



Christmas Wishes Granted by Project Santa

Bangor's Project Santa was a huge success this year, thanks to Simpson United Methodist Church, We-Care and the coordinating efforts of Allison Hein along with her volunteer "elves." The event, which is held in Simpson United Methodist Church community room (a.k.a. the magical toy store), has been taking place for six years and this year Project Santa was able to make the Christmas wishes come true of 328 children under the age of 13.

The event started with a fundraiser Bowl-a-Thon where participants helped raise \$2222.22 and Project Santa also later saw gifts

and monetary donations in addition to this amount. Workers were elated when, for the first time in Project Santa history, they received a donation of several bikes which were given away by choosing names from a hat prior to the event. Upon being contacted, the parents of the recipients of the bikes broke down with tears of joy and appreciation.

Hein commented that Project Santa has always been her passion and noted her reason for involvement is that she "wants children to have good memories of their childhood Christmases." Project Santa

receives no grants or corporate sponsorship; it is simply people helping people. Volunteers spent days preparing the toy room, decorating and some even chose to take a day off of work to be there to see the joy in children's eyes. Contributions were made by people from as far as Florida! If you have questions about future events, contact Simpson at 427-7725 or Allison Hein at 427-5363.



The Project Santa crew. Photo by Kelly Weber

Arlington St. Project To Commence in Summer

Beginning this summer, residents of Bangor will see some much-needed construction taking place on Arlington Street from the viaduct to west to the City limits. At this time, the city will be replacing the water main and the sewer main will also be undergoing maintenance. Currently, the water main is only four inches and

should be eight as it supplies the water for both the school and area fire protection. The estimated cost of the project is \$280,000, with \$252,000 of this being funded by a grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporations Infrastructure Enhancement Grant.

City officials say that work on this project will commence after school releases with hopes that the work will be completed before school reconvenes in the fall. Officials also note that residents should not anticipate any disruption in service as a result of the project.



Home of the Vikings





Christmas Festivities Big Hit in Town

Bangor proudly hosted its annual lighted Christmas parade on December 7th and as always, it was a huge success. However, what some might not know is that for the first time, the parade was organized by the Bangor Harvest Festival Committee (BHFC). Teresa Wiles, committee chairperson, was “thrilled with the participation of our

merchants” and felt that it was “a proud moment for our small hamlet.” The transition was made possible with the guidance of Amy and Rocky Johnson, previous coordinators of the parade to whom the committee is truly grateful.

A new addition to the festivities was a window decorating contest, also organized by the BHFC.

The recipients of the awards include the Bangor Library for the Kids Theme award, Bangor Tavern for the Christmas Spirit award and The Flower Basket for the Use of Lights award. Wiles stated that the committee looks forward to sponsoring the events next year and thanks all those who participated in the parade and window decorating contest.

Fire Safety As Important As Ever

Fire safety is even more paramount in the winter months. Chief Derek Babcock wants to remind all those interested that the Bangor Fire Department offers free smoke detectors

to all those who need them. In addition, Chief Babcock encourages all residents to ensure that the address numbers on their homes are clearly visible from the road. If you feel

the numbers you currently have may be insufficient, he recommends purchasing a green reflective address sign at either the fire station or your local hardware store.

What's the Buzz?

The city of Bangor proudly offers you its official newsletter, the “Bangor Buzz.” We are pleased to offer this quarterly circular to all those who want to know about what’s happening in the happening town of Bangor!

The newsletter will announce pertinent city information as well as local events on a yearly basis to better communicate with local residents and businesses. Area non-profit groups desiring to have information published should email City Hall at bangormi@bangormi.com.

Renovations to Elevator

The Bangor Grain Elevator is going to see more renovations in the very near future. Bob Emmert, co-owner of the Elevator, stated that a heating system is going to be installed in the elevator in the upcoming weeks and he hopes that the project will be complete before the spring so that the building may be used for a business front before the beginning of the summer.



The Bangor Grain Elevator

Photo by Kelly Weber

Bangor Historical Society News

The Bangor Historical Society is in the midst of some exciting happenings. The organization was very recently granted 501(c)3 status which means they are now a federally recognized tax exempt organization. This status means great things for the organization. One major benefit is the fact that an anonymous donor

may now proceed in their plans of donating a building to the Bangor Historical Society. The building, located at 548 Railroad Street, will be used to house a museum. Bob Emmert, Bangor Historical Society President, says that he and a team of Society members are meeting with an architect during the first week of

February to discuss the possibilities for the museum, including its layout and exactly what it is the museum will house. The Society invites any persons interested in joining to attend the next meeting which will be held on February 11th at 7pm at Simpson United Methodist Church.

Area Church supporting troops

Bangor Free Methodist Church (BFMC) is reaching out to our soldiers abroad and providing them with special care packages as a way to thank them for their efforts and dedication. The church is currently accepting donations to assemble these packages for soldiers in Afghanistan. BFMC is joined in the effort by their prayer partner church, Watson's Bible Church of Mattawan, and they encourage other churches to join them.

Jim Mayhak, the program's coordinator, is acquainted with a vascular surgeon from Kalamazoo that is currently deployed in Afghanistan. After Mayhak spoke with the surgeon, he agreed to help Mayhak distribute care packages amongst troops. BFMC will collect donations and then send flat-rate

packages as soon as they fill a box. The group plans to continue this program as long as they continue receiving donations.

Included in the list of things needed are personal care items like shaving cream and toothpaste, entertainment items like CDs and playing cards, and edible items like peanuts and hard candy. Some items may not be sent, including items with alcohol, anything with aerosol, any religious material and anything that may melt or spoil. A full list of items accepted is available at City Hall.

Donations may be taken to Mayhak at 201 E. Douglass St. or by arranging a drop off by calling Laura at 655-4174. Questions should be forwarded to Jim at 427-8282.

Parks and Rec. decorating contest

The Bangor Parks and Recreation Committee hosted a decorating contest for the holiday season and was pleased with the participation. Winners of the contest are Curves of Bangor (owner Gerrie Waldschmidt) for best business display, Tom and Linda Campos of 519 W. Monroe for best lit display and Rick Gray and Sue Brinks of 804 W. Arlington for best non-lit display.

The Parks and Recreation Committee hopes to host the contest for years to come and thanks everyone for their participation and excellent display of the holiday spirit!

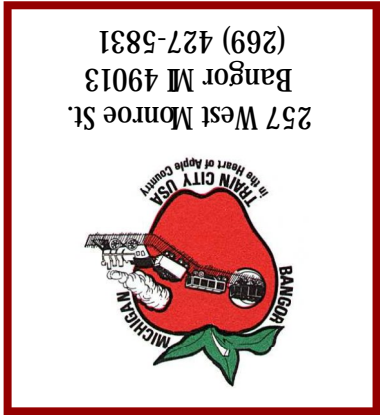
January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26	27 DDA 7am	28	29	30

Community Calendar continued on back cover



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	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February	Jan 31	Feb 1 City Council 7 pm	2 Parks & Rec. Advisory Bd. 1:30 pm	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15 City Council 7 pm	16	17	18 Housing Comm. 4:30 pm Planning Comm. 7 pm	19	20
	21	22	23	24 DDA 7 am	25	26	27
	Feb 28	March 1 City Council 7 pm	2 Parks & Rec. Advisory Bd. 1:30 pm	3	4	5	6
March	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14 Daylight Savings Time Begins	15 City Council 7 pm	16	17 Board of Review 9a-4p (18th) 2p-9p	18 Housing Comm. 4:30 pm Planning Comm. 7 pm	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31 DDA 7 am			