

DDA To Support Weekly Wine Tasting Promotion; Two New St. Ignace Summer Events Planned

DDA: From page 1
which is equal to the rate of inflation.

"We, as a city, do not control the values," said Mr. Elmer. "It is controlled in Lansing. Every house, every vacant lot in the State of Michigan is going up 4.4%."

Mr. Elmer agreed to have marina staff handle snow removal from the boardwalk leading to the lighthouse. The staff also will be keeping the snow removed from the marina docks. Last winter, the boardwalk leading to Wawatam Lighthouse was not cleared, said DDA Director Deb Evashevski, although many people tromped through deep snow and climbed over snowdrifts to walk there.

Wine Event To Add Beer

The DDA agreed to increase support for the downtown wine tasting and to cover the loss incurred by the first time event, which was held Tuesday nights for 14 weeks last summer.

The DDA pledged \$2,010.64, with \$510.64 to cover last summer's

losses and \$1,500 for the 2009 series.

In May, the DDA contributed \$1,000 to promote the event.

DDA member John Ruegg suggested the Chamber of Commerce consider increasing the price of a ticket from \$5 to \$6. Last summer, the \$5 admission included six one-ounce samples of wine and free hors d'oeuvres.

Local restaurants took turns donating hors d'oeuvres, with some reporting additional business from the event.

Chamber expenses included liquor licenses, insurance, live music, signs, advertising, posters, wrist bands, wine tasting notes, and wine.

The event ran from July through September at the Pavillion retail mall on State Street and drew from 10 to 70 participants each Tuesday, with fewer attendees in September. With the DDA's support, said Janet Peterson, Chamber of Commerce director, wine tasting would continue in 2009, although for a shorter

period of 10 weeks, ending in August.

Beer tasting also will become a part of the event, with six to eight different beers offered each week.

More than 400 volunteer hours were needed to staff the weekly event, Mrs. Peterson said.

Business Association Plans

Business Association members are supporting the Saturday night fireworks proposed for next summer and have agreed to keep stores open until 10 p.m. then, said Elizabeth Brown, association member and owner of the Pavillion.

Store owners also are asked to develop a theme or festive atmosphere each Saturday night.

The annual sidewalk sale will move to Saturday, August 8, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Previously, the sale was held during the day.

Also, through a letter, the association will be encouraging all stores to have fresh paint, new displays in windows, and clean storefronts in 2009, said Ms. Brown.

New Summer Events Planned

Art on the Boardwalk will be held Saturday, August 22. Artists will be able to display and sell their work along the boardwalk.

Chairs for Charity is a new event that combines downtown businesses with artists and charities. The businesses will buy Adirondack style chairs, from baby chairs to rocking chairs, said Ms. Brown. They will be painted by an artist and placed in front of the businesses by July 4, and remain through the summer.

Visitors and residents will be able to bid on the chairs until August 22, when the chairs will be auctioned. Details still are being worked out and could include a bid listing on the Chamber Web site.

The Chamber now is looking for volunteer artists.

The Business Association welcomes any suggestions to get more businesses to join the association, said Ms. Brown, who pointed out several businesses take advantage of events without joining the association.

"We're not just planning for 2009," said Ms. Brown. "We're planning for the recovery. When the recovery comes, which we're expecting in 2010, if we have all these things in place, we're going to be ready for the recovery."

Downtown Walkability Study

Mrs. Evashevski invited DDA members to participate in a walkability assessment of the downtown led by Jim Lucas of Michigan State University Extension (MSUE). The group will meet at the library Monday, December 1, at 11 a.m. and walk through town. Mrs. Evashevski asked for the assessment, which is offered at no charge from MSUE.

"I think it is always good to have a fresh set of eyes looking at your community," said Mrs. Evashevski.

The Michigan Department of Transportation also may send a rep-

resentative, since it is assessing all crosswalks around the state to make sure they are handicap accessible.

Walking Tours

The DDA will consider a future financial commitment to the walking tours offered by the Visitors Bureau. For 2009, the Chamber of Commerce would like to hire Jim Couling of Sault Ste. Marie for \$125 per evening to conduct the tours. He also has agreed to train others on how to be effective guides.

This summer, Mr. Couling would like to offer a mentoring program, taking potential tour guides along on tours, to improve the quality of the program. The tour in 2009 will focus on the boardwalk and downtown district from Marquette Mission Park to Fort de Buade Museum.

The tour will last about one hour on Wednesday evenings in July and August, beginning at 7 p.m.

Last year, about 50 people took the free tour.

Other Business

To promote downtown commerce, the Business Association requested the DDA support the move of Red Hacker back to the downtown district from Little Bear East Arena parking lots. The event moved from the marina to Little Bear East on Marquette Street in 2005.

"One of the most successful days of our season has turned into a flat nothing," said Ms. Brown.

Discussion of the move is expected to continue with the Recreation Advisory Committee, as the event is managed by the Recreation Department.

The 20 replacement lights for the American Legion park have been ordered, said Mrs. Evashevski. The cost was \$533.37 each and the total

bill is \$11,467.40. Many of the lights were damaged by vandals this year and an insurance claim has been made.

Mrs. Evashevski and city engineer Brian Olsen now will seek bids for labor to install the lights.

The purchase of a new door was approved for the Chamber of Commerce building, which is owned by the DDA. The cost is estimated to be about \$3,500. The DDA agreed to have Mrs. Evashevski and Mr. Olsen handle the project. It is under the \$5,000 requirement to ask for bids.

The door now on the building is deteriorating and in the winter, staff shovel snow from inside the doorway.

The DDA also agreed to add heat to the kitchen at the DDA-owned rental house at 576 North State Street. The work is expected to cost about \$550.

Eighteen trees were replaced downtown this fall for a number of reasons, said Mrs. Evashevski. Some of the trees were ash trees, which are prone to insect infestation, while others were growing into the sidewalk grates or blocking the signs of businesses. Five more trees are scheduled to be replaced next year.

The terms are up for DDA members Cathie Sposito and Heather Aukeman. Their reappointment will be at the Monday, December 1, City Council meeting.

Museum of Ojibwa Culture

Prison work crews have completed the drain field that will divert water from the foundation of the Museum of Ojibwa Culture, said Mrs. Evashevski.

The DDA next meets Friday, December 12, at 8 a.m. at city hall.

Holiday Events 2008

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•Thursday, December 11, through Sunday, December 14: **Living Nativity**, 7 p.m., Clark Township Ice Rink, Cedarville. The Christmas story presented with live actors and animals.

Pickford

•Monday, December 15: **Winter Band Concert**, 7 p.m., Pickford Schools. Performances by fifth grade band, sixth grade band, middle school band, and high school band.

•Tuesday, December 16: **Elementary Winter Program**, 7 p.m., Pickford Schools.

DeTour

•Thursday, December 4, through Sunday, December 7: **"A Christmas Carol"** production, Fine Arts Cultural Center.

•Friday, December 5, through Sunday, November 7: **Village Christmas: A Walk Back in Time**, various locations. Friday includes tree lighting and luminary walk. Saturday includes breakfast with Santa, artists' shows, crafters and vendors, and sleigh rides.

•Saturday, December 6: **Union Presbyterian Church Bazaar and Luncheon** during Village Christmas, at the church.

•Monday, December 15: **DeTour Christmas Program**, 6:30 p.m., DeTour Schools.

Drummond Island

•Wednesday, December 17: **Elementary Christmas Program**, 6:30 p.m., Drummond Island School.

Rudyard

•Thursday, December 4: **Rudyard Historical Society Christmas Party**, 6 p.m. potluck dinner, 7 p.m. music program, Rudyard community Center. Open to the public. Bring a dish to pass.

•Monday, December 15: **Elementary Christmas Program**, 6:30 p.m., Turner-Howson Elementary School.

•Tuesday, December 16: **Middle School Christmas Concert**, 6:30 p.m., Rudyard Middle School.

•Wednesday, December 17: **High School Christmas Concert**, 7:30 p.m., Rudyard High School.

Engadine, Naubinway

•Monday, December 8: **Elementary Winter Concert**, 6:30 p.m., Engadine Consolidated Schools.

•Tuesday, December 16: **Winter Band Concert**, 7 p.m., Engadine Consolidated Schools.

Curtis, Gould City

•Friday, November 28: **Curtis A Glow**, 6 p.m., Curtis Park. Includes lighting the town, Santa Parade, and hot cider.

•Saturday, November 29: **Christmas Bazaar**, 10 a.m., Portage Township Community Building and Curtis Elementary School.

Sault Ste. Marie

•Friday, November 28: **Parade of Lights**, 7 p.m., downtown Sault Ste. Marie.

•Saturday, November 29, and Sunday, November 30: **Christmas Open House**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Santa at Avery Square noon to 4 p.m..

•Saturday, December 13: **Holiday Book Sale**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Bayliss Public Library.

•Saturday, December 13: **Christmas Party for Foster, Kinship, Adoptive Families**, noon to 4 p.m., Best Western. Bring a dish to pass.

Cheboygan

•Friday, December 5: **Community Caroling and Tree Lighting**, 6 p.m., Washington Park.

•Saturday, December 6: **Parade of Lights**, 6 p.m., Main Street.



Annual Christmas Bazaar
November 29th
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
At The Les Chenzaux Community School

Holiday Extravaganza!

Music Department Concert
Elementary through High School Performers
Monday, December 1st
Prelude 5:45 p.m.
Concert 6:00 p.m.

LaSalle High School Gymnasium, St. Ignace

Prelude:
Community Steel Band

Featuring:
6th Grade, Junior High & High School Concert Bands
Youth Chorus, High School Choir & Children's Chorus

St. Ignace Jazz & Steel Bands
MAC Percussion Groups

Admission: Students \$1⁰⁰ • Adults \$2⁰⁰ • Family \$5⁰⁰



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(next to Post Office in Rudyard)

478-5331
Mon.-Thurs. 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Spaghetti Benefit Dinner

for
Ron Rickley, Sr. Family
&
Grandchildren

Sunday, November 30th
3 to 7 p.m.
St. Ignace VFW

Dinner and Bake Sale by Donation

Take-out Available,
Call the VFW at (906) 643-9602

Community Welcome

Gift Raffle All proceeds to help with medical and funeral expenses. **50/50**





B.C. PIZZA
The Best Choice Pizza!
643-0300

We will be **CLOSED**
Thursday, Nov. 27th

Happy Thanksgiving!

277 N. State Street, St. Ignace
643-0300

209 E. Central Avenue,
Mackinaw City
436-5500



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906-253-2500 **906-643-3053**

2637 Ashmun Street Sault Ste. Marie Behind Taco Bell

288 S. State Street St. Ignace



Reception

You are cordially invited to join in with the Mackinac County Commissioners to honor George & Jo Ann Ford at a reception honoring their work with the Mackinac Animal Aid Association.

December 2, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.
Mackinac County Courthouse
3rd Floor Court Room

During the meeting of the Board of Commissioners (6:00 p.m.), we will have an appreciation reception for all the work that has been done by Jo Ann and George Ford on behalf of the Mackinac County Animal Shelter. Their fund raising for the Mackinac County Animal Shelter has surpassed any other fund raising done in and around Mackinac County. Reception will include light snacks and beverages. Please come and honor Jo Ann and George.

Also, we will honor those on their fund raising board, they are as follows:

Ginger & Andy	Ronald Cotton	Hank & Nancy
Valentine	Linc & Lynda Smith	Michaels
Judy Gross	Donna DesJardins	Molly Sweeney

Christmas Fun Fair

Saturday, December 6th

Little Bear East
Noon to 3 p.m.

Visit From Santa!

Free Games **Free Food** **Free Cakewalk**

~ All Children Welcome ~

Sponsored by Keith Massaway, Pat Rickley & St. Ignace Tribal Elders