

Spring cleaning time in Cedar Lake

BY CARRIE NAPOLEON

Post-Tribune correspondent

CEDAR LAKE — Volunteers got their hands dirty Saturday during an opportunity to help make the town clean when they participated in the annual town-wide roadside clean-up.

"I want to be proud of my town," said Cathy Holloway, who was helping to clean a one-mile stretch of 133rd Avenue for Holy Name Church.

Holloway said she has participated in the clean-up project for a number of years for different organizations. Groups are assigned a one-mile stretch of road and given a couple hours, yellow vests and lots of garbage bags to pick up the trash tossed from cars and accumulated on the roadside.

"Cedar Lake is a nice little town. It's growing," Holloway said. The effort volunteers make to clean up the roadsides every spring make the journey around the lake more inviting for residents and visitors to the town.



Hanover Central High School Key Club members, from left, Virginia Salata, Tim Dickson, and Tyler Paul, clean along Parrish Street in Cedar Lake Saturday. | SCOTT R. BRANDUSH-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Holloway said it never ceases to amaze her the amount of trash volunteers clean up every spring nor just what people dump outside their vehicles while driving down the street.

"It's ridiculous. There's absolutely no reason for it. They take no pride in the town and out town is really thriving," Holloway said.

All but one of the mile-long stretches has been adopted by a group that returns to the same location each spring. Dickson said they are still seeking a permanent group to adopt the stretch of road from the town complex to Taste Top. Individual volunteers not affiliated with a group are dispatched to help where they are needed.

Town, township at odds over office

Winfield town government's home at issue

BY KITTY CONLEY

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WINFIELD — Township Trustee Rollie Brauer held an informational meeting April 29 for residents interested in the township's viewpoint on the state of the Winfield government building.

The meeting was held in one of the Lakes of the Four Seasons Fire Department bays on the backside of the building. With one of the

doors open it was a little chilly and windy for the approximately one dozen people that were at the meeting.

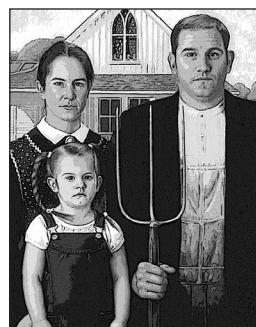
The township has proposed a monthly rent of \$1,600 to the town for the town to continue using a portion of the building, which is owned by the township. That makes the rent on that 2,800-square-foot building \$7 per square foot.

The agreement would have the town waive sewer fees for the rest of the building, and at the same time the township will pick up the water bill. The town does the snow removal and the grass cutting, since they have the machinery. The township has been paying the

rent for the fire department as well as the utilities used by the fire department.

If the town government leaves the building, it will have to pay for half of the rent for the fire department and half of the utility bill. "If the town leaves they must pay \$850 per month to the fire department," said Brauer.

Town Councilman Michael Lambert said later that the town has a letter from the former township trustee, the late John Curley, showing that the rent had been at \$1,600 while the town paid for alterations made to the building. Once those were paid for, the rent was to go back to \$800 per month.



ART ADVENTURE

SAM DALKILIC-MIESTOWSKI

'May Day' is theme for region artists

In October of 2009 a handful of artists came together to form a group with the purpose of inspiring, motivating, critiquing and supporting each other and their work. This small group became the Northwest Indiana Artists Support Group. They have grown to include members from communities ranging from Cedar Lake to Whiting, Dyer to LaPorte and places in between. Members are mixed in experience, talent, medium and style of art. All have something to contribute equally to the group.

Involvement in NIASG varies from member to member. Meetings and field trips are regular occurrences. They try to meet each artist's needs and open them up to new possibilities; from visiting galleries and the owners, introducing them to new shows and exhibits to submit their work, of just to create art for art's sake.

Only a year and a half into their existence, the NIASG is having its own art show. With their reception falling on May 1, May Day was picked as the theme.

Displaying a wide collection of paintings, watercolors, digital images, photographs and mixed media, there is something for everyone. This show has given the NIASG an opportunity to proudly exhibit their talents for the public to see how gifted the creative members of their community are.

May Day was intended to be a small show but has grown from 20 pieces of art to a collection of over 40, all priced under \$50. Members showing are Jen Jackson, Karissa Herbst, Dawn Diamantopoulos, Abbie Cashman, Shirley Stone, Sophia Rapata, Megan Popiela and Paul Benninghoff.

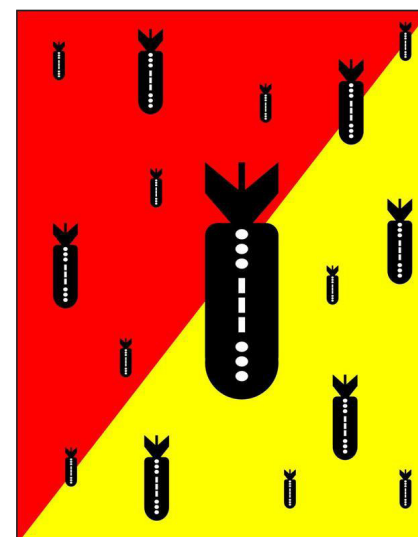
The art group not only hopes to catch the eyes of the community but also the attention of fellow artists and the local galleries. They are showing that they are to be taken seriously as artists and as contributing members to the northwest Indiana region for they have plenty of talent to offer.

The artists' reception was held on Sunday, May 1 from 2 to 5 p.m., at the Mellow Brew Cheesecake House, 1060 Joliet Street in Dyer. If you missed the reception, you will have the opportunity to see the show through May 13 at Mellow Brew.

NIASG is open to new members. They can be found on Facebook by looking up 'Northwest Indiana Artists Support Group.' Or, you can contact the group's facilitator Paul A. Benninghoff at paulbenninghoff@yahoo.com.



Megan Popiela, "The Queen of May," is on display through May 13 at the Northwest Indiana Artists Support Group's exhibit at Mellow Brew Cheesecake House, 1060 Joliet St., Dyer. | PHOTO PROVIDED



Paul A Benninghoff, "Save Our Souls," is on display through May 13 at the Northwest Indiana Artists Support Group's exhibit at Mellow Brew Cheesecake House, 1060 Joliet St., Dyer. | PHOTO PROVIDED

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