

# Arts Council and Artisan Co-op Both Promote Arts in Les Cheneaux Area

By Jonathan Eppley

People living in small towns use arts and humanities as a way to preserve their cultural heritage and to promote their community, often through music, craft, and art festivals. Communities host such cultural activities to stimulate local economies, boost tourism, and bring residents together by celebrating what the community has to offer. This approach is one that many artists in the Cedarville and Hessel area find successful.

In the Les Cheneaux area, the Les Cheneaux Arts Council and the Les Cheneaux Area Artisan Cooperative are two groups dedicated to promoting art and artists in the surrounding area. They each have their own goals and objectives.

Annegret Goehring, graphic and scissor cutting artist, is a member of both groups and said there are big differences between the two.

"I think that it's really hard to sometimes separate the two," she said. "The co-op is an organization strictly for artists who do work."

"The members of the council are anybody who is trying to do something to support the artist and their work. Their members are often not artists; you could be a member of the arts council without being an artist."



Blown glass maker Rick Shapero uses a pair of tweezers to stretch and shape hot glass to make a small flower vase at his Windblown Glass studio in Cedarville. He is president of the Les Cheneaux Artisan Cooperative, which organizes two art festivals in Les Cheneaux each summer.



Jerry Reid, president of the Les Cheneaux Arts Council, stands in front of the group's Arts Center in Cedarville. The group will be offering 18 different art classes and workshops at the center this summer.

## Les Cheneaux Arts Council

The Arts Council has provided learning opportunities to the community through classes and workshops since 1993. The group's goal is to support art and create art opportunities in the Les Cheneaux area, said Jerry Reid, chair of the council.

The group offers a variety of courses to teach beginner and novice artists various artistic skills by hiring teachers from the region and beyond.

Last summer, the Arts Council began offering classes and holding board meetings at its Arts Center in



Rick Shapero rolls a glob of clear molten glass on the end of a special tube for blowing glass, along with small pieces of green glass to be made into a goblet. The small green pieces are used to give the goblet a unique swirl design.

downtown Cedarville, which is the old Paul's Bait Shop. Use of the facility was donated to the group by Mrs. Reid, who owns the building.

"It worked quite well last year with the classes," she said. "The Arts Council uses it for their meetings, for any classes, and they're going to have some displays there, too."

The council is looking to set up the facility to be used as a space to display members' and students' art work. The center also has a cabin that is used for out-of-town instructors to stay in when teaching a class.

Classes scheduled at the center this summer include beginner drawing, birch bark basketry, German scissor cutting, photography, rug hooking, porcupine quill necklace making, pottery, pen and ink design, oil painting, pencil drawing, antique darning basketry, gold leaf and egg tempera, French bread basketry, birch bark cutouts, using a color wheel, and locker hooking. Ms. Goehring will teach the first class of the season, German scissor cutting, Tuesday, June 23, at 1 p.m. at the Arts Center.

Along with offering classes to residents and visitors, the council also offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a Cedarville High School senior entering into an arts program at a higher education institute, or a \$500 scholarship to a high school student attending Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Twin Lake.

The Arts Council originally formed in 1993, however, its board of directors dissolved in 2006 to establish a non-endowed fund with the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation, into which it deposits

Turn to page 8: Artists

## Art Show Planned at Mackinaw City

More than 75 vendors are expected to display their works when the annual arts and crafts show in the Village of Mackinaw City takes place Saturday, June 27, and Sunday, June 28. The show is at Conkling Heritage Park on South Huron Avenue.

Paintings, hand-designed clothing, jewelry, and other art work will be sold by craftsmen from across the country. For the first

time in its 12 years, the show will also have music entertainment, Events Coordinator Courtney Kolatski said.

Live chainsaw carvings will also be performed by Roy LaCourse of Oscoda. Mr. LaCourse has made carvings of bears, eagles, and other animals for 15 years.

"It's good therapy," he said of the art form. Visitors to the show

can watch Mr. LaCourse at work.

Mr. LaCourse will begin carving about half an hour after the show begins. He will sell his freshly carved project upon its completion. Other chainsaw carvings will also be available.

Anyone interested in becoming a vendor may contact the Ms. Kolatski at (231) 436-5664. Vendor applications will be accepted up to Friday, June 26.

## City's Youth Soccer Program Expanded

### Pool Open, Ball Programs Underway

By Mark Tower

Youth ages 15 and 16 will now be able to take part in the St. Ignace Recreation Department's summer soccer leagues, owing to a new age division added this year.

The program previously covered youth from age 4 through 14, but Recreation Director Scott Marshall said participants expressed a desire to keep playing after they turned 15.

"I really don't know how it will turn out this year," Mr. Marshall said. "We're putting it out there as an option and letting people know."

The registration deadline for teams is Friday, June 19, although some registrations will be taken shortly after the deadline for a \$5 late fee. Play begins Tuesday, July 21, and eight game days are scheduled for the 20 to 25 teams expected to sign up. Rosters and schedules will be posted at the Little Bear East arena offices after July 6.

There is also work underway to possibly add a travel league to the

department's summer offerings. Mr. Marshall said he has been working with the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association and other cities like Cheboygan and Petoskey, who have expressed interest in offering a travel league.

Before such a league could be set up, the area would need to find at least 200 people interested, which Mr. Marshall said would not be difficult. The home fields would also need to meet certain standards and be certified, which has yet to happen.

"It's going to take some time," he said. "It's not going to happen overnight."

A friendly soccer game with Gladstone for 8-, 9-, and 10-year-olds has been scheduled for Saturday, June 20, at the LaSalle High School soccer fields.

### Ball Programs Underway

The recreation department's youth T-ball, softball, and baseball programs are already underway; the

first baseball game was Tuesday, June 2. Mr. Marshall said this year's program is going great, with the number of participants up to 181 from last year's 175.

The ball programs end around early to mid-July and all non-travel games take place at the LaSalle High School fields.

### Community Pool Opens June 15

Swimmers got a chance to dive into the community pool for the first time this year Monday, June 15, which is the same day swimming lessons began.

The pool hours will be Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., with open swim until 9:30 a.m. to noon, and open swim from noon to 3 p.m. Open swim will also be offered on Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m.

Four sections of swimming lessons with eight sessions each will be offered this year, including evening sessions for anyone who can't make the daytime lessons. The

Turn to page 9: Soccer

## Commission Turns to Public for EDC Advice

By Jonathan Eppley

The Mackinac County Planning Commission is taking its first steps in a project to newly research developing a county-wide economic development corporation (EDC) at the request of the county board of commissioners. The planning commission discussed what its first steps should be during its Wednesday, June 3, meeting at the Mackinac County Airport in St. Ignace.

Over the next month, commissioners will formulate questions to ask township residents and officials about economic development they would like to see in Mackinac County. Commissioners will then send someone into those communities to talk to the residents. The county will likely hire someone to conduct the survey of the townships.

"We want input from all of the municipalities and other prominent people in the different geographic areas," said Planning Commission Chair Ken Drenth. "That will hopefully give us some direction to what the different areas . . . would like the county do as it relates to economic development, and then we'll formulate a plan from that information."

The commissioners all agree that

if an EDC is formed, a full-time director will need to be hired to coordinate its efforts and a board would have representation from all areas of the county.

"We need to get the people of each community to represent the best interests of their community, because their community needs are totally different," said Commissioner Cheryl Schlehuber. "We can't take one platform and say it's going to be in everybody's best interest. If we bring the best of the best together at the table, and then get an alliance person that is a coordinator of all those entities, then we're going to make some progress."

The planning commission was asked by the county board to research the development of an EDC last month to see if it would be a good move for the county.

Jeff Hagan, executive director of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission, attended the meeting last week and said funding for EDC projects could come from several areas, including the Economic Development Administration branch of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Rural Development branch of the

U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, a county-wide tax, a bond sale, and private foundations.

"There are several [funding] mechanisms you can use, but it would be up to the EDC what they want to go after and what kind of structure they want to have," he said.

The commission also discussed what an EDC can do to help already established local businesses, and not just encourage new developments. Mr. Hagan said the best way for an EDC to understand the needs of local businesses is to keep a regular dialogue with them, as well as offer small business counseling, and tax incentives.

"Sometimes it's simple things," he said, "but that's what business protection is all about."

Serving on the planning commission with Mr. Drenth and Mrs. Schlehuber are Oliver House, Don McArthur, Calvin McPhee, Dean Reid, Julia Kronmeyer, and Judy Luoma.

The next county planning commission meeting is Wednesday, July 1, at 2 p.m. at the Mackinac County Airport.

## Teens Bicycle From Sault to St. Ignace



Bikers taking part in the "Bike the Sites" program to raise awareness of the problem of childhood obesity leave from Don Dee Lanes in Sault Ste. Marie, bound for St. Ignace Monday, June 8. The group took regular breaks along the way, and 25 riders made it to Rudyard Recreation Park, completing 24 miles and marking the halfway point of the trip. (Photographs courtesy of Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Grand Tribal Youth Council)



Participants of the "Bike the Sites" program stop momentarily along Mackinac Trail, just a few miles north of St. Ignace. Although some of the ride was punctuated with torrential rain, the group decided to press on and finish the ride to the Midjim store in St. Ignace. Fifteen riders rolled into the Midjim, seven of whom had completed the entire 47-mile route from Sault Ste. Marie.