

# The St. Ignace News

## St. Ignace Community Foundation Awards \$12,750 in Grants

The St. Ignace Community Foundation awarded a total of \$12,750 to local groups and organizations at its 19th annual awards ceremony Wednesday, October 26, at the St. Ignace Public Library. The Michilimackinac Historical Society received the biggest grant, \$3,500, out of the eight that were awarded.

The historical society plans to use the grant to help fund printing costs for its new walking history tour booklet about St. Ignace and the Straits area. Visitors can walk on the city's shoreline boardwalk with numbered stations along the way. Each number will represent a section of history in the booklet.

Since its inception in 1995, the St. Ignace Community Foundation has awarded \$143,020 in grants.

The following is a list of Community Foundation grant recipients:

**LaSalle High School softball team** received \$1,500 to help fund its program. Coach Chuck Kingsbury and several of his players and their parents attended to thank the board.

**City of St. Ignace** received \$1,500 that will go toward its lighthouse erection project. City Treasurer Eugene Elmer said the city's goal is to erect the 52-foot working lighthouse that was donated by the state in April, and complete it by June 1. The effort is connected to the city's project to extend the shoreline boardwalk to the *Chief Wawatam* dock, where the lighthouse will be displayed. Cost of the lighthouse project is \$51,000. Mr. Elmer said the city has already raised \$41,000.

**LaSalle High School music department** received a \$1,000 grant to help with its purchasing of steel band equipment. Band Director Jason Byma, who has experience in a steel drum band, said his goal is to purchase an entire set of equipment for a steel band, which, he said, is quite expensive. For just a starter set, he said, the cost is an estimated



The St. Ignace Saints softball team will play for at least another season, owing in part to the \$1,500 it received from the St. Ignace Community Foundation.



Players and coaches of the St. Ignace 7th and 8th grade Junior Saints football team were awarded \$2,500 from the St. Ignace Community Foundation toward the purchase of new uniforms.

\$9,000.

"We're going to start out borrowing equipment and gradually purchase equipment that the school would then own," he said.

About 25 to 30 students are already interested in the band, he said.

**St. Ignace 7th and 8th grade**

**Junior Saints football team** was awarded \$2,500 to be used to purchase new uniforms and helmets for the players. Coach Chris "Iffer" Marshall said the uniforms the team is using now were purchased eight years ago and are showing their age. Many of the players attended to show their

appreciation to the Community Foundation board.

**Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District (EUPISD)** received a \$750 grant to fund new sound technology for classrooms. ISD Superintendent Pete Everson explained that teachers would be given a microphone-



St. Ignace Community Foundation Chairman Jim North (left) congratulates Michilimackinac Historical Society President Keith Massaway on the society's \$3,500 foundation grant.

type device which enhances their voice to a treble that is slightly higher than the usual classroom noise. He said it is effective to maintain student attention, especially for those with attention disorders.

**LaSalle High School's Just Dessert honors program** received \$500 that will help with purchasing academic medals. High School teacher and Just Dessert coordinator Mary Sue Kunze said the

money will also help with purchasing desserts after the honor roll ceremonies held for students who qualify for the honor roll three consecutive times.

**St. Ignace Public Library** was awarded a \$1,500 grant, which will fund the purchase of Native American reading materials. Librarian Cindy Patten said materials include adult and children's books and videos on Native Americans and their culture.

## Kinross, Drummond Island Hold November 8 Elections

In Chippewa County, the only November election issues before voters are local, in Kinross Township and on Drummond Island. A previous move by some Trout Lake officials to recall some of the officials was withdrawn.

Elections will be held on Tuesday, November 8, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Kinross Township Hall and Drummond Island Township Hall.

The voters of Kinross Township will determine whether Supervisor Jason Oberle and Trustee Dan Mitchell will be recalled from the Kinross Township Board.

The ballot language calling for Mr. Oberle's recall states that he has not performed "job duties correctly or adequately for/in the best interest of the people of Kinross Township. In so much as he made decisions without board approval outside the scope of 'day to day' operations. Also, limited access of township residents to special meetings by failing to post notice of change of venue."

Mr. Oberle's official reply on the ballot calls the recall a "witch-hunt," and he asks voters to end it "with your vote of no, today!" He calls the reasons demanding his recall "untrue and an attempt to negate the majority decision of November 2004."

The ballot language recalling Mr. Mitchell states that he has not

performed his duties "correctly or adequately for the best interest of the people of Kinross Township. As in so much that he has provided false information to township residents."

Mr. Mitchell's official reply denies providing false information, and he states that "I have asked repeatedly, publicly, and privately what was the 'false information' that I supposedly presented? Since the information was not given, I have to assume that there was no false information."

If allowed to continue in his elected position, he pledges to "work to make responsible improvements at the golf course, research alternative funding for recreation center programs, and to find a way to offset the cost of 'charge backs' the DPW bills to take care of township infrastructure."

He added that he is "willing to stick my neck out and make the hard decisions."

Drummond Island voters will be asked to approve a new one-mill levy for five years to provide more operational money for the township.

The new millage will generate \$87,570 in the first year (2005), and will be levied each year through 2009. The money will be used for general township operating expenses.

## Clark Township Committee Aims To Bring in High Speed Internet

Clark Township is forming an ad hoc committee to bring high-speed Internet access to the area.

Township Supervisor Linda Hudson, at the October 20 township board meeting, called for volunteers to investigate how the township can acquire high-speed Internet service for residents and businesses. The committee may also look at ways to improve cellular telephone service in the area.

So far, Mike Autore of Cedarville and Chet Kasper III of Hessel have volunteered to serve on the committee, and Mrs. Hudson asked Tom Smith of MOTHERS Computers in Cedarville to serve on the committee as he represents a professional Internet service provider.

"I think it's time to look at this as a need, if we're to have economic

development," Mrs. Hudson said.

High speed Internet, she said, is a necessary "business retention strategy" that is being required in some places by businesses that download and send high-volume documents and images.

Anyone interested in serving on the committee should call Clark Township Hall at (906) 484-2672.

Mackinac County Michigan State University Extension Director Michelle Walk has offered assistance, and Paul Routhier, an independent computer systems consultant, said Clark Township has some challenges in bringing high speed Internet access to the community.

Topography can interfere with wireless transmission, he said, and a cable to bring broadband service to the township will be costly.

## \$18,715 Parking Lot Paving Plan For L.C. Community Schools

By Amy Polk

By the end of November, Les Cheneaux Community Schools will have a paved parking lot at the south end of the Elementary School. The Board of Education awarded its paving contract to Norris Contracting of Sault Ste. Marie for \$18,715 Monday, October 17, at the regular board meeting.

Norris had the lowest of three bids that included H and D Contracting of Bay Shore for \$19,416 and Payne and Dolan of Gaylord for \$22,500. The bid specifications require the project be finished by November 30. The project will include laying asphalt over the existing gravel parking

lot, which was the former site of the school's central office. Since the office building was demolished, the space has served as parking for the Elementary School, athletic field, and playground.

The district will eventually pave a long path from the parking lot to the playground, but the project was not in this year's budget. The path provides barrier-free access to the playground, and is now covered with hard gravel. Paving is expected to prevent wash-out on the hillside, and will make access to the playground a little easier.

Earlier this fall, the Board of Education elected to pave the parking area this year instead of paving

the pathway to the playground and replacing the school's aging tennis court. The district is using the money allotted from "sinking fund" revenue generated by a five-year special millage. The millage is supposed to generate \$72,500 a year for five years, starting with the 2003-2004 school year. The money is spent on improvements to the school facilities, and so far has purchased steps and disabled access ramps to the school, cross-walk signage, parking bumpers, concession stand improvements, canopy and railing, industrial arts shop improvements, track improvements, and a facelift for the Old Gymnasium stage. Because of rising property values,

the district will collect \$81,589 in the 2005-2006 school year.

Trustees plan to pick up the pathway and tennis court projects next year, when the district can afford both. Superintendent Rod Goehmann said preliminary cost estimates for paving a path to the playground and replacing the old tennis court exceeded what the district could afford with this year's sinking fund money.

**Bus Purchase and Sale**

In other news, trustees elected to sell the district's 1991 school bus to Huff's Repair of Cedarville for \$1,501. Mr. Huff's bid was the only bid for the bus.

Trustees also resolved to join the Michigan School Business Officials and Michigan Association of Pupil Transportation bus purchasing program, which will administer bus purchases over the next five years. A special millage approved by voters in the spring will provide enough money for the district to buy one new bus each year for the next five years. The district plans to spend more than \$60,000 on a bus and about \$2,700 in interest and legal fees. Any remaining balance will probably be used by the end of the five-year bus purchasing period, Superintendent Rod Goehmann said.

**Student Count Down from August Projections**

Mr. Goehmann reported that the district's student count in September was nine students fewer than what school officials previously projected in August. The district was expecting 384 students, but ended up with only 375 students enrolled full time. Mr. Goehmann said the district actually receives state aid for 379 students, but four of them are "part-time" students who use some of

**“Come” and “Fetch”**

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