



# Town Crier 75¢

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## No More Guessing; Island Now Has Addresses

### City Still Working Out Project Snags for Multi-Unit Buildings

By Ryan Schlehuder

Seasonal workers coming to Mackinac Island this summer will be pleased to know that it may no longer take 45 minutes on the telephone to install services like cable television or a

telephone line. This spring, Mackinac Island has address numbers assigned to buildings, like most of the rest of the coun-

try, so the frustration of describing where you are on Mackinac to an operator in Texas may be a thing of the past. The city is still

working out kinks with addressing buildings with multiple units, but, for the most part, the new addresses will make

Mackinac Island friendlier to the outside world, something its economic vitality depends on.

No longer is the Island a place without an address system.

"That is the biggest hassle for new residents and seasonal

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## Candidates Unopposed in Election

### City Incumbents Up for Vote May 2

One school board and seven city incumbents are running unopposed in the Tuesday, May 2, election.

Running unopposed for a one year term in office are Mackinac Island Mayor Margaret Doud, City Clerk Karen Lennard, Treasurer Richard Linn, Supervisor C. Ronald Dufina, and Assessor Robert Benser.

Aldermen Frank Blosswick, Jr. and Michael Hart are seeking re-election for new three-year terms on the city council.

Sara Chambers is the only school board trustee who is up for re-election this year. She is seeking another four-year term.

Election workers, who are appointed by the city clerk, will manage the election booths at the Community Hall from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. on election day. Kathi Wightman chairs the committee and serves with Betty BeDour and Jenny St. Onge.

## Jack Dehring Retires from Island School

### Inside: Superintendent Profile on Page 5

By Ryan Schlehuder

It was discussed for only a matter of minutes, however, during a regular Board of Education meeting at Mackinac Island Public Schools, Superintendent Jack Dehring announced he will be retiring July 1.

"It's just time," explained Mr. Dehring. "I'm not sure what I'll do after July 1," he told *The Town Crier*. "I am going to relax, and we'll see from there."

School Secretary Barb Fisher read aloud a statement from Mr. Dehring, who was present at the meeting, and the board approved the retirement, with regret.

"I'm not sure we want to accept this," said Trustee Patricia Martin before the board voted.

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## Historic Steeple To Get Repairs

By Karen Gould

Costs could reach \$200,000 for the steeple renovation at Ste. Anne's Catholic Church, and church leaders now are seeking help from the Mackinac Island Community Foundation, where a collection fund for donations has been established.

The steeple serves as a landmark rising toward the East Bluff and is clearly visible to visitors arriving at the harbor.

The building was constructed in 1874, and the Island parish dates to 1670.

Plans to restore the steeple began four years ago, and about \$55,000 in donations have been collected, but more is needed and time is running out to replace the rotting wood that will eventually cause more damage to the structure.

Four years ago, contractors estimated the renovation could cost up to \$200,000, and church officials may have to seek a loan from the Marquette Diocese if donations fall short of renovation costs.

Two funds have been established with the Mackinac Island Community Foundation, said Executive Director Jennifer Blosswick, a pass-through account to collect money for the steeple restoration, and an endowed fund to collect donations earmarked for the perpetual care of the church building.

"Ste. Anne's Church is one of the most historic and important buildings on Mack-



Money is being sought to renovate the steeple of Ste. Anne's Catholic Church, which rises 120 feet above Main Street. The building was constructed in 1874 and serves more than 70 registered Mackinac Island parishioners year-around. During the summer months, visitors are drawn to services at the parish, which is more than 300 years old.

inac Island," she said, "and I am delighted the Mackinac Island Communication Foundation is going to be assisting them with this worthwhile project."

Mike Gamble of M.P. Gamble Construction has been asked by the parish to provide a new estimate for the

cost of the renovation. He is hampered, he said, because the steeple is about 120 feet high, and difficult to reach.

The steeple, itself, is structurally sound, he said, but he could see rotting wood a few years ago when he was replacing some aluminum siding

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## County Funds Extra Island Police Officer

By Ryan Schlehuder

Mackinac County will give \$15,241.92 to the City of Mackinac Island to hire a police officer for six months, because, one commissioner contends, there is no sheriff patrol on the Island.

Mackinac Island councilman Armand Horn approached the county commission at its regular meeting Thursday, March 23, asking for funding to hire an additional police officer to help with patrol on the Island, especially needed during the busy summer months. Mr. Horn said the city funded a Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement (SANE) officer to help patrol the Island last year. The new officer, he said, would be like a SANE offi-

cer but would work under the supervision of Island Police Chief William Lenaghan.

Chief Lenaghan told *The Town Crier* that the new officer will wear a city police uniform but will also address any county needs or issues that arise.

Commissioner Joe Durm pointed out that the Mackinac County Sheriff's Department patrols county roads throughout the county but not on Mackinac Island, where there are no county roads. Deputies also do not patrol in St. Ignace, the county's only other city. The sheriff's marine division, however, does patrol Mackinac Island's harbor and inspects boats there, as it does in other county harbors, and the county jail houses

Mackinac Island's offenders.

The gift to Mackinac Island was made without consultation with Sheriff Scott Strait, who has been unable to convince commissioners to fully staff the jail.

This summer, Chief Lenaghan and his assistant, Lieutenant Pete Komblevitz, will have a staff of four full-time officers, four summer officers, five people to control traffic, and the new officer provided by the county. Two Michigan State Police troopers are also assigned to Mackinac Island during the summers.

Most of the department staff should be in place by May, said Chief Lenaghan, who is sifting through 171 applications for the four available summer positions.

## State Park Rents Dock, Geary House

By Karen Gould

The Matthew Geary House on Market Street and half of the old Coast Guard dock behind the Visitor's Center are being rented this summer by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission in an effort to recover about \$200,000 in state appropriations the park will lose in October. At their March 22 meeting in Lansing, commissioners approved leasing the Geary House from May 15 through October 31, 2006, for \$15,000 to Pamela and Mark Bonter of Traverse City and to rent the east side of the Visitor's Center dock for \$5,400 to Mike Young, a West Bluff cottager from Frankenmuth. The park will reserve the west side of the dock for its own use and for moorage by law enforcement agencies, such as the Mackinac County Sheriff's Department marine patrol and the U.S. Coast Guard. The Visitor's Center once housed the Coast Guard rescue service. The Geary House rental will generate about \$2,730 a month over the 5.5-month lease. It is next to the Beaumont Memorial and was formerly occupied by Mackinac State Historic Parks Director Phil Porter and his family.

The rentals are two revenue sources identified by the commission to make up for state budget cuts that were threatened last year and implemented for the 2007 fiscal year budget that begins October 1. The agency will lose \$200,000 of its \$1.5 million annual appropriation under the governor's state budget proposal, which is now making its way through the legislature.

The \$200,000 cut for next year's budget is the amount commissioners identified last year as money it could raise by increasing or implementing fees for park use and services. Last year, the governor had proposed eliminating the entire appropriation, but the legislature subsequently restored it in full.

The proposed cut from next year's budget was viewed, relatively, as a relief by Commission Chairman Dennis Cawthorne.

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