St. Ignace City Council Moves Wastewater Project Forward

City: *From page 1*

cracked in a windstorm.

Les Therrian, director of the Department of Public Works, said the city crew has worked with both companies before and has confidence in their abilities. In a written report, Wilcox Professional Services staff confirmed both companies were qualified to do the work.

Councilman Willie LaLonde questioned why the second phase was not rebid, since all bids were over the estimated budget, to which Mr. Therrian replied that the higher bids reflect the rising costs for materials. Rebiding the project, he said, would cost the city about $5,000, and that $100,000 over projection on a $3 million project is not unreasonable. He is talking with DeVere Construction about ways to reduce costs, and city crews now may do parts of the project.

Both bids were approved unanimously.

Including Kamphuis Pipeline, six bids were received for the first phase of the project. Other bidders were Fox Excavating of Brimley at $1,379,526, Maverick Construction of St. Ignace at $1,499,031, Cordes Excavating of Hillman at $1,695,213, M & M Excavating of Gaylord at $1,724,251, and MDC Contracting of Charlevoix at $1,730,589.

Including DeVere Construction, three bids were received for phase two, including Meridian Construction of Alpena at $2,108,000 and Spence Brothers of Traverse City at $2,371,500.

In other business, Council approved a resolution that declares May 1 Silver Star Banner Day. The city now will honor wounded and ill soldiers of St. Ignace. Silver Star Families of America, a charitable not-for-profit organization, is asking communities to establish the day.

Mayor Paul Grondin also told Council he had attended the 50th anniversary celebration of Bessie's Homemade Pasties of St. Ignace.

For the last 48 years, said City Manager Eric Dodson, the fire department clowns have represented the City of St. Ignace across Northern Michigan. At Polish Fest in Rogers City, Saturday, August 5, they received the Judges Award, the highest award offered by the city at the parade.

"They do an excellent job," he said, "and take time out of their own schedule. They do a really nice job of representing the city."

During the public comment portion of the meeting, resident Mary Nichols said since May she was no longer receiving city council agendas. A request she had made through the Freedom of Information Act. Ms. Nichols requested a written explanation. Mr. Dodson said he did not know why she was not receiving them and would look into it.

Council next meets Monday, August 18, at 8 p.m. at the city hall.

Sports, Family Activities To Be Focus of New St. Ignace Festival

Summer Daze: *From page 1*

and trophies, and hiring referees and umpires.

Activities will begin Thursday at 11 a.m. inside Little Bear East, with beginner dance classes offered by Allison Brown. For children five years and older, the hour-long class will introduce ballet, tap, and jazz dancing. At noon, an intermediate class for students with some dance experience will be offered including the same dance styles. From 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., dancers 14 years and older will receive basic instruction in jazz and hip hop. Classes also will be held Tuesday, August 12, and Wednesday, August 13. The fee is $20 for the three-day clinic.

At 5 p.m., youth will participate in three-on-three basketball tournaments at the Little Bear East basketball courts. Boys and girls divisions in ages 9 to 11 years old and 12 to 14 years old are planned, and medals will be awarded for first and second place teams. The fee per team is $25.

Friday features a Junior baseball tournament beginning at noon at the fields at LaSalle High School for ages 9 through 11.The team registration cost is $50. Medals will be awarded to first and second place teams.

A 5k race open to all will lead runners through downtown St. Ignace Saturday, August 9, at 8 a.m. at Little Bear East. The course will take runners to LaSalle High School and down to State Street with the finish line at Little Bear East. The race fee is $10, or $20 for those who want a T-shirt with pre-registration at Little Bear East. Medals will be awarded in all divisions.

Racers will leave the arena, heading onto Marquette Street and then onto Portage Street to LaSalle High School, where runners will race through the parking lot and onto the Spring Street extension. From there, they will run down the First Street hill and return to Portage Street before heading to Truckey Street and returning to Little Bear East running along State Street sidewalks. One water station will be available for runners at the high school.

Volunteers are needed to help during the race. Those interested may call the Recreation Department.

Events move to LaSalle High School sports fields at noon Saturday, when a men's softball tournament will get underway. Sign up is at Little Bear East with a fee of $50 per team. The recreation department can assist with putting together teams and finding team sponsors.

While softball games are underway, youth water races open to all ages will begin at the school swimming pool at 1 p.m. Challenges, which are free to all participants, include underwater races, relay races, and diving for bricks and quarters. Medals also will be awarded.

At 3 p.m. Saturday, youth track and field events begin at the school track. The young athletes will compete in sprints, long distance runs, and the long jump. Participation is $3 and medals will be awarded.

By 5 p.m. the washer toss tournament gets underway with two-person teams in both youth and adult divisions, also at the school sport fields. A $10 fee per team and pre-registration is required at Little Bear East. Trophies for first and second place teams will be awarded.

For more information or to volunteer or register for events, call the St. Ignace Recreation Department at 643-8676.

Layoffs Financially Necessary, Tribe Reports

Tribe: *From page 1*

eligible for unemployment benefits through the State of Michigan, Mrs. Bouschor said.

Aside from the casino jobs, the rest of the cuts will come from the Tribe's service departments, including government, health, recreation, and contract services, Mrs. Bouschor added.

"People are upset about this. It is never a good time when this happens" she told *The St. Ignace News,* "particularly in the current economy."

The move is hoped to help the tribe recover financially, she added.

"This is an extremely tough decision to make. It has not been easy," said Tribal Chairman Joe McCoy in a release. "However, due to our financial position and to ensure the longevity of our Tribe and the profitability of our tribal businesses, changes must be made. We have to look to our future and make decisions that will sustain our Tribe and benefit our membership.

"Unfortunately, over the years, millions in tribal reserves has been dwindled down to nothing. According to our financial analysts, if changes are not made, the Tribe will not recover."

"Although it appears to be a very dim situation right now, it is one that we will fix," he added. "We are making adjustments, as hard as they are, so that we can maintain what we have and move the Tribe forward."

The administration plans to assess membership services, consider organizational restructuring, and analyze technology updates that could help the tribe's financial position in the future, he reported.

"We will do our best to preserve tribal services for our membership, however, we are taking a look at how we provide those services, where we provide them, and developing more efficient plans to ensure continuity of the top three tribal membership priorities: health, education, and our elders," Chairman McCoy said.

The announcement of the job cuts was made to staff and administration members by Chairman McCoy, the tribal board of directors, Kristi Little, co-executive director, Victor Matson Jr., chief financial officer and co-executive director of internal services, and Tony Goetz, casino chief operating officer.

Bark in the Park To Be August 16

"Bark in the Park" will take place Saturday, August 16, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the marina grounds in St. Ignace. The event begins with a dog parade through downtown, followed by contests for cutest dog, best trick, best costume, smallest dog, largest dog, and "best tail wag."

Registration is $15 and includes a T-shirt and bandana. All proceeds will benefit homeless pets in the Mackinac County Animal Shelter.

For more information, contact Jo Ford at (906) 292-0046.

Concert Planned at First Union Church

Evangelists Randy and Marli Brown will perform a concert Sunday, August 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the First Union Church in Cedarville.

Their mission is to encourage fellow believers to make a deeper commitment to God. Refreshments and cookies will be provided. A free-will offering will be collected.

Rep. McDowell Announces Office Hours

State Representative Gary McDowell will hold office hours Monday, August 11, in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, and Petoskey.

The schedule for the office hours is: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Chippewa County Courthouse Annex Meeting Room in Sault Ste. Marie; noon to 1 p.m. at the Mackinac County Annex in St. Ignace; 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Petoskey City Hall Community Room.

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