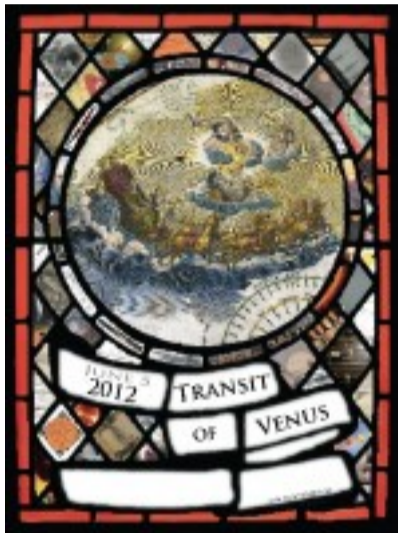


TROVE: Celebrating the TRansit Of VENus



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See [A Community Celebrates](#) for a summary of the 2012 transit of Venus experience in Michiana.

Click for [brochure of events](#).

The Michiana community will be the Midwest hub for attractions that celebrate the 2012 transit of Venus, a rare celestial phenomenon in which Venus passes directly in front of the sun. The transit of Venus has a storied past and an engaging future, with the June 5, 2012, event being the last one in our lifetimes. We invite you to join the festivities, either as a featured destination or as a visitor, as we eagerly embrace this solar spectacle.

Several features make the region near the Michigan-Indiana border a favored destination. With the sun setting while the transit of Venus is still underway, the view over beautiful Lake Michigan is perhaps unrivaled. Because no location in the mainland United States can guarantee clear skies, multiple transit of Venus attractions will give astronomy enthusiasts and casual observers alike plenty of reason to plan their visit here. Among the anticipated highlights:



- Big Day Tour! [Exclusive motor coach tour](#) all the regional highlights on a bus tour with expert commentary on **June 5**. (Space limited.)
- Telescopes set up for safe public observing throughout the region on **June 5**, as was done for the transit of Venus in Mishawaka, IN, [in 2004](#):
 - PHM Digital Video Theater (former Planetarium) in Mishawaka, IN ([map](#))
 - Jordan Hall of Science on the campus of University of Notre Dame ([map](#))
 - LaSalle Intermediate Academy in South Bend, IN ([map](#))
 - New Carlisle Public Library, New Carlisle, IN ([map](#))
 - Warren Dunes State Park, Sawyer, MI ([map](#))
 - Andrews University on top of Price Hall ([map](#))
- Transit of Venus art on display
 - [Transit of Venus in Pastel](#) at Harris Branch Library, Granger, IN, **May 1-June 9**
 - [TROVE Art Exhibit](#) at the Livery in Benton Harbor, MI, **May 6-June 30**
 - [PHM Transit of Venus Art Contest](#) at Penn High School, Mishawaka, IN, **May 3-June 30**
 - Historical images to be exhibited at select branches of MutualBank
 - ToV beer poster contest at the [Livery](#)
- Historical [artifacts on display](#) at Harris Branch Library and Hesburgh Library, from the [US Naval Observatory](#) and private collections
- Digital theater programs
 - [Transit of Venus video](#) (debuting as full-dome video in February 2012)
 - [PHM's new Digital Video Theater](#)
 - University of Notre's Dame Digital Visualization Theater
- Telescope workshops to [build safe solar viewing devices](#) and to prepare telescopes with solar filters
- Transit of Venus products
 - Hand-crafted [Venusian](#) beer from the [Livery](#) microbrewery
 - [Black Drop Effect Coffee](#) from [Victorian Pantry](#)
 - [Transit of Venus](#) pizza and [Black Drop Effect](#) pizza at [Pizza Transit](#)
- Lesson plans and [classroom activities](#) for all ages
- Participation in re-creation of international science experiment through [Transit of Venus Phone App](#)
- Commemoration of [local observations of the 1882 transit of Venus](#)
- Live broadcasts of transit of Venus from across the globe with others immersed in the transit of Venus, including
 - Local liaison Chuck Rupley from Hawaii
 - [NASA's Sun-Earth Day webcast](#) from Hawaii on **June 5**
- Telescope observing of the partial [solar eclipse at sunset](#) over Lake Michigan on May 20
- [Buchanan Art Center](#) will run [Transit of Venus](#) video all day June 5, offer solar shades, and guide kids in creating a "Black Drop" sticker. 10 AM-6 PM.
- [TROVE Adventure](#), a regional treasure hunt to earn protective solar shades, **May 1-May 31**
- Thursday lecture series at PHM Digital Video Theater, Mishawaka, IN
 - [You Can Learn a Lot From a Dot](#) by Steven Williams of NASA, **May 17**
 - [Experience the Transit of Venus](#) by Chuck Bueter of Transitofvenus.org, **May 24**
 - [Life in the Universe: From Viking to Kepler](#) by Phil Sakimoto of Notre Dame, **May 31**

- [AstroFest](#) at Union Station on **April 28**, 2012, a free family-oriented event
- Performance of [John Philip Sousa's *Transit of Venus March*](#) on March 8 by Penn Symphonic Winds ([details](#))
- [Transit of Venus Stained Glass Window Contest \(online\)](#), from JINA/NDeRC at University of Notre Dame; entry deadline: **Feb. 18**.



Most people are not familiar with the transit of Venus, yet it has historically garnered tremendous popular appeal as the celestial alignment approaches. The last transit of Venus was visible from the United States only on the eastern portion of the country moments after sunrise. Yet Google's *Zeitgeist* feature, which aggregates search queries to take a pulse of global interests, declared Venus Transit to be the **#1 Most Popular Event** in the world for the entire month of June 2004! This time, on the more favorable **evening hours of June 5**, the Michiana region will be well positioned to witness the 2012

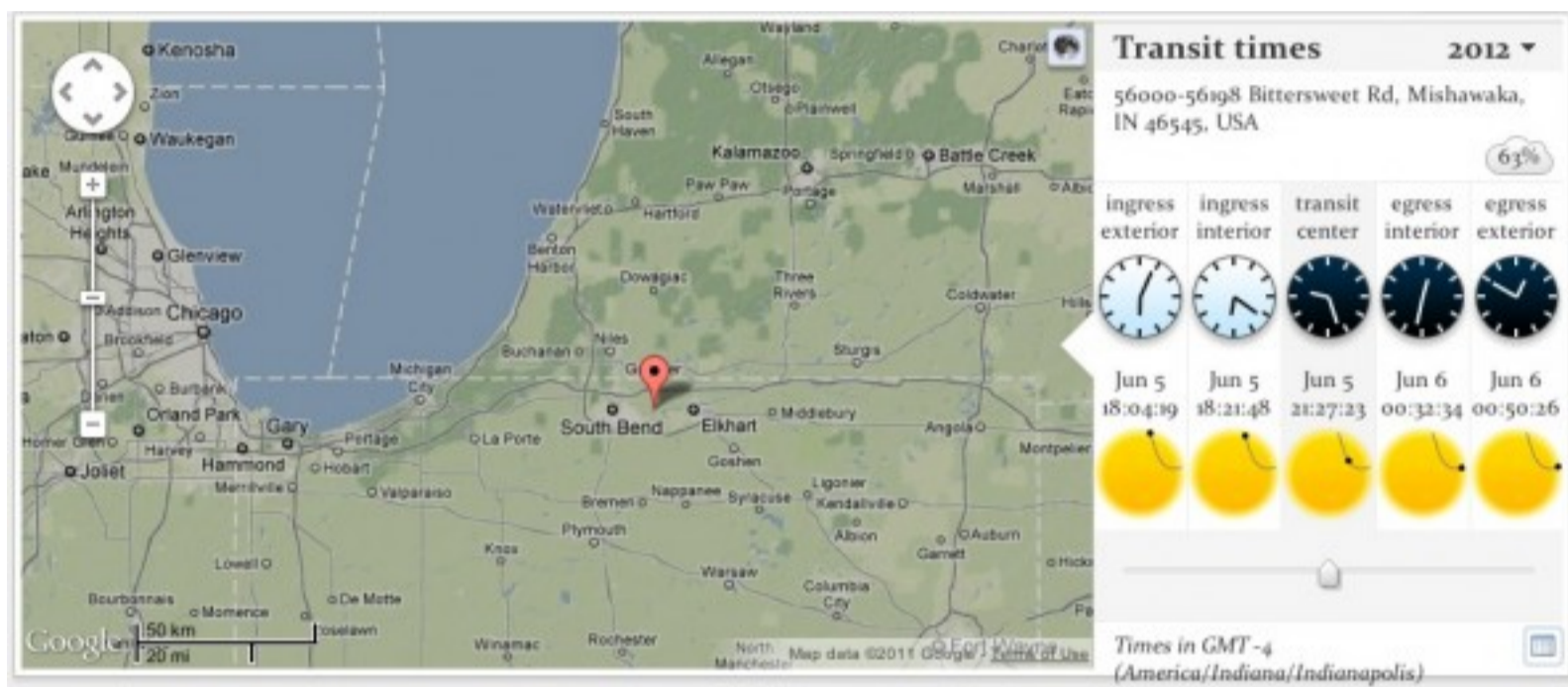


transit of Venus.

Observing With Telescopes

Owners of telescopes with proper solar filters are invited to share the spectacle with the public on June 5, 2012, at the PHM campus. Anticipate a public telescope workshop in May for safe solar observing instructions.

From <http://transitofvenus.nl/wp/where-when/local-transit-times/> (click for interactive map):



Why should we care about a transit of Venus?

The occasion is an opportunity to be seized by visitors and the community alike for several reasons:

- If we want to be comfortable with math and science--to prosper as a nation through math and science--then we have to celebrate math and science in action. As a community, we choose to move beyond idle talk about math and science education and to embrace it.
- A transit of Venus is one of those revealing moments that explains how we know what we know. For example, how do we know how many miles it is to the sun and planets? And how do we find planets capable of harboring life? A transit of Venus answers.
- Instead of being told all your life that the planets move around the sun, witness it!
- A rare predictable event, the 2012 alignment will be the last transit of Venus in our lifetimes, with the next one in December 2117. Even then, it won't be visible for most US observers, with the next good chance here occurring in December 2125.
- Solar activity is on the rise in its regular cycle, only now our society is more susceptible to solar influence. Seize opportunities to look safely at a solar spectacle.
- A regional celebration highlights the connectedness of our communities to economic development. When a group of attractions throughout the area draw and serve enthusiastic visitors, the events boost several businesses.
- Observers can participate in a genuine global experiment, with the transit of Venus being a front row seat to the method used by astronomers to detect distant planets.
- A unique personal experience can singularly inspire and motivate a person, old and young alike. Allow yourself to be impressed by nature.

Supporters

The following participants and supporters of the Transit of Venus embrace the riches of science and math in action. Please join us.

- [Michiana Astronomical Society](#)
- [Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation](#)
- [Glance Eyewear Gallery](#)
- [Penn High School AP Studio Art Student Gallery](#)
- [Astronomers Without Borders](#)
- [US Naval Observatory Library](#)
- Private collectors
- [Upton Planetarium](#)
- [The Livery--Hand-Forged Microbrews](#)
- [Transit of Venus Project](#)
- [NASA Sun-Earth Day](#)
- [Kalamazoo Astronomical Society](#)
- [Jordan Toyota and Toyota TAPESTRY \(2004\)](#)
- www.transitofvenus.org

Planning

The new PHM Digital Video Theater (DVT) in Mishawaka, IN, hosted a [Transit of Venus summit](#) on November 9, 2011, and a follow-up meeting January 10, 2012. A February 23 meeting at Notre Dame ramped up the intensity of plans, followed by March and April planning sessions. Invited were parties from Michiana who will be part of the regional ToV celebration. If you or your representative missed the gatherings but wish to be a part of the dialogue, please [contact Chuck Bueter](#) for information.

Chuck has a [calendar](#) of local events, though it may languish as June itself nears. Also, zoom in on the [NASA event location map](#), for some of the locations overlap when zoomed out and are not visible then.

Posters for promoting TROVE events are at [/education/80-trove/322-posters](#), or click the [template for the TROVE signature poster](#) (right).



Directions to PHM Digital Theater

The Digital Video Theater (DVT) is located within Bittersweet Elementary School, which is just north of Penn High School. From the school corporation's office building (Educational Service Center (ESC)) on Bittersweet Rd., go east on the driveway to Bittersweet School on the left.

Note: Several mapping services (Google, Bing, etc.) incorrectly mark Bittersweet School as being literally on Bittersweet Road, just south of McKinley Ave.



See [http://www.bing.com/maps/?](http://www.bing.com/maps/?v=2&cp=qydg217tqxs0&lvl=18.213472132516717&dir=4.722599367318484&sty=b&ss=yp.planetarium~pg.1~rad.0,225750797931635&form=LMLTCC)

[v=2&cp=qydg217tqxs0&lvl=18.213472132516717&dir=4.722599367318484&sty=b&ss=yp.planetarium~pg.1~rad.0,225750797931635&form=LMLTCC](#) for an [aerial view of the approach](#) to the school.