

Island State Park Commission Responds to Lansing's Budget Cuts

By Karen Gould

Public programs and services will not be cut at local historical sites, even though the Mackinac Island State Park Commission will lose \$14,000 in state funding in a new budget agreed to by Governor Jennifer Granholm and the Michigan Legislature and signed by the governor Wednesday, June 6.

The \$14,000 cut from the park's \$1.5 million state allocation was anticipated by commissioners in March, giving staff time to plan for the reduced funding. Cuts will be made "across the board to general expenditures," Phil Porter, director of Mackinac State Historic Parks, told the *Town Crier* Wednesday, June 6. Savings also will be made in staff reductions by not filling a vacated position, and through retirements, he said.

"The main thing is we will be able to make these cuts without impacting any public programs or services," said Mr.

Porter.

A portion of the agreement that affects the commission's operating budget is contained in Senate Bill 436. The bill, passed both the Senate and House of Representatives May 25.

On Mackinac Island, the commission oversees Fort Mackinac, Mackinac Island State Park, which covers 83% of the Island, and several downtown museums. Mackinac City sites include Colonial Michilimackinac, Historic Mill Creek, and Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse.

The Mackinac Island State Park Commission operates as an independent agency in the Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries.

The commission operates the historic facilities with a \$6.3 million budget, with funding coming from the state's allocation, admissions revenue, museum store sales, various fees, grants, and donations.

At the same time the gover-

nor and legislators were negotiating the budget cut in Lansing, commissioners were holding their first meeting of the summer season in Mackinac City.

Mackinac Island State Park Commission, like all state departments, has been operating under 10 executive directives since March 29, said Mr. Porter, in his report to the board. The directives are in place until the end of the fiscal year, September 30, and include restrictions on hiring and purchasing. Park staff was granted approval to purchase items required for operations.

Park staff has been working on requests from the budget office, including making plans for a state government shutdown.

"It's like discussing funeral arrangements," said Commissioner Frank Kelley.

"Our entire income generating bond program cannot legally be shutdown," said Mr. Porter of the argument staff made to the budget office to

keep park operations open. "Our revenue bond program is funded by loans we have received by bond holders, and our obligation is to pay those bond holders on a regular basis from the income generated at our sites. We are legally bound to operate our sites and to operate them fully to make sure we secure the income."

The state's precarious financial situation has Island residents concerned over continued operation at the Mackinac Island Airport, said Mackinac Island Alderman Armand

"Smi" Horn, who attended the meeting.

The airport constitutes health and safety issues, said Mr. Porter. Park staff has asked the state budget office to add the operation of the facility to the necessity list.

The airport serves as the only transportation source on or off the Island when boats stop running during the winter months.

The state park operates the airport, with technical advice and support from the Bureau of Aeronautics.

Council: Vehicle Permits Get OK

* Continued from page 1

In a related matter, the Red Cross was also granted a temporary motor vehicle permit to park behind the Stuart House during the blood drive.

Two other temporary motor vehicle permits were granted, both to Mission Point Resort to fill propane tanks on June 12 and June 19.

Lee May was granted permission by Council for use of Community Hall Wednesday and Thursday nights to teach a ballroom dancing class.

Boy Scout Troop 623 of Stevensville was granted a temporary trailer permit to transport supplies to the Scout Barracks the week of July 14.

MVC Enterprises, Jim Nelson Photography, Maxwell Paving Stone, and Rainbow Seamless Gutters were approved as off-Island businesses for the 2007 season in addition to the approval of five new Island businesses. Millies on Main, Cherry, One Hundred Ninety Steps, Mission Point Resort Welcome Center, and Back in Balance were recognized as the new Island businesses.

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Dan Mulhern's Leadership Book Reflects on 'Eternal Ideas'

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Michigan, and as the father of three children, Mr. Mulhern's leadership skills have continued to evolve with time.

"There's a lot of life situations in there," he said, referring to the book. "There are people I've coached. There's certainly a

bunch of stories about our kids and raising them, and stories from Jennifer's political life."

Aside from life experiences, "Everyday Leadership" is based on what he has learned from others, said Mr. Mulhern. From his parents to teachers, priests, and professors, Mr. Mulhern offers stories that attempt to shape the individual.

"It's a very readable book, I think, in the sense that I try to write pieces that you can read at different times," he said. "It's really a very timeless book. It's not something that's going to get stale. The ideas are sort of eternal ideas."

While Mr. Mulhern is a Democrat, like his wife, he said the book will appeal to all polit-

ical persuasions.

"There's nothing partisan about it," Mr. Mulhern said. "The stories may have a context and may be told through my eyes, but issues of leadership in culture cut across political views. Democrats and Republicans don't care what their bosses' political strengths are, but they care a lot about being treated with respect and about growing and learning on the job. That's what it's really about."

Originally, 2,500 copies were printed by the University of Michigan Press, but "Everyday Leadership" is now in its second printing.

Mr. Mulhern said that he would like to begin work on a few more books when time permits.

He and Governor Granholm arrived on Mackinac Island Thursday, May 31, for the annual Detroit Regional Chamber

conference at Grand Hotel. The family, he says, enjoys every visit.

"What is not to like about Mackinac Island?" he asked. "The pace is so much different. Once you get on the ferry, it kind of just blows the stress right off of you. It's great being here."

Weeks: Limits Hamper Budget

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Allen (R-Traverse City) and Michelle McManus (R-Lake Leelanau) are pegged "likely GOP." Allen's district includes the eastern Upper Peninsula, which has a Democratic state representative.

That of Senator Tony Stamas (R-Midland) is "lean GOP." Two Democratic House members, Representatives Joel Sheltrown of West Branch and Matthew Gillard, represent substantial portions of Stamas' dis-

trict.

The seat of term-limited Gillard is rated "toss-up" for 2008, as is the seat of term-limited Representative David Palsrok (R-Manistee). Sheltrown's seat is called "likely Dem," as is that of Representative Gary McDowell (D-Rudyard). Deemed "solid GOP" is Walker's to-be-open House seat, as well as those of Representatives Kelvin Elsenheimer, (R-Bellaire) and Darwin Boohar (R-Evart).

Not so comfortable for Republicans is the "lean Dem" district of term-limited Representative Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba), who is considering a 2008 challenge of U.S. Representative Bart Stupak (D-Menominee).

George Weeks retired last year after 22 years as political columnist for *The Detroit News*. His weekly Michigan Politics column is syndicated by Superior Features.



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Ste. Anne's Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

Saturday - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday - 9 and 11 a.m.

Mackinac Island Bible Church

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Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Mid-week Service 8 p.m.

all services at Mission Point Resort Theatre
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Little Stone Church Union Congregational

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Thursday Bible Study 1 p.m.
Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall All Are Welcome

Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.

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