

Mackinac Island Group Working To Secure Hubbard's Annex Landmark Status

Lists 70+ Structures That Contribute

By Ryan Schlehner

A list of more than 70 items, photographs of structures and landmarks that were targeted as contributing to the history of Hubbard's Annex near the West Bluff, was officially accepted by the Mackinac Island City Council at its meeting Wednesday, November 19. It was the first step in securing status for the Annex as a National Historic Landmark (NHL).

A group of Hubbard's Annex residents is seeking the historic landmark status as a city committee seeks to improve and preserve such status for the entire Island.

Both committees were created by Mayor Margaret Doud earlier this fall.

The list from the Hubbard's Annex committee includes historic homes, summer cottages, barns, gazebos, parks, and maps.

Nominations for NHL status are evaluated by the National Park System Advisory Board, and the Hubbard's Annex group's list will be reviewed to determine if the Annex is eligible for its own individual status. Final decisions on designation are made by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

The Hubbard's Annex committee includes Lorna Straus, Chris Straus, Melissa Straus, Shannon Schuler, Rosalie Rausch, Dan Shea, and James Bazinaw.

The city's other committee, which is studying contributing and non-contributing structures in the city, is councilman and committee chairman Michael Hart, Planning Commission Chairman Bob Brown, Grand Hotel President Dan Musser III, Brad Chambers of Mackinac Island Carriage Tours, and Phil Porter, director of Mackinac State Historic Parks.

Prior to the council meeting, seven committee members met in a combined meeting of the Streets and Sidewalks, Finance, and Public Safety committees. Attending were Police Chief Jim Marks, Mayor Margaret Doud, building inspector Dennis Dombroski, council members Michael Hart and Dan Wightman, mayor's assistant Kelly Bean, and City Clerk Karen Lennard.

Chief Marks announced that police officer Bryan Hookana is resigning from his full-time position for "personal, off-island reasons." Mr. Hookana, originally from Livonia, was hired last October.

Officer Dominic Redman, who had been laid off for the season earlier this fall, was promoted to full time to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Hookana. He will begin January 1, 2009. He joins officers Ken Hardy Jr., Andy Dziobak, and Cory Kaminen as the police

department's winter force.

This is Mr. Redman's first year serving on the Island.

With Council's approval, the city's finance committee opted to change its Blue Cross/ Blue Shield insurance deductible from \$500 to \$1,000, which will save the city \$600 a month, owing to rates under the current plan increasing by 7.7%. By choosing a higher deductible for its 25 city employees, the city will save 5.4%. Its monthly insurance premiums would decrease from \$18,325.89 to \$17,712.20.

The city already reimburses employees \$250 of the previous \$500 deductible. It has had four requests to do so in the past 12 months, Ms. Bean explained to the committee.

The group briefly reviewed design plans for road improvements to Annex Road from Wilcox Professional Services, an engineering firm from Escanaba, presented by Mr. Dombroski.

The plan is to reconstruct part of Annex Road, from Park Avenue to the four corners at Cadotte Avenue, near Mackinac Island Carriage Tours barns.

"The distance of how much is improved will depend on how much money we have at the time," said Mr. Dombroski. "Eventually, we'd like to do the entire road, including to the Stonecliffe area."

Mr. Dombroski said one part of a 500-foot-long section is dam-

aged to the point that carriages and drays are driving on the shoulder of the road, and he suggested the city widen the road from 16 feet wide to 18 feet, at least in that area.

Six temporary motor vehicle permits were issued to Belonga Plumbing & Heating for tree

stump removal at Stonebrook North, Lot 13, hauling top soil to Karen McCabe's home on Lake Shore Boulevard on the west side of the Island, snow removal (as needed) at Stonebrook North and South Roads, and at the Stonecliffe area for the Sunset Forest Association.

DeTour's Old Fashioned Christmas Begins Friday

Plans are underway for DeTour Village's fourth annual Village Christmas, "A Walk Back In Time," which will feature a play, tree lighting, a luminary walk, caroling, and a bazaar.

The holiday celebration will take place Friday, December 5, through Sunday, December 7, and will feature performances Friday and Saturday nights and a Sunday matinee of the Dickens classic, "A Christmas Carol" directed by David Rhinard in the Fine Arts Cultural Center. There will also be a Thursday, December 4, performance of "A Christmas Carol."

Tickets for all performances are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, and \$5 for students.

In addition to the play, Friday evening will include a tree lighting, caroling, and a luminary walk hosted by the Botanical Garden. Saturday events feature specials at

downtown shops and restaurants, a bazaar with soup and dessert luncheon at Union Presbyterian Church, artists' show and sale, crafters and vendors, children's crafts and activities at the Cultural Center and Village Hall, a breakfast with Santa, and sleigh rides.

Children's activities Saturday, December 6, begin with a Breakfast with Santa from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Fisher's Restaurant. The breakfast is sponsored by the restaurant and the DeTour Historical Museum and includes a holiday pancake with beverage and gifts for \$2.75. Reservations are not required, but breakfast reservations are appreciated by calling Betty Jean at 297-2801.

Children can visit Santa at Dragon Fly Floral from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., followed by a story and

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'Breaking Up' Suggested for Lakes, Mississippi

Leading Great Lakes advocates are calling for federal leadership and funding for "ecological separation" of the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River basin to protect both great watersheds from the perils of invasive species.

The November 12 announcement comes with the release of a new Alliance for the Great Lakes report that outlines six options for separating the watersheds and halting the transfer of species between them.

They are linked by the Chicago Waterway System, a complex system engineered in 1900 to reverse the flow of the Chicago River, which carries Chicago's wastewater away from Lake Michigan.

"The Great Lakes and the Mississippi River are at risk because of a connection that's nothing natural," said Alliance Vice President for Policy Joel Brammeier, lead author of the report. "Fifteen miles of water and an experimental electric barrier are all that's standing between the Great Lakes and Asian carp. We've got to get serious about a real solution."

Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley noted that Asian carp in the Mississippi River were a known threat to the Great Lakes in 2003, when the city hosted a pre-emptive strike: the Chicago Aquatic Invasive Species Summit.

"We have been asking for years

to complete these electrical barriers," Mr. Daley said. "It's time for our federal, state, and local partners to follow through on keeping these two great natural resources safe."

A 2003 analysis suggested that separation of the systems could reasonably be achieved within 10 years. Five years have now passed and many millions of dollars have been spent, the Alliance reports, while making progress on even interim steps such as a permanent electrical barrier has been difficult.

Although Asian carp, known to eat up to 20% of their body weight in plankton daily, are the most

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Holiday Giving Opportunities in Our Community

Several opportunities are available for donating to needy families in the community during the holiday season, including the following:

- **Mackinac County Children's Toy Drive:** Cash canisters are available in St. Ignace at McGregor Shell, Autore Shell, Truck Stop station, the Holiday, Pines Trading Post, Timmy Lee's Pub, the Hope Chest, Bentley's B-n-L Cafe, and Big Boy restaurant. Boxes to collect new, unwrapped toys, electronics, and clothing are available at The St. Ignace News office, Moose Lodge 999, Bentley's B-n-L Cafe, the Pavillion, all locations of First National Bank, Glen's Markets, the Gold Mine, True Value, and U.P. State Credit Union. Donations may also be mailed to Mackinac County Children's Toy Drive in care of Wendy Colegrove, 152 Bertrand Street, St. Ignace Michigan 49781 or The St. Ignace News, P.O. Box 277, St. Ignace.

- **Santa's Elves:** Toys can be donated through December 15 at First National Bank in Cedarville. Gift requests can be selected from a Christmas tree at the bank and wrapped gifts can be dropped off there with the request tag attached. Clothing is

not a suggested donation. Cash donations can be made all year to Santa's Elves in care of Kate Ter Haar, 803 Islington Road, Cedarville Michigan 49719. More information is available from Mrs. Ter Haar at 484-3610 or Pat O'Brien at 484-3520.

- **Moose Lodge 999 Christmas Food Basket Drive:** Baskets containing the ingredients for a Christmas dinner will be distributed to needy families by lodge members and members of the U.S. Coast Guard December 20. Monetary donations can be sent to Moose Lodge 999, P.O. Box 305, St. Ignace Michigan 49781. Make checks payable to Moose Lodge and indicate Christmas basket fund. More information is available from the lodge at 643-8785.

- **Mitten Tree, First National Bank:** A Christmas tree at the main office of First National Bank in St. Ignace is decorated with hooks, awaiting the donation of mittens, scarves, and hats that can be hung on the tree for needy children and families. They will be distributed before Christmas with Mackinac County Children's Toy Drive donations.

- **Hope Chest and St. Ignace Food Pantry:** The Hope Chest building on Ferry Lane houses

the resale store and the St. Ignace Food Pantry. Donations of resale items are accepted at the Hope Chest store Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The food pantry is open for donations and for those who need food Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For emergency needs, call the St. Ignace Area Hope hotline for assistance at 643-6780. Monetary donations are accepted for either program. More information is available by calling the store at 643-7360.

- **Cedar Post Thrift Store and Food Pantry:** Donations are accepted every day except Sunday at the store in Cedarville, from noon to 4 p.m. Monetary donations can be dedicated to the food pantry specifically. Right now, the pantry is in particular need of cereal, soup, canned tomatoes, and tomato sauces.

- **West Mackinac County Food Pantry:** The pantry in Engadine is accepting food and monetary donations. To make arrangements, call 477-6388.

To list a local holiday charity drive in this space at no charge, call 643-9150.

Pickford Children Enjoy Thanksgiving Meal at School



Jodie Bergeron's kindergarten class at Pickford school enjoys Thanksgiving dinner Wednesday, November 26, at the school. Pictured are (from left) Billy Newell, Melody Turner, Christopher Vagts; (right) Elle Cottle.



Pickford Elementary School Principal Jan Rairigh serves pumpkin pie to fourth grade students (from left) Ben Skinner, Kristin Harrison, and Linda Raynard. About 20 staff and volunteers provided Thanksgiving meals to about 450 Pickford students at school.

At right: Server Melissa Van Luven delivers pumpkin pie to Sharon Bawks' fourth grade students Wayatt Boik and Victoria Portice at Pickford school's annual Thanksgiving dinner Wednesday, November 26.

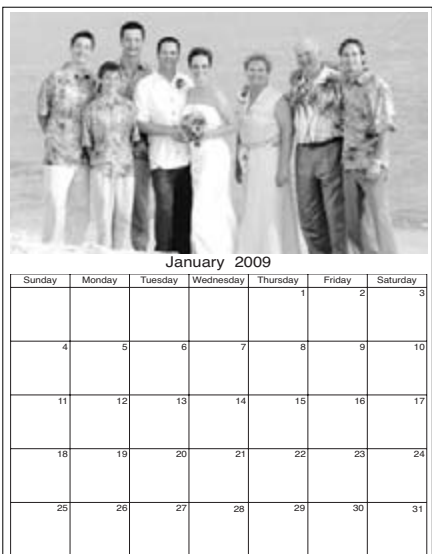


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