



Town Crier

75¢

A weekly newspaper serving the Mackinac Island Community

Volume 52, Number 11

Mackinac Island, Michigan

July 9 to July 15, 2005

Island Community Raising Funds for New Ambulance

Corps Makes About 250 Runs a Year

By Leslie Rott

Mackinac Island's ambulance needs to be replaced, and the city's emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are raising awareness and money toward that end. The ambulance now serving the Island was purchased by the city in 1988 and, while it only has about 20,000 miles on it, it is, nevertheless, old and tired and some parts are getting hard to find.

The ambulance can still do the job, said EMT Sam Barnwell, who is hosting a

sold-out fundraising dinner at the Iroquois Hotel this Sunday, but it has been kicked by horses and has seen

better days. Fellow EMT Rick Linn said that horses are spooked by the portable public address system, used to ask tourists to move out of the way, and consider the

vehicle a carriage that is out of place. The ambulance corps, which works under Allied EMS Systems, Inc., makes between 200 and 250 runs a year, mostly during the

summer.

Mark Wilk, Allied EMS team leader for Mackinac Island and St. Ignace, agrees that the EMTs need a new

**Please turn to page 10*

Police To Get City Review of Behavior

By Karen Gould

A routine city council meeting Wednesday, July 6, took an unexpected turn when residents, during the public comment period, expressed their concern about overzealous police behavior. Council and Police Chief Bill Lenaghan listened as residents said the officers needed better public relations skills, and Mayor Margaret Doud promised there would be discussions regarding the police department based on information given at the meeting.

In other business, Council said it would consider tightening its vehicle permit policy, discussed the dangers of the corner of Astor Street (at the head of the Coal Dock) and Main Street, set a public hearing for an ordinance variance, thanked Grand Hotel for its contribution to the July 4 fireworks, and learned the NBC Today Show had canceled plans to visit the Island. But the police complaints, raised near the end of the meeting, dominated the discussion.

Mayor Margaret Doud suggested restaurant owner Debra Orr file a formal complaint against one police officer that Ms. Orr accused of harassing one of her managers. Alderman Mike Hart agreed and Alderman Armin Porter acknowledged he had heard similar complaints about police harassment.

Ms. Orr said an officer had pulled a manager on duty out of one of her restaurants and demanded a breathalyzer test on the spot. She said when the reading came up zero, the officer asked what the manager was smoking.

"You have a very loose canon," Ms. Orr told Council.

She cited several other incidents, but said she would not go into detail at the meeting.

**Please turn to page 22*

Kids Have a Blast!

at Island's 4th of July



Logan Baker of Houston, Texas, learned to spray water with the aid of local firefighter Joe Gugin at the Fourth of July Kids' Day, sponsored by the Mackinac Island Fire Department.

At left: A spectacular fireworks show was presented at Mackinac Island's Fourth of July celebration.



Inside: More Independence Day Photos, Pages 11, 12, 13

Sailors Hope for Wind as Mackinac Readies for 3 Regattas

Chicago to Mackinac July 16; Bacardi Bayview Race July 23; Mackinac to Manitoulin July 27

By Karen Gould

Sailors will tackle Lake Michigan and Lake Huron this month as Mackinac Island prepares for three major sailing events. The largest and longest of the regattas is only a week away, and with a recent history of dead calm winds plaguing races around the state, sailors are hoping to simply be able to finish each event.

Lack of wind forced the Mackinac Island Yacht Club to place a time limit on boats participating in last week's Around-the-Island Regatta. A similar fate befell last year's Chicago-to-Mackinac race when more than 17 boats dropped out owing to calm

winds. This month's 66.6-mile Milwaukee-to-Muskegon Queen's Cup sailing race across Lake Michigan ended in frustration as boats crawled a mere eight miles in six hours to the West Michigan shoreline and skippers failed to find even a breath of air as they tacked back and forth, hitting what sailors call the doldrums.

Putting a spin on the wind issue, Angie Bournias, media representative for the Bacardi Bayview Mackinac Race, between Port Huron and Mackinac, said that sailor's lore has it that a year that ends in the number five usually results in very windy race conditions. For example, in 1985,

almost 100 boats dropped out of the race when winds caused 12 foot waves on Lake Huron, and in 1945, a storm was so bad that only six of 40 boats finished the race.

The Mackinac sailing challenges begin with Chicago Yacht Club's Race to Mackinac Saturday, July 16, followed by the Bacardi Bayview Mackinac Race Saturday, July 23. Rounding up the sailing regattas will be the international Mackinac to Manitoulin Yacht Race, which begins Wednesday, July 27.

Sailors skipping 300 boats will begin the 335-mile trip north on Lake Michigan from Chicago as the starting horn signals the beginning of the 97th sailing of Race to Mackinac Saturday, July 16 at

1 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

"This race has always been about the lake," said Rick Lillie of the Chicago Yacht Club and chairman of the race. "There may be 299 other boats out there as competitors, but the real competition is that of captain, crew, boats, and sails matching wits and endurance against the lake."

Taking on the challenge of Lake Michigan will be boats coming from both the east and west coasts. The boat traveling the greatest distance to enter the race is a Transpac 52 named *Beau Geste* from Hong Kong, skippered by Carl Kwok.

Mr. Lillie said the longest race was probably in 1955, when the first finisher was *Revelry*, which crossed the fin-

**Please turn to page 10*