City Band Celebrates 125 Years

Prior to phonographs, radio, movies and television, live music like bands and orchestras were a fundamental part of a community, both for entertainment and ceremonies. This year marks the 125th anniversary of the Marquette City Band, one of the longest standing organizations in the community.

In the fall of 1887 the City persuaded members of the Calumet Eureka Band to relocate to Marquette to form the Marquette City Band. Soon local musicians began to join the group. The Marquette City Band was noted for their musicianship and high quality of playing.

Like many bands in the late 1800s the Marquette City Band struggled financially. Purchasing and maintaining instruments, sheet music and uniforms proved expensive. Competition was also a factor as smaller bands and orchestras flourished and as different forms of entertainment became available. In its infancy the Marquette City Band played infrequently due to a lack of funding, and it wasn’t until 1929 that John M. Longyear passed a petition asking voters to support a municipally funded band. The citizens voted yes to municipal funding that continues to support the band enjoyed today.

Marquette native and resident Bob Moore has been a band member for over 50 years. In 1934 Moore attended Howard Jr. High school and played trumpet in school orchestra. “In those days there was little to no formal training for a young man who wanted to play the trumpet,” according to Moore. Coming from a musical family, Moore was mostly self-taught. The Howard Jr. High School and the Marquette City Band Director, Martin Johnson suggested he audition. Moore was only 13 years old when he joined the band’s brass section. Moore began his first year in last chair, but by the end of the year he had risen to first principle chair. There were no uniforms provided, but participants were paid a $3.00 stipend per concert. Soon Moore’s skills advanced. He played “dance music” in big bands such as the Glen Willis Orchestra and played professionally throughout the Midwest. Moore has played with the Marquette City Band through out his life and continues to be an active member when he has the opportunity.

Marquette City Band has and continues to be an integral part of our local traditions and also provides opportunities for aspiring young musicians like Moore. Come celebrate Marquette City Band’s 125th anniversary and give three cheers for the next hundred years. Visit page four to view the 2012 City Band schedule.

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 906-223-8100 or marquettecity@cityofmarquette.org.

"Yesterday is but today’s memory and tomorrow is today’s dream.” — Khalil Gibran

How do we describe Marquette? What is our vision for where we wish to go?

I get these questions all the time, and there is no single answer. When with business people, the answer usually has to do with the economy and investments. When with property owners, the interest is mostly with street improvements and waste services. When with youth, they mostly ask about arts, culture, and recreation. I offer comments on what is currently underway, and a few things that are planned for the upcoming year. I also make sure to ask “What would you like to see happen?”

When I’m spending time with people from outside the area, the questions are a little easier, but the answers are much harder. “What are those sparkly stones that we find on the Iron Ore Heritage Trail?” I answer “specular hematite – a legacy of our mining industries, and we ship over $200M worth from the Port of Marquette every year.” “What are those green stones that line the harbor?” “A type of locally-mined marble, not too dissimilar from the finest Italian Verde Antigua.” “Birds-eye Maple is beautiful; is it unique to Marquette?” “It is beautiful, but not unique to the U.P. It is a valuable local export, and global companies buy even single logs to turn into veneers for artwork and furniture.”

I also get questions about people watching. “I was walking my dog along a trail, and I ran into Olympic medalist Shanni Davis and his friend.” “I was eating at a local restaurant, and I thought I saw Apolo Ohno in the kitchen!” “I was here a while ago and I saw the Rolling Stones at the Landmark Hotel!” “I think Jeff Daniels married a local girl.” “I was here to listen to both President Bush and President Obama speak!”

What kind of place is this? How do you describe a place where the waterfront is lined in the finest marble, where the world’s elite come to visit friends and family, and where residents fiercely protect the balance between the works of Man and Nature?

Simply, “Marquette.”

So how do establish a vision for preserving what we love most about Marquette, and investing in things that will make it even better? Ensuring all community interests are represented and preserved is a function of the Community Master Plan. This effort solicits resident interest across a plethora of activities and needs, and ultimately will be used to inform policy decisions related to economic development, strategic planning, and annual budget priorities. There will be lots of opportunities for input to the plan (i.e., parks and recreation; waterfront usage; environmental preservation; agriculture policies; historic preservation, just to name a few) through meetings, on-line surveys, and personal discussion — and all views are requested. We welcome and need all residents to participate — and to help us capture what can only be described as simply, Marquette.
Revised City Charter Submitted to the State

Final preparation of the Revised City Charter was completed on May 30, 2012 and subsequently submitted to the Governor’s Office and the State Attorney General’s Office. Receipt of the Charter has been acknowledged by the State and their review process is under way. The City will remain in contact with the State during the review process as there are likely to be some editorial suggestions from the Attorney General’s Office. The City has submitted some supplemental information to the Attorney General at their request in the form of copies of our current Charter and the legal manuscript that was provided by Municipal Code Corporation (MCC). The State review process is expected to be completed by Mid-August so that the Revised Charter can be included on the November Presidential Election Ballot. The May 30, 2012 meeting of the Charter Commission was cancelled as the Revision was completed prior to the meeting. Additional meetings may be called this summer and during the fall to work on suggestions from the State and to adopt ballot language as well as to discuss the presentation of the Charter to the public prior to the election.

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.mqtcty.org/communitynetwork.html. More information can be obtained by contacting Wendy Larson in the City Manager’s office via email wlarson@mqtcty.org or by phone 906-225-8104.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Name</th>
<th>Vacancies</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Local Officers Compensation Commission</td>
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<td>Planning Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ad-hoc Committee</td>
<td>One Vacancy-Alternate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister City Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Two Vacancies</td>
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City Committee Boot Camp

The City has instituted a new training session for the members of volunteer authorities, boards and committees called “Committee Boot Camp.” The City Manager and City Attorney will present 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 Boot Camp will be held on the following dates/times:

- **Wednesday, August 15th**, at 1:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, December 4th**, 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 please contact Wendy Larson in the City Manager’s office at 906-225-8104 or wlarson@mqtcty.org.

Utility Rates Adjusted for 2012 Billing Cycle

New City utility rates will take effect with the July 2012 billing cycle. The new rates were approved by the City Commission as part of the annual budget process in May. There will be a slight increase in the garbage and stormwater base rates. Water and sewer rates consist of a base rate and a variable rate. The base rates for both water and sewer will not change, however, the variable rates will increase slightly as shown in the table, right.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Base Rate</th>
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Summer Tax Information

Summer Property Tax statements will be mailed to City residents on June 29th. Tax collection begins July 1 and payments are accepted without penalty through August 4th. The summer property tax bill includes taxes for the School, Marquette-Alger Regional Education Service Agency, State Education Library, City, Senior Millage, County Operating, and the Iron Ore Heritage Trail.

Summer Tax Deferment

Eligible taxpayers may defer their summer taxes by submitting an application for deferment to the City Treasurer before September 15th. To qualify, the gross annual household income cannot exceed $40,000 and the applicant is either: 1) age 62 years or older, 2) paraplegic or quadriplegic, 3) eligible service person who served in the active military forces during a period of war, 4) blind, or 5) totally and permanently disabled. A deferment defers the due date of the summer taxes from August 4th to February 14th without penalty or interest.

Nominating Petitions Approved

As of the May 15, 2012 deadline, eight people filed petitions for two City Commissioner seats and three people filed for two seats on the Board of Light and Power (BLP). In accordance with the City Charter, the eight candidates for City Commission positions will appear on the August Primary ballot. This occurs when there is more than twice the number of candidates than there are open seats. Candidates for the BLP will only appear on the November 6, 2012 General Election ballot as no primary is required (a minimum of five candidates would have had to file to require a primary for the BLP). On Thursday, May 17, 2012 the nominating petitions were reviewed and approved by the Election Board. They were then sent to the County Clerk to be added to the appropriate ballots. The top four candidates from the August Primary Election for the City Commission positions will appear on the November General Election ballot.

City Commission Meetings

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

- **Monday, July 9, 2012, 7:00 p.m.**, Commission Chambers
- **Monday, July 30, 2012, 7:00 p.m.**, Commission Chambers
- **Monday, August 13, 2012, 7:00 p.m.**, Commission Chambers
- **Monday, August 27, 2012, 7:00 p.m.**, Commission Chambers

Meetings are televised on the City of Marquette’s Channel 21.
Waterfront Safety Information Available to Citizens

The City of Marquette Fire Department now is responsible for the City’s Waterfront Safety Program. An integral part of the program’s implementation is effective communication. Public notification takes many forms, and among them are signage, electronic and print media, the flag warning system, and the City’s website, www.mqtcy.org/Beachfront.

The beach flag status, the opened or closed status of the beaches, and the presence of dangerous currents and water temperatures can all be accessed on the City’s website. The beachfront website is updated on a daily basis at noon, Memorial Day through Labor Day (the regular beach season). The program’s implementation is effective communication of the City’s Waterfront Safety Program. An integral part of the city’s ongoing safety efforts is the/Marquette. A new webpage, marquettebeach.org, is available online and via City Hall’s website.

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MBRC 12th Annual Spring Awards Recognized

The Marquette Beautification and Restoration Committee, Inc. (MBRC) held their 12th Annual Awards Luncheon on May 10, 2012 at the Landmark Inn. The committee annually honors individuals and businesses that have made a positive impact on Marquette. This year there were seventeen awards given in eight categories, as listed below.

Marion Sonderregger was given the Lifetime Achievement Award. She has been very involved in the city’s waterfront and beachfront areas. And she has graced the pages of the local newspaper and has helped fund and work on many projects in the City, including the Presque Isle Pavilion. She is a patron of arts and culture and has recently agreed to chair the new MBRC project of restoring the Father Marquette Statue.

The Phil Nenmio Volunteer Award was given to two members of the Telephone Pioneers of America who have been involved in the Adopt-A-Park project since 1986. Shirley LaBonte has made the Dead River Park, also known as the LaBonte Park, beautiful and inviting with flowers and a waterfall. Dick Vivian has been the caretaker of the Welcome Sign on US 41 South by planting flowers and providing lawn upkeep.

The Barbara H. Kelly Historic Preservation Award was given to individuals and businesses who have been influential in preserving Marquette’s and the Upper Peninsula’s history and/or historical buildings. Cliff’s Natural Resources was honored for maintaining the LSI Ore Dock for 100 years. The Graverstat Fountain and Courtyard was also honored. The fountain was restored to its original glory with a committee and hundreds of volunteers that were led by Sara Camben. Peter and Audrey Kaufman were given this award for all their involvement and their ongoing generosity to the community. The Superior A’s, chaired by President Steve Pellinen, was awarded for the Model A Convention held in Marquette in June.

The Commercial/Business Improvement Award was given to area businesses that have shown improvement to their properties. Dr. Gary Asano and Dr. Stephen Wissler have a wonderful, well-landscape professional building that is hidden behind the pine trees at the corner of Fair and Lincoln. Cook Sign Services recently painted the building, extended the awning, and erected a new sign. They also installed a garden on the corner of Washington and Garfield. Mike and Sonia Stucko have done extensive renovation to both the exterior and interior of Stucko’s Pub & Grill. Walgreens is a welcome addition to West Washington. The bike building, eye-pleasing signage and nicely landscaped green space.

The Window Display Award was given to Darling: The Corner Boutique, for their distinctive, eye-catching windows and overall appeal at the corner of Front and Washington.

The Spark Plug Award is given to area businesses and/or individuals who have made a dramatic change. Andrea Forsberg, owner of Flower Works LLC, took a drab landscape and made it a beautiful, blooming area on the corner of Park and Third Street.

Two Signs of the Times Awards were given this year. The Marquette Federation of Women’s Club has a new, beautifully painted sign designed by Mike LaTulip. Northern Michigan University was given this award for their dramatic new signage at the entryways into campus.

The MBRC awarded the Green Spirit Award to two recipients. The Marquette Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was given this award for the installation of the artistic blue bike racks on Washington and Front Streets. The DDA also installed electric charging stations and bike racks in the parking ramp. The Lake Superior Watershed Partnership was presented this award for their Red Bucket Project which targets controlling cigarette butts from entering Lake Superior.

Each year the committee seeks community nominations for these awards. Please visit www.mqtbaybeautification.org for 2013 nomination forms. For more information please call 906-226-9618 or 906-225-5077.

Community Master Plan Update - Citizen Involvement Encouraged

According to City Planner Dave Stensaas, "There is a lot happening in relation to the update of the Community Master Plan, and it all revolves around the people of Marquette being involved. There are public visioning workshops - so the public can share ideas and dialogue with planners face to face, there is an opinion survey online and on paper, there is a photo contest and exhibit, and there is a blog where residents and business owners can share their thoughts and ideas with each other and with City officials. We also have a searchable webpage, ‘Community Master Planning Department,’ where information is exchanged, and that has been very helpful.”

Three workshops were held in late May and early June to identify and document important issues for the community's future. The prioritized issues from each meeting may be found in the ‘project update’ document that is available online or in the Planning Department office. A “visioning” process is being used to identify the top priorities that City residents have for the future of the community, and visioning is conducted with the intent that Master Plan reflect those identified priorities.

Workshops in September and October will build on the spring sessions and create a community vision statement that will be used in the update of the Community Master Plan. All Marquette residents and business owners are encouraged to come to the fall workshops and to participate in the survey.

The Planning Commission’s goal is to have a final draft of the revised plan completed to be presented to the City Commission by the end of this calendar year. The Planning Commission meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, except in a few cases when holidays create a deviation. Each third Tuesday meeting includes work sessions to update the Plan, and public comment is welcomed at all meetings. For more information please call Dave Stensaas at 906-225-8103.
### Russian Baker Master Visits for Workshops

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center, in partnership with Second Skin Shop, is extremely proud to announce Valery Lantratov workshop offerings. Mr. Lantratov will be offering three ballet classes at the Northern Michigan University PE1 Dance Studio. The classes will be held on Thursday, July 19, 2012 with a Beginner/Technique class from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., an Intermediate/Advanced Variation class from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and an Intermediate/Advanced Character class from 9:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Registration fees per class are $30.00 for Beginners/Technique, $50.00 for Intermediate/Advanced Variation or Technique, or $50.00 for all three classes. After July 12th, registration fees will increase by $5.00 per class. Class sizes are limited so it is highly recommended that students sign up in advance; call the Arts and Culture Center at 906-228-0472 for more information or to register. Lantratov was selected as a first soloist with the Moscow Stanislavski Ballet and has received accolades in the Russian and international press for his strong technique and expressiveness. In 1997, Russian president Boris Yeltsin named Lantratov the “People’s Artist of Russia,” the Russian Federation’s highest artistic honor.

### New Community Programs at Tourist Park Campground

**Nature Interpretive Hikes**

Tourist Park Campground will be hosting nature interpretive hikes this summer on the following dates: July 3rd, July 14th, July 21st, August 11th and August 25th.

Please join Tourist Park Staff for a 45 minute hike around the campground and surrounding trails to discuss park history, wildlife, and natural surroundings. Hikes will leave from the campground office at 4:00 p.m. There is no cost to participate.

**Campfire Song Evenings**

Tourist Park will hold “Campfire Songs” this summer with a Beginner/Technique class from July 20th to July 29th, 2012. An artist reception will be held on the main fire pit in front of the camp office. Badminton and games will also be available to play! Campfire Songs will be canceled if it is raining.

Please contact the Tourist Park Office for more information about these programs or about the park at 906-228-0465.

### Downtown Blueberry Festival Offers Entertainment

Music will fill the air as the Center Stage at Washington and Front Streets offers entertainment throughout the day. The day begins with a Children’s Talent Show at 11:00 a.m. sponsored by Lake Superior Youth Theatre. From 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., the streets will rock with live music of the “Blueberry Jam.” Local favorite bands include Jim and Ray, Les Ross Sr. and his Finnish American Friends, Flat Broke Blues Band featuring Lorrie Hayes, Shot Gun Kelli and Stale 31, and Team Awesome. Additional acts include a dance performance by the Beldalinas, martial arts demonstrations by the Spirit Warrior Karate Academy, and music at the Pocket Park, by the Eclecticino String Quartet and the Lost Lake Effect Band. Bella Beads will once again sponsor the “Blueberry Bead Challenge,” with proceeds benefiting UPAWS.

The Eleventh Annual Limited Edition Festival Poster by Ethan Hornacek (pictured above) will be available for $10.00 at select Downtown Businesses and at the Information Booth. For more information please call 906-228-9475 or visit www.downtownmarquette.org.

### City Partnership Preserves Historic Records

In 2011 the City of Marquette and Marquette County conducted a joint venture with Northern Michigan University to digitize the City’s and County’s old records and to create a website open to the public that would provide access to the rich history of local government in our area. The city meeting minutes date back to 1868 and with the completion of this project, all actions of the City and County from 1868 to 2011 will be available online. The project was completed in July of 2011 and the website went live in August. The City wishes to thank the Central Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan University Archives and Marcus Robyns for their efforts in making this project a reality as it will benefit the community for a very long time.

**City Band Schedule**

The Marquette City Band is performing on the following dates:

- Wednesday, July 4th, 6:00 p.m. at Mattson Park in the Lower Harbor - “The Spirit of America”
- Thursday, July 12th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Presque Isle Band Shell - “Under the Big Top” - a concert especially for children
- Thursday, July 26th at 7:30 p.m. at the Presque Isle Band Shell - Broadway Showstoppers

**Lakeview Arena gets Upgrades**

In 2009 the City of Marquette invested $8,475,000 worth of bonds for capital projects. Lakeview Arena was allocated $1,300,000 for improvements and upgrades. Three years later, final renovations at the City facility are scheduled to be complete in August. Doug Conover, assistant Parks and Recreation Director, comments, “the upgrades offer greater energy conservation and therefore a reduction in utility costs. The public will be able to see a new scoreboard, improved lighting along with new, clean locker room and shower facilities.” Improvements include the replacement of the heating boiler system, installation of a dehumidification system (Russell Arena), replacement of the north side of the roof (Russell Arena), replacement of the HVAC system, replacement of the boiler heater to serve the kitchen, replacement of the domestic hot water heat exchanger, replacement of the scoreboard (Russell Arena), replacement of the arena overhead fluorescent lighting (Russell and Olson Arenas), and renovation of the locker rooms including lighting, flooring, shower walls, shower floors, shower fixtures (Russell Arena).

Please call 906-228-0472 for more information.

**Chicago Artist Visits Marquette**

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center’s Lower Level Gallery presents: “The Shape of Things,” a sculpture exhibition by Chicago artist John Conover from July 5th to August 10th, 2012. An artist reception will be held on July 5th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. The Lower Level Gallery is located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library.

Marquette artist Kathleen Conover will be featured in August.

**Free Summer Concerts**

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center is pleased to offer the community the following free outdoor concerts:

Four Shillings Short, an eclectic folk group, will perform on Thursday, July 12th at 7:00p.m. in the Peter White Public Library Community Room.

Jack the Dog, featuring Carrie Biolo and Jeff Kowalski, will perform on August 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Peter White Public Library Community Room.

Music in the Park features various regional acts at the Presque Isle Bandshell beginning at 6:00 p.m. on the following evenings: July 13th, July 20th, July 27th, August 3rd, August 17th and August 31st.

Claudia Schmidt (pictured right) will perform under the Arabicesque Tent in Mattson Lower Harbor Park on August 12th at 7:00 p.m. Her performance is co-sponsored by the Beaumier Heritage Center and Northern Michigan University.

Please call 906-228-0472 for more information.

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