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ZOOS & MUSEUMS

TOP: The 36-room Barker Mansion in Michigan City, is modeled after Victorian English manors.

BOTTOM: Ruthmere is an outstanding example of beaux arts architecture.

HISTORICAL homes

Area tours provide glimpse of past

Fans of "This Old House" can now visit a local historical home under restoration.

Havilah Beardsley House, the first brick house in Elkhart County, will be the site of an archaeological field school investigation through Indiana University South Bend for two years while it is restored. Built before the Civil War by Elkhart's founder, the house still retains many of its 19th-century features.

The 1850 Greek revival house — two rooms of which have already been restored — and monitor the progress.

The house opens today and tours are from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays until Oct. 2. The first Sunday of every month is free for families. Cost is $5 for adults, $2 for students and children younger than 5 are free with an adult.

For more opportunities to walk in the footsteps of those who helped shape local history, check out these six historical houses.

Ruthmere museum

This year, for the first time, visitors will be allowed to hear the service quarters of this 1910 Elizabethan mansion. Albert H. and Elizabeth Haddock Beardsley named Ruthmere after a daughter who died in infancy.

Open April 1 through Dec. 31, tours are at 10 and 11 a.m., noon, 1, 2 and 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1, 2 and 3 p.m. Sunday. From June 6 through Labor Day, tours also will be offered at 7 and 8 p.m. Fridays.

Cost is $10 for adults, $4 for students and free for children younger than 5 with an adult. The first Sunday of every month is a free open house for families from 1 to 4 p.m. Cam pus passes for both Ruthmere and Havilah House are also available; 302 E. Beardsley Ave., Elkhart; 574-264-0330.

Morton House Museum

More than 160 years ago, Eleanor Morton, whose family hurried back to Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts, built his home. Today, it is the oldest standing home in Benton Harbor; the town Eleanor's son, Henry, helped to found.

Tours are from 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays or during the week by appointment April through October.

Cost is $5 for adults age 16 and older and $3 for children and seniors; 501 Territorial Road, Benton Harbor; 269-925-2011.

Barker Mansion

Modeled after Victorian English manors, the home's furnishings were imported from Europe. Millionaire-industrialist, John H. Barker — who built the company that became Pullman-Standard — filled the 38 rooms of his home with rare woods, marble and stained glass.

Tours are at 10 and 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. CDT Monday through Friday and noon and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Cost is $4 for adults and $2 for children younger than 18; 631 Washington St., Michigan City; 219-873-1520.

The elegant brick-walled garden at Barker Mansion in Michigan City.

The Billy Sunday Home

"Mount Hood," home of evangelist and professional baseball player Billy Sunday, is a 1914 bungalow in original appearance and contains the family's original arts and crafts style furnishings.

The California bungalow is open May 23 through Sept. 1. Few tours are offered at 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Tours are also available by appointment at 1101 Park Ave., Winona Lake; 574-372-5105.

Chapin Mansion

This Victorian Queen Anne mansion features hand-carved woodwork, stenciled ceilings and a top-floor ballroom. Built between 1882 and 1884 by Henry A. Chapin, the 15-room home also features an ornate chandelier that is both electric and gas.

The building currently functions as the Niles City Hall and may be visited during normal business hours. Large group tours can be arranged in advance. Tours are free; 508 E. Main St., Niles; 269-683-2102.

Copshaholm

The J. D. Oliver family, the owners of Oliver Chilled Plow Works of South Bend, named this Romanesque Queen Anne house after their ancestral home in Scotland. Its 38 rooms contain leaded glass windows and original furnishings as oak, cherry and mahogany.

Tours are at 11 a.m. and 1 and 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Center for History admission is $8 for adults, $6.50 for seniors older than 60 and $5 for students and children; 808 W. Washington St., South Bend; 574-235-9664.

Tribune photo

Ruthmere's rich dining room appointments include a Tiffany lamp and a silver tea set, visible against the back window.

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Lions, and tigers, and OTTERS, oh my!

Go for a "walk on the wild side," with a family trip to the zoo. Here is a look at the new habitats to visit and animals to meet at regional zoos and aquariums.

Kiji Schoun taken at **Potawatomi Zoo** in South Bend welcomed a new family member April 17 with the birth of Qiji. She is the second takin baby born at the zoo — her year-old sister Chang-O was the first.

Qiji is not the only new animal at Potawatomi, though. The zoo also has a new painted dog (Lycaon pictus) named Moja, brought in from a zoo in Kansas.

This spring, the zoo debuted its otter exhibit. Visitors can enjoy the four otters' antics in and out of the water at the shaded pavilion and underwater viewing areas.

Can't get enough of the otters? Meet Othello and Brooke's second litter of otter pups at the **Washington Park Zoo** in Michigan City.

The zoo is also debuting a pair of clouded leopards named Scarlett and Shadow.

Meet Lulu, a red-capped mangabey monkey, who was born April 20 at the zoo's **Binder Park Zoo** in Battle Creek, Mich.

Then, hurry on over to the **Fort Wayne Children's Zoo**, where you'll find a new honeybee exhibit complete with a demonstration hive.

Also entertaining visitors is Tarla, the first Rüppell's Griffon vulture chick to hatch at the zoo. Be sure to check him out, along with the last-selled wattlebagend stork in the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium.

LEFT New baby lemurs from the Indianapolis Zoo enjoy the warm sunshine on their adoptive adults.

BELOW Jabari, a new baby mandrill, plays with a toy from its habitat at the Potter Park Zoo in Lansing.

Photos provided

The **Indianapolis Zoo** features several new exhibits and many new babies to "ooh and ahh" over.

Tarla, a Rüppell's griffon vulture, "Tiger Tiger" and "Lucy" which roam the Rosston/China bunker Visitors can learn about the research taking place in Russia to save the wild tigers.

Another exhibit features island flying foxes and straw-colored fruit bats. They look scary, but don't worry, these mammals won't bite.

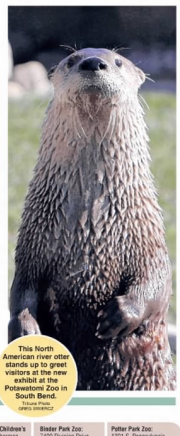
Visit the warthog, the largest and heaviest African rodent, which displays two pairs of tusks and is covered in bristles.

You'll also find plenty of new babies around the Indianapolis Zoo. Jasiri, a male giraffe, was born April 4, at a height of 6 feet, weighing 180 pounds. A Guinea baboon named Rubani Romeo was born in February and three baby ring-tailed lemurs were born in March.

If these animals don't interest you, take a peek at the aerialists show featuring rare and exotic or endangered species Hall Gym University.

At the **Potter Park Zoo** in Lansing, a baby mandrill (think Ruffin from "The Lion King") was born in mid-November. Jabari is becoming fairly independent of his mother and guests can now watch him in action.

Also, a new rhino exhibit will open at the end of the summer to house two black rhinos brought in for breeding from Kansas and Florida.



This North American river otter stands up to greet visitors at the new exhibit at the Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend.

Tribune Photo GREG SWIERCZ

Qiji, a Sichuan Takin, born April 17 at Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend.

Tribune Photo/MARCUS MARTIN

By SARAH SHEPPARD Tribune Staff Writer

For information

Potawatomi Zoo:	Washington Park Zoo:	Indianapolis Zoo:	Fort Wayne Children's Zoo:	Binder Park Zoo:	Potter Park Zoo:
500 S. Greenlawn Ave., South Bend; 574-288-4636; www.potawatomizoo.org.	115 Lakeshore Drive, Michigan City; 219-873-1510; www.washington parkzoo.com.	1200 W. Washington St., Indianapolis; 317-630-2001; www.indyzoo.com.	3411 Sherman Blvd., Fort Wayne; 260-427-6800; www.kidzoo.org.	7400 Division Drive, Battle Creek, Mich.; 269-979-1351; www.binderparkzoo.org.	1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing; 517-483-4222; www.potterparkzoo.org.

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