

NEWSLETTER

MARCH / APRIL / MAY 2007

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Downtown Crystal Falls Under Construction This Summer!

Beginning in May the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will be milling and resurfacing 12.4 miles of M-69 between Crystal Falls and Sagola. This project will also include street-scape enhancements within the City of Crystal Falls.

The City is also upgrading its water main and storm and sanitary sewers along Superior Ave-

nue (M-69) in the downtown area.

In order to accomplish all the proposed construction, portions of Superior Avenue will be temporarily closed from May to early July. So, what does this mean for the motorists and residents in downtown Crystal Falls? All the businesses along Superior Avenue will remain open throughout the construction. Parking is

available along side streets or immediately behind many businesses and access to the businesses will be available at all times.

Traffic within the City of Crystal Falls will be re-routed, with westbound M-69 traffic using Crystal Avenue, and eastbound M-69 traffic using Marquette Avenue. Both Crystal Avenue and Mar-

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CRYSTAL VIEW APARTMENTS

In February, the Forest Park Middle School students participated in a contest to re-name the former Crystal Manor building. The students were asked to write an essay explaining why they thought this building should be named per their suggestion.

The winning name is "Crystal View Apartments" and the writer of the essay is 9th grader Lindsay Jaeger. At the Crystal Falls City Council



Superintendent Tom Jayne, Mayor Janet Hendrickson, Lindsay Jaeger, and Tim Hunnicutt of Hovey Co.

meeting held on Monday, March 12th Lindsay was present to receive her honors from Forest Park Superintendent of Schools, Tom Jayne. In addition, Tim Hunnicutt of Hovey Companies L.L.C., the developer of the housing project at the former Crystal Manor site, presented Lindsay with a check of \$100 for her efforts. Lindsay is the daughter of Tammy and Allen Jaeger of Crystal Falls Township.

Interested in renting a unit at the Crystal View Apartments? Contact City Clerk/Treasurer Dorothea Olson at 906-875-3212 Ext 5 to get your name on a non-committal waiting list. There will be 24 units in all, including one, two, and three bedroom apartments. CALL TODAY!

CRYSTAL MANOR AGREEMENTS SIGNED

The Crystal Falls City Council has approved a development agreement for the Crystal Manor Building with Hovey Companies, L.L.C. This agreement is a cooperative arrangement between the City and Hovey and gives the developer exclusive rights to develop the property to create residential housing on the 2nd and 3rd floors as well as assisting in the construction of commercial/retail establishments on the 1st floor and in the basement areas of the building.

In addition, the developer agrees to file a full application for funding with MSHDA no later than April 1, 2007.

The City has agreed to establish a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) for the Manor building. In addition, the City agreed to pay the costs for the appraisal of the property, and a Phase I and Phase II Baseline Environmental Assessment. The City agreed to assist the developer in applying to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to seek funding based upon job creation pursuant to the rehabilitation of the property. The City also agreed to utilize the \$75,000 received from the County to leverage matching funds for infrastructure improvements to the property in addition to \$100,000 of matching funds/in-kind services which shall be in the



form a grant to the project.

The other agreement entered into between the City and Hovey Companies is an Option Agreement. This agreement simply provides that the Hovey Companies have the exclusive rights to purchase the Crystal Manor property by September 1, 2007 for \$100.

What was this?

During the week of March 12th the City Public Works Department discovered the foundation of a former building while digging up a broken 4" water main. The site of the excavation is part of the old railroad bed that now serves as the recreation trail Northeast of Crystal Avenue and Southwest of Round House Road (see map insert below). The

water main break was located under the foundation which was so well constructed that it took much effort to break through to get to the main. It is believed that the water main dates back to the early 1900's, the building was placed over it sometime later.

Old pictures of the area from the air show an old bulk station and various other buildings near the site. The map below shows the founda-

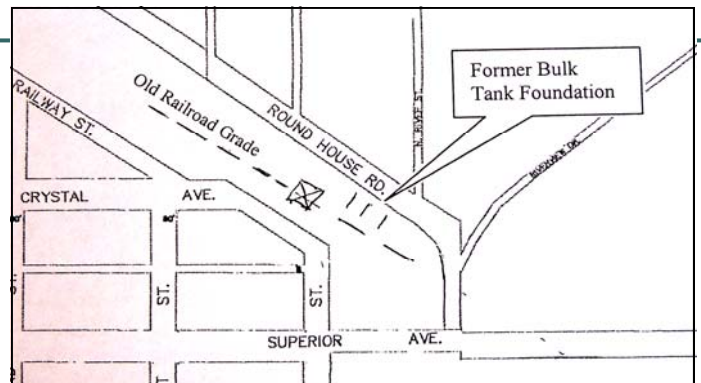
tion of the bulk station as 111 just to the West of the mystery building site.

It has been suggested that perhaps the foundation is what is left of a watering station for steam engines that used the railroad.

Do you have any ideas as to what building may have sat on top of this old foundation? Maybe you have a picture of the building in an old scrapbook somewhere?



City employees John Lortie & Gerard Valesano repair broken water line under foundation.



Map of location of the water line excavation. X is where the foundation is located.

MEET YOUR NEW ASSESSOR

In October 2006 the City of Crystal Falls contracted with Patti Roell for Assessor services for the City of Crystal Falls. Patti replaces Jim Waisanen, who resigned as the City's assessor in September.

Patti resides along Highway M-95 in Sagola Township with her husband, Tom, and four children, Mark, Paul, Jacob, and Amy. Patti also serves as an assessor in Brietung Township. She has attained the status of a Level II Assessor and is currently pursuing her Level III certification.

Patti has been very busy bringing the City's assessment records up

to date since taking the job with the City of Crystal Falls. New computer software has been implemented, and the tax records and plat maps are being updated.

As the City's Assessor, Patti is always available to answer any and all of your questions regarding your property assessment. Patti is in the City Clerk's office each Monday morning and can be reached at 875-3212 ext 5. You can also leave a voice mail message for Patti any day of the week by calling the number above.

You may be seeing Patti around the City as she inspects new construction and building improve-



PATTI ROELL

ments. Please be patient and helpful as she learns the layout of the City of Crystal Falls.

Downtown Construction (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

quette Avenue will be ONE-WAY only for the duration of the construction.

Those portions of Superior Avenue not under construction will be open to local traffic.



It is hoped that the road work on Superior Avenue will be completed by early July (before the Bass Festival parade). In order to accomplish this, MDOT has asked the City Council to relax the noise ordinance to allow for an early start and later quitting time for the construction crews. The City Council, anxious to get the work done, has granted MDOT's request.

Truck traffic on M-69 will have the option of avoiding downtown by utilizing the former detour through the Western Location (Wagner Street, Fairbanks Road, North 6th Street).

MDOT has produced a brochure on the project explaining and showing the proposed traffic routes and they are available at the City Clerk's office at City Hall.

POCKET PARKS COMING TO DOWNTOWN!

Three "Pocket Parks" are in the plans as a part of the Streetscape Project taking place in downtown Crystal Falls this summer.

It is hoped that the pocket parks will enhance the downtown district making it more inviting to tourists and residents alike.

The locations of these little parks will be: City Hall, Library, and the

VFW Post. There will be ornamental fencing, benches, and paving bricks along with trees, shrubs and flowers that will provide a relaxing green area for visitors to enjoy. The VFW park will also include a veterans memorial at its center.

What wonderful places to sit and watch the Bass Fest or Fungus Festival parades!



CITY OF CRYSTAL FALLS

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875-6590
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875-6350
Mark Valesano, Councilor
875-6043
Jack Bicigo, Councilor
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Charles Nordeman, Manager
875-6647 Ext 4
Dorothea Olson, Clerk/Treasurer
875-3212 Ext 5
Robert Sherwin, Police Chief
875-3012
John Ahola, Fire Chief
875-6614

In case you missed it, copies of the Special Edition of the City Newsletter regarding the newly adopted Water System Ordinance are still available at the City Clerk's office.

CALANDAR OF EVENTS

March 12: DDA Meeting 1:30 pm
March 12: City Council Meeting 5 pm
March 17: St. Patrick's Day
March 20: Planning Commission meeting 4:30 pm
March 21: Spring Begins—yah right!
March 22: Special City Council meeting 5 pm
March 27: Recycle Day

April 6: Good Friday (*City Hall Closed*)
April 8: Happy Easter!
April 9: DDA Meeting 1:30 pm
April 9: City Council Meeting 5 pm
April 24: Recycle Day
April 28: Trout Season Opener

May 8: School Election (at City Hall)
May 13: Happy Mother's Day!
May 14: DDA Meeting 1:30 pm
May 14: City Council Meeting 5 pm
May 15: Walleye Season Opener
May 25: Runkle Lake Campground Opens
May 28: Memorial Day (*City Hall Closed*)
May 29: Recycle Day



Crystal Falls City Council: Edna Heikkinen, Mike Smokevitch, Janet Hendrickson (Mayor), Mark Valesano, & Jack Bicigo.

We're on the Web!

WWW.CRYSTALFALLS.ORG

CRYSTAL VIEW GOLF COURSE

2007 GOLF RATES

MEMBERSHIPS:

Husband & wife	\$475.00
Single	\$300.00
College Student (18-23 yrs old)	\$135.00
High School Student	\$ 85.00
Student, 8th Grade & Under	\$ 60.00

ADD TO ABOVE FOR WATER PROJECT:

HUSBAND & WIFE AND SINGLE MEMBERSHIPS:	\$50.00 <u>PER PERSON</u>
COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL AND STUDENT:	\$10.00 <u>PER PERSON</u>

GREEN FEES:

9 Holes	\$15.00
18 Holes or All Day	\$ 20.00

10-PLAY CARD \$140.00
(may be used at any time respecting Men's & Women's days)

SENIOR CITIZENS: (MONDAY'S ONLY)

9 Holes	\$ 13.00
18 Holes	\$ 17.00

GOLF CART STORAGE:

Electric Cart	\$160.00
Gas Cart	\$140.00
Trail Fee, Yearly	\$ 55.00
Trail Fee, Daily	\$ 10.00

GOLF CART RENTAL FEES:

9 Holes	\$ 15.00
18 Holes	\$ 20.00