

Work on Brevort Lake Road Raises Concerns for Board

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for drivers at the "dangerous intersection," said Mr. Luepnitz, who lives across the street from the property. Ditch work, he said, will be done on the same side of the road to help protect the road edges and improve drainage.

"I asked Craig [Kelso, road commission manager] to get it done," said Mr. Luepnitz. "I also asked that they improve ditching to drain toward Brevort Lake Road."

Mr. Kelso, who reports to the road board, said he is following directions given to him. The work was not done in the past, he said, because the board did not consider it a priority, based on funds available for maintenance projects.

"We always wanted to do it, but it was not considered a priority for funds," he said. "Now, Mr. Luepnitz has made it a priority."

Mr. Luepnitz characterized the work as routine.

"It is no different than doing yard work around the county garages or gravel pit areas," he said, "and it's a place for employees to learn to use different equipment."

Other areas of the county also are under consideration for clear vision work, said Mr. Luepnitz, including Nye and Three Mile roads in Clark Township. The Brevort work was mentioned at a commission meeting by Mr. Luepnitz, although it was not acted on by the board.

"I think it is inappropriate for commissioners to be mandating pet projects," said Commissioner Lester Livermore, who did not know about the work until contacted Friday by *The St. Ignace News*. "On items of significant expense, the board should be acting as a body, and not as individuals."

The third road commissioner, Paul Amacher, said he was unaware of the work on the 20 acres, although he did know some clear vision work was being done in the area.

The work also is being done to help preserve the road surface, said Mr. Luepnitz. Brush cutting will help the chip seal hold up better by providing more sunlight to dry the road surface. Brush cutting is clearing the tree and brush growth in the road right-of-way, which is 33 feet from the center line.

"There is already one failure on that road," he said, referring to damage caused by retained moisture.

Last month, commissioners approved the purchase of a \$20,000 wood chipper to assist with clearing work, although Mr. Livermore voted against the purchase. He said the equipment was too labor intensive and that cleared trees and brush could be left on the ground. Mr. Luepnitz wanted brushing work to continue and the wood chips blown into the woods.

At a Road Commission meeting April 17, Mr. Kelso said he was concerned about the road budget and that maintenance funds are dwindling. Approximately \$150,000 is left in the fund for summer maintenance work, he told *The St. Ignace News* Friday, April 27, and the funds will be expected to carry the department through the fall, depending upon the weather.

The \$150,000, he estimates, will cover the cost of one person and a truck from each Road Commission garage in Cedarville and Engadine.

The work at Brevort Lake Road, he estimates, will take \$10,000 to \$15,000 of that. The commission receives approximately \$2.1 million in gas tax revenue each year. With decreasing state revenues because fewer people are traveling as gas prices continue to rise, and with a weak economy in Michigan, Mr. Kelso said, he doesn't expect gas tax revenue to rise.

"My feeling is that some day soon," said Mr. Kelso, "I'm going to tell them we're out of money."

Divers To Search Straits This Week

Michigan State Police divers were to attempt to find the body of a 57-year-old Sault Ste. Marie man at the Straits of Mackinac Tuesday, May 1, and Wednesday, May 2. The man is thought to have committed suicide by jumping off the Mackinac Bridge in February.

The St. Ignace-based U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Biscayne Bay* assisted police in searching for the man February 5, but the search

Auxiliary Offers Geranium Sale

Mackinac Straits Hospital Auxiliary will offer its annual geranium sale Friday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the St. Ignace Greenhouse on Bertrand Street.

Flowers may be purchased at the sale or advance orders may be made with any auxiliary member by Tuesday, May 8.

The price is \$3.50 per plant. Proceeds of the sale will benefit programs of the hospital auxiliary.

was unsuccessful owing to ice conditions. Evidence such as clothing was collected from the water that day, however, which leads police to believe the man did jump. His car was found abandoned on the bridge.

State Trooper Craig Dorenbecker of St. Ignace, a local dive master, will be part of the search operation.

"We know the chances of finding him are slim, but we are doing so with respect to his family," he said.



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Ironworkers Memorial To Be Dedicated in St. Ignace July 28

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process, the worker only stands a few inches high. Mrs. Trimpe began the project by sculpting a miniature clay model of what the actual piece will look like. Using photographs given to her by the ironworkers, she created the tiny version, and then transposed the likeness onto a core supported by a welded steel frame.

She models more than 600 pounds of clay onto a foam core to

shape the ironworker. Over a period of eight weeks, Mrs. Trimpe works with the clay, creating precise details.

"It's a very time-intense project," she said. "It's 30 years of experience and eight weeks of work."

When the sculpting work is finished, the preparation for bronzing begins. The clay sculpture first is covered with a rubber compound and that is covered with plaster. Once hardened, the plaster molds

are removed section by section. The sections are numbered and a diagram is prepared for the foundry, where it will be converted into a bronze statue. From plaster, the pieces are formed in wax, which is dipped in a substance that can tolerate the molten bronze. When the bronze cast is complete, the pieces are welded together and seams are smoothed.

Eventually, steel rods will secure the sculpture to the base.

In the end, the original clay sculpture is destroyed, because, eventually, it dries, cracks, and deteriorates. She is used to that, but the ironworker was different.

"This time," she said, "I cried."

Mrs. Trimpe was recommended by the Fine Arts Sculpture Centre, Inc. of Clarkston, a bronze foundry. The piece was commissioned through a collaborative effort between Patrick Gleason of the Michigan State Building and Construction Trades Council and by

Weatherization Funds Available

Funding is available to increase the energy efficiency of homes through the Community Action Agency. The weatherization program is open to those who meet low income guidelines, particularly the elderly, disabled people, and families with children.

Eligibility requirements can be discussed on a case-by-case basis by calling Scott Nason at (906) 632-3363 or Don Wright at (906) 643-8595.

MCSORVA To Meet

Mackinac County Sportsmen's Off Road Vehicle Association will meet Thursday, May 3, and the first Thursday of every month, at the St. Ignace Public Library at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

Groups Map Out Museum Plans

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stop what we're doing," said Ms. Engle. "We want to be able to do interpretations and presentations freely."

Mr. Pfeiffelmann said the historical society would agree to lease the building and pay for all utilities. It would also pay for minor repairs up to \$500 and hire and supervise staff for the museum and the store.

The structural condition of the museum building is of concern to the city. City Fire Chief John "Bucky" Robinson and building inspector Paul Sved, who inspected the building just before the meeting, said there are repairs that should be done before the museum doors open for business, which is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend.

Both men said more exit lights need to be installed, rewiring should be done, and a sprinkler sys-

tem should be added. The building is more than 70 years old.

More than 2,000 artifacts inside the building, however, are what is most important, said Mr. Brown, who believes the artifacts, themselves, will draw people to the St. Ignace area.

"There is money to be had," he said. "What motivates this thing is that the tribe wants to preserve what promotes them and the city. It will be a great benefit to the community as well as the tribe and their business."

Mr. Brown added that it is conceivable to believe that the state could provide funding for upgrades to the museum in the future, owing to St. Ignace's significance to Michigan history.

Mr. Dodson said he hopes to hold another committee meeting with the Historical Society before the public hearing, but has yet to schedule one.

Man's Drowning Ruled Accidental

Randel Malaska, 50, of Rudyard, died accidentally, police have ruled, while fishing alone in St. Martin Bay Saturday, April 14. He died from drowning and hypothermia.

Mr. Malaska's wife called

police after he did not return from fishing that day. He was found in two feet of water 30 yards from his submerged canoe.

Mr. Malaska's obituary was printed in *The St. Ignace News* April 19.

Construction Begins on I-75 Near St. Ignace

Road construction on I-75 and St. Ignace business loop commenced Monday, April 30, and Tuesday, May 1.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is milling and resurfacing nine miles of road on the southbound side of I-75 between the Mackinac County line and M-134. The project includes crack repairs, guardrail upgrades, and drainage improvements along both northbound and southbound I-75.

It is a continuation of a 2006 project that extended from Sault

Ste. Marie and is expected to be finished by the end of October.

The work will dictate lane closures.

MDOT is also milling and resurfacing about a mile of road on I-75 business loop in St. Ignace, from Marquette Street to Antoine Street. The project, which started May 1 and is expected to be completed by June 7, includes adjustments to drainage structures and water service covers as well as permanent pavement marking.

Lanes will be intermittently closed.



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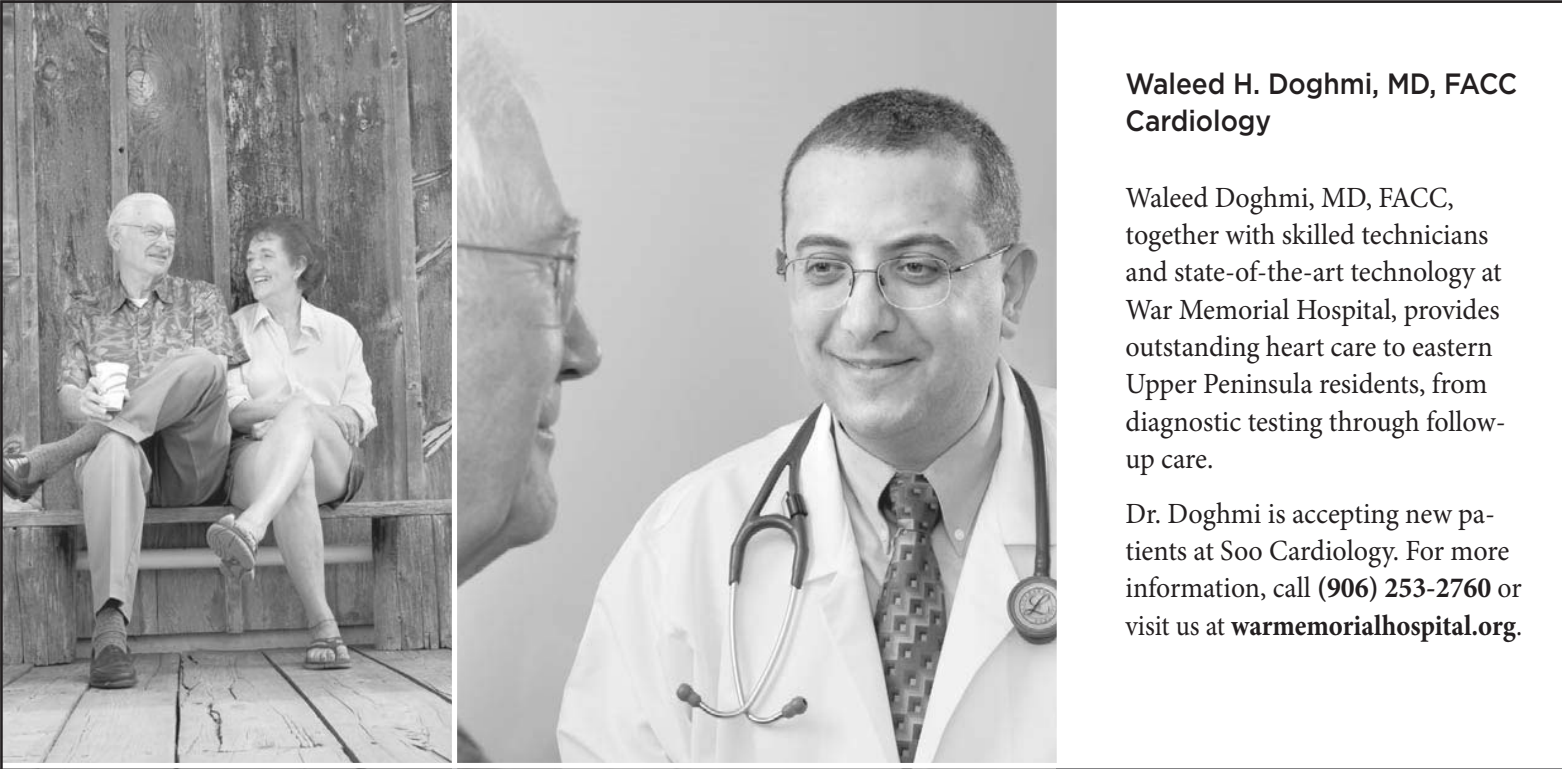
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