

City Council Lowers 2005 Millage Rate by .26 Mills

By Karen Gould

The City of Mackinac Island will hold a second Truth in Taxation hearing Wednesday, June 29, after discovering the millage figures used at a hearing

June 22 were incorrect. City Council members swiftly and unanimously approved a reduction in the 2005 millage rate Wednesday night, following the earlier hearing, but based the reduction on the 2003 millage rate, said assessor Joe Stakoe.

Mr. Stakoe was not at the meeting, but caught the mistake the next morning. He had submitted documents to Council explaining the city's options, and used a 2004 millage rate of 8.0. Council, however, used the 2003 millage rate of 8.21.

The new hearing will be next Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

In other business, Council approved an extension on the Island's cable television franchise with Charter Communications until a new agreement can be drafted (*see separate story on Page 1*), renewed a State Park lease for Great Turtle Park,

and renewed the trash pickup contract.

The Mackinac Island Community Foundation will look into funding for a special bicycle for disabled resident Olivia Chamber, based on Council's agreement that such a vehicle will be permitted on city streets. The unit includes an electric cycle attached to a modified wheelchair, allowing a disabled passenger to ride in the chair and

be propelled by the bicycle rider in the back. Because the cycle is not operated by the disabled person, City Attorney Tom Evash-evski will research it to see how it fits into the city's guidelines.

"I'm quite confident, one way or another, it can be accommodated," Mr. Evashevski said.

The Community Foundation is assisting a state agency in acquiring the unit, which costs \$10,000.

Mayor Margaret Doud said she will appoint a special committee to look into offering free entertainment to help enhance tourism on the Island. The committee, as proposed by Alderman Jason St. Onge, would work on ideas, such as an outdoor concert series, look at funding options, and investigate a joint program

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Entertaining Class Features Professional Talent

By Leslie Rott

This year's Lilac Festival offered something for everyone, even for those who dream of becoming domestic divas. An "Art of Entertaining" class, held at Mackinac Island Community Hall Wednesday, June 15, at 7:30 p.m., featured the pastry talents of Kim Sperl from Bella e Dolce in Cheboygan and the floral talents of Jay Porcaro, owner of Weber's Floral and Gift.

Participants, who paid \$45 for the class, were given the opportunity to make a flower arrangement and decorate a six-inch torte, both of which they were able to take home with them after the class.

"It's not just about how it tastes, it is about how it looks, too," Mrs. Sperl told participants as they eagerly watched her smooth frosting onto a cake. Mrs. Sperl has been making and decorating cakes for seven years and she attended Le

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Mique Brickson, who came all the way from Minnesota to enjoy some of this year's Lilac Festival events, prepares to decorate her torte with lilac designs.

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Notice of Public Hearing on Increasing Property Taxes

The City Council of the City of Mackinac Island will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.2424 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied in 2005.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, June 29, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, Community Hall Building, 2nd. floor, Mackinac Island, MI 49757.

The date and location of the meeting to take action on the proposed additional millage will be announced at this public meeting.

If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 3.12% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved the operating revenue will increase by 1.00% over the preceding year's operating revenue.

The taxing unit publishing this notice, and identified below, has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate.

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