

Recycling Information Sessions Planned, With Eye To Forming Program Here

By Jonathan Eppley

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission is planning to educate students in Mackinac and Luce counties about the environmental benefits of recycling. The commission recently received a \$40,000 grant from the Rural Development office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to educate students in St. Ignace, Les Cheneaux, Engadine, and Newberry school districts. The commission also plans to hold a series of community presentations this summer to spark recycling interest in those areas outside of schools.

The goal of the program is to create interest and discussion in each community to figure out what recycling plans, if any, would best fit them, said Jeff Hagen, commission Regional Planning director.

"The general consensus is that people want to recycle," he said, "but where can you take it?"

Neither Luce or Mackinac offer a formal recycling program or facilities, unlike Chippewa

County, which has a county-wide millage supporting the Chippewa County Recycling Center in Sault Ste. Marie. The City of St. Ignace and Green Choice Refuse and Recycling in Clark Township have contracts with Waste Management to provide recycling services to those areas.

St. Ignace provides residential recycling services with its weekly curb-side garbage pick-up under a 10-year contract with Waste Management, which will end at the end of 2009. Residents are charged \$9.24 monthly for one garbage can per week pick-up and \$12.86 for three cans, and seniors are charged \$4.96 for one can. Recycling bins are emptied at no extra charge.

"All of these folks get recycling included with their garbage pick-up," said city executive secretary Kathy Cryderman. "There isn't a recycling charge."

Green Choice in Cedarville penned a deal with Waste Management earlier this year and set up several closed-top compactors for sorting recyclable materials. Employees sort

through the materials brought to the center, which also accepts commercial materials from area contractors. Residential customers are charged \$2 for a 30-gallon bag of recyclable material and \$4 for a 30-gallon bag of refuse. Commercial customers are charged \$50 for a pick-up truck load, \$100 for a 20-foot trailer sized load, and \$20 for appliances.

Mr. Hagen expects high turnout and participation at the summer presentations in communities with large numbers of seasonal residents returning for the summer. He said many of them are returning from areas with county- or city-sponsored recycling programs.

"I'm pretty sure most of the residents would be supportive" of introducing recycling programs in other EUP communities, he said.

The commission plans to give a presentation at Engadine Consolidated Schools Wednesday, May 6. Presentations at the other three districts will be scheduled next fall.

The commission is working with Northern Transitions, which operates the recycling center in Sault Ste. Marie, and Superior Watershed Partnership in Marquette, which advocates recycling, conservation, and watershed protection in the U.P., to help determine what types of pro-

grams would work best in each community.

The commission handed out informational brochures, pencils made from recycled newspapers, and reusable tote bags made from recycled plastic at the St. Ignace Home Show April 17 and April 18 to let people know about the

upcoming project.

The commission is also working to post educational material about recycling on its Web site, www.eup-planning.org.

"We're trying to get information out to as many people as we can about the benefits of recycling," Mr. Hagan said.

Paul and Babe Mark 50th Spring at Castle Rock



Standing on Paul Bunyan's leg, Castle Rock business owner Mark Eby removes the winter tarp covering the head of the lumberjack Thursday, April 30. Constructed in 1959, the concrete woodsman and his companion, Babe the Blue Ox, are 50 years old this year.

By Karen Gould

Now that its winter cover has been removed from the head of the mythical woodsman Paul Bunyan, some local residents say the temperatures will begin to warm in St. Ignace. Visited by approximately 75,000 people each year, the oversized lumberjack and his helper, Babe the Blue Ox, are a popular feature at Castle Rock just north of town.

Owner Mark Eby began covering Paul's concrete head about 10 years ago when the winter weather began taking its toll on the 50-year old structure.

"The top of his head is getting a little broken up," said Mr. Eby Thursday, April 30. "What happens is water gets in in the fall, freezes, and then it's cracking. [The cover basically keeps the top of his hat from busting.]"

Constructed in 1959 by Mr. Eby's uncle, Calvin Tamlyn, Paul Bunyan is approximately 15 feet tall and Babe is about eight feet high. It is likely, said Mr. Eby, that the work was done when his uncle was managing Castle Rock.

Not visible from the ground, at the top of the handle of Paul's ax, Mr. Tamlyn engraved the number 59 in the concrete, for the year the statues were created.

"Every springtime I have a



This postcard of Castle Rock from the early 1950s shows the first wooden Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox. The pair sat atop a cabin that housed a small museum. The structure deteriorated and newer concrete statues now depict the legendary characters. (Postcard courtesy of Mark Eby)

few of the local people that drive by here on a regular basis ask, 'When is Paul's head going to get uncovered?'" said Mr. Eby. "Several people have also said that it's not going to warm up, it's not going to be springtime, it's not going to get nice until the covering comes off of Paul's head. 'So hurry up and get it done.'"

Mr. Tamlyn, who also constructed the interior of the Indian Village store on State Street,

made the statues by building frames and covering them in concrete.

"My uncle was very, very handy with his hands," said Mr. Eby.

The figures are painted about every 10 years. The last time was in 2007, said Mr. Eby. Now a solid red, Paul's shirt has been patterned to look like flannel in the past, and his pants have been a darker brown.

Turn to page 10: Paul

Man Hikes 3,326 Miles To Raise Diabetes Awareness

By Mark Tower

Three years ago while watching the television show, "Survivor-man," Ty Hover, 36, of Plymouth, decided to make an ambitious hike to raise awareness of diabetes. He left Hart Plaza in Detroit March 21 with his compass pointing him toward Anchorage, Alaska. He passed through St. Ignace Monday, May 4, after spending the night at Straits State Park.

The 3,326-mile hike will take Mr. Hover through Sault Ste. Marie; Thunder Bay, Ontario; Edmonton, Alberta; Whitehorse, Yukon, and finally to Anchorage, Alaska. He said he would like to reach his destination in late October, but realizes it may be as late as Christmas before he arrives there.

Dealing with harsh natural elements is only one of the challenges facing Mr. Hover along his trip. He said he has also been his own primary sponsor, spending \$32,000 of his own money to supplement the \$3,000 he has raised in donations.

"I'll probably have to declare bankruptcy when I get back," he said.

He also injured his back in Fowlerville and had to return home briefly to recover.

Mr. Hover said he wants to use this trip to both raise awareness of the disease he has to live with every day and to show those who have been recently diagnosed that diabetes does not mean the end of the road.



At left: Ty Hover stands outside The St. Ignace News office Monday, May 4, after spending the night at Straits State Park. Mr. Hover plans to complete a hike from downtown Detroit to Anchorage, Alaska, around Thanksgiving. His organization, The Ultimate Hike for a Cure, hopes to raise awareness of diabetes and to show those recently diagnosed that any endeavor is still possible.

tor in preparation for the trip.

Mr. Hover said he wants to prove the doctors wrong who told him he would likely die sooner than average from diabetes, and encourage other diabetics to get outside and live.

"I'm going to live as long as I can," he said. "I'm not going to let diabetes kill me."

He's already planning future trips, one in Australia from Sydney to Perth. Eventually, he would like to buy property in the U.P. and open an educational camp for diabetics.

His organization, The Ultimate Hike for a Cure, is sponsored by Bivouac of Ann Arbor, The Eastern Michigan University chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, Pace (Mr. Hover's former employer), Backpacker Magazine, and National Outdoor Leadership Schools. He said My Place Bar and Grille in Wyandotte and Eastern Michigan University have also helped him raise funds.

"Mostly it's just to show new diabetics that they can do anything," he said. "You shouldn't just stop."

After crossing the border into Canada, Mr. Hover plans to follow the Trans-Canadian Trail to Whitehorse and then follow the Yukon river basin to Anchorage.

An avid camper, backpacker, fisher, and hunter since he was eight, also trained in a gymnasium, on his road bike, and with his doc-

We're the Newspaper Your Customers Read



In tough times, get the best bang for the buck. Reach your most loyal customers in The St. Ignace News.

The St. Ignace News

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

County Animal Shelter To Add Cat Exercise Room

A room for cats to play and bask in the sun will be added to the Mackinac County Animal Shelter this spring, with work expected to begin in May. Mackinac Animal Aid Association (MAAA) is overseeing the project, which is being funded by an anonymous donation from an area resident.

"It was just a stroke of luck," said George Ford of MAAA, "that this is something we wanted to do and this person gave us the money to do it."

Other local financial gifts are supporting the construction, along with residents who are donating their time. Area businesses are donating services that include blueprints, excavation work, and electrical and plumbing installation. The eight-foot by 24-foot room will have six windows and is estimated to cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

The room will be a seamless addition to the building, said Mr. Ford.



Construction will begin in May on an addition to the county's animal shelter on Cheeseman Road in St. Ignace. The new playroom for cats will be attached to the side of the building near where this vehicle is parked.

The shelter already has an area for dogs to exercise.

MAAA has no specific responsibilities at the animal shelter, although it supports the county facility through 13 fundraisers each year. Last year, the organization raised more than \$40,000, which

was used for immunizations, food, and spaying and neutering of animals.

The shelter can house about 16 cats, with 14 now awaiting adoption.

Construction is expected to be completed this summer.

New Soo Lock Not on List for Stimulus Funds

An upgrade at the Soo Locks – but not the construction of a new lock that lawmakers have called for – is on the work list as federal Recovery Act funds of \$7.87 million have been set aside for northern Michigan projects to be done by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps' priority project list was announced Tuesday, April 28.

Repair of the Petoskey breakwater and dredging of the Inland

Waterway between Cheboygan and Petoskey and \$3 million to perform maintenance and upgrades to the Soo Locks, including the fabrication of Emergency Stop Logs for the Poe Lock, are projects to be completed with the federal stimulus funds. The breakwater repair will cost \$4 million and the Inland Waterway project will cost \$548,000. The waterway, used by recreational boaters, is the longest navigable link between

Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, nearly connecting the two Great Lakes.

Another \$322,000 will be used for dredging of Little Lake Harbor on Lake Superior. Rough water conditions there cause sediment to build up rapidly, necessitating frequent dredging.

While Congressman Bart Stupak

Turn to page 10: Lock