

Stuart House Showcases Building Replicas

DPW Seeks More Revenue

**Continued from page 1*

Mr. Gensman. "They're all built from memory."

According to Mr. Gensman, once all the replicas have been moved to their new home in the Stuart House, they cannot be moved anywhere else. They are extremely fragile, and Mr. Gensman was relieved to see that they arrived on the Island in one piece.

To transport the models, Mr. Gensman packed them tightly into the back of his pick-up, and covered them all with blankets before driving them up from his Rochester Hills home, then across to the Island by ferry.

The exhibits are being displayed as part of an attempt by Stuart House to showcase Island history beyond what is already known about the fur trade and military presence.

"We're trying to show Mackinac's history, and Dale is adding to the community of Mackinac history," said Mr. Horn.

Mr. Gensman gave careful consideration to which buildings he replicated. Some were based on a desire to showcase some of the more historically important buildings on the Island, while others had personal significance. For example, Mr. Gensman attended the Thomas Ferry School, which is the old Indian Dormitory. His father was



Dale Gensman (left) and Armand "Smi" Horn worked together to build and exhibit small replicas of Island buildings at the Stuart House.

also one of the founders of Little Stone Church and built Round Island Lighthouse.

In addition to the replicas, there are also some side notes of interest. Mr. Gensman's wife, Georgianna, for example, wrote short informative articles on the buildings to describe their significance. There is also a picture of Charles Wellington, who taught at the school from 1927 until it's closing in 1960 and a photograph of the students attending the school about 1940, which has never been exhibited before.

All the students who once attended the Thomas Ferry School are encouraged to sign a guest book at the Stuart House

exhibit.

Mr. Gensman has several other projects for the Stuart House, including a room dedicated to Mr. Wellington and recreating Stella King's medical center, with antique beds and desks.

He also hopes to start an exhibit about Cubby the Bear, which was raised on the Island, up at Stonecliffe. Mr. Gensman has 157 pictures of the bear, including one that was taken on the set of "This Time For Keeps."

In the meantime, the Sheldon Roots Gallery has moved from exhibiting local artists to including local builders with the addition of Mr. Gensman's buildings. Long-time Island residents are also encouraged to contact Mr. Gensman about exhibiting their old photos.

Ambulance To Come in Nov.

Mackinac Island's new ambulance will be identified as Mackinac Island EMS with six-inch letters on its side and is on track to arrive in early November. The identity decision was made during a Police Committee meeting on Wednesday, September 21, and approved by City Council Wednesday, September 28.

The city will take bids on the current ambulance, with a minimum offer of \$3,150.

The next Police Committee meeting has yet to be scheduled.

By Karen Gould

Preliminary six-year financial projections that the Department of Public Works (DPW) considers draft numbers show that the rate increase enacted earlier this year and additional increases approved for the next two years may not be sufficient to cover the department's operating costs. The Board of Public Works now is exploring ways to increase revenue to keep the department out of the red and may ask City Council for upward adjustments.

In May, Island residents saw a 50 percent increase in rates with an additional 50 percent increase planned for next year and a 25 percent increase for 2007. In May 2006, water rates will increase to \$2.81 per 1,000 gallons and sewer will rise to \$5.06, and in 2007, water will increase to \$3.52 and sewer will go up to \$6.33 per 1,000 gallons.

The department has three ways to generate revenue: commodity rates, readiness to serve charges, and taxes. Currently, no component of the DPW revenues come from taxes, but the department now is considering soliciting from the City Council such to bolster its bottom line.

The Department also will raise the connection fees for new customers to \$5,356 from \$5,225.

Additionally, the board has decided not to replace water filtration membranes at the water treatment plant, even though they have exceeded their guaranteed life expectancy, and instead will make plant improvements. DPW Director Bruce Zimmerman said the membranes in use at the plant have been in place seven years, but that other plants around the country have used them for nine years without replacement.

The DPW will perform necessary maintenance and mechanical improvements now and look at membrane replacement next year.

The Board, meeting September 28, agreed to store construction debris in one of the composting bays at the solid waste transfer station to get the material off the ground and will be sending a letter to landfill users seeking notification of planned construction projects.

The issue of construction waste storage began in July when Mr. Zimmerman told the board the city practice of storing the materials directly on the ground is illegal. Compounding the problem is the inability to ship the debris to a mainland landfill in the winter, when freight boats are not operating.

The letter asking about construction projects is an attempt to minimize the amount of debris by removing it from the Island before the boats stop running.

The bay used to store material over the winter is 40-feet by 50-feet and has the capacity equal to about 75 dumpsters.

The DPW will make a proposal to Larry Berke to provide water to his cottage, that will include chiseling a shallow water service line along an existing easement to his home.

The cooperative funding project between Mr. Berke and the DPW will provide a private water line for the Berke cottage, which has been sharing a line running from the Annex.

Board members also discussed wages and a retirement plan for DPW workers. They will look at communities of similar size to see how Island wages compare. They also are exploring options of establishing a 401K retirement plan for workers.

The DPW board members include Chairman R.D. Musser Jr., Ron Dufina, Barry BeDour, Victor Callewaert, and Jim Pettit.

The next DPW meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, October 14, at City Hall.

Community Foundation Elects Officers

Mackinac Island Community Foundation officers were

re-elected at the board's annual meeting Saturday, September 10.

Officers include Chairman Wesley Maurer, Jr., Vice-chairman R. Dan Musser III, President Bradley Chambers, Secretary Margaret Doud, and Treasurer Mike Young. The Foundation board of trustees includes Penny Barr, Jack Dehring, Charles Kleber, Kimberly Kolatski, Kathleen Lewand, John Lore, Mary K. McIntire, Walter North, Carol Rearick, and Lorna Straus. Jennifer Blowski is the executive director.

J.L. Beanery A Coffeehouse
CLOSING OCTOBER 23
 On the Bay Behind Bay View Inn Next to Marina
 Thanks for a great season! See you in the spring.
 Diana & Bruce
 • Lite Lunches • Fresh-Baked Pastries • Cappuccino • Espresso
 Open at 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Daily
 847-6533

MARSHALL BUILDERS, Inc.
 COMPLETE Residential & Commercial CONSTRUCTION
 ★ Remodeling ★ Siding ★ Roofing ★ Painting
 Licensed & Insured
 Rick - 643-9491 Wade - 643-7410

NATIONAL BANK
 ST. IGNACE
Mackinac Island Branch
 Your One-Stop Banking Service
 ~Located on Historic Market Street~

FALL HOURS
 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon. - Fri.
 9 a.m. to Noon Sat.
 (906) 847-3732 MEMBER F.D.I.C.
 24-Hour Automatic Teller Machine
 AMERICAN EXPRESS Cards CIRRUS

BELONGA EXCAVATING
Land Clearing ~ Site Preparation
Foundation Excavation
Septic Tanks • Systems • Drain Fields
Water & Sewer Installations
 COMMERCIAL SNOWPLOWING
 115 Elliott Street • St. Ignace • 906-643-9595

The Island Bookstore INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORES FOR INDEPENDENT MINDS
MACKINAC ISLAND In the LilacTree Mall 906-847-6202
 & **MACKINAW CITY**
 www.islandbookstore.com
 1-(888)-436-READ
Celebrating Our 30th Anniversary