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Lilac Festival Photos

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Lilac Queen Float Tops 79 Entries in Horse-Drawn Parade

By Jessica Delaney

The 56th Lilac Festival drew to an end Sunday, June 19, but not before leaving crowds with smiles, laughter, and memories.

This year's Grand Parade included 79 entries from throughout the state, from local business floats to horses and marching bands, all keeping with this year's parade theme, "the Lilac Fairy."

Don Andress, a descendent of Chief Mackinac, led the parade in full Native American dress, accompanied by members of the Mackinac Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians, represented by Carl Andress, Tony Miron, and John Perrault.

The Seven Oaks Riders appeared in the parade for the 5th time, with gaily bedecked horses and sequined dresses. It was the first time that all four members of the group were present for the Lilac Parade.

Mackinac State Historic Parks had two entries this year. The Drum & Fife Corps and historic interpreters from the 23d Michigan Regiment played old army songs, while female interpreters rode on the Fort Mackinac float, "Lilac Fairy Tale," which promoted



Leading the Lilac Parade are Don Andress (left), the great-great-great grandson of Chief Mackinac and great nephew of Eagle Eye, and Carl Andress, representing the Mackinac Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians.

evenings at the fort. The women read bedtime stories from Andrew Lange's "The Lilac Fairy."

Doc's House of Magic aimed to show people that Elvis is alive and well with its parade entry, which included magic tricks along the parade route and bead necklaces handed out by the King himself.

Dogs and ponies made an appearance at the parade, with the Hi-Lite Farms six-horse Haflinger hitch and the carriage from Country Road Haflingers making an impression on crowds. The Dog Scouts of America and Greyhounds of Eastern Michigan also participated in the parade.

Announcers were set up at Ste. Anne's Catholic Church, Marquette Park, and Lake View Hotel to tell parade watchers

about the individual entries. Judges viewed entries from Lake View Hotel and had the difficult job of determining this year's winners.

Marie Steensma was in charge of coordinating this year's panel of judges. To have a little fun, they did father-daughter judging, with the female judges' fathers by their sides. A total of seven judges worked on this year's event.

Each entry is judged on a numerical system from one to ten. Entries are divided into the separate categories, such as float or marching band. The Stella King Award, named in honor of the Lilac Festival founder, is taken from the highest score of all entries.

Ms. Steensma said that much of the judging is also

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City Seeks More TV Channels in Franchise

By Karen Gould

With the Island's cable television franchise about to expire, the city's Finance Committee met Thursday, June 16, to discuss renewing a 15-year contract with Charter Communications and considered adding new channels to the Island's current lineup, which could hike the basic rate to Islanders between four and eight dollars. The committee also agreed not to add a city cable fee to subscribers, and until final contract details can be ironed out, they asked the city council to sign an extension for the current contract, which Council did at its meeting Wednesday, June 22. The current contract expires July 11 and the city hopes to work out a new contract in the next two months.

Cable Internet service was also discussed.

The committee met with Charter Communications Government Relations Administrator Don Gladwell, who discussed the current service and additional channel possibilities. Committee members said they have received requests from residents for more channels, including Golf, Food Network, Lifetime, C-Span 2, Turner Classic Movies, Animal Planet, VH-1, and the Learning Channel.

"I can commit to five or six new channels," Mr. Gladwell said, who also noted the \$4 to \$8 subscription increase. He

promised to supply the committee with a list of available channels and then the committee could decide which ones to add. Mr. Gladwell told committee members that he'd have to look into programming commitments and that he anticipates VH-1 might be a problem because of channel ownership.

Mr. Gladwell suggested the city could collect a cable fee from subscribers, with such a fee to be added to customer bills and collected by Charter for the city. The committee agreed it would rather see a rate increase be applied to additional channels.

Currently, the Island cable subscribers are offered nine basic channels for \$30.52 a month and can receive expanded basic and premium movie channels at an additional cost.

Mr. Gladwell said the size of the Island barely makes the minimum return on investment he is required to meet with his company. That quota is 25 homes signed up per cable mile. In the winter, about five homes per cable mile subscribe, for a total subscriber base between 22 and 44 homes.

There are approximately 500 subscribers in the summer, he said.

The lease agreement is strictly for video services, Mr. Gladwell told Finance Committee members Smi Horn, Jason St. Onge, and Mike Hart,

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Mayor Margaret Doud celebrates her 30th anniversary in the parade, riding with Congressman Bart Stupak and his wife, Laurie, who serves on the Mackinac Island State Park Commission.

Lutheran Students To Dig, Paint, Rebuild

1,200 Youth To Serve on Island

By Jessica Delaney

Many helping hands make small work, and that's what the Michigan District of Lutheran Churches is hoping as they host a Senior High Youth Gathering on Mackinac Island. About 1,200 young people from throughout Michigan will be heading to the Island Sunday, June 26, to help paint, dig, and serve the community and to worship. They will remain on the Island until Wednesday, June 29.

According to Eric Steinke, who is organizing the service-related side of the affair, the Gathering is held every three years on Mackinac. They are

based at Mission Point, where most are housed and fed and where after-work activities are staged.

The students will work four hours a day on hundreds of projects. Split up into teams of seven youth and one chaperoning adult, they hope to contribute about 4,000 hours of service.

"We will be working on impacting the community, those who live there and those who visit for years to come," said Mr. Steinke.

Among their contributions will be landscaping and grass seeding at low income houses, painting apartments, and helping with painting at Shepler's dock with paint donated by ICI Dulux.

One of the biggest projects will be at Great Turtle Park,

where the youth will scrape and paint the concession stand, stain the deck, dig a 300-foot ditch for electric cable and water pipes, help with landscaping, and clear brush.

In past years, the group noticed several projects on the Island that they wanted to help with, and several of those will begin this year. For example, three years ago the youth visited during one of the hottest weeks of the summer and they noticed many dehydrated tourists on the street. This year they raised money to buy 5,000 water bottles to hand out.

Small projects like this, which are done through the group and not with the aid of Island agencies, are called Random Acts of Kindness.

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