

The Clare County Cleaver

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989.539.7496
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"In The  of Michigan's Vacationland"



Thursday, January 26, 2012 • Harrison, Michigan 48625 • County Seat of Clare County

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Buck Tales

Ken Cooper on Jill Janet had a robin in his yard on Friday, January 20, 2012.

Are the kids looking for something to do after school? On Monday, January 31, send them to the Harrison District Library for After-School Games at 4:00. We'll have Wii games, Angry Birds, Twister, Scrabble, Pictionary, and lots more! Plus, of course, there will be snacks!!

Final Rabies Clinic In February

By Genine Hopkins

Clare County will offer a one stop shop for rabies vaccinations and dog licensing one more time, on Saturday, February 25, 2012, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Rabies vaccinations will be provided on site at the Clare County Animal Shelter by local veterinarian Ron Morris of Old 27 Vet Services for a fee of \$13, with licensing dependent upon if your pet is spayed/neutered and what type of licensing you prefer; the county recently added the option of a three year license and also offers discounts to seniors who own pets. Additional cost for a three year vaccination for rabies is also required.

Dog licenses are required by law for all dogs over four months of age, issued by the county you live within.

The clinic is open to ALL RESIDENTS OF CLARE COUNTY and is provided as a one stop service for citizens. No appointment is necessary.

Business Expo - "Rope In New Business"

Thursday, February 23rd, 2012 from 1-7 pm at the Doherty Hotel / Clare

"Rope in New Business". The 15th annual Business Expo will be held Thursday, February 23rd, 2012 at the Doherty Hotel in Clare. Approximately 60 booths featuring Mid Michigan businesses will be showcased. Entry to the Expo is free of charge and open to the public.

The Expo committee is planning another spectacular function geared toward helping promote area businesses. This year features a western theme and décor. Hours are from 1:00-7:00 pm, with the Expo After Hours from 5-7 pm. There will be a \$2.00 charge for refreshments at the Business Expo After Hours. Activities include door prizes, 50/50 drawings, Best Decorated Booth contest, and the always-popular Silent Auction. A portion of the proceeds from the auction is donated to local scholarship programs and future community events.

Booth space in the Expo is limited, so if you are interested in purchasing booth space, becoming a sponsor or donating to the Silent Auction, please call the Clare Area Chamber of Commerce office at 989-386-2442 for this excellent advertising opportunity.

CORRECTION

In last week's Stone Soup Gears Up For Opening article on the back page of the Cleaver, it mentioned a church across the road from the St. Athanasius it was supposed to be the First Congregational Church. Sorry about the mix up.

Frostbite Winter Fest 2012 Nears

By Genine Hopkins

Things are gearing up for this year's Frostbite Winter Fest sponsored by the Harrison Chamber of Commerce, which arrives on Thursday, February 16, 2012, with the Business After Hours at the Budd Lake Bar and the judging of decorations and ice sculptures and ending with the Ice Fishing Contest on Sunday, February 19, with registration at 7 a.m. This year looks to be a BLAST! with loads of activities for both the young and old. This year's theme? Vegas! And remember, what happens in Vegas - stays in Vegas!

Friday officially starts the events, with a 9-ball pool tournament at the Harrison Moose Lodge beginning at 7 p.m., and a Casino Party at Tamarack's Golf Course, Fake Speed Weddings "Vegas Style," music at Snowbird Lanes beginning at 8 p.m., and "The Ugliest Showgirl Contest" at the Budd Lake Bar starting at 9 p.m. Participants in the "fake speed weddings" will receive a "fake" wedding certificate.

Saturday starts off with a breakfast at the VFW between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., at a cost of \$6 per per-

son, \$4 per person with a Snow Fest button. The fun for adults continues on the ice on Budd Lake, where the golf outing begins at 11 a.m. for check in at the power docks. Actual golf will take place between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., with two, 9 hole courses and teams consisting of two persons. Registration for the ice golfing is \$25 per person, but there is a \$2 reduction in fees if you buy a button. There is also a free, long-sleeve t-shirt & goody bags to the first 125 golfers.

The annual sled decorating contest will be held at 12:30 p.m. at the Budd Lake power docks with cash prizes for the winners.

Kids and family activities will be held between 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., with the majority of the events at the Lion's Club. You must wear a Frostbite Winter Fest button to participate! Buttons will be available for purchase prior to the Winter Fest at area businesses, but also at the fairgrounds on the day of the event.

Some of the activities include indoor and outdoor games, a tour of an ambulance and fire truck, an appearance by none other than



Ronald McDonald, the Whispering Pines Petting Zoo, loads of arts and crafts, and "egg drop" game, and tons of prizes! A magic show by Jason Abbott will take place on the stage at the Lion's Club.

Additionally, Taking it Back! A Drug Free Movement, will be hosting a teen dance, providing

area teens with a safe and drug free alternative to the adult and kid events. The Cleaver will report on the venue and time in next week's edition.

It looks like this year's Winter Fest is shaping up to be a fun filled weekend for all!



Tax Foreclosures Near Deadline



By Genine Hopkins

Clare County Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzingler announced the deadlines for filing for an extension on 2009 unpaid property taxes. Normally extensions are due by March 31, 2012, but with this year's leap year, the deadline will be April 1, 2012. Property owners in danger of losing their home to tax foreclosure can contact the Treasurer's office well in advance to file an extension request if they cannot meet the payment deadline.

"There are certain restrictions

and guidelines I have to abide by through statute," Beemer-Fritzingler stated, "Unfortunately, not everyone seeking an extension will qualify to receive an extension."

Property owners also had the opportunity to attend last Wednesday's Show Cause Hearing for determination of hardship extensions, which was held from 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. in the County Treasurer's office. If an extension was denied, property owners can have a judge hear their case on

Tuesday, February 21, 2012, beginning at 9 a.m. Of course payment prior to April 1, 2012, will also stop tax foreclosure proceedings.

"This is a tough time for everyone, and the county is doing what it can under the law to help home owners out with delinquent taxes. It's always better to make an effort, because you could prevent tax foreclosure, but doing nothing will definitely cause you to lose your home or property. CONTINUED ON PG 10.

County Considers Joining Class Action Suit



By Genine Hopkins

The Clare County BOC discussed information concerning a Class Action Lawsuit against Fannie Mae (Federal National Mortgage Association), and

Freddie Mac (Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation) concerning their past exemption from state real estate transfer taxes (SRETT). The claim in the suit is that neither Fannie Mae

or Freddie Mac are to be considered government entities, both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are, in the lawsuit's claim, "federally chartered private corporations" - and whether or not the SRETT applies as prohibited under MCL 207.505(c) and MCL 207.526(c). The suit was originally filed by Genesee County.

After learning of the action, county officials contacted county attorney David Stoker, to ask his advice. According to County Administrator Tracy Byard, who spoke about the suit at the last BOC meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, Stoker gave a written response that summed up the county's options. CONTINUED ON PAGE 10.

CCSD And County Road Commission Contract For Frost Law Enforcement

By Genine Hopkins

Clare County Sheriff's Department and Clare County's Road Commission are expected to make a formal agreement worked out between the two entities for enforcement of the spring frost laws when they go into effect this year. Previously, Road Commission employees were assigned to handle the enforcement. Clare County Road Commissioner Ron Bushong had been hammering out the agreement during the three or four days prior to the BOC meeting.

Lt. Ed Williams of the CCSD addressed the Clare County's Board of Commissioners (BOC) during the Committee of the Whole meeting on Wednesday, January 18th, where he explained the reason behind the decision of both departments to place CCSD deputies in control of frost law enforcement.

"This agreement works out best for both parties," Williams said, "It helps Road Commission employees who no longer have to be placed in harm's way, confronting often irate truck drivers who may be violating Michigan's Frost Laws, and allows experienced patrol deputies to handle the situation. It's a win-win."

In the agreement, the CCSD furnishes the vehicle for patrol and the Road Commission reimburses the mileages at the federal rate, which is currently 55.5 cents per mile. The Road Commission also pays for training, training wages and enforcement wages, reimbursing the CCSD. The position is temporary - only lasting through the eight to twelve weeks during the spring, while the frost laws are in effect and the CCSD will not be hiring any new deputies to fill the spot, instead using current personnel. CONTINUED ON PAGE 12.

Clare County To Bring Union Reps Back To Table

By Genine Hopkins

Clare County's BOC passed a motion to contact the County Attorney to set a date to bring union reps back to the bargaining table, seeking concessions to avoid potential lay-offs. The move had been on the minds of several of the BOC members, and was one of the suggestions made by the Ad Hoc Committee created to address budgetary shortfalls.

Readers may recall that Board Chair Don David had sent an email in late summer of 2011 to county employees, requesting their input on whether they would prefer a 2.5 hour cut per week or lay-offs. The email, sent innocently enough, was met with anger by union officials who felt the Chair was giving them an ultimatum as opposed to merely seeking employee input. David realized the way the email was worded as an "or" statement which could be construed as the situation was asking union members to make a choice on an already decided deal outside of union contracts and union talks inflamed some employees and union officials. CONTINUED ON PAGE 12.

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