

Street Signs May Be Replaced Throughout Engadine, Naubinway, Garfield Twp.

By Paul Gingras

Street signs may be replaced throughout Engadine, Naubinway, and Garfield Township, and commercial vinyl tile may be installed at the Naubinway Pavilion this spring. Members of the Garfield Township Board of Trustees, meeting Monday, January 21, discussed plans for these projects and announced they are seeking help from legislators to improve the beleaguered Naubinway Marina.

There are about 200 street signs in Garfield Township, said Treasurer Debra Bennett, who offered to head the project. She addressed the need for a formal sign plan, has begun categorizing the number of signs of various sizes required, and is seeking estimates from contractors.

Mrs. Bennett hopes at the February township meeting to be able to detail what the township needs.

Clayton Rooney has assembled and installed signs in other areas and offered to provide signs, posts, and cross pieces for about \$90 each. The total cost would be approximately \$17,500.

Owing to greatly increased use of the Naubinway Pavilion, the board will advertise for contractors to install commercial vinyl tile at the facility. Mr. Rooney suggested porcelain tiles, but the board settled on less expensive vinyl.

"It is a good time to get this done," said trustee Donald Butkovich.

Linda Bennett said she would

like to finish the project by the end of March.

Improvements needed at the pavilion are often taken on too close to July 4, Mrs. Bennett said, when the pavilion is used for festivities, leading to rushed projects.

The township has sent letters to U.S. Congressman Bart Stupak and State Senator Jason Allen requesting help to improve the beleaguered Naubinway Marina on Lake Michigan. The bay surrounding the marina is filling with sand and sediment, preventing most uses of the facility.

The marina requires improvements far beyond the township's financial capacity to provide, said Township Supervisor Cleo Smith.

The township has until April 1 to apply to the state for the next phase of marina improvements. There have been two phases of improvements at the marina in recent years. In January 2007, Township Clerk Linda Bennett reported that further improvements would total \$2.5 million.

Mrs. Smith, after speaking with Mr. Stupak in Menominee, told the board, "He knows that there is no way we can come up with the money that they want us to come up with." The marina "is in limbo until we see if any of them can help us."

The board agreed to contact the state regarding what it will be allowed to charge for the few patrons who are likely to use the marina next season. The board wants to charge as little as possible, owing to the marina's problems.

Boats, including small boats, cannot be launched from shore. It is possible for boats to dock if they access the facility from deep water, Mrs. Smith said.

Road projects in Garfield Township to be paid primarily with state and federal funding were discussed by Mrs. Smith and Mr. Butkovich, who represented Garfield Township at the January 15 meeting of the Mackinac County Road Commission.

The permit process for installing culverts on Pleasant Avenue is proceeding, Mrs. Smith said.

Sandtown Road will receive improvements this summer, possibly including paving one mile of the route, from M-117 west, she said. Garfield Township objected to resurfacing the road with chip-and-seal, owing to the amount of traffic the road receives.

Work will be done on Naubinway Road, Mrs. Smith noted. The Road Commission has scheduled work there in 2009 and 2012.

In 2010, improvements will be made to H-40 in Garfield Township. Of the \$75,000 contribution from the state and federal governments, \$60,000 will be needed to provide a specialized aluminum culvert required by the Department of Environmental Quality, owing to the presence of a designated trout stream, Mr. Butkovich said.

The fire department responded to five fire calls and four medical assistance calls during December, said Assistant Fire Chief Sean

Feneley.

The department has applied for a \$750 grant from Enbridge Energy. The township received the same grant last year and it was used to purchase equipment, he said.

The board accepted the resignation of firefighter Charles Bednarski, whose pager and turnout gear have been given to fire fighter Cory Luoto, Mr. Feneley said.

Linnea Ault, who gave the township's cemetery and beautification report, said improvements will be made at Mill Pond in Engadine. Signs will be upgraded, and seeds

have been ordered for shrubs and flowers.

John Ross, assistant ambulance corps director, reported he has been named Garfield Township's contact person for the Luce County Medical Control Authority.

As part of improving medical reporting, at its next meeting the ambulance corps will discuss creating its own Quality Assurance Quality Improvement reports for Medical Control. The department will create a plan for decreasing the number of mistakes on run reports, he said, including proposed discipli-

nary measures for employees filing inaccurate reports.

Wayne Schroeder, Duncan MacArthur, and Merle Edwards were reappointed to the zoning board of appeals. Their terms will be from February 20, 2008, through February 20, 2011.

Linda Bennett said she would contact U.P. Consultants of Marquette regarding prices for assisting the township in developing a recreation plan. The plan needs to be in place for the township to receive recreation grants from the state.

The Clock Is Ticking...

Melting Ice Will Yield Prize at Mackinaw City

By Paul Gingras

An "Ice Tower Classic" contest in Mackinaw City will award a prize to the person who most accurately gauges the spring ice melt in the village this year, and will raise funds for the Historic Village project. The Mackinaw Area Historical Society launched the contest Wednesday, February 6, to raise money for renovating buildings this summer that it expects to receive for the Historic Village, one mile west of town.

An electronic device was embedded at the base of the frozen ice fountain in front of the village hall at about 2 p.m. As spring approaches and ice melts, the device will signal a timer inside village hall to stop. The person who has guessed the closest date and time when the timer stops will win a cash prize.

The device embedded in the ice tower is a mercury switch sealed in a plastic tube.

Greg Harwick of Mackinaw City gathered and assembled the parts for the device.

"This is our trial year," he cautioned, "but it should work. It should do the job."

The prize is \$1,100, and growing, said Bill Marvin, vice president of the Historical Society. To get the project started, seed money was included in this year's prize. Next year, it will be a 50/50 contest, with proceeds split between the winner and the Historical Society.

The Historical Society has



Greg Harwick of Mackinaw City stands beside the ice tower in front of the Mackinaw City Village Hall Wednesday, February 6. When enough ice melts, a device he constructed will trigger a timer inside the village hall to stop, deciding the winner of the First Annual Ice Tower Classic.

placed posters promoting the project at businesses in six communities. Envelopes with application forms printed on them are sold where posters are displayed. For \$5, participants may submit up to two guesses in containers at the sites. Cooperation with the project has been outstanding, Mr. Marvin said. "More businesses are signing on all the time."

Containers have been filling

since January 18. The group would like to sell at least 400 envelopes.

The fundraiser is modeled on an Alaskan fundraiser. The Ice Classic's Alaskan counterpart triggers a huge siren, which would not be appropriate in the middle of the Mackinaw City, Mr. Marvin said, but the Historical society is

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Snowmobile Poker Run Takes on New Format

Run Begins Saturday Morning at St. Ignace

The Straits Area Snowmobile Club's poker run, which starts in St. Ignace Saturday, February 16, will have a new and more active format for participants.

Those who participate will no longer just collect playing cards for the best poker hand, they will be required to perform certain tasks to earn multiple playing cards at each stop they make. The new format is similar to the popular reality television competition show "The Amazing Race," said Neil Hill, one of the coordinators of the poker run.

Participants will begin with

sign-up in St. Ignace, then travel to many area businesses throughout the Straits Area Snowmobile Club's 101 miles of trail system, ranging from St. Ignace, to Trout Lake, Rexton, Brevort, Epoufette, and Cut River.

Registration will be from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Driftwood Sports Bar in St. Ignace. Participants should finish the competition between 6 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. at the VFW post in St. Ignace.

At the conclusion of the race, participants will draw cards and assemble their best poker hand, according to the number of stamps they have been able to acquire during the run. The best poker hand will be awarded \$200 in cash.

Participants will also be given a sealed package with three riddles. The riddles will lead participants to secret locations throughout the trail system where they will collect stickers, eventually unlocking the answer that will include them in a special \$100 drawing.

Yet another challenge for participants is one in which they must secure an unboiled egg throughout the race, collecting stamps to be placed on it. Those who keep their eggs intact will be entered into a drawing for a room at a local hotel and a meal.

Registration is \$15 per adult and \$10 for children ages 12 and younger. The fee includes a spaghetti dinner.

Columns Replaced on Colonial House Inn



Top: The four front porch columns on the Colonial House Inn in St. Ignace are being replaced by Marshall Builders, owing to wood rot. The inn, built in the mid-1800s, is expected to be open by March, said owner Chris Green. She is also redecorating the inn's former gift shop, on the north side of the building, as a gathering room for groups. Ms. Green said the room should be ready by summer. The three-story building includes seven Victorian rooms. A 10-room motel is connected on the south side.

At left: Rick Marshall of Marshall Builders sets a chalkline on one of the four large wood posts that support the upper porch of the Colonial House Inn. The posts will be covered with a manufactured shell to keep the original look of the wood columns they replace.

Elusive Walleye To Be Top Target at Moran

Brevort Lake Jamboree Is This Weekend

By Ryan Schlehuder

One tagged walleye has been eluding fishermen since last summer's Walleye Derby in Brevort Lake. Fishermen participating in the inaugural Brevort Lake Ice Fishing Jamboree Saturday, February 16, and Sunday, February 17, will get another chance at bagging the elusive prize, along with another tagged walleye, to win a new snowmobile or a \$2,500 lumber package.

The walleye that has eluded hooks since the summer carries a 2008 Arctic Cat snowmobile as a reward. Both walleyes will have orange tags with numbers.

"I put a reward for \$200 out there after the Walleye Derby for anyone who catches it, but no one did," said Jamboree coordinator Kirk Lipnitz, a member of the Straits Area Sportsmen's Club, which is sponsoring the event. "He should still be out there."

The fishing contest will run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, with a pig roast to take place on the ice Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Contest headquarters and a tent will be set up near the Brevort Lake public access area on Dukes Road in Moran.

The lumber package, to be awarded to the fishermen who catches the second tagged walleye, comes from Moran Lumber Company.

Cash prizes will be given out for biggest walleye (\$500), biggest perch (\$250), and biggest pike (\$250), and prizes will be awarded to children with the biggest fish, as well.

A fireworks display will take

place Saturday evening at the Jamboree headquarters. Fireworks will begin around 6:45 p.m.

The Jamboree stems from the success of the club's previous Walleye Derby, said Mr. Lipnitz.

"We had a lot of success, and a lot of fishermen come out for that," he said. "We've also coordinated this event to coincide with the state's free fishing weekend, so we should have a good turnout."

Fifty people have already registered for the event, as of Monday, February 11.

Fishing in Brevort Lake has steadily improved over the years, rebounding from low lake levels, and today, said Mr. Lipnitz, the lake

has an abundance of fish.

"Fishing has been very good there lately," Mr. Lipnitz said. "People are catching pike, perch, walleye, and small mouth bass."

He said ice on the lake has been thick this winter.

Pre-registration is \$25 per person. Registration on the day of the event is \$35. Youth 12 and younger will receive free admission.

Pre-registration forms can be acquired in Moran at True Value, King's Fish Market and Restaurant, and Bradford's gas station, and in St. Ignace at True Value, Pines Trading Post, and St. Ignace Barber Shop.

Call Mr. Lipnitz at 643-7979 or Jimmie Miller at 643-6743 for more information.

Snow X Snowmobile Action Designed To Thrill Spectators This Weekend

The Kewadin Shores Casinos and St. Ignace Snow X Race will be Saturday, February 16, and Sunday, February 17. The races are a part of the 2008 Michigan Snow X Series. Spectator tickets are \$10 per day or \$15 for a weekend pass. There is no admission fee for children ages six and younger.

Racing begins each day at 9:30 a.m. and will continue until 4 p.m.

Fishing Derby Planned on Caribou Lake

The DeTour Hunt and Fish Club will host a fishing contest on Caribou Lake Saturday, February 16, and Sunday, February 17. The registration fee is \$10.

Fishing will take place from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m.

to noon Sunday. Registration will take place at the club's trailer on South Caribou Lake Road, or anglers can register ahead of time this week at the DeTour Drummond Building Center in DeTour.