

# Mackinac County Gives St. Ignace Area Hope \$10,000

## Hope Chest Shop Earns \$96,000 in 2008

By Karen Gould

To help meet the immediate needs of Mackinac County residents facing financial hardship, \$10,000 was given to St. Ignace Area Hope by the county commission at its Thursday, January 8, meeting. This is the second year the county has provided the funds.

Volunteer Ron Tamlyn and Pastor Mike Lane of Glen Memorial Baptist Church attended the meeting.

Total income for the organization in 2008 was approximately

\$132,000, of which \$96,000 was earned at the Hope Chest resale store, said Mr. Lane. The store requires a minimum donation of 25¢ per item purchased.

"It is far beyond what any of us could have imagined," he said.

The organization also received a \$3,500 Federal Emergency Management Agency grant and approximately \$11,000 in smaller grants. Donations also were received from businesses, organizations, and residents.

Through the organization's telephone hotline service, which

allows residents with immediate needs to call for help, about \$60,000 was provided in assistance last year, said Mr. Lane. Approximately \$24,000 was provided in utility assistance, \$21,000 provided in housing assistance, and the remaining funds covered miscellaneous needs.

Help was given to more than 330 families or individuals.

This year, the organization also purchased and renovated the Ferry Lane building that houses the resale shop and the St. Ignace Food Pantry.

About 80 residents volunteer

their time to the program, he said.

In other business, commissioners hired Stewart, Beauvais and Whipple of Port Huron for \$99,000 as the county auditor for the next three years. Anderson Tackman Company of Kincheloe has been the county's auditor for the last three years, but Commission Chair Dawn Nelson said periodic change provides a fresh view of the county's finances.

Commissioners will next meet Thursday, January 22, at 4 p.m. at the County Courthouse annex building in St. Ignace.

# Commission Suggests Prohibiting Some Geothermal Systems

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system.

Mr. Smith said there also are environmental concerns with open-loop systems. The warmer temperature waters released into the aquifers may change the water temperature on the lake shoreline, resulting in different plant and animal growth patterns.

"We don't want to dump that water back into the lake like that, it could be warm water," he said. "Then we'd have more problems."

## Zoning ordinance updates

At its January 13 meeting, the

commission also discussed a list of nine suggested changes to the recently updated township zoning ordinances, as recommended by Mackinac County.

The Mackinac County Planning Commission recommended changes to dock sharing, residential windmill use, wireless communication tower lighting, airport approach protection plans, zoning table of uses, and zoning application procedures.

The only suggestion the township plans to take action on is Article 6.27, which now prohibits

neighbors or associations from sharing boat docks. Township planning commissioners plan to allow docks to be shared.

Other changes suggested by the county were for clerical error corrections, topics already covered by state and federal regulations, and topics covered under the revised township master plan, which the county had not yet received when reviewing the zoning ordinances.

The Clark Township Planning Commission is awaiting suggestions from the township board before recommending final

changes to the ordinances. Recommendations probably won't be made until March. The township board will have final approval.

## Officer reelections

The planning commission reelected Jeff Davis, Steve Honnila, John Grenier, and Joe Eger to one-year terms as commission chair, co-chair, secretary, and liaison to the Zoning Board of Appeals, respectively. Gary Wellnitz, Pam Thompson, Vaughn Rye, Mike Freel, and Mr. Smith also serve on the planning commission.

# Map Moves Island Group Closer to Master Plan Update Deadline

By Ryan Schlehner

With a newly created digital map of Mackinac Island's land boundaries, the long overdue revision of the city's master plan is moving forward.

A committee of Mayor Margaret Doud, Planning Commissioners Trish Martin and Mary Dufina, Councilman Michael Hart, and resident Barb Fisher continued combing through a proposed committee report created by city attorney Tom Evashevski at a meeting Wednesday, January 14.

The report, once it is finished, will be submitted to Connie Dimond, a consultant who was hired to keep the committee on task for revising the city's master plan, which is supposed to be updated every five years.

The master plan allows a municipality to envision future development and preservation of its infrastructure based on the wishes and goals of its residents.

Top concerns are over development and lack of open space within the city limits.

"I'd like to see as much greenspace as possible," said Mrs. Fisher, after the meeting. "I know people have the right to develop their property, but I would hope that they also have enough love for Mackinac that they'd leave greenspace as it is instead of developing the property to the max."

One tool planners use is a "build-out" of a municipality's current zoning regulations. Applying lot size and density regulations to a

map of private property, planners can calculate the maximum development that is allowed. This can show where development will be concentrated, which is useful in planning city services, such as new sewer mains, and can also alert communities to areas where development is not wanted. Zoning regulations can then be amended to steer development where the community wants to see it.

Build-outs can be calculated in detail by examining each property or estimated relatively quickly by formula. They are routinely done in small and large communities throughout the United States.

The city's building inspector, Dennis Dombroski, said he thinks providing hard data on the Island's build-out potential would be exhaustive work, but he estimates the city's population could easily double under current zoning regulations.

Mr. Evashevski asked Mr. Dombroski to produce on paper whatever he can about build-out potential so it can be added to the committee's report to Ms. Dimond.

The six-page report consists of a list of information that Ms. Dimond asked for, said Mr. Evashevski, who prepared it. It includes an additional paragraph written by summer resident Fran Straus that describes the Island as a "living historical community."

The committee must also submit an existing land use map, which is completed, and a future land use map, which will show what areas

the community wants to see developed in the future and the areas it hopes to preserve as they are now.

The Mackinac County Equalization Department created a digital map for the committee that can eventually include zoning, land use, and population information.

Planners can extract street names, electrical lines, buried pipelines, or, in the master plan committee's case, property lines, said Ken Gilmore, the assistant

# Students Can Design Severe Weather Poster for Contest

To draw attention to the need for being prepared in the event of severe weather, the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is sponsoring a Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest, open to all students in fourth or fifth grades. The deadline to enter is February 1.

Posters must illustrate what individuals and families should do to prepare for Michigan's severe weather, such as tornadoes, floods, snow storms, severe cold, lightning, and thunderstorms.

The first place winner will receive a \$200 U.S. Savings Bond; second place will be awarded a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond; third place will receive a \$75 U.S. Savings Bond; honorable mention will be awarded a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond.

Posters must be approximately

15 inches by 20 inches and submitted on quality poster or illustration board. The work must be original and may be in any media with the exception of pencil, chalk, charcoal, or glitter. All posters will become the property of the committee.

The artist's name, grade, and telephone number, along with the name, address, and telephone number of the student's school, and art instructor (if any), must be on the back of the poster.

Entries must be postmarked no later than midnight February 1. To enter, send posters wrapped flat to National Weather Service, 9200 White Lake Road, White Lake, Michigan 48386.

For further information, contact Lori Conarton at the Insurance Institute of Michigan at (517) 371-2880 or Rich Pollman at (248) 625-3309, extension 726.

# Northern Michigan News Roundup

The news in brief from communities around the U.P. and northern Michigan

Compiled using information published in various community newspapers.

## Mackinaw helps prepare for closure of Soo Locks

The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw* worked the St. Marys River last week in preparation for the closing of the Soo Locks, set for 11:59 p.m. Thursday, January 15.

The *Edwin H. Gott* and the *Edgar B. Speer* traveled through the Straits of Mackinac Tuesday, January 13, before entering the DeTour Passage and the St. Marys River. Both ships were headed for Duluth, Minnesota, for the winter.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, closes the locks annually from 11:59 p.m. January 15 through 12:01 a.m. March 25.

During the closure, inspection and maintenance of hydraulic, electrical, and structural equipment will be performed on the Poe Lock, while a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-mandated five-year inspection is underway on the MacArthur Lock, which closed December 15, 2008. The MacArthur Lock work will be done by 60 Corps employees, many of whom normally would be subject to a layoff.

The MacArthur Lock is expected to open in April.

In 2008, 8,461 vessels passed through the locks, carrying 80.6 million tons of cargo.

—Cheboygan Daily Tribune

## County pursues taking over former prison

Schoolcraft County has declared its intention to take over Camp Manistique, the former prison, and turn it into a county jail. County commissioners there passed a resolution January 8 to acquire the facility. It was closed in 2007 by the Michigan Department of Corrections.

At the time, a task force began working to find other uses for the former prison, including finding a private buyer, but that approach has not been successful.

Commissioners said passing the resolution last week is a way to keep the county's acquisition of the facility on track and let the state know the county is still interested, while questions about cost, funding, jail staffing, and long-term maintenance can be resolved.

—Pioneer Tribune

## Store expansion is sign of growth at Escanaba

A new Menards Superstore in Escanaba will officially open its doors to customers March 24, the company reports. The store is a home improvement chain. It first opened in the area in 1991, and will

be moving to a new 24,000-square-foot facility on Ludington Street. About 200 people will be employed there.

The company, which has headquarters in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, operates 245 stores in 12 states, and is continuing to expand.

—Escanaba Daily Press

## Economic downturn prompts changes to two local newspapers

In addition to cuts at newspapers of all sizes across the country, including the *Detroit Free Press* in Michigan, cutbacks were announced by *The Evening News* in Sault Ste. Marie January 9 in the form of reduced business hours and changes in comics and television guide information for that publication. In previous cutbacks, staff positions were cut at *The Evening News*, and the current round of cuts seeks to save money for the company without eliminating any more jobs, the paper announced.

Another local paper, *The Community Voice* in Brimley, ceased publication in December.

—The Evening News

# Roach Waives Arraignment, Awaits February Pre-trial Date

Roy Roach, 21, of St. Ignace, facing charges for the October 28, 2008, shooting death of 19-year-old Seth Tamlyn, has waived his arraignment, which was set for Friday, January 23, at 11th Circuit Court in St. Ignace.

A pre-trial hearing and motions are expected to be held sometime in

February.

Mr. Roach is being charged with one count of second degree homicide-murder, one count homicide-manslaughter death by weapon with intent, without malice, one count felony firearms, and one count weapons/ firearms - use/discharge under the influence, causing death.

# Free Radon Test Kits Are Available Through Health Department

Free radon testing kits are available at all local Luce Mackinac Alger Schoolcraft (LMAS) District Health Departments during January.

Radon, a naturally occurring gas emitted from the earth, can pose a health threat in unsafe concentrations. The health department encourages residents to pick up the free kits to test their homes for radon.

For more information on radon, radon testing, and mitigation, and radon-resistant new construction, call the LMAS District Health Department office in St. Ignace at 643-1100, extension 133.

LMAS District Health Department has provided these frequently asked questions from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality:

**1. What is radon? Where does it come from?**

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is tasteless, odorless, and colorless. It comes from the breakdown of radium, which comes from the radioactive decay of uranium, both of which are found in at least trace amounts in almost any kind of soil or rock. Granites, shales, phosphates, and certain other types of rock have higher than average concentrations of uranium, and may produce higher concentrations of radon, however, elevated radon levels can occur

even in areas with low concentrations of uranium in the soil or rocks.

**2. Is radon really a health risk? I've heard it is a scam.**

Yes, radon is a Class A carcinogen, which means it is known to cause cancer in humans. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking, and results in approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the United States each year. Not everyone who breathes radon will develop lung cancer. A person's risk is determined by such things as how much radon is in a home (and/or workplace, school, or other indoor environment); the amount of time a person spent there, and whether a person smokes or have ever smoked. The longer a person is exposed, and the higher the radon level, the greater the risk.

**3. How do I know if I have a radon problem in my home?**

The only way to know whether a home has elevated radon levels is to test the home. There are no physical signs to warn a person of the presence of radon, and it cannot be detected with the senses. And since radon levels can vary significantly from home to home, a neighbor's test results can't be used to determine whether or not a home has a problem. Homes must be tested.

**4. How does radon get into my home?**

Radon enters homes through

openings in the foundation floor or walls, wherever the foundation is in contact with the soil. Because it's a gas, radon can travel through the soil, and it generally moves from an area of higher pressure to one of lower pressure. In most cases, the soil is at higher pressure than the house, and if radon is traveling along the foundation, it can be pushed into the lower pressure area

through openings such as sump crocks, crawlspaces, space around plumbing or wiring, floor/wall joints, cracks, hollow block walls, or other entry points. Tiny or large openings in the foundation floor or walls can act as entry points, and the pressure difference between the soil and the house acts as the driving force that allows radon to enter a home.

## Weekly Fishing Report

### Brevort Lake

Peggy Ferris at the Holiday Station Store in St. Ignace said anglers are catching perch and walleye on Brevort Lake with minnows and wax worms. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the AAA Michigan weekly fishing report each also listed walleye and perch there in good numbers.

AAA also said blue gill are biting on minnows, wax worms, and spikes in the bays of Brevort Lake.

### Cedarville Bay

Carley Ball of Wilderness Treasures in Pickford said anglers are catching perch in Muscallonge Bay using teardrops, small spoons, wigglers, minnows, and grubs.

Ms. Ferris said anglers are reporting good perch, and AAA

reported perch and walleye are biting on minnows in the bays.

### Mosquito Bay

Mosquito Bay near Sault Ste. Marie is giving up fair to good numbers of whitefish, according to the AAA weekly report.

### Munuscong Bay

Ms. Ball said walleye are biting pretty much anywhere on the bay, and perch and pike are also biting in good numbers. She said anglers are using jigs and spoons with minnows to catch walleye, jigs and tip-ups to catch pike, and teardrops, small spoons, and tip-ups with minnows to catch perch.

Willard Garlock of Ace Hardware in St. Ignace also said walleye are biting in fair to good numbers, and the AAA weekly fishing report lists the walleye action as excellent on the bay.

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