

# Fine Arts Council To Rescue DeTour Church Hall From Disrepair

By Amy Polk

Monsignor Theodore Bateski was a legend in his time, known for his unusual political career in DeTour Village and his ability to attract state and corporate attention to the tiny town at the eastern end of the Upper Peninsula.

He used his charisma as pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in DeTour from 1904 to 1960 to organize the construction of a fine, Gothic-style church, a rectory, and parish hall for his community.

The hall will now be rescued from disrepair by the Eastern Upper Peninsula Fine Arts Council, which plans to make it into an arts center. About \$150,000 is needed to renovate the hall,

which is Father Bateski's legacy and DeTour's commitment to the arts.

Fr. Bateski spent most of his life in DeTour, serving as pastor for 56 years and DeTour Village president for three years, from 1934 to 1936. He owned the first automobile in DeTour Village and his large cruiser took tourists on sight-seeing and fishing trips. He was made a monsignor in 1954, retired from Sacred Heart in 1960, and died five years later.

Fr. Bateski's first construction project was the new Sacred Heart Church, for which he reportedly collected 250 logs that floated onto the beach near the town. He also led volunteers in making the

bricks needed for the church. He collected donations from sailors moving through the DeTour Passage en route to the upper or lower Great Lakes. The church was finished and dedicated in 1923.

When the time came to build the parish hall 20 years later, Fr. Bateski convinced Ford Motor Company to donate 40,000 feet of white pine to the project. Construction on the hall took place over three years, from 1946 to 1948. The hall construction is described as a community effort, as people of other faiths pitched in to help the Sacred Heart parishioners build the place. The hall was built with an auditorium,

library, kitchen, sound booth, and movie projection room. Movies were shown at the hall for local entertainment, and the place was once the site of teen dances. DeTour High School students revived that tradition this year by hosting their prom there.

What remains today is an example of typical 1940s northern Michigan architecture, with rustic wood paneling on the walls and ceiling inside and a limestone fireplace anchoring the library. Large, six-over-six paned windows let natural light fill the hall. The hall has not only served the church, but the DeTour community, as a reception hall, gathering place, and theater.

In recent years, the Eastern Upper Peninsula Fine Arts Council has used the hall for its annual theatrical productions, including this summer's production of the Broadway musical hit, "The Fantasticks." Once renovations are complete, the Arts Council hopes to continue using the building for a

theater, and to host summer art classes, adult enrichment courses, and possibly revive showing movies there, while continuing to make it available for community use, receptions, and meetings.

The agreement between the Arts Council and Sacred Heart Church would allow the parish to continue using the hall for activities such as bake sales, chicken roasts, and craft sales.

The Fine Arts Council inaugurated its fundraising campaign in September, announcing its plans at the Summers End Concert at DeTour Union Presbyterian Church over Labor Day weekend. Approximately \$750 was collected at the free concert, featuring a live performance about Michigan's history by The Collecting Consort. It was the second annual Summers End Concert, which showcases at least one professional act.

The concert is one of many activities hosted by the Fine Arts

Council to promote arts in the community and showcase the area's many artists. The organization also awards up to four scholarships a year to help local high school graduates further develop their performing arts talents at music and art camps and classes.

The group sponsors the DeTour Community Choir, and has sponsored Artist of the Month displays, an art history program at schools, and has donated thousands of dollars to programs around the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

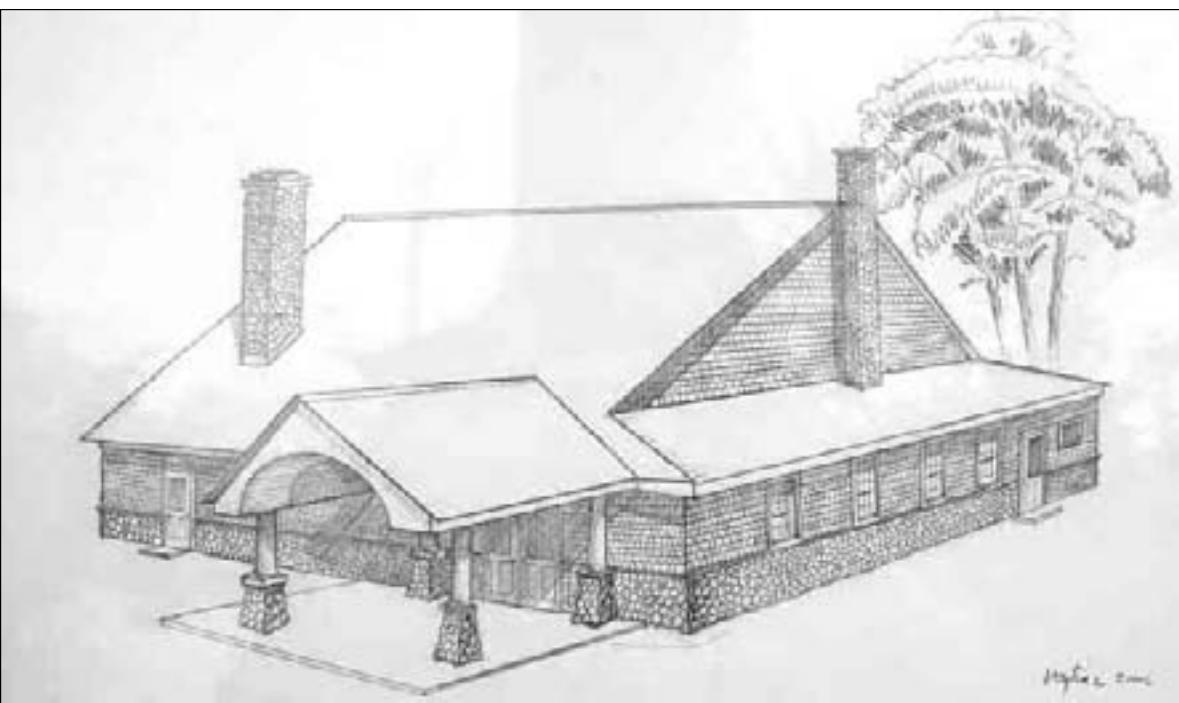
"We have always taken all the money we have raised and given it back through grants," said Fine Arts Council President Sandy Wytiaz.

Her husband, Bob, drew the rendition of the renovated hall. If the council's dreams are realized, the building's structure will remain the same, but it will have stone facing along the bottom, wood shake siding, and a curved canopy over the entrance.

The Fine Arts Council can be contacted by e-mail at info@eupfac.org, or by calling (906) 297-8103. Donations can be mailed to Eastern Upper Peninsula Fine Arts Council, P.O. Box 202, DeTour Village 49725.



The Sacred Heart Parish Hall in DeTour Village needs repairs the parish cannot afford, so the Eastern Upper Peninsula Fine Arts Council has proposed raising the money to renovate the place and make it a fine and performing arts center that the community and church will have access to.



Bob Wytiaz of DeTour drew an artist's rendition of the proposed renovations of Sacred Heart Parish Hall.

## Four Townships, City Plan for New Ambulance

By Paul Gingras

Payment for a new ambulance to serve four area townships and the city of St. Ignace was discussed at Moran Township's meeting Wednesday, October 4. Mark Wilk of Allied EMS Systems Inc. said the new ambulance will replace an outmoded vehicle that is literally "creaking and groaning" with age.

Buying a 2006 chassis will cost approximately \$3,000 less than a 2007 model, he noted.

Moran Township will be responsible for the second largest portion of the \$90,000 ambulance. The City of St. Ignace will be responsible for 47 percent, Moran Township 18 percent, St. Ignace Township 17 percent, Brevort Township 11 percent, Hudson Township 4 percent, and Hendricks Township 3 percent. The charge to each entity is determined by population density, said Moran Township Supervisor Jim Durm.

To help local municipalities buy the vehicle, Mr. Wilk explored loan possibilities from area banks. First National Bank of St. Ignace agreed to provide the money at 4.5 percent interest. Each entity can pay its portion up front or over three years, Mr. Wilk explained.

To avoid paying interest, Moran Township is strongly considering paying its portion outright, Mr. Durm said.

In other business, the board voted to pay the Mackinac County Road Commission \$27,942.67 for past projects. The latest projects, Woods Road and Cedar Lane, are almost ready to be re-paved, Mr. Durm said.

The last three road projects, which generated the bill, cost roughly half what the township expected to pay, he added. The extra money will remain in the road fund and could let the township do an extra road project next year, Mr. Durm told *The St.*

*Ignace News.* A project to extend the water main along Fourth Street has been put on hold, owing to unexpected costs involved with excavation. Darren and Samantha LaVake agreed to pay for excavation and installation of the line, which would provide water to their newly constructed home.

The project was initiated after several attempts to dig a well in the rocky ground were unsuccessful. Since no one knows how much rock needs to be removed, Les Therrian, director of the St. Ignace Department of Public Works, said he cannot provide a cost estimate.

The Moran Township Board had agreed to provide approximately \$5,000 for materials, and the City of St. Ignace had agreed to provide oversight.

Township allegations of blight on property approximately six miles west of St. Ignace on US-2 will be cleaned up by mid-November. An old motor home, a full dumpster, and garbage on the premises has led to a citation, and the owners now have approximately 30 days to clean up the area. The township will assume the responsibility if the owners do not.

The site once housed a general store and a fruit stand.

In other news, Charles Lamoreaux has been appointed to the planning commission. Born and reared in the St. Ignace area, he was graduated from LaSalle High School in 1951 and returned to his original home two years ago, after working as a mechanical engineer in Los Angeles for 50 years. Area residents asked him to seek the position, he said, and he considers it a good way to help his community.

## Girl Scouts Work Toward Master Gardener Status

By Amy Polk

Clark Township residents and visitors may have noticed the splashes of color at the Hessel Marina, Cedarville Waterfront Park, Hessel Airport, and Les Cheneaux Community Schools. Flowers have appeared at these places, and have been growing in new beds for the past three years, owing to the efforts of Les Cheneaux Girl Scouts, Mary Baker, and the Chippewa Correctional Facility.

Starting in 2004, a group of Girl Scouts sought the assistance of Mrs. Baker, a Cedarville resident and Certified Master Gardener. Master Gardener is a program through Michigan State University Extension that teaches participants up-to-date horticulture information and how to use that knowledge as a volunteer in one's own community.

Working over five years, Mrs. Baker used her knowledge to help seven girls earn badges and Junior Master Gardener certificates through educational sessions, hands-on work, and community plantings. The scouts earned a Silver Award, one of the highest honors a Girl Scout can earn. Several went on to pursue Gold Awards by performing additional community service. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout age 14 to age 18 can earn and is on par with an Eagle Scout distinction for boys. Girl Scouts describe the award as "what you really want to be remembered for."

Girl Scouts Katie Eberts, Megan Hill, Alicia and Karen Landreville, Emily Pieri, and Carissa and MacKenzie Sudol all participated in the program, logging more than 30 hours of community service.

"They spent 33 hours on Cedarville Park alone," Mrs. Baker said.

The scouts have also maintained the flower beds in front of Cedarville Foods for the past four to five years.

Their service included weeding and mulching around trees in downtown Cedarville. They weeded and planted flowers and seeds

### What is a Master Gardener?

Master Gardener is a horticulture education and volunteer leadership program offered through Michigan State University Extension service.

Its goals are to provide gardeners with up-to-date horticulture information and knowledge, and to furnish an opportunity for extending that knowledge to others in the community through volunteer activities.

Applicants attend classes in their county or area with others who are interested in gardening or plants. They learn basic horticulture principles and environmentally sound gardening practices. Topics of study include plant and soil science, household pests and wildlife, flower gardening, large and small fruit trees, lawn care, vegetable gardening, house plants, woody ornamentals, plant health care, and entomology.

Participants typically complete about 10 classes, and log 40 hours of community service to receive a certificate.

Master Gardeners can renew their certificates by completing a minimum of 15 hours of volunteer service each year and five additional hours of horticulture training each year.

Information about the Master Gardener Program can be obtained by calling any Michigan State University Extension office. The Mackinac County Extension office can be reached at (906) 643-7307 and the Chippewa County office number is (906) 635-6368.

around the Les Cheneaux Community Schools sign at the corner of Beach Street and M-134 in Cedarville, and added improved soil to the bed. They planted flats of flowers at Clark Township's Hessel Marina for the past three years. The flowers have been provided each year by the Chippewa Correctional Facility in Kinross, where prisoners grow flowers and vegetables in the prison greenhouse. Flats of flowers are donated annually through an arrangement between Clark Township and the correctional facility.

Others pitched in to make the scouts' project a better experience. Steve Hicks of the Green Thumb Garden Center in Cedarville donated seeds and bags of soil. Local residents opened their yards and gardens to the girls, who toured the gardens to learn and receive tips and instruction.

"They were fun to work with, and what was really fun for us was that we got to go on all these field trips," Mrs. Baker said.

The girls took a trip to the Clark Township Wastewater Treatment Facility in Cedarville to learn about how wastewater is processed as part of the water quality component of the project. They also learned basic pest control, soil drainage, how to use certain garden tools, garden maintenance, the importance of aeration, how to compost, recycle, and the benefits of gardening with native plants. The project had three general areas of learning, including plant life, "eco-action," and wildlife. Eco-Action covers sustainable activities that do less damage to the environment and incorporate recycling and composting.

The scouts also learned about possible careers in wildlife, natural resources, gardening, science, and plant management.

All the girls are nearing graduation from Cedarville High School, but their work and their flowers will beautify the Cedarville and Hessel communities for years to come.

## Mackinac Bridge Road Closures Announced Through October 27

Temporary road closures lasting up to 30 minutes on both the northbound and southbound lanes of the Mackinac Bridge began Monday, October 9, and will continue through 6 a.m. Friday, October 27.

The Mackinac Bridge Authority reports the I-75 closures are due to repair work on the pier near the north end of the bridge.

Intermittent lane closures also will occur through October 27.

## Flu Clinics Offered at Hospital

Mackinac Straits Hospital will host three influenza clinics in St. Ignace and in Naubinway.

The first two clinics will be at the hospital's primary care office Monday, October 23, and Monday, October 30. The clinics will be open from 8 a.m. to noon, and

from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. both days. Inoculations should be scheduled by calling 643-0400.

In Naubinway, inoculations will be at the Naubinway clinic Tuesday, October 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and can be scheduled by calling (906) 477-9008.



Les Cheneaux Girl Scouts (from left) Carissa Sudol, her mother, Linda Sudol, Katie Eberts, Megan Hill, master gardener and volunteer Mary Baker, Karen Landreville, MacKenzie Sudol, and Alicia Landreville hold flats of flowers they planted at the Hessel Marina. The flowers were grown and donated by prisoners at the Chippewa Correctional Facility in Kinross.