

Greater Detroit's Original Cultural Events Weekly • Thursday, June 14, 2018

DOWNTOWN MONITOR

Summer Begins: 12th Annual GM River Days



The 12th Annual GM River Days, will take place along the Detroit River, running Friday, June 22 through Sunday, June 24.

Admission to GM River Days will support the non-profit Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and is free to enter on Friday, between 11 a.m.-5 p.m., \$5 after 5 p.m. on all days and \$3 before 3 p.m. on Saturday & Sunday.

Headlining national music acts include *Kool & the Gang* along with tribute band *Beatlemania* on Friday evening; *Morris Day and The Time* on Saturday, along with smooth R & B singer *Donnell Jones*; and Canadian R & B singer *Tamia* performs on Sunday. Tickets are \$35 and include admission to the festival.

There will be a full line-up across four different stages. The *Flagstar Bank Kids Zone* returns with story time, magic shows, strolling *River Walk Buskers*, as well as activities with the *DIA*, *Michigan Science Center* and more.

Rivard Plaza will also be the site of a 50-ton sand sculpture. Motorcyclists are invited to ride on down to the riverfront. Free parking will be provided on Atwater Street between St. Antoine and Rivard starting at 6 p.m. on Bike Night, Friday, June 22.

The Metro PCS Zip Line returns, offering a 300-foot long zip line ride for two people straight through the festival. Tickets are \$15 for one ride or two for \$25.

The Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) will provide a rock climbing wall for children and adults during the weekend. The celebrated Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum will present aerial and educational performances each day. Festival-goers can expect lots of gravity-defying maneuvers with pilots flying upside down and sideways, an airplane flown by the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II and a demonstration of precision formation flying by the museum's own four-aircraft demo team. The airshow will feature emcees at all festival stages. This is one of the very few airshows in all of North America that features mostly local performers.

Festival-goers can also take to the water with Diamond Jack River Tours. Typhoon Tommy, a festival favorite and his world-class jet-ski team will use a variety of freestyle jet-skis and hydroflight devices to perform big air jumps, backflips, corkscrew spins and underwater dives for the crowd.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will add to the fun with rescue demonstrations and the opportunity to tour a Coast Guard Cutter.

The festival hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day with activities and events happening from the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority Terminal and Dock, just west of the GM Renaissance Center, to Rivard Plaza and the William G. Milliken State Park. For more info call (313) 566-8206 or see riverdays.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Annual Motor Muster at Greenfield Village

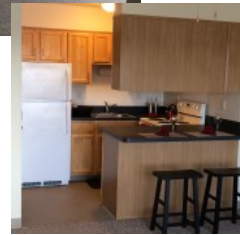
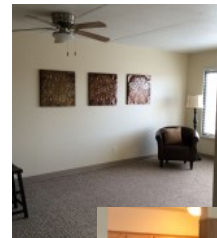
Greenfield Village gears up for a celebration of automobile splendor during its annual *Motor Muster*, over Father's Day weekend, Saturday, June 16 and Sunday, June 17.

This year's Muster focuses on the 1930's through the 1970's, showcasing an unparalleled collection of historic vehicles — from the lean depression-era of the 1930's, the American Homefront during WWII, the futuristic 1950's and revolutionary 1960's, to the bicentennial year of 1976. The weekend will also celebrate the motors that positioned Detroit's Big Three automakers as the best in the world —

Ford's flathead V-8, which brought power to the masses from 1932 to 1953; Chevrolet's small-block V-8, which debuted in 1955 and remained in production through 2003; and the 1951 hemispherical cylinder head from, the iconic Hemi, that led Chrysler to the top of the muscle car heap. The annual Motor Muster's day-long activities include: Classic cars, vintage trucks, motorcycles and bicycles, a military vehicle display, special demonstrations for auto aficionados, noteworthy pass-in-review parades, award ceremonies, and even dancing in the streets.

Ticket prices for entrance to Greenfield Village include attendance for the Motor Muster and are as follows: \$28 for general admission ages 12-61, seniors 62+ are \$25.50, youths aged 3-11 are \$21.00, children 2 and under, and members of the Henry Ford are free.

For more information, call (313) 982-6001. *Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation* are located at 20900 Oakwood Blvd., in Dearborn.



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SPECIAL EVENTS



DWDA's 34th Annual Season Concert

Detroit Windsor Dance Academy's (DWDA) 34th Annual Season Concert, #Dance Matters, will take place at 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 23 at Music Hall Center in Detroit.

The concert is a culminating event for DWDA's 9- month classes. Approximately 50 classes individually and combined, as well as DWDA's Jr. and Second Companies, participate in the concert displaying skills they've acquired in a collection of artistic dances. The concert is a tribute to Detroit Windsor Dance Academy Alumni and dancers range in age from 4 to 95 years old. Tickets are \$16, \$20, \$25 & \$50. New this year is pre-order live streaming for \$5.99. For more info call DWDA at (313) 872-7200 or see detroitwindsordance.org.

The Music Hall Center is located at 350 Madison St., in Downtown Detroit. DWDA is located at 3031 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 260 in the New Center area.



On the *Summer Solstice*, June 21 at 7 p.m., the Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe will host its first-ever *Fete de la Musique* in the Parlor of the historic Grosse Pointe Academy.

This concert will feature a lecture on French music by Candace Rembert and performances by local musicians of French music, followed by an afterglow of treats. The *Fete de la Musique*, or *World Music Day*, began in 1982 in Paris, is celebrated in over 700 cities and 150 countries around the world. *Admission is free.*

For more information see afgrossepointe.org.

The Grosse Pointe Academy (pictured) is located at 171 Lake Shore, south of Moran, in Grosse Pointe Farms.



CITY SCENE



MOBIG Brings Bands Back to Belle Isle

Laydell Harper



Belle Isle's Remick Band Shell in the 1950's

An exciting new name has emerged on the summer concert series scene in Greater Detroit, *MOBIG -Music On Belle Isle Group*.

MOBIG will present *River Blast! 2018*, a summer music series featuring the area's finest concert bands on Sunday afternoons at Belle Isle State Park. The first concert will be this Sunday, June 17, beginning at 2 p.m. Look for signs directing you to the location on Belle Isle.

Greater Detroit is home to many passionate and talented non-professional musicians who play in concert bands. A few of those musicians formed the group *MOBIG*, dedicated to returning summer band concerts to Belle Isle and to exploring the restoration/reconstruction of the Remick Band Shell.

Now, *MOBIG* is working in cooperation with state and local agencies that manage Belle Isle to present the first summer music series in 38 years — *River Blast!* The concerts were originally held at the Remick Band Shell; erected in 1950 by Detroit music publisher Jerome H. Remick, the Remick Band Shell was a popular venue for summer concerts on Belle Isle performed by the Detroit Concert Band until 1980. The Remick Band Shell cost \$150,000 and replaced an older rounded one nestled on a small waterway between the Nancy Brown Carillon Tower and the skating pavilion.

Listeners would sit on the rows of green park benches, lie on blankets on the lawn, or sit in their canoes pulled up on the shore. The stage was 40 x 80 feet and could accommodate 80 musicians. The shell design could push the music of a typical concert out to an audience of 10,000.

"After seeing the Belle Isle Band Shell in such bad shape, a group of us music lovers decided that maybe we need to get bands back on Belle Isle. Years ago there were regular concerts on Belle Isle. In the 1980's the young people with their loud radios drowned out the bands and the bands stopped playing on Belle Isle," comments Cheryl Huff, Vice President, of *MOBIG*.

Huff continues, "We have 14 bands coming for free. The concerts are also free. We hope it will become a family tradition again. Our goal is to raise enough money to rebuild the Band Shell."

This summer's MOBIG schedule is listed below:

June 17, 2 p.m. - Farmington Community Band and 4 p.m. - Royal Oak Concert Band;
June 24, 2 p.m. - Ferndale Community Concert Band and at 4 p.m. - North Oakland Concert Band;

July 1, 3 p.m. - Motor City Brass Band;
July 8, 3 p.m. - Novi Concert Band;
July 22, 3 p.m. - Plymouth Community Band;
July 29, 3 p.m. - Belgian and Heritage Band;
August 5, 3 pm - Real Deal Big Band;
August 12, 3 p.m. - Five Lakes Silver Band;
August 19, 3 p.m. - Peace Jubilee Brass Band;
August 26, 3 p.m. - Downriver Community Band

For more information and a complete concert schedule, and information about each music group see mobigmusic.org. Belle Isle State Park is located on East Jefferson Ave., near the intersection of Mt. Elliott, in Detroit.



SYMPHONIC NEWS

Ruth Crystal-Zaromp

Ruth's Music Notes

This is the time of year when music is bursting out from every corner in my life. The problem is to cover it all. Space precludes more detail.

This past week started with me on Tuesday with the opening of *Motown the Musical* at the Fisher Theatre. It summarized the music and dancing that came out of Detroit. Certainly, something to be proud of.

The Fisher Theatre will be featuring *Hamilton* next year through their series *Broadway in Detroit*. That should be amazing as well. For tickets call (800) 982-2787.

On Wednesday evening Tuesday Musicales provided a precious glimpse into the musicianship of 15 year-old violinist Miray Ito.

Ito was introduced to us before when we heard pianist Naomi Yamaguchi. There is a good chance that these two will shine together in the future firmament of music.

On the first half of the program Ito performed relatively known glistening pieces together with accompanist Mi-Eun Kim (U of M).

In the second part she performed as soloist in Spohr's *Violin Concerto No. 8* with the Tuesday Musicales Chamber Orchestra, conductor Scott Hanoian.

I attended the orchestral version of *Turandot* on Friday evening – a production which amazed me with the quality music of the orchestra, choir, and soloists.

The conductor, Jader Bignamini, is Resident Conductor of the Orchestra Sinfonica la Verdi, who has worked extensively in opera and particularly with Anna Netrebko. The choir was made up of soloists who appear around Detroit, showing great flexibility in musicianship.

For information on additional events, check dso.org.

For those who appreciate jazz music, the Palmer Woods series is featuring this Friday,



June 15 at 8 p.m. Planet D Nonet's *Salute to Strayhorn* in a Garden Concert.

For more information, check Concertseries@Palmerwoods.org.

The 25th season of the *Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival* began on Saturday, June 9th. There are many commissioned works by composers who were associated with this series in the past.

One such piece on opening night was Bolcom's short and delicate *Quartettsatz*, inspired by Schubert's single quartet movement by the same title.

Pianist James Tocco was exceptional under the baton of Paul Watkins in Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. Bernstein's opera *Trouble in Tahiti* left its rapport on the audience.

Sunday's event at Christ Church Grosse Pointe featured inspired choral pieces, including the Bach *Cantata No. 196*, performed by the church's choir and organist, conducted by Scott Hanoian. Other events this week which I'll be attending will take place after this write-up is submitted.

There is a lot more to come, but we can provide here only a

short glimpse.

This is the 25th year anniversary of the GLCMF. Through the years, we have changed together with the music that has been performed.

New, living composers were introduced to us as we listened to premiere performances of their works. This season will feature 15 new works, including 10 *Birthday Candles* to celebrate the anniversary.

There will be four premiere performances at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and a new composition by the Stone Composer Fellow Shen Yiwen.

See greatlakeschambermusic.org for more details for those events.

On Friday evening, Kerrytown Concert House in Arbor will start its mini-series associated with the festival.

The event will feature works of Kodaly, Mozart and Krista-poor Najarian (b.1991). The work is dedicated to celebrated violinists Ida and Ani Kavafian, who will be performing it.

Call (734) 769-2999 or visit Kerrytownconcerthouse.com for ticket information.

More to come next week.



The *Downtown Monitor*, now in its 56th year of continuous publication, is circulated free to all points of Greater Detroit and the City Proper.

Paul Arlon — Editor & Publisher
Roger Smith — Advertising Director

Downtown Monitor
P.O. Box 888
Hazel Park, MI 48030
Phone and Email:
(248) 439-1863
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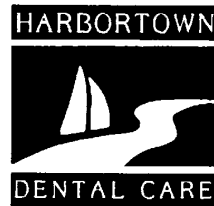
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LIVE THEATRE

Ghost Gardens at Detroit Repertory Theatre



The Detroit Repertory Theatre is presenting the Michigan premiere of *Ghost Gardens* now running through July 1. Directed by Lynch Travis and starring (pictured, L to R) Cornell Markham, Leah Smith, Linda Rabin Hammell, Aral Gribble, Jenaya Jones Reynolds, and Will Bryson, what does it take to survive in a Detroit urban village?

In a forgotten part of Detroit there is a pimp-turned-preacher looking for redemption, a stripper-turned-nurse looking for justice and Lorelie...who just wants a baby. For ten years she has tried and for ten years has failed. Until today when she announces to the world she is finally pregnant...and that changes everything.

Ghost Gardens is a story of the humor, grit, denial and delusion it takes to survive, pitting redemption against destruction and hope against hopelessness. General admission tickets are \$17 in advance by phone and \$20 online at detroitreptheatre.com and same day admission. Show times are Thursdays & Fridays, 8:30 p.m., Saturdays at 3 & 8:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 & 7:30 p.m.

For tickets and more info call (313) 868-1347. The Detroit Rep Theatre has free attended parking and is located at 13103 Woodrow Wilson, just south of Davison in Detroit.

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SUMMER IN THE CITY

Downtown's Summer in the Parks



The Downtown Detroit Partnership (DDP), in cooperation with the City of Detroit will present 2018's *Summer in the Parks*, featuring free events for all ages at *Beacon Park, Campus Martius, Cadillac Square, Capitol Park and Grand Circus Park*.

Beacon Park events include: A three-concert series featuring Detroit natives JR JR on June 16 at 7 p.m. and the internationally recognized group Saint Motel on July 21 at 7 p.m. The third concert takes place on August 18. Downtown Street Eats, weekdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volleyball leagues, Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 6-10 p.m. Market Thursdays, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunset Sessions, Fridays from 4-10 p.m. The Night Market, Saturdays at 7 p.m. Weekend Outdoor fitness classes, Saturdays & Sundays at 9 & 10 a.m. Family Fun Days, Sundays from 1-5 p.m. Visit DTEBeaconPark.com for a full list of events.

Campus Martius Park events include: *The Beach at Campus Martius Park* (pictured), *Friday Beach Party*, Fridays from 5-9 p.m. *Movie Night in the D*, Saturdays at 8 p.m. Films include: *Darkest Hour* (June 23), *Ferdinand* (June 30), *The Greatest Showman* (July 7), *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (July 14), *The Post* (July 21), *Coco* (July 28), *Battle of the Sexes* (August 4) & *Black Panther* (Aug. 11 at 2:30 & 8 p.m.). Mid-Day Music, Thursdays from 12-2 p.m. and Detroit Petanque Club, weekdays from 12-1 p.m. For more info see DowntownDetroitParks.com.

Cadillac Square will have Downtown Street Eats, weekdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch-time Acoustics, Wednesdays from 12-2 p.m. Market Fridays, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Outdoor Markets, Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday & Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Quicken Loans Sports Zone, daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Basketball courts alongside a number of yard games are available). Workout Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. & 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Capitol Park will have Outdoor Markets, Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday & Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Grand Circus Park events include: Summer Street Eats and Sounds, Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. Grand Circus Dog Park Events, Saturdays from 2-4 p.m. (Dog park open daily during park hours). Monthly themed parties for the coolest Detroit dogs and their owners. Room for 50-75 dogs per event in an open and safe environment. Events include Dog Prom, Luau, Back to School & Sock Hop. Free Yoga Classes, Mondays, Saturdays & Sundays (times vary).

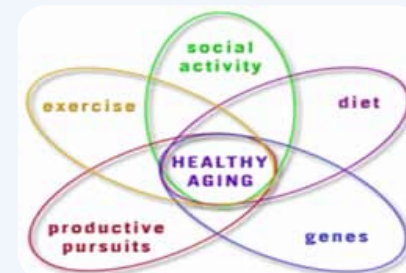
Woodward Esplanade & Spirit of Detroit Plaza will host Downtown Street Eats weekdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Pistons Academy youth basketball camps presented by Kroger will begin, Monday, June 18 and running through August, at Little Caesars Arena and Birmingham's Groves High School. The camp tour will visit 17 locations, with the newest at Little Caesars Arena (June 18-20), where campers can play on the home court of the Pistons and receive NBA-level instruction.



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CINEMA CULTURE



Girl Power 'Steals' the Show

Don Campbell

Ocean's 8 is the latest Hollywood gender-swap movie and is the take-off from the *Ocean's Eleven* remakes of the original *Rat Pack* party-heist movies from the 1960's.

It features a focused Debbie Ocean (Sandra Bullock) who was just released from prison after a five year sentence. Before we see her set off her well planned caper she casually scams some fine Bergdorf clothes and a luxury hotel room. Very smooth and unrepentant.

She becomes the leader of an all-female crew targeting a red-carpet affair rather than the usual casino. She only wants females in her crew because, "A him gets noticed a her gets ignored."

Their target is a five pound Cartier Toussaint diamond

necklace worth \$150 million.

Her long-time friend Lou (Cate Blanchett), her second-in-command, appears to be doing her David Bowie impression here. Together they recruit six other females for the crew.

Some of the others: Nine Ball is played by Rihanna, the scruffy hacker; Helena Bonham Carter is Rose, the over-the-hill designer; Sarah Paulson is Tammy, the fence; Mindy Kaling is Amita the unhappy jeweler; and Awkwafina plays Constance the cute pickpocket.

The plan is to use a very spoiled hostess of a Met gala, Daphne Kluger (Anne Hathaway), to wear the valuable ice so that they can rob her. They infiltrate the gala and create an elaborate scheme to separate Kluger and the diamonds from



the guards.

Once the diamonds come up missing, the gala is disrupted and a search begins. Split second timing and close calls accent the action but there's really no build up of suspense. Also, even though it's almost an all-

female cast, there's still boyfriend trouble. Uh huh, drama. So in addition to the con there's also some payback for the ex.

Hence, a heist film that combines fashion and humor, but just doesn't quite reach a George Clooney level of coolness. The

inevitable twists at the end have a rather formulaic feel.

Directed and written by Gary Ross (*The Hunger Games*), *Ocean's 8* was no *Ocean's Eleven* but then neither was it the all-female *Ghostbusters*, thank goodness.

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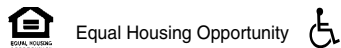
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- Balconies/Patios • 24 hr. Emergency Maintenance
- Community Room • Billiards Room
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- Laundry facilities
- Private park with walking path
- Controlled access
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Seniors

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