



Town Crier

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Full Lilac Festival Calendar Page 10

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56th Annual Lilac Festival Begins June 10

By Jessica Delaney

As the Island's many lilacs burst into bloom, the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau is wrapping up its planning for the 56th Lilac Festival, with a number of new events added this year to the 10-day celebration. A complete calendar of events is printed on Page 10 of this week's *Town Crier*.

The festival will begin Friday, June 10, with the crowning of the 2005 Lilac Queen, Blisse Beardsley, and Princess, Shelbie Mosley, at Marquette Park. The Queen's court includes Kristi Kamphuis, Emily St. Onge, Karlena Mosley, and Christina McLean, all students at Mackinac Island Public School.

A special guest at this year's coronation ceremony will be Miss Teen Michigan, Catherine Laurion.

One of the newest events to the Lilac Festival will occur Friday night at the Lilac Tree Hotel with a Queen's dance for teenagers to enjoy, with light food donated and beverages and music provided by disk jockey Brevin Cawthorne. The

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At right: Lilacs in bloom at Fort Mackinac.



Stingels Retire Four Friesian Horses to Police Caisson Unit

'The Boys' Move On to Police Work; New Friesians on Island

By Karen Gould

Islanders called them "The Boys" and for the last 10 years, the four Friesian horses owned by Janet and Jay Stingel have made Mackinac their summer home. This year, however, the 22-year-olds, Detlef, Fetse, Kenny, and Fonger, won't be making the trip north from their winter home at Biltmore Stables in Asheville, North Carolina, because the Stingels have donated them to the newly formed North Carolina State Highway Patrol Caisson Unit.

"We wanted to make sure they would have a good home," said Janet Stingel. Keeping the team together was the couple's biggest concern, agreed Mr. Stingel.

The Island trails and demanding hills were a little more than the aging horses could easily handle, he said, but as caisson horses, they will travel only about six blocks with each funeral hearse they pull.

Last year, the Stingels purchased four new Friesians and they arrived on the Island Tuesday, June 7. The North Carolina Patrol transported the four novices to Mackinac in gratitude to the Stingels. Since March, the new horses



North Carolina Trooper Ernest Ramsey, who spearheaded the creation of North Carolina's caisson unit, made the trip to Mackinac with Janet and Jay Stingel's new horses.

have been under the care of Amy and Webe Dragstra, owners of Dragstra Stables in North Carolina. Mr. and Mrs. Dragstra accompanied the horses to Michigan and will work with

them for a short time before heading home.

The new Island residents, Syb, Atse, Baucke, and Jari, were purchased in Friesland, Holland, last year. Ranging

from five years to nine years old, the first stop on the busy horses' itinerary was Florida in January. After training with them for three months at Continental Acres, Mr. Stingel

and the horses left the 350-acre horse farm and moved to Dragstra Stables.

As they adjust to Island life, they will have a legacy to maintain, created by their predecessors. The Boys knew Mackinac so well, they could have walked home from anywhere on the Island, said Mr. Stingel, and many Islanders have been stopping by to see them while the Stingels have been busy opening their cottage "Brigadoon" for the season.

"I've had to tell so many people they are not coming back," said Mr. Stingel. He is looking forward to old friends getting to know their new Friesians.

The Stingels were the first to introduce Islanders to the Friesian breed at a time when no more than 1,000 of them lived in the United States, Mr. Stingel said. Now a few more Island families have the breed.

The spark for their interest in owning the Dutch breed was just luck.

"We happened to see them and just fell in love with them," said Mrs. Stingel.

"They are very majestic looking," said Mr. Stingel, "even stately."

Friesians are one of the only true breeds left, Mrs. Stingel said. Standing approximately 16 to 17 hands high, the

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