AUGUST/NEWS

AUG. 1

Developer's plan denied

PETOSKEY—Planning officials in Bear Creek Township again denied a developer's plea for zoning changes that would allow for a "big box" retail development to be built just south of Petoskey.

Bear Creek planning commissioners this week voted against petitions for zoning changes that would bring a planned unit development containing 175,000 square feet of commercial space and more than 200 residential units to a 70-acre parcel of land at Intertown and Anderson Roads near the Petoskey Wal-Mart store.

It was the second time township planners denied rezoning petitions from Kevin McGraw and the East Lansing-based Petoskey Investment Group.

AUG. 2

Teens pulled from wreck

FIFE LAKE — Two Lewiston teens were hospitalized Friday after they were pulled from a burning car on U.S. 131 near M-186.

Police say the 16-year-old driver and 19-year-old passenger were passing another vehicle northbound when they lost control and sideswiped the vehicle. Their car ran off the road, hit a tree and burst into flames.

The teens were taken to Munson Medical Center where they were listed in serious condition, police said. No one in the second vehicle was injured.

AUG. 3

Officials can't sign checks

TRAVERSE CITY — The financially troubled city Housing Commission's top two officials are barred from signing payroll and other checks because the commission's insurance agent refused to bond them.

Both commission Chairman Joseph Kau-be-naw and vice-chair Christine Blackledge haven't signed commission checks since late last year. Kau-be-naw was excluded because of past credit questions, while Blackledge declined to fill out the bonding company's financial questionnaire, according to commission records.

Several past financial and personnel practices at the commission have been challenged by HUD officials after the housing agency's accountant raised questions last year. Those questions led to the firing of former executive director Lorri Burtt.

New housing director Karl Fulmer and Commissioner Frances DuBois currently are signing the agency's checks.

AUG. 4

Agency objects to bridge

TRAVERSE CITY — At least one federal agency is opposing the Road Commission's Hartman-Hammond bridge project, saying there are alternatives to the county's plans with "significantly fewer" environmental impacts.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is urging the state Department of Environmental Quality to reject state wetland construction permits for the proposed bridge over the Boardman River in central Garfield Township.

The federal agency criticized the county's work on studying other design options for the bridge including a total span of the river to minimize wetland impacts in a four-page letter late last month to the DEQ.

The state is reviewing the county's construction plans for the bridge with a decision due in mid-October.

AUG. 5

Woman sentenced to life

MANISTEE — Alicia Famiano, 24, was sentenced to life in prison for stabbing Dale Gannon, 47, more than 100 times with a pair of scissors in his Manistee apartment in February 2002 after the two met at a bar.

Famiano could be paroled after she pleaded guilty but mentally ill in June to second-degree murder charges. She was competent to stand trial, based on a psychological evaluation.

Since her arrest, Famiano maintained she attacked Gannon to ward off a sexual assault.

Police, however, said they found no evidence of an assault or wounds to suggest self-defense.

AUG. 6

Plan would raze building

CHARLEVOIX — A unique downtown building that once housed the offices of the late Earl Young — designer of the city's famous "mushroom houses" — would be razed under a developer's plan.

Area residents crowded into the city council's Monday meeting, both to express support for saving the Appletree building, and to express concern over Elk Rapids developer Jerry Rutter's plans for the site at 224 Bridge St.

Young, who died in 1975, grew up in Charlevoix. From the 1920s to his death, with no formal architectural training, Young built or remodeled nearly 30 homes and other buildings in the city in his unique style — featuring stone work, thatched roofs and a curvy, elfin quality that made the homes appear as though they had sprouted from the forest floor.

AUG. 7

Big birthday, big party

With her vivid blue eyes free of spectacles and her virtually unblemished skin, Aelola James doesn't look her age. Then again, it may be in her blood — her mother lived to be 104.

James, who is the oldest resident at Birchwood Nursing Center in Traverse City, was born in Shelby on Aug. 9, 1897. That makes her 106 this Saturday.

James married her husband, Freburn, in July of 1916. They had two sons, Richard James of Paris, Mich., who passed away early in 2003, and Freburn James, a pathologist who lives in Washington.

"They were a handful," James said about her children. "They were lovely boys."

James, who also has eight grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren, devoted much of her life to her faith and the church. She became a minister in 1951 and founded the Unity Church shortly after moving to Bay City.

"The greater part of my life I was a minister," James said. "I liked the particular church and what they stood for. I was glad to be a part of their work. It was a new experience for me and I enjoyed it."

AUG. 8

Fights down for the count

CHEBOYGAN — Cheboygan County officials connected with a roundhouse right late Thursday evening and

PLEASE SEE PAGE 40

• clean the attic • stop smoking • lose weight • exercise regularly • clean the garage • watch less TV • call mom more often • write letters • learn to play guitar • go skydiving • call dad more often • spend more time with my kids • do the bridge walk • stop drinking • not get mad at my teenager • go to church weekly • clean out the car • organize basement • start saving money • vote in all elections • take classes • learn to speak Spanish • clean the attic • stop smoking • lose weight • exercise regularly • clean the garage • watch less TV • call mom more often • write letters • learn to play guitar • go skydiving • call dad more often • spend more time with my kids • do the bridge walk • stop drinking • not get mad at my teenager • go to church weekly • clean out the car • organize basement • start saving money • vote in all • take classes • learn to speak Spanish • clean the attic • stop smok

PHYSICIAN'S Weight Management Center

New Year's resolution:
LOSE WEIGHT
YES!

PHYSICIAN'S WEIGHT MANAGEMENT CENTER
1028 Hannah Suite B Traverse City • (231)933-8843
CALL TODAY FOR FREE CONSULTATION AND BODY ANALYSIS
M. Eleanor Beal, M.D.
Board Certified in Internal Medicine; Bariatric Medicine
Graduate University of Minnesota 1981