

Volume No. 5, Issue No. 1, January/February 2015

Marquette Matters



A bimonthly publication produced by the City of Marquette

Page 3

Gary's Blog

Page 4

Meet the City Commission
Announcements
Committee Vacancies

Page 5

New Commissioner Introductions

Page 6

Winter Tax Collection
Tax Filing Assistance for Seniors

Page 7

MFD Safety Tips
City Payment Options

Page 8

Arts and Culture:
January Exhibits
Call to Artists
First Thursday Concert Series

Pages 9-10

Arts and Culture:
February Exhibits
Annual Art Awards Information
Workshop Calendar

Page 11

City Open House

Page 12

UP200 and Midnight Run
Downtown Showdown Rail Jam

Inside this issue of Marquette Matters

Contact us today

City of Marquette
City Hall
300 W. Baraga Ave.
Marquette, MI 49855

For more information, email
marquettematters@mqtcty.org
or call 906-228-0435

Visit our website at
www.mqtcty.org

This issue of *Marquette Matters* is available
online at www.mqtcty.org/newsletter.php.

Cover image courtesy of Yvonne Bonsall,
Marquette Police Department.

Gary's Blog

This month, this space is reserved for the second of three pieces focusing on the DLP project. Below, City of Marquette Chief Financial Officer Gary Simpson (pictured at right) describes the financial planning and associated administrative actions supporting the DLP Memorandum of Understanding. Comments or questions can be directed to (906) 225-0415 or gsimpson@mqctcy.org.



On Sept. 8, 2014, the Marquette City Commission approved and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Duke LifePoint (DLP), following months of dedicated negotiations. The agreement spells out commitments to facilitate the construction of a new regional medical center in downtown Marquette on the former Roundhouse Property and on the adjacent Municipal Service Center property. As the community embraces the excitement of the moment, the real work is just beginning!

Just as most folks wouldn't build a house without first securing a mortgage, so too must the City and DLP secure resources for their own projects and activities. The MOU proposes to address this need to secure project financing through the establishment of a Michigan Brownfield district.

Brownfield projects work by "capturing" taxes paid on new development. These funds then finance improvements to the property, and can be used to reimburse both the developer and the municipality for work that was done in order to prepare the site and surrounding area for final use. In this case, activities eligible for brownfield reimbursement may include property clean-up and the creation of new utility infrastructure, as well as the relocation of the current Municipal Service Center and the associated road and street improvements needed to accommodate a new hospital. Once the project is complete, it is no longer considered a "brownfield" - and as a far more valuable property, it delivers higher revenues to all taxing jurisdictions.

A Development Agreement, a Work Plan, a Brownfield Plan and a Reimbursement Agreement are among the various documents that have been prepared by the Marquette Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (MBRA), with assistance from DLP representatives. Those documents were recently submitted to the State of Michigan for review and possible approval.

To again compare the effort to building a new home, while the mortgage paperwork is being coordinated, other activities can begin. The Marquette Community Development Department has begun initial planning for prospective road and street improvements, while the City's Public Works Department has initiated a process that will ultimately lead to the selection of a new Municipal Service Center location.

Relocating the existing Municipal Service Center will not be a simple process, and City staff aims to involve the public as much as possible. The first opportunity for this involvement will come at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 8. At that time, staff will conduct a town hall meeting in Lakeview Arena's Citizens Forum room to discuss the list of prospective site locations for a new service center, to answer citizen questions on the process and to gather public feedback.

These efforts have been ongoing, and the City continues to coordinate and update schedules and timelines with DLP and the MBRA. As should be expected with any large undertaking, there are details still to be worked out, specifically regarding property sales, taxes, surveys and legal descriptions. The City Attorney and I continue to work with all parties to finalize a formal Purchase Agreement, which should be presented to the City Commission for consideration in the near future.

Obviously, this process is complicated and the project will take some time to begin really taking shape, but it is important to realize that since September, a great deal of effort has been devoted to planning related to the new hospital. All parties remain committed to moving this project forward in a positive manner, and in compliance with the MOU, which established that first broad framework.

Even with successful negotiations concluded, the real work is just beginning - and as with all things, a journey!

Next in the series: Dennis Stachewicz, Marquette's Director of Community Development, will discuss the anticipated project schedule, and will address "placemaking" as a guiding principle of design.



**Mayor
Mike Coyne**
(h) 226-6669
jmcoyne@mqctcy.org



**Mayor Pro Tem
Dave Campana**
(h) 226-3621
dcampana@mqctcy.org



**Commissioner
Tom Baldini**
(h) 228-9579
tbaldini@mqctcy.org



**Commissioner
Sara Cambensy**
sacambensy@mqctcy.org



**Commissioner
Mike Conley**
(h) 228-5586
mconley@mqctcy.org



**Commissioner
Peter Frazier**
(h) 225-1953
pfrazier@mqctcy.org



**Commissioner
Sarah Reynolds**
(c) 869-7583
sreynolds@mqctcy.org

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 noted otherwise. Citizens are invited to attend.

Regular Meetings:

- Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, 7 p.m.**
- Monday, Jan. 26, 2015, 7 p.m.**
- Monday, Feb. 9, 2015, 7 p.m.**
- Monday, Feb. 23, 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.

M
E
E
T
T
H
E
C
O
M
M
I
S
S
I
O
N
M
E
E
T
I
N
G

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

The next session of New Committee Member Orientation will be held in City Commission Chambers at City Hall (300 W. Baraga Ave.) on Feb. 3, at 4 p.m. Sign up in the Manager's Office.

Winter Hours at City Hall

City Hall offices open at 8 a.m. and close at 5 p.m., Monday - Friday. For operating hours of all City departments and facilities, please visit our website at www.mqctcy.org/contact_us.html.

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, Feb. 16, for Presidents Day.

The Fire, Police and Public Works & 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 meeting is intended to provide an informal opportunity to discuss issues within the community, and to give citizens the opportunity for direct dialogue with City staff about interests and concerns.

Meet Your New City Commissioners

The three commissioners listed below were elected in November of 2014 to three-year terms on the City Commission.

Commissioner Tom Baldini

Thomas Baldini was a teacher of Government and Economics at Marquette Senior High School from 1965-83 and also a part-time instructor at Northern Michigan University. He joined Governor James Blanchard's staff as a Special Assistant for U.P. Affairs and Education Advisor in 1984 and returned to the Marquette Public Schools as the Assistant to the Superintendent for Finances and Personnel in 1991. In 1994 President Clinton nominated him and the U.S. Senate confirmed his appointment to be the U.S. Chair of the International Joint Commission for Canada and the United States managing all of the waters shared by the two countries. He also assumed the duties as the U.S. Representative of the U.S. and Canadian Boundary Commission in 1998. In 2003 he was appointed by U. S. Congressman Bart Stupak, 1st Congressional District of Michigan, to be his District Director and retired from federal service in 2010.

Currently he is an adjunct instructor in the Political Science Department of Northern Michigan University. Appointed by Governor Granholm, he serves as a member of the Michigan Technological University Board of Control. He is President of the Marquette Area Public School Foundation and Vice Chair of the Marquette County Community Foundation. He is President of the Fourth of July Fireworks Committee for the Marquette area.

He was previously elected to the City Charter Commission in 2011.

Commissioner Mike Conley

Mike Conley was raised in Northville, Michigan, earned his bachelor of arts degree in zoology from the University of Michigan, his medical doctor degree at the University Michigan and then served his four-year internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Indiana University.

He moved to Marquette in 1980 to practice obstetrics and gynecology, and with his wife Martha, to raise their family. Initially in group practice, he formed a solo practice in 1998 in gynecology and gynecologic surgery and retired from practice in 2009. He has served as board member and president of the Upper Peninsula Medical Center, board member of the Peter White Public Library and as member and chairperson of the Harbor Advisory Committee for the City of Marquette.

He and Martha have three adult children, who have scattered around the globe, one grandchild and one on the way. He enjoys hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, traveling, going to camp, fishing, canoeing and photography.

Commissioner Peter Frazier

Peter Frazier was born and raised in Marquette. He attended Ferris State University where he received a degree in Heavy Equipment Service Engineering Technology.

Prior to his election as a City Commissioner, Mr. Frazier was involved as a member of the Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee. He was very involved in the ongoing project to build a universally accessible playground that will hopefully one day serve children of all abilities. He also volunteers on the Friends of Presque Isle group and with the Lake Superior Theatre.

Peter is employed at Fraco, Inc. in sales and delivery and also works at the Lake Superior Yacht Yard.

Peter White, his Great-Great-Great Grandfather, believed in working to preserve and protect our valuable resources. Peter hopes to continue that tradition. Peter lives in Marquette with his wife, Jennifer, and their daughter, Petra. He is an avid boater and enjoys hiking, skiing, kayaking and traveling with his family.



*Back Row (L to R): Campana, Baldini, Conley, Frazier
Front Row (L to R): Reynolds, Coyne, Cambensy*

Winter Tax Collection

The 2014 winter taxes are due at the City Treasurer's office by Feb. 14. Taxpayers can pay their tax bills through Feb. 14, 2015 without penalty. A 3 percent penalty applies to payments received between Feb. 15-28, 2015. Payments received after March 1, 2015 will be considered delinquent. Taxpayers that have a deferment with the City will have until Feb. 14, 2015 to pay both their summer and winter taxes without interest.

AARP E-Filing Tax Assistance Offered at Senior Center

The Marquette Senior Center, in partnership with AARP, is pleased to offer E-Filing Tax Assistance for Marquette area residents. If you need to file State and Federal Income Taxes — including the Homestead Property Tax Credit or the Home Heating Credit — AARP volunteers will be available (by appointment only) at the Marquette Senior Center beginning in February.



You can schedule an appointment for the following days between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.:

Tuesday, Feb. 3
Friday, Feb. 6
Tuesday, Feb. 10
Friday, Feb. 13
Tuesday, Feb. 17
Friday, Feb. 20
Tuesday, Feb. 24
Friday, Feb. 27

Please bring the following items (if applicable) with you to your appointment:

1. If filing a joint return, both parties must be present.
2. If the taxpayer is homebound, a power of attorney should be presented for the individual. Contact the Marquette Senior Center for assistance.
3. A copy of your completed 2013 tax return.
4. Social Security numbers for all persons on the return.
5. W-2 for all jobs worked.
6. 1099 INT. This shows interest earned this may also be shown on a 1099R.
7. 1099 DIV. This shows any dividends earned and may also be shown on a 1099R.
8. Documentation of any self-employed business expenses and income including cash income.
9. 1099B – Capital gains or losses. You must have the cost basis of any stocks or mutual funds that were sold.
10. 1099R – Showing any IRA distributions pensions or annuities.
11. 1099G – Unemployment compensation.
12. SSA 1099 – Social Security and railroad benefits.
13. 1099 MISC – Any miscellaneous income.
14. W-2 G – Gambling winnings.
15. If you itemize deductions, you must have written proof of all deductions.
16. 1095A – This form will arrive if you purchased your healthcare insurance through the marketplace.
17. If you have an exemption from the affordable care, act you will need to provide the exemption certificate.
18. You must provide a blank or canceled check in the name of the taxpayer for us to obtain the correct routing and account information.
19. To do the property tax credit we need copies of the amount of property tax assessed for 2014 and the taxable value of the home. If you rent, we need to know the name and address to whom you pay the rent and how much.
20. For the home heating credit, we need the amount you paid for heating during the year from your provider. If you heat with wood, we need to know the amount you paid for the wood.

If you would like to make a tax appointment, please call the Senior Center Office at 228-0456.

Heating Safety Tips from the Marquette Fire Department

Heating equipment continues to be the second leading cause of home fires behind cooking, and the second leading cause of home fire deaths behind smoking.

Half of fatal home space heater fires started because something was too close to the heater and ignited. Heating fires and the deaths they cause can usually be prevented with awareness and a few simple actions.

General Tips for Space Heaters:

- Never use your oven or a grill to heat your home.
- Keep things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least three feet away from heating equipment.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around space heaters.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Use and purchase portable space heaters with an automatic shut off so if they're tipped over they will shut off.
- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.



Tips for Fuel-Burning Space Heaters:

- Always use the proper fuel as specified by the manufacturer.
- When refueling, allow the appliance to cool and refuel outside or in a well-ventilated area.
- When using the heater, always provide ventilation per the manufacturer's instructions.
- In portable kerosene or other liquid-fueled space heaters, always use the proper grade of the proper fuel.

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.

City Residents Have Payment Options

Automated Clearing House Payments

Effective with the 2014 Tax Season, the City began offering citizens the option of using Automatic Clearing House (ACH) payments to pay taxes.

An ACH payment is a direct electronic debit transfer of a customer's payment amount from their financial institution to the City's financial institution.

The City automatically initiates the transaction for payment and offers three date options: Sept. 14, Dec. 30 or Feb. 14.

The date is specified by the taxpayer.

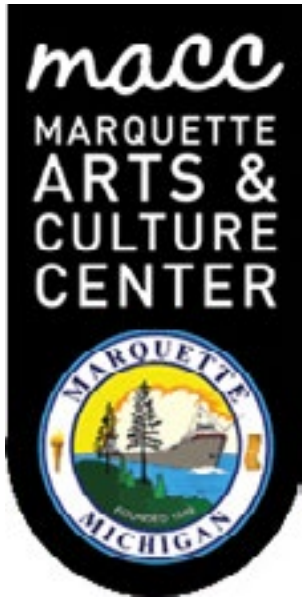
Before you can utilize this option, a signed form authorizing ACH payments must be on file with the City.

Credit Card Payments

Over-the-counter credit card payments have been accepted at the City for the past year and are working very well. There is a 3 percent processing fee charged by our service provider when using a credit card. All major cards are accepted.



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.



January Exhibit: Mud, Myth, and Matter

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center announces its January Main Gallery exhibition: Mud, Myth, and Matter by artists Martha Fotopulos, Mary Ann Kublin, Allison Kublin and Paula Kiesling. This exhibit will be a collection of paintings, ceramic pottery, masks, rusted metal and wood.

The SmallWorks Gallery will feature artwork by interdisciplinary artist and designer, Sophia Thomas. This exhibit explores the intersection of art, technology and human experiences through designed objects applied to domestic goods. Thomas received her bachelor of fine arts from Northern Michigan University in 2014 and currently is a master of fine arts candidate at Cranbrook Academy of Art.



The shows will be running Jan. 5-31 and there will be an artist reception on Thursday, Jan. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m.

First Thursday Series Presents: Sparrow Tree

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center invites the public to attend the expanded January music series. On Tuesday, Jan. 6, Troy Graham will host a 6:30 p.m. autoharp lecture in the Wave Workshop of the MACC.

Graham's band Sparrow Tree will also perform on Thursday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. in the large workshop of the MACC. Due to New Year's Day, the performance will be held on the second Thursday of the month instead of the first.



Sparrow Tree is an energetic, fresh, four-piece, jam-grass band. Consisting of Troy Graham on guitar and lead vocals, Sam Graves on mandolin and fiddle, recent addition Russel Harmon on banjo and Heather Evans on double bass and vocals, these incredibly talented musicians are infusing a generous shot of youth and vigor into the Upper Peninsula's folk grass scene with their captivating mix of original compositions and traditional folk repertoire.

Local folk singer and songwriter, Zach Lancaster will be opening for Sparrow Tree. He will be performing original works with both banjo and guitar.

The concert and lecture are free and the public is encouraged to attend.

CALL TO ARTISTS: Wintercharm

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center is accepting entries for February's Wintercharm exhibit. Wintercharm is an annual art exhibition sponsored by the Lake Superior Art Association, the MACC and the Peter White Public Library. Artwork that embodies the spirit of our wintry climate will be accepted.

This is a non-juried exhibition open to the public and all media is welcomed.

The exhibition will be held at the Peter White Public Library in the Huron Mountain Club Gallery located at 217 N. Front Street, Feb. 2-28. There will be a reception on Thursday, Feb. 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. Artists and public are welcome to attend.

Entry forms and guidelines for the show can be picked up in the SmallWorks Gallery at the MACC. Artwork (with entry forms attached) is due on Friday, January 30 before 5 p.m.

Artists will pick up their work in the Huron Mountain Club Gallery on Saturday, February 28 between 1-5 p.m.

February Exhibit: The Magic of My New Life

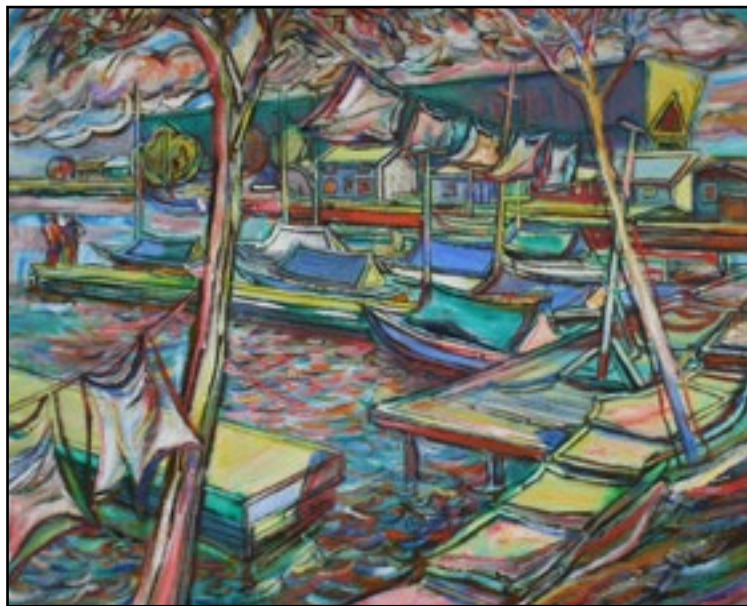
The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center announces its February Main Gallery exhibition: The Magic of My New Life by Bulgarian artist Georgi Tsenov. This exhibit will be a collection of oil paintings of Marquette and the Upper Peninsula. Tsenov studied at National School of Fine Arts "Iliya Petrov" and Sofia University in Bulgaria. He has participated at over 70 jury exhibitions and biennales in Bulgaria, the European Union and the United States. In 2009, Tsenov moved to Houghton with his family.

The SmallWorks Gallery will feature artwork by writer, photographer and visual artist Christine Saari. Originally from Austria, Saari has lived in Marquette since 1971. Her exhibit Travel Bag is a series of cigar boxes that she has transformed into small shrines.

The Huron Mountain Gallery of the Peter White Public Library will have the annual Wintercharm exhibit. Wintercharm is sponsored by the Lake Superior Art Association, the MACC and the Peter White Public Library.

This non-juried show is a collection of public artwork that embodies the spirit of our wintery climate.

The shows will be running from Feb. 2-28 and there will be an artist reception on Thursday, Feb. 5 from 6 to 8 p.m.



MACC Seeking Participation for 19th Annual Arts Awards

Nominations Requested

The City of Marquette is welcoming citizens to anonymously nominate deserving members of the community to be considered for the 2015 Annual Arts Awards.

The MACC offers these awards to recognize and thank citizens who have demonstrated artistic excellence and/or have made significant contributions to awareness of arts in our community.

Nominations for the 19th Annual Art Awards are being accepted for the following categories: Arts Volunteer, Arts Activist, Arts Educator, Youth Award, Visual Artist, Performing Artist, Special Recognition, Community Arts Impact, Art Business Honor Roll and Writer.

Nomination forms and criteria may be picked-up at the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center, located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library at 217 N. Front Street or downloaded from the city website.

Nominations will be accepted until March 9, 2015. The Award recipients will be honored in a public ceremony in May.

Award Design Needed

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center is accepting design proposals for the Annual City Arts Awards. Every spring, 10 artists are chosen to receive an award acknowledging their contribution to arts and culture in Marquette. Each recipient will receive a hand-crafted award during the ceremony. The artist selected to complete this project will be required to create 10 awards. The stipend for the design and creation of the awards is \$600. Past awards have included found art, sculpture, original watercolor paintings, one-of-a-kind ceramic pots and framed origami.

To be considered to create the award, artists are asked to submit the following:

- Artist Resume
- Application Form
- Project Proposal (1 page maximum)
- Project Proposal Images (up to 6)

The 2015 design proposal deadline is Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015. The artist application, criteria and a timeline can be found online at www.mqtcty.org/arts.php or can be picked up at the MACC.

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

City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center Workshop Calendar

Senior Arts

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

Jan. 6 and Jan. 20: "How to Take a Better Picture" - instructed by Corey Kelly

Feb. 3 and Feb. 17: To be announced

Cost: Free (though non-City residents will be asked to make a \$5 donation to help cover the costs of supplies and instruction)

Professional artists instruct participants in this successful program for Seniors only. Each month a new professional artist will lead the group. Students must pre-register through the Senior Center at 228-0456.

Gallery Tours

Second Tuesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. (Jan. 13 and Feb. 10)

Cost: Free

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

Senior Art Social

Second Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m.

Jan. 13: Instructed by Gene Bertram

Feb. 10: To be announced

Cost: Free

Taking place after monthly tours, join fellow seniors for informative demonstration and a 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.

MFAK Open Mic (21 years old and younger)

Second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. (Jan. 14 and Feb. 11)

Cost: Free

Music for All Kids is a nonprofit organization devoted to the advancement and consistent support of youth ages 5-18 through the learning, application, and instruction of music. MFAK is a self sustaining system of education and enrichment that accesses music to foster healthy youth development, regardless if the child has the means to pay. Bring your acoustic instruments. This open mic has been changed from the third Wednesday to the second Wednesday of the month.



Introduction to Screen Printing with Leigh DiFulvio

Saturdays, Jan. 10 and Jan. 17 from noon to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$125 registration fee

This course will serve as a two-part workshop to introduce participants to the basic process and techniques of screen printing. Each participant will get to keep their printing equipment at the end of the course, so they can continue to use their new skills at home even after the course is over.

Linoleum Block Print and Simple Book Binding with Kayo Miwa

Wednesday, Jan. 14 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30 registration fee

2015 is the year of the Sheep. Each student will make a block print image of a sheep to be exchanged with other students to make a collective basic book form.

Intermediate Watercolor with Carl Mayer

Saturday, Jan. 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$45 registration fee

This class is intended for intermediate to advanced painters. Students will bring their own supplies.

Quilt Your Acrylic Painting with Judy Parlato

Friday, Jan. 30 from 4 to 6 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$80 registration fee

Arts and Culture Center Workshop Calendar, cont'd

The art quilter will have an opportunity to explore color and other elements of design during this fun and creative workshop. Prepare for an explosion of color as we paint three canvasses, cut them apart and sew them together in a design that begs for free motion quilting. Don't worry if you have not painted or quilted before. Sewing machine necessary on Saturday. You will dazzle yourself with what you can do with a little encouragement.

Intermediate Watercolor with Carl Mayer

Saturday, Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$45 registration fee

This class is intended for intermediate to advanced painters. Students will bring their own supplies.

Quilt Your Landscape Photo with Judy Parlato

Friday, Feb. 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$60 registration fee

You need not have any sewing experience to be able to recreate your own landscape photo on fabric. This exercise in color and composition will amaze you and those whom you are regularly trying to amaze. A sewing machine is necessary on Saturday. Trust me on this, it is so much fun!

Annual City of Marquette Open House Set for Feb. 4

Community Members are invited to the City of Marquette's Annual Open House on Thursday, Feb. 4, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center.

The Open House provides residents the opportunity to meet City Commissioners and staff, including Police and Firemen, the City Manager and more. There will be interactive displays by City departments, the Marquette Downtown Development Authority, the Marquette Board of Light and Power, the Superior Watershed Partnership and Peter White Public Library. Families and children can look forward to raffle drawings, fun giveaways, snacks and refreshments.

More than 200 individuals attended the 2014 Open House, which included displays by City departments, the Marquette Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, the Marquette Senior High School Robotics Team and the Associated Students of Northern Michigan University, in addition to other partner and civic organizations.

The MACC is located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library.



The 2014 City of Marquette Open House was a success, with more than 200 individuals in attendance.

Preparations Begin for 25th Running of UP200, Midnight Run

The Upper Peninsula Sled Dog Association has declared 2015 the Year of the Volunteer as they celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the running of UP200 and Midnight Run. The races begin on Friday, Feb. 13 with the opening ceremony at 6:30 p.m. at the corner of Fourth and West Washington streets in beautiful Downtown Marquette. The first UP200 team leaves the chute at 7 p.m. amid the excited cheers of spectators lining the streets. The excitement continues as the Midnight Run takes off with their eight-dog teams from the starting gate at 8 p.m. The Marquette Downtown Development Authority will host a Warm-Up Party during the races at the Marquette Commons. Be sure to follow the mushers' progress on the UP200 website (up200.org) and cheer your favorites as they cross the finish line in Marquette's Lower Harbor Park. The first Midnight Run racer is expected to arrive around 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning, while the UP200 mushers are expected to begin crossing the finish line around noon on Sunday.

Jack Deo photo



The UP200 draws large crowds to downtown Marquette.

Saturday morning, the Kiddie Mutt Races, sponsored by the Marquette Kiwanis, begin at 11 a.m. at the Marquette Commons. Catch the fun as family dogs try to qualify as a "sled dog." Also on Saturday, Gwinn will host the 12th running of the Jack Pine 30, a 30-mile race offering competition for six-dog teams beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Marquette's YMCA, located at 1420 Pine Street will serve as Race Headquarters this year, hosting the pre-race Banquet, the silent auction and merchandise for sale. Race Headquarters will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. throughout race weekend.

Downtown Showdown Rail Jam Returns to Downtown Marquette

Extreme skiers and snowboarders will once again take to the streets of Downtown Marquette for the third annual Downtown Showdown Rail Jam on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015. The Compound Ski and Snowboard Shop is partnering with the Marquette Downtown Development Authority, Marquette County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Double Trouble DJs, to bring the excitement of the ski hill to the historic streets of Marquette. This ski and rail jam competition takes place on the 100 and 200 blocks of North Front Street, a scenic and unique location to ride the snow-covered rails and thrilling jumps. An Open Jam will take place for riders of all abilities before the main competition. Athletes who partake in the competition phase of the event will vie for a cash prize in one of two sections: Skier Rail Jam and Snowboarder Rail Jam. If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact the Marquette Downtown Development Authority at 906-228-9475. Additional information is available at www.travelmarquettemichigan.com or www.facebook.com/DowntownShowdown.

Ryan Stephens Photography photo



The annual Downtown Showdown Rail Jam is slated for Feb. 21, 2015.



Marquette
www.mqtcty.org

Marquette Matters, Volume 5, Issue No. 1
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 email 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 City Manager's Office at 906-228-0435.