

6,960-foot Boathouse Approved for Hessel Waterfront by Clark Twp. Planning Commission

Boathouse: From page 1

blueprint or structure.

"We hope it to be a real positive addition to the community, and also for our business, too," Mr. Koster said.

The boathouse will be on Lot 55 on the Lake Huron waterfront in Hessel. It will be 116 feet long, 60 feet wide, and 35 feet tall. The 6,960-square-foot building will have two restrooms, including one on the upper level, where a storage area has been planned. The upper level will also include a desk and lounge for the captain or boat owners when they are in port.

"Our intentions are not in any way to use that for any kind of a living space," Mr. Koster said, answering questions from Commissioner Mike Patrick about the upper level's appearance as a possible living space. "So we will not be seeking any occupancy permit for that."

Commissioner Joe Eger said the explanation makes sense to him, as boaters who arrive at port after a long cruise would most likely seek a place to rest and shower at the end of their journey. The boathouse

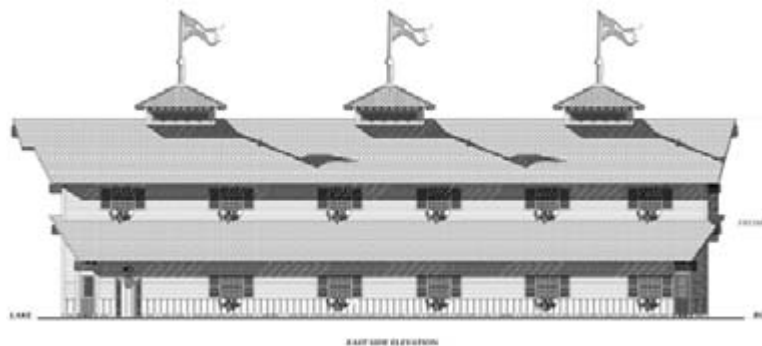
facilities, including restrooms and a shower, will be serviced by the water well and sewer connection that are now servicing the house on the lot. The house will be moved from the lot.

The dimensions of the project changed from the 120-foot by 54-foot building proposed in the fall, and Mr. Koster said the building will be situated on the west side of the lot to minimize the impact on neighbors' views of the water, leaving open space on the east side.

Canim is a 96-foot-long Ted Geary yacht built of wood in 1930, now owned by Marty and Lisa Sutter of Harbor Springs. She is one of eight ships in her class built between 1928 and 1930, all of which are still in service. The vessel was built at Lake Union Drydocks in Seattle, Washington, for Colonel C.B. Blethen as a private yacht.

The boat would be there primarily in the winter, stored in a climate-controlled environment. During the open water season, the boat will come and go to Hessel as the owners travel around the Great Lakes, Mr. Koster said.

Answering questions from Leah



A side view drawing of the proposed boathouse that will shelter the *Canim*, a 1930 yacht, shows the building that received Clark Township Planning Commission approval last Tuesday, May 6. (Illustration by Rob Robley)

Brunson about what happens if the boat leaves the area and the owners change their minds, *Canim's* captain, Luther Hall, assured commissioners and the audience the boat will remain in the Great Lakes.

"I brought the boat from Seattle, Washington, all the way around Nova Scotia to bring it here, and the boat's going to stay in the Great Lakes," Mr. Hall said, adding that he has been with the boat for seven years.

Mr. Koster said he believes the cost of the project and the Sutters' investment will be an anchor that keeps them in the community, but, "We hope they stay here because they love it."

"I think we've gone out of our way to try to make this building look as attractive as possible," Mr. Koster said. "We'll use natural siding, and we'll try to use as much decor as we can to fall in line with what is considered to be as good or

better than any design that's around."

Comments at the Tuesday meeting were primarily in favor of the project, and concerns about the size of the boathouse and its location were repeated.

David Gray, who owns space at Mertaugh's Hessel Harbor Association, offered support.

"I think it's got a lot of potential for the community," Mr. Gray said. "It's a world class boat that, in itself, is an attraction for Hessel. There is a lot of work that that type of a boat requires in the way of skilled labor, and if that attracts and retains the right people in this community, I'm all for it."

Chuck Albright was concerned about the number of parking spaces, and wondered if the two spaces planned are enough, and comply with Clark Township zoning.

"Parking is a real premium in the town of Hessel," he said.

Only two spaces are required for a boathouse in Clark Township, said Planning Commission Chair Jeff Davis. Mr. Albright also asked how far the boathouse will extend out into Lake Huron. The building does not extend past the shoreline, Mr. Davis said, because the boat well will be dredged inland, and the structure will be built over the well.

Elizabeth Fels, owner of The Village Idiom bookstore and Fels Photography of Hessel, thinks the project could enhance local business owners' efforts "to not only run successful businesses, but to contribute as much as possible to our community."

"Any legitimate and interesting business should be welcomed," she said. "Some of us have staked our life's savings on our work, and we need businesses which attract people from not only our own area, but from far away. *Canim* will provide work for the construction of her boathouse, her maintenance, and her upkeep. She will also, I am sure, attract visitors, and therefore cash, to us all."

As a member of the Antique and Classic Boat Society, Robert W. Smith of Cedarville said he knows the people who appreciate wooden boats and visit the Les Cheneaux

Antique Wooden Boat Show each year are drawn to wooden boats like *Canim* and are interested in all the boathouses in the Les Cheneaux Islands.

"There were a lot of people who were concerned when the original Mertaugh boathouse was torn down. It certainly was a landmark in Hessel, as well as it was in the Les Cheneaux Islands. It would be my hope that the new boathouse that will be erected will certainly become something that will take the place in the nostalgia aspect in Hessel, as the E.J. Mertaugh boathouse used to be," Mr. Smith said. "I don't see the downside. I'm sure that the boathouse isn't going to please everybody, but I think it's an important part of the future, not only to the economy of the Les Cheneaux Islands, but also the atmosphere that we're trying to create to bring the new people here, whether they are boating people who are passing through the islands, or people who are coming from afar."

Julie Dumbauld, a Hessel property owner, said she is not against the boathouse, but is against its location and the size of the building on that lot, and she asked commissioners to consider those factors when they make their decision.

Bob Dunn of Cedarville said he remembers when boathouses lined the shores here.

"Whether there's a boat in it or a restaurant, we're a boating community and a nautical community, and I can't see any downside to it," Mr. Dunn said. "I think it will enhance our community."

Commissioner John Grenier made a motion to approve the project, citing sections of the zoning ordinance that support the project and adding, "This project continues the more than century-old tradition of uniquely beautiful boathouses in the Les Cheneaux Islands."

Commissioners Davis, Grenier, Patrick, Joe Eger, Mike Freel, and Dana Leach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Marti Hart voted against it, citing concerns about the size and scale of the building on the lot.

Nurse Teaches Washing Hands – the Right Way – To Control Germs

Hands: From page 1

Olsen, who carried a hand-held flashlight containing a black light.

Turning their hands from palms up to palms down, students were able to see under the light the invisible germs they had picked up by handling the toy. The lesson showed students how easily germs can spread from one person or object to another.

To help prevent the spread of communicable diseases such as the cold virus, Mrs. Orm told students, they should sneeze or cough only into the corner of their arm. To stop the spread of e coli, she said, students must wash their hands thoroughly before leaving the bathroom.

"Guess what?" she asked the class. "Believe it or not, influenza is not found in your stomach. It's a misconception and a myth we have

throughout the entire world when we say 'stomach flu.' The 'flu' is for influenza, which is only found in your respiratory tract."

Influenza affects the lungs, she said, and kills 36,000 people every year. When you cough, she suggested, cough into the corner of your arm near the elbow, and not on your hand. The hand, which is where most people cough and sneeze, acts as an easy vehicle to spread the germs.

What people think of as the stomach flu, said Mrs. Orm, is usually caused from e coli. Proper hand washing after using the bathroom, and before eating and cooking, will help stop the spread of the germs.

Even though some students wash their hands before leaving the bathroom, she said, others may not. She offered them easy hand washing tips. She suggested they



At left: Sliding his hands under a black light, seventh grade student Zach Harrington gets a view of his hand washing skills. The black light indicates areas missed during washing. Registered nurse Jodi Orm brought the black light to St. Ignace Elementary School as part of a program to teach students skills to prevent the spread of germs.

the tops of hands, palms, and in between fingers. While washing, sing a favorite song or count, she said, to measure time to be sure the washing lasts at least 20 seconds.

"Friction is the best way to get rid of the germs," she said.

Students then headed off to the bathrooms, crowding around the sink awaiting their turn to practice hand washing skills.

Once back in the classroom, students took turns slipping their hands under a large black light. Turning their hands over, they were able to see any remaining germs. The information gleaned from the light, said Mrs. Orm, gave students a way to see how effective their washing technique was and provided them with a look at areas that might need improvement.

have paper towel ready prior to washing and use it to shut off the water faucet, which can be contaminated with germs from others. The towel also should be used to open the door, she said, and while holding it open with a foot, students should toss the towel in the trash before leaving the room.

Proper hand washing, said Mrs. Orm, includes scrubbing with soap

Cold Case Team Eyes Anderson Death

Anderson: From page 1

the U.S. Forest Service, and St. Ignace city police.

Investigators have "used this cold case format in other cases in the state with success," Mr. Feleppa said, "and the team members have already met several times to work on this case."

"We have already investigated

Scholarship Golf Open is May 18

The annual Audie's Scholarship Golf Open will take place Sunday, May 18, with tee-off at 9 a.m. at the Mackinaw Club Golf Course on Old US-31 near Mackinaw City. Registration will be from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. with a \$50 per person registration fee. The fee includes 18 holes of golf, cart, beverages, and lunch.

For more information, contact Tonya Mercer at (231) 818-0170 or Tanya Hartman at (231) 445-1430.

many tips in this case, but we are still looking for the missing piece of information that will break everything open."

Anyone who may have information about Miss Anderson's death is asked to call the Cold Case Team toll-free at (866) 901-8477.

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