



Photograph by Shawn Malone

Marquette Matters

A bimonthly publication produced by the City of Marquette

City of Marquette Open House

Members of the community are encouraged to attend to the City of Marquette Open House on Tuesday, February 5, 2013 from 4p.m. to 7p.m. This is an opportunity for City residents to become more familiar with City departments and Partners. Employees will be on hand, including the Chief of Police, Marquette Commissioners, Fire Chief and the City Manager.



Located at the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center in the Peter White Public Library at 217 N. Front Street, the annual Open House is in a more centralized location this year. This event provides the opportunity for adults as well as children to learn more about their City. There will also be engaging exhibits, activities for children and chances to win prizes for a safer home. For more information contact the City of Marquette Arts and Culture at 906-228-0472.



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@mqcty.org.

January inevitably is a time to reflect on the past, and to start thinking about the future. For many, this means thoughtful consideration of the current situation, and resolutions for the change in the year ahead. Some find the process intimidating, others bothersome, and still others find it important, if only to establish a lucid assessment of where they've been, and their general direction moving forward.

As a community, Marquette is very much engaged in the same type of thinking, albeit driven by the implementation of our new City Charter. Over the course of the last year, the City Charter Commission spent months reflecting on the past, and proposing a direction for the future. As a result, the January 1, 2013 implementation of the new City Charter will bring several changes for which some will be initiated immediately, while others will be programmed up to 10 years into the future!

Several new ordinances will be established to address greater efficiency and transparency, including a new merit system for human resource management, a new code of conduct identifying ethical requirements for employees and volunteer representatives, and administrative acquisition regulations that provide clear processes for City purchases and sales.

In addition, new processes will be established that will help the community establish clear priorities for moving forward, and provide for the means to do so. The City will be required to establish a mechanism for managing public communications within the context of the internet age, and to establish a public information plan that ensures community awareness and access to information. The creation of a Strategic Plan and Economic Development Plan will help align the objectives of the City Master Plan with specific processes that support implementation, and monitor measurable progress towards goals.

Some changes will be exercised naturally when the Commission takes specific actions, while others will require greater public awareness and dialogue – like the implementation of the City's Fiscal Year. Collecting taxes and fees will occur approximately the same way, but the time of year when this happens will change. It will take a little getting used to, but the outcome will enable better management of the City's credit and debt, and hopefully be more agile in the face of revenue changes imposed by the Federal and State governments.

The City Celebrates Japan

In the Spirit of Marquette's Sister City program with Higashiomi, the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center is offering free classes in Japanese tradition, culture and language.



Great Lakes Center for Youth Development's partnership with the City of Marquette Arts and Culture has sought out Instructor Tomoko Inoue to teach three different Japanese classes at the City of Marquette Arts and Culture, catered to different age groups; kids, teens, and adults. These art classes will provide different, but necessary teaching methods to best understand the culture. Inoue, originally from Kiryu, Japan will teach students Japanese calligraphy, origami and how to use chopsticks. Language instructor, Ken Satoh will also take part in this cultural exchange by teaching beginning Japanese, free of charge.

"There is no charge for kids and young people to take any of the Japanese classes. It is very important to start building their ability to tolerate different cultures while they are young," said Tomoko.

For more information about workshop times and how to sign up, contact the City of Marquette Arts and Culture at 906-228-0472 or e-mail at arts-culture@mqcty.org.

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The Charter also imposes a mandatory review every ten years to ensure both that the community remains happy with the governing compact, as well as to make sure other changes aren't required to keep it responsive and up to date – 62 years was just too long to wait!

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MCCLELLAN AVENUE EXTENSION AND WETLANDS MITIGATION

The recent completion of the McClellan Avenue project would appear to some to be the final chapter in a long awaited project. The street has been constructed, the underground utilities have been placed, traffic signals are functioning, and traffic is flowing through this corridor. The addition of these infrastructure improvements required the filling of approximately 1.1 acres of wetlands, relocation of 317 feet of Raney Creek, and the restoration of approximately 2.2 acres of wetlands.

State and Federal regulations required the City of Marquette to restore 2 acres of wetlands for every acre filled and the continued monitoring of these restored areas. The process of replacing the filled wetlands and monitoring the replacement wetlands is known as *wetland mitigation*.



The City of Marquette is obligated to monitor the restored wetlands for a period of 10 years. Detailed site monitoring reports must be completed by the City and submitted to the DEQ annually. Wetland mitigation sites must meet numerous ecological quality standards as outlined by the DEQ. Monitoring of wetland plant species establishment, removal of evasive species, water depth, and amphibian and bird counts are just a few parameters that must be measured.

The mitigation wetlands are also required to be placed into a conservation easement for permanent legal protection against future development. A conservation easement is a preservation contract between a property owner and the State.

Activities that are prohibited or restricted on the property are specified in the conservation easement, and are typically binding on all future owners of the property.

The relocation of Raney Creek from a drainage swale back to its original stream bed location and the removal of material that had previously filled the historic wetland resulted in the restoration of 0.34 acres of wetlands near McClellan Avenue. The pictures below show the progress:

The restoration of wetlands near the Presque Isle Bog was looked on very favorably by the State and Federal governments. This area originally was once wetland. In fact, in the original 1846 General Land Office (GLO) survey, William Burt, Deputy Surveyor in Michigan,

mapped wetlands in this area. Over time this area was artificially filled in with debris and soils resulting in the loss of this wetland habitat. The recreation of wetlands near the Presque Isle Bog area resulted in the creation of 2.12 acres of wetlands. The pictures below show the progress:

The monitoring of these wetland areas will provide an opportunity for biologists, volunteers, and the City to work together cooperatively. The collaboration of other groups and agencies, such as, the Superior Watershed Partnership and, Land Trust, Moosewood Nature Center, Michigan Audubon Society, and the City of Marquette will guarantee this project will not only be a success, but an example of what can be accomplished for future projects.



Marquette City Commission



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Frederick Stonehouse
(h) 226-6014
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City Commission Meetings

The Commission usually meets the second and last Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, 300 West Baraga Avenue, unless noted otherwise. Citizens are invited to attend.

**Monday, January 14, 2013, 7:00 p.m.,
Commission Chambers**

**Monday, February 11, 2013, 7:00 p.m.,
Commission Chambers**

Meetings are televised on the City of Marquette's Channel 21.

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.

City Committee Orientation

The City has instituted a training session for the members of our volunteer authorities, boards and committees called "Committee Orientation." The City Manager and City Attorney will be presenting a number of topics during the one-hour session: an overview of City operations; ethics; parliamentary procedures; rules of procedure; filing minutes, and finally, questions and answers. The City is asking these individuals to attend at least one of these sessions during their tenure. The Committee Orientation will be held on the following dates/times in 2013:

Thursday, March 21st, at 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 10th, at 4:00 p.m.

All sessions will be held in Commission Chambers and are limited to 20 people per session. To reserve your spot (available on a first-come, first-served basis), please contact Jen LePage in the City Manager's office via email (jlepage@mqctcy.org) or call her at (906) 225-8104.

City Committee Openings

Current open City committee positions are listed below. If interested in becoming involved and filling a position, an application form can be found at www.mqctcy.org/communitynetwork.html. More information can be obtained by contacting Jen LePage in the City Manager's office via email (jlepage@mqctcy.org) or by phone (906) 225-8104.

Committee Name	Vacancies
Board of Review (As of 2/1/13)	Two Vacancies
Investment Advisory Board	One Vacancy
Local Officers Compensation Commission	Three Vacancies
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board	One Vacancy
Regional Recreation Authority Business Plan Ad-hoc Committee	One Vacancy-Alternate
Sister City Advisory Committee	Two Vacancies
Sustainable Community Ad-Hoc Committee (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Representative)	One Vacancy

Biosolids Storage Facility at Wastewater Treatment Plant is Complete

The new biosolids storage facility at the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Plant is near completion and will be put into use by mid – December of this year. The storage facility is the result of about a year of research and evaluation done by plant staff and the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Advisory Board. The City commission approved the facility at an amount of about \$445,000. A local contractor, Premeau Construction, built the facility.

Biosolids are generated as a result of the wastewater treatment processes. In these treatment processes, wastewater pollutants are consumed by bacteria. The bacteria are then concentrated and placed into a digestion process which thermally treats the bacteria for about 70 days. The result is a biosolids product that is suitable for use as a fertilizer. The new facility will hold about 1,200 cubic yards of this fertilizer. A storage facility is required to store accumulated material that is generated during the winter months when land application of this fertilizer cannot be performed.

The final destination for the stored biosolids is agricultural land or mine reclamation sites. Nutrients contained in biosolids serve as a fertilizer to supplement plant growth. An added benefit over commercially available synthetic fertilizers is that biosolids contain an organic structure which helps to stabilize new soils and add organics to existing soils.



Winter Tax Collection

The 2012 winter taxes are due at the City Treasurer's office by February 14th without penalty. Citizens can pay their tax bills beginning December, 1 through February 14, 2013 without penalty. A three percent penalty will be applied for payments received between February 15 – 28. Payments received after March 1, 2013 will be considered delinquent.

Taxpayers having a Deferment with the City will have until February 14th to pay both their summer and winter taxes without interest.

Water Meter Winter Access

Please take an extra few minutes to clear a path to your touchpad (shown below) as you snowblow, shovel, or plow your home or business. The meter readers must physically "touch" the center of the touchpad with their electronic equipment to properly read the meter. Otherwise, the reading must be "estimated" for the billing until an actual reading can be obtained. If your meter is located behind a gate that is normally kept locked or



becomes snowed in during the winter, please call the Billing Clerk at (906) 228-0420 to have your touchpad relocated.

Winter Parking Ban Hours

The Marquette City Police Department starts enforcing the winter parking ban on November 1, 2012. During the ban, vehicle owners will have to find off-street parking from 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. every night because of the snow plows. If in violation, the owner of the car will be issued a ticket of \$50 and if not paid after 14 days, the ticket price will rise to \$55. The ban is lifted on April 1, 2013.

"Bill's Blog"- Continued from page 1.

Perhaps the most important resolution of all will be the commitment to create an open, balanced, and sustainable government that remains responsive to the people of Marquette. During these days of Auld Lang Syne, we remain committed to honoring the legacy of our founders--to holding in high esteem the daily contributions of our friends, families, and neighbors; and look forward with hope and pride to building a bright future for generations of Marquette-ians yet to come!

Downtown Showdown Rail Jam

The Downtown Development Authority, The Marquette County CVB, The Compound, Double Trouble DJ's, Marquette Mountain and other community partners are working together to create a new event that utilizes our geography and climate to draw competitors, winter sports enthusiasts and spectators downtown for a ski and snowboard rail jam.



This year the event is scheduled to take place on **Saturday, February 16**, taking advantage of snow that will be in place for the UP 200, an annual sled dog race that draws thousands of people into our community. The event is open to all levels of experience.

Schedule of Events

3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Open Jam	\$10 all abilities, Ski & Snow
6:00 p.m.-6:45 p.m.	Skier Jam Rail	\$25 (pre register) \$35 day of
8:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.	Ski & Board Finals	----
9:00 p.m.	Awards & Prizes	AFTER PARTY at Waterfront Restaurant

For more information about this event please visit www.facebook.com/downtownshowdown/info. Register at www.travelmarquettemichigan.com/registration/. We hope to see you there!

MCACA approves Funding for Local Arts and Culture Organizations

The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) approved \$5,675,400 in the form of 312 grants to outstanding nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, educational institutions and municipalities in 47 counties to support their efforts to produce high quality arts programming. MCACA received 401 applications requesting \$8.9 million in support. Congratulations to all the organizations in Marquette who were awarded funding.

- Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center Marquette —\$5,625
- Lake Superior Theatre Inc. —\$11,250
- Liberty Children's Art Project — \$17,000
- Marquette Regional History Center — \$17,000
- Marquette Symphony Orchestra — \$17,000
- The Upper Peninsula Children's Museum — \$22,216
- City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center —\$12,000



Lake Superior Youth Theatre

Skate Hours at Lakeview Arena

DROP-IN FIGURE SKATING

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. -9:50 a.m.

6 & UNDER DROP-IN

Mondays & Fridays 9:00 a.m. -9:50 a.m.

PRESCHOOL/PARENT & SENIOR CITIZENS

Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m.-11:50 a.m.
Friday 10:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m.

DROP-IN HOCKEY

Monday-Thursday 12:00 p.m.-12:50 p.m.
Friday 11:00 a.m.-12:50 p.m.

OPEN SKATE (All ages)

Monday-Friday 1:00-2:50 pm
Saturday-Sunday 1:30-3:20 pm

SENIOR/ADULT SKATE (18 & older)

Mondays 7:30 p.m. -9:20 p.m.
(Free to Marquette City Senior Residents with ID)

Skating Rates:

\$2 Children (12& under)
\$3 Drop in Figure Skating
\$2 Seniors (50 & over)
\$5 Drop in Hockey
\$3 Adults/Students
\$3 Skate Rentals
Season Pass Rate:
Individual Pass -- \$60 / Family Pass -
- \$200

Lakeview Arena:

(906) 228-0490
401 East Fair Ave. Marquette
Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to
5:00 p.m.

www.mqtcty.org •
parks@mqtcty.org

January Exhibit



Pyrographic Artist, Angel Abbs-Portice will be January's Exhibit at the City of Marquette Arts and Culture. There will be an Artist Reception on **Thursday, the 24th** from **6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.** in the Lower Level Gallery of the Peter White Public Library. She will also be teaching two wood burning workshops on **Wednesday, January, 23rd** and **Saturday the 26th**. To register for the workshops, contact the City of Marquette Culture at 228-0472 or e-mail at arts-culture@mqtcty.org

February Exhibits

There will be *three* Artist Receptions on **February 7th** from **6:00p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

"Shots & Stories"

Photography will be on display in Workshop #3. "Shots & Stories" is a collection from local artists' photographs accompanied by the story of the photo. Viewer votes will determine the winner of the contest.



"Hodge Podge"

Featuring work by ten members of Thank God It's Wednesday (TGIW) Artists, "Hodge Podge," will display diverse artistic mediums including watercolor, jewelry, and woodcarving.

"Winter Charm"

An annual art exhibition sponsored by the Lake Superior Art Association with support from the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center will be held at the Peter White Public Library in the Huron Mountain Club Gallery from February 2nd to March 2nd. This will include artwork that embodies the spirit of our wintery climate.

For more information contact the **City of Marquette Arts and Culture**, located in the Lower Level of the Peter White Public Library on 217 N. Front Street, or call (906) 228-0472, or e-mail arts-culture@mqtcty.org.

Kiddie Mutt Races



The Marquette Kiwanis Club will sponsor the annual Kiddie Mutt Races at the Marquette Commons (112 South Third Street) from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 16.

Dog sleds will be available for those who would like to bring their children and family dog to join in the fun of mushing.

Kitchen Safety

- Do not leave cooking unattended.
- Use a timer for food cooking in the oven.
- Stay in kitchen when cooking on stovetop.
- Keep a lid handy to smother a fire in a pan or a pot.
- If you have an oven fire keep the door closed and turn off the oven.
- Do not wear loose clothing when cooking.
- If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the oven or stovetop.
- Have a working smoke detector. It will double the chances of surviving a fire in the home.

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Marquette Matters, published bimonthly by the City of Marquette, is available to all residents and businesses online at www.mqtcty.org. To sign up for our e-mail list or for story ideas please email marquettematters@mqtcty.org. Any individuals who would like to receive the information in this publication in another format may contact the Marquette Matters newsletter at marquettematters@mqtcty.org, or the Arts and Culture Center at (906)228-0472.