St. Ignace Holds City Elections Tuesday, November 3

St. Ignace residents will head to the polls Tuesday, November 3, to cast ballots for candidates seeking three council seats and the mayor's position.

The four-year council terms of Don Gustafson, Susan Tamlyn-Massaway, and Tom Della-Moretta expire this year. City Clerk Renee Vonderwerth said Monday, March 9, no petitions have been filed for the three seats.

The one-year position of mayor, currently held by Paul Grondin, also will be on the ballot. City resident Mary Nichols is the only candidate so far who has filed a petition seeking the post.

Those interested in running for election have until Tuesday, May 12, to file a nominating petition and an affidavit of identity with Mrs. Vonderwerth.

If needed, a Tuesday, August 4, primary will be held. The last day to register to vote for the primary is Monday, July 6.

The last day to register to vote in the November 3 election is Monday, August 17.

Island Voting Registration Deadline Is Monday, April 6

The deadline for Mackinac Island voters to sign up to vote at Community Hall in the May 5 election is 4 p.m. Monday, April 6.

On the ballot for the city, running unopposed, are Mayor Margaret Doud, Clerk Karen Lennard, Treasurer Rick Linn, Supervisor Ron Dufina, and Assessor Robert Benser.

There are two seats open on City Council, that of Frank Bloswick and Michael Hart. Both men are running for another three-year term. Sam Barnwell is also vying for a seat on Council.

Jason St. Onge and Leanne Brodeur are each seeking another four-year term on Mackinac Island Public School Board of Education. Erin Bagbey-Beck is also vying for one of the two seats available.

MAAA Offers New Spay and Neuter Cost Sharing Program

County residents now can have their dog or cat spayed or neutered at 50% of the cost through a pilot program offered by Mackinac Animal Aid Association (MAAA). Also, the local organization is offering a payment plan for the pet owner's share of the procedure.

"We're trying to make it as affordable and accessible as we can," said JoAnn Ford of MAAA.

The total cost to spay or neuter an animal ranges from $38 to $150, depending on the size of the pet, whether it is a spay or neuter procedure, and whether it is a dog or a cat. The pet owner's share would be half that amount.

The local organization is working with Petco, which has contributed a $5,000 grant to cover half of the cost of approximately 108 procedures. If the program works well, said Mrs. Ford, the company will offer more grant support.

Pet owners will make arrangements with MAAA for the procedure, and set up in advance a payment plan.

Pets are required to have an examination and an updated rabies shot, said Mrs. Ford, which would be included in the total cost.

Money donated to the Mackinac County Animal Shelter, she said, will not be used for the program. Anyone interested in donating to the program or the shelter can do so by specifying where they would like the money used.

Pets adopted from the county animal shelter already have spay or neuter services provided at no charge.

Those interested in participating in the program, or seeking more information, may call Mrs. Ford at (906) 292-0046.

MICF Taking Grant Applications

The Mackinac Island Community Foundation is accepting spring grant applications. The deadline to file a request is Wednesday, April 15. Grant recipients will be announced in May.

The foundation is sponsoring a grant writing workshop Thursday, March 26, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Twilight Inn.

The foundation awards grants twice a year, in the spring and winter. The amount of money awarded is determined by income from endowments. Many of these funds have been created by donors to support programs in specific areas of interest, such as health and human services, community arts, youth activities, environmental conservation, historical writing and preservation, and horse tradition.

Grant applications are available from the Mackinac Island Community Foundation office in the Twilight Inn, or online at www.micf.org.

For more information, contact Robin Dorman at 847-3701.

The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

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www.SaintIgnaceNews.com

USPS Periodical Publication Number - 462-380

ESTABLISHED 1878

Published each Thursday at Saint Ignace, Mackinac County, Michigan

Entered in Saint Ignace, Michigan Post Office as Periodical Mail Matter, Act of March 3, 1879
Periodical Postage Paid at Saint Ignace, MI • Additional Postage Paid at Gaylord, MI
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. Ignace News, PO Box 277, St. Ignace, MI 49781

Volume 129, Number 49 Thursday, March 12, 2009

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Subscriptions:
$42 in Mackinac, Chippewa, Emmet, Luce, and Cheboygan counties.
$52 elsewhere in the United States and military post offices.
$35 for the Web edition at www.saintignacenews.com
We take Visa, MasterCard, and Discover

The quotation under the flag of *The St. Ignace News* on Page 1 is from the 10 triads written by Dr. Fred Newton Scott, creator and teacher of the first continuous course in journalism in the United States at the University of Michigan in 1890. The 10 triads are chiseled on the parapet of the Detroit News Building at 615 Lafayette Boulevard, Detroit. They were headed "Ideals of the Press" or "The Newspaper in a Free Society," and serve as a reminder of what a free press means to us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Concerned Over Spot Zoning

To the Editor:

To all residents of Clark Township, you may not know that our R-1 Single Family Residential District, Clark Township ordinance section 804, is being threatened with the possibility of spot zoning within your neighborhood. Do you want increased traffic and possible strangers driving where your children play and ride their bikes?

There are two lots, lots 22 and 23, on Hillcrest Lane in Hessel that are asking to be rezoned from R-1 Single Family Residential to commercial for the purpose of pursuing a special land use to turn these lots into a legal parking lot.

There are many controversial issues surrounding the need and or use of this property being used as a parking lot.

Don't be fooled; if this zoning issue is allowed, it will set a precedent for spot zoning anywhere in our community.

We are once again being asked to let our township supervisor, members of the Planning Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals to understand that we do not want parking lots within our R-1 Residential zone.

Lea Brunson
Hessel

Cronan Lived Great Lakes History

To the Editor:

The February 26 obituary reporting the passing of Gerald "Jerry" Cronan only began to scratch the surface of a remarkable man, and the protagonist of an incredible bit of St. Ignace and Michigan history. Jerry was many things to many people, but most of all, he was a friend.

I met him while doing my research on the history of Michigan State Ferries, which was published in serialized form during 2007 in *The St. Ignace News.* Not only did Jerry provide much of direction for my research, and much of the material for parts of it from his own collection, but he also lived an important part of that history himself.

He never finished school, dropping out of eighth grade to become a sailor at age 13. But he learned quickly, and by early adulthood had graduated to the top of his profession, earning an unlimited Master's license to operate vessels of any tonnage on the Great Lakes.

It was with Michigan State Ferries where he really left his mark. As plank-holder 2nd Mate onboard the *Vacationland*, he took turns sailing the most powerful non-military vessel on the lakes. (Only the icebreaker *Mackinaw* was more powerful!) He was aboard from the day the *Vacationland* entered service in 1952, to the last day she sailed for Michigan, November 2, 1957. In fact, it was Jerry Cronan who commanded the very last Michigan state ferry crossing of the Straits of Mackinac, when he and a skeleton crew sailed *Vacationland* to St. Ignace and back the day after the bridge opened, and after the last "official" sailing, to finish up moving supplies to the state's warehouse.

All of the other officers had taken other employment by then, so when the ship, under Jerry's command, landed back in Mackinaw City, and he rang up "finished with engines," he also personally rang the final bell of the state ferry operations.

In the last days of the ferries, he took advantage of retraining programs offered by the Highway Department to earn his GED, and with that document, he continued working for Michigan in other capacities. Although he never sailed again professionally, sailing was always a part of him. He spent the rest of his life protecting the legacy of Michigan's ferry fleet and sharing his love of the lakes, demonstrating marine knot-tying and rope work for his own children, and hundreds more people he "adopted" as his own.

My history of the ferries would never have been written if it hadn't been for his prodding. He helped me find truth in several areas of questionable ferry history, and he "set the record straight" in what he believed to be injustices recorded in the earlier official records, so that my work could reflect what "really happened." I found him to be fair, patient, and above all, a man of great principle and courage. The resulting historical series I wrote would have been much less complete without his participation, oversight, and encouragement.

I was truly honored to know him and to ultimately call him a friend. I'm sure his many other friends agree that without having known Jerry Cronan, their lives would have been less complete, as well. For all of us, he will be truly missed.

"Aye!'

Les Bagley
Kingston, Washington
Author of "Autos Across Mackinac - The History of Michigan State Ferries"

St. Ignace News Policies

Letters:
All responsible letters will be considered for publication and may be edited. They must be signed and a telephone number must be included for verification. Personal thank-you notes, personal attacks against other people, form letters, and letters promoting political candidates are not accepted, although letters for or against ballot proposals are welcome.

Obituaries:
The St. Ignace News maintains a policy of not charging for obituaries and we do often add information or rewrite them for clarity and reader interest. Obituaries that the family wants published exactly as submitted can be placed in the newspaper for $75. Photographs are welcome at no charge.

Weddings:
Weddings with photographs are published without charge within 45 days of the ceremony. After 45 days, a photograph can be included for $35.00.

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The complete edition of The St. Ignace News is available online at stignacenews.com.

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Michigan Politics

By George Weeks

Michigan Looks Offshore for Wind Energy, Abroad for Advice

Michigan was the Arsenal of Democracy in the mid 20th century. Governor Jennifer Granholm strives to make it an arsenal of alternative energy in the early 21st century.

"She wants Michigan to be the leader in every sector of energy," Stanley "Skip" Pruss, director of the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, said in a phone interview Friday.

Pruss, former deputy director of the Department of Environmental Quality and an assistant attorney general under Granholm and legendary Frank Kelley, said Michigan could be a "game changer" in wind energy.

He revealed that Wisconsin Governor James Doyle seeks "a collaborative effort" on generating energy from offshore windmills in Lake Michigan.

Offshore wind has more punch than onshore wind. And the deeper the water, the more the punch, so near-shore is not as potent as far out.

Last week, an extensive examination of the offshore issue in the *Traverse City Record-Eagle* had this alert: "Nothing's imminent, but state and environmental regulators are preparing for the possibility that utility developers may want to harness wind power from Lake Michigan and other big lakes."

Subsequently, the seriousness of such offshore preparations was underscored at assorted state forums, including the Michigan Wind Conference in Detroit, where Jennifer Alvarado, executive director of the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association, sought to "showcase Michigan's potential in being a major player when it comes to wind energy."

Also last week:

• The subject of Great Lakes offshore wind farms was raised at a teleconference press last week that included Director Anne Woiwode of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter and James Clift, policy director of the Michigan Environmental Council and a member of Granholm's task force on wind energy.

Clift said study is needed on such issues as impact on tourism, bird migration, and fish populations. Pruss said there are indications that the foundations of turbines, "if created correctly," might create good habitat for fish.

• Granholm joined Denmark's Minister of Climate and Energy Connie Hedegaard in signing a memorandum of understanding initiating a partnership between the Danish Ministry of Climate and Energy and the state of Michigan to explore development and share experiences in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and job creation.

"This agreement with Denmark will strengthen our ability to collaborate with a country that moved to the forefront of renewable energy technologies and put people to work in the process," Granholm said. "In Michigan, we understand that growing our renewable energy industry and building a low-carbon economy can be a source of increased innovation that results in thousands of jobs for our citizens."

Denmark is the world leader in operating offshore wind farms. Other players are Belgium, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

In her weekly radio address, Granholm highlighted the partnership with Denmark, saying it "leads the world in wind power technology, an industry employing 20,000 people in a nation with half Michigan's population."

In the United States, new Interior Secretary Ken Salazar has pledged that the country will "build a framework for offshore renewable-energy development."

His immediate focus has been on a decision whether to approve Cape Wind, a huge project for 130 wind turbines in Nantucket Sound a few miles off Cape Cod, Massachusetts. (Its high-profile opponents include Senator Edward Kennedy and others in the famed family compound in Hyannis Port.)

The National Journal noted that as a U.S. senator from Colorado, Salazar helped craft 2005 legislation that obligated the Interior Department to issue rules for siting offshore renewable-energy projects.

Legislative Watch

Cutting extension is counterproductive. Senator Michelle McManus (R-Lake Leelanau) took to the Senate floor last week to lash the slash of funding in the Granholm budget for the MSU extension offices and agricultural research.

McManus, who is from a farm family, said: "There are no state grants for 'cool,' corn fields or 'vibrant,' vineyards, but agriculture is one of Michigan's top industries – a growing industry with jobs guaranteed to stay right here in our state. Our extension offices and agricultural research stations are the job engine of that industry. Our agriculture industry counts on our support to continue to grow and thrive. Let's not let it wither and die by cutting off this vital research and jobs engine."

Congressional Watch

In contrast to President Clinton, who kicked off the drafting of his health plan with an in-house task force headed by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, President Obama last week launched his effort with a bipartisan health summit at the White House.

Among those he called upon to speak at the televised session that followed the private meeting was Representative Dave Camp of Midland, the ranking Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee and an influential Capitol Hill voice on health care matters. He told Obama:

"I look forward to working with you. There are so many things that we talked about that we have in common – in terms of health information technology, wellness – but we are going to figure out just how much of our economy is devoted to health care, and that's going to be a big issue we have to face. And the cost shifting that goes on between public and private health care dimensions. Those are challenging things."

Obama replied:

"Good. You raise a couple of important points. No. 1, doctors – the enormous pressure and strain that the medical field is now feeling from a whole variety of sources is something we've got to attend to in this whole reform process. We're not producing enough primary care physicians because the costs of medical education are so high that people feel that they've got to specialize." He also cited the cost of malpractice insurance that was discussed in the private session.

Also attending were Senator Debbie Stabenow and ex-Governor John Engler, now president of the National Association of Manufacturers.

George Weeks retired in 2006 after 22 years as political columnist for The Detroit News. His weekly Michigan Politics column is syndicated by Superior Features.

Levin Announces Dates of Two Assistance To Firefighters Grant Workshops in U.P.

A workshop will be offered in St. Ignace Tuesday, March 17, at Little Bear East Conference Center to assist fire departments and emergency medical service agencies with grant applications through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

The workshop is scheduled from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and no registration is required.

A similar workshop will be Wednesday, March 18, in Michigamme.

Vikki Hanson from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency will present information on the grant process.

The workshops, announced by U.S. Senator Carl Levin Tuesday, March 3, are hosted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.