

Drawing More Swimmers to Pool, Securing Tennis Court Grants Are Goals of City Recreation Dept.

Schedule Announced for Upcoming Events

By Karen Gould

At 6 a.m. on many days, Scott Marshall can be found cleaning filters, adding chemicals, and checking the water temperature as he prepares the community swimming pool for the day's activities. Fourteen hours later at 8 p.m., as the new coordinator and facilities manager for the St. Ignace Recreation Department, Mr. Marshall heads for home for the day after stopping at the ball fields at LaSalle High School to check on evening games.

"I've just always loved sports," he said.

He's been on the job as the city's recreation coordinator a little more than two weeks. City Manager Eric Dodson manages the department.

The St. Ignace Recreation Department operates Little Bear East ice arena, conference center, and fitness center, LaSalle High School baseball diamonds, soccer fields, and swimming pool, and the city tennis court on Truckey Street. Mr. Marshall's job as the recreation coordinator is to oversee recreation programs, including swimming, soccer, softball, T-ball, wrestling, and baseball.

Goals for the department include reinstating men's softball leagues, drawing more swimmers to the under-used community swimming pool, supplying needed youth softball equipment, and securing grants to repair the tennis courts, while continuing to operate the department in a way that's profitable for the city.

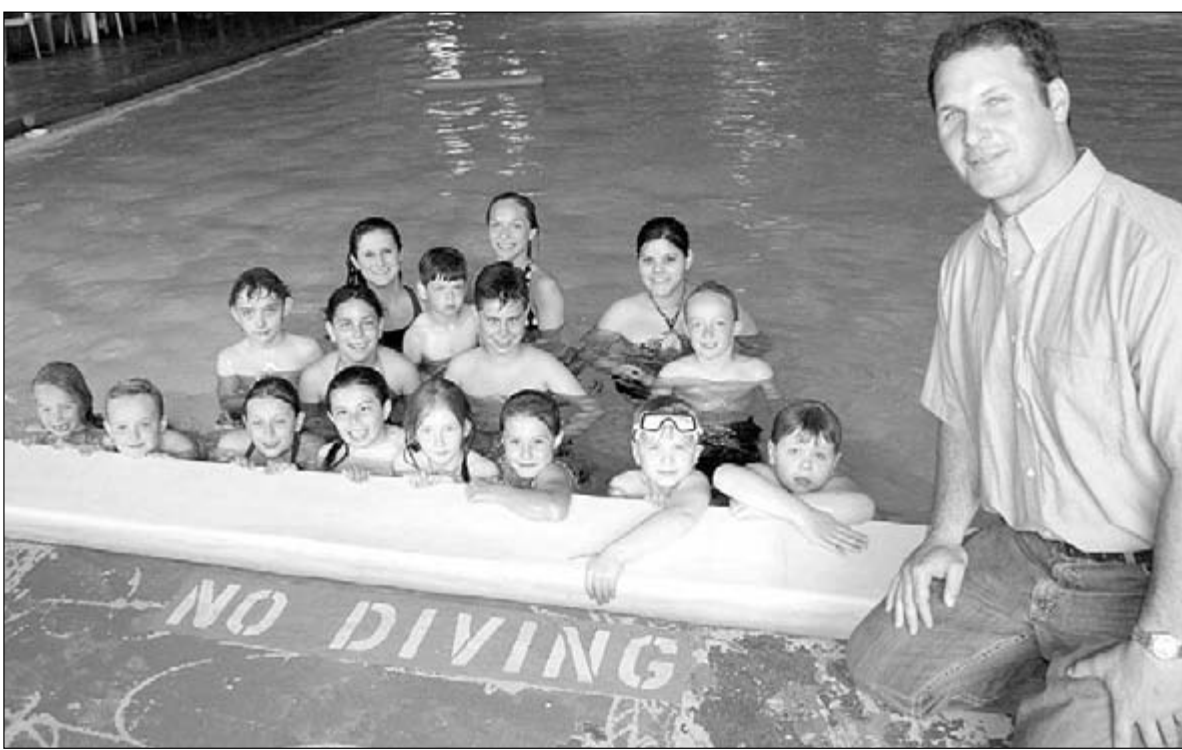
"The number one goal," said Mr. Dodson, "is to increase usage of the [Little Bear] facility, have the best programs that we can have, and have an expanded amount of programs and finding a way we can do that, that we can afford."

This summer, Mr. Marshall is focusing on improving existing programs and then he will be considering new programs.

"I believe that a recreation program builds stronger communities," he said. "I truly believe there is a sport out there for everybody."

At the city's Olympic-size pool, he has expanded open swim hours that begin at noon each day. The open swim now ends at 4 p.m. except for Fridays and Sundays, when it is closed. He has reduced the cost to use the pool from \$3 to \$2, hoping to draw more interest, and is offering a monthly pass for \$25. A free day Thursday, July 3, from noon until 4 p.m. was set up to encourage swimmers to use the pool, and he hopes to have a similar event later in the summer.

This fall he would like to offer lifeguard classes, which would make more lifeguards available to work at the pool. Right now, two



lifeguards cover hours at the pool.

Swimming lessons are available now for children, although he would like to offer evening lessons for both adults and children once more lifeguards are available.

Mr. Marshall is working with Jim Clement to offer tennis lessons in July to anyone who is interested, because having a tennis program is required for a grant the city is applying for to make an estimated \$67,000 in repairs to the courts.

"We want to do a good job and make it nice," said Mr. Dodson, "but at the same time realize we just don't have those kinds of funds lying around to just do it."

A new summer program this year is mixed flag football for ages seven to 14. The program will be offered in mid-August and games will be at the LaSalle fields.

Also new is a wrestling tournament set for Sunday, July 13, to be called Battle at the Bridge. The tournament is part of the Border Wars Wrestling youth wrestling organization. About 150 to 200 wrestlers are expected to come to St. Ignace for the competition, which gives wrestlers the opportunity to challenge those from other states.

A clinic will be offered Friday, July 11, and Saturday, July 12, by Dave Dean, who was an Olympic Team alternate in 1996, a former assistant wrestling coach at Michigan State University, and now is the head coach for wrestling at Lowell. R.J. Boudro, the MSU wrestling team captain from 2005 to 2006, and Dustin Cichocki, the head assistant coach at Lowell, also will participate in the clinic.

"All these Border Wars Wrestling Tournaments are in the large cities," Mr. Marshall said. "We're the only one offering a wrestling tournament in a beautiful, small, vacation spot."

The sport reflects a longtime

interest of Mr. Marshall's. He started a youth wrestling club last fall for students ages five through 14 years old. The club, which meets at Little Bear Arena, enrolled 25 members, who met from September through April and may someday meet all year. The club is raising money to buy a wrestling mat for the LaSalle varsity wrestling team.

The city will host a Red Hacker basketball tournament Saturday, July 12, in St. Ignace. Three-on-three half court, four-on-four full court, and five-on-five full court matches are planned during the day in the parking lot across the street from the arena.

St. Ignace youngsters can play baseball this year through the Rudyard baseball program, which offers girls fast pitch for ages 11 through 14 and boys competition for ages 10 through 14.

The St. Ignace baseball program needs new equipment and Mr. Marshall plans to take inventory at the end of the season. He expects new helmets, shin guards, bats, and catcher's equipment will need to be replaced before next season.

This winter, he will make plans to reinstate men's softball for next summer, a program that has been dormant for a few years.

The soccer program for children ages 4 through 14 continues to grow, he said, with approximately 20 new players this year. The program, which starts July 22, has about 200 players signed up, and although registration has passed, Mr. Marshall said he would not turn away any who register late.

In the future, he would like to establish a traveling soccer team.

John Styes of St. Ignace will be hosting a soccer clinic for players, coaches, and referees Wednesday, July 9, and Wednesday, July 16, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. More information is available at the office in Little Bear Arena.

Scott Marshall, coordinator and facilities manager for the St. Ignace City Recreation Department, visited young swimmers Thursday, June 26, the day they completed the recreation department's swimming class. A new class is scheduled to begin Monday, July 7, and will run through Thursday, July 17. Swimmers are (front row, from left) Morgan Thomas, Sarah Doran, Peyton Belonga, Summer Sposito, Katlyn Donjakowski, Libby Becker, Jarrett and Trevor Soblaskey; (middle) Jordan Osmon, Angela and Martin Donjakowski, Ben Doran; (back) swimming instructor Kelsey Cryderman, Anton St. Andrew, swimming instructor aide Alexa Thibault, and swimming instructor Jessica Hadley.

Mr. Marshall and his wife, Amy, have two sons, Dylan, 11, and Austin, 9, and a daughter, Hallie, 5.

He plans to continue marketing the advantages of the Little Bear facility to outside groups and will do research to see how to draw new conventions and programs like baseball card shows and scrapbooking events.

He wants to check into setting

Visiting Volunteers Spruce Up Nancy's Place



Sprucing up Nancy's Place is the youth group from Faith Lutheran Church of Grand Blanc. The St. Ignace State Street apartment building is owned by the Diane Peppler Resource Center. The teenagers did yard work and painted the walkway. The group came over from Mackinac Island Tuesday, July 1, after spending four days at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island with 1,800 other teenagers as part of the Michigan Treasure Island Lutheran Church Youth Gathering. Painters pictured (left, front to back) are Tracy Conner, Jimmy Cull, Luke Nuenfeldt, Tyler Cronkright, Nicole Boenke, Peter Chipetta; (right, front to back) Amand Borrow, Aaron Ducharme, Lauren Dahms, Laura DuCharme, McKenzie Mora, and Courtney Frederick.

64 Mud Run Challengers Seek Best Time at St. Ignace



Sixty-four competitors rolled through the mud Saturday, July 5, on the grounds of Little Bear East Arena during the second St. Ignace Mud Run of the year. In his truck "Animaniac," Jim West of St. Ignace tries to empty the track of mud as he rounds the J-hook and heads down the straightaway, creating a wave of mud during the Open Class event. The track was readied Saturday morning for the competition by the Department of Public Works, the St. Ignace Fire Department, and volunteers Kenny Litzner and Mr. West. The St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce hosted the event and is planning the final mud run of the year September 6, also on the grounds of Little Bear East Arena.

MUD RUN RESULTS Saturday, July 5, Little Bear East Arena in St. Ignace		
<i>Class 1 - Open</i>		
Cheboygan	1. Matt Barber of	
Cheboygan	2. Jim West of St. Ignace	
Cheboygan	3. Jim Nord of Gulliver	
<i>Class 2 - Women's Open</i>		
Cheboygan	1. Tracy Holland of	
Marie	2. Kristin Earl of Sault Ste.	
Ignace	3. Kelly Huyck of St.	
<i>Class 3 - SS Street Stock</i>		
Cheboygan	1. Bill Ramsby of	
	2. Harley Holoepeter of	
Cheboygan	3. Dave Moon of DeTour	
<i>Class 4 - D.O.T. Stock - Tires up to 34"</i>		
Cedarville	1. Alex Altmaier of	
Cedarville	2. Brian Earl of Sault Ste.	
Marie	3. J.C. Alcorn of Dafter	
<i>Class 5 - D.O.T. Stock - Tires up to 37"</i>		
Cedarville	1. Alex Altmaier of	
Cedarville	2. Steve McBride of Echo	
Bay Ontario	3. Jordan Huff of Cedarville	
<i>Class 6 - Women's Stock</i>		
	1. Kelly Huyck of St.	
Ignace	2. Kristin Earl of Sault Ste.	
	3. Heidi Shattuck of	
	3. Heidi Shattuck of	
<i>Class 7 - Modified</i>		
	1. Matt Barber of	
	2. Jim West of St. Ignace	
	3. Fred Minor of Cooks	
<i>Class 8 - D.O.T. Stock - Tires up to 44"</i>		
	1. Tom Huff of Cedarville	
	2. George Huff of	
	3. Matt Baker of Sault Ste.	

Mackinaw City Hotel Gets Site Plan Amendment

Fine Proposed for Owner Who Moved Building

By Karen Gould

Mackinaw City hotel owner William Mellish should be penalized for deviating from his original site plan, say Mackinaw City Planning Commission members, and at their Thursday, June 26, meeting, they sent their suggestion to the Village Council. The original site plan was approved by the commission last fall.

The approved site plan called for a 19-unit, three-story motel building to be moved from the Mackinaw Bay and Beach All Suites Resort to the Waterfront Inn. The building was to be placed 50 feet from the property line. Later, said Mr. Mellish, who attended Thursday's meeting, he realized the building's placement would block a view of Lake Huron. He then decided to have the structure placed 10 feet from the property line, which retained the view of the water and met the 10-foot zoning setback requirement imposed by the Village.

Both of his motel properties are on South Huron Avenue. Mr. Mellish, however, did not seek an amendment to his site plan from the planning commission to make the modification, and to complicate matters more, the Village at this time was in the process of changing the minimum setbacks from 10 feet to 15 feet. The ordinance amendment becomes effective in July.

At the June 26 meeting, the com-

mission was told by its attorney, Tom Evashevski, that it could require Mr. Mellish to comply with the new regulation and force him to move the building to 15 feet from the line. Commissioners said they liked where Mr. Mellish ended up moving the building, although they

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Last Call, Blue Water Ramblers To Play



"Banjo Jim" Foerch and "Bear" Berends are the Blue Water Ramblers.

Last Call will be featured in a Locals on the Bay concert Wednesday, July 16, at 7 p.m. at the St. Ignace Marina. The band plays classic rock. Also at the marina, Blue Water Ramblers will perform for Bayside Live! Thursday, July 17, at 7 p.m. The band's repertoire comes from their Michigan life experiences and the history of the Great Lakes region. Songs include lake and lumbering ballads, Michigan humor, love songs, gospel music, and civil rights and protest songs from the '60s. "Banjo Jim" Foerch and R.H. "Bear" Berends have been playing throughout Michigan and the Midwest for more than 30 years.

The outdoor concerts are free of charge. Audience members may bring lawn chairs, and bleacher seating is also available.