

# St. Ignace City Council Plans To Sell Bonds To Fund Portage Street Sewer Project

Marina: From page 1

more in fuel inventory at the end of the 2008 boating season than it had the previous year.

"When we got to \$4.57 a gallon in gasoline at the marina, which was right at the start of the summer," said Mr. Elmer, "all boating stopped in northern Michigan."

Statewide, marina traffic at state marinas was down about 12% last year, according to the Michigan Department of Parks and Recreation.

Seasonal slip renters, mostly local boats that are docked here all summer, didn't travel much, either. The fuel cost to take a 38-foot boat 75 miles to Beaver Island and back, he said, was about \$700 last summer.

Mr. Elmer said he would provide marina financial statements at council meetings in the future, at the request of Councilmen Tom Della-Moretta, who said he would like to be more informed on marina operations.

### Portage Street Sewer Project

The city council approved a resolution of intent to sell bonds to fund a \$1.4 million sewer project. This is the second phase of a plan to upgrade the city's wastewater treatment and sewer system. The bond principal is not to exceed \$2,000,000 to fund the replacement of the gravity sewer line on Portage Street, between Fourth Street and State Street, designed to move sewerage more directly to the treatment lagoons north of the airport on North State Street. The former treatment plant was across the street from the post office.

Miller Canfield is the bond attorney. The bonds will be sold to the Michigan Municipal Bond Authority's State Revolving Fund program.

The city expects between \$300,000 and \$350,000 in federal stimulus money for the project, said Les Therrian, director of the Department of Public Works.

### Water Tower Painting

The city will use about \$94,000 from the capital improvement fund to pay for painting the Marley Street water tower. The DPW will pay the fund back at 3% interest

over a two to three year period, said Mr. Therrian.

"It has to be done," he said of the painting, "and we're about 10 years late in doing it now."

In February, Council approved hiring LC United Painting Co. of Sterling Heights to paint the exterior and interior of the tower. The company has agreed to be paid in installments over a six-month period. Work is expected to begin in May and be completed by mid-June.

The tank supplies water to most of the city and the commercial district. The Evergreen Shores water tower will service to those areas for about five weeks until interior paint work is completed. No interruption in service is expected, said Mr. Therrian.

### Hospital Resolution

Council approved a resolution for Mackinac Straits Health System

recognizing it as a nonprofit organization for the purpose of obtaining a charitable gaming license for fundraising.

### Health Plan

A health care plan that would save the city money and help employees after retirement was adopted by the city council. Employees are able to contribute pre-tax money or invest unused sick and vacation time into the program and access it after retirement. Their account can be used for health care costs, including premiums, co-pay, and some medications.

The plan saves the city money by spreading the costs of sick time reimbursement. The health care savings program is offered through the Municipal Employees' Retirement System.

### Emerald Ash Borer

Mackinac County is being considered as a test site for injecting

insecticide in ash trees to slow the progress of the tree-killing emerald ash borer. Such a project could be done this year and is being spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which is conducting an environmental analysis. The state would oversee insecticide treatments.

The USDA is seeking comments on the plan from City Manager Eric Dodson, who has until the end of the month to respond. Mr. Dodson did not attend Monday's meeting, but a letter from Michael Prouty, a field representative with the USDA in St. Paul, Minnesota, was included in city council packets, although it was not discussed during the meeting.

In St. Ignace, up to 115 trees would receive the insecticide treatment, including about 50 trees in Straits State Park, where an infestation was found. An additional 50

trees near the park would be injected. Another 15 trees could be treated at a second infestation site discovered last summer on the north side of the city.

The plan also calls for a up to 110 trees to be treated in about 2,000 acres at Moran, near one of the county's infestation sites.

The tree have not yet been selected and a large area under consideration in Moran is privately owned. Under the voluntary project, the USDA would seek landowner permission.

### Public Comment

Council defended its \$70-per-meeting pay when a resident suggested they reduce it to cut expenses during the recession. Dean Baker asked council members to consider cutting their pay to \$25 per hour, noting that most meetings do not last longer than one hour.

Monday's meeting lasted one-

half hour.

Councilman Don Gustafson said elected officials prepare for the meetings by reading information sent by the city manager, and that leads to more efficient meetings. He suggested the compensation committee, which recommends the pay, discuss the matter, but no action was taken.

Mayor Paul Grondin said council members are not paid for everything they do.

"I think we all donate a lot of our time," he said.

Councilman Tom Della-Moretta said council pay is based on meeting attendance, yet council members address resident concerns at any time.

Council next meets Monday, April 20, at 8 p.m. at city hall and is expected to continue city charter revision work. The city last addressed the matter in February.

## Community Calendar

Calendar: From page 4

Community Center. Free of charge; open to the public.

•Wednesday, April 15: **Rudyard Lions Pancake Supper**, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Rudyard High School Cafeteria.

•Saturday, April 18: **Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore Annual Dinner and Hike**, 2:30 p.m. hike, 5:30 p.m. dinner. Hikers will meet on Dick Road or National Forest Road 3139 off M 28. Dinner costs \$10 and will be at Pure Country in Rudyard. For reservations or information, contact Charlene DeWitt at kc8mld@lighthouse.net or Kay at (989) 350-2826.

•Mondays: **Alcoholics Anonymous Friends of Bill W. Group Meetings**, 7:30 p.m., St. James Lutheran Church.

•Thursdays: **Story Hour**, 10 a.m., Rudyard School Public Library. Runs every Thursday.

•Fridays: **Alcoholics Anonymous Friends of Bill W. Group Meetings**, 7:30 p.m., St. James Lutheran Church. Open speaker the third Friday of each month.

•Second Saturdays: **North Country Trail Hikes**, 10 a.m., contact Stan or Kay Kujawa for details at (989) 350-2826.

### Strongs

•Mondays: **Non-smoking Bingo Games** at Strongs Town Hall on M-28, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

### Brimley

•Tuesdays: **Alcoholics Anonymous Lakeshore Group Meetings**, 7:30 p.m., Superior Township Hall,

7049 South M-221.

•Thursdays: **Alcoholics Anonymous Lakeshore Group Meetings**, 8 p.m., Superior Township Hall, 7049 South M-221. Open speaker the last Thursday of each month.

### Engadine, Naubinway

•Monday, April 20: **Kindergarten Round-up**, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Engadine Schools. For more information, contact Angie McArthur or Lesa Baker at (906) 477-6313.

•Fourth Wednesday of Every Month: **Free Community Meal**, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Engadine United Methodist Church. Open to all.

•Saturdays: **Preschool Story Time**, 11 a.m., for children ages three to five, Engadine Library.

•West Mackinac County Pantry hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, from noon to 3 p.m. For more information, call (906) 477-1050.

### Curtis, Gould City

•Tuesday, April 14: **Non-motorized Trail Community Forum**, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Curtis Community Building.

•Mondays: **Curtis Play Group**, noon., Curtis Public Library. Sponsored by Intermediate School District Great Start.

•Thursdays: **Story Time**, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., Curtis Library.

### Sault Ste. Marie

•Wednesday, April 8: **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Training**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sault Tribal Health Center

Conference Room. Reservations are required by Tuesday, April 7. The training is free.

•Wednesday, April 8: **Chippewa County Historical Society meeting**, 7 p.m., 115 Ashmun Street.

•Wednesday, April 8: **John Tanner History Presentation by John Fierst**, following the Chippewa County Historical Society meeting, 115 Ashmun Street. Free of charge.

•Thursday, April 9: **Non-motorized Trail Community Forum**, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Avery Square.

•Thursday, April 9: **Author Doc Fletcher** speaks on canoeing in Michigan, 7 p.m., Bayliss Public Library. The presentation is free and open to the public.

•Monday, April 13: **State Representative Gary McDowell Office Hours**, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., Chippewa County Courthouse Annex Meeting Room, Third Floor.

•Tuesday, April 14: **Sault Naturalists and "Wolves in My Backyard"**, 7:30 p.m., Central United Methodist Church. The program is free and open to the public.

•Through April 15: **AARP Tax-Aide Program** starts, Bayliss Public Library. This is free tax help for seniors and low to middle income taxpayers. For appointments, call (906) 647-7362.

•Thursday, April 16: **Annual Environmental Summit**, 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Lake Superior State University Cislser Center. The event free and open to the public.

•Friday, April 17 through Sunday, April 19: **36th Annual Women Today Retreat**, Lake Superior State University campus. The registration deadline for the inter-denominational Christian ministry is Monday, April 6. To register, call Judy Cason at 484-2429, Judy Reattoir at 478-3926, Catherine Thorne at 647-9524, Miriam Johnson at 478-3926, or Gladys Baxter at 632-3797.

•Saturday, April 25: **Pasta Politics**, 5 p.m., Christopher Columbus Hall. Sponsored by the Chippewa County Democratic Party. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$12 for students, and \$8 for children ages six through 12. For reservations call (906) 495-1190.

•Wednesday, April 29: **Caregiver Support Group**, 2 p.m., second floor conference room at the Avery Square Center.

•Sundays: **Alcoholics Anonymous Shewadin Group Meetings**, 7:30 p.m., Community of Christ Church, Room 101.

•Mondays and Tuesdays: **Alcoholics Anonymous Central Group Meetings**, 7:30 p.m., Community of Christ Church, Room 101.

•Tuesdays: **Sault Parent Group**, 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., Algonquin Methodist Church.

•Wednesdays: **Preschool Story Time**, 10 a.m., for children ages three to five, Bayliss Public Library.

•Thursdays: **Preschool Story Time**, 1 p.m., for children ages three to five, Bayliss Public Library.

•Saturdays: **Alcoholics Anonymous Lock City Group Meetings**, 7 p.m., Presbyterian Church, 555 Bingham Avenue.

### Cheboygan

•Tuesday, April 14: **American Red Cross Blood Drive**, noon to 5:45 p.m., Knights of Columbus.

## Bloswick Turns 90



Ruby Bloswick

Ruby Bloswick of St. Ignace will celebrate her 90th birthday Tuesday, April 14. She would welcome birthday cards to mark the special day. Cards can be sent to Ms. Bloswick at 55 Spring Street, St. Ignace, Michigan 49781.

**Class of 2009**

**Graduation Announcements**

as low as **85¢**

Full line of cards, souvenirs, and graduation accessories at competitive prices

~ No Early Deadlines ~

~ No Package Requirements ~ Helpful Service

Please allow 3-4 weeks order time for special printed items

## The St. Ignace News

359 Reagon Street, St. Ignace, MI 49781 • (906) 643-9150

**Hop In... for Easter Brunch**

Sunday, April 12 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Salad and Bread Bar  
Mashed Potatoes,  
Stuffing and Gravy

Full Breakfast Bar  
with  
Waffle Station

Carved Ham,  
Roast Beef  
and Turkey

Station 2643 Casual Dining & Spirits

**MACKINAC GRILLE**  
www.mackinacgrille.com

South State Street on the Waterfront St. Ignace  
(906) 643-7482

Hours: Thursday - Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Closed Monday thru Wednesday

Dessert Table

## Piece of Cake! So Simple, You Have to Try It

Banking is as close as a phone for you with Quik-Chek.

You can transfer funds between your savings and checking account, make loan payments, even check the balance in your accounts, and verify direct deposits.

It's easy and fast to do your day to day banking over the phone... safely and conveniently with The First National Bank of St. Ignace.

Try Quik-Chek today by calling 643-6823 or toll-free (888) 643-6800.

It's all about YOU



Open your account today by stopping at one of our 7 local banking offices!

ICBA INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY BANKERS of AMERICA

Visit us online at www.fnbsi.com

Trust the Eastern Upper Peninsula's oldest community bank, celebrating 120 years of continuous service to the area.

**"We're Right Here at Home"**

Branch Offices at:  
NORTH BAY & MORAN TOWNSHIP, ST. IGNACE  
CEDARVILLE • MACKINAC ISLAND  
NAUBINWAY • NEWBERRY

Member FDIC

132 N. State St. • Ph. (906) 643-6800  
P.O. Box 187 • St. Ignace, MI 49781



Member FDIC