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December 13, 2012

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Language on recall petitions clear; recall to move forward

By Tina Sundelius

CHARLEVOIX—The Charlevoix County Election Commission determined that the language on three recall petitions was clear, allowing recall procedures to begin at a meeting Monday, December 10.

A commission consisting of Judge Frederick R. Mulhauser, County Clerk

Cheri Browe and County Treasurer Marilyn Cousineau ruled on the clarity of language in recall petitions for City Councilmen Jill Picha, third ward, Dennis Kusina, first ward, and Bryan Vollmer, second ward. After the determination Councilman Picha addressed the commission, "I agree with you on the clarity of the language but the

statements are not true," she said.

All three Councilmen have been accused of attending a joint meeting of City Council and the DDA which those who filed the petition claim to have been in violation of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. The basic intent of the Open Meetings Act is to strengthen the right of all Michigan citizens to know

what goes on in government by requiring public bodies to conduct nearly all business at open meetings. The act states that all special meetings must be posted at least 18 hours in advance. Deputy City Clerk, Stephanie C. Brown's signature appears on a public notice dated 8/7/2012 announcing the meeting in question to be held on "Thursday, August

9, 2012 at 6:00 p.m." assuming the notice was posted by the clerk as required, that would be a 48 hour meeting notice.

The petition to recall Picha has an added charge of failing "to ensure compliance with the ordinance of 2007 requiring timely collection of debris and other trash since June 2012." It is supposed that this complaint refers to the

removal of leaves and yard debris that the city Department of Public Works remove as a courtesy to residents within the city limits on a routed schedule.

"I think it's a sad state of affairs when you can say whatever you want on a recall petition as long as the language is clear," said Councilman Kusina.

See *Recall Petitions* - 9A

Boyer City Commissioners Greet New Assistant Planner

By Tina Sundelius

BOYNE CITY—A new Assistant Planner and Zoning Administrator was welcomed to the city staff and engineering additions to the Douglas Street storm water project were approved at the December 11 City Commission meeting.

New Assistant Planner/Zoning Administrator, Leslie Meyers, was introduced to the board by Scott McPherson, Planning/Zoning Administrator, who said that they chose Meyer after an extensive search through twenty-four applicants. "I think she's going to hit the road running," he said. Mayor Grunch greeted the new addition to city staff with a smile, "We really feel like we are a team here and it's a lot of fun to work here," he said. Meyer will begin her duties on Wednesday, December 19. She joins staff after spending four years with White Water Township. "It's very, very exciting because Boyne City and the surrounding townships are each doing what I've done and done well," said Meyers.

The original work

See *Boyer Commission* - 7A

Santa to visit Castle Farms



Saturday, December 15th, kids of all ages will have a chance to visit with Santa in the "royal" setting of Castle Farms near Charlevoix from 1 to 3 pm.

By Jim Akans

Everyone knows that Santa Claus deserves the "royal treatment" all year long, but that is especially true as Christmas approaches.

This coming Saturday, December 15th, kids of all ages will have a chance to visit with Santa in the "royal" setting of Castle Farms near Charlevoix, as the facility hosts their annual Santa at the Castle event from 1 to 3 pm. There will be jolly fun and games throughout the afternoon, as well as crafts, carols, story time, snacks to nibble on, a "Polar Express" train display and the al-

ways-popular Christmas Train Tree. Children can have their photos taken with Santa...but parents please remember to bring the camera along to the event to capture that memorable visit with St. Nick.

But that's not the only excitement happening at Castle Farms this coming Saturday. The Castle Farms gift shop will also be offering a 10-percent discount on purchases from 9:30 am until 5 pm. What a great time to find an excellent value for that holiday gift list!

For additional information, call Castle Farms, located at 5052 M-66, at (231) 237-0884 or visit www.castlefarms.com

Updates to Ellsworth's Aging Water System Considered

By Tina Sundelius

ELLSWORTH—Plans for updates and improvements to Ellsworth's outdated water system were discussed and the vacant seat on Village Council was filled by appointment at the December 10 meeting.

Tim Roach, a representative of Gosling Czubak, an engineering consulting firm located in Traverse City hired by the Village to gather data and cost estimates for an update of the village water system started this month's Village Council meeting on the hopeful note of affordable improvements. "Because the interest rate is so much lower there's a good chance of doing a lot of work without raising the payment much," he said.

The Village hopes to replace 40 waterlines along Park St, Forest Hill Drive, High Street and Circle Drive; replace all residential water meters with meters that emit high frequency signals that will allow village workers to gather information without entering home through the use of a hand held receiver; looping water lines on the east end of town by connecting lines on Hillman Hills and those heading toward East Jordan; technological improvements to two of the village wells, and resurfacing roads that will be disturbed by the work. The village is presently paying \$28,000 annually on the loan it incurred in 1985, the last time the village did any water system improvements, at 6.625% interest.

See *Ellsworth Council* - 7A

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OBITUARIES

John Paul Kenwabikise, 74

(JULY 6, 1938 - DEC. 5, 2012)

John Paul

Kenwabikise of Beaver Island and Charlevoix, died

Wednesday, December 5, 2012, in Charlevoix.

Funeral Mass was Tuesday, December 11, at the Holy Cross Church followed by burial in Holy Cross Cemetery. The Reverend Joseph Blasko officiated.

John was born July 6, 1938, on High Island to Paul David and Isabelle (Shabageshikoqua) Kenwabikise. He worked as a commercial fisherman, and with the exception of living on High Island for a short time taking care of free-range horses, and the time he stayed in Charlevoix, lived on Beaver Island his entire life. He was also an accomplished carpenter, plumber, welder and mechanic.

He was a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, and he attended Holy Cross Church on Beaver Island.

John is survived by his children, Erick (Ardis) Kenwabikise of Cheboygan, Simon Kenwabikise of Alanson, Rose Kenwabikise, Katheryn (Lee Fisher) Kenwabikise all of Petoskey, Patrick Kenwabikise of Empire; nineteen grandchildren; sisters and brothers, Caroline (Orville) Ramey of Benzonia, Nancy (Denny) Harris, Leonard (Peggy) Kenwabikise all of South Haven, Pauline (George) Anthony of Traverse City, Sarah (Jack) Bray of Pulman, Joey Kenwabikise, Diane (Steve "Sonic") Smith, James (Barbara) Kenwabikise all of Charlevoix, Mary Kenwabikise-Haplin of Beaver Island. John was preceded in death by his sons, John, Kenny, Dennis, and Jesse and daughter, Wendy; his sisters Margaret and Doris, and brothers, Steve and Robbie.

Please sign John's guestbook at www.winchesterfuneral-home.com



Samuel D. Walton, 55

Samuel D. Walton died Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, at his home in East Jordan. Arrangements are pending at the Penzien Funeral Homes Inc. in East Jordan.

Diane Michelle Shafer, 37

Diane Michelle Shafer of Central Lake died Friday, Dec. 7, 2012, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City.

The funeral service was Tuesday, Dec. 11, at Grace Community Church with the Rev. Celia M. Hastings officiating. Burial in Ellsworth Cemetery.

The family is served by Hastings Funeral Home in Ellsworth.

John W. Harris, 81

(MARCH 8, 1931 - DEC. 6, 2012)

John W. Harris of Boyne City died Dec. 6, 2012, at his home in Boyne City with family by his side.

Graveside services will take place 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, at Maple Lawn Cemetery in Boyne City by the Honor Guard from America Legion Post 228 followed by a memorial luncheon at 1 p.m. at the Eagles, 102 River St. in Boyne City.

John was born March 8, 1931, to John and Beatrice Harris of Boyne City. Shortly after graduating from Boyne City High School in 1949 John joined the U.S. Army in March of 1952. After completing basic training at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, he shipped out to Germany. He was honorably discharged in February, 1954, and received the Army Occupational Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

John married Janet Allison on Sept. 2, 1967, in Boyne Falls, Mich. Together they raised their children, daughter, Marcia, and two sons, Mark and Mike.

He worked in a number of different fields, including as a builder with R.D. Brooks, a delivery driver for Petoskey Pet Gas, delivery driver for Northland Septic and for the street depart-



ment of Boyne City where he retired in 1993. John enjoyed gardening, woodworking, bowling and spending time with his grandchildren.

John is survived by his wife, Janet; daughter, Marcia (Terry) Anderson; sons, Mark Harris and Michael (Gena) Harris; sisters, Flora Jensen and Phyllis Hausler; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Beatrice Harris and brother, Tom Harris.

Family requests donations be directed to Vital Care Hospice of Little Traverse Bay or the Charlevoix County Humane Society.

Stackus Funeral Home of Boyne City is serving the family. Family and friends wishing to share a thought or memory are encouraged to do so online at www.stonefuneralhomeinc.com.

Marie Lucille Osterberg, 86

Marie Lucille Osterberg, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, teacher and coach, passed away peacefully Dec. 2, 2012, with family by her side.

Marie will be remembered by family and friends for her warm smile, encouraging words, kind and joyful spirit, and love of song and laughter.

Survivors include five children, Kristine, Paul, John (Kiyomi), Brian, and Carole (Dwayne); grandchildren, Nicholas, Sophia, Kelly, Mariko, Matthew, Lena; siblings, Arthur (Marge), Rita (Dom); and in-laws, Jay, Lotta, Kaarina, Gary, Maurie, all touched by her loving and giving nature.

Marie was preceded in death by her husband, Paul; brother, Louis; and sister, Evelyn.

Marie was born in 1926 to Arthur and Mary (Perino) Frankini in Iron Mountain.

A graduate of Northern Michigan University, Marie was a dedicated educator in the Michigan Public Schools for nearly 30 years. In 1969, she joined Charlevoix Public School System, teaching physical education, health and English. Marie encouraged girls to be involved in sports and in the early 1970s she would open the high school gym

in the evenings to teach gymnastics, dance and volleyball. Marie spearheaded girls' athletic team opportunities at Charlevoix High School, coaching the school's first girls' basketball, volleyball and track teams. Marie and her teams brought home many titles and honors over the years. She was known to many as, "Mrs. O," "Mom" and "Coach." Always motivating and kind, Marie didn't care if you were the best, but that you tried your best.

For many years, Marie had been a member of St. Mary's of Charlevoix and sang in the choir. A memorial Mass will be given at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, at St. Mary's.

Gifts of tribute may be directed to the Music Ministry, St. Mary's Church, 1003 Bridge St., Charlevoix, Mich. 49720; or McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation, 360 Connable Ave. Petoskey, Mich. 49770.

In lieu of flowers, join friend or family "to toast Maria" with song and dance.

Ruth Arlene Hausler, 89

(AUG. 30, 1923 - DEC. 3, 2012)

Ruth Arlene Hausler of Boyne City passed away on Monday, Dec. 3, 2012, at The Brook in Boyne City with her four sons at her side.

Born in Boyne City on Aug. 30, 1923, to Ralph and Cora (Bradley) Hocquard, she was the second oldest in a family of seven children. She attended Boyne City schools, graduating in 1941. Upon graduation she worked in the local bakery for a short time.

While two of her brothers were serving in the Army and Air Force, she and a high school classmate went to Grosse Pointe and stayed with an aunt. They rode a bus to work each day to a factory in Detroit where rifles were being produced for the war effort. At the end of World War II they came back to Boyne City as did the returning soldiers. All



looked forward to resuming their lives in a peacetime setting.

She met a former Army Sergeant and on Oct. 5, 1946, Ruth married Vernon O. Hausler, of Boyne City. Together they raised four sons. When the youngest of their sons entered school, she worked as a cook for the Boyne City Public Schools, retiring in 1985.

Her family came first in all aspects of her life and she totally enjoyed their many sport activities, watching countless football, basketball and baseball games ... and seeing each of her four sons crowned the Boyne City homecoming king during a span of 15 years. Her grandson, Elliot, has continued the tradition this fall as king.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Vernon, in 2004; two brothers, Richard (Dick) Hocquard and Donald Hocquard; and a sister, Mrs. Rick (Kay Hocquard) Casper.

Surviving are her brother, Maurice (Fran) Hocquard, of Fairhope, Ala.; and two sisters, Mrs. Maxine Bates of Boyne City and Mrs. Marjorie Matelski of Boyne Falls. Also surviving are her sons, Ronald (Jean Reid) of Petoskey, and from Boyne City, Michael (Diane Kowalske), Keith (Trudy Hammontree), and Scott (Linda Eaton). She had 11 grandchildren, Matthew (Kristi) Hausler and Adam Hausler, both of Petoskey, Meganne (Ryan) Arens of Farmington, and Andrew Hausler of Chicago, Ill., Teresa (Chuck) Vondra, Luke (Melanie) Hausler, of Boyne City, Ben (fiancée Molly Babb) Hausler of Indianapolis, Ind., Molly, Hannah, Elliot and Mary Hausler of Boyne City. Great-grandchildren are Emily and Drew Wilson, Shannon and Keira Hausler, Noah Arens, Emma and Max Vondra, Sydney and Savannah Hausler.

A funeral service was Saturday, Dec. 8, at The First Presbyterian Church of Boyne City, 401 S. Park. Burial at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Boyne City.

Contributions may be made to the Boyne City School Boosters or The First Presbyterian Church of Boyne City.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters and opinions may be submitted by e-mail to office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com.

Charlevoix Chamber thanks Holiday Light Post Sponsors

The Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the businesses and individuals who sponsored the fresh garland and wreaths adorning the light posts in downtown Charlevoix this holiday season. Thank you for your generous gift to the community.

- 2012 HOLIDAY LIGHT POST SPONSORS:**
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 - Charlevoix Area Hospital
 - In honor of Charlevoix Area Hospital Employees
 - In honor of Charlevoix Area Hospital Physicians
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 - Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.
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 - Central Drug Store
 - Charlevoix Harbor Wear
 - The Clothing Company
 - Charlevoix Screen Masters
 - Elements
 - John & Glenda Ferguson
 - Fox Motors in Charlevoix
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 - Jim & Susan Mabee
 - Randall Chiropractic Clinic
 - Revolution Bike
 - Wendy & Emory Sloan
 - In memory of Major Douglas E. Sloan US Army KIA Afghanistan 10-31-06
 - State Farm - Mike Epping Agency
 - Chuck & Chris Unbehaun
 - Paul & Margaret Visser

Thank you to Charlevoix community for support of 2nd annual Gifts with a Purpose event

We would like to extend a big thank you to the Charlevoix community for making the 2nd annual Charlevoix Gifts with a Purpose Alternative Giving Event such a success. The 17 local non-profit organizations who participated took in a total of more than \$7,000 in alternative "gifts" which will be given throughout the holidays. This is more than double the amount raised last year.

A special thanks to the library for the use of their facility, Charlevoix State Bank for their assis-

tance with credit card processing, the Bergmann Center Aktion Club for providing morning refreshments and lunch, and the Community Food Pantry for providing greeters. If anyone missed the event, and would still like to make a donation as a Christmas gift, all 17 organizations are still accepting donations.

Thanks again to everyone who made this day such a success.

Sincerely,
Val Myerson and Cheri Hoffman, event co-chairs

Breezeway Task Force holds annual planning retreat

Members of the Breezeway Task Force met on Wednesday, November 20th at the Ellsworth Farmer's Exchange Conference Room. The past year's calendar of events was reviewed by attendees to look at the economic impact, participation and how these activities could be improved in 2013.

- Events returning for 2013 include:
- Garage Sales Across the Breezeway - May 24 - 25
 - Summer Cruise on the Breezeway - Thursday, June 20
 - Cyclocross and Archery Tournament - September 21
 - The Fall Color Tour will change from one Saturday to three consecutive Saturdays beginning Saturday, September 28
 - October 5 & 12, Pumpkin Festival - October 19. One new event is being looked at being added in the Calendar of Events for 2013.

The Task Force is researching the possibility of having a tractor parade from Atwood to Ellsworth on the Breezeway in the fall. The group discussed two other future projects and will begin working on them after the



(left to Right) Front - Jan Kellogg: Northern Lakes Economic Alliance, Mary Faculak: East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Shirley Tornga: Banks Township Historical Society. Back - Hugh Campbell: Village of Ellsworth President, Donna Heeres: Banks Township Clerk, Laurie Hodgson: Murray's of East Jordan, Thomas Mann: Banks Township Supervisor. Missing from photo- Scotty Bruce: MI Farm Market (COURTESY PHOTO)

holidays. The Breezeway Task Force meets the second Tuesday of each month 3:30 - 4:30 PM at various locations on the Breezeway. For more information

or to get involved with an event, please contact the East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce at 231-536-7351 or www.ridethebreezeway.com

Challenge Mountain Resale Shops in Boyne City and Petoskey

By Jim Akans

In 1984, the Challenge Mountain 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization was founded to raise funds to develop an adaptive ski program to allow physically and mentally challenged individuals enjoy the thrill and excitement of the sport of downhill skiing free of charge. With a motto of "If I can do this I can do anything!" the Challenge Mountain organization grew over the years to include Summer Games, Day Camps, Overnight Camps, Camp Quality, Winter Games and much more.

Challenge Mountain Resale Shops, located in Boyne City and Petoskey, offer a wide range of donated clothing and household items for sale with proceeds utilized to help support Challenge Mountains' ongoing mission. The 6,600 square foot facility in Boyne City and 4,200 square foot facility in Petoskey each present a seemingly endless array of men's, women's and children's clothing items, books, music, furniture, linens, glassware and other household items to select from.

The Boyne City store is located at 1158 S. M-75, just east of Boyne City



Challenge Mountain Resale Shops, located in Boyne City and Petoskey, offer a wide range of donated clothing and household items for sale with proceeds utilized to help support Challenge Mountains' ongoing mission. COURTESY PHOTO.

toward Boyne Falls (where the facility was actually once located), and the Petoskey store is at 2429 US 31 North across from Houghton Gas.

Each store is open Monday through Friday from 10 am until 4

pm, and on Saturdays from 10 am until 3 pm. For additional information about Challenge Mountain, please call (231) 582-5711 or visit www.cmski.org.

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All proceeds go to purchasing food for our food pantry

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231-588-2208

HIDDEN TREASURES

<p>CHARLEVOIX</p> <p>Bergmann Center Resale Shop 8888 Ance Road, Charlevoix 231-547-9624 www.bergmanncenter.org</p> <p>Kelly's Antiques & Furniture Barn 06176 Old US 31 S., Charlevoix 231-547-0133 www.dkellyantiques.com</p> <p>EAST JORDAN</p> <p>Crossroads Resale Shop 205 Water Street., East Jordan 231-536-7606 Open Tuesday thru Saturday</p> <p>BOYNE CITY</p> <p>Challenge Mountain Resale 1158 S. M-75, Boyne City 231-582-5711 www.challengemtn.org</p> <p>Consign Design 100 Van Pelt Pl., Charlevoix 231-237-9773 www.consigndesign.net</p>	<p>ELLSWORTH</p> <p>Good Samaritan Resale shop 9746 Main Street Ellsworth 231-588-2208 thegoodsam.org</p> <p>FREDERIC</p> <p>Pineview Military Surplus 7328 Old 27 North, Frederic 989-348-8300</p> <p>GAYLORD</p> <p>A-2-Z Resale 1829 Old 27 South, Gaylord 989-732-9500</p> <p>Goodwill Retail and Donation Center 1361 Pineview Dr. (near Lowes) Gaylord 989-705-1747 www.goodwillnmi.org</p>	<p>GAYLORD</p> <p>Great Rooms Quality Pre-Owned Furniture 148 W. Main St., Gaylord 989-745-5184 www.greatroomsgaylord.com</p> <p>Angels at Work Resale 1523 S Otsego Ave. Gaylord 989.448.8615</p> <p>Venus & Blue Jeans 340 West Main St., Gaylord 989-731-2600 www.venusandbluejeans.com</p> <p>Four Seasons Resale of the North 1182 B. South Otsego Ave. (Next to Sears) Gaylord, MI 49735 989-306-3700</p>	<p>HARBOR SPRINGS</p> <p>New Beginnings Thrift Shop 650 W Conway Rd., Harbor Springs 231-348-2980</p> <p>HARBOR SPRINGS</p> <p>Habitat for Humanity Restore 8460 M-119., Harbor Springs 231-347-8440</p> <p>MANCELONA</p> <p>Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale Shop 201 N. Maple St., Mancelona 231-587-9606</p> <p>MIO</p> <p>Strawberry Patch Downtown Mio 989-826-1503</p>	<p>PETOSKEY</p> <p>Challenge Mountain Resale Shop 2429 US31 North, Petoskey 231-348-3195 www.challengemtn.org</p> <p>PETOSKEY</p> <p>Goodwill Retail and Donation Center 1600 Anderson Rd., Petoskey 231-348-6947 www.goodwillnmi.org</p> <p>To add your business listing</p> <p>E-Mail office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com</p>
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Photos

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

E.J. TOURIST PARK HOLIDAY DISPLAYS

EAST JORDAN – Businesses and Service organizations have sponsored holiday displays at the East Jordan Tourist Park. The park is filled with holiday displays. This is a one-of-a-kind event in our area and we are so fortunate to have such a beautiful park setting to do this in. Thank you to the EJ Lions Club for creating and sponsoring this venue.



News Briefs

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

EAST JORDAN

Toy drive

The East Jordan boys and girls basketball teams will be hosting a Toy Drive at their game this Friday starting at 6pm. For each toy brought in, spectators will receive one entry into a raffle. All toys donated will be given to the East Jordan Care and Share toy program. Last year 312 boys and girls from East Jordan received gifts through the Care and Share toy program. Military personnel will be at the game offering a special ceremony. The theme night for this game is neon nights so spectators should be wearing bright colors.

CHARLEVOIX

Holiday crafts

The Charlevoix Public Library is hosting their annual Drop-in December Holiday Crafts. Stop by during regular library hours to make one of the fun crafts. The craft changes each week in December, the week of December 15 – Holiday Card, December 22 – CD Ornament. Kids of all ages will have the opportunity to create one of these fun crafts from the smorgasbord of crafting materials at the library. All ages welcome to drop in anytime during the event. For more information about this or other kids programs at the library, call 231-237-7350 or visit them at www.charlevoixlibrary.org.

EAST JORDAN

Christmas Tree Sale

The East Jordan Lions Club is holding its annual Christmas Tree Sale at the EJ True Value Hardware now through Dec. 24. This year we are offering Balsam Firs, Scotch Pines, White Pines, Blue Spruce, and Fraser Firs. Prices run from \$25.00 to \$45.00. All proceeds from the sale remain in the community and support the local Lions Club programs and projects.

BOYNE CITY

Indoor farmers market

The Boyne City Farmers Market moves indoors for the winter and spring on Saturday at the Red Barn next to the Boyne District Library on Park Street. The indoor market will continue

every Saturday through April from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can purchase Holiday Gift Certificates and share the gift of local healthy food. Boyne Bucks from the Chamber are also now honored at the market. Bridge Cards are also welcome all year at the Market.

CHARLEVOIX

Farmers market

The Charlevoix Farmers Market will be held indoors at the Charlevoix Public Library the every Thursday from 9am-1pm, November through May.

BOYNE CITY

Business after hours

The Boyne Chamber's holiday Business After Hours will be held at Re/Max Resort Properties, 111 S. Lake St., from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13. Co-sponsoring the Chamber's holiday networking event is Fierro HVAC Heating, Cooling and Refrigeration. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be provided by Boyne Country Provisions and the Wine Emporium. There is no charge for admission or refreshments. Fierro HVAC Inc. offers a variety of services for residential, commercial, industrial, and marine.

EAST JORDAN

Mitten Trees

The East Jordan Garden Club will again have their Mitten Trees out in all three East Jordan Banks. Charlevoix State Bank, Huntington Bank and Bay Winds Federal Credit Union. The trees will remain up until December 14th. As you do your shopping, please pick up items to go on the trees. Winter in Northern Michigan is a cold time, and everyone deserves to be warm. Keep in mind that mittens are not the only thing that you can put on the tree. Hats, earmuffs, socks and scarves will all be given a good home. Adult sizes as well as children's sizes are also welcome.

CHARLEVOIX

Food drive

Rotary Club of Charlevoix Can Food Drive. Please bring your nonperishable food items to the Olesons parking lot on Saturday, December 15th between 9am and 2pm. We will also be accepting empty returnables (cans and bottles) as donations. All food and money collected will benefit the Charlevoix Community Food Pantry.

BOYNE CITY

Community Christmas donations

Boyne Community Christmas needs donations. Less than two weeks remain for the Boyne Area Community Christmas Baskets program to provide a happy holiday for hundreds of people. Organizers are expecting that the need for assistance will be high this year. The pro-

gram served 650 children last year from Boyne City, Boyne Falls and Walloon Lake. Non-perishable, unwrapped food, new toys and games, books, clothing and blankets may be dropped off at the Early Childhood Education Center on Pine Street from now through Dec. 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Checks may be made payable to Boyne Area Community Christmas, c/o Treasurer Eleanor West, 915 Robinson St. #15, Boyne City 49712. Dec. 21 is the basket-packing day and those eligible for baskets may pick them up that day from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Early Childhood Center gym. Volunteers who would like to help pack baskets will be needed starting at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 21. For further information call Ruth Witenki at 582-3152 or 758-2787, or Nancy Hosmer at 582-7346.

BOYNE CITY

Farmers Market plans Dec. 15 Holiday Celebration

The Boyne City Farmers Market continues its winter season, open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays at the red barn next to the Boyne District Library on Park Street. More than 20 vendors offering fresh produce, meat, baked goods and more participate in the market each week. The market is planning a Holiday Family Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 15, with hourly customer appreciation gift drawings. Cozy up to the fire and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate while listening to the sounds of Christmas. Santa will be taking children's wish lists, and after you shop, you and the kids can enjoy an old-fashioned hayride. Market Money Certificates make great gifts. They are available in \$5, \$10 and \$20 certificates, and the market also accepts Boyne Bucks. www.boynefarmersmarket.com

BELLAIRE

MXR Racing Sno-X

MXR Sno-X Racing at Shanty Creek Resort Dec. 15 & 16. For details on Michigan Xtreme Racing, visit www.mxrracing.com

EAST JORDAN

Winter Wonderland

Jordan Valley Outdoor Youth Programs: Winter Wonderland – A Nature Stroll for Kids is free from 1 to 3 p.m. or later on Sunday, Dec. 16. We will be exploring forest and field while we hike along a maintained pathway. We will visit a

stream that feeds the Jordan River, play nature games, have a scavenger hunt and look for tracks and signs of resident native wildlife. Hot cocoa will be served when we return to the farmhouse. Hike is approximately a half mile.

ATWOOD

Live Nativity

You're invited to celebrate a community tradition at the Atwood Church. Join with friends and neighbors in attending our Live Nativity on Sunday, December 16. Performances are at 5:30 PM and 6:30 PM. Experience the story of the 1st Christmas as told through actors, song, animals and choir. Performances are outside at the church lasting 20 minutes with refreshments following in the church Fellowship Hall. Come and experience a fabulous Christmas celebration. Bring the whole family and you're sure to be filled with the spirit of the Christmas season. The church is located in Atwood on Hwy. 31, 12 miles south of Charlevoix. For more information, contact Pastor Dave Kroon at 231-599-3290.

BOYNE CITY

Starting a business

Fundamentals of Starting a Business" classes are held monthly, with the next one scheduled in Boyne City from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20 at the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance office, 1313 Boyne Ave. This two-hour session will help those who are considering starting a new business learn the basics. Participants will meet with NLEA Business Counselor Tom Erhart. In addition to learning the basics about how to develop a business plan, you will receive workbooks and other resources important to help you think through and research the various aspects of starting a business. If you are ready to get started, or just in the "dreaming" stage, this session would be a good start. The session fee is \$20 per business and you must pre-register to attend; contact the NLEA office by phone 231-582-6482 or by email info@northernlakes.com net to register.

BOYNE CITY

Christmas Basket donations needed

The Boyne Area Community Christmas Baskets program is expecting that the need for assistance will be high this year. Organizer Ruth Witenki said she had already received requests for 250 children by Thanksgiving. The program served 650 children last year from Boyne City, Boyne Falls and Walloon Lake. Non-perishable, unwrapped food, new toys and games, books, clothing and blankets may be dropped off at the Early Childhood Education Center on Pine Street from now through Dec. 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Checks may

be made payable to Boyne Area Community Christmas, c/o Treasurer Eleanor West, 915 Robinson St. #15, Boyne City 49712. Dec. 21 is the basket-packing day and those eligible for baskets may pick them up that day from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Early Childhood Center gym. Volunteers who would like to help pack baskets will be needed starting at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 21. For further information call Ruth Witenki at 582-3152 or 758-2787, or Nancy Hosmer at 582-7346.

BOYNE CITY

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BOYNE CITY

Food drive

Boyne District Library will once again offer its "Food for Fines" program in conjunction with Boyne Area Community Christmas. From now through Dec. 21 overdue fines may be "paid" by bringing food and other donations for the community's Christmas baskets to the library. Acceptable donations include non-perishable food items, new (unwrapped) toys, books and clothing. The library's Christmas tree is now on display, and new hats, mittens and gloves will once again adorn the tree. The library is seeking the community's help in collecting as many items as possible. Handmade as well as store-bought items are welcome, and all items will be donated to Boyne Area Community Christmas by Dec. 21.

BOYNE CITY

Christmas Eve service

First Presbyterian Church at 401 S. Park St., Christmas Eve Service, Dec. 24 at 7pm.

BOYNE CITY

Christmas dinner

First Presbyterian Church at 401 S. Park St., Free

community dinner from 12-2 on Dec. 25.

BOYNE FALLS & HARBOR SPRINGS

Ski Academy

Northern Michigan Ski Academy race training sessions start Wednesday, Jan. 2nd at Boyne Mountain and Thursday, Jan. 3rd at Boyne Highlands. Training sessions take place from 6:30 to 8:30pm on Wednesdays at Boyne Mountain and Thursdays at Boyne Highlands. A meeting for parents will take place at both locations during the first sessions. For registration forms, pricing and additional information on the Northern Michigan Ski Academy please refer to the website, www.nmsa-zone.org. For information related to this press release call Tom Teske, 231-536-3128.

CHARLEVOIX

Let it Snow

Our featured artist Michael Todoroff will be on hand to meet and greet guests on opening night, Saturday evening at the Charlevoix Circle of Arts at 109 Clinton Street. Canapes and libations will be served from 6 to 8pm. The Exhibit runs through January 21st. See what Juror, Artist Neil W. Ahrens, has selected for the exhibit. Juror Ahrens is a graduate of Cranbrook Academy of Art and has Bachelors of Fine Arts in Painting from Michigan State University.

CHARLEVOIX

Let It Snow! Exhibit

Let It Snow is a juried all media exhibit. "Let It Snow!" will open to the public through January 21, 2013. "Let it Snow!" highlights the beauty of Winter in Northern Michigan. Michael Todoroff is our featured Artist. Born and raised in Michigan, artist Michael Todoroff has been drawing and painting the natural world since childhood. An avid birder and naturalist, Todoroff's passion for nature often takes him to Michigan's more pristine and wild areas in search of subjects to paint, including Isle Royale, Whitefish Point, and out of state locations in Alaska,

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News Briefs

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Boyer Commission

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

planned for Douglas Street included a 36 inch storm sewer installed from Division Street to Lincoln Street, the installation or replacement of water and sanitary sewer mains and services, and the installation of an asphalt roadway with a concrete curb and gutter with a total cost of \$286,900. After a public meeting where every resident on the street except one attended, some additions were requested by residents. Four options have been considered but City Commission approved an amendment to the engineering contract for design engineering to include adding a sidewalk to the west side of the street and closing off the block of Douglas Street from Cedar Street to Pleasant Street to

allow for a larger park area and possibly a storm water treatment system of some sort. Each option would add another \$31,150 to the total cost of the project.

A grant from the Northwestern Michigan Council of Governments was awarded to the Mainstreet Committee in the amount of \$1,500 to help pay for the addition of eight 'art' bike racks. The bike racks are expected to be functional as well as pieces of public art. The racks "tie in themes that would work as bike racks and show off different things happening around town," said City Manager, Michael Cain.

The next City Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 8 at 7 P.M.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters and opinions may be submitted by e-mail to office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com.

RIGHT TO WORK

Sundown on the Union, Bob Dylan sang, "sure was a good idea till greed got in the way", pretty much sums it up. But what is not apparent is the ramification of anti-unionism, namely lower wages. Right to work – for less is what we get.

Granted, the union asked for too much and employers couldn't keep up. Union abuses became ridiculous and surreal. People couldn't be fired for any insubordination no matter how outrageous. Time and a half, double time, vacations, sick days, holidays, benefits, retirement, child care allowances, birth time off, a cornucopia of amenities worked alright when times were high. As the economy took a nosedive though the workforce, already accustomed to the middle class lifestyle, had to break stride and accept less and lesser.

And everybody knows about Jimmy Hoffa and organized crime so there's that stigma too. But the union was once the cause for the worker to unite in solidarity against unfair working conditions, low wages, long hours, six days at twelve hours oftentimes, child labor even in adolescent age, lower wages for women for equal work, still lower for black workers, horrible environments causing irreparable diseases; the stories are legion.

But the union saved the day. That day is done. Oh, cops and firefighters still enjoy the fruits thereof for the most part, they somehow retaining the respect of the conservative classes. Prison workers and other administration bureaucrats continue with union status for the interim but tenuously. A state such as Michigan which just passed Right To Work legislation to be signed by the new Governor, hadn't a chance otherwise anyway since the auto industry backbone broke and its ownership negotiated for lower wages on a tier system for new hires on the same line as older workers making considerably more. The workforce was trimmed down accordingly and the implication of a decimated eviscerated middle class seems to be proving true. The union, it is fair to say, created the middle class.

The Industrial Revolution, though improving life for much of the world, did nothing more for the working class than the sweat shops do now, subsistence wages in grueling workplaces. It took unionization to break that syndrome.

The supposed benefit of Right To Work passage is that a worker is not mandated to join the union that exists in a company yet gets the advantages thereof without paying for them, which is what the union calls "free riders". In non-Right To Work states the contracts usually call for a company to fire any worker who refuses to pay union dues, so there was some unfair hegemony inherent in union contracts. What sounds good is in actuality not so good because it means lower wages even if sustaining jobs that are otherwise nonexistent. There's the rub.

Downsizing, in any case, is part of life now and thus the "take it or leave it" attitude which is basically what Right To Work is saying without spelling it out. But that's the reality of the circumstance and propping former good times up artificially can't work for long. Sure, company owners and CEOs still make their humongous salaries and bonuses in flagrant disrespect of the downsized workers; that part of industrialization is still with us. The union didn't do much to alleviate that even as income tax rates for the wealthy plummeted since the 50s and 60s when rates hovered at 91%, now 35%. Those are the 1% that command one-third of the country's wealth. That's what the vaunted "fiscal cliff" is all about, trying to sustain the bush tax cuts. Non-union company owners are cutting workers' pay utilizing this slogan so we may know that this is the actual result of the legislation spilling out across the spectrum of jobs. It's not even in the fine print, just imposed in that unwritten vocabulary we all know so well. Though trends come and go, the union is now beating on a dead horse. The writing, as they say, is on the wall.

Mitchell Jon MacKay,
East Jordan

Good Samaritan Can Help Twice as Many Families with Your Help

Bay Harbor Foundation Offers Matching Grant to Good Samaritan Family Services

The Bay Harbor Foundation has presented Good Samaritan Family Services with a great opportunity to help needy families in Charlevoix County this winter. They have offered to match \$10,000 with a grant to Good Samaritan Family Services Emergency Heating Assistance Pro-

gram. Many struggling families in Charlevoix County will be desperate for help this winter. Please make it possible for the Good Samaritan Family Services to help them stay warm and safe in their homes. However, we need help because the donations that qualify to match the \$10,000 have to be from first time individual or organization donors (churches, businesses, service clubs, etc.) located in Charlevoix County. The foundation wants to encourage Charlevoix residents to help needy Charlevoix County families, and

there are many. With these funds we can help about 50 desperate families.

Time is of the essence because the Bay Harbor offer expires on December 31st. So far we have matching donations of about \$3,500. The Bay Harbor Foundation will be matching gifts from new donors dollar for dollar up to \$10,000 through the end of December. Gifts may be sent to Good Samaritan Family Services, PO Box 206, Ellsworth, MI 49729. Please help us help needy Charlevoix County families this winter.

Angel Ambassadors get a boost from Bay Winds Federal Credit Union

Angel Ambassadors Co-Founders Margie Krussell and Marcie Newton accept a check for \$2,250 from Bay Winds President/CEO David Leusink along with top fund raisers Bellaire Branch Manager Paulette Pospesch and MSR Jennifer Gothrup. The Angel Ambassadors will use the money to help meet the needs of local veterans.

Every year Bay Winds staff selects an organization they would like to adopt. This year Angel Ambassadors was recognized for their efforts on behalf of veterans and their families to meet the needs of those who have given so much for our country.

"Thanks to the contributions of our members and the enthusiastic support of our staff we are proud to honor those veterans who served their country by wearing an Angel Ambassador Pin, said David Leusink, President/CEO Bay Winds. Leusink went on to say, "while raising money is important, it is also important to bring awareness of the needs of local veterans so we can better meet those needs".

Co-Founder Marcie Newton said: "This gift from Bay Winds is awesome and that Angel Ambassadors have received 4 more requests from veterans this week that this money will be able to help meet those needs".

Many veterans returned home from war with areas they may need help. The Veteran's Hospitals do



(From left: Jennifer Gothrup Member Rep., Margie Krussell, Co-Founder, David Leusink, President/CEO Bay Winds, Marcie Newton, Co-Founder and Paulette Pospesch, Bellaire Branch Mgr.)

what they can, however, who will pay to install a handicap ramp for a veteran who lost a limb, so they can get into their home? For other Veterans it may be a tank of propane or firewood to heat their home or to help with a housing or transportation expenses. With the money raised through donations, fund raising events and time and labour donated by skilled individuals, the

Angel Ambassadors can meet these needs.

For more information how you can join the Angel Ambassadors or donate, please go to www.angel-ambassadors.org or call Marcie Newton at 231-881-3565 or Margie Krussell at 231-838-5032

Ellsworth Council

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

With interest rates presently between 2.125-2.625% the village can borrow the funds to improve and update the system, roll the loans together and only increase the annual total payment to roughly \$42,000. The estimated total cost of the project is 1.4 million dollars and a proposed increase of between \$5.40-\$7.00 would be reflected on each of the 230 water bills distributed monthly by the village. "We haven't raised our user fee since 85 when the system went in," said Hellen Allen, Village Clerk. There will be multiple informative public meetings to discuss the improvements as the planning process progresses.

Vollmer has served on the Ellsworth Village Council for six years but when his second term was up this last November he was having some health issues which prompted him not to run again. "I was just hoping we'd get some youth involved in the council," he said. Unfortunately, this past election left two seats on the council open and only one new resident was willing or able to run for the positions.



Tim Roach, a representative of Gosling Czubak, an engineering consulting firm located in Traverse City brought estimates to the Ellsworth village Council for water system updates the village hopes to begin in 2013.

Carla Kameron filled Erin Nickel's seat but Vollmer's has been vacant since the election. "They asked if I would reconsider, I have lived here for over 40 years and I feel like I owe the village, after I talked to my wife, I agreed to come back" said Vollmer. Council members must live within the village limits and be registered voters available to attend meetings as well as attending to other matters

when needed. "Not everybody is able to do the job," he said.

A budget meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 15 at 7 P.M.

The Wooden Shoe Holiday Festival will be held on December 12 at the Banks Township Hall starting at 6 P.M.

Shiverfest is coming February 15-17.

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Arts & Events

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Enjoy a Seasonal Tradition with Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra and Chorus' Handel's Messiah Concert

Handel's "Messiah" will be presented by the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Petoskey on Thursday, December 13th and Friday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. The orchestra will be conducted by Layton "Skip" James, the principal keyboardist for the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and the chorus will be led by Peter Sims.

Handel's "Messiah" is the best known and most beloved oratorio ever written, combining recitative, aria, and dramatic choruses in a resounding affirmation of God's love. "Messiah" was written in 24 days, and was first performed in Dublin on April 13, 1742, as a benefit concert for the Society for Relieving Prisoners, the Charitable Infirmary, and the Mercer's Hospital. Handel made slight modifications in the work for almost every performance, tailoring the arias to his soloists and varying the number of voices in the choir. "Messiah"



Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra presentation of Handel's "Messiah," will take place at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Petoskey on Thursday, December 13th, and Friday December 14th at 7:00 p.m. COURTESY PHOTO

stands as an artwork that transcends period and cultural boundaries, and speaks in the most profound way to human spiritual aspirations. During the Advent and Christmas seasons

the first section and selected portions of the remainder are usually performed.

Soloists for GLCO's Messiah performance will include Leann Schuering, a soprano whose

stage presence has been hailed as "sparkling" by The News Gazette. Stephanie Schoenhofer, who has performed alto and mezzo-soprano solos at the University of Michigan, Jonas Marcel Hacker, a tenor from Lake Delton, Wisconsin who is currently attending the University of Michigan pursuing a Master Degree in Vocal Performance, and Isaac Droscha, a baritone with a wide repertoire ranging from dramatic to comic performances will round out the soloists for the evening event.

General admission tickets are \$15 - and reserve seats are available for \$25 for Silver Reserved Section, \$50 for Gold Reserved Section, and \$75 for Platinum Reserved Section. Tickets may be purchased at the East Jordan, Harbor Springs, Charlevoix, Boyne City and Petoskey area Chamber of Commerce offices, at the GLCO office (call 231-487-0010 for details), or online at TREAT-tickets.com.



soprano, Leann Schuering will be among four soloists performing during the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra and Chorus's "Messiah" concert this Thursday and Friday evening. COURTESY PHOTO

For additional information, visit the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra website at www.glcorchestra.org.

Art Auction Benefits Dance Scholarship

Bidding ends Dec. 19
Crooked Tree Arts Center is auctioning two original watercolors by Charlevoix artist Larissa Flynn with proceeds to benefit the Dance Scholarship Fund. The artwork was created with inspiration from CTAC's Sugar Plum Fairy Tea and Dance the Halls. With extensive experience in a variety of media, Flynn is a formally trained artist who loves to experiment. Drawing on her background of graphic design, illustration and fine art,

her works can be contemporary and classic simultaneously. Her work is currently on display at the Petoskey District Library. Flynn is also lending her artistic talents as the chair of the décor committee for the Sugar Plum Fairy Tea, held December 8.

"We are very grateful to Larissa, as she has donated both of these exquisite watercolors to benefit our scholarship fund" noted Heather Raue, Dance Education Director at CTAC.

The silent auction style

bidding opens Friday, December 7 at the Arts Center and the last bid will be taken at 4:30 on Wednesday, December 19, 2012 with the close of the Annual Holiday Art Bazaar. The artwork will be on display at the Arts Center and at the performances of Dance the Halls in Harbor Springs, December 15 and 16.

For more information, and to view the watercolors for auction, contact Crooked Tree Arts Center at 231-347-4337 or www.crookedtree.org.



Sugar Plum, mixed media, inspired by the Sugar Plum Fairy Tea fundraising event



Dance the Halls 2012, watercolor, inspired by Crooked Tree Arts Center's School of Ballet production of the same name. Both pieces of artwork by Larissa Flynn

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Cindy Lou Who reads How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Cindy Lou Who will be visiting Consign Design in Charlevoix on Saturday, December 15 at 2:00pm. She will be reading "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" Whos of all

ages are welcome! Consign Design is located at 100 Van Pelt Place, Charlevoix. For more information please contact Consign Design at 231-237-9773 or consign.design@gmail.com.

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Charlevoix Farmers Market to host Holiday Open House

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: The Charlevoix Farmers Market will be hosting a special holiday celebration during the regular December 20th Farmers Market at the Charlevoix Public Library.

Santa will be present from 11-noon, immediately following story hour, to take pictures with the Children. Free cookies, cocoa, and coffee will accompany live holiday music by local artist Charlie Millard.

Chef Paul Ramey of Roquette Burger Bistro will do a live cooking demonstration featuring a delicious winter salad for your holiday dinner, featuring local products found at the market.

The farmers market is a great place to find last minute gifts and food products for those hard to buy for people on your list. Farmer's markets to-

kens make great stocking stuffers! Handmade evergreen centerpieces will help make your holiday table festive.

"The Charlevoix Farmers Market is a great family friendly atmosphere," said market manager Bethany Pearson. "It's also a smart way to shop local this holiday season and keep money in our community. Everybody loves the gift of great food!"

Over 20 farmers will be present to help you celebrate the season. As always, Bridge Cards and Credit/Debit cards will be accepted.

The Market will continue to be held every Thursday from 9am-1pm at the Charlevoix Public Library until June. If you have questions, contact the Charlevoix Chamber at 231.547.2101.

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News

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Five Steps to Extend the Life of Your Holiday Trees and Plants

By gardening expert, TV/radio host and author **Melinda Myers**



The holidays can be a wonderful, yet stressful time. Reduce stress and enhance your families' enjoyment this season by increasing the benefits of holiday décor and gifts and by taking a few shortcuts to properly care for holiday trees and plants.

1. Keep your Christmas tree looking its best by keeping the tree stand filled with water. Make this a daily chore for someone trying to stay on Santa's nice list.

Don't worry if good help is hard to find. Purchase or make your own self-watering device. Use a decorative tin or plastic bucket set in a box and wrapped to hide its presence. Fill it with water and run a piece of plastic tubing from the bucket to the tree stand. Weight each end of the tubing, so it stays at the bottom of the reservoir. Test before leaving town to make sure it is in working order.

2. Add some holiday plants this year. Many studies have shown that indoor plants can boost mood levels, reduce fatigue and even lower stress.

Plus, it's easy to extend the life of your holiday plants. Place them in a cool bright location away from drafts of hot or cold air. Water thoroughly and often enough to keep the soil moist. Pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer, basket or foil wrap to prevent root rot.

Save time and improve your plants growing conditions by placing pebbles in the base of the saucer or foil to elevate the plants above the excess water. As the water evaporates, it increases the humidity around the plants. Or purchase one of the saucer inserts, like rubber grids, that work the same way.

3. Use nature-inspired decorations that provide enjoyment throughout the holiday season

and beyond. Colorful stems, white painted allium seed heads and wooden stars can add beauty throughout the holidays and much of the year. Red wood wreaths are festive enough for the holidays and timeless enough to leave hanging on your wall year round. Luminaries can be used to light the entrance to your home or the path to your outdoor living space during warmer months. Use a few roosting pocket bird houses to decorate trees and greenery and then move them outside for the birds. These decorations can provide beauty and enjoyment way beyond the holiday season and remove some of the pressure to take down all of the holiday decorations by a certain date.

4. Spruce up indoor plants with a few holiday flowers, spangles and lights. Place a few cut flowers in floral picks filled with water. Place these in one or more of your houseplants for some seasonal color. Or add one of the miniature poinsettias, kalanchoes or cyclamen to a large planter. Simply sink the

flowering plant, pot and all, into your houseplant container. Replace the small flowering plants as they fade or the seasons change.

Add colorful stems, ribbons and winter branch lights to your houseplants and planters for a bit of seasonal sparkle. Branch lights are also a festive way to light an entrance, bathroom, or other out of the way space. Look for lights with timers to extend the life of the batteries and reduce your workload.

5. Increase value and extend enjoyment with gifts that give twice. A tabletop spruce tree, perfect for any size home can add greenery and fragrance long past the holidays. And, once the weather is suitable for planting, move your tree into the garden. Or re-gift it to a friend or relative looking to expand their landscape.

Make this a holiday you can relax, enjoy and remember throughout the coming year.

For more gardening tips and information, visit www.melindamyers.com

Great Lakes Energy returns over \$3.8 million to members

Many Great Lakes Energy members will see a credit applied to their December electric bill that is part of a more than \$3.8 million capital credit refund program. Others will see the refund on their January bill.

The over \$3.8 million includes \$1 million that the electric cooperative's members earned from electricity purchases made in 2011 and the balance is capital credit earnings from 1987.

A residential member whose electricity payments averaged about \$96 per month in 2011 can expect an over \$7 billing credit. The credit will be larger if the member also purchased electricity from the electric co-op in 1987. Those entitled to an over \$1,000 refund will receive a check.

Great Lakes Energy consumers are entitled to a share of

any margins or profits earned by their member-owned business. When its financial position permits, the margins are retired, or paid back, to members as capital credit refunds.

Great Lakes Energy has retired capital credits each year since 2003. In that time, a total of \$29 million was returned to members.

"Everyone who serves you at Great Lakes Energy has a role in ensuring that your cooperative remains a strong, well-run business," explains President/CEO Steve Boeckman. "It's their hard work that made the annual return of capital credits over the last 10 years possible." Great Lakes Energy serves more than 125,000 member-consumers in 26 counties in western and northern Michigan.

Recall Petition

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

The number of signatures needed to recall an elected official is based on a percentage of voters who turned out to vote for the official at the election they were voted in. Since that election was not on a presidential year not many voters went to the polls and that means that it will take very few signatures to remove the councilmen from

their positions.

Picha and Kusina's terms expire in August, 2013 while Councilman Vollmer's term expires in November 2013, he has stated that he does not intend to run for reelection and he believes that this action is the result of the fireplace gift the council accepted. "The project is halted, I don't know what they're looking for, I don't see this as an answer to their opposition to the fireplace," he said.

A triple recall will cost the city approximately \$3,500 plus a special election must be held to fill the empty seats on the council which would double that cost to the city.

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Across
1- Fall mo.; 4- Fender bender; 8- Missing; 14- Aussie hopper; 15- Aviation pioneer Sikorsky; 16- Mariner; 17- Gee preceeder; 18- ___ speak; 19- Seat occupied by a sovereign; 20- Loving; 23- Intake; 24- Two cents, so to speak; 25- Code-breaking org.; 28- Scoffs; 30- Break; 33- Wharf; 36- Neighborhoods; 40- Center starter; 41- Religion of the Muslims; 42- High-speed rail transport; 45- Paper used to absorb ink; 46- "The Raven" maiden; 51- Dusk, to Donne; 52- Taj ___; 55- Actor Estrada; 56- Tortuous; 59- Moving around; 62- Black-and-white cookie; 63- That, in Tijuana; 64- Taken care of; 65- Cong. meeting; 66- Romanian coin; 67- Brooding hen; 68- Flat sound; 69- Fast flier;

Down
1- Mountain nymphs; 2- Casket; 3- Candy; 4- It may be compact; 5- Conceit; 6- Out; 7- Scout unit; 8- Unstable; 9- Monetary unit of Thailand; 10- Father; 11- "Evil Woman" band; 12- Prefix with profit or fiction; 13- Quattro minus uno; 21- Hot time in Paris; 22- South American aquatic rodent; 25- Christmas song; 26- Chapter of the Koran; 27- Elemental unit; 29- Adjust to zero; 31- Lobster state; 32- Begley and Bradley; 34- Be unfaithful; 35- Spring mo.; 36- French clergyman; 37- Dominion; 38- North Carolina university; 39- High-pitched; 43- Earthquake; 44- Ailment; 47- O.T. book; 48- Bay windows; 49- Salon jobs; 50- Barely make; 53- ___ Perot; 54- Buenos ___; 56- Bits of thread; 57- Commedia dell'___; 58- Chuck; 59- Horse-like animal, term of insult; 60- Cinque follower; 61- Drenched;



Charlevoix County COMMISSION ON AGING

"The mission of the Charlevoix County Commission on Aging is to provide the highest quality senior services in partnership with the community. We focus our efforts on advocacy and support for seniors and their caregivers by promoting health, wellness, and education to achieve a dignified and enriched quality of life."

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Reduce Holiday Stress

With the gift-giving, the cooking, the decorations and the gatherings, the holidays can seem to be more work than fun. Here's a few hints on how to make the most of your holiday season!

1. **Make a change.** Take one task that drives you crazy during the holidays and tackle it in a new way. A fresh approach just might make a difference. For example, if you dread having to send out holiday cards (or wrapping gifts), enlist your husband and split the list, or gather some friends and make a "party" of it! Even Martha Stewart advocates this approach to a Holiday "chore", taking an opportunity to turn it into a Holiday Event!

2. **Be satisfied with "good enough."** Don't always go for bigger and better, in fact, minimize the decorating...after all, "less is more"...so think "small"! Use what's on hand and revitalize your every-day décor with some creative touches of ribbon, greens and frothy netting to "deck the halls"!

3. **Throw away your shopping list.** Forgo the stress of shopping for family members in favor of sharing special moments and experiences. Treat loved ones to a holiday show, for example, or tick-ets to an anticipated show/dinner/event. Instead of having a package



to rip open, there will be a wonderful experience to share together awaiting!

4. **Know when to say no.** Say yes to meaningful events for you...those that focus on your holiday values, be that spending time in nature, in special religious or spiritual practice, getting extra rest, making your own gifts—find and create meaning and enjoyment that truly nourishes you.

5. **Keep gatherings small and intimate.** Get together with a few of your closest friends or relatives for the holidays. Choose to throw the big blowout parties at another time of the year, when you and your guests will have fewer commitments competing for your precious time. Even Martha Stewart advises, "There's no expiration date on glad tidings!" Postpone trying to pack everything into De-

cember in favor of getting together when you can truly engage and enjoy!

6. **Stick with the tried and true.** A special gathering is not the time to experiment with a new recipe. "Just do what you know how to do and can do well," Take advantage of timesavers. Order your local deli's special bread, salad or dessert

7. **Don't hesitate to ask for help.** In fact, guests prefer to take on some small tasks, instead of standing around while you attempt to do everything yourself. Ask a relative if he'd mind greeting guests at the door. Recruit kids/teens to take coats or offer fruit juice/punch.

8. **Remember to have fun.** As you take part in trimming the tree or preparing the Chanukah cookies with your kids, take a deep breath and savor

Don't Fall Victim to Influenza This Year

Older adults are an important part of the Charlevoix County community, and making sure they stay healthy this and every flu season is a top priority for the Charlevoix County Commission on Aging. Influenza is a serious and potentially life threatening disease that can cause severe complications, and the best way to help protect against it is through annual vaccination.

No matter how healthy or youthful we feel, as we age, our immune system weakens, leaving people 65 and older more vulnerable to influenza. In fact, each year in the United States, about nine out of 10 flu-related deaths and roughly six out of 10 flu-related hospital stays occur in people over the age of 65, making influenza vaccination for this population especially crucial.

That is why the Charlevoix County Commission on Aging has joined the National Council on Aging's Flu + You campaign to help educate adults 65 and older about the seriousness of the flu and the importance of vaccination.

The good news is adults over the age of 65 have two vaccine options available to help protect against influenza – the traditional flu shot, as well as a higher dose flu shot designed specifically for this age group to address the age-related decline of the immune system. The higher dose flu shot prompts the body's immune system to produce more antibodies against the flu virus. Antibodies are the soldiers of the immune system that help protect against infection when exposed to the virus.

Both vaccine options are covered by Medicare Part B with no copay.

Talk to your health care provider about the dangers of the flu, the benefits of vaccination and the best influenza vaccination option to meet the needs of your age group, and visit www.NCOA.org/Flu for more information.

CHARLEVOIX SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

Thursday, Dec. 13 1p Pinochle	Friday, Dec. 14 9:30a Craft Class 10am Sit & Be Fit 1p Rummy	Monday, Dec. 17 10am Sit & Be Fit 1p Woodcarving 1p Pinochle 7p Bible Study	Tuesday, Dec. 18 1pm RUMMY 1p Paint class Raffle	Wednesday, Dec. 19 11am Northwest Academy Band Xmas! Cash Bingo	Thursday, Dec. 20 1p Pinochle	Friday, Dec. 21 9:30a Craft Class 10am Sit & Be Fit 1p Rummy
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BOYNE AREA SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

Thursday, Dec. 13 Wii Bowling	Friday, Dec. 14 FOOT CLINIC! 11am Backwoods **Christmas Dinner & Drawing**	Monday, Dec. 17 Bingo	Tuesday, Dec. 18 11am Craft Class Wii Bowling	Wednesday, Dec. 19 11am Line Dance Brown Bag Bingo	Thursday, Dec. 20 Wii Bowling	Friday, Dec. 21 11am Tag-A-Longs *Bake Raffle
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EAST JORDAN SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

Thursday, Dec. 13 Game Day: Uno/ Wii Fun Pool Table Cards	Friday, Dec. 14 11am Tag-a-longs Bingo/Gift Raffle 10:30 ADVB Meeting	Monday, Dec. 17 8-1pm: walking M-F	Tuesday, Dec. 18 11am line dancing 12:30 bingo 1pm Paint class	Wednesday, Dec. 19 1pm Movie& Popcorn	Thursday, Dec. 20 Game Day: Uno/ Wii Fun Pool Table CARDS	Friday, Dec. 21 11am Cousins Bingo/ Bake Raffle for Bobs Cub Scouts
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CHARLEVOIX COUNTY SENIOR CENTER MENU

Thursday, Dec. 13 TACO CASSEROLE	Friday, Dec. 14 BAKED CHICKEN	Monday, Dec. 17 PARMEASAN CHICKEN	Tuesday, Dec. 18 SPAGETTI W/ MEAT SAUCE SOUP & SALAD BAR	Wednesday, Dec. 19 COD ALMONDINE	Thursday, Dec. 20 CABBAGE ROLL	Friday, Dec. 21 POLISH SAUSAGE
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News

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Students of the Week

Boyne City High School

Kyle Sitkins



GRADE: 19
PARENTS: Fred and Lisa Sitkins
SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Robotics, Football, Basketball
HOBBIES AND INTERESTS: Hockey, Skiing, Baseball

FUTURE PLANS/GOALS

"Become an engineer."

STAFF COMMENTS

"Kyle is an organized, motivated student who is driven to complete quality work on a daily basis. He has an excellent attitude that positively influences his classmates." (Mr. Fritzsche, English Teacher)

Boyne Falls Public School

Vincent Cousineau



GRADE: Kindergarten
PARENTS: Riki and Bill Cousineau
SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: At school, I like center time and playing outside with my friends.
HOBBIES : I like golfing, baseball, and bowling.
FUTURE PLANS: I would like to be a doctor, so I can help people out.

STAFF COMMENTS

Vincent is an amazing friend to everyone in class. He is kind and helpful. It has been fun to see Vincent grow through preschool and now in kindergarten. He is a joy to have in the classroom. - (Beth Meier)

Conversation with God

I received this by e-mail from a friend. I enjoyed reading it. I hope you do as well.

Me: God, can I ask you a question?

God: Sure.

Me: Promise you won't get mad?

God: I promise.

Me: Why did you let so much stuff happen to me today?

God: What do you mean?

Me: Well, I woke up late.

God: Yes.

Me: My car took forever to start.

God: Okay.

Me: At lunch they made my sandwich wrong and I had to wait.

God: Hmmm.

Me: On the way home my phone went dead just as I picked up a call.

God: Okay.

Me: And on top of all that, when I got home I just wanted to soak my feet in my new foot massager and relax, but it wouldn't work!!! Nothing went right today! Why did you do that?

God: Well, let me see. The Death Angel was at your bed this morning and I had to send one of the other angels to battle him for your life. I let you sleep through that.

Me: (humbled): OH...

GOD: I didn't let your car start because there was a drunk driver on your route that would have hit you if you were on the road.

Me: (ashamed)

God: The person who made your first sandwich today was sick and I didn't want you to catch what he has. I knew you couldn't afford to miss work.

Me: (embarrassed): Ok...

God: Your phone went dead because the person who was calling

was going to give false witness about what you said during that call. I didn't even let you talk to them so that you would be covered.

Me: (softly) I see, God.

God: Oh, and that foot massager had a short that was going to throw out all of the power in your house tonight. I didn't think you wanted to be in the dark.

Me: I'm sorry God.

God: Don't be sorry, just learn to trust me in all things, the good and the bad.

Me: I will trust you.

God: And don't doubt that MY plan for your day is always better than your plan.

Me: I won't, God. And let me just tell you God, thank you for everything today.

God: You're welcome, child. It was just another day being your God, and I love looking after my children.

BOYNE CITY POLICE DEPT.

Monday, November 26

8:05am Attempted credit card fraud reported in the 400 block of Terrace St
 8:30am 1 vehicle property damage accident at Lincoln and Pleasant
 4:49pm Econoline van ran school bus's red lights in the 400 block of N East St

Tuesday, November 27

10:14am 2 vehicle property damage accident at Park and Collings Streets
 10:44am Trespass complaint received from the 200 block of Franklin St
 12:29pm 2 vehicle private property damage accident in the 1300 block of Boyne Av
 7:11pm Report of green trailblazer doing donuts in the 1300 block of Boyne Av

Wednesday, November 28

8:40am Citation issued for Fail to Yield at Mechanic and Michigan
 9:26am Report of subject driving moped in the snow. Caller concerned for his welfare.
 12:10pm 2 parking citations issued on on Park St near Water
 12:59pm Report of household waste being dumped in recycle bins at recycling center
 2:21pm Suspicious male reported in the W Cedar St area.
 2:36pm Suspicious vehicle reported. Was related to above complaint. Salespeople from Direct Energy going door to door regarding natural gas sales
 3:40pm Complaint of kids arguing at bus stop on Wenonah St
 3:55pm Phone scam reported from LacVue Rd
 5:24pm Vehicle unlock in the 200 block of S Lake St

Thursday, November 29

1:03am 911 hang up in the 200 block of E Main St
 2:26am Car deer accident at State and Call Streets
 5:15am Unlock vehicle in the the 300 block of Call St
 10:30am 911 hang up from the 200 block of E Main St
 2:13pm Natural death in the 500 block of N Lake St
 2:25pm 2 vehicle private property damage accident in the 600 block of W Division St

Friday, November 30

9:22am Parking violation in the 200 block of E Water St
 10:03am Assist EMS with natural death in the 800

block of S Park St
 11:02am Report of gasoline can stolen from the 1000 block of S Lake St
 6:35pm Report of possible CSC on Wenonah St
 6:23pm Barking dog reported on Pine Pointe Tr
 9:53pm Citation issued for disregarding steady yellow at Water and Lake St
 10:01pm False alarm in the 1000 block of Boyne Av

Saturday, December 1

1:39am Suspicious subjects found in the Industrial Park
 1:50am Assist sheriff Department on traffic stop at Boyne Mountain
 3:27am Assist Sheriff Department with disturbance at Boyne Mountain
 4:56am Noise complaint from the 300 block of E Division St
 9:00am Vehicle unlock in the 200 block of S Lake St
 11:50am Abandoned bicycle reported on W Main St
 12:20pm Report of 2 vehicle property damage accident on Forest Av and Merl St
 1:28pm Report of loud music in the 300 block of E Division St
 11:40pm Assist Sheriff Department with B&E on Addis Rd

Sunday, December 2

11:03am Unlawful entry in the 1000 block of S Lake St
 7:18pm Citation issued for speed at Lake and Division St

Found Property	1
Fraud	2
Health & Safety	0
Hit & Run	2
Intoxicated Person	0
Juvenile	2
Larceny	4
Lockout	8
Lost Property	0
Malicious Destruction of Property	2
Mental Subject	2
Minor In Possession	1
Miscellaneous Criminal	1
Missing Person	1
Noise Complaint	0
Operating Under the Influence	0
Paper Service	8
Parking Violation	3
Personal Injury Accident	3
Personal Protection Order ..	1
Private Property Accident ..	2
Property Check	1
Property Damage Accident ..	9
Prowler	0
Road Hazard	4
Stalking	0
Suspicious Situation	7
Threat	0
Traffic Stop	47
Trespassing	2
Unknown Accident	0
Unlawful Driving Away of Automobile	1
Vehicle in the Ditch	3
Violation of Controlled Substance Act	3

Motorist seriously injured in accident on Six Mile lake Rd.

Sheriff W.D. (Don) Schneider reports the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office responded to a one vehicle personal injury accident on Sunday, Dec. 2, 2012 on Six Mile Lake Rd. near Hersha Lane in South Arm Township.

The driver, Nicole Alexandra Bethell, 29 years old from Ellsworth, was driving her 2010 Honda CR-V on Six Mile Lake Rd. A witness to the accident states Nicole Bethell's vehicle was over in the witness' lane of travel and almost struck the witness' vehicle. The witness then stated Nicole Bethell went around the curve and struck several trees.

Upon investigating the accident further, it was determined Nicole Bethell went off the shoulder of the roadway, struck a tree head on. The Bethell vehicle then spun around and struck another tree. Bethell had been ejected from the vehicle. Bethell sustained several injuries and had to be air lifted by North Flight EMS to Munson Hospital. The injuries to Bethell are not life threatening. Bethell was not wearing a seatbelt and speed and al-

cohol are believed to be a factor in the crash, which is still under investigation.

Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by East Jordan EMS, Banks Township Fire Department and North Flight EMS.

Vehicle goes in ditch

Sheriff W.D. Schneider reports at approximately 2:08am on Friday, December 7, 2012 the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to an unknown injury accident near the intersection of North Camp Ten Rd. and County Line Rd. in Hudson Township. The reporting person was awakened by the sound of the crash and went outside to investigate the source of the noise.

The crash occurred when 19 year old Trevor Prusakiewicz of Gaylord was Eastbound on County Line Rd. and failed to stop at the intersection of North Camp Ten Rd. His 2001 Dodge pickup truck skidded through the intersection, into a ditch and collided with several trees.

Prusakiewicz suffered minor injuries and was taken to Otsego Memorial Hospital for treatment by Boyne Valley EMS. The Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office was assisted on scene by members of Hudson Township Fire.

The accident investigation is ongoing, but initial evidence suggests alcohol and excessive speed may be contributing factors.

One injured in two-vehicle accident

On December 9th, 2012 at approximately 16:14 hrs the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Department and the Charlevoix City EMS responded to the scene of a two vehicle accident on US 31 S near Schmidt Road in Norwood Township.

The accident occurred when 83 year old Cora Stoppert, from Kewadin, lost control of her vehicle and spun into the opposite lane of travel and collided with Brian and Nancy Gutowski, both age 47 from Petoskey.

Stoppert was checked by EMS and transported to the Charlevoix Area Hospital for evaluation.

Everyone involved in the accident were wearing seat belts.

Charlevoix County News

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