



Fewer hours for pool?

Jane Howard

In response to a cut in state aid to the City of Grand Marais, Park and Recreation Manager Dave Tersteeg presented to the park board on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 a list of suggestions on how the rec park could cut costs and increase revenue. Reducing pool hours was on the list of ways to cut costs.

If pool hours were decreased 1½ hours a day during the nine-plus slow months and decreased three hours a day during the summer, Tersteeg reported, annual savings in staff time would be over \$12,000.

Tersteeg recommended ending weekday adult swim at 11 a.m. and ending open swim at 7:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays during the off-season.

He recommended that summer hours be 8-11 a.m. weekdays for adult swim and 1-8 p.m. all week for open swim. Office Manager Samantha Williams said a lot of campers check in mid-evening and like to run over to the pool before it closes. Later in the meeting, Head Lifeguard Charles Christiansen said he would like to see the pool stay open until 9:00 on Fridays and Saturdays.

Sundays have been especially slow at the pool, and closing all day Sundays was another option presented.

"I feel the overall impact on the level of service at the pool with this modest reduction in hours would be minimal," Tersteeg wrote in a memo to the board, calling the current operating schedule "generous."

Total labor costs at the pool, which include lifeguard duty, cleaning, swimming lessons, maintenance, and management and administration (which Tersteeg said he is trying to keep to a minimum), is about \$130,000, 46% of the pool's total operating cost.

Todd Miller said that while he is open to reducing financial loss by reducing hours, he is concerned about losing the availability of the pool "one hour at a time."

Tersteeg will track pool usage over the summer. Any changes to the schedule would not take place until fall.

To bring additional revenue to the campground, Tersteeg suggested raising monthly rates, which currently run about half the cost of daily rates, with a rate scale that would bring in more money per month from trailers spending fewer months. Twenty-six percent of the park's monthly guests stay only one month, while a handful rents for five months each year and gets free storage for the seven off-season months (paying an average of \$3,000 annually, including utilities, garbage service, and grounds keeping).

Tersteeg suggested pro-rating monthly rates based on how many months the guests stayed, with, for example, the one-month seasonal price at 75% of the daily rate, the two-month price at 70%, the three-month price at 65%, etc.

One park guest who stays for three months

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Sawtooth Elementary third graders spent time at North House Folk School the week of May 18 creating their own paddlers on canoes. The project is based on *Paddle to the Sea*, a 1941 book by Holling C. Holling about a young Native Canadian who creates a wooden paddler in a canoe, which he places in Lake Nipigon, from where it floats all the way to the Atlantic Ocean, experiencing many adventures along the way.

Above Left: (L-R) Daphne Lacina, Wellesley Howard-Larsen, Abby Prom, Sarah Gonzales, Chance Finke, and Connor Franks (leaning on the table) are sanding their canoes.

Top Right: Paraprofessional Rachel Drake assisting Randy Davis's third graders at North House. The project involved a lot of carving and sanding. (From left) Mikey Burton, Everett Morawitz, Jacob Fenner, Chance Finke, and Rachel Drake.

Above Right: Chance Finke displaying his *Paddle to the Sea* canoe. **Left:** North House Folk School provided a nicely detailed sample of a *Paddle to the Sea* figurine to inspire Sawtooth Elementary third graders

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City noise ordinance sent back to drawing board

Bill Neil

After reviewing a draft noise ordinance during their May 27 meeting, Grand Marais city councilors sent it back to the drawing board for further revision, saying it was far more complicated than what they had envisioned.

"We want to keep it as simple as possible," said Councilor Bill Lenz. Mayor Sue Hakes agreed. "I didn't anticipate licensing or permitting"

she said.

The four-page document entitled "An Ordinance Regulating Use of Outdoor Sound Amplification Devices" that was presented to council by City Attorney Don Davison and Administrator Mike Roth was the result of a discussion at council's prior meeting. At that time, however, councilors asked that the ordinance not be too technical, be lenient, business-friendly and simple to enforce.

"This is kind of a crazy thing we're getting into"

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Honoring "Fish"

Rhonda Silence

When Larry "Fish" Deschampe's School District 166 colleagues decided they wanted to honor him upon his retirement after 28 years, they knew it would be tough to surprise him.

"It's a sad and happy day."



Staff photos/Rhonda Silence

Larry "Fish" Deschampe, a bus driver and custodian for ISD 166 for more than 28 years, was honored on his retirement on May 29. Several school colleagues shared memories of working with Deschampe, including Lorelei Livingston, who said she would miss his welcoming smile.

So they let him know there was going to be some sort of presentation. What Deschampe didn't know is that the Arrowhead Center for the Arts would be filled with students who rode his bus—and many of his family members. All were on hand to wish him well as he retires from School District 166—and begins again at the Grand Portage charter school, Oshki Ogimaag, in fall 2009.

Principal Gwen Carman was first to express thanks to "Fish" for his caring attitude as a bus driver and custodian of the Grand Portage Elementary School for over 28 years. She said she knew that Fish would be embarrassed by the fuss but said he deserves it. She said, "Fish has worked with countless administrators, staff and students and will be greatly missed by our district."

Custodial and Transportation Director James Groth followed Carman. Groth also expressed appreciation to Deschampe and presented him with a Cook County Viking jersey. He then got laughs from the folks who worked with Deschampe when he gave him a second gift—a package of white t-shirts. "As many of you

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Passports, 1% tax, and lynx

Jane Howard

Eleven elected officials and five employees representing Cook County, the City of Grand Marais, Grand Portage, and Cook County ISD 166 schools met Thursday, May 28, 2009 in the Grand Portage tribal headquarters on a wooded hill overlooking Lake Superior. The entities discussed issues of mutual interest.

Tribal Council Chair Norman Deschampe said Grand Portage is trying to make sure its Canadian employees have passports for entry into the U.S. because the law requiring passports would be taking effect June 1.

Sixty percent of Grand Portage's employees are Canadians, Deschampe said, many of whom were born in fly-in areas and never received a birth certificate. They can still get passports, but the process is more difficult.

Deschampe hopes American travelers from areas not near the border will be aware of the need for a passport to get back into the U.S. after a trip into Canada. He said they see a lot of fishermen from places that might not be publicizing

the change in requirements.

Deschampe expressed concern regarding the potential loss of business related to Canadians not coming to the States because they don't have a passport. Even if 90% of potential Canadian visitors have passports, he said, they would lose 10% of their Canadian business.

The tribe is dealing with legislation before Congress regarding the process of union start-ups. The Employee Free Choice Act would lower the standard for employee groups to start unions and take away the long-standing requirement of a vote of employees by secret ballot. While the tribe is not opposed to the existence of unions, Deschampe said, they believe tribes should be exempt from the legislation. "We feel it doesn't apply on reservations," he said. "It's a sovereignty issue."

Grand Portage will be using stimulus money to help the county pay for resurfacing County Road 17 that runs along Lake Superior. Following the guidelines for using the stimulus money has proven

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