

Three Candidates Vie for Two Seats on City Council May 8

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prices could drop, and so would tax revenue to the city.

Mr. Wightman serves on the Master Plan Committee and notes that while the group has not met over the winter, "a fair amount is going on behind the scenes," including work on maps that will show the potential for future development on the Island. With the maps in place, he said, the committee can address street traffic concerns and future utility needs.

Sewer capacity on the Island is limited and residents should be given the opportunity to vote if the facility should be increased in size, he said, because "they will be the ones to pay for it."

He said other utilities, including electric and cable, already have been designed to handle more capacity.

Once the master plan revisions are complete, the ordinance committee will be able to review ordinances to insure they reflect the desires expressed in the master plan. He said ordinances should be fair and enforceable.

"A master plan is never done," he said. "As soon as we get this one done, it probably will be time to start on the next revision."

Sam Barnwell

Finding a way to increase tourism, said Sam Barnwell, is one of the big issues the Island now faces. The Island has many attractive features, and finding a way to convey that message to tourists will translate into increased job opportunities for year-around residents and, ultimately, will enhance services the city provides to the community, he said.

The natural beauty of the area, hiking and riding trails, great golf courses, rich history, well designed attractions, great dining experiences, and a wide variety of sleeping accommodations can be found on the Island, he said. Communicating these characteristics along with the Island's emergency service capabilities, the quality of care at the medical center, and the low crime rate, he said, make the Island "a very attractive destination."

"We have to focus on ways to make it more welcoming for tourists," said Mr. Barnwell, "and, thereby, enhance our community by this support."

Mr. Barnwell holds a bachelor's degree in business, with an emphasis on tourism and hospitality, from the University of Denver. He is serving his second year on the board of the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau. He recently completed requirements for a paramedic license and he has a culinary degree from Grand Rapids Community College.

He spent summers on the Island visiting his grandparents, Sam and Margaret McIntire, and his mother, Becki Barnwell,



Margaret Doud
Mayor



Rick Linn
Treasurer



Ron Dufina
Supervisor



Karen Lennard
Clerk

also spent her summers on the Island while growing up. Mr. Barnwell moved to the Island in 2003 and has worked as the night manager at his family's Iroquois Hotel.

He joined the Mackinac Island Ambulance Corps as an emergency medical technician in 2004, and organized a successful fund-raising dinner at which \$92,000 was pledged to replace the Island's 20-year old ambulance.

More affordable, single-family housing remains a concern and is necessary to maintain a viable, year-around community, said Mr. Barnwell. While small steps have been taken in that direction, when compared to the number of condominium units and seasonal homes that have been built, he said, it is "barely a drop in the bucket."

Employee housing, said Mr. Barnwell, is a sensitive issue in the community. Seasonal employee housing is intermixed with single-family homes. He suggests that employers remind staff that the Island also is a community of families.

"It is important the employers uphold their responsibility to the community by insisting that their employees behave properly and respect their neighbors' property and quality of life," he said. "Most employers try. It's an ongoing process."

Housing development, whether single-family homes, employee housing, or condominium development, has an impact on the Island's sewer plant capacity, he said. If property owners who now have a septic system convert to the Island's sewer system, the current facility would not be sufficient to meet the needs of the community, he said.

Island residents, and not just city council, should decide

through a vote if the sewer facility should be expanded, Mr. Barnwell said.

Decisions made on community growth and development, he said, are guided by the master plan. Once completed, the revised master plan will address the impact of development on future tourism, high-density housing, and harbor development. Good communication between the city, business community, state park, and residents is essential in providing a master plan that reflects the direction that Island residents intend for the future of the Island, said Mr. Barnwell.

OTHER CITY OFFICES

Margaret Doud, mayor
Margaret Doud was reared on the Island and, until the ninth grade, she attended Thomas

Ferry School before transferring to St. Mary's Academy in Monroe. Following graduation, she attended Central Michigan University, where she earned a degree in education. She taught kindergarten at the school here and was appointed to city council in 1974. A year later she was elected mayor.

She helped organize the Mackinac Island Community Foundation and continues to serve on the board of directors.

She and her mother, Jeannette Doud, operate the Windermere Hotel and the Dog House snack bar.

"It is an honor to serve all residents of the Island," she said, "and I will listen to their wishes."

Karen Lennard, city clerk

As the city clerk, Karen Lennard is responsible for processing payroll and paying bills. She also prepares the agenda for City Council, records Council meeting minutes, and handles correspondence on Council's behalf. Other duties include preparing temporary motor vehicle permits, trailer permits, and business license applications for Council's consideration, and running city, school, state, and national elections.

"We can have as few as one election per year, or, as in my first year, there were five elections in nine months," she said.

"It is an honor to be the clerk," said Mrs. Lennard, who finds working with Island busi-

ness owners, the mayor, Council members, and city staff a positive experience.

"There is always someone able and willing to help, if help is warranted," she said.

Mrs. Lennard and her husband, Gary, have been Island residents since the fall of 2000. Before moving here, they owned businesses in Monroe, where she ran a travel agency and he practiced law.

When she first arrived on the Island, Mrs. Lennard worked part-time at the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau as an assistant to then director Len Trankina.

"I feel like I'm being an asset to the community," said Mrs. Lennard, "because I help every single person I can."

Rick Linn, treasurer

Rick Linn has a degree in accounting and is one term paper away from a Master of Business Administration degree. He also is the Island's only paramedic.

Mr. Linn has lived on the Island since 1993 and, before that, he worked summers here for 15 years. He grew up in St. Louis, Michigan, and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Central Michigan University. His graduate work also is at CMU.

"I never thought I'd use my accounting degree on Mackinac Island," said Mr. Linn.

He first was elected in 2005

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