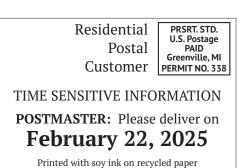


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Moody on The Market

Pat Moody

Harbor Shores residential projects update from redevelopment leader Chris Cook

Harbor Shores Development President Chris Cook updated St. Joseph Benton Harbor Rotarians this week on progress on several fronts for the now-15-year-old project.

While the Harbor Shores Golf Course is the centerpiece of the development, residential expansion is a key part of what's been built so far, and what's planned going forward. Cook said residential development focus is currently on several scattered locations on the edges of Harbor Shores, as well as completing the Harbor Village development adjacent to The Inn at Harbor Shores.

Cook said 64 housing units in Harbor Village have been constructed and sold, eight more are underway, and there are 24 units still planned. Two residential neighborhoods on the Northern portion of Harbor Shores, in Benton Township are awaiting sewer system upgrades in the Township that will allow the houses and condos to proceed.

One residential neighborhood is referred to as The Hill District, located along Harbor Shores Hole # 13 on the hill above the Hill District Restaurant (formerly the North Shore Inn), where up to nine homes are planned. The other is in the far Northwest section of Harbor Shores, near Hole # 11 and 12 east of M-63. A cluster of smaller golf villa type homes is planned there, which Cook says might be especially attractive to Seniors.

Reviving the former Modern Plastics site A major focus for Harbor Shores over the next couple of years will be redevelopment of the Modern Plastics site, on the edge of downtown Benton Harbor, along Ox Creek. At the meeting this week, Rotarians were eager to learn more about what Harbor Shores can do with the heavily polluted former industrial property.



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Continued on page 14



Marcy Simpson

Executive Director. , Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council

Fun and interesting things to do in Southwest Michigan

Get ready for a vibrant mix of arts, culture, and unique experiences in Southwest Michigan! From orchestral masterpieces to hands-on workshops and lively community events, there's something for everyone in the coming weeks.

Fall in love with the surreal and sublime when musical innovation meets enduring classical elegance as the Southwest Michigan

Symphony Orchestra proudly presents Bach and Assad. Brazilian-born composer Clarice Assad's works, Bohemian Queen and Suite for Lower Strings, draw inspiration from the surrealist artistry of Gertrude Abercrombie and the timeless compositions of J. S. Bach. Featured guests at this performance include

Continued on page 2

Inserts & Promotions

- Family Fare
- Dollar General
- Martins Super Markets
- Salute to Women in Business

Inserts may vary by zip code

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Simpson Continued from cover

Mary Bowden (trumpet) and Southwest Michigan's Chorllenium. The event will be held at the First Congregational Church in St. Joseph on Saturday, February 22 and begins at 7:30 p.m.

Embark on a culinary adventure with the most anticipated dining event of the year: the Wild Game Dinner at Tabor Hill Winery & Restaurant. This is an exquisite evening where the art of winemaking meets the bold flavors of an expertly prepared wild game. Elevate your dining experience with thoughtfully curated wine pairings that complement the bold and savory notes of our wild game selections. This dinner is available on Friday, February 28, and Saturday, March 1. With limited seating and high demand, this event fills up quickly. Make your reservation today and get ready for an unforgettable evening of bold flavors and fine dining.

LEGOs return to the Shadowland Ballroom for the Big City Build: Watch the Masters. Saturday and Sunday March 1 and 2, come watch professionals at work at the Big City Build from noon-5:00 p.m. This event will be in the Shadowland Ballroom at the Silver Beach Center. The Western Michigan LEGO Users Group will build a magnificent masterpiece before your eyes. Visitors can ask Club members for LEGO construction tips as well as make their own LEGO creations from a large supply of colorful bricks.

Join Owen Sisters & Co. for a hands-on Basic Color Theory and Color Mixing class, where you'll explore the fundamentals of color relationships using Model Magic. Through interactive exercises, you'll learn how to mix primary, secondary, and tertiary colors while also learning how to make tints, shades, and neutral hues. By the end of the session, you'll take home a custom color wheel magnet as a reminder of your new skills and understanding of color and a 4 x 6 watercolor take home kit. The workshop will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 1.

Sankofa returns to The Livery for another hometown throwdown. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the show starts at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 1. Local favorites return for your dancing pleasures. The band has crafted a tight blend of neo-soul, R&B, hip-hop, and funk. "Reclaiming The Past For A Better Future" An eclectic soul band, whose members are passionate about creating and performing good music.

March Mannequins are coming to town. Start your weekend with this crowd favorite event on Friday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. Watch storefronts of participating businesses come alive during March Mannequins. Windows will display community volunteers as they pose perfectly still, like mannequins. Grab a drink, stroll the sidewalks, and don't forget to vote for your favorite.

You won't want to miss Women's Weekend in St. Joseph. Shop, sip, save, and stay in St. Joe, Friday March 7 through Sunday, March 9. Take part in a celebration of women-owned businesses throughout downtown St. Joseph. Nearly two dozen businesses will be offering sales, savings, and special events all weekend long. Make it a girl's weekend and show some love to the small women-owned businesses in your community.

If you would like more information on these and other events and activities in the area, please visit our website at swmichigan.org.



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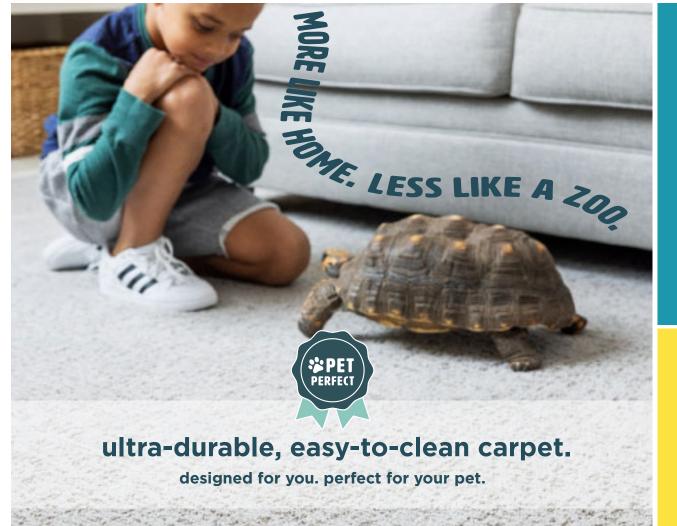
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Night Bright Photo by Suzi Balco

Please email your favorite photo with a brief description to **Photos@MailMaxOnline.com** Photos must be horizontal orientation to be considered for Photo of the Week.



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Sarah **Spoonholtz**

Regional Director, SMR Chamber

Lake Side Fit Ribbon Cutting & ESTA Update

In October of 2020, we had the pleasure of hosting a ribbon cutting for Lake Side Fit's Red Arrow Highway location in Bridgman masks and all! At the end of February we're gathering together once again to co-host a ribbon cutting for them and their new Lake Street space!

This marks the third location that Lake Side Fit has expanded to, having outgrown their first gym which opened in 2019 in a matter of months. That move landed them on Red Arrow Hwy, which was their home until a few months ago they moved into their dream space on Lake Street just East of Church / California in downtown Bridgman. Owners **Jimmy and Lacey Lucas** purchased the new building the summer of 2023 and after some extensive remodeling they opened their doors to the new 24-hour gym.

What initially started off as an idea for group fitness classes originally launched three weeks later and has continued to grow ever since. An incredible and unexpected adventure as Jimmy and Lacey both call it. To give you an idea of how much they've grown, here is the square footage from each location: the original site on Lake Street, which is now Ink About It, had about 900 square feet. Their second space on Red Arrow Highway across from the Getaway Cubbie Grill more than quadrupled their space to 4,500 square feet. This new location expands on even that to 6,700 square feet!

We hope you'll join us, the **Greater Bridgman Chamber & Growth Alliance**, and everyone in Bridgman as we host the ribbon cutting celebration for this new dream space on **Friday, February 28th at 4:30 p.m**.

If you can't make it on Friday, join them on **Saturday, March 1st** for an open house from **8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Whether you're looking for a fun way to get active, improve your mobility, or find the perfect class for your kids, they've got something for everyone!

The Open House will feature Free Classes All Day! Including: Pelvic Floor Class – Strengthen your core from the inside out; Functional Fitness for Kids – Get them moving, having fun, and building strength; Kids Gymnastics – Perfect for little ones to learn and grow in a safe, fun environment; Functional Fitness for Adults – Challenge yourself with a dynamic workout designed for strength and endurance; Mobility Training – Improve flexibility, reduce pain, and move better!

Plus they'll have an opportunity for you to learn more about membership options, and win free personal training sessions!

Come both days to see their new space at **4055 Lake Street in Bridgman**, meet their awesome team of trainers, and see what makes their community so special! Bring a friend and come join the fun!

Changing topics quickly to one we have been following closely, the **Earned Sick Time Act** (ESTA) - at the time of this article's deadline, there were multiple discussions happening about officials in Lansing pushing back the start date for the new law until this summer. While there were adjustments and concessions made for the new **Minimum Wage and Tip Credit** legislation, we have steadily been waiting for the Senate to discuss ESTA.

Under this legislation, ALL employees including full-time, part-time, hourly, salary, temporary, seasonal, and independent contractors will earn 1 hour of sick time for every 30 hours of work accrued. There is no cap on the amount of sick time an employee can earn in a week, month or year. Employees working fewer hours will accrue at slower rates, but every employee will be eligible to accrue paid sick time. If you are a business owner who has questions on how this will affect you, or best practices to implement please reach out!

For more information on what's happening with the Chamber, including our role in advocating for businesses, head to our website www.smrchamber.com or feel free to connect with me directly at sspoonholtz@smrchamber.com or 269-932-

4040. See you around Southwest Michigan!



The Importance of Preventative Maintenance for Furnaces and AC Systems

Preventative maintenance for furnaces and air conditioning systems is essential for anyone looking to maintain comfort, improve energy efficiency, and avoid costly repairs. Just like your car, HVAC systems require regular care to perform optimally. Here's why investing in preventative maintenance is crucial and how it benefits both your system and your wallet.

Why Preventative Maintenance Matters

1. Extended Equipment Lifespan Heating and cooling systems are significant investments, and ensuring they last as long as possible is in your best interest. Without regular maintenance, wear and tear on components like filters, coils, and fans can reduce your system's lifespan. A well-maintained furnace or AC can last 15-20 years, but neglecting maintenance could cut that lifespan by half.

2. Improved Energy Efficiency As your furnace or AC works harder due to lack of maintenance, it consumes more energy to keep your home at a comfortable temperature. Dirty filters, clogged coils, or low refrigerant levels can force your system to work harder. Preventative maintenance ensures that your equipment runs smoothly, which leads to lower energy consumption and, ultimately, reduced utility bills.

3. Fewer Expensive Repairs Addressing minor issues before they escalate into major problems is a key benefit of preventative maintenance. During routine inspections, technicians can spot potential issues like worn parts, refrigerant leaks, or faulty electrical connections, which can be repaired before they cause a system breakdown. This proactive

www.MailMaxOnline.com approach prevents costly emergency repairs and minimizes downtime.

4. Consistent Comfort No one wants to be stuck in extreme temperatures due to a malfunctioning furnace or AC. Regular maintenance ensures that both systems run efficiently, providing consistent comfort throughout your home. A well-maintained HVAC system can avoid sudden failures during peak use periods.

What Does Preventative Maintenance Include? For both furnaces and AC systems, preventative maintenance typically includes several key tasks that should be performed annually (or semi-annually, depending on the system):

1. Changing or Cleaning Filters Filters should be replaced or cleaned regularly to ensure optimal airflow and efficient operation. Clogged filters reduce airflow, which can cause the system to overheat or work harder than necessary.

2. Inspecting and Cleaning Coils Both the evaporator and condenser coils in AC systems can accumulate dirt, which reduces the system's efficiency. Cleaning the coils ensures that your air conditioner works as efficiently as possible.

3. Checking Refrigerant Levels Low refrigerant levels in an AC system can cause it to cool less effectively. A technician will check and, if needed, recharge the refrigerant to ensure optimal performance.

4. Lubricating Moving Parts Fans, blowers, and motors all have moving parts that require lubrication to avoid wear and tear. A technician will lubricate these components to reduce noise and friction.

When to Call a Professional

While there are simple tasks homeowners can do themselves, like changing the air filter, most HVAC maintenance requires a trained professional. A licensed technician will have the experience and tools to conduct a thorough inspection and make adjustments or repairs as needed. It's recommended to schedule professional maintenance at least once a year – typically before the heating or cooling season starts.

As always, BOSS Services is more than happy to answer questions and take care of all your HVAC needs. Call anytime 269-281-2230.

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Page 6 February 22, 2025 MailMax



Hot for the Trotters

(Note: The sports news service The Athletic is running a series of articles about the Harlem Globetrotters for Black History Month; as a sports nut and Globetrotters fan, I'm "riding their coattails" by offering this from, whoa!, 2004.)

We sure live in a global village. One night I'm watching the Golden Globe Awards, another I'm e-mailing with a college buddy living in Shanghai, China, and another I'm at a Harlem Globetrotters game.

Experiencing all this in just a few days naturally left me wondering – as you surely are – who would win a game in Shanghai between the Globetrotters and the Golden Globe winners? And could my college buddy get me some tickets for it?

No. 3 (age 9) and No. 4 (age 7) sons "took me" to the game, and they loved every minute of it, from the trick shots to the "Ref, your breath stiiiin-NNNKS!" jokes.

Throughout the evening, the kids cheered the Globies with eardrum-shredding shrieks. At halftime, they promised to stop screaming if I'd buy them those inflatable noisemakers known as "thundersticks." So, the eardrum shredding continued, but at least they thwacked them together to the beat of "Sweet Georgia Brown."

I told the boys it was exciting to see the Globetrotters in person, having enjoyed them as a youngster on TV's "Wide World of Sports." They looked at me blankly and said, "What? 'Wide What of Sports'?" Once the Globetrotters led by 20 points or so, the clock never stopped, even for the "Ref, your breath stiiiinnNNNKS!" routines. I believe the Big Ten conference must immediately adopt this rule. But only for those times when my beloved Purdue Boilermakers desperately need the clock to run out before they blow a lead. Of course, even that wouldn't help this season, because Purdue stiiiinn-NNNKS.

The Trotters' opponent – the New York Nationals – had a player named George Bailey, like Jimmy Stewart in "It's a Wonderful Life." Unfortunately, even if this George never existed, the Nationals still would've lost by 40 points.

Reading the glossy Globetrotters program, we learned which places the Globies most love trotting to – glamorous destinations like Paris. . .Rio de Janeiro. ..Berlin. . .Kalamazoo. Yes, Kalamazoo, Michigan, the favorite of Kris "Hi-Lite" Bruton. It's where he scored the basket that sealed the 21,000th victory in Globetrotter history. Unfortunately, when I mentioned this to No. 3 son, it reminded him to taunt me some more about my 21,000-game losing streak against him in Nintendo basketball.

Speaking of "Hi-Lite," the boys loved the snazzy nicknames of the Globetrotter players: "Showbiz," "Wild Thing," "Flight Time." I asked them what nicknames they'd choose if they were Globetrotters. No. 3 said "Minister of Defense" because he loves blocking shots, and No. 4 said "Triple Threat" because he loves three-point baskets. When I asked them what my Globie nickname would be, they looked me over and suggested, "Lumpy."

At the end of the game, the Globetrotters signed autographs. The boys snagged a few, but afterward, they remarked how rude people were – grown-ups jostling kids aside, nobody saying thank you, and so on.

I said that's just part of the autograph-hunting game, but No. 4 said not necessarily: "I'll bet you don't wait or get pushed around if your favorite player stiiinnNNNKS!"

Whose autograph have you asked for? Let me know at takefiveT5@yahoo.



Dave Says It's Not the Answer

Dear Dave,

I just finished paying off my credit card bills from last Christmas, and I've made a resolution that it's the last time I'm going into debt for the holidays. With that in mind, how do you feel about using layaway programs when it comes to buying Christmas gifts, instead of putting purchases on credit cards? Marty

Dear Marty,

Here's a good rule of thumb for pretty much all spending, not just Christmas gifts. If you can't buy it with cash up front, you can't afford it. The only thing I generally give folks a little wiggle room on is when it comes to buying a house. Very few people have enough money set aside to write a check for a home.

Now, sometimes there might be cases when certain popular items are on sale, and you can set them aside through layaway if you don't have cash at the moment. I don't have a huge problem with this sort of thing, as long as it's not habitual behavior. But in general, I'm not a big fan of layaway programs. I know they seem harmless to most folks, but

Narch

www.MailMaxOnline.com some stores attach hidden fees and other "gotchas" to their layaway programs. On top of that, they're not the best answer to the problem of running up a mountain of debt at Christmas.

Think about it. Christmas comes at the same time every year, right? I mean, it's not like it sneaks up on you. So, wouldn't it be a better to start living on a written budget, and saving up money for Christmas ahead of time? Set aside a little bit each month leading up to December, and by the time Christmas 2025 rolls around, you'll have a big pile of cash just waiting to be turned into Christmas gifts. And the best part? No financial hangover in January and February from all the debt you piled up.

So, if you're not already doing this, Marty, I want you to start living on a budget. Give every dollar you bring in a job to do, on paper, before the upcoming month begins. Include Christmas spending in your budget, too.

And always remember, Christmas is about God's love for us. Not about impressing people by spending money you don't have!

Dave

* Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.

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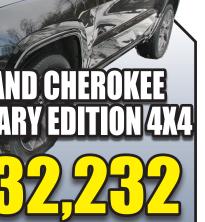
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More Than All We Ask or Imagine

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21

In an iconic scene from the classic movie, It's a Wonderful Life, George and Mary playfully walk, talk, and sing together under the romantic light of a full moon. They stop and face each other as George asks, "What is it you want, Mary? What do you want? You want the moon? Just say the word, and I'll throw a lasso around it and pull it down. Hey, that's a pretty good idea. I'll give you the moon, Mary." She replies, "I'll take it. Then what?"

In his letter to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul had dared to pray boldly on their behalf. He asked that God would powerfully strengthen these believers through the Holy Spirit so that Christ would dwell in their hearts through faith. What's more, the apostle asked that they would be given the power to know the unknowable-how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ-to the point that these Christians would come to

TAVERN

be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. He might as well have asked for the moon!

But Paul knew the God to whom he was praying. He is the God who does the impossible, the unimaginable. Jesus assured his disciples, "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." They never could have imagined that Christ would die for them, the holy and righteous Son of God, punished in the place of sinners. But he did and saved them and us from hell before we could even think to ask.

What is it you want? Be bold in your prayers in Jesus' name. Your Father loves you more than you can ever know. He has filled you with everything you could ever need. Your God is able to do immeasurably more than all you ask or imagine.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for taking care of all my needs-and so much more. Increase my faith in you so that my prayers might become bolder and more confident. Amen.

Submitted by Pastor Josh Bishop Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Joseph Originated by: www.What AboutJesus.com



Moody *Continued from cover*

Cook said it's a huge challenge, but Harbor Shores is moving ahead aggressively on the Modern Plastics site:

"So, we acquired Modern Plastics last year. We've secured the building and are obtaining quotes for demolition. Unfortunately, there are still what the police refer to as "apartments" that are in there, (homeless people living in the building). It's bad news, it's polluted. There are pools of water in there. There's asbestos falling from the ceiling. We don't want people in there for their own safety, but there have been some folks who have been there for years. So public safety has been moving them along, because that building will come down in a couple months."



www.MailMaxOnline.com Cook said they are moving as quickly as possible toward demolition of the Modern Plastics building and then will concentrate on what's possible on the site. He explained that eventual re-development of the site depends on what pollution is found and what can be mitigated.

"The plans are just about out for bids for the demolition, and then the building will come down, and then we'll do more environmental testing. Once we know what the environmental regulations will allow us to do, then we'll start our plans for the Modern Plastics site. We think the building's probably a little bit more polluted than the rest of the site. So, we're hopeful that we can maximize housing there (along Ox Creek) But we will see..."

Cook reminds skeptics that much of the 500 acres of Harbor Shores was heavily polluted 15 years ago. In fact, there was a so-called 'Superfund' site near where #14 tee and #17 green lie today.

What's next for the Water Tower site

Audience questioners at Cook's Rotary presentation were curious about plans for the future of the Old Water Tower site in St. Joseph, and the adjacent former Whirlpool plant site, now an open field for more than 35 years.

As he told MoodyOnTheMarket.com last fall, Cook reiterated that there is an aggressive plan for an entire neighborhood there, along the St. Joseph River.

"We have plans for a multitude of housing types there. Town homes, apartments, probably a boutique small hotel, some condominium units, in excess of 200 total units down there, along with a marina. So, we are



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in the planning stages of that... we've shown the City of St. Joe the preliminary plans. It's time to start meeting with city staff and move through that. That will take us most of this year to work through that plus permitting. And so, by next year we should be able to start going vertical and putting in all the infrastructure."

Those planned 200 residential units along the river would go a long way toward the approximately 350 units Cook believes are potentially still going to happen in Harbor Shores. About 250 units have been constructed so far.

Update on the Wee Course

The most recent announcement from Cook just recently was the plan for a 'Wee Course', a nine-hole mini golf course to be built along Graham Avenue, between the Harbor Shores Clubhouse complex and the Renaissance Athletic Club property. Cook says the reaction to the Wee Course plan has been totally positive

"That's going to be great for people that are just learning how to play golf. Kids will play for free with an adult. And folks that have been playing golf their whole lives but can't walk as far anymore but enjoy the game! And those who have something they can come and work on, maybe those short shots. So, we see it as hugely popular. Since it was announced two weeks ago, my texts and emails have been flooding with people saying, when is it going to be open? This sounds like a great idea."

Cook says the 'Wee Course' will make Harbor Shores available to an even wide range of people. "You can play it in an hour instead of four or five hours, so you can hang out afterwards, sit at a fire pit, have a drink or some snacks. So, we think this is going to be great. We will start as soon as permits and the weather allow us to. And we hope to have it ready in late fall this year. So, there'll probably be some early play in the fall and then next spring it should be open for real."

Cook is the President and Managing Director of the non-profit corporation that owns the Harbor Shores development. He retired from leadership of the Abonmarche engineering, planning and architectural firm several years ago.

> Pat Moody Publisher, MoodyOnTheMarket.com moody@wsjm.com (269) 925-1111

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site: www.bridgman.org. Under "Forms", click on "Boards and Commission Applications". The deadline for applying for the open positions

is March 18, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk at (269) 465-5144 or email at cfisher@bridgman.org. Christine Fisher, City Clerk City of Bridgman

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