



# Town Crier

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A weekly newspaper serving the Mackinac Island Community

Volume 52, Number 21

Mackinac Island, Michigan

October 8 to December 9, 2005

## Mackinac State Historic Parks Funding Restored

By Karen Gould

Governor Jennifer Granholm returned a \$1.5 million general fund appropriation to Mackinac State Historic Parks Thursday, September 29, with her signature on Senate Bill 274. The budget bill was signed just days before the state's fiscal year began Saturday, October 1, and ended seven months of worry by administrators. The governor had removed the money in her proposed 2006 budget in February.

Mackinac State Historic Parks (MSHP) is operated by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, an agency in the Department of History, Arts and

Libraries, and includes Fort Mackinac and approximately 80 percent of the landmass on Mackinac Island, as well as Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, and Historic Mill Creek in Mackinaw City. The agency earns nearly \$4 million of its annual \$5.7 million budget through admissions, museum store sales, various fees, grants, and donations.

The Mackinac Island State Park Commission spent the summer working to get the funding restored and looking at budget cuts and fee increases in the event it was not restored. Meeting six days before the

governor restored the appropriation, commissioners implemented some of the cost savings and

income-producing plans.

"We are extremely happy that the debate over the new

budget year is behind us," said Commission Chairman Dennis

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Fort Mackinac, as seen from Round Island, is part of the Mackinac State Historic Parks and overlooks the downtown area of Mackinac Island. To the far left of the fort is the Governor's summer residence.

## Council May Consider Island Bike Helmet Law

### Grand Hotel President Appeals for Rule

Dan Musser III, president of Grand Hotel, appealed to the Mackinac Island City Council Wednesday, September 28, for a mandatory bike helmet law. Mayor Margaret Doud promised to work out a strategy for the proposed edict and how it could be enforced. Such an ordinance would also have to include visitors who bring their own bikes to the Island.

"I'd like us to consider a mandatory bicycle helmet law," said Mr. Musser. "I realize that there's a lot of difficulties in enforcement. I have asked Jennifer Bloswick of the Community Foundation to look into ways to provide either low cost or free helmets, at least for Island residents and Island employees, on an on-going basis." He also asked Council to consider making it mandatory for Island bike rental businesses to provide helmets.

"We will certainly take this further," said Mayor Doud. The process will begin with the Public Safety Committee she said.

The request came just over a week after the death of Jim Juday, the Grand Hotel pool manager, who died from injuries sustained in a bicycle accident on Cadotte Avenue at Grand Hill.

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## Scott Roguska Produces Films, Gives 'Jester' Awards

By Karen Gould

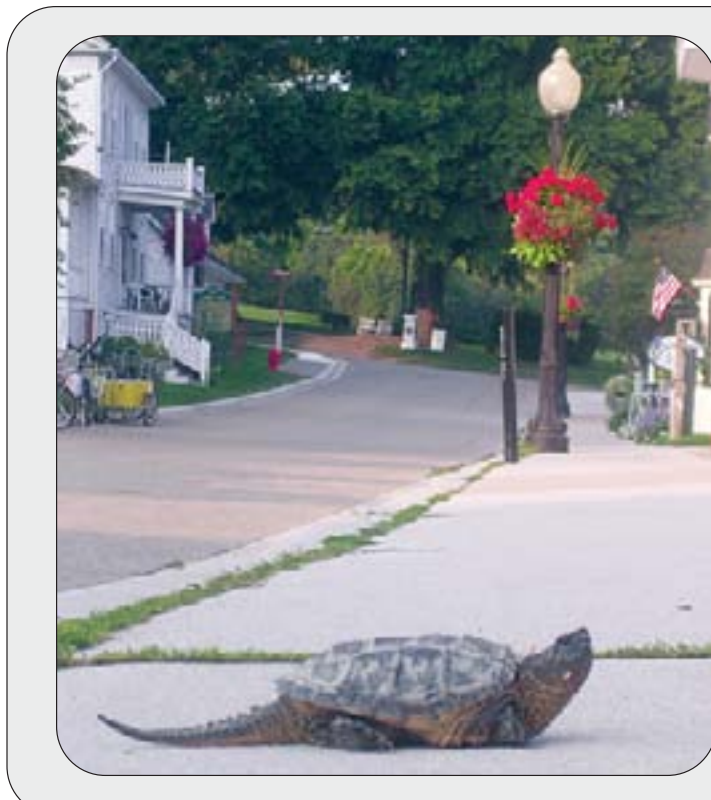
There was no red carpet in place to greet arriving guests. No paparazzi stood on the sidelines snapping photos. Not one screaming fan could be heard begging for autographs. There was no line of long black limousines to deliver stars.

The excitement and the fun of The First Annual Court Jester Studio Awards ceremony offered a no-frills, no-competition satirical approach to film awards and was the idea of 16-year-old Mackinac Island junior Scott Roguska. Approximately,

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Award winners (front row, from left) are Jane Finkel, Robert Chaffee, Lou Clark, Scott Roguska, Jesse Straight, Jeff Roguska, and Caleb Straight; (back) Devin Hunt, Tymon Horn, Thomas Rilenge, Collin Armstrong, and Austin Jaruzel. (Photograph courtesy of Chris Roguska)



### Why did the turtle cross the road?

To get to Veterans Memorial Park.

After most Island visitors had headed for dinner, this brave snapping turtle meandered across Market Street and headed into Veterans Memorial Park Tuesday, September 13.

## Stuart House Exhibits Historic Replicas

### Island Buildings Focus of Miniature Gallery Display

By Jessica Delaney

Memories, talent, and a strong sense of community have come together for one of the newest exhibits at the Stuart House museum. On display in the Stuart Gallery are four replicas of historic buildings on the Island: the Thomas Ferry School, Little Stone Church, Mission Church, and the Court House.

The replicas were built by Dale Gensman, a former builder who was struck one day by the desire to replicate, in miniature, City Hall. He set to work on this project, which eventually led to him completing miniatures of many of the Island's historic buildings.

He began work on the project a little over five years ago, but the idea had been milling around in his brain.

"Dale had been talking

about this, about doing something just for Mackinac Island for a long time," said Armand "Smi" Horn.

Mr. Horn and Mr. Gensman, long-time friends, worked together on the project. Mr. Horn worked on getting the exhibits a room at the Stuart House, while Mr. Gensman put in the man-hours of carefully reconstructing the buildings.

"I am a builder. I build and he tells me what to build," joked Mr. Gensman about his collaboration with Mr. Horn.

Along with the buildings on display at the Stuart Gallery, Mr. Gensman also has constructed miniatures of the Round Island Lighthouse, Biddle House, Benjamin Blacksmith Shop, Astor House, and the Real Estate Office. He is trying to complete all of the historic buildings on Market

Street.

All of the replicas were done based on Mr. Gensman's memories and on old photographs of the Island from when he was a child. Some of the buildings will not look identical to the buildings on the Island today, as they have undergone some renovations. For example, the front windows of Mr. Gensman's model of Little Stone Church are cut differently than the ones in existence today. There was such an attention to detail that the insides of the buildings were also recreated, down to the benches in the church and even little people attending a church service. The school is similarly outfitted inside with school benches and desks.

"I wanted everything to be as original as possible," said

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