



Town Crier 75¢

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July 16 to July 22, 2005

Race Is On! 300 Boats Speed From Chicago to Mackinac



Racers take off against the Chicago skyline in the historic Chicago-Mackinac Yacht race, which begins Saturday. (Photograph courtesy of CJVD International of Chicago.)

Racers Face Lake Michigan Challenge

As the 333-mile Chicago to Mackinac sailing race gets underway Saturday, July 16, with more than 300 boats leaving Chicago's Monroe Harbor at 1 p.m., Island time, Lake Michigan and the weather, as in the past, likely will affect the race's outcome.

In July of 1925, 21 yachts started the race, but within the first 12 hours, six boats were blown back to Chicago.

Wind gusts up to 75 miles per hour (65 knots) greeted mariners in 1937. Only eight boats finished out of the 42 that started the race.

Wind again plagued racers in 1970 when they encountered 16 hours of north winds that were clocked over 60 miles per hour. That race began with 167 yachts, but more than 50 percent of them took refuge in harbors,

History of a Winner:

Bernida Won First 1925

Bayview Yacht Race...

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crippled with broken masts, torn sails, and seasick crews.

The worst summer storm recorded took place during the race in 1911. Hurricane-force winds with gusts peaking at 80 miles per hour hammered the 11 starting boats and 142 crew members, but not before temperatures dropped to freezing, and as the winds kicked in, so did a rainstorm that soaked everything and everyone.

During the storm, the legendary mahogany-hulled yacht *Vencedor* was caught in waves that thrashed the boat mercilessly between two boulders on a

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Community Supports New Island Ambulance Purchase

Tickets, Pledges Go To \$75,000 Vehicle

By Jessica Delaney

Between the beginning of dessert and the time the last sugary crumbs were licked off fingers, community members had made a decision: to support the Mackinac Island Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) in their quest for a new ambulance.

A dinner, held Sunday, July 10, at Iroquois Hotel, was meant to raise funds and to increase awareness of medical services on the Island. Sixty-two tickets were sold at \$100 each, and later donations easily raised the proceeds to \$7,500. The Iroquois donated the dinner and dining room, some of its suppliers contributed to the meal, and servers donated their time to the cause, so 100 percent of the ticket sales went to the ambulance corps.

But after presentations by Dr. Donald Weersing of the

Mackinac Island Medical Center, and Pete Olson, a paramedic and the education coordi-

"This is what everybody was hoping for, but nobody really expected."

- Sam Barnwell, EMT

nator for Allied EMS, which operates the ambulance service here, those attending the dinner decided to take matters into their own hands. A few residents began rallying support for the new ambulance, and that eventually led to enough pledges to

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Burning Banned on Island Committee Tackles Street Congestion, Motorized Tractors in Use on Island

With the 80-plus degree temperatures that the Island has seen for more than a week, the Mackinac Island Fire Department has issued a ban on burn permits until further notice, which means that because of dryness, no open fires will be allowed anywhere on the Island. Fire Chief Dennis Bradley said this is the first step to preventing fires when the weather is this hot.

Fire danger, he said, is extremely high on the Island because the woods are unusually dry. If there is no rain in the next week, he said, conditions could be hazardous.

"Forest fires are always a concern here," he said, adding that the Island has been fortunate. He said that there are areas

on the Island that create natural breaks, where a fire would not be able to spread, however, he added, that a fire on the Island that could result from these conditions could be potentially devastating.

Camping and fires are not allowed in the Mackinac Island State Park, which encompasses about 80 percent of the Island.

Carriage drivers are asked to be on the lookout for areas in the woods that are extremely dry or for any fires that they might see. Chief Bradley said that carriage drivers should also be telling their customers not to smoke while they are in the woods and that all residents and visitors should exercise caution during these hot and dry conditions.

no idea. We need to do an inventory of all the tractors on this island."

Other committee members agreed to look into the issue. The question of tractors arose owing to problems with granting a permit for a tractor owned by Gary Urman. His wife, Vicki Urman, was present at the committee meeting to answer questions.

The tractor did not fit into any of the categories which the city has for motor vehicles. It operates as a maintenance tractor and snow removal vehicle for the Stonebrook subdivision, but the city does not have a category for

either vehicle type. Because it is stored in a residential area, it cannot receive a permit for a commercial vehicle.

In the past, exceptions have been made for snowplowing vehicles, but under the current system, the tractor would have to be removed from the Island when not being used for snow removal. According to Mrs. Urman, it would not be possible to take the vehicle off the island, because the couple has no place to store the tractor there. She said they would have to sell it, which would leave Stonebrook

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