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SAGINAW AND BAY CITY NEWS

Learn about the history of Bay City Boat Lines at this upcoming event

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Captain Todd Shorkey steers under the open Independence Bridge during a Saginaw River Guided Tour on the Princess Wenonah in Bay City on Friday, Aug. 2, 2024. Kaytie Boomer | MLive.com



By [Joey Oliver | joliver@mlive.com](mailto:joliver@mlive.com)

BAY CITY, MI – Those interested in learning about the history of one of the area's most prominent maritime businesses will have an opportunity to do so this weekend.

The Saginaw River Marine Historical Society is hosting a History of the Bay City Boat Lines event at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 815 N. Grant St. in Bay City.

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served during an intermission.

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Bay City Boat Lines, which was founded in 1998, is a third-generation family operation that currently owns two ships stationed on the Saginaw River. The boat line gives anyone interested a direct route from the shores of downtown Bay City to the wide waters of the Saginaw Bay through its series of tours.

Michelle Judd, Bay City Boat Lines' marketing and reservations manager for the past 27 years, and former Princess Wenonah Captain Todd Shorkey will be present to talk about the history of the business that owns and operates Bay City's Princess Wenonah. Shorkey will discuss the Wenonah's recent trip to Port Clinton, Ohio, for survey to ensure the boat is in good condition.

Shorkey retired as captain of the Wenonah after the 2024 season. He is also a fire lieutenant and EMT for the Portsmouth Township Fire Department.

He previously retired from the Bay City Department of Public Safety Fire Operations Division in 2020 after more than 25 years of service.

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Among a career filled with emergency responses, Shorkey was notably one of the first firefighters on the scene when the fuel tanker Jupiter exploded in September 1990. He has also worked as a deckhand for Malcolm Marine on the tug Manitou.

In addition to her role with Bay City Boat Lines, Judd is also a business consultant for the Michigan Small Business Development Center and an adjunct faculty member at Northwood University and Saginaw Valley State University.

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