



Town Crier

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School Board Approves Schrock Contract for Top Post

By Leslie Rott

Dr. Roger Schrock's contract was approved by the Mackinac Island Board of Education at a special meeting Wednesday, August 8, officially making him Superintendent of Mackinac Island Public School. He will be paid \$85,000 a year, with an additional \$3,500 payment for the first year for relocation expenses. Dr. Schrock will also receive an annuity in the amount of \$7,000 per year in lieu of a retirement plan with the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement

System (MPSERS).

The Superintendent will work 213 days per year, with 10 days vacation. He will also be allowed seven sick days and

five personal days with pay.

The contract is for three years, with a cost of living allowance, although either Dr. Schrock or the school board

may terminate the contract after the first year.

"Welcome aboard, sir," President Ben Mosley said to Dr. Schrock after school board

members signed the contract.

Trustees Leanne Brodeur and Jason St. Onge were absent from the meeting, but signed

**Please turn to page 11*

Speer Assists Disabled Roger Blough Through Straits



Passing through the north channel between Mackinac and Round islands Wednesday, August 9, was an atypical sight. The 1,000-foot freighter *M/V Edgar B. Speer* was assisting the 858-foot freighter *M/V Roger Blough* through the Straits of Mackinac. The *Blough* lost its rudder August 5 while navigating the St. Marys River, according to the U.S. Coast Guard in Sault Ste. Marie, and was being escorted to Lake Michigan for repair. Both freighters are in the U.S. Steel Great Lakes fleet. In this photograph, taken from Mackinac Island, the *Blough* is behind the *Speer*, its forward pilot house visible just in front of the *Speer's* bow and its smokestack just ahead of the *Speer's* aft pilot house. Behind the freighters is the tug *Mary Page Hannah* of the Selvick Towing Corporation, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.

'No Sale' Most Offers Rejected at Mall Auction

By Karen Gould

Buyers seeking a bargain soon learned otherwise when owners rejected all bids for the retail units in the Mackinaw Crossings auction Monday, August 7, except those offered on properties being sold as absolute (no minimum bid). During the public auction Monday evening, sellers turned their backs on approximately \$6.3 million in offers for the retail units being sold as condominium properties and also turned down an offer for \$533,771.62 for the century-old train depot building now used as a restaurant.

The shopping mall sits on 10 acres of land one block south of Central Avenue in Mackinaw City and is owned by Bill Shepler of Mackinaw City, Mike Ryan of Detroit, and Jimmy Wehr of Springfield, Missouri.

When the sale was announced one month ago, Mr. Shepler told *Town Crier*, "It's time for the independent individual shop owners to own their stores."

According to the Cheboygan County Equalization Department's Web site, the 2006 assessed value for the property was \$7,336,700, which would set the estimated market value for Mackinaw Crossings at more than \$14.6 million.

Of the 52 retail shops, the current owners accepted bids on 14 units. Those retail condominiums were advertised to be sold as "absolute" properties, meaning they went to the highest bidder with no limitations or reserve prices imposed on the units. The stores averaged 1,100 square feet and the average price paid was \$182.40 a square foot (an average of \$200,640 a store), fetching the owners a total of \$2,475,897.60. Additionally, a 10 percent buyers premium

**Please turn to page 12*

Questions Linger as Island Adjusts To First Address System

By Ryan Schlehuber

As Mackinac Island's transition into an address system slowly progresses, and as residents and business owners work to comply with the new address ordinance, several questions continue to linger.

What are the addresses for?

Not for postal service mail or bulk mail, say city administrators. Although it may assist delivery people to find the appropriate house, the address system is being implemented to qualify Mackinac Island for Mackinac County's enhanced 9-1-1 emergency response system.

Addresses will be matched with telephone numbers so emergency dispatchers in Negaunee know instantly from where a call is being made. Fax numbers and Internet telephone lines are also keyed into the system. Mayor Margaret Doud's assistant, Kelly Bean, said property

owners are being notified that post office box numbers will continue to be used for mailing, although package services, like UPS and Federal Express, will use the physical addresses.

What is the Island's current emergency response system?

Mackinac Island now uses basic 9-1-1, which means a caller can dial 9-1-1 and reach a Negaunee dispatcher, but that caller must explain who they are, what their emergency is, and direct emergency responders to where they are at. This is difficult for visitors and seasonal workers, who may not know where they are.

Mackinac Island joined the county's 9-1-1 system in October 2002, three years after the rest of the county did, and only after Michigan State Police would no longer provide 24-hour dispatch service. Since 2002, Island property owners have been paying a 9-1-1 surcharge of \$2.21 per telephone line per month, the same rate other county communities pay for enhanced 9-1-1.

The rate will not change when the enhanced 9-1-1 system is up and running on Mackinac Island, said Bryce Tracey, Mackinac County's 9-1-1 coordinator.

What are the benefits of having enhanced 9-1-1 on the Island?

Island emergency response units, such as the fire department, ambulance, and police, have long relied on familiarity and landmarks when responding to emergency calls. Today, relying on familiarity alone is too

**Please turn to page 11*

Kids Share Good News With Puppets of Praise



Mackinac Island Bible Church's Puppets of Praise ministry performed an upbeat show at Windermere Point Monday, August 7. Children coordinated puppets to the music of five energetic songs, including "God Bless the USA" and contemporary Christian music. Christi Dupre, who narrated, said that the purpose of the show is to help spread a message while offering children a chance to have fun. The Puppets of Praise group practices every week at Mackinac Island Public School and is a non-denominational program. Performing Monday's show were (back, from left) Jessie Straight, Maggie Chambers, Kate Dupre, and Robert Chaffee; (front) Diana Dupre, Hailey Armstrong, Adrienne Rilenge, Michael Swain, and Amelia Roe.

Puppets of Praise, a youth Christian group from Mackinac Island that performs small skits with puppets, entertained residents at the Mackinac Straits Hospital Long Term Care Facility in St. Ignace Monday, July 17.

Puppets of Praise is a ministry of the

Mackinac Island Bible Church.

It is scheduled to perform at The Cannonball at British Landing Thursday, August 17, at 1 p.m., in Marquette Park Saturday, August 26, at 2 p.m., and at Conklin Heritage Park in Mackinaw City Sunday, August 27, at 2 p.m.