

# Volunteers Credited as Mackinac County Sets Example of Successful Shelter

By Karen Gould

Dedicated perseverance and hard work of volunteers and staff of the Mackinac County Animal Shelter, under the leadership of Jo Ann and George Ford, have impacted the community by lowering costs, increasing pet licenses, and reducing the number of animals roaming freely around the county, say county commissioners. Fewer puppies and pregnant dogs are showing up at the doorstep of the shelter a result of the spay and neuter program.

"We certainly do appreciate all of your work and what you've done for our community," said Commission Chair Dawn Nelson to the volunteer group. "I think any service organization like Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, they would be just delighted if you'd join them, because you are a group of people that are hard to really replace. People just don't work like you do."

Commissioners recognized the contributions made by Mr. and Mrs. Ford, volunteers, and shelter workers Tuesday evening, December 2, during a special reception at the courthouse. Commissioners offered



Nine-week-old Lacey relaxes as she gets her nails trimmed by Mackinac County Animal Shelter Manager Ginger Valentine. Lacey, a lab blue tick hound, is pictured while being adopted Thursday, December 4, by John Beato of Naubinway.

a resolution of thanks to the Fords, who founded Mackinac Animal Aid Association (MAAA) four years

ago. Group members also commended the Fords.

Mr. Ford said the change in health and care of animals is a group effort that includes volunteers and those who support the shelter and offer financial contributions.

"George and Jo Ann are the pilots running the boat," said Mrs. Nelson.

Their leadership, she said, has made the difference in shelter operations in the county.

"You are the driving forces behind the successful fundraising



With about 50 people in attendance, volunteers and workers for the Mackinac County Animal Shelter were recognized for their dedication by county commissioners at a reception Tuesday, December 2, at the county courthouse. Pictured are volunteers (standing, from left) Molly Sweeney, Ginger Valentine, Andy Valentine, Donna DesJardins, Judy Gross, Jo Ann Ford, Dorene Ogle, George Ford, Nancy Michaels, Wendy Frosland, Linda Smith, Hank Michaels; (seated) commissioners Larry Leveille, Carl Frazier, Dawn Nelson, Mike Patrick, and Calvin McPhee.

and the operation at the animal shelter," she said.

"I think we've educated people," said Shelter Manager Ginger Valentine, who also is a member of MAAA. "People have been educated to know they need to get their animals spayed or neutered. They need to get their vaccinations on a yearly basis, not just one time and then forget about it. A lot of people have gotten licenses."

The education process is ongoing and has stretched over the last

four years, said Mrs. Valentine, and includes a newsletter published by MAAA, print advertising, a new book program at the St. Ignace Elementary School, talking with shelter visitors, and giving information to those adopting a pet from the shelter.

Within the last four years, two highly contagious viruses have almost been eliminated at the shelter. Dogs used to come to the shelter already infected with the highly contagious canine parvovirus.

"There wasn't a dog that came in that didn't have a case of parvo," said Wendy Frosland, animal control officer. "We had sick dogs all the time."

The virus is easily preventable with a vaccine and through the proper cleaning of pet items.

"Because of giving the vaccinations, every dog, every cat that comes in gets a vaccination, and because of all the spaying and neutering, we haven't had parvo in

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## Group Working To Save Rudyard Swimming Pool

The Rudyard Area Schools Larry G. Davis swimming pool, nearly 36 years old, is in need of major renovations. Community members have formed the Rudyard Pool Renovation Project committee to spearhead fundraising to complete the needed upgrades.

These renovations, when completed, will be guaranteed for a minimum of 10 years, the committee reports.

The need for renovations was found this fall when the aluminum pool was drained for maintenance and painting. When the gutter areas were scraped down to prepare for painting, several small holes were found in the piping that returns the pressurized water to the pool. These holes were due to electrolysis of the softer aluminum metal over the years.

The original company that built the pool, Chester Pool, was brought

in to evaluate the situation. Its audit of the pool's condition determined the need for a three-phase approach to upgrading the swimming pool.

The first phase would repair the gutter area, including the pressurized water piping, and replace the drain box and the piping leading from the bottom of the pool to the filter area. Phase two would completely refurbish the filters for the pool and remove the steel valves that are one of the reasons that electrolysis takes place. In phase three, the company recommends that the pool be lined with vinyl to eliminate the potential for future leaks.

The total cost for all three phases is approximately \$154,000 and three funding sources have been determined. At the November 5 school board meeting, the board agreed to accept funding from

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## Mackinac Island Undeveloped Land Historic McNally Cottage, Open Waterfront Lots Sold

By Ryan Schlehuder

Ira Green and a small group of partners organized as McNally Development, LLC purchased the historic McNally Cottage on Mackinac Island Thursday, December 4. Included are two undeveloped waterfront lots across from it on Main Street.

Mr. Green owns Iroquois Bike Rental and plans to expand it to the adjacent waterfront lots. Island Bicycle Rental, owned by Tom Pfeiffermann and Gwen Baker, which has operated there for 20 years, has sold 100 of its 300 bicycle licenses to Mr. Green and will relocate its rental operation by next summer.

Mr. Green also plans to close his Del Sol bicycle merchandise and rental shop on Hoban Street at the Lake View Hotel and include those rental bicycles with the Main Street operation, taking over where Island Bike Rental had operated. He will

continuing to sell his M-185 merchandise at the new location.

"We are redesigning the entire bike rental operation on the McNally waterfront so we no longer have to load bikes on the street in front of the rental building," said Mr. Green.

Plans are to install an outdoor covered booth and expand the existing concrete bike staging platform to ready bicycles and load passengers away from the curb and then let them out onto the street.

Sticky Paws owners Kim and Dave Texeira will move their business out of the Balsam Shop complex on Hoban Street and move into the larger retail space formerly occupied by the Del Sol business.

Plans for McNally Cottage are being developed now and a site plan will be presented to City Council in the next few weeks, said Mr. Green. He did not disclose any details.

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## 'OK Floodplain Ordinance,' Clark Twp. Planners Advise

By Jonathan Eppley

Clark Township's planning commission sent a floodplain management ordinance to the township board Tuesday, December 9, with a recommendation for approval. If the township approves the ordinance, property owners will be able to purchase insurance to protect against flood damages through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The proposed ordinance would also require the township to manage and enforce development in floodplain zones pursuant to Michigan Construction Codes and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines.

Current township building setback requirements of at least 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark (581.5 feet above sea level), or 35 feet from the ordinary high water

mark if there is a three foot rise in ground elevation, would remain the same under the proposed ordinance.

"A lot of people who own property in the floodplain want to develop it, and by law you can," Hank Lotoszinski, a watershed technician with the Chippewa/East Mackinac Conservation District, told *The St. Ignace News*. "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 have a more comprehensive land survey that includes elevation information, and you might have to pay [for] flood insurance."

Flood insurance is mandated for development within floodplain zones for projects funded by lenders regulated or insured by the federal

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## A Gros Cap School Christmas

### Students Celebrate With Songs, Santa Claus Visit

At left: Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus greet Eric Grove (from left) and Erik Perrault at Gros Cap School's holiday party.

At right: Third and fourth grade students at Gros Cap School perform "Have a Merry Christmas" and "Nice, Nice Christmas" at the school's holiday program Friday, December 12.



The entire student body of Gros Cap School sings "You Are Beautiful to Me" at the school's holiday program Friday, December 12. Five other groups from all grades also sang.