



# Town Crier 75¢

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## Michilimackinac Pageant Is Tourism Indicator

### Event Usually Draws Crowds of 4,000 to Mackinaw City for Memorial Weekend

By Eric Fish

It's no secret to Michiganders that the state's economy hasn't been strong in recent years. While gas prices have gone up, budgets have been sliced, and jobs have been cut, giving new meaning to the term "blue collar."

Citizens are more limited in their spending and leisure travel, leading to an overall decrease in state tourism. With Memorial Day weekend ap-

proaching and gas prices expected to rise even higher, this weekend's Fort Michilimackinac Pageant in Mackinaw City will be one of the first indicators of northern Michigan tourism this summer.

"That is the day of reckoning," said Michilimackinac Pageant Victor Osborne of the weekend holiday. "This is definitely what they check their businesses out with. This is always used as a monitor."

## Bicycle Safety Is One Focus of Island Police

By Eric Fish

If there's one thing that Police Chief William Lenaghan can't emphasize enough about bicycles on Mackinac Island, it's safety.

Each summer, thousands of tourists pour onto Mackinac Island for a getaway from big-city life, renting bicycles from Island shops and taking to the streets to enjoy the scenery. Sometimes, the bicycles interfere with horse and pedestrian traffic, a dangerous situation

here.

"I think the biggest assumption people make is, because it's an island and there's no vehicles, that they aren't going to have an accident, or you don't have to be as careful aiming your bike as you do a car," Chief Lenaghan said.

But accidents do happen, even in a unique place like Mackinac Island, where cars and trucks are replaced by

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But if Mackinaw City business owners are banking on a busy tourist season, the Fort Michilimackinac Pageant should offer some hope.

Weather permitting, the three-day event normally brings in more than 1,000 people a day, Mr. Osborne said, and usually totals about 4,000 people.

Mr. Osborne said the number has been increasing over the years.

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## — Memorial Day Observances Planned —

Join Mackinac Island residents and visitors for one of the services and ceremonies that will be taking place at the following locations:

### Veterans Memorial Park

Monday, May 28, at 11:30 a.m. in the park, Mayor Doud and WWII veteran Bill Porter will speak at a wreath-laying ceremony.

### Fort Mackinac

At the fort Monday, May 28, soldiers will conduct a tribute to veterans who served at the Island fortress at 8:30 a.m. by marching from the north sally port entrance to the fort along Garrison Road to the Post Cemetery.

### St. Anne's Church

Following the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass May 27, parish members may walk to the cemetery for a blessing of the graves.

### Trinity Church

There will be a special Memorial Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. in the church May 27, to recognize the deceased



Chief of Police Bill Lenaghan raises the American flag at Veterans Memorial Park across from the Post Office in preparation for Memorial Day services Sunday, May 27, and Monday, May 28.

in the memories of all who attend.

### Little Stone Church

The church will begin its season with a special Memorial Day Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 27. Emphasis will be placed on

veterans and current active duty military personnel with a special procession and presentation of a memorial wreath and special patriotic music. The Reverend Vincent W. Carroll, pastor of Little Stone Church and retired Navy chaplain, will preach the sermon.

## Work Begins on Mission Condo Project

By Karen Gould

Foundation work began less than a week after Mackinac Island Planning Commissioners approved a new condominium development in the Mission during their Tuesday, May 15, meeting. Once completed, the project will include three two-story homes on property used as a horse corral by the 4-H Club and the Mackinac Horsemen's Association.

Commissioners approved the condominium development and the construction of one of three homes on the site, pending architectural review. By city ordinance, the home does not require architectural review, being 1,500 square feet in size, although the final decision to submit the plans to city architect Rick Neumann of Petoskey rests with the commission. The ordinance stipulates that homes 3,500 square feet or more must be sent through the architectural review process.

Commissioners also agreed to allow excavation work to begin for the one home, although construction work was not authorized until the architectural review process is complete.

Construction of the two remaining homes are expected to come before commissioners

this fall.

Property owner Robert G. Benser of Mission Street Properties presented the site proposal for the condominium project. A barn, that sits on an adjacent lot and is owned by Brad Chambers, houses the horses that roam in the corral on Mr. Benser's property.

Both Mr. Benser and Mr. Chambers have made the land and barn available to the 4-H Club and the Horsemen's Association for their horses.

When the development is complete, the land will hold

three houses and result in a smaller corral for the horses. Once the first home is built, the number of horses that can use the corral area at one time will be reduced. Rather than turning out five to six horses into the corral, Leanne Brodeur, director of the Mackinac Horsemen's Association, later told the *Town Crier*, three or four horse will be able to meander about in the fenced area.

"We just will rotate them more often," she said, adding

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With helmets in check, Grand Rapids residents Joe and Carolyn Carr prepare for a day of cycling around Mackinac Island Tuesday, May 22. The Carrs are two of several thousand visitors who come to the Island in the spring and summer to ride bicycles.



Horses meander about their corral Monday, May 21, ignoring foundation work that has begun on the property. Ground preparation for one of the homes can be seen near Mission Street. Three condominium housing units are planned for the lot.