*, *The New Yorker*, *Reader's Digest*, *Elle* and *Esquire*. A library card is required.

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

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SU June 12 • 6-8p Lee
Scott



TU June 14
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Three Oaks Flag Day

The Three Oaks Flag Day Parade will celebrate 70 years at 2:30 p.m. EDT Sunday, June 12, with a flag-raising ceremony at Elm and Maple streets.

A flyover by a World War II military plane over downtown Three Oaks signifies the start of the free 70th Flag Day Parade at 3 p.m. EDT. The route starts at Buckeye Street and moves south on Elm Street, turns west on Linden Street and ends at the American Legion. The grand marshal is Gloria Priest, who served in the Army during the Korean War in 1950-1951. In addition to the many service units, tractors and classic cars, the parade will include the newly crowned Flag Day Royalty, Princess Kaylee Bahena and Prince Isaac Cummings, Three Oaks/River Valley royalty and many others.

The fourth annual Three Oaks Flag Day 5K/Walk is at 9 a.m. EDT Saturday, June 11. All proceeds benefit the Ronald McDonald House and River Valley Cross Country Team. Visit tinyurl.com/2ubk6p5d to register.

A Quilts of Valor presentation is at 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, June 11, at the Carver Park pavilion.

Other weekend events include: a pancake breakfast at the Three Oaks Fire Department; The Flag Day Motorcycle Dice Run on Saturday, June 11, which starts at American Legion Post 204; Flag Day Market on Saturday and Sunday; Music in the Park at Dewey Cannon Park on Saturday, June 11; BoneNaked at The Featherbone Restaurant on Saturday, June 11; and two days of live entertainment are at American Legion Post 204.

Visit www.threeoaksflagday.com for more details.

Garden and Art Walk

Beverly Shores will host its Garden and Art Walk from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 11.

The theme is "Up on a Dune." Five gardens are open to guests. Advance tickets are \$10 at www.absr.org, or \$15 the day of the walk.

Check-in is from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Depot, 525 S. Broadway, where a free shuttle bus is available.

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Week 3: Kaboom!

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Week 4: Construction Chaos

Week 5: All Star Sports

Week 6: Shark Week

Week 7: Superheroes

Registration forms are available at the Long Beach Town Hall, Long Beach Community Center, and online at longbeachin.org.

Any questions email

longbeachsummercamp@gmail.com.

NB Library Community Forum



Warren Dunes Explorer Guide Mike Latus.

Warren Dunes Explorer Guide Mike Latus will present a program on beach rocks at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, June 14, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Latus, a former River Valley schools math and science teacher, runs programs at the state park that cover a wide range of scientific subjects, from astronomy and geology to local plant life.

The free program is part of the Friends of the Library's Community Forum series. Face masks are optional in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Queen of All Saints Festival

The Queen of All Saints Festival returns June 10-12, complete with music and food, on the church grounds, 606 S. Woodland Ave.

Friday hours are 5-11 p.m., with Nawty performing at 7 p.m. Saturday hours are 5-11 p.m., with The Opry Rock Party at 7 p.m. Sunday hours are noon-10 p.m. Bags tournament registration is at noon, with Steel Country performing at 6 p.m.

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Beverly Shores will host its Garden and Art Walk on Saturday, June 11, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. themed *Up on a Dune*. Five gardens with magnificent vistas are open to guests. Advance tickets are \$10 at www.absr.org, or \$15 the day of the walk, and include entry for an original watercolor raffle. Check in at The Depot, 525 S. Broadway in Beverly Shores, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for a map and a wristband for the free shuttle bus.



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“Top Gun: Maverick” is Way Better than the Original

by Andrew Tallackson



Thanks to advances in technology, “Top Gun: Maverick” is a more immersive experience than the original.

“Top Gun: Maverick” kicks off with the same opening as its predecessor to firmly ignite our sense of nostalgia. Then, director Joseph Kosinski launches into a story that’s infinitely superior to the original.

I am not among the 1986 film’s legions of fans, seeing it once in theaters. My memory of it was that the aerial scenes were cool...but that’s it. So, just hours before heading to theaters for this long-delayed sequel, I streamed the original. Experiencing it with today’s eyes, it’s quintessentially ‘80s: the sleek MTV visuals, the pop score, Cruise’s star wattage. Beyond that, and here is where I’ll have to flee the country under an assumed name, it’s still boring. Zero plot. Dumb dialogue. And every time the jargon gets technical, cue the shirtless shots in locker rooms and volleyball pits. All they needed was girls on trampolines, and the gratuitous eye candy quota would have been met.

Kosinski, though, has considerable affection for the first film. We see it in how many scenes honor it. The surprise is that his movie does not coast on nostalgia alone. Nor is what he achieves better simply because of today’s advances in technology. It is better for all the right reasons. Smarter. More emotional. Thrilling in how immersive the aerial sequences are.

The biggest shock is Kosinski’s restraint. This is a sequel that dares to be quiet. To permit the story to properly build, to escalate to a technically dazzling finish. Where the characters do not sound like morons.

The story, itself, does not require a PhD to follow. Pete “Maverick” Mitchell (Cruise) has dodged military promotions over the course of his career, preferring to stay put as a Navy test pilot. The government, however, wants to shut down his hypersonic

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“Top Gun: Maverick”

Running time: 131 minutes. Rated PG-13 for sequences of intense action, some strong language.

“Darkstar” scramjet program. Maverick hasn’t lost his rebellious streak, taking the aircraft out for a test spin, surpassing its Mach 10 goal during the movie’s most gorgeous shot: the camera perched from the heavens, the aircraft flashing by in a blinding display of white. Kosinski, who cut his teeth on undervalued sci-fi (2010’s “Tron: Legacy,” Cruise’s 2013 “Oblivion”), is a master stylist, where the images do not overwhelm, but wow with ingenuity.

That stunt with the scramjet gets Maverick sent back to Top Gun school as an instructor, but with an urgently tight window. The school’s best pilots must be trained for a likely suicide mission to bomb a uranium enrichment facility. That entails slipping below radar, skimming over mountaintops and the actual target itself – all near impossible.

Maverick has 10-12 pilots to train, and the treat is how better defined these characters are. They mimic the alpha-male aggressiveness of the original, but they’re afforded more personality. And whereas the recruits back in 1986 were mostly white, the mission’s candidates come from all walks of life, including a woman, a lieutenant played Monica Barbaro. She isn’t reduced to the cliché of the woman holding her ground in a man’s world. She is simply one of the best. We appreciate, too, Miles Teller as the son of Maverick’s late wingman (played by Anthony Edwards in the original), who resents Maverick for thwarting his plans to follow in dad’s footsteps.

We wouldn’t have a “Top Gun” sequel if it did not

include a love interest. Yet again, the movie surprises us. Oscar-winner Jennifer Connolly plays Penny, Maverick's former flame who now owns the bar where candidates train. Connolly ("A Beautiful Mind") hasn't been this lively since, well, honestly, I cannot recall. She has a way of appearing sour, like she needs a tall glass of prune juice. Here, she's playful. Sexy. Always a step ahead of Maverick.

We appreciate the moving way "Top Gun: Maverick" brings back Val Kilmer's Iceman. Anyone who has followed the actor's personal struggles with throat cancer will admire how the film creates the perfect window to reintroduce Iceman. There is a fragile power to his scene: a testament to this franchise's affection not just for the character, but also for what Kilmer brought to the original.

Seeing the first film again, the climax feels especially random, like they threw in one more dogfight for the hell of it. But in "Maverick," by carefully charting out the mission's specifics, we know precisely what the characters must achieve, and how they must go about achieving it. Working with a \$170 million budget, Kosinski combines actual footage, the actors having gone through a rigorous boot camp, with the best effects money can buy. This is why we go to the movies, to allow ourselves to be swept away by the spectacular.

And Cruise? I prefer his brief work with Spielberg ("War of the Worlds," "Minority Report"), but



Oscar-winner Jennifer Connolly is a breath of fresh air as Maverick's love interest, Penny.

for the first time, he allows himself to look older. Still in inhumanly good shape, and with that twinkle of reckless disregard for authority in his eyes.

Maverick has grown up. This franchise has, too. And, it's aged remarkably well.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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The Beacher's Janet Baines traveled throughout Michigan City on May 30 to capture images from several Memorial Day observances



Wintering Over

We moved full time to Michigan on June 27, 1987.
The good-old summertime, right?
Right.

So there we were, finishing the makeover of our dump in the dunes as summer people gathered in force around us. We reckoned we'd chosen to live in paradise, on the wonderful west coast of Michigan, so, of course, we would not be alone. Still, we kind of wanted all the wonders of Berrien County, Mich., for ourselves.

Selfish?

Yes, but can you blame us?

We had moved from a dense Chicago neighborhood to what we soon began calling Beauty Land. We hoped we had discovered a hidden gem. One the teaming masses would never find.

Alas, we had no sooner made our Michigan move than a popular Chicago weekly, *The Reader*, featured Harbor Country on its cover. The word was out — Amtrak was restoring daily train service to New Buffalo, Mich. — and it wouldn't be long before national newspapers of record were referring to our sylvan slice of Southwest Michigan as the Michigan Riviera.

Oh well.

Live and let live.

Right?

Right.

Plus, we had played the parts of pathfinders in Chicago. If we moved to an out-of-the-way, affordable neighborhood with good public transportation, it always stood to reason that the monied class soon would follow. I remember looking out the window of our second-floor apartment in a quiet neighborhood called Saint Ben's, and telling my lovely bride: "Uh oh. There's a black BMW parked across the street. There goes the neighborhood! THEY'RE HERE!!!"

They — whoever they were — were always there. Right on our heels.

And thus, it was in the summer of 1987 when we moved to Michigan full time.

We looked at one another and sighed.

Acceptance was, and is, the only answer.

We thus accepted that we were not to be the first and only Chicagoans moving across the pond

Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



to Michigan, and we settled in. We were distracted most of that first summer by ongoing efforts to complete the rehab of our 800-square-foot cottage. But we took time out to bike the backroads, swim in the lake and hang out with our summer neighbors. And, yes, we got to be quite fond of them.



We embarked on a winter vacation to sunny Canada from Niles, Mich., in December 1987 and didn't return until January 1988.

So, in September, as they began leaving for points all over the continent(s), we missed them. It started getting really lonely down here at the bottom of Dune Road. Then came the day — in late September 1987 — when it was downright depressing.

"Where is everybody?" we wondered.

"What's going on?"

What was going on, of course, was that folks were going on with their normal lives back home, where they lived most of the year. They simply left us to mind the dunes, all by our lonesomes.

The loneliness and isolation of it all hit home after Thanksgiving that year, when the few stragglers

headed for warmer quarters. We walked our roads at night and found no twinkling lights.

It was dark.

And darker.

Darkness had truly descended, leaving us to winter by ourselves. We survived our first winter in Michigan — the winter of 1987-1988 — by first taking a fine railway journey. (When in doubt, always take a fine railway journey. It will settle the mind, soul and body). You would think we rode the rails to Florida or Arizona, wouldn't you?

Yes, that would be a reasonable assumption.

But, no, we were already thinking of ourselves as hearty Michiganders, so we drove over to nearby Niles, Mich., and left our car in the care of our summer neighbors, Ray and Elaine Curtis. Ray drove us over to the Amtrak station, and we boarded what was then a through-train from Chicago to Toronto. Yes, we went to Canada for Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Why not?

And what a trip it was, including a bracing winter walk around the quaint neighborhoods of Québec City, where it was 10-below Fahrenheit.

Bitterly cold, right?

And what did our wondering eyes behold as we came around a corner, but a bunch of happy Québécois playing hockey on an outdoor rink. We dined on maple-syrup pie on that trip, and welcomed 1988, in French no less, at a gala New Year's Eve dance, with sober friends, in Montreal.

Most importantly, we came up with The Dunery Press over steamed dumplings in Toronto's Chinatown on our way back to Michigan.

When we returned to Niles, Ray and Elaine were waiting with a hearty dinner. Then, they sent us on our way back to Harbert, Mich., through whiteout snow. And I do mean lake-driven, whiteout snow. When we were motoring west on Warren Woods

Road, we didn't know if we were on the road or in the fields. *That* kind of snowstorm.

How we made it home on Warren Woods Road, Three Oaks Road and the like, I'll never know, except to posit that our guardian angels were working overtime that night.

We somehow found our little cottage in working order when we finally made it home that January night in 1988, and, yes, we had to dig our way in. But the power was on — wonder of wonders — and our feeble baseboard heat was working just fine, thank you very much. We were toasty and ready for a long, but not-so-lonely winter of working in a cabin as freelance writers. We had a pile of work waiting for us when we returned, through the modern miracle of the fax machine. You do remember fax machines, don't you?

We and our little dog Pokey, whom we had left with friends during our winter vacation in sunny Canada, mushed on. We did a whole lot of cross-country skiing that first winter in Michigan, with Pokey happily running alongside.

Through the winter of 2021-2022, we did a whole bunch of swimming. In indoor pools, of course. Especially now that the lake was freezing way out from shore. We were still active, and not suffering from cabin fever or undue loneliness and isolation. In fact, various summer neighbors were checking in for winter vacations of their own, here on the frozen shore of Lake Michigan. The snowshoeing was especially good — right out the front door — so what's not to like, right?

Right.

And we're happy to say that wintering over was working just fine for us, beginning with that memorable winter of 1987-1988.

For many winters, we drained heat out of the house by burning the wood I split in our fireplace.

Continued on Page 26

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Continued from Page 25

We reasoned that if the power were ever to fail — and mind you, this is Michigan we're speaking of here — why, we would huddle around the hearth and warm ourselves by the wood fire.

Well, that never worked.

Late one winter, some winters ago, the power got knocked out for a four-day stretch by a nasty wind/ice storm. We started the huddling bit until our first (of four) cats, Makita, made it abundantly clear she was ready to repair to heated quarters. So, we repaired to our friend Julie Holmes' house, which happily had power, as it was supplied by a reliable circuit. We weathered that long outage in toasty heat and watched Julie's operas on her amazing video system. One, I might add, that Natalie helped her purchase, before Madam Holmes went to be with the ancestors, in April 2009.

Speaking of Julie Holmes and winter, she was one for hightailing it out of her native Michigan in early December for Florida. She was forever begging us to join her there, but, alas, we never did. We told Julie we were just fine with Michigan winters.

And we have been.

And we are.

Two things that greatly contributed to our winter well-being are:

1. The installation of a full-house generator a few years back. No more four-day outages for us. No, ma'am. The lights flicker, dim and die, and we start counting to 10. Before we get to 10, the faithful, full-house generator kicks on automatically, and we are restored to full power, free to watch the amazing opera collection Julie left us. Along, of course, with her home-entertainment setup. While it's no longer state-of-the-art, it certainly serves our purposes quite well, and our living room is thus filled with many a diva's high C.

Speaking of divas, the other contributing factor to our winter well-being in Michigan is:

2. Our annual *Gesamkuntswerk* festival right here in our home opera house. Over a span of five days, allowing for one day off, we watch the prelude and three operas that constitute Richard Wagner's majestic masterpiece, "*Der Ring des Nibelungen*." We go back to legendary times for a magical river journey on *das Rhein*, or what we call the River Rhine. Winter is not winter without what Wagner called his *Gesamkuntswerk*, or unity of words, music and stage action.

So that's our key to happily wintering over while the snowbirds work on the virtue of patience as they wait in heavy Florida traffic to cross one bridge to get to the next bridge.

We think of them, stewing down there, as we watch the gods stride over their magical rainbow bridge.

Th-th-th-that's all, folks.

Happy wintering over.



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Beverly Shores Depot Exhibits

The public can view two new exhibits during a reception from 5-7 p.m. Friday, June 10, at Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

The first is the 75th Town Anniversary Exhibit, which highlights the town's changes over the years.

The second, "Whimsey," is in the gallery and features photographs and dioramas by Steven Schwab. Born and raised in Chicago, he is a practicing attorney and businessman who received his law degree from Northwestern University. He also is a self-taught photographer and multi-media artist. An avid Cubs fan, he took the definitive photos in 1998 of Sammy Sosa's 61st and 62nd home runs, which the National Baseball Hall of Fame selected for its permanent collection in Cooperstown, N.Y. The photographs also were published in Baseball: 100 Classic Moment is the History of the Game, as well as numerous other books.



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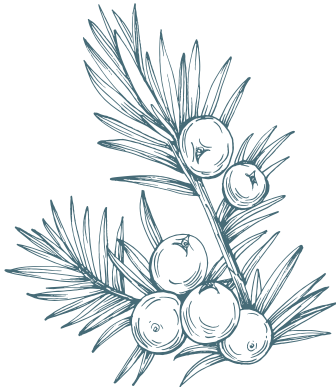
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The program is by Stephen Schnurr, the director of music at St. Paul Catholic Church, Valparaiso, since 1990. He has led the church's adult and young people's choirs on tours of Italy, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Poland, the Czech Republic, Germany and Austria, with performances in Rome, Dublin, Madrid, Barcelona, Warsaw, Krakow, Prague, Leipzig, Salzburg and Vienna. That included performances for Pope Francis. Since 2017, he has served as editor of *The Diapason*. In addition, he is adjunct instructor of organ at Valparaiso University. As a recitalist, he has played programs throughout the United States, as well as in Germany, England, Northern Ireland and Poland.



Schnurr

The church is air-conditioned. Call (219) 608-5358 for more details about the concert series.

ArtBash Gala

Lubeznik Center for the Arts will hold its ArtBash gala, with a "Starry Night" theme, at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, June 25, at Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa.

Festivities include dancing, a silent auction and buffet dinner with open bar. Mary Ann Bergerson Ahern, NBC 5 Chicago news reporter and Michigan City native, will return as emcee. Those attending are encouraged to wear clothing that sparkles like stars in the sky. The décor will reflect the Vincent van Gogh-related theme.



Ahern

Tickets can be purchased by calling (219) 874-4900 or at www.LubeznikCenter.org/Events. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Executive Director Janet Bloch at (219) 874-4900 or jbloch@LubeznikCenter.org for details.

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Reins of Life Volunteers Training

Reins of Life, which serves children and adults with disabilities, will hold volunteer training Monday and Wednesday, June 13 and 15.

Times are 2-4:30 p.m. June 13 and 5:30-8 p.m. June 15 at Reins of Life, 9375 W. County Road 300 North, Michigan City.

Volunteers are especially needed for the school program held during the school year for local special-education classes. After attending one session, individuals can volunteer at summer camp and during therapeutic riding lessons. No horse experience is needed. Volunteers are asked to commit about two hours per week and be at least 13.

Visit www.reinsoflife.org or call/text the volunteer coordinator at (219) 874-7519, Ext. 202, to register or for more details.

Pilgrimage of Polish Truckers

The Fifth Annual Pilgrimage of Polish Truckers is Sunday, June 12, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine, 5755 Pennsylvania St., Merrillville.

Holy Mass (in Polish) will be celebrated at noon, followed by the blessing of trucks and RVs, and a picnic on the shrine grounds (menu items and prices vary).

Those who will not attend Mass, but would like to have his/her truck or RV blessed should arrive at the shrine before 1 p.m. Trophies will be awarded to the top participants.

Due to space and parking limitations, participants are asked to take only semi-truck tractor units — no trailers.

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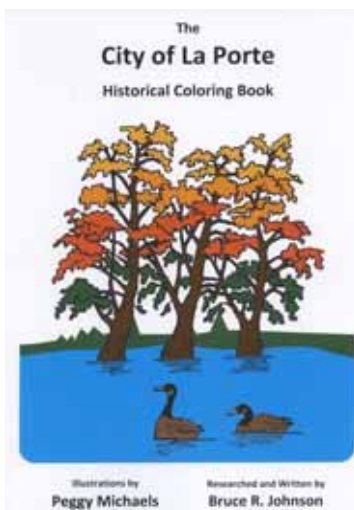
Historical Coloring Book

The new "City of LaPorte Historical Coloring Book" is being sold at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

The booklet includes 21 historical articles by LaPorte County Historian Bruce Johnson and drawings by local artist Peggy Michaels. Almost 500 copies have been distributed to third-grade classrooms in all LaPorte elementary schools to be used as part of the curriculum on local history.

Supporting the effort was a Historic Preservation Grant from Indiana Landmarks, Indiana Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, 14 local businesses and other donors.

The coloring book involved the City of LaPorte and Historical Preservation Commission. It costs \$5. A special book signing by Peggy Michaels and Bruce Johnson is from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, June 18, at the museum.



LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League

May 26, 2022

Event: Regular Golf



A FLIGHT

Low Net — Sue Smith.
Low Putts — Cindy Levy.
Birdies — Sue Smith (16).
Sunken Approaches — Vicki Hill (5).

B FLIGHT

Low Net — Mary Weithers.
Low Putts — T. Bolzan, C. Pontius, M. Weithers.

C FLIGHT

Low Net — Sarah Blank.
Low Putts — Carol Sullivan.
Sunken Approaches — Barb Hall (14).

D FLIGHT

Low Net — Rosann Conroy.
Low Putts — Regina Bradley, Jeanne St. Peter.

18-Hole League

May 24, 2022

Low Net

A FLIGHT

First Place — Kathy Daly, Melanie Davis.
Second Place — Vicki Hill.
Third Place — Katherine Lee.

B FLIGHT

First Place — Eileen Miller.
Second Place — Claudia Brennan.
Third Place — Jean Guerin.

C FLIGHT

First Place — Jude Stahmer.
Second Place — Allison Kolb.
Third Place — Carol Lyons.

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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.

Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Trash Trekkers is a no-hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit tinyurl.com/2p83798v for more details.
- **Sunset Paddle at Marquette Lagoons from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays in June.** Join a ranger for paddling in the lagoon. The program is limited to 20 participants. Make reservations by calling (219) 395-1882. The lagoon is located in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood.
- **Mount Baldy Summit Hike from 5-6:30 p.m. Fridays through June 24, and 9-11 a.m. Sundays through June 26.** Meet at the parking lot off U.S. 12 for a ranger-led hike to the top of the dune. Passes are required. The parking lot and beach are open from 6 a.m.-11 p.m. The dune, however, is still closed.
- **Join an Art Barn School of Art artist during "Learn to Paint" from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, June 11, at the Park Connection Office, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, next to the Chellberg Farm parking lot.** Part of IDNP's "Art in the Park" program and sponsored by the Friends of Indiana Dunes, participants create a camping-themed, dunes-inspired painting. There is a \$15 charge for supplies, and reservations are required at www.artbarnschool.org. The class is limited to 15 adults.
- **Pinhook Bog Open House from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays, June 11 and 18.** Meet at the bog parking lot for a ranger-led hike to experience carnivorous insect-eating plants and rare orchids. Passes are required. The bog parking lot is at 700 N. Wozniak Road in Michigan City.
- **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 2-4 p.m. Sundays in June.** Explore the grounds of both historic homes, and learn about early settlers and farmers who came to the region in the 1800s. After the hike, help the ranger feed the Chellberg Farm animals from 4:30-5 p.m. Park at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. Passes are required.
- **Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion from 8 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays through June 29 at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road.** Catch a Lake Michigan sunset from the pavilion, and roast marshmallows from the fireplace.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 or visit www.nps.gov/indu for details.

Have a story idea for us?

Email drew@thebeacher.com

The Beverly Shores Depot
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SMSO Names New Music Director



Dr. Matthew Aubin hails from Jackson, Mich.

After a lengthy selection process, Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra has named Dr. Matthew Aubin as its new music director.

The search began in 2019 after Music Director Robin Fountain announced he would retire at the end of the 2019-2020 season.

Aubin, Jackson, Mich., is in his fifth season as music director of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, and serves as artistic director for The Chelsea Symphony in New York City. In these roles, he has led collaborations with partners such as actor John Lithgow, the award-winning Prime series "Mozart in the Jungle" and the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. He played a principal role in developing The Chelsea Symphony's annual competition for emerging composers.

"In the first year, I want to learn, create exciting programming and make myself available in the community as an advocate for the organization," he said in a press release. "I want to offer myself as a resource; I will spend time in St. Joseph. There is a lot of planning to do, learning about the organization and meeting people. Ideas will spark and together, we will develop new initiatives."

Smart Cycling Youth Clinic

Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte will host a Smart Cycling Youth Clinic from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 11, in its outdoor parking lot, 140 E. Shore Parkway.

The free event, aimed at families and children ages 6-12, is sponsored by Bob's Bicycles in partnership with Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte, The League of American Cyclists and PNC Bank.

Parking is available, although families are encouraged to ride bikes to the event and take a family ride on Chessie Trail afterward. Registration is free and required at tinyurl.com/2p8fsc7r

League Cycling instructor David Heinold and area volunteers will highlight safe cycling skills. Safety stations include helmet fitting, bicycle safety, starting/stopping, riding in a straight line, avoiding hazards, balancing, scanning and signaling, and turning and yielding. Youth completing the clinic receive a certificate of achievement, a free helmet provided by PNC Bank (while supplies last) and several giveaways. Water, Gatorade and healthy snacks will be available.

Attendees of all ages are welcome, but youth must be ages 6-12 and take his/her own bike. All youth must be accompanied by a parent/guardian 18 or older. Participant waivers are required and will be available on site for a parent/guardian to sign.

If the weather is poor, the event shifts to 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 25.

City Cemetery Tour

A guided City Cemetery tour will highlight gravesites of individuals significant in South Bend history at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, June 16.

Conducted by The History Museum Director of Education Travis Childs, the twilight tour features historic gravesites and markers. The cost is \$2. Participants should meet at the iron gate of the cemetery's main entrance, located at West Colfax and Elm streets. Participants should be prepared to walk on uneven terrain. No food or pets are allowed. Parking is limited. The tour is canceled if it rains.

The History Museum is located at 808 W. Washington St. Visit www.historymuseumSB.org or call (574) 235-9664 for more details.

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Gather & Author! Author!

Area authors and the public can meet and mingle during "Gather & Author! Author!" on Saturday, June 11, at Friends of New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road.

The free event kicks off fundraising efforts to renovate the center's lending library, which holds a small, but growing collection of books by local authors. The schedule is (all times Eastern):

- 10:30 a.m. — Writing Local History. Elaine Thomopoulos will draw on her experiences writing Images of America: St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, Legendary Locals: St. Joseph and Benton Harbor and Resorts of Berrien County. She will detail the entire process, from motivation and research to writing, editing and marketing.
- 11:30 a.m. — Be Your Own Publisher. Charley McKelvy will emphasize self-publishing, revealing how to produce, publicize and ship books. Dunery Press, which he founded with his wife in 1988, has self-published more than 40 titles, including, Chicagoland and Holy Orders.
- 12:30 p.m. — Reading & Discussion. Chandra Blumberg will read from her debut novel, Digging Up Love, and discuss the writing process, including inspiration, setting and characters, with a followup Q&A session. She also will discuss her July release, Stirring Up Love.

Other participating authors include: Jan Ackerson, Stolen Postcards; Lisa Dawn, The Adventures of Raffee and Jabari; Lorraine Oman Hanover, My Name is Grace; Cherisse M. Havlicek, Anna At Last; Charles Osgood, Dutch Love; Denise McGowan Tracy, Eleanor's Very Merry Christmas Wish; and Ed Tracy, Gorilla in the Room and Other Stories.

A light lunch will be available at noon EDT in the gymnasium, while a drawing is planned to win a locally written book or handcrafted bookmark.

The event is sponsored by Friends of New Troy, Red Arrow Roasters and Center of the World Woodshop. Visit www.friendsofnewtroy.org or call (269) 426-3909 for more details.

A Notice to Our Readers

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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.



In the Area

June 9 — Story & Bingo, 10-11 a.m., Luhr County Park, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Reservations: (219) 325-8315.

June 9 — Duneland Stamp Club, 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

June 9 — Arts in the Park, LaPorte's Fox Park, Truesdell Avenue. The Rest (country)/7 p.m.; preconcert: Roy Dudiak/6 p.m. *June 8*: LaPorte City Band/7 p.m. Info: contact@artsintheparklaporte.com

June 10 — MCPL Podcast Episode Release, 9 a.m., through Michigan City Public Library. Link: Buzzsprout, www.mclib.org/podcast

June 10 — Opening reception, 5-7 p.m., Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Exhibits: "Whimsey," 75th Town Anniversary. Info: www.bsdepot.com

June 10-12 — Queen of All Saints Festival, 606 S. Woodland Ave. Info: www.qas.org, (219) 872-9196.

June 10-12 — "Next to Normal," Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$20-\$25. Reservations: www.dunesARTS.org

June 10-12, 17-19 — "The Sound of Music," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15, \$10/children 12 & younger. Reservations: www.footlightplayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

June 11 — Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte Smart Cycling Youth Clinic, 10 a.m.-noon, outdoor parking lot, 140 E. Shore Parkway. Free. Registration: tinyurl.com/2p8fsc7r

June 11 — Beverly Shores Garden and Art Walk, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Advance tickets: \$10 @ [\\$15 day of](http://www.absr.org). Check-in: 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Beverly Shores Depot, 525 S. Broadway.

June 11 — Author Visit: Kimberly Howard (kids 5-10), 10-11 a.m., Meeting Room B @ LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 11 — Book signing, Joseph Pete's Secret Northwest Indiana, 2-5 p.m., Book Warehouse/Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets (1101 Lighthouse Place). Info: jpote@alumni.iu.edu, (219) 841-1030.

June 11-12 — Aunt Kitty's Spring Yard Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Independent Cat Society, 4061 S.

County Line Road, Westville. Info: (219) 785-4936, info@catsociety.org

June 13 — Chalk the Walk, 1-2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

June 13 — Teen Anime Club, 4:30-6 p.m., Meeting Room B @ LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 14 — Page Turners Book Club, noon-1 p.m., Meeting Room B @ LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 15 — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, Stephen Schnurr, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church, 531 Washington St. Info: (219) 608-5358.

June 15 — Summer Reading Program Kick-Off: The Magic of Steve Kellogg, 10-11 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

June 15 — Tinkercad 3-D Modeling, 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Through June 30 — Local artist Elda Rundzaitis, The Legacy Center Gallery @ Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Legacy Center hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun.

First and Third Mondays — Singing Sands Toastmasters Club, 6:30-8 p.m., Senior Health/Wellness Center (old hospital ER, Barker/Buffalo).

Mondays in June (except June 20) — Needle Arts Club, 5:30-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Tuesday in May — Makerspace: open lab hours, 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Thursdays through Aug. 11 — Michigan City Municipal Band, 7:30 p.m., Washington Park's Guy F. Foreman Bicentennial Amphitheater.

Fridays and Sundays through June — Mount Baldy Summit Hike, 5-6:30 p.m. Fridays/9-11 a.m. Sundays. Meet @ parking lot off U.S. 12, Michigan City. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Saturdays — Turn Up Dance Fitness with Stacy G., 8:30-9:30 a.m., Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail. Cost: \$5 paid at class.

Saturdays in Michigan City — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Washington streets. Info: farmersmarketmichigancity@gmail.com

Saturdays in LaPorte — LaPorte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway parking lot next to Mucho Mas. Info: laportefarmermarket@gmail.com

Sundays in June — Bailly/Chellberg History Hike, 2-4 p.m. Parking: Bailly/Chellberg parking lot, off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

In the Region

June 9 — The Common Concert Series, 7-9 p.m. EDT, Buchanan, Mich. Entertainment: Southshore Concert Band. Info: The Common - Buchanan, MI

on Facebook.

June 10 — The Cash Box Kings, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25/general, \$50/reserved. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

June 11 — “Gather & Author! Author!,” 10:30 a.m. EDT, Friends of New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free. Info: www.friendsofnewtroy.org, (269) 426-3909.

June 11 — “Learn to Paint,” 2-4 p.m., Park Connection Office, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road. Cost: \$15/supplies. Reservations: www.artbarnschool.org

June 11 — Three Oaks High School display unveiling, The Region of Three Oaks Museum, 5 Featherbone Ave. Also: free walking tour/1 p.m.; The Biggest Little Baseball Museum talk (Bill Heward)/3 p.m. EDT. Info: www.regionofthreeoaksmuseum.com

June 11 — Acorn Anywhere! — Ike Reilly Assassination w/ guest, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$35/general, \$60/reserved. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

June 11-12 — Three Oaks (Mich.) Flag Day events. Flag-raising ceremony: 2:30 p.m. EDT June 12/Elm & Maple streets. Parade: 3 p.m. EDT June 12. Full weekend schedule: www.threeoaksflagday.com

June 11, 18 — Pinhook Bog Open House, 9 a.m.-noon, 700 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

June 14 — Kickoff informational event, Copshaholm 125 Arts Competition, 3-7 p.m. EDT, The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

June 14 — Friends of the Library Community Forum (beach rocks program), 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Free.

June 15 — Buddy Pearson 3-Midwest Made, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$15/general, \$40/reserved. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Through July 3 — Michiana Annual Arts Competition, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: <https://boxfactoryforthearts.org>, <https://facebook.com/boxfactoryarts>

Through Oct. 2 — “WIRED: The Rise (and Fall) of Electric Cars,” The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$10/adults, \$8.50/seniors 60+, \$6/youth ages 6-18. Info: www.studebakermuseum.org, (574) 235-9714.

Through Oct. 30 — “The Avanti: America’s Most Advanced Automobile,” The Studebaker National Museum, The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$10/adults, \$8.50/seniors 60+, \$6/youth ages 6-18. Info: www.studebakermuseum.org, (574) 235-9714.

Wednesdays in June — Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion, 8-9 p.m., Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road. Info: (219) 395-

1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Thursdays in June — Sunset Paddle at Marquette Lagoons, 6-8 p.m., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Limit 20 participants. Reservations: (219) 395-1882.

Thursdays in June — Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra 2022 Summer Pop Up Concert Series, 4 p.m. EDT, Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library, 500 Market St., St. Joseph, Mich. June 9: Helen Lukan, Wendy Rose. Info: www.smso.org

Saturdays in Chesterton — European Market, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Broadway & Third Street. Info: (219) 926-5513.

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing*: “Downton Abbey: A New Era.” Rated PG. Times: 6 p.m. June 9, 2:45 p.m. June 10-12, 6 p.m. June 13. Also: “The Lost City.” Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. June 10-12, 2:45 p.m. June 13. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.



American Red Cross

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

- Northwest Health Heart and Vascular Building, 901 Lincolnway, LaPorte, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursdays, June 9 and 16.
- LaPorte County Annex, 809 State St., 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, June 10.
- City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday, June 10.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, June 13.

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Miller Pizza By the Beach, 1012 N. Karwick Road, is taking applications for employment. Apply within. No phone calls, please.

Briar Leaf Golf Club, 3233 N. Indiana 39, is hiring for staff positions at the Grounds Department and Outside Services Department. Full-time and part-time positions available. Benefits include free golf and discounted meals. Apply in person at the Golf Shop. Ask for Jay or Cody.

The Beacher is seeking someone to deliver the newspaper on Tuesdays. A few businesses are included among the stops, but it's mostly homes in beach communities. The person, who will be paid, must have his/her own vehicle. The individual currently in the position will train the new employee for a few weeks to familiarize him/her with the route. If interested, call (219) 879-0088 and ask for Drew Tallackson, email drew@thebeacher.com or stop by our office, 911 Franklin St.

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Forestry Management Field Day

June 17 is the reservation deadline for Berrien County Conservation District's "Forestry Management Field Day," which is from 4-8 p.m. EDT Thursday, June 23, at Sarett Nature Center, 2300 N. Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.

Guest speaker Jason Darling, Mason, Mich., will discuss managing farm woodlots, timber harvesting, land management and wildlife restoration. He also will lead a talk and walk on the trails to help attendees become familiar with timber identification and sizing.

Darling owns and manages Darling Forestry LLC. He is a Michigan Registered Forester with a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in forestry and a professional certificate in watershed management. He also is USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service-certified in forestry management plans and fish and wildlife habitat.

Speaker Alex Florian from the SWxSW Corner Cisma (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) will discuss combating invasive species that impact Michigan forests. Presenters Josh Appleby will provide information on the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program, while Mike Stickle will discuss USDA NRCS Forest Management Plans.

The event is free, with dinner included. Reservations are required by calling the Berrien County Conservation District at (269) 471-9111, Ext. 3, or email lisa.kuntz@macd.org

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Bloomsbury Girls by Natalie Jenner (hard-cover, \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 350 pages.)

A book about a bookstore? I'm in literary heaven! This week's book takes us to 1950 and London's Bloomsbury Books and Maps shop. This is a novel, but Jenner's research adds real people and real places to make this a compassionate and fascinating read, filled with characters you won't soon forget.

Like 84 Charing Cross Road and The Jane Austen Society (the prequel to this book), you will be charmed and amazed at the shop's inner workings that dictate the lives and loves of its employees.

Evie Stone recently graduated from Cambridge University and hopes to stay there as a research assistant. Of course, she lost her chance to a male counterpart. *"Thank you, Miss Stone, for your time"* — translated — we have a man for the job who's better suited than you, a mere woman.

Do I sound bitter? Yes and no. Remember, it's 1950, and women in the workforce are fighting to gain recognition for their abilities, but it's still a man's world. Five years after the end of World War II, *"...new opportunities for women were still being rationed along with the food."*

Evie finally lands a job at Bloomsbury Books and Maps in the Rare Books department. She soon discovers the diverse, interesting staff and management she will work for and with. Like...

Herbert Dutton, general manager and general-minus-the-four-stars on his suit. He runs the shop like a military installment with a list of 51 rules that must be adhered to...or out you go.

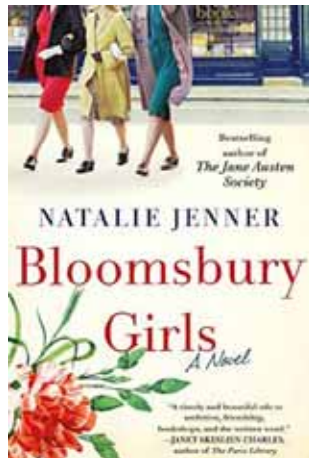
Frank Allen, head of rare books, who is seldom in the shop as he combs the countryside attending auctions for rare books the British Museum and well-heeled customers will be interested in buying.

Master Mariner Simon Scott is head of history and would rather have everyone banned from his department — he's definitely not a people person.

Ashwin Ramaswamy, from India, is head of science & naturalism tucked away in a corner of the store; his main interest is entomology.

Alex McDonough, with the Hollywood good looks, is head of fiction. His writing skills leave much to be desired, but maybe he should look at being an editor?

Add to this dominated male society Lord Baskin, owner of Bloomsbury Books. A congenial fellow who comes around in January to look over the accounting. The shop has been in his family for 100 years since his great-grandfather won it in a card game.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



He really doesn't want to run the shop, he likes it that Dutton has everything shipshape.

Now, for the women at Bloomsbury...

Grace Perkins is married — husband and two children. Her husband came back from WWII a changed man, brooding and angry. He can't keep a job and obviously needs mental help. Grace is secretary to the general manager, happy to be away from the man she loved and now doesn't recognize.

Vivien Lowry is beautiful and, well, out of sorts with the world. She was affianced to a lord of the realm, but he was killed in the war. Ever since his death, his family wants nothing to do with Vivien, as they always thought her a gold digger. She also is a talented writer, hiding her ambition through fear of denial by the publishers.

Sounds pretty conventional for the day, but there's more going on at Bloomsbury than selling books. There's ambition (the ladies), thwarted by sex and misogyny (from the men), and there's a desire to buy out the store from the Earl by the men. And there are secrets by both sexes they don't want each other to know.

The rules set out by Dutton may seem funny to us today, but they were taken very seriously in 1950. Each chapter starts with one of them, like...

Rule No. 27: *"Fraternalizing with customers outside of the shop is strictly prohibited."* Then there's Rule No. 34: *"Staff shall not confuse work with pleasure."* That one made me laugh out loud! But my favorite is Rule No. 17: *"Tea shall be served promptly four times a day."* How very British!

But the sexual tension between certain members of the staff is palpable. Hasn't Alex figured out why Vivien is always at odds with him? They spar like fencing combatants; maybe they should put that emotion to something more productive? And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Wait till the men discover the women want to buy the bookshop, too! Will the sparks fly? Never say working in a bookshop is dull. Jenner kills that theory very nicely, thank you!

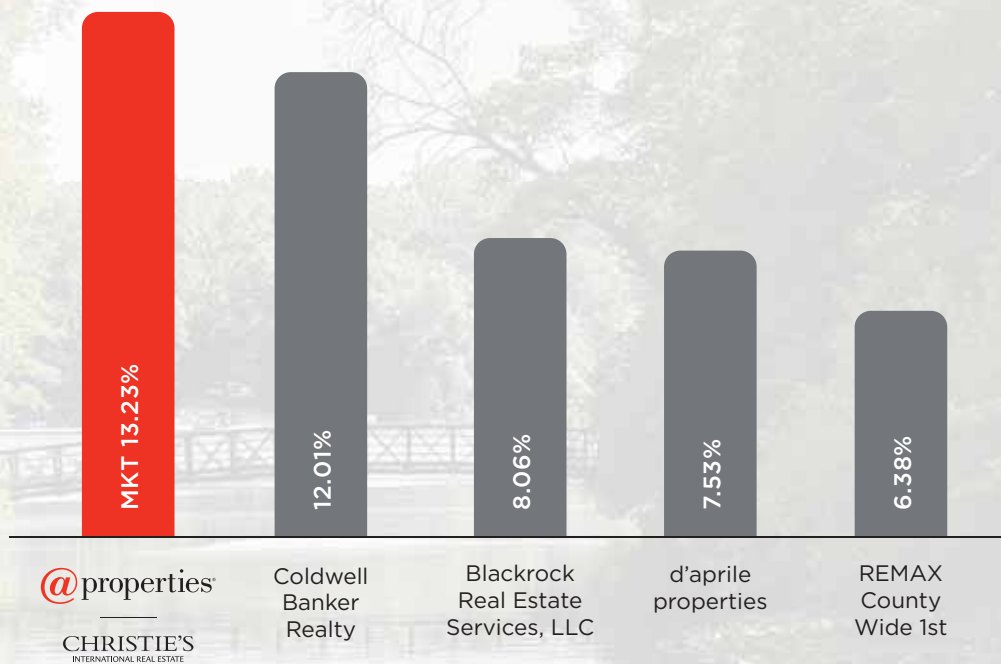
All the characters in this book, even the references to actual authors who lived at the time, are brilliantly portrayed and developed. The dismissal of now prominent 19th and 20th century female writers is explored, as well as the racism against Ashwin.

Yes, this is a feel-good, lower your blood pressure read, and don't we deserve that right now?

Till next time, happy reading!

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