



CITY OF CRYSTAL FALLS NEWSLETTER

LONG TIME CITY EMPLOYEE TO RETIRE IN MAY

Axel Anderson began his career with the City of Crystal Falls as a seasonal employee in June of 1974 while he was still in high school. In February 1977 he secured a full time position as an electrician in the City Electric Department.

At a special meeting of the City Council held on March 12th the Council took action to open an "Early Out" window to allow Axel to retire. To qualify for the "Early Out" window and employee must be at least 50 years old with 30 years of recorded ser-

vice in the Municipal Employees Retirement System. Axel is currently the only employee who qualifies for this window. The City will not replace Axel and will then realize a savings in wage and benefit costs.

So what plans does Axel have for his retirement? He claims that his wife, Cindy, has a "honey do" list that has grown into pages (actually she describes it more as a novel), he will enjoy time at his camp on the Deer River, and, of course, there is always the need to put the pontoon boat



Inside this issue:

SMEAR TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS	2
THE WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK	2
CITY EMPLOYEES ORGANIZE UNION	2
COUNCIL WORKSHOPS ON BUDGET REDUCTIONS	3
CITY OFFICIALS	4
TARA'S FLAVORITES	4
AND THE WINNER IS...	4
CALENDAR	4

out on the water somewhere. Axel's pontoon boat is the ultimate Red Neck Yacht, especially when he pitches his tent on the front to spend the night!

What will Axel miss most

(Continued on page 4)

CITY TO PURCHASE ELECTRIC ENERGY FROM WPPI IN THE FUTURE

After much discussion, the City Council voted 3-2 on March 16 to become a member of WPPI and enter into a long term power supply agreement with WPPI. Crystal Falls which is currently supplied by We energies has seen a sharp increase and much volatility in the

wholesale energy rates in recent years. We energies annual energy charges have more than doubled going from \$493,000 in 2002 to \$1,036,000 in 2008. Yet the average Crystal Falls electrical customer had only seen an increase of 25% in their

rates during this same time. This is due to the reduction of labor costs in the Crystal Falls electric department during this period, and also the cheap power produced at city owned power plant. Note however that the power plant can only meet approximately 30% of

our energy needs on a good year of generation. Membership with WPPI tentatively begins May 1 and lasts nearly 29 years. WPPI will assume ownership of the present We energies contract but Crystal Falls will be required to pay for its

(Continued on page 3)

1st place Smear Tourney
Winners were sisters Judy
Peterson
and Kelly Van Oss.



2nd place in the Smear Tourney
were
Summer Ketola
and Terri Hagglund



**THANK YOU
TO EVERYONE
WHO
PARTICIPATED
IN THIS
SUCCESSFUL
EVENT!**

LINCOLN PARK PLAYGROUND SMEAR TOURNEY A SUCCESS

The Lincoln Park Playground fund gained some momentum this past month following the Smear Tournament held at the VFW on March 7th. 22 teams paid the \$20 entry fee and participated in 50/50 and other prize raffles that were held throughout the day. A lunch of a variety of delicious donated dishes was enjoyed by all the participants.

The tournament was won by sisters Judy Peterson and Kelly VanOss with a total of 171 points earned after 12 games of smear. One point behind with 170 points earned were the 2nd place winners of Summer Ketola and Terri Hagglund.

Prizes were generously donated by the local merchants and individuals

including: Fob's Restaurant, Jubilee Foods, Hair Salon 118, Lesli's Headlines, Sal's Hair Shop, Crystal Lumber, Crystal Auto Value, Ben Franklin Store, Rusty Saw Blade, Generations, Char's Beauty Boutique, Shear Performance, Wells Fargo, Crystal Falls Healthmart, Slivensky Lumber, Nylund's Pasties, Subway, Infield Bar, First National Bank, Co-Vantage Credit Union, Joanies Beauty Shop, Scott R. Kenney, CPA, Peninsula Title & Abstract, Plowe Furniture, Raven's Nest, Woody's Lanes, Dell & Lorraine Siler, Ken Thoreson, Lisa Hautala, Mary Lahna, and Karen Drake Semke.

At the end of the day, a total of \$1,087.00 had been collected by the playground committee.

The Lincoln Park Playground Committee has been working on various fund raising activities throughout the year to insure the placement of playground equipment at Lincoln Park (adjacent to the Paint River Walkway) by this summer. In addition to the smear tournament held in March the committee ran the ski hill concession stand and sold Bucks and Christmas Stockings for the kids. They continue to sell water bottles and most recently chances on an Easter Basket. The committee has received various donations from individuals throughout the community and also grant money from the Youth Advisory Committee in the amount of \$4,659.52 and a \$1,000 donation from the ACFA. The Lincoln Park Playground Committee began with funds of \$1,500.00 (which was donated by the former VJ day committee to the City in 2005) and today those funds are nearly \$11,000.00. The committee's goal was \$16,000, however, with the increase in the cost of the playground equipment and falling short of their goal, the committee is re-signed to scaling the project back to fit the funds available.

Perhaps you have been looking for a good project to donate to, if so, please call Dorothea at 906-875-3212 ext 102 OR send your donations to: Lincoln Park Playground Committee—401 Superior Avenue—Crystal Falls, MI 49920

PLAY IS GOOD!

THE WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK

Residents in the City of Crystal Falls were sent a letter at the end of March indicating that yet another test of the City's water supply was returned with a positive bacteria count. The City began to chlorinate

the water immediately and the bacteria disappeared. The DEQ has ordered the City to continue the chlorination until further notice. *There is no need to boil the water.*

The water is safe to drink, however, if you

are someone who has a reaction to chlorine due to the taking of medications or other medical reasons, you may want to consider using bottled water until the chlorination is discontinued.

CITY EMPLOYEES

ORGANIZE UNION

On March 25, 2009, nine (9) City employees not previously represented by a union, met and authorized the Wisconsin Professional Police Association/Civilian Employees Relations Division (WPPA/CERD) to act as their exclusive agent for the purpose of collective bargaining.

This group has, as yet, not been recognized by the City as a union.

The City electric department employees have been organized since 2007 and are represented by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).

CITY COUNCIL CONDUCTS WORKSHOPS TO DISCUSS BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Upon receipt of the 2007-2008 fiscal year audit the City Council was warned to watch their spending. Auditor, Scott Kenney, CPA, reviewed his audit report and offered some observations and recommendations to improve the record keeping processes practiced by the City. He went on to paint a bleak picture of the City's financial condition and recommended that the Council immediately begin to explore the initiation of cost saving measures to insure the

continued operation of the City.

At a Council workshop held on March 26th City Manager Nordeman offered a list of potential cost cutting measures for the Council to consider. On that list were 23 suggestions, several of which were cuts to employee's wages and benefits, other suggestions were to eliminate some services to the public.

Several citizens took a turn at the podium to

offer their thoughts and suggestions on the issue at hand.

At this point it is too early to tell what services or benefits will be discontinued in order to make ends meet, however, the daunting task remains.

More workshops will be held to continue discussions about the City's finances in the very near future.

WPPI (continued from page 1)

current obligations for another 5 years before purchasing power at WPPI's rate. Much Council debate focused around the \$371,000 rebate which Crystal Falls had received from We energies in September of 2008. As part of membership, WPPI required that Crystal Falls, like all its other members, release this money to WPPI for long term investment purposes which is intended to keep rates lower in the future (WPPI's portion was 54 million dollars). This requirement led to the split vote as the Council had to decide between long term

value and short term gain. According to Dave Graff, the Electric Department Supervisor, Crystal Falls selected WPPI Energy because of its reputation, economical energy rates, rate stability, great administrative/legal support and the wide range of ancillary services which they offer to our Electric Department and its customers. Membership with WPPI Energy and its 50 other municipal utilities provides the Crystal Falls Electric Department with a number of professional services which will result in

hundreds of thousands of dollars in consultant and legal fee savings over the course of this contract. Joining WPPI Energy provides our community with immediate assistance to the newly mandated energy optimization and renewable portfolio programs required by the state of Michigan. In addition WPPI provides Energy Conservation Grants and Community Relations Programs which will have an immediate and positive impact in our community. Dave is looking forward to working with WPPI to immedi-

ately bring better services to our customers, while retaining the long term goal of energy affordability, reliability, price predictability/stability and value. The City Council has taken action to assure that the funds required to payback the We energies rebate to WPPI will be in place by enacting a 15% rate increase to the City's electrical customers as of March 1. Note this comes after the Council had reduced electrical rates by approximately 15% in September of 2008 when the We energies rebate was first received.

CRYSTAL FALLS CITY OFFICIALS

Janet Hendrickson, Mayor 875-3291
 Jim Burke, Councilor 875-6670
 Michael Smokevitch, Councilor 875-6350
 Jeff Hagglund, Councilor 875-6369
 Jack Bicigo, Councilor 875-6588
 Charles Nordeman, Manager 875-6647 EXT 101
 Dorothea Olson, Clerk/Treas. 875-3212 EXT 102
 Robert Sherwin, Police Chief 875-3012
 John Ahola, Fire Chief 875-6614

City Council meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 5 pm



Crystal Falls City Council

CITY OF CRYSTAL FALLS

401 SUPERIOR AVENUE
 CRYSTAL FALLS, MI

Phone: 906-875-3212

Fax: 906-875-3767

E-mail: cfclerk@up.net

We're on the web:
www.crystalfalls.org

LONG TIME EMPLOYEE TO RETIRE ... (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

about working for the City? He claims it won't be the late night call outs or getting electrocuted by lightening while restoring power during thunderstorms. He says the thing

he will miss the most is his fellow workers.

The hole Axel will leave in the City workforce will take time to heal as he takes with him over 30 years of experience

and knowledge.

Be sure to wish him "Good Luck" in his retirement if you see him out and about!



TARA'S FLAVORITES



GRANDMA'S MISTAKE?
 Grandma's don't make mistakes do they?

GRANDMA'S MISTAKE BARS

3 Sticks Oleo
 1 bag (12 oz) semi sweet chocolate chips
 1 can Eagle Brand condensed milk
 1 cup brown sugar
 1 cup flour
 2 cups instant oatmeal
 1/2 tsp salt
 1/4 tsp baking soda

Mix together using your hands: 2 sticks of oleo, 1 cup brown sugar, 1 cup flour, 2 cusps oatmeal, 1/2 tsp salt, and 1/4 tsp baking soda. Place 3/4 of this mixture in a greased 9 x 13 pan reserving 1/4 for later. Pat down. Melt over low heat: 1 stick oleo, 1 bag of chocolate chips, 1 can Eagle Brand condensed milk. Pour over mixture in pan. Take remaining mixture and put over top. Bake at 325° for 18–20 minutes.

AND THE WINNER IS.....

AUBRIANNA AHOLA, daughter of Robyn Santi and Mark Ahola of Crystal Falls, was the lucky winner in a drawing for an MP3 Player at the Crystella Ski Hill. The Lincoln Park Playground Committee ran a special at the ski hill concession stand this winter and everyone who bought a Lincoln Park water bottle had their name entered into a drawing for the MP3 Player. Aubrianna was the lucky one! Aubrianna came in with her mom to collect her prize from Tara Peltoma at the City Hall.



CALENDAR

- April 10: Good Friday—City Hall Closed
- April 12: Happy Easter!
- April 13: DDA meet—1:30 pm
- April 13: City Council meet-5 pm
- April 14: Planning Comm meet-6 pm
- April 28: Recycle Day
- May 5: ELECTION DAY
- May 10: Mother's Day!
- May 11: City Council meet—5 pm
- May 25: Memorial Day-City Hall Closed
- May 26: Recycle Day