

# Mackinaw City Infrastructure Projects Underway

By Paul Gingras

The South Huron Street sewer project in Mackinaw City, estimated to cost more than \$300,000, went out for bids following approval by the Village Council at its Thursday, July 19, meeting. Very little of the village will be shut down by the project, which will take place after Labor Day. The sewer passes under the sidewalk at the entrance to Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry, but at no point will the business be blocked completely, said Village Manager Jeff Lawson.

Council approved two special events. The first is the 18th Annual Corvette Crossroads Auto Show, scheduled for Friday, August 24, Saturday, August 25, and possibly a portion of Sunday, August 26. The second is the Labor Day swim. Swimmers will arrive in Mackinaw City after crossing the Straits of Mackinac from St. Ignace. The event is organized by Governor Jennifer Granholm's Council on Physical Fitness, and swimmers will be selected by the council, Mr. Lawson said. Village approval is a formality for the local government, which must approve all special events on village property, he explained.

Council member Lana Jaggi will replace former Community Development Director Steve Schnell as the village liaison to the Mackinaw Area Visitors Bureau following Mr. Schnell's resignation in June. Having a village representative at Visitors Bureau meetings will foster communication between the organizations.

Advertisement for the community development director position, now renamed the planning/zoning administrator,

has yielded several responses, and Council will review the applications in August, Mr. Lawson said.

Mr. Lawson has been reviewing the activities of the village Economic Development Corporation (EDC), on which Mr. Schnell also served. His goal is to ensure that EDC committees are "on task," he said. The main goals of the EDC are to keep the village's tourist economy vibrant and to diversify its economy. From the EDC have come projects such as the village's affordable housing project, its wind turbines, and renewable energy conferences.

The EDC is approximately 1.5 years old and was developed in response to a state-sponsored study that identified the municipality's key needs.

The village is close to implementing a free recycling project for area residents, promoted by Emmet County. Council is expected to vote on village participation in the project this month.

The project is expected to include drop-off containers behind Mackinaw City Public Schools, where residents will be able to dispose of glass, cardboard, office paper, tin, and plastic. The village has not had a recycling program since the mid-1980s, and area surveys indicate that residents have been in favor of a recycling program for years, Mr. Lawson said.

Following two years of work, the final drafts of firefighting contracts between the village and Wawatam and Mackinaw townships are nearly complete. They will spell out the precise monetary commitments of the townships to the village, which provides both municipalities with fire protection. Mr. Lawson said he will submit final information to the town-

ship boards shortly.

The payment formula will be based on total land value, population, and the number of estimated runs each year for each municipality. The contracts draw on information from the village's most recent audit, Mr. Lawson explained.

The agreements are expected to be signed this fall and be implemented in March 2008. They call for the formation of an advisory board, which will oversee implementation of the contracts and assess costs for each unit.

There has been no fire service contract update since the 1980s, Mr. Lawson said. Each township

has been paying approximately \$15,000 per year for fire protection, but until now, the village has not determined its cost to provide the services.

A person in a bear costume soliciting business for a local store generated a complaint, to which the village responded by informing the property owners that such activity breaks a long-standing hawking and peddling ordinance which forbids businesses from attracting customers with outside demonstrations, Mr. Lawson said.

"Too much of that would not be a favorable way to do business, so it is restricted," he said.

## Diocese To Celebrate 150 Years

Catholics from throughout the Upper Peninsula, and 10 bishops, are expected to participate in the Diocese of Marquette's Sesquicentennial Celebration Sunday, August 5, at the Superior Dome in Marquette. People of all faiths are invited to come and celebrate.

The 150th anniversary event will

begin with the celebration of the Mass at 3:30 p.m. Bishop Alexander K. Sample will be the main celebrant and homilist. The major concelebrant will be Bishop James Garland, who retired as bishop of the diocese in 2005. Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, will preside.

## Encampment Planned at Fort

Mackinac State Historic Parks (MSHP) will host a Compagnie Franche de la Marine du Michilimackinac, or Michilimackinac Marines, encampment at Colonial Michilimackinac in Mackinaw City from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, August 4, and Sunday, August 5. Reenactors from throughout Michigan and the Midwest will join the 18th-century British troops already stationed at the reconstructed fort, a National Historic Landmark. Reenactors will portray both

French and British colonialists from the French and Indian War period.

Reenactors will supplement daily events with demonstrations including military marching and drilling techniques as well as period clothing presentations and equipment demonstrations.

All events are included with admission to Colonial Michilimackinac, which costs \$10 for adults and \$6 for youth. Children age 5 and younger are admitted free.

## Mackinaw City's Historical Village Will Host Open House

The Historic Village of Mackinaw City will host its second annual Historical Village Open House Saturday, August 4, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Located two miles west of Mackinaw City on Central Avenue, the site displays what the village of Mackinaw City looked like between 1880 to 1917. At 11 a.m. the newly restored one-room schoolhouse will be opened. Four former students have been invited to kick off this event by pulling the rope to ring the big school bell in the tower.

The public is welcome to take part in a pig roast from noon to 2

p.m. Hot dogs will be available. After lunch, there will be a vintage baseball game in the pasture.

The restored Pest House (infirmary) will also be open for tours and educational programs throughout the day.

There will be old-fashioned games, including bean bag toss and sack races. A display of quilts made by many local quilters will be hung on the lines to blow in the breeze, and books and note cards will be sold in a small vendor area.

Admission to the Historic Village is \$3 per person or \$10 per carload, with a charge of \$7 per person for the pig roast.

## Salmon Derby Ends Sat. at DeTour



The DeTour Area Chamber of Commerce Salmon Derby, going on now through August 4, receives a \$1,000 check from CenturyTel representatives. Pictured (from left) are Brian McAdams and Gary Dudeck of the chamber, and Brent La Joie and Leroy Atwater of CenturyTel. The derby, which is in its 21st year, features a top award of \$1,500 for the largest salmon caught. For more information or to register, contact North Country Sports in DeTour.

## Blacksmiths To Gather on Island

It will be a hot time on Mackinac Island Saturday, August 4, as Mackinac State Historic Parks host the 23rd annual Benjamin Blacksmith Convention. More than a dozen blacksmiths from across Michigan will converge to practice their craft with forge and anvil.

From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., spectators may observe and talk to the blacksmiths at the Benjamin Blacksmith Shop on Market Street. The blacksmiths will work on fence and railing projects and demonstrate the art of forming red-hot iron into hinges, hooks, han-

dles, and other items that were essential to life on the Great Lakes frontier.

Robert Benjamin and a partner bought the Star Blacksmith Shop on Mackinac Island in 1885, and the shop remained in the Benjamin family and in operation until about 1965. The Benjamin family donated the shop to Mackinac State Historic Parks in 1968. It is now operated as part of the parks' Historic Downtown attraction, with blacksmithing demonstrated in the shop seven days a week from early June to late August.

## Blood Drive Schedule Announced

The American Red Cross will hold blood drives in August in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

The Cheboygan Lions Club is sponsoring a blood drive Tuesday, August 7, from noon to 5:45 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Cheboygan. Wednesday, August 15, a blood drive sponsored by Arnold Transit Company will be held from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. at

the Mackinac Island Community Hall. Tuesday, August 28, there will be a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Cheboygan, and from noon to 5:45 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in St. Ignace. In Sault Ste. Marie, there will be a blood drive Thursday, August 30, from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the First Church of Christ.

## Coin, Stamp Show Set for Weekend

The Northwestern Michigan Coin and Stamp Club, a nonprofit organization, will host a Coin, Stamp, and Postcard Show Sunday, August 5, at Victories Hotel in Petoskey. The show is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and an auc-

tion begins at 4 p.m. The United States Postal Service will be on site to present information. Door prizes will be given away, along with free stamps or coins to kids. This event is free and open to the public.

## Antiques To Be Focus of Show Tuesday

The Mackinaw City Woman's Club will hold its 38th Annual Antique show and sale Tuesday, August 7. The show will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Mackinaw Area High School on

West Central Avenue, five blocks west of the I-75 Mackinac Bridge underpass. Club members will serve luncheon, desserts, and beverages all day. Admission is \$2. Children under 10 are admitted free.

## 5th Michigan Regiment Band Will Play

Music in Mackinaw will feature 5th Michigan Regiment Band Saturday, August 4, at 8 p.m. at Conkling Heritage Park on South Huron Avenue in Mackinaw City.

5th Michigan Regiment Band is a historical re-creation of a Civil War Regiment "Field" Band. The weekly summer outdoor concert series is free of charge.

## News From Mackinac Island

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wonderful gathering, and great to see Aunt Lou back on Mackinac.

Cathy Andress, a local gardener, did an excellent design of the flower beds in the McGreevy garden on Market Street.

There has been much enthusiasm on Mackinac for the newest Harry Potter book, which was

released July 21. Young Joe Rogers came to the Windermere to visit his aunt, Deb Carley. He was clutching the Harry Potter book in his hand and had already read half of the book with great excitement.

Happy birthday to Cal Rogers of St. Ignace Wednesday, August 1, and to his grandson, Josh Carley, Thursday, August 2. We hope you both enjoy your day.

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