

Voters Renew 1 Mill in Portage Twp.; Favor McCain, Clinton in Primary

Voters in Portage Township approved a renewal of one mill for fire and ambulance equipment in the January 15 election. The two-year millage will be collected in 2009 and 2010, and was favored by 151 voters, while 49 cast ballots against it. The millage is estimated to generate \$68,000 for the first year.

In the Michigan presidential primary election the same day, 1,402 Mackinac County residents voted Republican, and 583 voted Democrat. Voter turnout was at 21% across the county.

On the Republican ticket, John McCain was the top vote getter in Mackinac County, at 541, followed by Mitt Romney with 466 votes, and Mike Huckabee at 226. Fred Thompson took 50 votes, Ron Paul 46, Rudy Giuliani 40, and Sam Brownback and Duncan Hunter 2 each. Twenty-nine people submitted uncommitted votes.

Across the state, Mr. Romney was the top Republican vote getter in the primary, at 40% of the vote, followed by Mr. McCain at 30%. Mr. Romney is a native of Michigan, and his father was three-term Michigan governor George Romney.

On the Democratic ticket, 354 Mackinac County voters chose Hillary Clinton. Uncommitted votes totalled 201. Dennis Kucinich took 17 votes, Chris Dodd (who had dropped out of the presidential race earlier, although his name still appeared on the ballot) took 7, and Mike Gravel took 4.

Across the state, Senator Clinton was also the top Democratic vote getter, at 55% of

Presidential Primary Election January 15, 2008 Unofficial Results	City Mackinac Island	City St. Ignace	Bois Blanc Twp	Brevort Twp	Clark Twp	Garfield Twp	Hendricks Twp	Hudson Twp	Marquette Twp	Moran Twp	Newton Twp	Portage Twp	St. Ignace Twp	Mackinac County	State
Registered Voters	645	2068	114	570	1736	965	116	170	416	910	341	759	628	9438	7,141,914
Number Voting	155	355	31	99	416	251	28	41	111	148	70	203	98	2006	1,460,263
% Turnout	24	17	27	17	24	26	24	24	27	16	21	27	16	21	21
Declared Republican	100	228	18	70	329	188	24	29	93	91	38	122	72	1402	868,002
Sam Brownback	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	351
Rudy Guiliardi	9	2	1	1	10	7	0	0	3	1	1	3	2	40	24,681
Mike Huckabee	15	42	0	10	57	22	2	7	21	5	6	17	22	226	139,545
Duncan Hunter	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2,810
John McCain	38	79	4	37	129	54	13	14	34	51	17	44	27	541	257,462
Ron Paul	8	6	5	0	5	8	0	0	5	3	1	4	1	46	54,397
Mitt Romney	20	86	4	18	116	82	7	6	28	25	11	47	16	466	337,666
Tom Tancredo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	457
Fred Thompson	7	8	0	2	10	7	2	1	1	2	2	4	4	50	32,127
Uncommitted	2	4	4	2	2	8	0	1	0	4	0	2	0	29	18,506
Declared Democrats	55	127	13	26	87	63	4	12	18	57	32	63	26	583	592,261
Hillary Clinton	29	89	6	19	44	38	2	7	8	37	18	39	18	354	327,419
Chris Dodd	1	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	3,839
Mike Gravel	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	2,355
Dennis Kucinich	2	2	0	1	3	2	0	1	1	1	1	3	0	17	21,693
Uncommitted	22	33	7	6	38	22	2	3	8	18	13	21	8	201	236,955

the Michigan vote. Uncommitted voters accounted for 40% of the Democratic vote in Michigan. Democratic candidates who were not listed on the Michigan ballot are Illinois Senator Barack Obama,

former North Carolina Senator John Edwards, and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson. In the primary, voters must vote along party lines. Voting for a candidate in the primary means voting

to send Michigan delegates to support that candidate at the Democratic National Convention or the Republican National Convention. An uncommitted vote supports that party's candidates in

general. Because Michigan violated party rules by holding its primary before February 5, the national Republican Party stripped Michigan of half its delegates to the national convention, and the national Democratic Party stripped

Michigan of all its delegates, according to Associated Press reports January 16.

Michigan voter turnout was at 20.7% for the primary, a high turnout for a presidential primary, the Secretary of State's office reported.

One Influenza Case Reported

May Represent Local Onset of Flu Season

One case of influenza has been confirmed in a young person in Mackinac County, although it has been confirmed by a "rapid virus test," a less reliable method than the virus isolation method favored by the state health department, reported Dr. Jim Terrian, medical director of LMAS Health Department Friday, January 18. No cases have been confirmed through virus isolation.

The case may represent the onset of flu season locally, he said.

"It is plausible that we have an influenza case and if there is one, there are likely to be more," Dr. Terrian told *The St. Ignace News*. "I think we have some people in the area who do probably have influenza, and if people want to avoid complications from it, there is still time to get the benefit from vaccination."

Influenza is on the upswing in southeast Michigan, he said, and there have been local anecdotal reports of influenza-like illness.

When speaking of flu, health practitioners are referring to respiratory influenza, and not a more common "stomach upset" in the digestive system, such as viral gastroenteritis, which people sometimes call "the flu." Influenza symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, dry cough, sore throat, congestion, and body aches.

The Center for Disease Control now advises people to get flu vaccinations even after the flu season begins. Vaccines are locally available. People seeking vaccinations may contact the Health Department for more information.

County Will Continue Road Work Grants

Townships will continue to receive \$10,000 for road work this year from the Mackinac County Board of Commissioners, the board decided January 10. The county and the county road commission each will match up to \$10,000 in township road repairs, providing the township contribute an equal amount.

County commissioners next meet Thursday, January 24, at 6 p.m. at the County Courthouse annex building.



Mini-pumper Ready for Action at Portage Twp.

Portage Township Fire Chief P.J. Costa (left) and Lieutenant Eric Wiegand pose Tuesday, January 8, in front of the department's recently purchased quick-attack mini-pumper. The vehicle is ready for action, Mr. Costa said. At a low 16,390 pounds, the four-wheel-drive firetruck can navigate tight driveways and roads larger trucks cannot access and is capable of fighting a structure fire. Often dispatched first to prevent fires from spreading, the vehicle averaged 2,200 runs a year under the Summit Township Fire Department, its former owner, Chief Costa said.

Remedy Urged for Water Contamination at Hall

Health Officials Share Concerns at Newton Twp.

By Ryan Schlehuder
An inspection of Newton Township Hall's well water system will be conducted to find the source of coliform and E. coli bacteria contamination, said health officials who attended a township meeting Wednesday, January 16.

Samples from the water supply at the hall tested positive for E. coli last July, and of the 83 samples taken from the hall's water since 2003, 27 of them, one third, have tested positive for coliform.

"That is extremely high," said Nicholas Derusha, environmental health manager for Luce-Mackinac-Alger-Schoolcraft (LMAS) Health Department, who was accompanied by Linda Smith, Type II water supply coordinator for LMAS, and Rob Wolfe, water division analyst for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

The board agreed to hire a well inspector for up to \$500.

The township has provided bottled drinking water at the hall since 2006. Before weekly bingo games were started this winter, only township board meetings and one or two small social events held there, Supervisor Bob Brotherton said.

"That, and having bottled water as a temporary source, was why we didn't think it was so alarming," he said.

Mr. Wolfe and LMAS believe the situation should be addressed immediately.

The township was notified July 23, 2007, by a letter from LMAS, that the problem had to be resolved by August, but LMAS is only now following up on it.

If the contamination source cannot be found, the township will have to either repair its existing well or drill a new well.

Health officials and the well inspector will also study and compare the well system attached to the bar and restaurant next door to the hall.

The hall's well was installed in 1985 and the casing or water pipes may have become cracked. Mr. Wolfe said there could also be "dead-end plumbing," where sections of pipe have been sealed off or unused owing to expansion or rerouting of the system.

Township Clerk Alice Zdebski pointed out to the health officials that the hall relocated its bathrooms at one time, so there could be dead-end plumbing in the system. The system has been cleaned

and flushed with chlorine each time a sample came back positive for contamination, she said.

"If you do have a dead-end line, it may not get the chlorine treatment that would kill off the bacteria, therefore, as chlorine residual gets flushed out, it [the bacteria] has a chance to regrow," said Mr. Wolfe.

"We'd like to correct it," said Mr. Brotherton, "but we'd hate to redrill for \$2,500 and come up with the same problem."

Mr. Wolfe told *The St. Ignace News* after the meeting that the presence of E. coli means sewage is likely getting into the system. There are a number of ways the water system could have been contaminated, he said, but, whatever the cause, it must be fixed soon.

"The presence of E. coli has raised this situation to another level," Mr. Wolfe told the board. "The state is telling me to get this resolved."

The township is seeking the most affordable ways to fix the problem, but Ms. Smith said it should be more aggressive with fixing the problem, as just taking numerous samples has cost the township plenty of money already.

The state requires further sample testing once a regularly scheduled sample is found positive for bacteria, said Mr. Wolfe.

"You're spending about \$500 a year in sampling," said Ms. Smith. "You can recoup that cost in a

**Please turn to page 8*

Sault's I-500 To Mark 40th Anniversary at Feb. 2 Race

By Ryan Schlehuder
The International Snowmobile Race in Sault Ste. Marie will celebrate its 40th anniversary Saturday, February 2. Thirty-four teams are expected to compete in this year's race.

The race begins with time trials Monday, January 28, through Wednesday, January 30, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day, when racers will try to post the best time for a two-lap trial.

On race day, a parade lap will begin at 9 a.m. with the green flag waving to start the race at 10 a.m.

Spectators can purchase buttons for \$15 per person that will allow admission to all I-500 events throughout the week. Buttons can be purchased at the gate or at various businesses in Sault Ste. Marie. A list of businesses is posted at the race's Web site, www.I-500.com.

Day passes are available for \$5

for those who just want to watch time trial races.

Drivers are expected from throughout Michigan and other states, including three teams from Alaska, and some from Canada. Last year's winners, Chad Guco and Bill Wilkes of Alaska, will return to defend their title.

Racers will compete for more than \$38,000 in prize money and, in commemoration of the anniversary year, lap leaders on laps 40, 140, 240, 340, and 440 will earn extra prize money. Winning drivers will also be awarded commemorative leather jackets.

For the second consecutive year, the World Power Sports Association Snow Cross racing will provide spectators with the thrill of watching drivers, from novice to professional, maneuvering through a course of moguls and jumps. Snow

**Please turn to page 8*

Soo Locks Closed to Shipping

The Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie closed for the season at midnight January 15, announced the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District. The Corps operates and maintains the locks as part of its navigation mission, and will use the time to perform maintenance on the lock structures and channels, including maintenance of the Poe Lock's miter gates.

The 1004-foot freighter *Edwin H. Gott* cleared the upbound locks at 8:40 p.m., and the 698-foot *Michipicoten* cleared the downbound locks at 10:59 p.m., mark-

ing the closing date of the shipping season.

The total cargo carrier tonnage amounts were down compared to last year, due in large part to the lower water levels. Iron ore is the most frequent cargo carried through the locks. More than eight billion tons of cargo have passed through the locks since 1855.

The Soo Locks draw international, national, and local visitors to the area. Nearly 400,000 people visited the locks in 2007.

The locks will reopen to ship traffic March 25.

Deliveries, Mackinac Island Style



Sara Chambers heads across Main Street on Mackinac Island on her way to make winter deliveries. As the island's shipping manager for United Parcel Service (UPS), she just picked up packages from the *Huron*, which glided into the Mackinac Island harbor just before noon Wednesday, January 16, carrying a cargo of passengers and freight. Smaller UPS packages are loaded on a dolly and larger boxes are transported by dray. With the *Huron* ceasing operations until the ice breaks up, packages will now arrive on the Island by air from St. Ignace.

**Please turn to page 8*