

Road Commission: Dwindling Maintenance Funding Leads To Declined Project Requests

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contract with its former engineer/manager. Mr. Vail has been filling in since then. The engineer/manager position was posted in the County Road Commission Association of Michigan newsletter, Mr. Vail said, and Mr. Kelso was the only applicant for the engineer/manager's job.

Mr. Kelso said Schoolcraft County Road Commission approached him and offered him the position, and that he has "been talking with them for awhile."

"It sounded like a challenge. It sounded like a fun thing to do," Mr. Kelso told *The St. Ignace News*.

Mr. Kelso has been the Mackinac County Road Commission engineer/manager for eight years. He said he enjoyed working for the Mackinac County Road Commission, and that it has "just an outstanding crew and staff."

"They've been great people to work with, and it's been an awesome experience to work here," he said of Mackinac County.

The Mackinac County Road Commission unanimously accepted Mr. Kelso's resignation, "with regret" at the July 10 meeting.

Mackinac County Road Commission Chair Frank Luepnitz seemed surprised by Mr. Kelso's resignation, and said he didn't

know until he was handed the letter at the July 10 meeting. He asked if Mr. Kelso's contract binds him to Mackinac County through 2008. Commissioners Lester Livermore and Paul Amacher speculated there are probably provisions in the contract that allow him out, and the commission elected to hire an attorney to examine the contract.

Commissioners scheduled a special meeting Tuesday, July 31, at 1:30 p.m. to determine how it will fill the vacancy. Questions raised by commissioners include whether the commission should have an engineer/manager, whether it will advertise the position, how much salary to offer, and other aspects of the position.

In other news, road commissioners cited dwindling maintenance funding as the reason for declining project requests, including leasing another grader for East District road maintenance. The lease would cost the road commission \$2,500 to \$5,000 a month. The road commission has about \$556,000 left in the maintenance fund for the rest of the year, including the winter plowing season. That total amount is budgeted for the various needs of the county's roads. Commissioner Paul Amacher noted, for instance, there is only \$116 in the culvert and drain fund, while addressing Joan Theut's request for drainage cul-

vert improvements near her driveway in St. Ignace Township.

"So am I just in limbo?" Ms. Theut asked. "Is there no answer?"

Commissioners said there is simply not enough money available for that, and other special maintenance requests like one raised by Mr. Luepnitz to clear leaning trees from a road. When questioned by people in the audience, commissioners said they did not know when more money would become available. When asked whether poor planning attributed to the lack of funds, commissioners said it was "poor funding." Road maintenance funds come from gasoline taxes and vehicle licensing and registrations.

Ms. Theut suggested Mackinac County levy a county-wide millage for road maintenance the way Chippewa County does, since Chippewa County seems to be doing road maintenance "all the time." Road Commission Clerk Theresa McPherson said Mackinac County tried that once, but failed to get voter support for the millage.

Commissioners told the Les Cheneaux Antique Wooden Boat Show Committee it cannot name specific individuals, businesses, or organizations to be excluded from a road closure of county roads during the boat show

Saturday, August 11.

As it has in previous years, the boat show committee requested Mackinac County Road Commission permission to close roads around the downtown Hessel area the day of the show to any vehicular traffic except emergency vehicles. The committee wants to only allow pedestrian traffic there. Closing the road to specific people or vehicles is not necessary, commissioners said.

"If you close the road to traffic, it's closed to everyone. It's only open to those you deem necessary to the operation of the boat show," Commissioner Livermore said before moving to approve the closure permit without citing specific businesses or people.

Commissioners referred the boat show committee to the

Mackinac County Sheriff's Department for enforcement questions.

St. Ignace Township Supervisor Dale Nelson requested a total cost estimate for black-topping Belonga Road, and said he obtained a quote for road work that is approximately \$60,000 less than what the road commission estimated. He complained the road commission's estimate does not "even come close" to the bid he received, and he asked whether anyone would accept an estimate, like the Road Commission's, that says the work will cost "plus or minus 10%" of the estimated cost.

"We don't have a lot of money in our townships, and I'm looking out for the taxpayers," Mr. Nelson said.

Commissioner Amacher said the road commission will have to seek other bids on the project, and commissioners subsequently elected to solicit bids.

Hudson Township Supervisor Al Garavaglia said he also obtained a bid for road work that was approximately \$7,300 less than a Mackinac County Road Commission estimate. Commissioner Livermore defended the practice of providing estimates with room for 10% more or less than the estimated price, saying "Craig [Kelso] is just hedging your bets" in the event a project costs more than the estimate. It allows townships to ensure they have enough money for a project if the cost runs over the estimated amount.

Les Cheneaux Boat Show Begins August 10

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Christopher Columbus Smith. He named the boat *Chief Waramaug* after a highly regarded American Indian chief in Connecticut and in recognition of memories of the chief's hunting and fishing lands. The Mead family used the boat through the start of World War II. After the war, the boat was rarely used, and remained in Connecticut until 1979, when it came to the Les Cheneaux Islands.

Boat show activities will start

Friday night, August 10, with the boat show participants' cocktail at the Les Cheneaux Maritime Museum in Cedarville hosted by the Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce. At the same time, the Cedarville Trojans Athletics Booster Club will stage a fish sandwich supper and silent auction in downtown Hessel. The event will raise money for school athletics.

Activities at the Saturday show will include performances by the Sault Swing Band, two Arnold Transit Company channel cruises

at noon and 2:30 p.m., the Festival of Arts, concessions, and Dockside Traders. The Michigan Steerman's Group, which presented a biplane show last year, are planning another fly-over, boat show coordinators said.

A Sunday brunch for boat show registrants and guests will be offered at the Les Cheneaux Yacht Club on Marquette Island at 10:30 a.m.

Registration and information is available at Les Cheneaux Historical Museum in Cedarville, by calling (906) 484-2821.

Drawing More EUP Visitors Is Goal of Casino, Motel Effort

Kewadin Casino is again partnering with hotel and motel owners in the St. Ignace, Mackinaw City, Mackinac Island, Manistiquie, Hessel, and Christmas areas to offer a casino token package to guests staying in local hotel and motel properties. This partnership

program is geared toward drawing more visitors to the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

"As a community, we all need to work together to bring visitors to our area," said Tony Goetz, Kewadin Casino chief operating officer. "We see this now more than

ever with the state of our economy, gas prices, and the effect this has on tourism in our area."

The promotion gives qualified area hotel and motel guests a free roll of Kewadin Casino tokens, with the opportunity to earn an additional roll of tokens.

Tribal officials are meeting with business owners throughout the area to discuss and register hotel and motel owners in the program.

A similar program was previously offered by the casino, but discontinued.

Community Calendar

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Rudyard High School Public Library.

Brimley
•Tuesday, July 24: **Blood Drive**, 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Faith Lutheran Church.

Sault Ste. Marie
•Wednesday, July 18: **Blood Drive**, noon to 5:45 p.m., Faith Lutheran Church.
•Thursday, July 19: **Author presentation with Loren Graham**,

7 p.m., Bayliss Public Library.

Mackinaw City
•Saturday, July 14: **Music in Mackinaw**, 8 p.m., Conkling Heritage Park, featuring Conga Se Menne. Free of charge.

Cheboygan
•Tuesdays through August 7: **Grief and the Healing Process: Understanding Your Loss**, for more information, or to register, call (231) 627-4774.

Lake Huron Program Planned Aug. 10

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down the river every day. According to the study, the loss is contributing to lower water levels that deviate from the lakes' natural cycle.

If the lakes continue to lose water, the Georgian Bay Association believes water levels

will remain low and impact crucial wetlands and marshes, as well as commerce around the Great Lakes. Algal blooms owing to increased sunlight penetration of shallow waters, limited fish spawning area, and compromised shipping are some of the consequences of low water levels.

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NEW LISTINGS!

320 McCann St. - Recently renovated 2 plus bedroom ranch home located 2 blocks from downtown across from football field. This bright and airy 1200 sq. ft. home is a delight to be in. Features a lg. private deck, gardens, swing set, 40 x 30 garage. **Reduced to \$145,000 #251600**

N4408 Old School House Rd. - Brevort-former school house has been renovated to a home. A block to the main snowmobile systems, Lake Michigan and the village. **\$79,900 #251835**

353 Smith Rd. - This spectacular 3500 sq. ft. home features plenty of windows to view Lake Michigan. Perched on a bluff just 5 mi. from town, it has 4 bedrooms, a finished bsmt., 2 fireplaces, 2 car garage and abuts Federal Forest. **#246093 This is a great find at \$299,900**

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Mackinac Real Estate

#337-07-0005 - GARNET - Great starter home or use as a weekend get-away with new bathroom & roof. Fireplace. Sitting on 10 acres with State Land adjacent to property. Close to hunting, fishing, snowmobiling & ORV trails. Check this one before it is gone. **\$79,000**

#337-07-0006 - ENGADINE - 3 bdr, 2 bath chalet located at the end of a dead-end road on the Millecoquin River on the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club. First floor living. Panoramic view from the Living & Dining area. Finished walk-out basement with rec room, hobby & work shop. Motivated Seller! Prior approval. **\$185,000**

#337-07-0018 - NAUBINWAY - NEW LISTING - 100' x 150' lot on Lake Michigan on the East Beach Road on the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club. Driveway & septic in. Building site established. Prior approval. **\$110,000**

#337-07-0017 - NAUBINWAY - NEW LISTING - Nice 50' x 150' lot on the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club on the West River Road to build your cabin. Walk out the door and hunt the 36,000 acres. Prior approval. **\$29,900**

#337-07-0016 - NAUBINWAY - 2nd tier lot on the Middle Beach Road with view and access of Lake Michigan. Year round maintained road. Prior approval required. **\$15,000**

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ST IGNACE - Built in the 60's w/remodeled interior & offering an income opportunity. Upper unit has 3 BR, 2 baths & the lower unit has 2 BR, 1 bath. **(07-576) \$179,900**

ST IGNACE - 3 BR manufactured home w/attached 2 car garage. Secluded yet close to downtown. Fenced yard & 28x24 garage/workshop w/wood stove. **(07-591) \$139,900**

ST IGNACE - 2 story, 2120 sq ft home w/5BR, 2 bath & large enclosed front porch on a 46'x140' lot on Lake Huron. **(05-855) Reduced! \$129,000**

MORAN - 2 BR, 1 bath cottage on Brevort Lake w/beauty & privacy. On a leased lot in the US Forrest Serv. Recreational Residence tract. **(07-579) \$134,000**

HESEL - 3 BR w/3 car garage workshop on commercial lot. Renovation in progress. New electric, plumbing & bathroom ready to finish. **(06-1183) Reduced! \$64,500**

CEDARVILLE - 4 BR overlooks Cedarville Bay. Water view down Islington Channel. Walk to library, post office, grocery. Shared driveway & shared well. **(07-578) \$62,000**

CEDARVILLE - 3 BR on Hill Island in the Les Cheneaux Islands. Current water levels hamper boating but the tranquility, wildlife & view are awesome. **(06-1309) \$177,900**

CEDARVILLE - 1 BR w/garage on M-129. 'Handy man' chance to finish a complete renovation. Functional bathroom & 28x28 newly built garage. **(06-1181) \$58,500**

CEDARVILLE - Lakefront winterized cottage. Sandy beach, volleyball court, crib dock, boat launch, trailer/guest parking as part of small association. **(06-1262) \$147,000**

DETOUR - 3 BR, 2 bath mobile home w/white picket fence, 24 x 24 detached garage w/woodstove, beautifully landscaped, peaceful setting in the pines. **(07-42) \$44,500**

HESEL - Beautifully designed home on 2 acres w/covered porch, sun room, ceiling fans. Large garage w/insulated workshop. **(06-1296) Reduced! \$130,000**

CEDARVILLE - Small seasonal cottage located on 100' of waterfrontage. Cottage has to be relocated. **(07-557) \$100,000**

VACANT LAND

MORAN - (2) building lots are the perfect place to build. Parcels are close to Brevort Lake, snowmobile trails & Hiawatha National Forest. **(07-245 & 07-246) \$15,000 each**

CEDARVILLE - 10.22 acres w/559' frontage on Melcher Bay, Lake Huron. Southern exposure, private location, yet minutes from town. **(06-662) Reduced! \$575,000**

COMMERCIAL

ST IGNACE - Former LaSalle High School. 3 studio rooms, reception area, daycare room, full kitchen, bathrooms, storage area. **(06-373) \$135,000**

CEDARVILLE - Commercial building w/3 areas including 2 retail/business sections & an apartment, allowing for different businesses & rental income. **(06-1086) \$250,000**

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