

The Town Crier

BAY VIEW ASSOCIATION

BAY VIEW, MICHIGAN 49770



Volume 15

Issue 04

www.bayviewassociation.net

Friday, June 15, 2007

132nd Assembly Season Begins Sunday

Worship and Religious Life

Sunday, June 17

- 10:45 a.m. Opening Assembly Worship at Hall Auditorium, the Rev. Dr. Sharon Ruth Warner, Sermon: "The Heart of the Eighth Son" (more on Dr. Warner at right).
- 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Infant/Toddler Care at Loud Hall
- 9 a.m. Holy Communion at Crouse Memorial Chapel, the Rev. Walter Coffey, celebrant
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School:
 - Children, Hitchcock Hall
 - Youth, Loud Hall
 - Adult I, Campus Club
 - Adult II, Wade Board Room
 - Contemporary Issues, Evelyn
- 10:30 a.m. Lemonade & Conversation, Campus
- 8 p.m. Opening Vesper Concert at Hall Auditorium

Monday, June 18

- 10 a.m. at Voorhies Hall, Wesley Hager Lectures by Dr. Warner, theme: "Faith Formation in a Shifting Cultural Landscape."

Tuesday, June 19

- 10 a.m. at Voorhies, Dr. Warner

Wednesday, June 20

- 10 a.m. at Voorhies, Dr. Warner
- 6 p.m. Boys' and Girls' Youth Group at Swift Field

Thursday, June 21

- 10 a.m. at Voorhies, Dr. Warner

Friday, June 22

- Bible Study at Campus Club, 8:30 a.m. Men, 10 a.m. Women

The 132nd Assembly Season at the Bay View Association begins this coming Sunday, June 17.

The morning worship will include a welcome from Tom Shearer, president of the Bay View Board of Trustees; and singing of "A Bay View Hymn," written in 1993 by our own Kelly Hale.

The Sunday preacher is the Rev. Dr. Sharon Ruth Warner. Dr. Warner is professor of educational ministry at the Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Ky. She blends public education training and experience with theological education and the local church.

She has worked as an elementary school teacher in Oregon and as associate professor of education ministry at Northwest Christian College. She received her B.Th. from Northwestern College; her M.Ed. from the University of Oregon; her M.Div. from Claremont School of Theology; and her Ph.D. from Claremont School of Theology.

In 1986 she was ordained to Christian ministry during the Oregon Regional Assembly of the Christian Church-Disciples of Christ. Dr. Warner has served the church in various capacities at the regional and local levels and has led many workshops and spoken at several major confer-

ences on educational themes.

She is the author of numerous articles on educational ministry as well as her book "Experiencing the Knowing of Faith," which reflects how the knowing process is formed in faith formation.

The "shepherd" for the week is Jane Millar. It is through Jane that Bay View invited Dr. Warner to come. Jane and Bill Millar's daughter-in-law, the Rev. Mitra Jafarzadeh, graduated from Lexington Theological Seminary and is a good friend with Dr. Warner.

As shepherd, Jane will read liturgy on Sunday and with Mitra will be offering the pastoral prayer. Through Jane you can arrange time to meet with Dr. Warner. Mitra will be moderating the lectures 10-11 a.m. Monday-Thursday, June 18-21, at Voorhies Hall.

Dr. Warner will deliver the Wesley Hager Lectures on the theme "Faith Formation in a Shifting Cultural Landscape." The lecture on Monday will be "Bankruptcy of a Strategy." Tuesday, the lecture will be "Reading the Signs of the Times." On Wednesday, the lecture will be "The Blessing and Curse of Pluralism." The final lecture, on Thursday morning, will be "Pushing Beyond Wringing our Hands."

We're Podcasting! Sermons and Lectures Now Online

Members can now download our guest preachers' sermons and lectures from the Bay View web site.

The files are in MP3 format. You can listen to them on your computer, transfer them to your iPod or burn them onto a CD.

Note that the quality of the downloaded files will not be as good as the commercial CDs containing sermons and lectures that are sold to members.

The audio files are available in the members-only area of the Bay View web site, www.bayviewassociation.net.

Education Classes

The following education classes begin the week of June 18:

- Duplicate Bridge for Fun
- Painted Furniture
- Beginning Yoga
- Intermediate Yoga
- Tai Chi Fundamentals
- Strong and Healthy People
- Reading Circle 1
- Watercolor Sketchbook Journal
- Current Issues Forum

Reminder: You can start depositing your Log Coupons for Let's Get Moving Northern Michigan in the Bay View Post Office for June 4-17 on Monday June 18.

Get Biggest Bang for Your Charitable Buck at CROP Hunger Walk

With so many good causes shouting for our donations, it is difficult to know if your dollar is doing the most good.

The work of Church World Service has earned the highest rating from Charity Navigator, the independent group that evaluates the health of America's largest charities.

Twenty-five percent of the monies earned by each CROP Hunger Walk is given directly to local pantries. We give to The Manna Food Project and Brother Dan's Pantry. Church World Service, with its global outreach, is able to maintain its overhead at 13.3 percent of the remaining 75 percent earned.

Be part of Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty! Join the CROP Hunger Walk at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 30, at Evelyn Hall.

Additional Summer Program Errata

Page 6: Winter address and phone for Bay View President Thomas C. Shearer are: 5520 Alhambra Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49456; (616) 957-1712.

Page 25: William C. Curry should be listed under Memorial Gifts 2006-2007 In Memory Of.

Rec Department a'Rockin'

Recreation Staff Pat's on the Back go to Kirsten Morton for her completion of a Bay View waterfront safety manual. Kirsten is an outstanding young professional and a wonderful addition to this year's staff.

Also, Nancy Kirby has again put in countless hours to organize the T-shirt shop and really does a terrific job. For those of you who are visual, picture Nancy standing in a small office for 10-12 hours looking through catalogs and making decisions on what you might like to purchase for the 2007 season. It is a daunting and challenging process that happens in a short time frame, and Nancy makes it look easy. Please take the time to thank these folks for a job well done!

The first hot dog roast of the season is at 6 p.m. Monday, June 18, at the Boys' and Girls' Club. Come meet Renée Allen, the new recreation director. Get out and enjoy this beautiful early summer weather with fam-

ily and friends.

For those recreation staffers missing the original orientation meeting, please note the following information. It is a requirement for all staff (including LITs) to spend time speaking to Renée before jobs are started. For those arriving after Sunday, June 17, and not able to attend the original orientation meeting, Renée will meet with you on Mondays at 8:45 a.m. to give you the details about working in the recreation department for the 2007 season. If you come in mid-week other arrangements need to be made by contacting Renee, 231-348-3940.

The Recreation Department needs help dealing with a 16-foot Boston Whaler that is without a mast, rudder and tiller. The department is looking for some financial assistance (\$500) to get this boat in Lake Michigan for the 2007 Season. Please see Wally Crocket or Renée if you would like to help fund this project.

Bear Creek Township Will No Longer Perform Electrical Safety Inspections

At the Bear Creek Township meeting Wednesday, June 6, the township supervisor announced that the township will no longer provide electrical safety inspection on cottages to be sold, as of July 1, 2007.

The township does not provide this service to other homeowners.

Executive Director Rod Slocum asked the board to amend the Bay View Association's Rules and Regulations to change the language from "the appropriate governmental building, electrical and plumbing inspectors," to "licensed electrician." Slocum will notify the realtors of the change. The board approved this change.

The board of trustees also voted to deny a request for a realtor license in Bay View from Greg Andrews of Kidd and Leavy because it is out of phase with the association's seasonal sched-

ule. The board plans to revisit the issue of the number of realtors allowed in Bay View at a meeting in July.

The board currently is working on revising amendments to leases of both the Bay View Inn and the Terrace Inn regarding the sale of alcohol at the two inns. The Terrace Inn applied for a liquor license, and the Bay View Inn has had one since 2004, and is now requesting an amendment to serve distilled spirits in the dining room during typical dinner hours. The board will review the matter at the June 22 meeting.

The board approved the arrangement to have the Grand Traverse Pie Co. provide concession services at the waterfront this summer. Director of Recreation Renee Allen is working to improve all aspects of recreation, and has worked hard to make this arrangement beneficial to all parties.

John M. Hall Exterior Repairs Project Summary

Status Report As of June 5, 2007

Sources of Funds for Project:

	Count	Payment	Extension	Amount
Special Assessment				
Option #1 (Lump Sum Payment)	174	\$ 1,200	\$ 208,800	
Option #2 (Two Payment Option)	213	\$ 620	\$ 264,120	
Option #3 (Three Payment Option)	60	\$ 426.50	\$ 76,770	
Total Special Assessment Funds	447			\$ 549,690
Less Repayment to Replacement Fund for Ledge Repairs				\$ (138,000)
Special Assessment Funds Available for Project				\$ 411,690

Project Expenses to Date:

Description/ Vendor	Approved Budget	Expenditures to Date	Est. Cost to Complete	Variance to Budget	Status
Exterior Repairs	\$ 144,373		\$ 152,373		
Roof and Gutter Repairs/ Robert T. Cole		\$ 78,665			
Roof Repairs/ Birchwood Construction Co.		\$ 1,644			
Total Exterior Repairs	\$ 144,373	\$ 80,309	\$ 152,373	\$ (8,000)	Punch List
Plaza Replacement	\$ 12,500				
Steps and Entry Repairs/ Robert T. Cole		\$ -	\$ 12,500		
Welding Light Posts/ Hyde Equipment		\$ 475	\$ 475		
Total Plaza Replacement	\$ 12,500	\$ 475	\$ 12,975	\$ (475)	Complete
Allowance for Roof Removal	\$ 20,000				
Robert T. Cole		\$ 12,000	\$ 28,000		
Total Allowance for Roof Removal	\$ 20,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 28,000	\$ (8,000)	Complete
Engineering	\$ 15,000		\$ 1,354		
Storm Sewer		\$ 158	\$ 158		
Roof & Gutter/ Northwest Design Group		\$ 13,988	\$ 13,988		
Total Engineering	\$ 15,000	\$ 14,146	\$ 15,500	\$ (500)	Complete
Site Restoration	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	
Storm Water System	\$ 45,000				
Replace Storm Sewer/ Birchwood Plumbing		\$ 33,463	\$ 33,463		
Concrete, Sidewalks/ Mike Still		\$ 13,650	\$ 13,650		
Electrical/ Rob's Electric		\$ 2,464	\$ 2,464		
Total Storm Water System	\$ 45,000	\$ 49,577	\$ 49,577	\$ (4,577)	Complete
Windows and Exterior Painting	\$ 169,000		\$ 151,071		
Rebuilding 3 large and nine small windows/ McCaffery Painting		\$ 18,675			In Process
Windows and Exterior Painting	\$ 169,000	\$ 18,675	\$ 151,071	\$ 17,929	Fall Completion
Contingency	\$ 17,687				
Blue Prints/ Copies		\$ 30	\$ 30		
Invitation to Bid classifieds		\$ 1,015	\$ 1,015		
Temporary Electrical		\$ 150	\$ 150		
Total Contingency	\$ 17,687	\$ 1,195	\$ 1,195	\$ 16,492	Complete
Project Totals	\$ 425,060	\$ 176,377	\$ 411,690	\$ 13,370	

Expected Project Surplus or (Overage)

\$ (0)

Contributions to 'Friends' Not Included in Performing Arts Budget for 2006-07

In August 2006, the Friends of the Bay View Arts Committee ("Friends") recommended to the Bay View Board of Trustees that the revenues (contributions) received by "Friends" not be included in the 2006-07 budget for the performing arts department.

The board adopted this proposal in order to eliminate incremental spending by the performing arts department in excess of affordable departmental expenses.

The artistic director and the per-

forming arts committee will determine how these contributions will be spent to enhance performing arts programs and activities including using the funds to offset any deficits that may develop in the performing arts department.

Jazz Events Kickoff 2007 Music Festival

On Sunday, June 17, the Bay View Music Festival, a longstanding Northern Michigan tradition, will open its season and its doors to the general public with a bang in its first week of the 2007 season, featuring two jazz-based events.

On Sunday the opening Vespers Concert focuses on the renewal of the spirit, Bay View Music Festival's theme through the final concert in mid-August. The concert will begin at 8 p.m. in Hall Auditorium and features "the best of the best," including music from "Man of La Mancha," George Gershwin, Vierne organ symphony, and spirituals.

Following the concert, the Terrace Inn on the Bay View grounds will host a reception.

At 8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 20, the Festival concert season begins with a flourish in a program called "Tour de Force." This performance will feature a new style of Festival concerts, in which Artistic Director Chris Ludwa will de-mystify the musical material a la Leonard Bernstein's Young People's Concerts prior to each piece being performed.

The concert includes two pieces by the French composer Ravel,

including the "Tzigane," a violin showpiece featuring Seunghee Lee; and four French songs, including subtitles, sung by baritone Peter Lightfoot.

The concert ends with a Mozart quintet for piano, oboe, clarinet, horn, and bassoon, the one the composer himself dubbed as "some of his best music."

Then, at 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 23, the public is invited to a free concert on the beach at Bay View when the Indianapolis-based vocal jazz sextet called "On The Rocks" makes its Northern Michigan debut.

This young, fresh ensemble, styled after the world-renowned Manhattan Transfer, will present a relaxed evening of jazz and pop standards on the Bay View beach, timed so that the sun dips beyond the horizon near the end of the concert.

Featured music will include songs made popular by the Beatles, Peter, Paul and Mary, Billy Joel, Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, and others. Attendees should bring a blanket, refreshments, and picnic if they choose, but no alcohol is permitted on the Bay View grounds.

"The Four Freshmen" will appear

in Hall Auditorium at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 26. Hailing from the Midwest, the "Freshmen" were voted best vocal group in 2003 by Jazz Times.

There have been 21 incarnations of the group since its inception, and according to Bob Flanigan, one of two surviving original members, "Musically and vocally, it's just marvelous. I tell you, the guys now – this is the best Freshmen group ever."

Interviews with the current members can be arranged by contacting Ludwa at artisticdirector@bayviewassociation.net or 231-225-8877. Tickets for the concert are \$20 for general admission, and a sell-out crowd is expected.

Group discounts are available for most events, including The Four Freshmen, and can be arranged by calling 231-225-8877.

The Bay View Box Office opens at 9:30 a.m. Monday, June 18, and the phone number is 231-348-9551. Ticket inquiries are accepted at tickets@bayviewfestival.org in advance. General questions should be directed to Ludwa at 231-225-8877 or email artisticdirector@bayviewassociation.net.

Bay View Ready to Welcome Elderhostel Visitors This Sunday

The Bay View community extends a hearty welcome to our Elderhostel visitors representing 11 states.

As in years past, the group will be staying at the Terrace Inn while they visit our campus to learn about and experience Chautauqua.

Bay View residents who will teach the Chautauqua class include: Mary Jane Doerr, Bob Williams, Suzanne Ternan and John Weeks. Our four department heads will also present information on their respective programs: worship, recreation, education and the Bay View Music Festival.

Other classes this week will focus

on the geology and hydrology of this region being taught by David Krause and Valerie Olenik-Damstra from the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

Winnay Wemigwase will lead the teaching team for classes focusing on Odawa life ways. We will visit the Odawa governmental offices just off the Harbor Springs road.

Tribal representatives will bring their drumming and dancing to Bay View at 8 p.m. Thursday in or near Evelyn Hall. All of Bay View is invited to participate in the Thursday night activities.

Most of the class sessions will be

held in Evelyn Hall, but you will also see Elderhostelers at concerts and during various walk-about on the campus. The world is their classroom.

Our Elderhostel visitors will arrive Sunday, June 17, and be here for the first week of the assembly season, departing around noon, Friday, June 22. Throughout the week, you will recognize them by their yellow name tags.

Please feel free to introduce yourselves and share a warm Bay View greeting.

Many thanks to all those who are so willingly a part of this event.

Bay View Briefs

Note "Carousel" Audition Times

Please note the audition times for this summer's musical, "Carousel." For roles – 2:30-4 p.m. Sunday, June 17, at Loud Hall; For chorus only, 4-6 p.m. Sunday, July 1, at Loud Hall.

Join Ludwa's Thursday Soiree

Come join the Festival Chorus. No audition necessary, just the ability to hold a tune and sing with a joyful heart. See you Thursday night for rehearsal! 7 p.m. at Hall Auditorium.

Knees Knock Out Oboist

"I am sad to report my absence at this summer's Bay View Music Festival. I'll be recouping at home in the heart of the bluegrass after knee replacement/revision surgery, the second in six months. I think my rendition of Michigan Morn will be sung as "Michigan Mourn," but I will be anxious to return next summer, the good Lord willing. Peace and best regards to all. YOU will be missed!"

– Nancy Clauter, oboist

School Chief Speaks June 19

John P. Scholten, Ed.D., superintendent of the Public Schools of Petoskey, will be the first Campus Club Speaker of the Week this season. Scholten will speak on the topic "Petoskey Schools Serving the Community" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 19. Visitors are always welcomed.

Memorial Services

A Memorial Service for Doris Bailey Baker, long-time Bay View member, will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 30, in John M. Hall Auditorium. A reception follows in Evelyn Hall. There will be a service to celebrate the life of Sue Howard at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, July 7, on the bluff east of the waterfront and boat-house at the end of Grove Street. In case of rain, Evelyn Hall will be the place. A reception will follow at 6 p.m. at Sue's cottage, 2095 Forest Ave.

Student/Cottager Picnic June 19

All cottagers are invited to meet the 2007 student artists at our annual picnic sponsored by the Bay View Music Committee. The picnic will be at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, June 19, at the Woman's Council. Students are our guests, therefore each cottager is requested to bring two dishes for the buffet. Each dish should serve 12 (casserole, salad or dessert). Meat, drinks and table service are provided. For reservations call Paddie Zetterberg, 439-5084.

Artistic Director to Speak

Bay View's new Artistic Director Chris Ludwa will be the kickoff speaker at this year's Current Issues Forum. Ludwa will discuss "Vision, the Future Guided by the Past," at 10 a.m. Friday, June 22, in Loud Hall.

News from the Library

It is wonderful to see so many people coming into the library! The new books and coffee and papers each morning have been very enticing! (So have the cookies and doughnuts!) We'll be open in the morning and afternoon starting Monday, June 18. We have a new policy this season which allows patrons to be placed on a reserve list for popular books. If a book is already out, you can place your name on a list and you'll get a call when the book is returned! Dates to remember are the annual Book Sale Thursday, July 5, and the return of Toddler Tales on Wednesday, July 11, and every Wednesday following.

Women's Luncheon June 21

The Bay View Woman's Council/Morning Council Opening Luncheon will be at 12 p.m. Thursday, June 21, at the Bay View Inn. Tickets may be ordered by contacting Pat Sehr at 347-3187. There is a social hour at 12 p.m. followed by the luncheon at 12:30 p.m. The speaker will be Robert Tagatz. He is the archivist for the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Dues for the councils may be paid at this time.

Recycling Under Way Again

Recycling pickup is on Thursdays. The last pickup of the season will be Thursday, Aug. 23. Totes should be out by 7 a.m. Replacement totes are available at Russell Hall. You can set out an unlimited amount of recycling in your own totes as long as they are no larger than the green Emmet County tote.

Can You Sell Vesper Tickets?

We need someone to sell tickets at Sunday Vesper Concerts. If interested, please contact Rod Slocum, 347-6225.

Mow That Lawn, Trim Those Trees

Leaseholders are reminded they need to "keep their lawns, grass and shrubbery well trimmed between June 21 and September 1." (By-Law 52-B.) Leaseholders who fail to comply may find their lawns cut for them, and the costs added to their tax bills.

Sunday Vesper and Wednesday Festival Concert Usher Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Contact</u>
June 17/June 20	Campus Club	Betty Stevens
June 24/June 27	Woman's Council	Joyce Giguere
July 1/July 4	Tennis Club	Annette Davis
July 8/July 11	Library	Elizabeth Shier
July 15/July 18	Archives	John Weeks
July 22/July 25	Historical Museum	Sophie McGee
July 29/August 1	Board of Trustees	Tom Shearer
August 5/August 8	Morning Council	Barbara McLean
August 12/August 15	Panhellenic	Connie Burt

Know What You're Seeing: Synopses of Upcoming Flicks

Here are synopses of the 2007 Bay View summer movies.

"The Prize Winner from Defiance, Ohio," PG-13 (2005): With 10 children to feed, postwar Ohio housewife Evelyn Ryan (Julianne Moore) has gotten used to being resourceful, stretching her husband's meager salary to the limit. But when clipping coupons won't cut it, she's forced to rely on her creativity and enters a jingle-writing contest for extra income. Woody Harrelson and Laura Dern co-star in this uncommon comedy-drama based on a heartwarming memoir by Ryan's daughter, Terry.

"Happy Feet," PG (2006): Living with his colony in the Antarctic, young emperor penguin Mumble is aptly named: While his friends use their singing skills to attract mates, his caterwauling sends potential sweethearts waddling in the opposite direction. But Mumble is blessed with an unusual gift – he can tap dance in a way that would make Fred Astaire jealous! Elijah Wood, Nicole Kidman, Robin Williams and Hugh Jackman lend their voices to this spirited Oscar-winning tale.

"The Aviator," PG-13 (2004): Martin Scorsese directs this Best Picture nominee about Howard Hughes (Leonardo DiCaprio), who turned a small fortune into a massive one by producing such classics as *Hell's Angels*, *The Front Page*, *Flying Leathernecks* and *Scarface*. He simultaneously branched into and transformed industry after industry, including aviation. Winner of five Oscars, including Best Cinematography, Art Direction and Supporting Actress (Cate Blanchett).

"Nanny McPhee," PG (2006): The recently widowed Mr. Brown (Colin Firth) and his domineering aunt (Angela Lansbury) can't seem to control the numerous and naughty Brown children – until Nanny McPhee (Emma Thompson) comes to stay. Now, with the help of some magic and a little old-fashioned discipline, their household runs like clockwork. This film's plot and title character are based on the popular *Nurse Matilda* books by British author Christianna Brand.

"The Pursuit of Happyness," PG-13 (2006): Will Smith (in an Oscar-nominated role) and his real-life son Jaden star in this tearjerker about a struggling single parent determined to build a better life for himself and his child. Chris Gardner is smart and talented, but his dead-end salesman job barely pays the bills. When he and his 5-

year-old son are evicted from their apartment, they face trying times as Chris takes on an unpaid internship at a stock brokerage firm with hopes of getting rich someday.

"Akeelah and the Bee," PG (2006): With an aptitude for words, 11-year-old Akeelah Anderson (Keke Palmer) is determined to spell her way out of South Los Angeles, entering scores of local contests and eventually landing a chance to win the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Despite discouragement from her mother (Angela Bassett), Akeelah gets support from her bookish tutor (Laurence Fishburne), her principal (Curtis Armstrong) and proud members of her community.

"Shadowlands," NR, (1985): This winner of two British Academy Awards is based on the life of renowned Oxford scholar C.S. Lewis (Joss Ackland), author of the classic "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." Vivacious American poet and recent divorcee Joy Gresham (Claire Bloom) travels to England to seek out Lewis, with whom she's had years of correspondence. The two become an unlikely pair, despite their culture clash, but the most difficult obstacle is yet to come.

"The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe," PG, (2005): Based on C.S. Lewis's classic novel, this enchanting tale follows four London children who are sent away to a country home for safety during World War II. There, they discover a magical wardrobe that leads them to the mystical land of Narnia, ruled by an evil witch. The children join the lion Aslan to free Narnia from darkness. Tilda Swinton, Georgie Henley, William Moseley, Skandar Keynes, Anna Popplewell, Rupert Everett and Jim Broadbent star.

"King Kong," PG-13 (2005): Set in the 1930s, Peter Jackson's remake follows a group of adventurous explorers and filmmakers to mysterious Skull Island in search of a legendary giant gorilla known as King Kong. The team battles dinosaurs and, with the help of a beautiful woman, manages to capture the mighty ape and ship him back to New York. King Kong goes on display, but his heart is stronger than his shackles. Naomi Watts, Jack Black, Adrien Brody and Andy Serkis star.

"Stranger than Fiction," PG-13 (2006): As a novelist (Emma Thompson) struggles with how to kill off her main character, IRS

auditor Harold Crick (Will Ferrell) begins hearing her narration in his head and realizes he must prevent his own death. Crick's world turns upside down, and it's a life-or-death situation as he tries to persuade best-selling author Kay Eiffel to change the ending of her novel. Maggie Gyllenhaal, Dustin Hoffman and Queen Latifah lead the fine supporting cast.

"Kicking and Screaming," PG (2005): Family dysfunction plays out on the soccer field in this lively comedy. When family man Phil Weston (Will Ferrell) takes a job coaching his 10-year-old son's talented soccer team, he winds up going head to head with his ultra-competitive father, Buck (Robert Duvall), who coaches an opposing team. With the league championship at stake, father and son reignite old battles and go to hilarious extremes as they compete for the shiny trophy.

"Bringing Up Baby," NR (1938): Love blooms for a hapless scientist and an unstoppable heiress in Howard Hawks's classic screwball comedy. Out to win the heart of paleontologist David (Cary Grant), heiress Susan (Katharine Hepburn) lures him to her home. The hilarity begins when Susan's dog steals David's prize dinosaur bone and her pet leopard, Baby, is mistaken for a zoo escapee. One madcap adventure follows another as they try to save Baby – and ultimately fall in love.

"Night in the Museum," PG (2006): Chaos reigns at the natural history museum when night watchman Larry Daley (Ben Stiller) accidentally stirs up an ancient curse, awakening Attila the Hun, an army of gladiators, a T. rex and other exhibits. Larry tries desperately to keep marauding Neanderthals and Mayans in check, fighting a losing battle until President Teddy Roosevelt (Robin Williams) comes to the rescue. Owen Wilson and Dick Van Dyke co-star in this family-friendly fantasy.

"Prairie Home Companion," PG-13, (2006): From director Robert Altman comes this quirky piece of fiction based on the real-life radio program of the same name, with a wry screenplay penned by the show's host, Garrison Keillor. Supported by a high-powered cast that includes Meryl Streep, Lily Tomlin, Lindsay Lohan, John C. Reilly, Tommy Lee Jones and Kevin Kline, Keillor also stars in this behind-the-scenes look at the mayhem surrounding the folksy program's final broadcast.