

Mackinaw City Winterfest Draws Crowds, Despite Cold Temperatures

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Muschlock of Cheboygan, who captured a fish weighing 1.05 pounds, with a length of 12.25 inches.

Winner of the pike division was Rick Bennett of Levering, catching a 8.06-pound, 32.25-inch-long fish, and James Eaton of Pellston was the tournament's drawn chance ticket winner, catching a walleye.

Each top winner received \$300.

Andrew Brown of Carp Lake won first place in the snow sculpture contest, creating an abstract sphere.

In second place, and winner of the People's Choice voting, was Larry Strouse of Carp Lake, with his depiction of the ship *Mackinaw*. Third place winner was Tom LaLonde of Cheboygan, who sculpted a ship in a bottle.

Taking first place in the annual outhouse races, in which teams create and design a sled that resembles an outhouse on skis, was the Red Bull Energy Drink team, sponsored by Cheboygan Dental Group and Hoppie's Bar.

The team, which designed a large scale model of the silver and blue drink can as an outhouse, also won Best of Show.

Second place winners were O'Reilly's Irish Pub of Mackinaw City, and third place went to the Keyhole Bar of Mackinaw City.

Greg Yoder, one of the event's coordinators, said there were 11 participating teams this year and at least 300 spectators braved the weather to watch the races Saturday afternoon.

Results of the euchre tourna-



One of the more colorful competing teams in the outhouse races was the Flamingo Flushers team from Mackinaw City and Sparr. Team members included (not in order and some missing from photograph) Greg Gustafson, Cheri Miles, Glen Thompson, Kelli Eby, Heather O'Brien, Theresa Gardner, Dan Schuelke, Bill Taylor, and Dave Evon.

ment at Mancino's Restaurant in Mackinaw City were unavailable at presstime.

There was also a record num-

ber of participants in the poker walk that began at Candy Corner Windjammer Gifts on Central Avenue, said Dawn Edwards,



The Red Bull Energy Drink outhouse racing team from Cheboygan were the overall winners of this year's Mackinaw City Winterfest Outhouse Races at Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry parking lot in Mackinaw City Saturday, January 17. The team was sponsored by Cheboygan Dental Group and Hoppie's Tavern in Cheboygan.

director for Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce, however, official results were not available at presstime.

"Overall, the festival was great," said Mrs. Edwards. "We had a lot of people show up, especially snowmobilers. That's what one of our main concerns was for

this weekend, the turnout, when cold, but we had a great response."



At right: Fans of the Flamingo Flushers outhouse race team, decked out in pink flamingo apparel, are (from left) Andrea Hurrell, Patrice Gustafson, and Caaren Levander.

Clark Township Seeks Grant for DDA; Fire Department Purchases Breathing Apparatus

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right to make the distinction of who should be charged and who should be allowed free access.

"We can't take that chance. We can't make that judgment," she said. "I would be fine with that if we were allowing that same rate structure for individuals, but by law, MTA's opinion is that we cannot differentiate between those two."

The township adopted its uniform fee in September 2006 to comply with the MTA opinion.

Mr. Miller said the township board will deal with any issues if they come up.

"I believe that if a problem arises, we address it. If it becomes a problem, we deal with it. Until then, why can't the groups of this community reap that benefit?" he asked.

Township residents will now pay \$150 for a private party without the use of the kitchen, \$250 for the facility and kitchen, and \$350 for the facility, kitchen, and alcohol consumption. Old rates were \$375, \$650, and \$750, respectively, for private parties. Non-residents can rent the facility for \$50 more.

The facility can be rented by residents for events open to the public for \$75, \$150, and \$250 for the building, building with kitchen, and building, kitchen, and alcohol consumption. That is lowered from \$275, \$550, and \$650, respectively.

The small room charge was also lowered for residents, to \$25 without kitchen or alcohol, \$50 with kitchen, and \$100 with kitchen and alcohol, from \$140, \$275, and \$325, respectively. Non-resident rental is slightly higher.

Projected expenses for the community center, including utili-

ty bills and upkeep costs, for the 2008/09 fiscal year are about \$23,000. Expenditures for the center are paid through the township general fund.

Mrs. Carpenter said, projected rent revenue for the center for the fiscal year is about \$5,000. As of Thursday, January 15, she said, revenue generated through center rentals is about \$1,900.

The township raised rates in July 2006 to cover expenses at the facility, after noting that in 2005, only eight of 57 rentals there had been required to pay a fee, which covered only about 15% of the township's cost to operate the facility. The rates were last adjusted in April 2007.

Grant request for DDA funding
Rick Shapero will assist the township in obtaining \$10,000 in start-up funds for a downtown development authority (DDA). Mr. Shapero has been involved on a citizens committee to study the formation of a DDA as a development tool for the township, and offered to apply for the start-up funds from the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation.

The money would only be available if the township enacts a DDA ordinance, which is now

under a 60-day review.

"What we would be asking for is the commitment of a particular amount of money that would go toward the DDA if and when the board votes to proceed with the process," Mr. Shapero said.

"There's a lot of questions, even if we go forward, like, 'How are we going to fund a DDA?' We want to provide that base on which it can be funded," he said.

Community Foundation Vice-Chair Diane Patrick said the foundation needs at least two weeks to review the grant application. Wednesday, February 4, is the next foundation meeting.

"The big word is 'if,'" she said. "If this happens, we would provide funding. If it doesn't happen, then no, we would not provide funding."

A public hearing was held Thursday, January 8, for public comment about forming a DDA and its proposed boundaries. The township board cannot enact a DDA ordinance until at least Monday, March 9, 60 days after the public hearing.

FEMA grant awarded to Fire Dept.

The Clark Township Fire Department was recently awarded

\$38,000 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the purchase of a self-contained breathing apparatus compressor and fill station system. Five percent of the grant (\$2,000) will be matched by the township board.

Mike Kasper of the fire department asked the board to place an order for a compressor that will have the capability to fill two self-

contained breathing tanks at once. He said the fire department plans to apply for the same grant this spring to purchase larger air tanks to allow firefighters longer breathing capabilities when fighting fires, particularly when on the islands.

The board approved the order for the \$40,000 compressor.

The board also approved paying \$504 a year to Airgas in Sault Ste.

Marie, which provides medical oxygen tanks to the volunteer ambulance corps, instead of monthly payments of \$105. The annual fee will save the township \$761 a year.

"That's one heck of a good savings," Mr. Miller said. "That's a big savings all the way around, and there's more, I'm sure, to be found."



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