

Trustees Say Voters Must Pass Millages or Face Cuts at Newton Twp.

By Ryan Schlehuber

Newton Township trustees, meeting Wednesday, May 10, planned to ask voters for ambulance and road millages in the primary election scheduled for Tuesday, August 8. Both will be for one mill, to be collected for four years. Without the millages, said Township Supervisor Bob Brotherton, the township will be hard-pressed to continue providing services that residents have come to expect.

"If the millage doesn't pass, then we are looking at some serious cuts," he said. "We're facing a \$20,000 deficit (for next fiscal year) already."

Trustee Marilyn Strickland said one mill based on the 2005 taxable value will generate \$32,828. The road millage would be used for road repair and dust control.

A meeting to discuss the millage with the public will probably be held in June or July, said Mr. Brotherton.

The township's annual budget meeting will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 24.

The board gave new Fire Chief Don McArthur permission to apply for a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) 50-50 match grant of \$2,000 to purchase eight pairs of Nomax coveralls for the fire department.

Trustee Marilyn Strickland and Mr. McArthur are looking into a shared \$2,500 grant the fire department applied for last year to purchase hose nozzles,

for which the township has yet to receive reimbursement. The township was supposed to receive \$1,250 from the DNR as part of the 50-50 match grant.

The board approved Jason Koerner's application to become a volunteer firefighter for Newton Township.

Chief McArthur was informed by Mackinac County 9-1-1 Coordinator Bryce Tracey that Newton Township needs to appoint a community first responder for emergency medical calls. A person must be available in the area at all times and be prepared to conduct medical procedures, such as resuscitating a person, until medics arrive. Until the position is filled, Chief McArthur asked Mr. Tracey to divert emergency calls from Newton Township to Portage Township, which has first responders on staff.

"Portage will then call us out on fire assistance if they need us," he said.

In a related issue, the board approved a renewal of its ambulance protection agreement with Portage Township for \$6,000 a year.

Township Clerk Alice Zdebski explained that Garfield Township and the Newberry hospital will be available for back-up assistance when needed.

Chief McArthur also noted that Great Lakes Gas Company donated a three-inch pump that can be used to fill the department's water tanker.

Mr. Brotherton said he will obtain information about state requirements of maintaining the state park in Newton Township without leasing or owning it. A few members of the audience agreed the park could use maintenance attention and some picnic tables.

Mr. McArthur suggested starting a volunteer initiative to help clean up the park.

Kurt Doepke, a resident of Newton Township, told the board he will discuss swapping land with Dale Laidlaw to claim property in front of the township-owned baseball field. Mr. Doepke said he would then cooperate with the township in establishing a public easement so people can enter the field without trespassing on private land.

At last month's board meet-

ing, Mr. Laidlaw said he may disallow people to cross his property to get to the ballfield if the township persists on taxing his property as commercial. Mr. Brotherton explained that

there is no zoning in Newton Township and that his land is properly taxed. He said the classification of his land is whatever its present use is.

"His issue is just property

taxes and he is using the entrance to the ballfield as leverage," said Mr. Brotherton.

Mr. Doepke said the land swap agreement is already practically "a done deal."

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Basketball Season Commemorated for Cedarville Trojans



Pastor David Letscher of Bethel Lutheran Church in Cedarville commended the Cedarville varsity basketball team, their coaches, and families, during a Sunday, April 30, recognition luncheon hosted by the church. The Cedarville boys basketball team played in East Lansing this spring, as Michigan Class D semi-finalists at the end of their season. Pastor Letscher told the boys during the luncheon invocation, "Even though you don't have the trophy, rejoice with your competition, in the fact that you were there, and you have gone where no one else has. Go with your heads high. We are proud of you." Varsity basketball coach Dave Duncan presented Pastor Letscher with an autographed basketball with all the names of the 2006 team, and the church later presented the team with a plaque commemorating the season.

Spring Events Announced for Les Cheneaux Schools

Les Cheneaux Elementary School students placed third in a regional reading challenge issued

Fifth Grade Enjoyed Chicago Field Trip

by Wal-Mart stores, so the school will receive a \$200 award.

Librarian Shelly Reid plans to apply the money toward buying a couch and lounge chair for the school's library, to make it more welcoming, Principal Eric Cardwell said at the Monday, May 15, Les Cheneaux Board of Education meeting.

"It has been our goal over the years to make the library atmosphere a little less clinical and more comfortable," he said, explaining that the school has been saving money here and there to buy the furniture.

Other staff assignments include Jill McLeod in first grade, Laurie Pearson and Jill Schaeffer in second, Marci Altmaier in third, Cristi Smith in fourth, Kathy Tassier in fifth, Becky Meyers in the special education resource room, Mary Lindberg for art and physical education, Dawn Blair in Reading Recovery and literature groups, and Diane Cochran for Reading Recovery. The school's music director, Alan Jacobus, will teach music.

The fifth grade returned from its trip to Chicago the first week of May, and Mr. Cardwell relayed a report on the trip by student Patrick Weaver, who said the class "had a lot of neat experiences when we were in Chicago."

Forty-four students and chaperones went on the trip, and for a lot of the students, it was their first time out of Michigan.

"Some kids took pictures of the 'Welcome to Illinois' signs," Mr. Weaver said.

He further reported that the students visited the Shedd Aquarium, where they saw different kinds of fish and a dolphin show. The group also visited Sears Tower, the Art Institute of Chicago, Rainforest Cafe,

and saw a live musical, "Wicked," loosely based on characters in the Wizard of Oz.

The kindergarten graduation ceremony will be Thursday, June 1, at 9 a.m. at the Old Gymnasium at Les Cheneaux Schools in Cedarville. The fifth grade graduation will follow at 10:15 a.m. The Elementary Awards ceremony will be that day at 1 p.m., at the same location. Friends, family members, and the public are invited to the ceremonies.

Les Cheneaux Elementary School field day will be Friday, May 26, and includes outdoor activities, a cook-out, and games for students to celebrate the end of the year.

DDA Continues Its Efforts To Sell Glashaw St. House

*Continued from page 15

The DDA will list a house on Glashaw Street for \$95,000 with a real estate company after trying to sell it by itself for more than a year. The house faces State Street and contains two apartments. Funds from the sale of the property will be used to finance restoration work at the Museum of Ojibway Culture.

The next DDA meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 9, at 8 a.m. on the second floor of City Hall in council chambers.

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