

# Clark Township Officials Get Raises; Next Year's Budget Adopted at Annual Meeting

By Amy Polk

Clark Township voters adopted a tight 2008-2009 budget at the town-

ship's annual meeting Saturday, June 28. Next year's total budget, including the budgets for the gener-

## Ambulance Tours, Bike Path Update Also Given at Clark Township Meeting



Clark Township Ambulance volunteers Chet Kasper III (left) and Norm Smale demonstrate to the public how the corps' new power cot works to lift patients in and out of the ambulance. The volunteers gave Clark Township annual meeting participants a tour of the new vehicle, which was purchased through a special millage levied in 2007. Some enhancements, like this power cot, were purchased with money raised by the Les Cheneaux Ambulance Auxiliary.

By Amy Polk

People attending an annual Clark Township meeting heard an update on work at Snows Heritage Recreation Park in Cedarville, a report on the local portion of a proposed bicycle path through the E.U.P. and upcoming bicycle group visits, and toured the township's newest ambulance June 28. A fundraising calendar featuring local photographs will be made available this week. Among concerns shared by the public at the meeting were providing adequate parking, revitalizing the commercial districts, and low water levels. Two thousand photograph calendars of the Les Cheneaux area have been printed by the Clark Township Recreation Committee this summer, and committee member Steve Autore said 95 photographs were submitted by residents and visitors. The calendars can be purchased for \$12 at Clark Township Hall and local businesses.

Proceeds will be toward future projects and maintenance, Mr. Autore said.

Committee chair Darryl Hill reported that volunteers are finishing up work on the water and sprinkler system at the new Snows Heritage Recreation Park in Cedarville, behind Clark Township Hall. He expects the work will be finished this year, although it is progressing more slowly than planned. Electric and water systems separate from Clark Township Hall will help the committee monitor utility costs.

Cooperation among the Les Cheneaux Lions Club, recreation committee, and other local businesses and volunteers who have brought the project to fruition was noted by Supervisor Linda Hudson and Dana Leach.

"It has been a great community coming together to make this happen," Mrs. Hudson said.

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al fund and 11 other funds, is \$1,865,018 in revenues and \$1,857,445 in expenditures. The township's fiscal year began July 1.

The general fund is projected to have \$699,295 in revenues and \$701,160 in expenditures. The \$1,865 deficit will be covered by a \$159,102 reserve fund.

About 25 people attended the annual meeting, where presenting the new budget, Supervisor Linda Hudson said the board is expecting less revenue this coming year, owing to a weak economy, high gas prices, and the expectation of fewer tourists in town.

"We're projecting all our funds very conservatively," Treasurer Katie Carpenter said.

Clark Township's road fund, supported by millage, will have \$200,000 for road improvements this year, up about \$500 from last year.

The Recreation Fund, with \$40,162, bolstered by calendar sales and several donations, will be applied to the recreation field next to Clark Township Hall. This and the Bike Path Fund, which has a balance of \$31,900, are sustained by donations and grants.

The Ambulance Equipment Fund, for purchases outside the regular ambulance expenditures covered by the township's general fund, will see \$233,500 in revenues

including millage money raised for a new ambulance and fire department tanker truck. The ambulance has been paid for, but once the fire truck payment is deducted this year, the fund will end with a \$66,606 balance. The new tanker truck is expected in the fall.

The Fire Equipment Fund will have a \$7,522 balance this year.

The Marina and Beach Fund is expected to end the year with \$4,765, and trustees are planning to spend \$2,500 raised by charges and fees for improvements to the facilities.

The Airport Fund is expected to end 2008-2009 with \$232 after paying for maintenance, and Mrs. Carpenter noted the facility will need to make more money to pay for future improvements. Revenues come from donations and a lease at the building. The greatest annual expense is snowplowing, while state-mandated tree trimming has been held off the past two years.

Attendees approved salary increases proposed by board in June. The supervisor, clerk, and treasurer salaries were all increased by \$797.09 to \$20,824.37. Voters also increased the salary by \$88.57 for the two trustee positions to \$2,313.85, plus \$75 per regular meeting and \$25 for zoning board of appeals or planning commission participation. All raises were calcu-

lated at the current 3.98% rate of inflation.

Trustees do not receive additional compensation for non-statutory duties each official performs. The board last year had proposed \$5,000 compensation for "facilities administration and management" in addition to the salary assigned each position for each official performing non-statutory duties, but the proposal was never adopted. Officials have received only one salary increase since they were elected in 2004, said Kathryn Hills. This will be the second.

Township employees and elected officials receive no retirement benefits. Optional health insurance is offered to all three elected positions and to township employees who work 30 hours or more for 20% of the premium. The employee pays \$1,165.20 a year for insurance and the township pays \$4,660.80. Eligible employees who don't take health insurance receive \$800.

Ms. Carpenter further explained some of the non-statutory duties the three officials perform voluntarily, including managing township facilities and services. The supervisor's office manages the sewer, public works, and building and zoning departments. The clerk's office is responsible for three cemeteries, Clark Township Community Center, sewer billing, and administering

the townships' fire and ambulance services. The treasurer's office manages the municipal airport in Hessel, and the docks, launch ramps, and marina in Cedarville and Hessel, and facilities trash collection and transfer station. Each official also serves on various township committees, and have applied for and administered grants for community projects and improvements. The two trustees also perform voluntary duties and serve on township committees. Once considered part-time jobs that could be performed in addition to another job, Mrs. Carpenter said, the positions of supervisor, clerk, and treasurer have evolved into full-time jobs. She estimates township taxes collected and dispersed by the treasurer's office average \$5 million a year.

Clark Township anticipates collecting nearly \$2 million in revenue, including property tax, grants, donations, state shared revenue, and charges for services like sewer, marina, ambulance runs, community center rent, and permit fees. Trustee Mike Lofdahl noted the supervisor, clerk, and treasurer offices are responsible for handling revenues, expenditures, assets, and liabilities.

"You won't find that kind of compensation anywhere in the township for what they are responsible for," Mr. Lofdahl said.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### May Know Writer's Identity for Old Letter Found in Desk

To the Editor:

It was with great interest that we read the article in the June 5 issue of *The St. Ignace News*, about the letter found in an old piece of furniture. We suspect that the writer, "Effie," could very well have been a relative of ours, Ephemie MacIntosh Bogan of Mackinac Island.

Ephemie, known as Aunt Effie when she was older, was born about 1882, in Chatham, New Brunswick, Canada. That means that she would have been about 19 years old in 1901. Effie married John R. Bogan of the Island about 1908. We have a copy of their wedding picture; no date on it, though.

Effie's parents were David J. MacIntosh and Elizabeth Scott MacIntosh. David was a shipbuilder in Canada. The family story is that because he had experience building large wooden structures, boats, he was asked by the railroad if he would work on the planned Grand Hotel on Mackinac. David agreed to come to the Island, if he could bring his family. It is also a family story that David personally built the cupola on top of the building. Later deciding to stay permanently on the Island, he built the home we now own. We did find a memorial card in the house listing David's death date as September 29, 1924, age 82 years. He is buried on the Island, in the MacIntosh plot in the Protestant cemetery.

Effie and John had three daughters, Helen, Jean, and Lois Bogan, born in 1910, 1916, and 1918. John worked as a hotel manager, both on the Island and elsewhere. Effie worked now and then in various gift shops. John died in 1951, Effie in 1961.

Helen lived all her life on Mackinac, in the house where she was born, inheriting the John S. Doud shop from "Aunt May" Doud. Jean and Lois both married and left the Island for a time; however, they later both came back to the Island and continued to live in the house there the rest of their lives. Jean worked for Mackinac Island Carriage Tours for many years, and Lois took over the John S. Doud shop after Helen died in 1986. Jean and Lois both passed away in 1993. My husband is a cousin to the family.

We really do believe the writer of your letter was Effie MacIntosh Bogan, mostly because we don't believe there would be two young ladies named Effie living and working on Mackinac in 1901. Would you be willing to send us a photocopy of the letter? We would love to have it to add to our family history files, at least until someone proves that the writer is not our "Effie."

Tom and Phyllis Corrigan  
Mackinac Island and Glenview, Illinois

## St. Ignace News Policies

### 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.

### Obituaries:

The St. Ignace News maintains a policy of not charging for obituaries and we do often add information or rewrite them for clarity and reader interest. Obituaries that the family wants published exactly as submitted can be placed in the newspaper for \$75. Photographs are welcome at no charge.

### Weddings:

Weddings with photographs are published without charge within 45 days of the ceremony. After 45 days, a photograph can be included for \$35.00.

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## MICHIGAN POLITICS

By George Weeks



### Sewer Sludge and Detroit's Political Muck

"The whole thing is not good for Michigan."

— Governor Jennifer Granholm on Detroit's scandals and other woes

Not since the late 1950s, when its cash crisis and payless paydays for state workers prompted "Michigan on the Rocks" stories, has Michigan had such a run of bad news in the national media.

Over the decades, Detroit, as other big cities, has had some bad apples in City Hall.

Also over the decades, some of the media-hyped "federal probes" of Detroit officials have fizzled.

However, an ill wind now stirs for all of Michigan, an economically troubled state with its own image problems, in the headlines that the national media echo chamber air out of Detroit. Its two members of Congress have reason to wince at the headlines.

"A flood tide of scandals is staggering city government," headlined the *Detroit Free Press*. Without identifying them, the paper said last week "the FBI is investigating on at least four council members in connection with the council's approval of a multimillion-dollar sludge disposal contract in November."

Sewer sludge is an apt metaphor for the Motor City's political muck. Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, who with his ex-chief of staff Christine Beatty, faces perjury charges stemming from a sexually-charged text message scandal (*Detroit News*: "Racy messages suggest he, Beatty lied about relationship, cop firing"). Kilpatrick is the son of U.S. Representative Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-Detroit).

She faces a primary battle from opponents who, unfairly in my view, mutter about sins of the son. (As for the father, a former Wayne county official and now chair of a community health board, the *Detroit News* headlined: "Mayor's father under scrutiny: Sources say FBI is asking questions about Bernard Kilpatrick in probe of city contracts.")

Among the Detroit Council members are 1990s congresswoman Barbara-Rose Collins and Monica Conyers, wife of U.S. Representative John Conyers.

"Bribe probe ensnares Conyers," the *Detroit News* headlined Saturday atop page one. "Feds: Surveillance evidence suggests councilwoman took money tied to waste pact."

Steve Fishman, a prominent Detroit defense attorney representing Conyers, told the paper: "Every time I hear the word 'allegedly,' it reminds me of

Gladys Knight and her song, 'I Heard It Through the Grapevine.'

"Believe half of what you see and none of what you hear."

The Capitol Hill ties add to the national focus on Detroit's City Hall.

In a *Detroit News* business page column headlined "Has Mich. passed its tipping point?" Daniel Howes wrote: "The Detroit mayoral scandal has metastasized into a City Council corruption probe that is overshadowing the rattling apart of the city's schools and redefining the word 'embarrassment.'"

Granholm's tourism promoters have a highly effective "Pure Michigan" advertising program.

Pure is not a word the governor would apply to Detroit politics as she considers its beleaguered city council's request that she remove its beleaguered mayor from office for his handling of police whistleblower lawsuits.

### Cherry at Cherry Festival

With term-limited Granholm just about six months from the final two years of her 12-year reign, Lieutenant Governor John Cherry, a former Senate Democratic leader and an effective Granholm administration force behind the scenes, is getting more visibility as he gears for a likely bid for the top job in 2010.

Because Granholm heads to a National Governors Association meeting in Philadelphia, Cherry is to fill in for her Saturday in Traverse City at the Dems' National Cherry Festival "Governor's Breakfast," and a slot in Michigan's best parade north of Detroit.

Last week, the Michigan Democratic Party touted Cherry's response to the south-of-the-border trip by Senator John McCain, the GOP presidential nominee-in-waiting who returns to Michigan this week.

"Why are the Mexican and Columbian economies more important to McCain than bringing jobs to Michigan?" was the Dem pitch highlighting an appearance at a downsized Delphi plant in Flint by Cherry and U.S. Representative Dale Kildee (D-Flint).

Worthy of note: Kildee's nephew, Genesee Country Treasurer Dan Kildee and a widely-recognized combatant against urban sprawl, might be in the mix of what is sure to be a spirited Democratic gubernatorial primary in 2010.

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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The quotation under the flag of *The St. Ignace News* on Page 1 is from the 10 triads written by Dr. Fred Newton Scott, creator and teacher of the first continuous course in journalism in the United States at the University of Michigan in 1890. The 10 triads are chiseled on the parapet of the Detroit News Building at 615 Lafayette Boulevard, Detroit. They were headed "Ideals of the Press" or "The Newspaper in a Free Society," and serve as a reminder of what a free press means to us.