

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Island Tourism Bureau Adheres to City Ordinance on Short-Term Renting

To the Editor:
 While reading the September 9 edition of the *Mackinac Island Town Crier*, the article, "City to Seek Court Injunction Against Rent Violators," by Karen Gould, states Councilman Mike Hart commented "...that illegal short term rentals are getting cooperation from the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau, which advertises the units in direct competition with its other members."
 This comment is untrue. Mr. Hart and I had the opportunity to chat about the situation recently.

He was unaware that the Tourism Bureau has on several occasions brought illegal renters and/or those in violation of city ordinances to the attention of Council and/or staff working for the City of Mackinac Island. The Tourism Bureau is working hard to assist the City in this regard.
 We include in our Visitors Guide and online website (www.mackinacisland.org) the following comment regarding rentals to better prepare tourists:
 "Because there are minimum stay requirements set forth by the Mackinac Island State Park

Commission and/or the City of Mackinac Island, many properties are subject to nightly, weekly, bi-weekly, and/or monthly minimum stays. For rates and minimum stay requirements, please contact each property directly."
 While it is not the function of the Tourism Bureau to enforce city ordinances to any business, we are acting in a proactive fashion for the common good of Mackinac Island.
 Would it be possible to have online access to City Ordinances? In this way, the busi-

ness owners, our members and others looking to operate a rental business on Mackinac Island would have an easily accessible resource.
 Without clear communication between the City of Mackinac Island and the business community, ideas such as those expressed in the *Town Crier* cause unnecessary stress for all of us.
 I would like to thank Mr. Hart for our conversation addressing this situation as it was brought to our attention that there is a perception issue at hand. I would

hope that by writing this letter, council is aware that the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau staff, board of directors, and membership support the City of Mackinac Island and its efforts to have an ordinance-abiding business community.
 Mary McGuire Slevin
 Executive Director
 Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau

Editor's Note: Mackinac Island ordinances, at least through July 2004, are posted at municode.com.

Town Crier Newspapers, Fudge, Community Support Are Much Appreciated

To the Editor:
 I wanted to express my thanks and appreciation to the community of Mackinac Island. During my 2005 deployment to Iraq, the people of Mackinac Island were extremely supportive of me while away from friends and family.
 I was sent many care packages, well wishes, e-mails, and even artwork and the latest "gossip" from the students of Mackinac Island Public School.
 While there, I shared JoAnn's Fudge with my fellow soldiers, and wallpapered my small room with paintings from Mrs. Cynthia Ivey Abitz's art

class. I also was able to keep up on Mackinac Island news by receiving the *Mackinac Island Town Crier*. And almost daily, I received newspaper articles and cards from Chuk and Marcia Kleber.
 I would like to thank the Trinity Church and Mackinac Island Bible Church members for their packages, letters, and postcards. And special thanks to Ste. Anne's for their recognition of my deployment at their Christmas Eve Service 2004, and for leaving a candle burning in their sanctuary until I returned home.
 Also, a really big thanks to

the Mackinac Island Fire Department and American Legion Post #299 for their support and for them allowing me to participate in the Fourth of July (2005) fire truck ride to the school.
 I could never find the right words to express my gratitude to this great community for all their prayers and love, but hopefully this explains a little of what you all mean to me and for what you did for me. To those who I did not mention, who kept in touch through e-mails, letters, and packages, I would like to say thank you a thousand times. You know who

you are.
 To those of you that subscribe to this newspaper from afar, experience this town not only for the beauty that surrounds it, but also for the beauty that lies within it.
 Thank you Mackinac Island, you are the greatest community

and I am proud to call you my hometown.
 Currently I'm back to work for the Michigan Department of Corrections and completely enjoying "normal" life again in Greenville.
 SPC Sunshine Woodard
 Greenville

For the Record...

In the Looking Back column in the August 23 issue of the *Town Crier*, a photograph of Herbie Chapman described him as posing during the winter carnival in 1939-40. Long-time reader Mary Duffina of Inverness, Florida, informs us that he was dressed for the 1941 Mackinac Lives Again Festival.
 Also, Island Emergency Medical Technician Pam Lach said that the ambulance is not being permanently parked at Station Two near Surrey Hill, in response to a *Mackinac Island Town Crier* article in the September 9 issue.
 During discussion at a city public safety committee meeting, it was said that the ambulance would be parked at Station Two for easier and quicker access to EMTs who live in Harrisonville. EMT Rick Linn said the ambulance service is considering parking the ambulance permanently at Station Two but has not yet done so. The ambulance was parked there temporarily over the Labor Day weekend.

Graduate Reflects on Mackinac College Experience

To the Editor:
 In the spring of 1965, in my mid-30s, I accepted an invitation to join the support staff at Mackinac College, working on the supply vessel, *Beaver*, and other boats.
 The following four years were a profound turning point in my life. I had the great privilege of being part of an amazing experiment in higher education, and of watching the students as they wrestled with the unique challenges which the College presented.

many ways like a huge family, and, like families everywhere, they had days of contention and misunderstanding, days of triumph and moments of epiphany.
 Through unforeseeable financial difficulties, the College was forced to close its doors in 1970, having flourished only four years and graduated just one class. But those young men and women, some of whom were only at Mackinac one or two years, proceeded to lead lives of service and accomplishment that stand unique in the annals of alumni rosters. That one graduating class published the only yearbook of the College. It closes with this grateful assessment:
 "Most colleges give you an education for the rest of your life: Mackinac gave us a life for the rest of our education."
 One remarkable result of that


one brief shining moment: Every four or five years since 1980 they have returned for a weekend to the Island they love, to reconnect, to share their lives and memories, to focus again on the implications of the College motto, "To Learn, To Live, To Lead."
 As you may know, Mr. Editor, another of those "family" reunions is just around the corner, in October, at the site of their alma mater now known as Mission Point Resort.
 I would urge you to set aside a little time to be with them, to listen and absorb first hand the vibrations, the magnetism which draws them together. Your friend Frank Straus might find it instructive as well. As for him, I have this comment:
 Those who would denigrate hope, who would sneer at the spark of inspiration that was ignited all those years ago and burns yet today, remind me of the old Arabic proverb, "The village dogs may bark, but the camel train moves on."
 Bill McLaughry
 Castle Rock, Colorado

They came from a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures. Some were already involved in Moral Re-Armament, some had heard nothing about it and cared less. Some had many siblings, some had none. Some were privileged, some deeply deprived. But over time, they became in

Thanks for Good Island Coverage

To the Editor:
 I just wanted to say thanks for making the *Mackinac Island Town Crier* available to those of us not living on the Island. We've been getting the paper for more than three years and it's great to keep up with what's going on up there.
 Most summers as a child we'd spend on the Island. My dad had a boat and we would cruise the Great Lakes on vacation, sometimes spending a week on the Island.
 My wife and I spent time there on our honeymoon, and this year celebrated our 30th anniversary by visiting again August 28.
 Also, a special thanks to Jeannette Doud for telling us about all the people on the Island. You make us feel like we live next door.
 While on the Island, we had lunch at the Yankee Rebel Tavern, and the club sandwich was awesome. It took awhile

(two beers), but I finished it. Our waiter, Pablo, was great.
 Thanks again to all, see you next year.
 Jim and Sally Davis
 Saginaw



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7529 Market St., P.O. Box 532, Mackinac Island, MI 49757
 Telephone: (906) 847-3788
www.MackinacIslandTownCrier.com
 For business and subscription matters, phone (906) 643-9150

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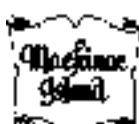
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