

Mackinac County Master Plan

East: Retaining Young Residents Among Issues

** Continued from page 15*

ing, secondary wood products and carpentry, logging, and fishing, Great Lakes School of Wooden Boat Building, Les Cheneaux Antique Wooden Boat Show and Festival of Arts, people care about care and maintenance of their properties; work hard to keep them up, three local foundations to provide grants: Les Cheneaux Education Foundation, Les Cheneaux Community Foundation, and Pickford Wellspring Foundation, many human and social services available, well kept yards and flowers, churches, home health care, two large Christian camps: Cedar Campus in Cedarville and Northwoods in Pickford, service and volunteer organizations.

Threats, Weaknesses Identified by Clark and Marquette Townships' Residents: Work attitude, poor work ethic, poor business practices, weeds in Cedarville, invasive species, including plants, animals, and aquatic nuisance species, small business closure (threat of closure),

and any business closure, no public transportation, lack of skilled tradesmen (such as tile setters, small mechanics, roofing specialists), state school curriculum requirements reduce the time and opportunity for technical skills training, vocational trades, Skill Center, information not circulated well – need for better communication between county and townships about the programs each offers, needs, need for path between Hessel and Cedarville, signage (too many, cluttered, uncoordinated, many real estate signs due to people selling and moving), blight, lack of economic development plan and the staff to coordinate it, geography of the county segments the county – outlying areas feel separate from the county; Marquette Township residents need to travel to Sault Ste. Marie for farm services, need more access to medical services, ambulance corps (volunteer in Clark and Marquette) have difficulty getting enough volunteers, Regional 9-1-1 (dispatch from Negaunee is an impediment - Chippewa County dispatches its own 9-1-1 service), lack of aesthetics, drive along M-134 (and other roads) not visually pleasing, not enough affordable housing, youth won't stay in the area, want to leave, and too much educational emphasis on computers and technology rather than local trades, lack of participation by public and business-

es (same people always involved and at every meeting), short business season (heavy in summer and light in winter), small population doesn't support a lot of businesses, becoming a retirement community, need to increase the number of four-season homes to encourage summer residents to stay longer (convert one-season to year-around homes), diversify the economy, school funding, lack of good industrial park, young people don't want to stay, lack of affordable child care (adequate child care), need for year-around economy and jobs, need for high-speed Internet access, better wages, salaries to create living income (\$25,000), lack of business and accounting classes at local schools, work laws for employees, not employers, unemployment is too easy to get, rising cost of health insurance making it too high to afford insuring employees, lack of good, enforceable ordinances, building inspector, zoning officer should be full-time to keep up with building permit and zoning ordinance enforcement, penalties for breaking zoning laws should be stiffer, enforcement should be consistent, money could be saved by sharing some services among small units of government, distance from residents to services (health, county, state, federal, etc.), impoverished population.

West: High-speed Internet Service Could Increase Area Business

** Continued from page 15*

Environmental mediation is a county-wide concern reflected in how projects are dealt with near other main roadways, such as US-2, M-117, I-75, and M-123, he added

Regarding the master plan, Mr. Batchelder said the project is "a really good thing. Lots of good issues concerning the county are being covered."

Part of the benefit of having a county-wide master plan, Ms. Walk said, is to look across townships to determine which land areas people

want to preserve, and to help townships preserve them.

Residents in Engadine also discussed the potential for new, small businesses to be operated out of homes in Garfield Township. Given the rural nature of western Mackinac County communities, Ms. Walk said, home businesses are considered a good practice. A significant obstacle, however, is the lack of high speed Internet service.

Garfield Township Clerk Linda Bennett said that efforts by Lighthouse.net to secure funding have failed, and the only prospect in the works for Garfield is a plan by AT&T to provide high speed Internet service in Engadine, which would extend in a three mile radius from the company's facility. This would help Engadine, but it would leave out the majority of the township's residents. Portage Township Clerk Marcia McDonald has expressed similar concern regarding high speed Internet service in and around Curtis.

Ms. Walk emphasized that the county's master plan does not supersede township master plans, nor will it be enforced upon townships who don't want it.

There are three townships in western Mackinac County with no master plans in place, she added, including Hudson, Newton, and Hendricks.

Hendricks Township, in particu-

Softball Game Is Just Like 'Old Times'



The Les Cheneaux Old Timers played in their 29th annual game Sunday, September 3, at Clark Township's ballfields north of Hessel. (Photographs by Lisa Carrington)

29th Annual Les Cheneaux Old Timers Softball Game Entertains 200 Spectators

The annual Les Cheneaux Old Timers Softball game Sunday, September 3, at the Clark Township ballfield north of Hessel attracted approximately 150 spectators and participants.

This is the 29th "Old Timers" game, so named because participants once had to be at least 30 years old to play, said organizer Kelly "Spank" Izzard, who has coordinated the event for about 15 years. Over the years, the age rule has been relaxed, and so has the rivalry between teams from

Cedarville and Hessel. The game has been renamed Les Cheneaux Old Timers to represent the entire area, and ten-person teams of people from both towns are now are selected by drawing names from a hat.

Anywhere from 50 to 100 spectators show up for the casual game and cookout.

"It's more about the camaraderie," Mr. Izzard said. "People plan their vacations around this and have been doing it for years."

All food and equipment is donated, and, Mr. Izzard said, "We had to turn away a few sponsors this year because we had enough to cover the event."

Dan Dutcher of Cedarville has organized the cooking for the past 20 years. He used to play in the game, but said, "I found cooking was a lot less painful than playing."

He and the participants are looking forward to next year's 30th anniversary, and are planning special activities to mark the milestone.



Rick Kessinger provided music at the annual Old Timers game.

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Beelzebub Gives Foxy Lady Run for First

** Continued from page 24*

Ensign Class Region V Regatta at Pentwater, where *Foxy Lady* won three of the four races against 19 other boats. The race is a regional competition among Ensign sailors from around the upper Great Lakes, including Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

The second place crew of *Beelzebub*, which narrowly missed winning the race, included Coryell Island residents Mary Kay Lawless, John Rossiter, Bill Stadt, and skipper Ron Spainhour.

Mr. Dunn and sailor Jonas Carpenter came up with the idea to hold a Labor Day weekend race to extend the racing season for Ensign Fleet 31 members. The Les Cheneaux-based fleet is the largest in the nation and has 20 or more boats.

Boot to Voight Race Results
1. *Foxy Lady*, Frank LaBelle;
2. *Beelzebub*, Ron Spainhour; 3. *Second Wind*, Joel Birkmeier; 4. *Chether*, Andy Bohn; 5.



The sailing crew of *Beelzebub* (from left) Bill Stadt, John Rossiter, skipper Ron Spainhour, and Mary Kay Lawless display the second place pennant they won in the Boot to Voight race.

6. *Waterdog*, Rob Dendel; 7. *Instinct*, Jonas Carpenter; 8. *AWOL*, skipped by Todd Soderlund; 9. *Windstar*, Ralph Duman; 10. *Michipezhu*, Pete Iverson; 11. *Katogi*, Charles E. Letts; 12. *Broad Reach*, Sue and Jason Bowlby; 13. *Grace*, Frank Harding.

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