

Volume No. 5, Issue No. 3, May/June 2015

Marquette Matters



A bimonthly publication produced by the City of Marquette

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Contact us today

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Visit our website at
www.mqctcy.org

Past issues of *Marquette Matters* are available
online at www.mqctcy.org/newsletter.php.
While there, you can also join the digital
mailing list for *Marquette Matters*.

Cover image:
Lower Harbor Ore Dock and Thill's Fish House
Taken by Yvonne Bonsall

Bill's Blog

Bill Vajda, Marquette City Manager (pictured right), shares his comments on the health of our City in "Bill's Blog." The City Manager is the chief administrator for the City government. Vajda welcomes comments from the community at 906-225-8102 or manager@mqctcy.org.



The City of Marquette is Michigan's largest city situated on Lake Superior. The area's unparalleled natural beauty attracts many visitors and tourists from around the world. It lies fully exposed to the ocean-like waters of Superior, and is engaged in constant struggle to mitigate coastal processes destroying City shorelines. Lake Superior storms are legendary in their ferocity, creating significant wave formations that transfer violent energy and substantial coastal flooding to its shores.

Marquette lies in a unique geological formation where the Huron Mountains meet Lake Superior, and suffers frequent gale-force storms involving heavy snow, heavy rain, rapid snowmelt and seiche events. The City's three main rivers, some with steep banks, contribute greatly to challenges during heavy storms and snowmelt, when their waters experience substantially increased volume and flow, including problematic landslides and erosion as they course into Lake Superior.

In the last two years, these standing ecological challenges have exceeded historical ferocity and destructiveness as a result of extreme weather experienced in the region. Lake Superior is experiencing unusually high water levels due to winter ice cover and lack of evaporation. Natural forces have become more extreme and coastal impacts of wave action, water currents, winds that fuel wave action, coastal flooding and freeze-thaw activity in winter and especially in spring, are wreaking massive destruction on the southern Lake Superior shoreline and the City of Marquette.

Rip-rap — large rocks and boulders piled along shores — is methodically used for shoreline cladding and protection. Since the early 1970s, Marquette has maintained miles of rip-rap protection along lakeshore drives adjacent to the shore of Lake Superior, protecting highly valuable Pure Michigan assets such as the the North Country Trail, Marquette's renowned Lakeshore Boulevard and access to valuable economic assets such as the Cliffs Natural Resources international dock facility, which exports millions of tons of iron ore. Over the past two years, historically unprecedented gale-force weather action and winter blizzards have totally destroyed over one mile of rip-rap laid along the shore, washed large portions of the coastal ecosystem into the deep waters of the lake and created massive impacts on public infrastructure.

Roadways, shore cladding and sub-surface infrastructure are particularly vulnerable to flooding and freeze/thaw cycles that result in washouts, especially during heavy storm or snowmelt events. In the City, this type of damage has been and continues to be very costly. Infrastructure destruction endangers the State and Local economy and creates public safety issues due to risks to life and property. Recent storms have resulted in the complete collapse of shore protection and other public infrastructure, creating in fiscal year 2015 over \$10 million of damage, well beyond the capacity of the City to mitigate alone.

Pursuant to City Commission direction, I directed City staff to inspect the portion of Lakeshore Boulevard that has been closed due to weather impacts. It was noted that the site has suffered extensive damage as a result of the recent storm season. The revetment/shore cladding along the entire stretch has been undermined and destroyed, with many instances of breach. Rocks, sand and debris litter the entire area, with evidence of smaller stones washed 18 to 24 inches up the fencing along the Cliffs Dow site. There are many instances on the lake side of the road where erosion has dropped the level of shoulder fill down to near-groundwater and lake levels. The road and bike path surfaces show multiple instances of erosion and undermining along the edges and there are frequent fissures noticeable in the surface of the pavement. The fence and flora along the west side of the Bike Path show signs of damage/displacement due to water/flooding. An inspection was not conducted of the Cliffs Dow well sites, but it appeared from surface activity there might be reason to believe the ground/water interface points could be impacted, and the mixing point below the road shifted.

Staff recommendations will be presented to the City Commission during the meeting on May 11th, and hopefully will serve as the basis for robust deliberations. This is not the only challenge facing Marquette roads or facilities, and not the only coastal asset the City must maintain. I know how important Lakeshore Boulevard is to our community. My family and I have enjoyed that drive for 50 years. I asked staff to come up with several options that balance opening the road while limiting hazards to public safety, exposure to toxic substances, mitigating unsafe conditions and minimizing impacts to the environmental activities for the Cliffs Dow property. Our goal is to find an option to open the road to the extent possible without jeopardizing public safety, reversing environmental mitigation for the Cliffs Dow site, bankrupting the City, or jeopardizing efforts to secure emergency funding currently underway.



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City Commission Meetings

The Commission usually meets the second and last Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Commission Chambers at 300 W. Baraga Avenue, unless otherwise noted. Citizens are invited to attend.

Regular Meetings:

- Monday, May 11, 2015, 7 p.m.**
- Tuesday, May 26, 2015, 7 p.m.**
- Monday, June 8, 2015, 7 p.m.**
- Monday, June 29, 2015, 7 p.m.**

Meetings are televised on local (Charter Cable) Channel 191. Additional meetings may be called, and changes may be made in accordance with the City Charter. Notices will be posted for such changes in compliance with Public Act 267 of 1976.

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Interested in serving your community?

The City of Marquette has several openings for various volunteer advisory boards and committees.

Check out the City of Marquette's website for the most up-to-date vacancy information, and for an application:

www.mqctcy.org/government.php

- Aging Services Advisory Committee—Five openings
- Arts and Culture Advisory Committee—Two openings
- Board of Zoning Appeals—One opening
- Elections Board—One opening
- Harbor Advisory Committee—One opening
- Local Development Finance Authority—One opening
- Local Officers Compensation Commission—Three openings
- Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Advisory Board—One full-member opening and one alternate opening
- Marquette Housing Commission—Two openings
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board—One opening
- Planning Commission—Two openings
- Police/Fire Pension Board—One opening
- Traffic-Parking Advisory Committee—Four openings

Summer Hours at City Hall

Beginning May 26, City Hall offices open at 7:30 a.m. and close at 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. For contact information for all City departments and facilities, please visit our website at www.mqctcy.org/contact-us.php

Holiday Closure

City offices located at Marquette City Hall, 300 W. Baraga Ave.; the Lakeview Arena, 401 E. Fair Ave.; the Marquette Arts & Culture Center, 217 N. Front St. (Peter White Public Library); and the Municipal Service Center, 850 W. Baraga Ave. will be closed on Monday, May 25, for Memorial Day.

The Fire, Police and Public Works and Utilities Departments will remain open and staffed during these times.

Manager Open Office Hours

City Manager Bill Vajda holds community office hours on the second Wednesday of each month, from 10 a.m. until noon in the main floor conference room of the Peter White Public Library.

The next community office hours sessions are scheduled for May 13 and June 10.

The meetings are intended to provide informal opportunities to discuss issues within the community, and to give citizens chances for direct dialogue with City staff about interests and concerns.

Grant-funded Project Aims to Reduce Stormwater Impacts

A large-scale project to improve the quality of the City's stormwater discharge is underway near Lakeview Arena.

The project is being funded largely through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant, awarded to the City and the Superior Watershed Partnership. Through the project, the City and SWP will implement green management practices to reduce the small levels of bacteriological, algae and chemical contamination identified through monitoring.

The work being done along a drain that services a large portion of northern Marquette will include a combination of practices, including engineering and native plant restoration, and will result in a channel of native plants that will naturally filter stormwater before it enters Lake Superior.

The project has resulted in the widening of the ditch that drains to the lake, and various species of native plants will be planted throughout the summer. Additionally, the plan includes the installation of special pavement in the Lakeview Arena parking lot, which will help to filter the stormwater and to slow the overall flow of water into Superior.



Work will be continuing throughout the summer to improve stormwater management near Lakeview Arena.

Public Works Compost and Rubbish Drop-off Services Begin

The City's compost site opened for the season on Monday, April 20, and will close in November, depending upon weather conditions. The disposal area is located at the old Cliffs Dow site accessed from Lakeshore Boulevard. This site is open to City residents on Monday and Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Non-residents who own property in the City must bring a driver's license and current water bill for the property showing payment of the garbage fee that supports this facility.

City of Marquette residents may bring their yard waste, grass clippings, garden debris, etc. There is no limit on the amount that will be accepted. Residents also may drop off one pickup load of brush per day (a pile approximately 12 feet long, six feet wide and five feet high). This drop-off site is not available to commercial haulers. Open burning is not permitted in the City of Marquette.

Organic waste can be dropped off at the Municipal Service Center located at 850 W. Baraga Ave. Material can be placed in the green Waste Management container located in the parking lot during normal operational hours of Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Additionally, the City's rubbish drop-off site opened April 28, and will close in November. The site is open to City residents on Tuesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. and on the second Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The drop-off site is limited to toys, tools, furniture, appliances (must be tagged Freon free), old clothing, shoes, books, drapes, carpets, decorations, (remodeling waste less than one pickup truck load per day) and other minor household items. No shingles are accepted. Appliances are accepted ONLY on Saturdays.

Appliances and white goods include all appliances and water heaters. Appliances using any regulated refrigerant must bear an appropriate technician's certificate of compliance certifying that the refrigerant has been recaptured. Metal items will be separated for recycling. You need a driver's license and City water bill for admittance. The site is located off Wright Street between Presque Isle and Lakeshore Boulevard.

More information about the City's collection and clean-up services — including acceptable materials for compost and household rubbish drop-off, brush and yard waste collection and recycling and garbage collection — visit the City's website at: www.mqtcty.org/pworks-cleanup.php.

2015 Election Update from the Marquette City Clerk's Office

May 5 Election Results

More than 2,900 residents cast ballots in the May 5 election, which saw only one item on the ballot. The statewide Proposal 1, which suggested increasing the sales/use tax from 6 percent to 7 percent, while changing the way transportation funding was handled throughout Michigan, was defeated by an 80-20 margin. In the City, 78 percent of voters cast a ballot against the proposition. In total, 22.57 percent of registered City electors cast ballots on May 5.

Nov. 3 Candidates Finalized

The filing period has ended for the Nov. 3 general election in the City of Marquette, and the field of candidates for the Marquette City Commission and the Board of Light and Power is set. Sara Cambensy, Meredith Lyons, Mike Plourde and Jason Zdunek are running for two seats on the City Commission. John Braamse, Jerry Irby, David A. Puskala and Kenneth C. Wanberg are running for two seats on the Board of Light and Power.

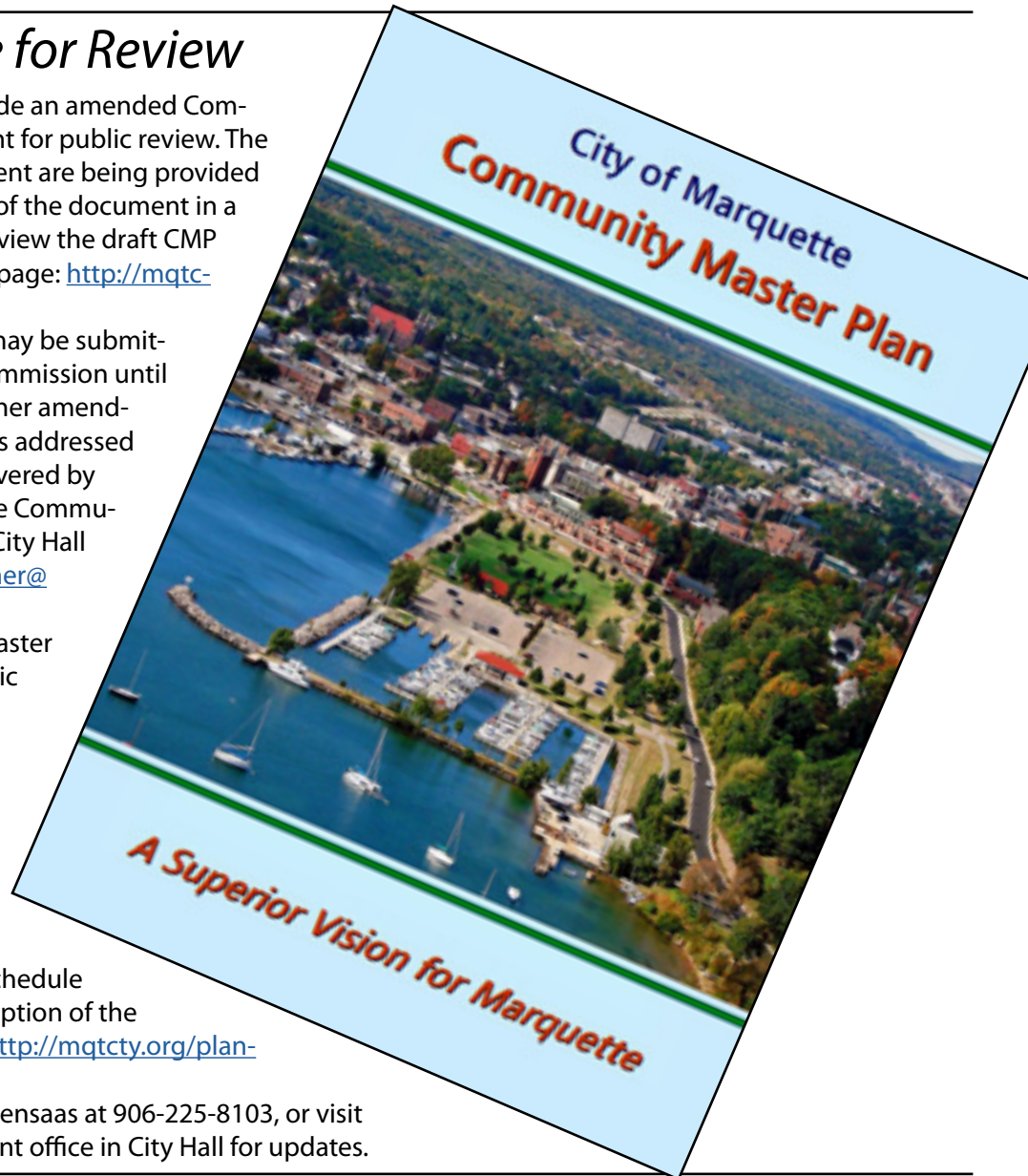
Master Plan Available for Review

The City of Marquette is pleased to provide an amended Community Master Plan (CMP) draft document for public review. The contents of the draft Master Plan document are being provided for public review prior to legal adoption of the document in a public hearing for that purpose. You can view the draft CMP online on the Planning Department webpage: <http://mqtc-ty.org/plan.php>.

Comments concerning the draft Plan may be submitted to the City of Marquette Planning Commission until noon on June 9, for consideration of further amendment to the draft Plan. Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission may be delivered by mail or in-person to the City of Marquette Community Development Department office in City Hall (300 W. Baraga Ave.), or by email to planner@mqtc-ty.org.

Hard copies of the draft Community Master Plan are available at the Peter White Public Library, at the Lydia Olson Library on the campus of Northern Michigan University and at the Downtown Development Authority offices (203 S. Front St.). The draft Community Master Plan may also be viewed at the Community Development office in City Hall. Updates to the process of adopting the amended Community Master Plan, including the schedule for a public hearing for approval and adoption of the amended Plan, will be posted online at <http://mqtc-ty.org/plan-community.php>.

You may also call City Planner David Stensaas at 906-225-8103, or visit the Community Development Department office in City Hall for updates.



Annual Bike Rodeo Scheduled for June 26 at Marquette Commons

The Annual Bike Rodeo, which is sponsored by U.P. Health Systems, will be held on June 26, from 5 to 7 p.m., in the Marquette Commons lot. Bikes will be registered by Officer Craig Marker, and Officer Nate Dawson, free helmets will be given out to children, and bike safety checks will be performed.

Bicycle safety information can be found online: <http://www.mqtcty.org/police-bike.php>.

Swimming, Waterfront Safety Seasons Kick Off in Marquette

Swimming is the most popular summer activity. While the best thing you can do to help your family stay safe is to enroll in age-appropriate swim lessons, it is also important to follow these water safety tips whenever you are in, on or around water:

- Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards. In the City, that means McCarty's Cove, South Beach and Tourist Park.
- Always swim with a buddy.
- Never leave a young child unattended near water.
- Have young children or inexperienced swimmers wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets around water, but do not rely on life jackets alone.
- Establish water safety rules for your family and enforce them without fail.
- Follow the flag warnings and beach rules, which include no alcohol, no fires, no dogs, no diving off of rocks, no glass, no rough play, no bikes and no children under 12 without an adult.



The Marquette City Waterfront Safety Task Force has been reconstituted for the next six months and will be evaluating the waterfront safety procedures currently in place. The group will be looking into the increase in ice rescue incidents over the past winter season. Also, the future Clark Park beach will be discussed as a possible fourth guarded beach.

Additional information about the City of Marquette's Waterfront Safety program, can be found online at: www.mqtcty.org/Beachfront/default.html. There, users will find an explanation of the City's beach flag advisory system, and a description of the current meter used at Picnic Rocks.

Additionally, a digital copy of the Marquette Waterfront Safety Task Force's Report from 2011 can be found online here: <http://www.mqtcty.org/Government/Advisory/WST/Files/WSTF%20Preliminary%20Report.pdf>.

DDA Seeking Musicians for Monthly Third Street Performances

The Marquette Downtown Development Authority is looking for an eclectic mix of local musicians to play along the sidewalks of Third Street in Marquette's Downtown District from 6 to 8 p.m. on the following Thursdays: June 18, July 16 and August 20.

These performances are part of a summer series titled Music on Third.

Held the third Thursday of the month, from June to August, Music on Third brings the community out onto the summer sidewalks of Marquette's Downtown District to enjoy fresh, local music and to visit the more than 100 unique shops and restaurants that line Third Street.

If you or someone you know may be interested in performing on any of these dates, please contact Tara Laase-McKinney at the Marquette Downtown Development Authority: tara@downtownmarquette.org or 906-228-9475.



The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center is located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library at 217 N. Front St. in Marquette. For more information or questions on any of the articles on this page or the following, please call 906-228-0472 or email arts-culture@mqctcy.org.

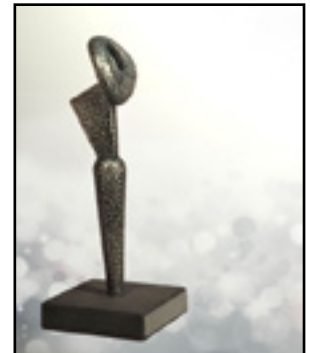


19th Annual Art Awards to be Held May 15

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center invites the community to attend the 19th Annual Art Awards, where outstanding individuals in our community will be honored. The awards will be held at the MACC in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library located at 217 N. Front St. on Friday, May 15. This year's theme is "black and white" and guests are encouraged to dress as such.

At 6 p.m. the public is invited to a celebratory reception before the Arts Awards in conjunction with Lake Superior Art Association's Annual Member Show, and the SmallWorks Gallery reception. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Paladino's Café. At 7 p.m. the Annual Arts Awards will begin in the community room of the PWPL. There will be performances by select award recipients and a ceremony to honor their achievements.

- Outstanding Arts Educator:** Joy Bender Hadley
- Outstanding Writer:** Kathleen Heideman
- Outstanding Performing Artist:** Mike Waite
- Arts Volunteer:** Bright Productions
- Community Arts Activist:** Pat Ryan O' Day
- Special Recognition Individual:** Kaye Hiebel
- Outstanding Visual Artist:** Karen Jilbert
- Business Honor Roll:** Blackrocks Brewery
- Community Arts Impact:** Lake Superior Youth Theatre
- Outstanding Youth:** Ricky Vermeulen



For more information contact the MACC at 906-228-0472 or email arts-culture@mqctcy.org. There is no charge for this event.

First Thursday: The Dave Hardin Band

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center presents The Dave Hardin Band on Thursday, June 4 at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend this free concert held in the Community Room of the Peter White Public Library at 217 N. Front Street in Marquette.

This American Music group from Grand Rapids, plays a mix of bluegrass, folk, country and hill music. The Dave Hardin Band has played all over the country for the last 25 years, opening for acts such as Willie Nelson and Poco. This trio is comprised of Dave Hardin on guitar and vocals, Lauran Hardin on accordion and vocals and Bob DeCocq on bass.

For more information or questions, call 906-228-0472 or email arts-culture@mqctcy.org.



For a full schedule of upcoming opportunities, events and workshops, see page 10!

May Exhibits: 39th LSAA Annual Members' Show and LST Show

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center announces its May exhibition: The 39th LSAA Annual Members' Show. This show is a collection of mixed medias by members of the Lake Superior Art Association. This juried exhibit celebrates the coming of spring after a long U.P. winter which was spent engrossed in creativity. To recognize the achievements of these artists, prizes will be awarded.

The SmallWorks Gallery will feature a display by Lake Superior Youth Theatre. This exhibit will include costumes from favorite musicals, props and photos.

The shows will be running from May 5 to 29 and there will be a closing artist reception in conjunction with the 19th Annual Art Awards held on Friday, May 15, from 6 to 7 p.m. This event is free and open to the public with a "black and white" suggested dress code to match the theme of the Annual Art Awards.

Buskers Wanted for Marquette Art Week

Marquette Art Week, set for June 20-27, will be a week devoted to lectures, bike tours, nature hikes, public art, demonstrations, concerts, special exhibits, dance and theater performances, readings and films.

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center is inviting all artists to take their skills to the street during Marquette Art Week.

"Busking" is the practice of performing in public places for gratuities, and the City is encouraging artists, musicians, comedians, fire dancers, fortune-tellers, hula-hoopers, dancers, painters, clowns, etc. to sign up for spots during this week.

Contact the MACC to get involved.

For more information or questions, call 906-228-0472 or email arts-culture@mqctcy.org.



June Exhibits: Thursday Painters and Linda King Ferguson

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center announces its June LSAA Gallery exhibition: Thursday Painters, titled "Sunrise, Sunset."

This exhibit will feature paintings in acrylics, oils and watercolors. The Thursday Painters group was organized over 60 years ago and current members are Marjorie Carlson, Esther Lepola, Shirley Michelson, Helen Steinhoff and Betty Shirtz.

Additionally, the June SmallWorks Gallery will feature artwork by painter and textile designer, Linda King Ferguson, titled "the Equivalence Series."

Ferguson received her MFA from Vermont College of Fine Art, where she worked with Michelle Grabner, Ulrike Muller, and Ruth Root, and an MA from Rhode Island School of Design. She received a BFA from Alma College, studied at Academia Di Belle Arti in Perugia, Italy, and Penland School of Crafts.

She is currently a contingent faculty member at Northern Michigan University's School of Art and Design. Ferguson maintains studios in both Brooklyn and Michigan.

The shows will be running from June 2 to 26 with an opening artist reception on Thursday, June 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. The public is invited to attend and refreshments will be provided.

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center is located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library. For more information or questions, please contact 906-228-0472 or email arts-culture@mqctcy.org.

MACC Ready for Kickoff of Marquette Art Week 2015

Marquette Art Week (also known as Art Stroll 2015), set for June 20-27, will be a week devoted to lectures, bike tours, nature hikes, public art, demos, concerts, special exhibits, dance and theater performances, readings and films. This week long event is a collaborative community effort to highlight artists, arts and culture institutions and the local businesses and galleries who support them. Art Week will also coincide with Trail Fest. There will be a map of the City of Marquette listing Art Week events that will be available two weeks prior to Art Stroll.

For event details and information, and for information on how you can get involved, contact the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center at 906-228-0472 or email arts-culture@mqtcty.org.

City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center Workshop Calendar

Beginning Art Quilting Class - Taking it to the Next Level with Judy Parlato

Tuesdays, May 12 and 19 from 1 to 5 p.m.

\$60 registration fee

Sewing machines will be available. This is the second in a series of beginning art quilting classes offered to those adventurous people willing to color outside the lines, step out of the box or wear two different colored socks and love doing it! It is not necessary to have attended the first session. Come and have fun with us!

Alcohol Paint Workshop with JoAnn Shelby

Saturday, May 9 from noon to 4 p.m.

Alcohol inks are an acid-free permanent medium and dry fairly quickly. Inks adhere easily to a variety of non-porous materials, and can be applied to acrylic, plastic, metal, foil, glass and special glossy papers.

Painting Subjects Within a Watercolor with Carl Mayer

Saturday, May 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

\$45 registration fee

Bring your watercolor supplies and learn the tricks of painting people and animals into your watercolor.

Watercolor with Suzan Pitt

Friday, June 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

\$75 registration fee

Internationally recognized filmmaker and artist Suzan Pitt will host a sketching and watercolor workshop that will begin with a morning draw and photo session on Presque Isle followed by three hours of painting at the MACC.

Gallery Tours

June 9 at 12:30 p.m.

Arts and Culture Manger Tiina Harris will guide you on a free tour of the SmallWorks and the Main Gallery. All ages!

Senior Art Series

Visual Arts

First and third Tuesday of every month from 1 to 3 p.m.

Professional artists instruct participants in this successful program for seniors only. Each month a new professional artist will lead the group. Non-city seniors will be asked to make a small donation of \$5 per class to help cover the costs of supplies and instruction. Students must pre-register through the Senior Center at 228-0456.

May 19 - Origami Flowers with Judy Sarosik

June 2 - Oil Painting with Bernie Park

June 16 - Oil Painting with Bernie Park

Art Social

Second Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m.

Taking place after monthly tours, join fellow seniors for informative demonstration and lecture by a local or regional artist. Refreshments will be served and there will be an opportunity for discussion and a question and answer section.

May 12 - Corbin Lutz

June 9 - TBA

Beginning Senior Acting

Mondays, May 18 and June 1 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Beginning Senior Acting is slated to continue through the month of May with Moire Embley. Seniors are welcome to sign up at the Senior Center at 906-228-0456.

June Community Art Exhibit: "The Nature of Art"

The community exhibition "The Nature of Art" is sponsored by the Lake Superior Art Association, the MACC and the Peter White Public Library and will be held at the Peter White Public Library in the Huron Mountain Club Gallery located at 217 N. Front Street, June 1 through July 30, 2015. This non-juried exhibit is comprised of artwork that is inspired by nature. There will be a reception on Thursday, June 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. Artists and public are welcome to attend.

This exhibit is part of a series of programs (The Woodland OffShoot) in the community that derived from the exhibit "Woodland" by internationally recognized filmmaker and artist Suzan Pitt hosted at the Marquette Regional History Museum from May 4 to August 29. Pitt will be in Marquette during the month of June for these programs.

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center is located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library. For more information or questions, please contact 906-228-0472 or email arts-culture@mqctcy.org.



Marquette DDA Promoting Awareness of National Bike Month

Established in 1956 and celebrated during the month of May, National Bike Month provides an opportunity to create awareness of the many benefits of bicycling and encourages more folks to give it a try. Whether you bike to work or school, or to explore your community, biking offers a way to preserve one's health and environment.

The Marquette Downtown Development Authority is creating awareness through social media by sharing educational information and fun facts with their 12,500+ Facebook fans and inviting people to participate in a "Bike Downtown Marquette Photo Contest," where one lucky winner will receive \$100 in gift cards to local Downtown Marquette bike shops. The contest will be held from May 4 through May 14, with the winner being announced on May 15. Those wishing to participate must submit a photo of themselves and their bike. The photos will be featured in the Downtown Marquette Facebook album where fans can like, comment and share their favorite entries, and the image with the most Facebook engagement will win. A full list of contest rules and guidelines can be found by visiting the DDA website at www.downtownmarquette.org.

The Marquette DDA would like to remind and encourage motorists traveling throughout the Downtown District to be cautious and aware of bicyclists and pedestrians at all times. Motorists can follow four rules to help ensure the safety of those traveling on bicycles:

1. Watch your speed.
2. Look before you open the car door when parked on the street.
3. Be patient after a stop light or sign, as it takes cyclists a moment to build up speed.
4. When turning right, a motorist should always yield to bicyclists going straight.

West Washington Street to See Infrastructure Improvements

The 200 block of West Washington Street is undergoing an infrastructure repair and improvement project, which began Monday, May 4. The project includes complete removal and replacement of the curbing, removal of brick pavers, installation of stamped concrete, and the addition of street trees. Vehicular traffic will continue throughout the duration of the project, and pedestrian access will be maintained to businesses on both sides of the street to the greatest extent possible; however, no parking will be permitted on the 200 block of West Washington Street during this time. Additional parking is conveniently located in the Marquette Commons Parking Lot, with rear access available to many of the businesses within the affected area.

The south side of the street will be the first phase of the project and it is anticipated to be completed by the third week of May. The project will then shift to the north side of the street. In order to expedite the project and minimize disruption of traffic, it is likely that there will be a few instances that the contractor will work during the night. The \$201,402.25 project is expected to be completed the first week of June, weather permitting.

Anyone who purchased personalized pavers in the mid-1980s, which are currently located within the existing brickwork on the 200 block, is welcome to contact the Marquette Downtown Development Authority office at 906-228-9475 to obtain their bricks. Requests must be received prior to May 22, 2015.

Downtown Marquette Farmers Market Opens May 23

A dynamite season is planned for the 2015 Downtown Marquette Farmers Market. The market opens Saturday, May 23 and will run through December 19. The weekly market runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Marquette Commons, located at 112 S. Third St. in Marquette.

There are 53 vendors this year — including 24 farmers — and many will rotate throughout the season. The market will feature live music weekly from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with opening day showcasing the talents of local musician Green Gene. A program on Smart Gardening will also take place on May 23.

To increase accessibility to fresh, locally grown foods, the Downtown Marquette Farmers Market accepts credit/debit cards, Bridge Cards/SNAP/EBT, Project FRESH and Market FRESH. The market will once again participate in the Fair Food Network's Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb) program, which will run June 1 through Oct. 31. Under the DUFb initiative, Bridge Card holders can receive a dollar-for-dollar match of up to \$20 a week in DUFb tokens to spend on fresh fruits and vegetables grown in Michigan.

For more information, follow the market on Facebook at www.facebook.com/downtownmarquettefarmersartistsmarket or view the website www.mqtfarmersmarket.com. Shop weekly for the ever changing variety of the freshest food in town. See you at the market!



2015 Blueberry Festival Preparations Already Underway

Festival Poster Contest Vote Open

In preparation for Downtown Marquette's annual Blueberry Festival, the Marquette Downtown Development Authority invites the community to select the winner of this year's Blueberry Festival Poster Contest through an online vote. The public is encouraged to log on to <http://downtown-marquette.org/blueberry-festival-poster-contest> between Monday, May 11 and Wednesday, May 27 to cast a vote for their favorite entry. For those who prefer to view the submissions in person, entries will be on display at the Marquette Arts and Culture Center in the Lower Level of the Peter White Public Library throughout the voting period. In the MACC, votes may be cast in person.

The winning entry will be determined by the results of the public vote and the recommendation of a panel of judges.

The winning artwork will be used to create this year's official Blueberry Festival poster, becoming the 14th piece in the limited edition collection. The winning poster will debut prior to the Blueberry Festival, slated for Friday, July 31, from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Vendor Applications Accepted

The 2015 Blueberry Festival in Downtown Marquette is scheduled for Friday, July 31, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. As the DDA continues to build off the success of years past, food vendors, artisans and nonprofit organizations are being invited to apply as vendors. The festival features all-day sidewalk sales and specials, children's activities, performances, demonstrations and live "Blueberry Jam" music on Center Stage.

Individuals and organizations interested in participating as a vendor in the 2015 Blueberry Festival can complete an application at <https://downtownmarquette.org/blueberry-festival>. The cost to participate is \$75. Due to limited availability of space, previous booth locations are not guaranteed. All applications will be subject to review and approved at the discretion of the Marquette DDA.

Vendors will be notified of their approval by Friday, June 5. Vendors not approved will be refunded the \$75 registration fee. The vendor application deadline is Friday, May 29. For more information, contact the DDA at 906-228-9475 or email tara@downtownmarquette.org.



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