

Rent, Food, Utilities Help Among Services To Be Showcased Monday

Services: From page 1

example, so we hope to head off any problems and arrange for needed services before winter starts."

People can learn about local programs to help pay utility bills, get commodity foods, and find and pay for housing, as well as receive help in writing a resume or job application. Health screenings and information will also be offered. A

hairdresser will be on hand to offer free haircuts from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Child care will be available at the site.

Tables will be set up in the large room at the back of the resale store, and lunch will be served there as well, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Hope Chest will not accept donations of resale items that day.

The program has two goals, to help people in need and to bring

more community awareness to the problems of poverty and homelessness, said Ronda Engle of the Department of Human Services. No statistics are available, but there is a significant local housing problem, she said.

"Do we really have homeless people in Mackinac County? Maybe not living outside in a cardboard box, no, but sleeping on Auntie's couch, or two families living together in crowded conditions, yes," she said. "This is a one day, one-stop-shop event. We want to bring awareness to the programs that can help people, and show what services can benefit them and keep them in their homes if they are struggling. Affordable housing is a big issue in Mackinac County."

Organizers are now accepting donations from the community, such as coupons for businesses, toiletries, and hygiene items, to be distributed at the program. For example, dental offices have already donated toothpaste and

toothbrushes.

People can arrange for free transportation to the event by calling Ronda Engle at 643-6115 or Ronda Schlehuber at 643-7884.

Donations can also be made by calling these numbers.

Participating agencies include the Department of Human Services, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Salvation Army, Legacy House, Community Action Agency, Michigan Works, Head Start, the Diane Pepler Resource Center, U.P. Health Access Coalition, Michigan State University Extension, Hope Chest, and Housing Opportunities Made Equal.

Costs of the program are paid by a \$750 grant from E.U.P. Continuum of Care in Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac counties. Headquartered in Sault Ste. Marie, the agency addresses housing and shelter needs for homeless people, or people at risk of homelessness.

USS Freedom Visits Straits for Trials



With Mackinac Island visible in the background, the U.S. Navy's new littoral combat ship anchored off the St. Ignace shore Saturday, November 1. The ship arrived Friday evening, October 31, and will be commissioned the USS Freedom later this week in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Ship: From page 1

and maneuverable and will travel at more than 45 knots, or greater than 50 miles per hour.

A raft was deployed from the vessel Saturday afternoon that traveled along the downtown St. Ignace shoreline, entering the city marina before returning to the ship.

Specific information on the trials taking place here is not being released, said Petty Officer William Mitchell, a spokesman for the U.S. Coast Guard Ninth District in Cleveland, Ohio. The ship arrived in the area after attending a ceremony in Duluth, Minnesota, he said.

Navy Lieutenant Commander Philip Rosi II told *The St. Ignace News* Monday, November 3, the crew was putting the ship through her paces, testing capabilities, and getting familiar with traveling through the Soo Locks. LCDR Rosi is with the U.S. Fleet Forces Command for Public Affairs in Norfolk, Virginia, although he originally is from Traverse City.

The last time the Navy con-

ducted Great Lakes cruises was in 1999, he said.

Traveling into Lake Superior provided training for the crew, he said, who will sail the vessel from Milwaukee through the Great Lakes and into the lock system on her way to Norfolk.

"Each ship has its own unique handling characteristics," he said, "and you want to build crew proficiency with that ship."

The ship will operate with a crew of about 40, plus it can have an aviation crew and interchangeable mission modules, all of which can increase its crew to about 80. The mission packages will allow the ship to be used for mine warfare, anti-submarine warfare, surface warfare, and humanitarian relief.

After leaving St. Ignace Saturday afternoon, November 1, the ship was headed to Milwaukee, where she will be commissioned Saturday, November 8. From there the vessel will head to Norfolk. From Virginia, the USS Freedom will sail to her homeport of San Diego, California.

Dinner To Benefit Christmas Charities

A lasagna dinner will be Sunday, November 16, at 5:30 p.m. at Moose Lodge 999 in St. Ignace to benefit the Mackinac County Children's Toy Drive and Moose Lodge Christmas food baskets.

Bring a toy for a chance to win a door prize. The evening will also include a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle.

Hunters and the general public are welcome.

Downtown Trees Get Lights



On State Street, from Goudreau to Spring streets, white lights were strung on downtown St. Ignace trees Wednesday, October 29. The lights use 80% less electricity than standard miniature tree lights, said Tom Kladzyk (pictured), owner of Holiday Lighting Service of Manchester. The lights will remain in place year around and are funded by the Downtown Development Authority, which approved the \$2,815 light expenditure and installation at its August meeting.

Guv's National Roles Diminishing

Weeks: From page 2

because the primary was earlier than allowed by party rules.

And what of current Governor Jennifer Granholm?

She was an early supporter of Senator Clinton for the Democratic nomination (even before Granholm's endorsement, First Gentleman Dan Mulhern raved about prospect of having a two-for-one with Bill Clinton back in the White House).

Granholm subsequently became part of Team Obama and had a high-profile gig playing the

role of Sarah Palin in helping Obama running mate Joe Biden prep for the Veep debate.

But McCain's abrupt surrender by pulling out of Michigan ended its status as a battleground state - and opportunity for Granholm to be a heralded pivotal player in her home state.

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.

Clark Twp. Moving To Finish Plan

Signs: From page 3

and will only be allowed two weeks prior to and after a specific event is advertised.

The commission also added new uses to the existing zoning designation use chart, including emergency services, art gallery, bed and breakfast, manufacturing, and mini-warehouse and storage. The chart identifies primary use of properties.

Watershed Council proposes floodplain ordinance

Pat Carr and Hank Lotoszinski of the Les Cheneaux Watershed Council gave a presentation to the planning commission to adopt a floodplain management ordinance. The ordinance would require new dwellings to be built outside the floodplain zone or incorporate additional measures in construction already required by the State Construction Code.

Set back standards would remain the same under the proposed ordinance.

For property owners to obtain flood insurance, the township must participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, outlined in the proposed ordinance. New dwellings built inside the floodplain may be subject to higher insurance rates.

"A lot of people have property in the floodplain, want to develop it, and, by law, you can," Mr. Lotoszinski said. "It essentially makes more sense to build high and dry. But if you don't have an option to build anywhere but in the floodplain, you've got to go through some hoops and you might have to pay some flood insurance."

The commission decided to postpone voting on the ordinance until its next meeting to allow more time to research the proposed ordinance.

The planning commission next meets Tuesday, November 11, at 7 p.m. at the Clark Township Community Center.

Sculpture Goes to Ann Arbor School

Sculpture: From page 1

Mr. Dunn's artwork, said Lyn Drennan, director of Alumni Relations for Greenhills Schools.

Mr. Dunn had to build the sculpture outside his workshop on West Dunn-Hill Road because it was too tall to build inside. He built makeshift walls out of old billboards he got from the Tourist Association and draped a blue tarp over the top to act as a roof.

He said he had proposed the same sculpture idea to the City of Cheboygan several years ago for a park sculpture, but the city decided against purchasing it.

Mr. Dunn hauled the sculpture

to Ann Arbor Wednesday, October 29, on a trailer. Once there, he planned to anchor it to the ground and make several final welds to secure the trunks and branches in place.

The entire project, including material, installation, and labor, cost the Greenhills Class of 1987 \$12,000, which was paid through fundraising.

"It's just been a whole lot of work, a lot more than I anticipated," he said. "That's the art. The artist part has been more the job from the heart; the design, the desire to accomplish it, to make a functional piece. It's a challenge, and I enjoy the challenge."

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