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Country Market

June 27, 2012
Volume 130 No 26

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Waterloo Farm Museum Celebrates the Past

The Waterloo Area Historical celebrated 50 years with visit to the past last weekend with Blacksmith, Soldiers and Log Cabin Weekend. The event filled the grounds of the Waterloo Farm Museum and Dewey School located in Waterloo.

Bringing alive the clothing and activities of a time gone by, organizers and volunteers enjoyed blacksmith demonstrations, spoon making, rug weaving and much more. Above, the ladies gathered in the parlor of the historic farm house for a picture. *Photo by Michael Stavola.*

"Crackin" Chris prepares to whip the flowers from mother, Kathy Johnson. *Photo by Michael Stavola.*

The Sale of K2 a Crime in Michigan

By Lynne Beauchamp

Governor Rick Snyder signed a package of bills into law last week making it illegal to purchase or use synthetic drugs such as K2 and Spice. The Michigan law takes effect July 1st and all such products must be removed from store shelves prior to that day.

Continued on Page 3

Chelsea Redevelopment Project Scrapped

By Lucy Silverio

The Kadushin/Beal team of developers, led by Alexander Pollock a former planner for the city of Detroit, withdrew their offer to purchase the Longworth building June 19 after receiving a resolution from the Chelsea Downtown Development Authority (CDDA).

Members of Preservation Chelsea who attended the CDDA meeting June 21 asked that the board contact the developers to explain the previous resolution, which they claimed, created misunderstandings and perceptions of insurmountable barriers to the sale.

The Kadushin/Beal development was a 3.7 million dollar package which proposed removing the front Daniels showroom to create an outdoor plaza, creating 5 residential units, and several commercial spaces including a 5,000 square foot pottery studio and a restaurant. "The Kadushin Associates team has an excellent track record of accomplishment. If Chelsea loses this, their 3.7 million dollars will wind up in another community," said John Frank, President of Preservation Chelsea.

Janet Kreger, President of The Michigan Historic Preservation Network reiterated to the board why the 90 day time frame in the resolution was too short for a developer who requires historic preservation grants with minimum application periods of more than three months.

The CDDA purchased the buildings in 2008 for approximately $420,000 then offered to sell earlier this year for $1 and put out a request for proposals (RFP). The RFP requested the buildings be put back in the tax rolls and show a minimum investment commitment of one million dollars.

Continued on Page 7

Tentative Hope for Revitalization in Downtown Stockbridge

By Melinda Baird

Dotted with a number of vacant commercial properties, the downtown district of Stockbridge Village is unlikely to see a change any time soon. Fred Dillingham, President of Livingston Business Development Associates and recently hired by the Stockbridge Downtown Development Authority (SDDA) is focused on enticing new business to Stockbridge, but admits the process has been tedious and slow.

Dillingham reported five potential projects to SDDA board members during their monthly meeting last Wednesday commenting that none are definitive.

"There is a lot of interest, a lot of activity right now, though," encouraged Dillingham, adding that most business owners are looking for existing buildings rather than new construction.

One of the projects, by Judi Cook, owner of BA Sports located at 122 South Clinton in downtown Stockbridge, is an ongoing major building renovation to the space adjoining current business. Dillingham said he is working with Cook to develop a feasible business plan that includes financing. "This could be a crown jewel for the village," said Dillingham. "It is a potential new traffic builder."

Continued on Page 8

Fire Response, Emergency Warning Issues to be Decided by Dexter Township

By Melinda Baird

Dexter Township voters will decide if they want to fund a permanent fire substation for the Dexter Area Fire Department (DAFD), estimated cost between $1.2 and $1.6 million, at the polls this November.

"With further input from the board we may drill that number down even more," advised Vice Chairman of the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) David Waymann.

The board unanimously accepted PSAC's recommendation to pursue funding of a substation during its regular meeting Tuesday night. Ballot language was scheduled to be approved at the July 17 regular board meeting.

The PSAC emphasized the dramatically lower response times as proof of the effectiveness of the temporary substation located at MultiLake Sewer Authority (MLSA), but expressed a number of concerns with the temporary structure itself including; a wooden walkway from the trailer to the bay area that is dangerously slippery when icy or wet; the trailer's door lock often freezes; it lacks proper insulation; and strong winds often rock the trailer.

Also at issue was the use of the MLSA bays. According to the PSAC the doors to the bays do not open consistently and the bays are too low to accommodate some engines. The engines cannot be washed inside the bays because there are no floor drains and the presence of MLSA sewage grinder pumps in the truck bays produce significant amounts of hazardous dust that may contain sewage residue and give off a strong odor. The vehicles cannot be serviced in the driveway because of sewage contaminated water runoff.

Finally, the number of bays and shared use with the MLSA limits the amount of equipment that can be staged for use from the substation.

The PSAC recommends construction of a permanent substation to protect the health and well-being of emergency personnel and further reduce response times. They proposed it be built on a five acre parcel at the southeast corner of Dexter-Townhall and North Territorial Roads.

Continued on Page 3

ITC Steps Up

By Michael Stavola, Journalism Intern

Firefighters are required to be fast and efficient, which also cost a lot of money - too much money to fit the budget of the Dexter Area Fire Department (DAFD).

In light of the March 15th tornado affecting residence in the Dexter area, the International Transmission Company (ITC) has donated $10,000 to the DAFD. With this money the department will purchase a new Thermal Imaging Camera "infrared" that would drastically decrease the time it takes to find people or a fire.

"It shouldn't take a disaster to make people aware," Lt. Michael Grissom said. "But a disaster draws light to the need for such equipment."

Unfortunately, it took the loss of over 100 homes and the destruction of nearly 300 properties to draw any light. Thankfully, no lives were lost. Thursday, on behalf of ITC, Simon Whitelocke Vice President of Regulatory and External Affairs handed Fire Chief Loren Yates the department's five-digit check.

Chief Yates is "extremely grateful for the ITC's generous donation," that will replace the stations outdated camera.

"The Thermal Imaging Camera will assist fire crews to more quickly and efficiently find people in need of help, not only in the event of future tornadoes, but also other natural disasters, fires and searching for missing people," said Yates.

Continued on Page 4

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Obituary

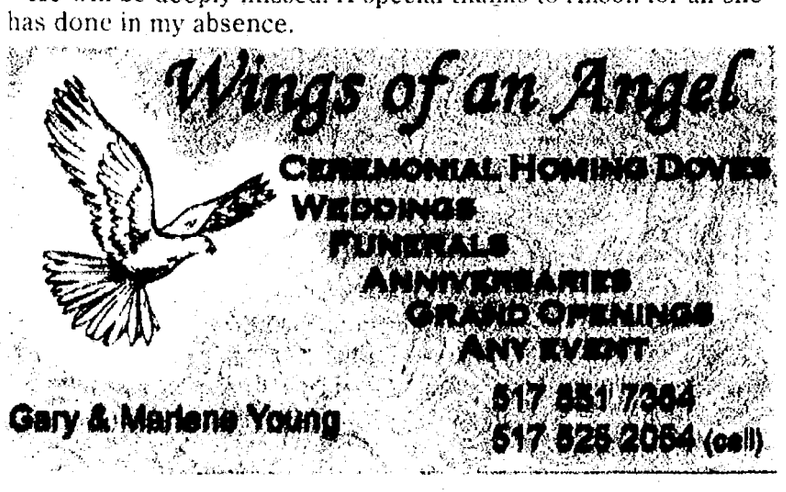
In Memory of Cecil Hogan Sr.

A memorial service will take place July 3, 2012 at 1pm in the Cross Roads Baptist Church at 2580 Packard Road in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Cecil passed away June 14, 2012 at the age of 76. He was preceded in death by all of his brothers and a daughter, Sheri Hogan-Sorrell. Cecil is survived by three sons, eight daughters and 26 grandchildren.

He worked as a brick mason and along the way Cecil taught many individuals his trade. His personality and spirit can be seen in the community through his relationships and structures that he built - not only in Ann Arbor and the greater tri-county area, but across the country.

He will be deeply missed. A special thanks to Alison for all she has done in my absence.



FYI
Financing Construction & Major Projects

By Bruce Wm Brown
Superintendent of Stockbridge Schools

Public schools and municipalities finance the construction of buildings and other major projects by selling tax-exempt bonds that are paid back over an established period of time, usually between 15 and 30 years. Investors like tax-exempt school bonds because they are a secure investment. With few exceptions, voters must approve bond sales before they can proceed. The tax on property used to generate the necessary principal and interest for bond repayment obligations is referred to as debt millage. For the 2011-2012 school year Stockbridge levied 3.9 mills for debt service. A mill is $1 for every $1,000 of assessed property value. The debt millage rates vary for area school districts depending growth in their tax base and on how many years they have progressed in their repayment cycle.

People Post

Enbridge Expansion a Concern

On June 13, the Stockbridge Township Zoning Commission met in the town hall for a hearing on the proposal by the Enbridge Pipeline Company to rezone 64 acres of farmland north of Stockbridge to industrial use, vastly increasing the size of the area of the existing pumping station grounds. A new tank with a capacity of about 16 million gallons would be built to contain the flow of tar sands oil coming from Canada, with various other building to serve the site. The presentation by Enbridge was slick and professional with all their experts present, including their lawyer. They expected the permit to be issued that evening, although the members of the board received the relevant information just as the meeting began. Fortunately, the board expressed their need for time to consider the permit.

This pipeline project to carry tar sands oil from Canada is making its inexorable way, piece by piece, across Michigan. My concern is with the possibility of underground leakage contaminating the water supply of our citizens. Many of us rely on wells. We know that the groundwater in our area is very close to the surface. A spill or even a slow leak of these highly corrosive and toxic oils, contaminating with the heavy metals, into the ground water is a distinct possibility. Enbridge has a very bad history, over 800 instances of oil leaks in the last 10 years, including the catastrophic spill in Marshall. Two years later, that spill is only 10 percent cleaned up.

As a member of our local Wellness Coalition, organized to improve the health of our community, I fear for the physical and emotional effects this pumping station and pipeline could bring. It not only endangers our drinking water, but also the farms, organic farms and home gardens that we are dependent on. Young organic farmers are moving into our community. We see this as a hopeful direction in reviving the economic health of our area. All this would be threatened by irrigation water polluted by Enbridge tar sand oil that could spread heavy metals onto the land.

For corporations, profit is the only priority. For us, the health and wellbeing of our communities is our priority and we must consider carefully what is happening around us.
Frances Beckwith Laird
Stockbridge Michigan

Collaboration with Developers May Clear Misunderstands

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) in Chelsea has owned the vacant property – known as the Longworth Property–along the railroad tracks since early in 2009. The closest the DDA has come to turning the historic buildings into a vibrant addition to Chelsea's downtown was the creative mixed- used proposal put forward by well regarded developers, the Kadushin/Beal team.

Unfortunately, the resolution adopted by the DDA on June 7, 2012, modified the Request for Proposals and was a show stopper.

1. The agreement must be accompanied by the irrevocable bank letter of credit of $1M or other security acceptable to the DDA to secure improvements in the property and to cover any cost or damages incurred by the DDA and the City for site restoration or removal of incomplete improvements if the project fails, after satisfaction of due diligence contingencies.

2. No tax abatements in the agreement.

3. Due diligence and other contingencies, including financial commitments, shall end Sept. 7, 2012, when the agreement shall become firm and developer must proceed to closing.

4. Any conveyance prior to final mortgage financing shall be subject to a right of reverter on the condition that the project is completed and on breach of the condition title shall revert to DDA.

5. Developer can have immediate access upon the execution of agreement for due diligence activities.

Unable to seek clarification of what was meant by the resolution, the Kadushin/Beal team withdrew their proposal before the DDA meeting on June 21st. But, according to a few DDA members, they didn't mean what was written in the resolution.

After the withdrawl of the proposal, Bob Pierce, Executive Director of the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce, said. "Giving them another chance, another whack at this - what are we going to get? We're going to get the same thing."

The DDA needs to rethink this position, and collaborate with the developers who would invest $3.7 M in Chelsea. That's a lot of business to turn down. The community of Chelsea deserves "another whack at this."
Jan Bernath
Chelsea Michigan

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Kristy I. Krueger
Director of Marketing

Work Toward Your Own Financial Independence Day

Submitted by Edward Jones

The 4th of July is here again – and it's time to celebrate our nation's freedoms. Why not use this occasion to think of ways you can work toward your own Financial Independence Day?

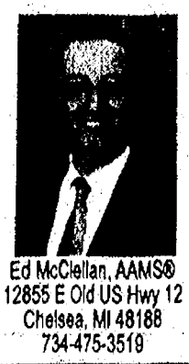
To attain your financial independence, you need to create a long-term strategy, based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon – and you need to stick to that strategy.

As part of this plan, you may need to contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) and IRA.

And to protect your family's financial independence, you'll need to maintain adequate life insurance.

Also, to protect yourself from the devastating costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay, you may need to consult with your financial advisor to find a financial or investment vehicle that can help you deal with these expenses.

Do whatever it takes to work toward your financial independence. You'll be glad you made the effort.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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

POLICE BEAT

Pinckney Village Police
6/17 ~K-9 assist of LAWNET with vehicle search and illegal felony drugs seizure, Brighton State Police Post
~Assist to Unadilla Township Police Department with domestic dispute investigation, W. Trebesh Circle
~Report of juveniles walking through houses after midnight, Barbara Street
~Assisted Putnam Township contract deputy with liquor inspection of Dam Site Inn, Patterson Lake Road
6/18 ~Larceny of GPS and keys from auto, E. Unadilla Street
~Two-car property damage accident, N. Howell Street
~Assisted Putnam Township Fire Department with investigation of hay fire, hay being transported in trailer behind vehicle, W. M-36
6/19 ~Ordinance violation, 10-day warning notice issued for having unplated or inoperable motor vehicles, E. M-36
~Assisted Putnam Township contract deputy with investigation and arrest of Detroit man for driving while license suspended and possible credit card fraud, Pinckney Road
~Larceny of cigarettes from auto, N. Stuart Street
~Welfare check of children, Coleman Street
~Assisted Unadilla Township Police Department with investigation of suspicious persons, possible B&E, Spears Road
6/21 ~Harassing text messages, Cricket Crossing
~30-year-old Marion Township woman arrested for driving while under influence of alcohol, Pearl Street
6/22 ~Fireworks complaint, Cricket Crossing
~Assist to EMS and Putnam Township Fire Department for medical emergency, Rose Street
6/23 ~Domestic dispute, father vs. adult son, W. Depot Street
~Assisted Hamburg Township Police Department with violent prisoner out of control, Pinckney Road
~Assisted Hamburg Township Police Department with juveniles in possession of alcohol party investigation, Fairfax Drive
~Disturbance with patron at Taco Bell, E. M-36

Stockbridge Village Police
6/18 ~2:30pm, medical assist in the 100 block of W. Main Street a 30 year old Dansville woman was complaining of shortness of breath. She was later transported to an area hospital by SAESA.
6/19 ~3pm, liquor Control Commission investigation at the station for a local business' liquor license.
6/20 ~2:50pm, lost child complaint in the 100 block of N. Williams. The step-mother of a 13 year old came into station to report that her step-daughter had left home and was concerned because she was having a medical issue. The child was found nearby un-harmed and returned home.
6/21 ~2:30pm, larceny of patio furniture in the 100 block of N. Williams and the 300 block of S. Water. This case is under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to call the Stockbridge Police at 517-851-7435.
6/22 ~1:20pm, warrant arrest in the 500 block of Old Orchard. A 30 year old Stockbridge man was arrested on a misdemeanor warrant for driving while license suspended.
~10pm, retail fraud complaint in the 200 block of S. Clinton. A suspect has been identified and this case is under investigation.
~8:30pm, assisted Meridian Township Police with an assault investigation in the 200 block of Water Street with two subjects who were suspected of being involved in an assault in their jurisdiction.
~8:50pm, possible fight complaint in the 800 block of S. Clinton. The investigation found that the heated argument was taking place over the phone. The occupant of the apartment was advised to keep her voice down.
6/23 ~12:55pm, larceny of yard lights in the 500 block of Cherry. This case is under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to call the Stockbridge Police at 517-851-7435.
~8:45pm, child custody dispute in the 300 block of W. Elizabeth. The matter was resolved over the telephone. No criminal charges filed.

Unadilla Township Police
6/17 ~Rollover accident involving vehicle towing 27-foot camper, M-36 near Livermore Road
~Domestic dispute, E. Trebesh Drive
~53-year-old Webster Township man arrested for driving while under influence of drugs and possession of marijuana, Kaiser Road
6/18 ~Large Parrot reported loose in tree, Bullis Road
~Found wallet turned in to police, Bull Run Road
6/19 ~Suspicious vehicle, Dutton Road
~Assist to EMS and Unadilla Township Fire Department for medical emergency, Van Syckle Road
6/20 ~The Livingston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office authorized enhanced charges of assault with intent to commit armed robbery and two counts of felony firearm against a 34-year-old Stockbridge Township man who is already charged with 1st Degree Home invasion. The man was arrested in February by township police and he has been lodged in the Livingstor County Jail since that date. San Luray Drive
6/21 ~Ordinance violation, warnings issued to two Grand Rapids men for soliciting Kirby vacuum sweepers door-to-door without township permit, Doyle Road
~Child custody dispute, Livermore Road
~Assist to Unadilla Township Fire Department with field fire, Gregory Road at Iosco Township line
~Abandoned vehicle, Ford Focus, Bullis Road
6/22 ~Domestic dispute, Dutton Road
~43-year-old Rochester Hills man taken into custody from Rochester Hills PD and transported to Livingston County Jail for bench warrant for felony aggravated stalking and felony posting nude photos of victim on internet, Bowdish Road
~Suspicious vehicle, Dutton Road
~42-year-old Stockbridge Township woman arrested on misdemeanor bench warrant and turned over to Jackson County Sheriff Department, Livermore Road
6/23 ~Larceny of money from a building, Roepke Road

Chelsea City Police
6/18 1200 Block of S. Main Street, Chelsea Police responded to the listed location for the report of a retail fraud that had just occurred. The complainant stated that they currently had the suspect a 26 year old Chelsea woman in custody. The officers responded and made contact with both parties involved. The case remains open pending review by the Washtenaw County Prosecutors Office for Retail Fraud charges.
6/19 600 Block E Industrial, police responded to the listed location at approximately 12pm for the report of a larceny from auto complaint. The complainant stated that on June 10th he arrived at work at 9pm and when he was done at work at approximately 7am he returned to his vehicle and realized that money was missing from his wallet, which was left in the vehicle. No suspects at this time, case closed pending investigative leads.
6/22 N. Main at W. North Street, at approximately 1:40 pm the Chelsea Police received a tip regarding a subject who may be in possession of stolen Railroad material. Officers responded to the area and were able to locate the vehicle as well as the driver and stopped the vehicle. Officers made contact with the driver, a 21 year old Chelsea man; he stated that he received the material from his grandfather off of his property. Dispatch made contact with Norfolk Southern Police (Police Agency Governing the railroad tracks) and they advised the Chelsea Police Department to impound the vehicle on investigation of a larceny from railroad property. Case turned over to Norfolk Southern Police.
6/24 20000 Block W. Old US 12, approximately 9pm police responded to the listed location for the report of a domestic dispute. Upon arrival the officers made contact with parties involved. After speaking with both parties, a 34 year old Chelsea woman was taken into custody for domestic assault. The subject was arrested and transported to the Washtenaw County Jail where she will be held pending arraignment on the charges.

Waterloo Township Police
6/18 ~Intervene in a civil dispute at an address on Mt. Hope Rd at 10:10 am.
~Assisted a group of 4H bicyclists crossing M-106 at Main Street at 4:15 pm.
~Responded to a single car crash on Portage Lake Road and suspect the driver to be intoxicated. Man was taken to U of M Hospital for treatment. Occurred at 6:49 pm.
6/19 ~Impounded an improperly registered truck and issued an appearance ticket to the suspended driver from a traffic stop on Loveland Road at 11:15 am.
~Responded to a call of a domestic disturbance in a car near the entrance to the State Park on Seymour Road at 6:16 pm.
6/20 ~Checked the area of an auction on Mt. Hope Road for traffic congestion during the morning hours.
~Checked on the status of a MSP Unit that had responded to a domestic assault at a home at 11711 Bunkerhill Road at 11:15 am.
~Responded to a report of trespassers at a home on Harvey Road at 11:40 am.
~Responded to a report of a suspicious situation at the Portage Lake County Park at 6:04 pm.
~Issued two appearance citations for open alcohol at the County Park at 6:43 pm.
~Investigated a report of trespassers at an address on Clear Lake Road at 8:50 pm.
~Handled a threats by telephone complaint that occurred on Baldwin Road at 10:26 pm
6/21 ~Stopped a car on M-52 near Leeke Road for going 86 mph in a 55 mph zone and found the driver to be suspended. Towed the cart and issued an appearance ticket.
~Handled a damage to a car report at an address on Clear Lake Road where a car had been "keyed"
~Responded to an assist to an ambulance call on Huttenlocker Road on a report of a stroke victim at 10:30 pm.
~Investigated a report of possible damage to crops on Musbach Road found it caused by a young driver swerving to miss a pair of raccoons at 11:30 pm.
6/22 ~Opened an investigation of a theft from a vehicle that occurred at a business in Munith.
~Arrested a Jackson man for driving on a revoked drivers license from a traffic stop on Clear Lake Road near Harvey Road at 12:18 pm.
~Provided traffic control support and security at an event in and around the State Park on Seymour Road Sunday morning.

Washtenaw County Sheriff's Dexter Patrol
6/21 ~7000 block Chamberlin, Webster Township; deputies are investigating a home invasion that occurred at the above location sometime overnight 6/21 into 6/22. Entry was gained into the home through an unlocked sliding glass door. Radio, TV, VCR and several mountain bikes were stolen from the property. There are no suspects at this time.

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Owner-Director-Manager

Easkey-Mitchell FUNERAL HOME
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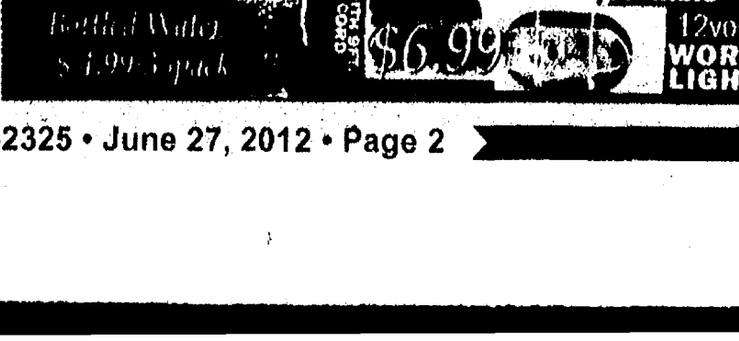

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Sale of K2 a Crime in Michigan

Continued from Front Page

The new law classifies these synthetic drugs as Schedule 1 drugs. According to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), "substances in this schedule have a high potential for abuse, have no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and there is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or substance under medical supervision."

The governor called for this move to protect teens and young adults in his special message on public safety.

"K2, Spice and similar products are not safe for human consumption, and I applaud the Legislature's efforts to remove these dangerous compounds from our communities and protect our youth," Snyder said.

K2, Spice and similar products are made of plant matter sprayed with chemicals designed to mimic the effects of THC, the high inducing compound found in marijuana. However, the chemicals are unregulated and often produce negative side effects like elevated heart rate, seizures, vomiting and paranoia.

The legislation closes legal loopholes that allowed manufacturers to continue to sell their product after tweaking the chemical make up of the drug.

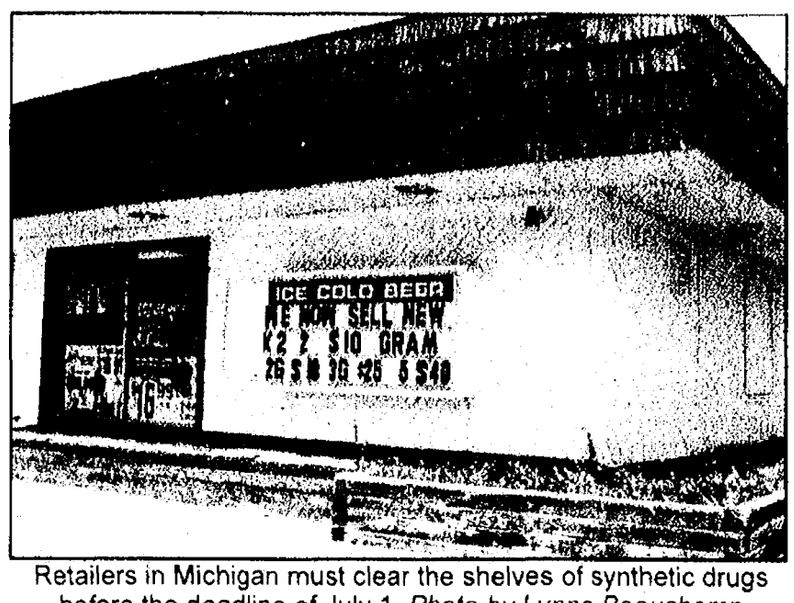
The Michigan Food and Beverage Association (MFBA) and the Michigan State Police will partner on a campaign that involves State Troopers visiting retailers to make sure they are aware that synthetic drugs are illegal. "We look forward to working with Michigan State Police to ensure our members, along with other retailers across the state, comply with the new law banning these dangerous products" said MFBA President and CEO Jennifer Kluge in a press release.

"It is my belief that the Pinckney Coalition's effort in creating awareness was a contributor to getting synthetic drugs, like K2, illegalized in Michigan," said Russell Stratton, Community Prevention Specialist with The Pinckney Coalition. "Our community members as a whole came together to take on this epidemic." Stratton pointed out that even though there is a synthetic drug ban, some youth are still in jeopardy as they may have become addicted to these substances and will need to seek treatment.

"All of us need to be prepared because there is no doubt that our community will continue to see people desiring to use these substances and finding ways to access them" added Stratton.

For help with substance abuse contact the Pinckney Coalition at 810-225-9550 for further information.

To report violation on the ban from selling K2 or other synthetic drugs call 855-MICH-TIP (855-642-4847) or visit the Michigan State Police website at www.michigan.gov/msp/ to report online.



Retailers in Michigan must clear the shelves of synthetic drugs before the deadline of July 1. *Photo by Lynne Beauchamp*

Issues to be Decided By Dexter Township

Continued from Front Page

The area was chosen for its central location within the township, and includes quick access to the Pinckney Recreation Area, Silver Lake State Park, the rapidly developing Copper Meadows site condo project and the upcoming Hartman Farms project off Quigley Road.

After touring the Grass Lake Charter Township and Putnam Township fire stations and consulting with Orchard, Hiltz and McClimnet (OHM) engineering firm, PSAC outlined a detailed floor-plan to the board. Anticipating a lifespan of at least fifty years, the pre-engineered metal structure will accommodate 2.5 double bays (housing five vehicles); an office, kitchen, showers and sleeping quarters; and training area doubling as a precinct voting area along with 50 parking spaces. A 3,000 square foot secondary floor will also be available for future use. Plans allow room for expansion on both bay and building area.

While dual person staffing is preferred, Waymann said, the substation would likely continue to staff a single round-the-clock firefighter. DAFD firefighter Jason Hilberer, however, suggested building for a maximum of three full-time staff. "Station 1 in the village was built under a 50 year design and in surpassing the 50 year mark it is significantly undersized," said Hilberer.

PSAC further recommended the purchase of an outdoor warning system, to which board members agreed to initiate, consisting of 16 Whelen WPS 2900-10 Omni-Directional Electronic Sirens in addition to six standard warning tones throughout the township at a cost of $370,940.

The solar-powered system would provide 70 decibel coverage throughout the entire township, including pre-recorded digital voice and live public address capabilities.

Omni-directional sirens provide greater area coverage than do rotating or directional devices explained committee member Steve Burch. "They emit a more constant signal that improves public alerting in areas with highly fluctuating ambient noise."

PSAC further reported the area-specific and/or hazard specific voice message could be very useful in situations such as an extended power outage or severe weather situation, wildfire, pipeline rupture, electrical transmission line damage, flood/dam break, or in the case of a lost child in one of the recreational areas.

"This is the time to look at this seriously before the memory of what happened on March 15 fades," Waylann advised, referring to the tornado that struck the township.

Clerk Harley Rider commented that the township should foot the bill for the warning system. "I personally am reluctant to take both [the substation and warning system] to the voters," said Rider. "We have an exceptionally strong fund balance, and we can afford to pay for the sirens." Rider added that only $42,000 of the $200,000 allocated by the board for tornado clean-up has been spent, indicating the difference could be put toward the warning system.

Trustee Carl Lesser disagreed with Rider stating the township should not pay for the system but make road repair the financial priority. "Why put in a siren system when we don't have the money to fix the roads," questioned Lesser. "Everybody knew of the tornado–it was on the radio."

In contrast, Supervisor Pat Kelly and Trustees Steve Feinman and Jason Maciejewski were vocal in their support for funding the system.

"I had more calls and emails from residents in one week, absolutely unsolicited, asking us to look into a siren system than I've had in ten years about road concerns. People care about this. Every single resident in our township will benefit. I can't think of a better investment," said Kelly.

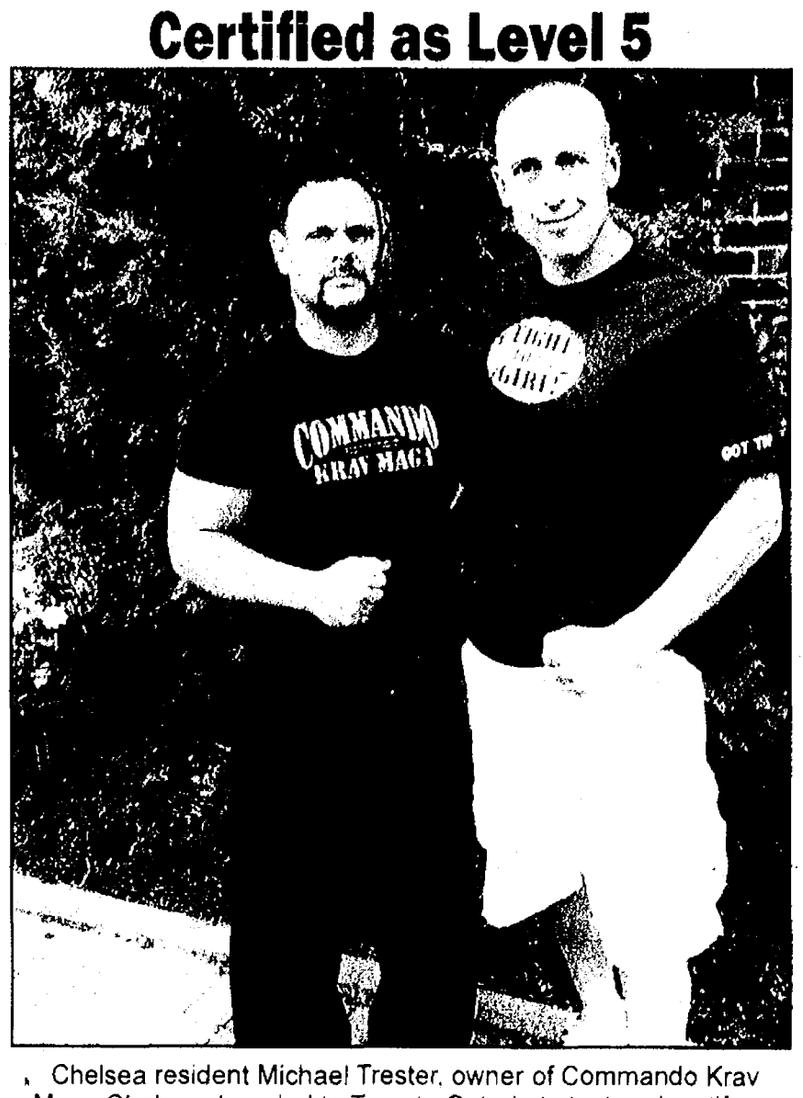
Maciejewski commended PSAC for their in-depth reporting, adding, "We should look at using as much of the fund balance as we can for both projects and ask as little from citizens as possible."

In the end, board members decided the public should make the decision as to whether the township should cut a $370,940 check for the warning system or put the funding question to the voters on the November ballot.

"Let the people voice their opinion, but I think if we have the money to do it, we should," expressed Feinman.

A public hearing is scheduled for July 17 at 7 p.m.

Local Self Defense Instructor Certified as Level 5



Chelsea resident Michael Trester, owner of Commando Krav Maga Chelsea, traveled to Toronto Ontario to test and certify as a Level 5 instructor in Commando Krav Maga (CKM). Trester achieved his status testing in front of Ilan Rosenberg. Rosenberg is a level 8 Elite Team Instructor as well as a stuntman for movies such as 300 and the TV show Nikita. CKM is a reality-based self defense system taught to civilians, military entities, and law enforcement agencies. Currently there are only 9 other CKM instructors in the United States certified at level 5 or higher. Trester is a local law enforcement officer and also owns Kitchi Tae Kwon Do.

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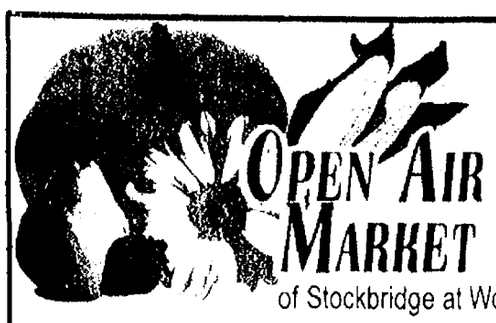

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ITC Steps Up

Continued from Front Page

While the station's annual calls have increased 58 percent over the last 12 years (579 to 993), their staff has slowly decreased. This year the department is on track to breaking 1,000 calls.

The DAFD has a 2012 budget of $1.2 million, of which, 66 percent is allocated towards salary: 10 percent to truck payments, and 24 percent to miscellaneous expenses - like $65,000 for insurance.

With no margin for error, the department must look at each other to fill the void.

ITC chose the DAFD because lack of equipment due to a limited budget. The station's original camera was purchased through a boot-drive.

Some stations such as the Chelsea Area Fire Department are equipped with Thermal Imaging Cameras, many others cannot afford such high tech equipment.

Dexter Area Fire Department Chief Loren Yates accepted the check from ITC's VP of affairs Simon Whitelocke.
Photo by Michael Stavola

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Column By Representative Mark Ouimet

Michigan House Ends Spring Session On a Resounding Note

The Michigan House of Representatives ended its spring session last week on a resounding note by approving landmark legislation to help direct more funding into public school classrooms and give all Michigan taxpayers needed tax relief.

The measure to put more money into our classrooms reforms the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System, which unfortunately has liabilities of more than $45 billion. Schools will ultimately have to pay for this enormous debt.

Many people may not realize that our public schools currently pay 27 percent of their total payroll, on average, into the employee retirement system. These payments could increase as high as 35 percent if nothing is done to help schools.

Under the House-approved plan, public school employees hired on or after Aug. 1, 2012, would have the option to receive an existing hybrid defined-benefit, defined-contribution plan or a straight defined contribution 401(k) account. Many state employees are already on 401(k) plans, and it's only fair that the state's school employees do the same.

School employees hired on or after Aug. 1, 2012 would no longer receive retirement health care but would receive matching employer contributions up to 2 percent of compensation deposited into a 401(k) account.

The House also approved a broad-based tax relief plan for all Michigan taxpayers through reductions in the state income tax rate. The plan decreases the current income tax rate of 4.35 percent to 3.90 percent over the next six years, saving taxpayers almost $2 billion by 2018.

The House also approved a plan to raise the state personal exemption tax deduction from $3,700 per person to $3,950 per person, effective Oct. 1, 2012. It will then increase to $4,000 per person, effective Jan. 1, 2014, and move to $4,100, effective Jan. 1, 2017.

It's important to point out that the tax relief proposals are based on realistic revenue projections, and can be done without raising taxes or reducing current state programs and services.

The House this month also approved legislation to help struggling Michigan school districts and municipal governments receive low-interest emergency loans.

I sponsored one of the bills in the package and helped shepherd them through the House Local, Intergovernmental and Regional Affairs Committee. House Bills 5566-70 allow the state treasurer to make $100 million available to schools and governments in distress.

Some of our local cities, township, villages and schools have struggled with declining revenues due to the state's economic hardship. These important measures provide another tool for stressed municipalities to help deal with a financial emergency that actually could cost taxpayers more in the long run.

The extra funding may be issued until Sept. 30, 2018, under the legislation. The program currently contains $5 million annually in funding for the loans.

As we continue our work to help improve the economy and make government more accountable, I'm always willing to hear from local residents. Please let me know what types of legislation you think the Legislature should consider in the future.

(Ouimet is the state representative for the 52nd District. He may be contacted toll free at 855-627-5052 (855-MARK052) or at markouimet@house.mi.gov.)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LYNDON TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE - Monday, July 9, 2012 FOR PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2012 TO: QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF LYNDON TOWNSHIP - NOTICE: The Lyndon Township Clerk, Linda Reilly, will be in the office at 17751 N. Territorial Rd, Chelsea, MI on Monday, July 9, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to register qualified electors and to amend registration records. IF YOU HAVE MOVED RECENTLY,YOU MUST AMEND YOUR REGISTRATION RECORD For the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices: United States Senator - Representative in Congress - Representative in State Legislature - Prosecuting Attorney - Sheriff - Clerk/Register of Deeds -Treasurer - Drain Commissioner/Water Resource Manager - County Commissioner - Township/City Supervisor - Township/City Clerk - Township/City Treasurer - Township/City Trustee

ALSO to elect the following officers: Precinct Delegates

Published in compliance with MCL168.498.

Date: June 27, 2012 - Linda Reilly, Lyndon Township Clerk

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION IS MONDAY, JULY 9, 2012 - 9 am UNTIL 12 Noon - TO: QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SYLVAN TOWNSHIP - NOTICE: I will be in my office, 18027 Old US 12, to register qualified electors and amend registration records from 9am to 12 Noon. IF YOU HAVE MOVED RECENTLY, YOU MUST AMEND YOUR REGISTRATION RECORD - The Primary Election is being held for the purpose of voting on the following: United States Senator, Representative in Congress, Representative in State Legislature, United State Senator, County Prosecuting Attorney, County Sheriff, County Clerk & Register of Deeds, County Treasurer, County Water Resources Commissioner, County Commissioner, Judge of Circuit Court, Township Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Trustees, Delegate to County Convention, Proposal for New Millage Increase for the Township of Sylvan. Published in compliance with Section 498 of Michigan Election Law and MCLA 211.203(3) being part of Michigan Property Tax Limitation Act. A complete copy of the Proposal is available in the Office of the Clerk.

Date: 6-20-12 Published: 6-27-12 and 7-4-12

STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Stockbridge Township Board Meeting Minutes - Stockbridge Township Board Meeting on June 18, 2012 was called to order. All Board members present. Board approved the agenda with the following additions: Building Department new computer, properties up for tax sale, new phones for the Stockbridge Township Offices, ground mole & weed control for Stockbridge Township grounds. Board approved the May 21, 2012 Minutes as presented. Board approved June 2012 Financial Report as presented. Resolution 2012-07-01 "Fire Insurance Withholding Program" was tabled until July 2012 meeting. Board accepted the quote from Ingham County Road Crew to pave Baseline Road project at a cost of $160,000.00 to Stockbridge Township. Board amended the approval of the Outdoor Gathering application for 'The Boneyard. Board approved to contract with County Club Turf to do mole control and weed & feed control. Board approved to pay the June 2012 bills. Supervisor, Risner, adjourned Meeting at 8:26 PM Submitted by: Mary Wilson, Stockbridge Township Clerk. Complete minutes are available at the webpage- "stockbridgetownship.com", or at Stockbridge Township Office. Any question call 517-851-7658.

LYNDON TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Lyndon Township, Board of Trustees, will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at 7 PM, at the Lyndon Township Hall, 17751 N. Territorial Road, Chelsea, MI 48118. 1) An application for a Private Road Variance by Deanne Bartkowiak of 640 Island Lake Point, Chelsea, MI 48118. Tax identification number E05-23-200-010. Ms. Bartkowiak wishes to construct a new house and garage. 2) Any additional items as deemed necessary by the Board. Written comments may be sent to: Lyndon Township Clerk, Linda Reilly, 17751 N. Territorial Road, Chelsea, MI 48118. The Lyndon Township Board will provide, if time after the request allows, necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids or services to individual with disabilities at the public hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Lyndon Township Board by writing or calling: Linda Reilly, Clerk, 17751 N. Territorial Road, Chelsea, MI 48118 or phone 734-475-2401.

Linda Reilly, Township Clerk

UNADILLA TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 14, 2012 Township Board Meeting Called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Pledge to flag.

Present: Walker, Topping, Weiland, Cowan, Cox. Absent: None.

Motion Walker support Cox to approve agenda as amended. Carried.

Motion Walker support Weiland to approve May minutes. Carried.

Motion Walker support Weiland to approve payment of bills as presented. Carried.

Call to Public: None

Recreation Report by Cowan, 5 members attended, still waiting on final DNR grant approval. Cowan working on a grant for play equipment.

Planning Report: No May meeting, they will be meeting in June to discuss extension for Northstar Reach.

Police Report by Hamlin.

Fire Report by Curtis. Motion Walker support Weiland to purchase Rescue Jack costing approx. $325.00, Carried. Rehired Reppenhagen back from leave of absence. Discussed 911 dispatch issues, Supervisor to attend meeting.

Note the Recycle bins will be removed from June 28th to July 9th to set up for barbeque for the 4th of July.

School Lease was discussed: Motion Walker support Cox to approve lease presented with no additional cost of the senior room at $250.00 per month beginning April 1, 2013.

Nay: Topping, Weiland. Carried.

Cowan discussed Enbridge Pipeline concerns with proximity to our community, concerns with the environmental impacts.

Unfinished Business: Brady property cleanup making good progress.

Motion Cowan support Topping to redeem all outstanding callable County of Washtenaw Multi-Lakes Sanitary Sewer System Phase II Bonds, Series 2002 prior to maturity.

Roll vote: Aye: Cowan, Cox, Walker, Weiland, Toppping. Nays: None. Approved.

New Business: Motion Cowan support Weiland to purchase 12 tabletop voting booths costing approx. $600.00. Carried.

Motion Walker support Weiland to approve payment of porta-johns for 4th of July and payment of $300.00 to Night Magic towards fireworks. Carried.

Final Call to Public: none.

Motion Walker support Cox to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. Carried.

Linda Topping, Unadilla Township Clerk

Local Golfer Shoots His Age

Dave Murphy (pictured) shot his age, 76 on a recent golf outing to Inverness Country Club with friends Mike Sweet, Dave Scriven and Bill Eisenbeiser.

Putnam 2012-2013 Township Fire Budget Increase Under Scrutiny

By Lynne Beauchamp

Putnam Township Trustee Norm Klein asked fellow board members during the regular meeting last Wednesday why the fire budget increased by more than $40,000 in the township general budget for July 2012 through July 2013. "The paint is hardly dry on the new fire hall and we already need more money," he commented.

Klein said that when he first became a trustee he toured the old fire hall with fire chief, Greg Amburgey, who suggested a new fire hall was needed. A millage was placed on the ballot in 2010 and residents voted it down.

After this, Klein stated a more conservative approach was sought and the fire chief and treasurer suggested that by better managing operating costs, the mortgage on a new fire hall could be achieved with the current millage rate.

Klein noted that construction of the new fire hall went over budget by approximately $500,000. He indicated the township was to use the money from the sale of the old fire hall to off set costs but that sale can not be closed due to an environmental issue that may prevent the buyer from obtaining financing.

"Someone needs to explain to me how this doesn't look like we lied to our residents" Klein remarked.

"On top of this, Ron [Ron Rau, Township Supervisor] is proposing an increase in firefighter fees even though our chief didn't request an increase. No one is questioning why, maybe it's an election year and someone needs votes. I believe we all need to stick with our promise to our residents and approve a budget that does not exceed our current operating budget," added Klein.

Supervisor Rau responded to Klein that he has voted every year to approve a cost of living increase for all township employees. He added the township is unaware of exactly how much it will cost to run the new hall and the increased budget to $400,000 from $359,390 is only a projection.

In a separate interview, Rau indicated the township actually has a surplus in funds with expenditures coming in less than revenues.

"We have been running the department on the same millage rate for the last 14 years that I have been chief," said Amburgey. "It's not getting cheaper, we have to budget more to keep liability off the township."

"We have been frugal in spending money and will continue to do so," added Treasurer Pat Carney. "Will it cost us $400,000 in operating costs? We are unsure, but chief has always come in under budget."

The general fund budget was approved in a 6-1 vote with Klein casting the lone dissenting vote.

The board also approved unanimously, in separate motions, wage increases for the deputy clerk, deputy treasurer, zoning administrator, and receptionist. A wage increase was approved for the senior center director with Klein again casting the only dissenting vote. Also a pay increase was approved for the fire chief and firefighters in a 4-3 vote with trustees Dick McCloskey, Keith Chambers and Norm Klein opposing. An increase in the fire officers pay was also approved.

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Every Mon, Wed & Sat: Creators Closet, Waterloo UMC. Mon & Sat 9am-12noon. Wed 4-7pm.
Every Thursday beginning June 7: Sounds & Sights, downtown Chelsea from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Runs until August 16th.
Every Friday May-October: Open Air Market in Stockbridge at Wood & Elizabeth Streets at 4pm.
June 29: "Summer of Money" Film Series, Welfare Building in Chelsea, next to the Clocktower from 7:30-9:30pm. Discussions on how money functions in our lives, ideas of resilience & sustainability. Visit *www.transitionchelsea.org*
June 29: Movies in the Park, Putnam Twp Square in Pinckney at 7pm, featuring the movie "Monsters vs. Aliens".
July 5: Coney Dog & Root Beer Float Night, Pinckney American Legion, 9807 Whitewood, 5-8pm. For more info 734-878-9522.
July 7: Legion Riders Steak Dinner, Pinckney American Legion 5-7:30pm. Dinner: $12. For more info call Chuck 734-648-0179.
July 9: American Legion Meeting, Stockbridge at 7pm.
July 9-13: Amazing Dessert Journey VBS, Trinity Lutheran Church, 5758 W M-36, Putnam Twp from 9:15am-12noon. Ages preschool thru 6th grade. FREE. Call to register 734-878-5977.
July 9-13: Jesus' Superhero Academy VBS, Webberville UMC.
July 14 & 15: 175th Anniversary Celebration, Gregory Community Church, 126 Church, Gregory. Sat: food, fun, live music at 5pm. Sun: worship service at 11am with coffee service at 10:30am.

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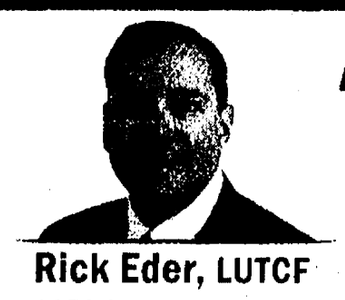
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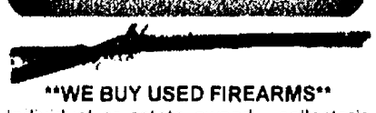
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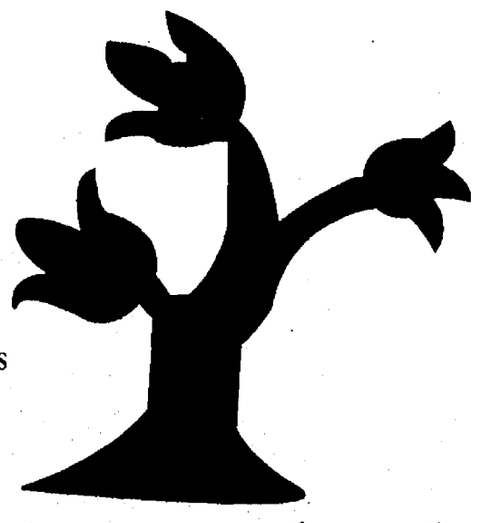
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Chelsea's Longworth Redevelopment Project Scrapped

Continued from Front Page

Two proposals were received and the CDDA reluctantly chose the Kadushin/Beal proposal during a meeting June 7. Five CDDA board members strongly stated at that time they would prefer not to move forward with either plan. The CDDA then developed a resolution asking for an agreement to purchase accompanied by an irrevocable bank letter of credit of $1 million by June 21, no tax abatements in the agreement, and all contingencies would end in 90 days.

According to John Hannafan, Chelsea City Manager, the Kadushin/Beal team emailed him shortly after receiving the resolution, asking that he put together a smaller group so they could negotiate an agreement that would be workable for both parties. Hannafan responded there was no authority to meet unless a subgroup had already been planned by the CDDA. He also told them their proposal would be on the CDDA agenda June 21st and to come discuss things at that time. At that time the Kadushin/Beal team retracted their proposal.

Jan Bernath, who is on the Board of Preservation Chelsea and was also an investor in the project with the Kadushin/Beal team made a plea to the CDDA to work with the group. Bernath said when the developers were unable to ask questions of the Chelsea leadership about what they could do to satisfy the CDDA requirements in the resolution, their attorney told them to back away from the project.

The retraction letter stated that the bank letter of credit submitted with the agreement was something they could not do, they needed tax abatements, and they could not agree to a reverter if the project wasn't underway within the time constraint.

Board chairman Pete Flintoft said he believed the CDDA should respond to the developers. He agreed with the preservation groups that there was a crucial misunderstanding regarding the timeline. The letter of credit for one million dollars, Flintoft said was due September 7, not on June 21 as it appeared through wording in the resolution.

While acknowledging that tax abatements can only be granted by the city and not the CDDA, board members led by Guy Sanville and Mayor Jason Lindauer spoke again about the issue. One of the goals of the RFP was putting the property back on the tax rolls. The CDDA gets its money from captured tax revenues in the downtown district. Flintoft said that there is a point of view that for the DDA to support tax abatement would be contrary to its mission.

Although the resolution called for all contingencies completed by September 7, board member Mark Heydlauff expressed frustration that the developers had not come to the DDA meeting and said the timeline was negotiable. "We were not pulling the rug out from under anyone, if the process is moving forward, then we are okay. I really think that it was a misinterpretation of what we put out there," he said.

Board member, Pat Cleary expressed frustration with historic preservation groups for making the DDA look bad. "They have passion to a point," he said. "If they cared so much about the buildings they should make a financial commitment, rather than complaining about how the DDA decides to do things."

Several members of Preservation Chelsea were listed as potential capitol investors in the Kadushin/Beal proposal.

The property, currently appraised at $300,000, includes a cement block livery built in 1908 to replace the original livery that burned down. It also includes the Daniels showroom built in the 1940s to display cars. These buildings flank the two story brick Mack Building the oldest structure in the group which housed Chelsea Manufacturing. The buildings were purchased in 1950's and became the Longworth Plating Company.

The complex is in serious disrepair and the site is contaminated with chemicals used in the plating process. Board member Palmer Morrel-Samuels explained how the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (OPRA) which he said was the only type of tax abatement the property qualifies for, could work.

An abatement using OPRA is generally done for 4 three-year periods starting off at 100% or a maximum of ten thousand dollars (based on current value) the first 3 years, tapering off by 25% each year so that by year 13 the city would be receiving full tax on the building.

"In my opinion, it's entirely sensible to serve as vocal advocates for the developers if they seek tax relief from the city council using OPRA. After all, once the 12 years of the OPRA program are completed, the developed complex will have an assessed value of approximately $4 million and that will generate literally hundreds of thousands of dollars in new tax revenue for Chelsea," said Morrel-Samuels.

He then presented a proposal asking that the DDA invite the Kadushin/Beal team to come to a publicly announced open meeting on a date and time that is mutually agreeable so that a path can be found for reconciling and increasing the likelihood that the project can move ahead successfully. The motion died for lack of a second.

"The hard thing is we give the building away for a dollar, we have an REU that is going to cost us a couple hundred thousand depending on use of the building, and then we are also going to give them a tax abatement. I think that is way too much," said Heydlauff. "The next thing we'll be paying heat and light. Where does it stop? We are trying to make something happen here but it can't be on the city's dollar."

"I think we all agree that it would be a shame to have them walk away, far better to meet and reconcile and move ahead," said Morrel-Samuels. City Manager John Hannafan countered, "What are we going to get? Giving them another chance, another whack at this, I will work with the board, I will go with consensus of opinion, but I for one am not ready to move forward by inviting them back."

"We have been heading down the road for the last few years," said Heydlauff. "Trying to save some historic buildings that have only been looked at as saving everything. I think this is the problem. Yes, they are historic and I understand that they are historic and very used up. Those buildings are done. They are simple buildings and trying to save them all is the problem with this whole project."

Flintoft suggested the board go ahead with resolution two from January and get bids for removing the Daniels showroom from the front of the building and restoring the façade of the Mack building, according to its historic character and that the open space be redeveloped as landscaped public space.

In further business, Greg Raye suggested re-institution of a façade improvement program so that windows on the Welfare Building can be replaced. This will be on the July agenda. Also streetscape projects are scheduled to begin in August, which will create brick bump outs in front of Cleary's pub and the Common Grill for outside seating. Brick crosswalks and bump outs will also be placed at North, Orchard, Van Buren, and Summit Street.

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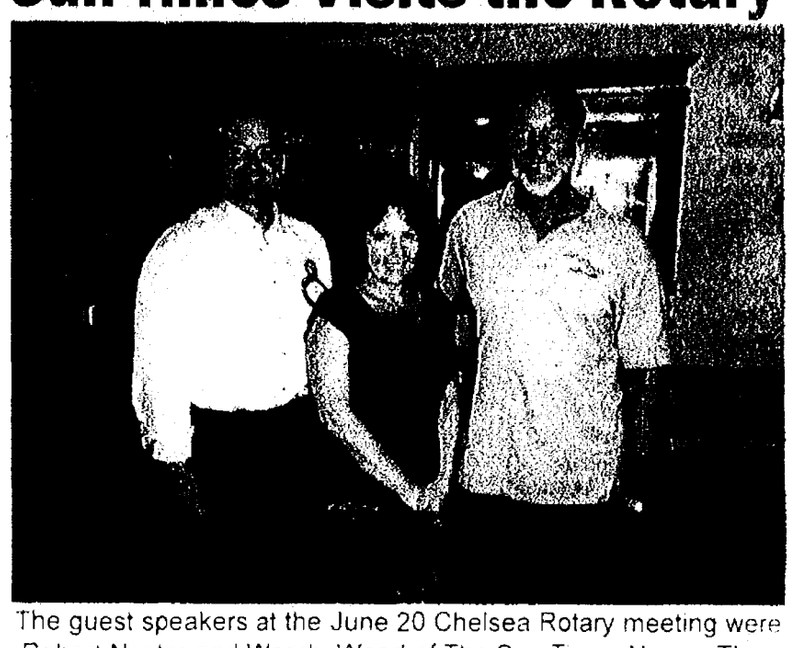
Sun Times Visits the Rotary



The guest speakers at the June 20 Chelsea Rotary meeting were Robert Nester and Wendy Wood of The Sun Times News. They told the club about the history of the paper, their philosophy about how and why they operate it and what their plans are for the future. Pictured are (left to right) Paul Schissler, current Rotary President, Wendy Wood, Managing Editor and Bob Nester, Publisher.

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Setting the Record Straight . . .

A report in the June 20th edition of the Sun Times featuring candidates of the 2012 Sylvan Township Board incorrectly listed the number of years clerk LuAnn Koch has served. In fact, LuAnn has served Sylvan Township for 20 and 5 terms. We apologize for the error and any confusion we may have caused.

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Tentative Hope for Revitalization of Downtown Stockbridge

Continued from Front Page

In a later interview, Cook did not wish to disclose the nature of the project but said her goal is to draw families into the area as well as customers for surrounding businesses. "I've been working toward making the building stable and attractive for two years, and my plan is to make Stockbridge even more beautiful," said Cook.

Another project in the works is a potential future site of a Stockbridge fitness center on South M-106. Stockbridge Wellness Coalition members have submitted a business plan to the Chelsea Wellness Foundation (CWF) which includes a request for funding of a lease for three suites in the Lantis Plaza totaling 5,400 square feet. Coalition member Tom Clark said in a later interview he hopes for funding approval by the CWF board at their next meeting June 27. Clark mentioned the coalition collected 400 signatures expressing support of the fitness center in response to a request for a petition by CWF Executive Director Heydlauff. "The support has been amazing, and I certainly hope it has an impact on the board," said Clark.

The property, owned by SDDA Vice-Chair CG Lantis is a sensible first step for the fitness center, said Dillingham, in that it is a good location and very affordable. "I'm taking one for Stockbridge," laughed Lantis commenting on the negotiated lease price.

Dillingham also proposed the SDDA purchase a 66-foot easement at 4893 Bird Drive, and possibly the purchase of the 1.5 acre "triangle portion" of adjacent land, for the possible future construction of a Class A Road into Phase 2 of the Stockbridge Industrial Park. SDDA attorney John Gormley agreed with the recommendation. Gormley was directed to contact the owner, Independent Bank, with an offer of $3,000.

Dillingham said there have been several inquires from businesses regarding the building previously owned by Animal Blood Resources International, but the SDDA must wait until the building progresses to foreclosure–about a six month process, he said.

A downtown merchant is seeking expansion and possible relocation of his business if an existing downtown building proves to be a good fit, while a manufacturing company is "seriously" interested in the area if they, too, can find an existing building that meets the company's needs. "This project has suddenly been put on a much faster track," said Dillingham. "But, as we know, that track can get cold real quick."

In other news, the SDDA declined to purchase the property at 146 South Clinton Street through tax foreclosure, but will pursue the sale post-auction in September at far less cost if still available. The dilapidated house at the corner of Elizabeth and Clinton Street is lacking plumbing and electrical and was offered pre-auction to the village by the Ingham County Treasurer for $15,766 plus demolition cost, title insurance and environmental hazard testing cost. The village would be prohibited from selling the property for a profit according to the pre-auction terms.

Estimating the buying process of the property to reach about $40,000, Dillingham recommended the SDDA wait until a possible "scavenger sale" in September when the entire process would cost closer to $10,000-$15,000. "You could pick it up at the third sale for the purpose of cleaning it up and making it a 'pocket park,'" suggested Dillingham. "In the meantime, it will continue to be a major distraction downtown."

Board members discussed several dying trees in the downtown district - and all are expected to die within two to three years. The trees were planted during the village's streetscaping project in 1993. "I don't know what's killing them," said Village President Don Byrd. "But someone said we put the wrong trees in to start with."

A later interview with Carrie Gee, owner of Gee Farms, revealed the close proximity of concrete surrounding the lilac trees is probably restricting their root growth. Quotes for removal and replacement will be presented at next month's meeting, said Village Clerk Tim Sadowski.

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