

CHICAGO HARBOR NEWS



MOORING TAX UPDATE

In November, the Chicago City Council approved Mayor Daley's budget and in doing so, reduced the 1994 mooring tax from 25 to 7 percent. This mooring tax is currently being billed to the Park District Permittees along with their 2003 mooring invoices.

The reduction in the tax comes as a result of the efforts of the Chicago Yachting Association and a newly formed organization, BOAT—Boating Organizations Against Taxation that has been lobbying the Park District

and City Hall for several months. In addition, Chicago Park District Superintendent David Doig made the decision to freeze boat mooring fees for the 2003 season as a result of the collection of the city tax. "We decided to hold the line on mooring fees so that boaters wouldn't be faced with both a fee increase and a 7 percent tax." Doig said. The original 25 percent tax was passed by City Council in 1994, but never imposed until the 2002 boating season. Earlier this year,

Department of Revenue officials looked to collect boating fees as a means of generating revenue for the city. After meeting with members of the BOAT Coalition, the Department of Revenue and City Budget Department staff decided to recommend a reduction in the tax to the City Council. The City Council adopted the Mayor's budget, which included this change in November.

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NEW RECYCLING PROCEDURES

For the upcoming season, the Chicago Park District and Westrec Marinas are placing a renewed emphasis on recycling in the harbors. When you check in with your harbor manager, you will be issued 5 blue bags for recycling. We encourage you to use the blue bags for recycling cans, bottles, newspapers and so forth. These blue bags can be placed along

side your garbage in the harbor dumpsters. The blue bags are separated by the city's waste haulers and recycled. We will also be placing blue bag dispensers on each gangway in the harbor system and replenishing them with bags throughout the season to make your job of recycling easier. For boaters in DuSable Harbor, we are initiating a pilot program with distinct containers

for recyclable items. If this recycling effort is successful, we will look to expand it to other parts of the Harbor System.



INVOICE DUE DATE

Please make sure that your invoice is paid no later than **February 15, 2003**. A late fee of **\$50.00** will be applied after that date. If your invoice is not paid by **Friday, February 28, 2003** you will **FORFEIT** your slip.

INSPECTIONS OF MARINE SANITATION SYSTEMS

Starting in 2003, the Chicago Park District and Westrec Marinas will institute several measures to ensure that boaters are not dumping septic waste into the harbors and Lake Michigan. The dumping of any septic waste violates Federal, State, City and Park District regulations. The Chicago Park District is therefore obligated to ensure that such practices are not occurring.

For the next season, new procedures will be implemented. When you sign in with the harbor manager to pick up your parking permits, you will be required to sign an affidavit stating whether or not your boat is capable of discharging waste into the water. Boaters that have macerator pumps, Y-valves or other systems that allow them to pump overboard will be required to demonstrate that their

systems have been disabled before they will be allowed to complete the sign in process with their vessels. You will be able to demonstrate this by either providing a "compliance certificate" from your boatyard or by scheduling an inspection by one of the Department of Environment inspectors that will be assisting us with this process.

Coast Guard Regulations dictate, "when operating a vessel on a body of water where the discharge of treated or untreated sewage is prohibited (discharge is expressly prohibited in the waters of Lake Michigan) the operator must secure the device in a manner which prevents any discharge. Some acceptable methods are: padlocking overboard discharge valves in a closed position using a non-releasable wire tie to

hold overboard discharge valves in a closed position and closing overboard discharge valves.

During the 2003 boating season, inspections of boat septic systems will be made throughout the harbor system on a regular basis. Particular emphasis will be given to boats over 35 feet, as many such vessels are equipped with overboard discharge devices.

The efforts to enforce these regulations stem from the Park District's desire to ensure the cleanliness of the waters of Lake Michigan. Please cooperate with these measures and report any illegal discharge to the harbor managers. Westrec will be contacting you with further information during the next few months.



Harbor Rules & Ordinances are available at each harbor as well as the main office.

MARK YOUR CALANDERS!! SPECIAL EVENT DAYS FOR 2003

Please remember to tell your friends and relatives that each individual harbor will begin taking reservations for the following special event days beginning May 15, 2003.

Chicago Blues Festival
May 29 thru May 31

Chicago Gospel Fest
June 4 thru June 8

Taste of Chicago
June 27 thru July 6

Tall Ships Chicago
July 30 thru August 4

Venetian Night
August 2

Air & Water Show
August 16-17

Chicago Jazz Festival
August 28-31



BELMONT SOUTH RENOVATIONS

Boaters from Belmont Harbor can expect to see changes to the southern part of the harbor during 2003. Construction on a new bulkhead, 114 slips, reconfiguration of the parking lots and relocation of the Chicago Yacht Club barge should begin during the spring of 2003. Boaters who currently have moorings in Belmont and boaters who have boats on the dry mooring pad at Belmont need not worry

about disruption this summer.

Construction in those areas will not take place until the fall of 2003. Boaters with finger docks will be relocated to slips or moorings for the 2003 season to accommodate the new seawall construction.

The reconfigured harbor will feature a number of benefits to boaters and the public. First, the relocation of the Chicago Yacht

Club barge and demolition of its support buildings will drastically improve public access and fix the difficult bike path crossing. From a boater's perspective, new slips will replace old finger docks and moorings and there will be a new pumpout on the south side of the harbor.

TALL SHIPS ARE COMING TO CHICAGO!!!

The City of Chicago, Mayor's Office of Special Events, Office of Tourism, Chicago Park District, Navy Pier and the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau have joined together to present "Tall Ships Chicago 2003."

The main concept of the event "Chicago: The Great Port City" will be emphasized throughout the festival, commemorating Chicago's history as the

nation's central transshipment hub, and the role of the river and the lake in the city's birth and development. The mission for visiting wind-powered vessels is sail training, offering adventure and character development.

One of the city's most significant events will utilize Navy Pier, DuSable Harbor, Monroe Harbor and the Chicago River. Ships are anticipated to come

from Ireland, New Zealand, the Ukraine, India, the Netherlands, Canada and the U.S.

As this event unfolds, Chicagoans and tourists will be drawn to the lakefront to view this spectacular armada of ships. An expected two million people will enjoy daily activities including boarding, entertainment stages, Venetian Night, nightly fireworks and much more.



A WORD FROM THE MARINE INSPECTOR

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the fundraising efforts to benefit the Richard Tinker Foundation and to those who took the time to sell tickets for the car raffle and boat cruise. Both events were a great success.

The drawing for the car raffle was held on November 9,

2002 at the Yachting Association Ball at the Chicago Hilton & Towers. The winning ticket went to a member of the Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club who chooses to remain anonymous at this time. Again, thank you for your support.

On a different note, I would like to add that all of our staff

in the main office are happy to assist you with any questions or requests that you may have. Any questions or concerns regarding your mooring permit or harbor assignment should be directed to the MAIN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE. I wish you all a very enjoyable season.

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT SAILING PROGRAMS

Rainbow Fleet

The Chicago Park District has been teaching new sailors sailing skills for over 60 years. The Rainbow Program has been enhanced. Sailing lessons for children are offered at Belmont Harbor, a safe, well-protected venue for safe boating. The Chicago Park District provides use of facilities and other support, while Chicago Yacht Club will provide instructors for the children's Rainbow courses. Recognized nationwide as a leader in junior instruction, this new partnership will provide lessons for beginners, intermediates and advanced students. The program will offer classroom training while on-the-water lessons will be offered for beginners in Laser Pico's, intermediate and advanced instruction will be in Vanguard 420's.

The Rainbow Fleet also provides instruction at Burnham Harbor on 26-foot keelboats called Colgate 26's. On these exciting larger offshore boats, we offer beginning, intermediate and racing programs for kids and adults.

Judd Goldman Adaptive Sailing Program

The Adaptive Sailing program is a learn-to-sail program that provides classroom and on-water instruction for the disabled community. Involved students are encouraged to learn to sail independently on Lake Michigan. Sailing is enjoyed aboard uniquely designed Freedom Independence 20 foot sailboats. Activities range from afternoon adventure rides to the Annual Goldman Cup Regatta held in late August. This nationally recognized program is a joint partnership be-

tween the Chicago Park District and the Judd Goldman Adaptive Sailing Foundation.

Judd Goldman Junior Program in the Parks

The Chicago Park District in partnership with the Judd Goldman Sailing Foundation will be offering sailing lessons for kids, ages 10 to 18 years in the Humboldt Park Lagoon and the Garfield Park Lagoon. Four to six Vanguard Prams will be available for sailing lessons at each Lagoon. The Vanguard Pram is a durable learn-to-sail boat affording young sailors an outstanding opportunity to learn essential trim and sail handling techniques. It is our hope that this new program will lead to further expansion in other Chicago Park District Lagoons.



come out
and play



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