

Students Honored for Academic Effort

By Sean Ely

Mackinac Island Public School honored its academic and athletic achievers during the "Anchor Awards" Tuesday, May 15. Students from eighth through twelfth grade were recognized before family, friends, teachers, and coaches.

"The parents are really behind our kids, academically and athletically," said Superintendent Roger Schrock. "We have great turnouts at all our events and it really showed tonight."

"It's great and it's fun to be recognized for doing so much in school and playing every sport," said junior Woody Beardsley, who won awards for mathematics, science, honor roll, soccer, basketball, track and field, and golf. "Hopefully, all of this will help me improve my work ethic so I can work hard in college and the rest of high school, finishing up with my senior year next year."

Commitment is a trait that Dr. Schrock believes is passed from the parents to their children. He believes parents on Mackinac are good role models for the children.

"We truly have a great work ethic on the part of our kids," he said. "The people on the Island work really hard, and it shows with the kids. It carries over into the young people."

"It shows that we've accomplished a lot and it shows the efforts everyone put in," said Junior volleyball player Karlena Mosley of the awards ceremony, "but I'm ready to be done. I'm ready for the next sports season to start and for the summer to begin too."

Dr. Schrock said he is proud of the students on Mackinac.

"We have students who get excellent grades and are recognized by their peers, for example, the Northern Lights League and all the other groups around that honor young people for their

hard work," he said. "They have a good attitude and they're fun to be with, and they make my work really wonderful."

The school prepares its students for college, he said, and because of this, a large percentage have received college degrees, becoming successful both on and off the Island.

"Most of our kids go on to college," Dr. Schrock said. "They have different interests and different things they aspire to. They become successful people in the community or they move away and have a career somewhere else. They are very successful."

Mr. Beardsley has his dreams mapped out, with the location penciled in at the moment. He hopes to continue the school's tradition of success and pride.

"I'm actually really excited to go into the engineering program at Michigan State, and I'm also looking at Michigan Tech," he

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Chris West, the new assistant director for Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau, will work with Director Mary Slevin in creating new Mackinac Island events aimed at niche markets. "The buzz word in today's market is cultural tourism," he said.

West Is New Employee of Island Tourism Bureau

Chris West is the new assistant director at Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau and will work closely with Director Mary Slevin in promoting Island events throughout the year. One of his long-term goals is to work with neighboring communities to promote the Island and Straits area.

"The buzz word in today's market is cultural tourism," said Mr. West. "I am working to promote the Island to new markets and get the areas around us, like the St. Ignace and Mackinac City visitors bureaus, and the

chambers of commerce to get more people into the area."

Originally from Saginaw and now residing on Mackinac Island and in Harbor Springs, Mr. West said he will work to maintain the events planned throughout this summer, then begin to work on new events and ideas to promote the Island's natural resources, historical architecture, shipwrecks in the area, and arts, in the off-season.

"There is more than 300 years of American architecture on the Island, and that is one of the many things that we can really promote," he said.

Mr. West started at the Tourism Bureau Tuesday, May 1. He earned a master's degree in park, recreation, and tourism resources at Michigan State University in 2005. He has a bachelor's degree in environmental conservation and marketing from Northern Michigan University, which he earned in 2000.

Mr. West is also the founder and president of the Waugoshance Lighthouse Preservation Society, a nonprofit organization he started in 1998 to preserve and promote the historic lighthouse.

The lighthouse, he said, will be featured on a U.S. stamp next year and will be the featured lighthouse at Alpena's 12th annual Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival in October.

No stranger to Mackinac Island, Mr. West is a former bar manager at Seabiscuit & Grog and Pub Oyster Bar, and also has worked on the dock at Arnold Transit Company in

Planning Board Reviews Additions

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an easement area. Victor Callewaert sought commission approval for the fence, which will run perpendicular to Astor Street.

An 8-foot by 10-foot wood storage shed to store tables and chairs at Stonecliffe was approved. The district is zoned hotel-boarding house. Dr. Bacon made the request.

Hubbard's Annex cottage

owners Lorna and Francis Straus received approval for a 400-square-foot addition to the kitchen in the former Bodak house, pending architectural review. The decision was based on the overall size of the house, which is more than 3,500 square feet. Commissioners did allow digging a foundation because of the city's looming deadline for temporary motor vehicle per-

mits needed for excavating equipment.

Plans for a wrap-around deck on a house owned by Ben Mosley in Harrisonville was sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals, because the request exceeds variance requirements. The request for the deck was made by Lorna Kolatski, who lives in the house.

The deck would only allow a 3 foot, 8 inch clearance to the lot line. A 5-foot setback is required to provide room for the fire department to move around a structure.

"I think it's important we preserve the integrity of setbacks," said Commissioner Mary Dufina.

The planning commission will meet Tuesday, June 12, at 3 p.m. on the second floor of Community Hall on Market Street.

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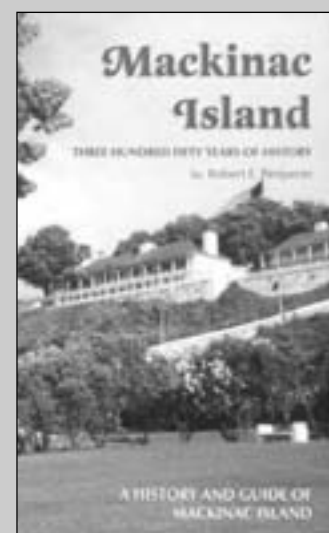
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