

Parades, Fireworks, Contests Announced To Mark Independence Day in Local Communities

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and North State streets and travels south along State Street, ending on McCann Street.

Immediately after the parade, the St. Ignace Kiwanis Club will hold races for children at Dock 3, which is near the Coast Guard station off South State Street. Children can enter a running race, a potato sack race, three-legged race, a wheelbarrow race, and search the sawdust pile for hidden coins.

At 3 p.m. the St. Ignace Fire Department will hold an open house and serve free hot-dogs, bratwurst, ice cream, and beverages. Residents and visitors can participate in karaoke contests. (The open house will move to Little Bear East Arena on Marquette Street if it is raining.)

Fireworks are set for dusk in St. Ignace and are visible from the shoreline throughout the downtown.

Moran

Fireworks will light the sky at dusk over Brevort Lake Saturday, July 5, near the village of Moran. The public is invited, free of charge, to watch the display at the end of Dukes Road. This is the first Independence Day celebration sponsored by the Brevort Township Community Foundation, said foundation president Kirk Lipnitz.

Mackinac Island

Island July 4 celebrations begin at 10 a.m. with the 31st annual stone skipping contest at Windermere Point on the Beach. National Public Radio's Michele Norris will talk with Eric Steiner, the play-by-play announcer for the event. Donations from the contest support the Mackinac Island Public Library.

Banners, flags, and bunting will decorate Fort Mackinac for its 1880s Independence Day celebration that begins at 1:30 p.m. and lasts until 7 p.m. The Star Spangled Fourth celebration includes a 38-gun salute honoring the states of the period, performances of patriotic music, and children's games. Fort visitors are invited to participate in the dances and games. A special combination ticket will provide admission to Fort Mackinac events and the Fort Tea Room's All American Picnic.

Children's games, including sack races, water balloon tosses, and the watermelon roll will take place from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Windermere Point, sponsored by the city recreation department.

At approximately 9:45 p.m. fireworks are planned for Windermere Point.

An Around the Island Yacht Race presented by the Pink Pony



Getting ready for Fourth of July celebrations, teenagers from St. Ignace Loyola Church in St. Ignace and Immaculate Conception Church of Moran work on their parade float Thursday, June 19. Painting the wood for the back of the float are (from left) visiting seminarian Ryan Ford of Gladstone, and from St. Ignace Nick Grogan, Chris Moran, and Devin Chargo. Adding patriotic red, white, and blue flowers made out of napkins to a float decoration are (from left) Dorothy Chargo of St. Ignace, Jennie Bird of Moran, and Tessa Pavia of St. Ignace. The float, which will be entered in the St. Ignace July 4th Ruby Goudreau Memorial Parade, will be decorated with flags and the teens will paint the words "Thank God For Freedom" on the back of the float beneath an American flag.

and the Mackinac Island Yacht Club is set for Saturday, July 5. Skippers will set sail at 2 p.m. off the east breakwall of the Mackinac Island Harbor. The race route spans approximately 10 miles around the Island.

Mackinaw City

July 4th games will begin at 1:30 p.m. Friday at the Marina Park. Events for the whole family include a three-legged race, golf contest, penny scramble, disc toss, basketball shooting contest, and egg toss.

Patriotic music will be played over loudspeakers beginning at 9 p.m. in the park, followed by a fireworks display at dusk.

Cedarville and Hessel

The annual Arts and Crafts Show at the Community Center in Cedarville runs from Thursday, July 3, through Friday, July 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A pancake breakfast will be

served Friday, July 4, from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. by the Les Cheneaux Ambulance Auxiliary at the Clark Township Fire and Ambulance Hall on Meridian Street in Cedarville. Proceeds will be used to purchase supplies and equipment for the Clark Township Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, the Cedarville Trojans Booster Club will offer at sale prices championship and fan athletic apparel in the gymnasium lobby in Les Cheneaux Community Schools. Concessions will also be available at the school.

The Annual Les Cheneaux Independence Day parade begins at 11 a.m. Friday. More than 100 entries will travel from Grove Street down Beach Street and west on Hodeck through Cedarville, then along Meridian and M-134 and end at Beach Street. This year's theme is Mardi Gras, and judges will award the best parade entries.

Following the parade, children's games will be offered at the Alvin Hossack Memorial Field on Beach Street from noon until about 2 p.m.. The event includes games, races, face painting, and the popular Clark Township Volunteer Fire Department children's treasure hunt in a foam tank. The Clark Township firetruck will be at the park, and volunteers will provide a sprinkler for children to run through after the foam tank event.

A horseshoe tournament at Snows Bar and Grill on 4-Mile Block in Cedarville will be offered at 2:30 p.m.

A fireworks display over Cedarville Bay will begin at dusk.

The Annual Les Cheneaux Fun Run and Walk begins at 9:30 a.m. for walkers and 9:40 a.m. for runners on Saturday, July 5. The event takes place at the Alvin Hossack Memorial Field at Les Cheneaux Community Schools in Cedarville. Registration is from 8 a.m. to 9:25 a.m. in the school's Duncan Gymnasium lobby.

Trout Lake

Fourth of July celebrations begin in Trout Lake with breakfast served by members of the Trout Lake Volunteer Fire Department. The meal takes place Friday, July 4, from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Township Hall.

Also at the hall, the Trout Lake Women's Club will hold a Strawberry Social and hot-dog lunch from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

The annual Fourth of July parade begins at 1 p.m. Friday, with entries lining up at 12:30 p.m. at the Old Town Hall. The parade beings at the Township Hall on M-123 and travels through town to the township park.

Around 4 p.m. the public is invited to watch or participate with a team in softball tournaments that will take place at the ball diamond across from the Township Park. The games will be concluded Saturday.

At dusk, fireworks will light up the sky and can be viewed from the Trout Lake Township Park.

DeTour

Celebrations begin in DeTour Thursday, July 3, with an "Under the Stars" dance at the Pavilion beginning at 9 p.m. The band "The Wise Guys" will provide entertainment.

The Friday, July 4, parade begins at noon with the line-up of floats on Sims Street. Following the parade, a community picnic and games are set for the pavilion, and will take place until 4 p.m. Family activities include a dunk tank, horseshoe matches, and children's games with prizes.

A 50/50 raffle and mini raffles for prizes donated by area businesses will take place at 4 p.m.

Fireworks will be set off from Frying Pan Island at dusk.

At 9 a.m. Saturday, July 5, the third annual five-kilometer run will begin and end at the pavilion.

Also on Saturday, the inaugural Soap Box Derby will be held for children ages 7 to 16. The derby will take place on Division Street. Sign in and warm-ups are from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., with racing to begin at 11 a.m.

At 12:30 p.m., the cardboard freighter races begin in front of Dragonfly Floral shop on Ontario Street. The authentic-looking freighters must be at least four feet in length. Competitors will sail down Ontario Street, with the race ending in front of the Mainsail Restaurant. Those entering the race must push their wheeled freighter down the hill in a designated lane. Categories include children ages 7 through 14, women, men, and mixed.

A chicken barbeque dinner will be offered at Sacred Heart Church Sunday, July 6, at 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Curtis

The 34th Annual Independence Day celebration begins Sunday, July 6, in Curtis with an arts and crafts show opening at 10 a.m. Approximately 50 exhibitors will set up booths for the show.

The Lions Club will offer its "Famous Chicken Barbecue" beginning at 11 a.m. and the Chamber of Commerce will have a food and refreshment tent. The Curtis Women's Club will hold a bake sale. Activities for children are planned, including rock climbing,

games, and an inflatable slide will be set up.

The "Biggest Little Town Parade in Michigan" begins at 12:30 p.m. Event organizers say they expect 15,000 visitors to attend the celebration, in the town of 650 residents. This year's theme is "Serving Our Community." Parade marshals are State Representative Gary McDowell and his wife, Carrie.

Seven bands are expected to march through town, including a steel drum band, Kalamazoo Bagpipe Band, the Newberry High School Band, and the Royal

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MICHIGAN POLITICS

By George Weeks



Bait-and-switch Ballot Proposal Bad for North

Stealth political scam artists are taking aim on Michigan's constitution with a sweeping cockamamie bait-and-switch proposal that could further dilute northern Michigan's voice in the judicial and legislative branches.

Or call it carrot-and-spear – carrots being the populist lure of cutting the pay of the governor, legislators, and judges; requiring more financial disclosure by elected officials, and prohibiting lobbying by retired legislators for two years after they leave office.

Among the troubling spears: Cutting the Senate from 38 to 28 members and the House from 110 to 82; reducing the Court of Appeals from 28 to 21 judges.

As it is now, the entire 15-county Upper Peninsula has only two state senators. Senator Michael Prusi, (D-Ishpeming) represents 13 counties. Senator Jason Allen (R- Traverse City) represents Chippewa and Mackinac, and six counties below the bridge.

As it is now, the 4th District of the Court of Appeals spans 58 counties (including all of the U.P.) and extends down to Lansing. The "inevitable effect" of slashing seven appeals judges "is to dilute the northern part of the state," said one downstate appeals judge who declined to be quoted by name.

Appeals Judge Bill Schuette of Midland, a former GOP congressman, state senator, and state ag director who is leaving the appeals bench for an expected bid to replace term-limited Attorney General Mike Cox, has no such hesitation. He says the proposal gives "greater concentration to urban areas," and "looks like a huge frontal assault on the judiciary."

It is, particularly, a Democratic assault on the GOP rule of the Michigan Supreme Court. The two Supreme Court seats that would be eliminated by the seniority provisions of the ballot proposal just happen to be those held by Republicans – Justices Robert P. Young Jr. of Detroit, and Stephen J. Markman of Lansing.

I hold no brief for preservation of the 5-2 GOP majority on the court, and will soon comment on published independent negative assessments of the court, as well as Democratic efforts to defeat Chief Justice Cliff Taylor.

But this cumbersome ballot proposal, replete with state Dem fingerprints, is no way to rewrite the Michigan Constitution. As noted by Rich Robinson of the watchdog Michigan Campaign Finance Network, the so-called reforms "do not address one glaring shortcoming in Michigan political regulation: campaign finance rules that allow a hugely expensive ballot proposal campaign to operate without transparency for months leading up to an election."

The *Detroit Free Press* said the ballot proposal, "officially sponsored by an obscure group based in Hastings called Reform Michigan Government Now!, is clearly designed to take advantage of public dissatisfaction across the board with the state of governance and politics in Michigan."

Fine. But dealing with dissatisfaction across the board should not result in a bad deal for northern Michigan.

The Schuette Seat

Not that partisan leanings are as pronounced among appeals judges as they are among the supremes, but it could be tough for Republicans to keep Schuette's seat.

Two-term state Representative Kevin Elsenheimer (R-Kewadin) had a good shot at the nomination but stepped aside when party biggies rallied behind Eric Doster of Lansing, longtime Michigan GOP legal counsel. Ex-Representative Jim Howell (R-St. Charles) also is in the four-candidate mix and could erode Doster's bid for the GOP base.

The only one with judicial experience is Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield of East Lansing. *Inside Michigan Politics* (IMP) newsletter noted she also has the advantage of having been elected in the district's largest county, and being the only female in the field.

IMP, which is second to none with a media finger on the local pulse of judicial and other races across the state, said of the race: "Another strong contender will be a man with a golden Irish surname – Michael J. Kelly, who lives and practices law in Flint, although his legal residence is in tiny Leelanau County 200 miles northwest within the 4th district."

In 2004, noted IMP, Kelly "came within some 2% of becoming the first person in Michigan history to knock off an appellate judge. (Chief Judge William C. Whitbeck survived by only 32,990 votes out of nearly 1.4 million cast.) Kelly and Manderfield are thus the two most likely to survive the August 5 primary and square off in November."

Binsfeld, North Honored

Restored theaters were the venues as two prominent former officeholders from northern Michigan who have made a profound impact beyond their political careers recently received well-deserved honors.

Former Senator Walt North of St. Ignace received Michigan's 2008 Community Foundation Award for Philanthropy from Governor Jennifer Granholm during the Governor's Service Awards program June 19 at the Fox Theater in Detroit. A former executive secretary of the Mackinac Bridge Authority, Mr. North has served on, and chaired, various foundation boards.

Last week in Traverse City's City Opera House, former Lieutenant Governor Connie Binsfeld of Maple City and Munising was praised by ex-Governor John Engler at the Michigan GOP's inaugural Wall of Honor dinner. Republican State Chairman Saul Anuzis noted that Binsfeld, a member of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame and the only woman to have leadership positions in Michigan's House, Senate, and Executive Office, had a stellar record of leadership on child and other family issues even before her service in Lansing.

George Weeks retired in 2006 after 22 years as political columnist for *The Detroit News*. His weekly *Michigan Politics* column is syndicated by *Superior Features*.

The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

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Letters:

All responsible letters will be considered for publication and may be edited. They must be signed and a telephone number must be included for verification. Personal thank-you notes, personal attacks against other people, form letters, and letters promoting political candidates are not accepted, although letters for or against ballot proposals are welcome.

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