



Photograph by Joey Bl...

Marquette Matters

A bimonthly publication produced by the City of Marquette

Senior Arts

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center is hosting free, drop-in art opportunities for Seniors. Programs are funded by the Reynolds Foundation, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA,) and the National Endowment for Arts. All classes will take place at the MACC in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library.

Senior Arts:

Professional artists instruct participants in this new program for Seniors only. Each month a new professional artist will lead the group. There will be instruction in painting, ceramics and drawing. This program is offered the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 1-3 p.m. Since the program has started, classes have been taught by Barb Nox and Laura Lentes. So far, students have studied painting the style of Van Gough with Nox and sculpted clay with Lentes.



Drop-in programs are perfect for seniors because the classes are non-committal. Whether you have a doctor's appointment, or the weather's too cold, no need to break commitments. Ages 55 and up.

New Senior Workshops:

Acting instructor Ian DeBacker, will teach an acting class for adults over 55 called "Acting For the Experienced in Life."



Participants will be shown techniques on using the body as an instrument for portraying the human spectrum of existence. Also taught are exercises used by professional actors for relaxing the body, improvisational games for focusing the mind, breathing and posture exercises and script work. This class will meet four times from 1p.m. to 3p.m. on Tuesdays April 9, 23, May 14, and 28.

Tuesday, March 19	Ceramics	1-3p.m.	Drop In
Tuesday, April 2	Painting	1-3p.m.	Drop In
Tuesday, April 9	Acting w/ DeBacker	1-3p.m.	Sign up encouraged
Tuesday, April 16	Painting	1-3p.m.	Drop In
Tuesday, April 23	Acting w/ DeBacker	1-3p.m.	Sign up encouraged
Tuesday, May 7	Style TBA	1-3p.m.	Drop In
Tuesday, May 14	Acting w/ DeBacker	1-3p.m.	Sign up encouraged
Tuesday, May 21	Style TBA	1-3p.m.	Drop In
Tuesday, May 28	Acting w/ DeBacker	1-3p.m.	Sign up encouraged

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@mtcty.org.

Government finances are at the forefront of most taxpayer concerns. At a time of increasing prices for food, fuel, energy and other utilities, increases in taxes and service fees are particularly undesirable – and all the more so for costs that aren't fully supported as necessary. When one adds on the requirement for a balanced budget – I.E., one that does not spend more revenue than is collected, the challenges in making effective choices become tighter still. In an era defined by a lack of confidence in traditional fiscal safety nets I.E., reduced or ambiguous federal and state funding the decisions made by local governments must be particularly well founded. Finding the right balance is challenging and critical to the success and well-being of the City.

In a grossly oversimplified nutshell, federal and state governments are primarily financed by income taxes, while local governments are financed through property taxes. The President is supposed to send the U.S. Congress a proposed budget by the first Monday in February, which is approximately the same time as the Governor is supposed to send one to the State legislature. Both the President and Governor base their revenue projections (I.E., how much tax will be collected) on their best guesses as to inflation, job growth, economic growth, and other factors. Once they have a figure for approximately how much they plan to collect – including any tax increases, fees, or other sources of revenue; they put together a budget based upon what they would like to spend.

Almost forty percent (40%) of the state budget is funded using federal revenues. As you could imagine, if the federal guess about the economy is wrong, this could have an impact on the State. If the State guesses wrong, it could lead to direct or indirect impacts to local governments. If there is less revenue, there is less revenue to share or provide grants and other types of support. It's not hard to imagine what could happen to a local government if the level of State funding available goes down or is eliminated entirely.

In order to keep taxes and fees at the same level or lower, local governments need to make hard choices. Since property tax growth can be very slow, anything other than incremental investment can be very challenging. For example, if one new single-family house results in approximately \$3,000 of new tax revenue, it would take approximately 170 new houses to add \$500K of new tax revenue – which might be just enough for one street project – or a down payment on a new playground or senior center. If there are only 10-12 new homes built each year in the City, it could take 15-17 years for the annual revenue to meet plan requirements. Borrowing the money (I.E., bonding) can enable purchase through long-term financing, but the ability to carry the debt payments are not unlike using a credit card at home – and eventually, the bills will need to be paid.

Continued on page 3.

Page 2
Community Development, City Commission Info

Page 3
Tax Info, Election 2013

Page 4
Upcoming Community Events



Update on Community Development Planning Projects

The Community Development Department has a number of projects currently underway to address future land use and efforts to make the community more sustainable. These projects include:

Community Master Plan Update

The City Planning Commission is currently working on a comprehensive update to the Community Master Plan. Besides being a responsible effort, the update to the plan is required to be conducted every 5 years. The Planning Commission sponsored a series of community meetings over the summer in 2012 and is now in the process of working with City staff and fellowship students from the University of Michigan to draft updates to the plan chapters. In addition, the Planning Commission is considering adding language to the plan regarding community sustainability, local food, and energy. To follow the update process, please visit: <http://www.mqtcty.org/vision/default.html>

Economic Development Plan

The City has hired Place Dynamics, LLC to assist with the development of an Economic Development Plan that will be reconciled with the Community Master Plan. The consultant conducted a comprehensive Community Economic Development Assessment, which included interviews with local businesses and key stakeholders, and presented the findings to the community the last week in February. It is anticipated that a draft plan will be available for review in April of 2013. Information on the project will be available on the Planning Department web page shortly.

Climate Adaptation Planning

The City held a community conversation on global climate change this past February at the Citizen's Forum in Lakeview arena. The meeting was sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension (MSUE), the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments Center (GLISA), the Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP), and the City of Marquette Community Development Department. This project is funded by GLISA and will utilize the following approach to develop a climate adaptation plan that has community and stakeholder support:

1. Engage a variety of stakeholders, including those involved in tourism, transportation, regional foods, and local elected and appointed officials, to review GLISA data about the local climate and identify that community's specific climate vulnerabilities and risks. We will work with MSU's Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Science Research and Outreach Services (RS&GIS) to develop specific, detailed maps of the defined community containing land use and development details and other features of the built environment, as requested by the community members.

2. Assist in decision-making by using a deliberative process that will prioritize adaptation strategies, including near-term and long-term changes that would make the residents more resilient to extreme weather events and long-term climate change.
3. Arrive at policy language that will reflect climate adaptation priorities determined by community.
4. Develop a report with recommendations that could be used to update existing policy documents such as the local master plan.

For more information on this effort, please visit the project web page: http://www.mqtcty.org/climate_adaptation_planning.html

Lakeshore Boulevard Redesign and Shoreline Restoration Project - Phase I

The Superior Watershed Partnership and the City of Marquette received grant funding to engage the community in a planning process to evaluate options for addressing coastal erosion along Lakeshore Boulevard from Wright Street to Hawley Street. There was a community meeting held in the summer of 2012 to discuss the project and subsequent to the meeting, a coastal engineering firm (BAIRD) was hired to conduct and assessment of the shoreline erosion and draft options. BAIRD has drafted four options that will be presented to the community at a meeting to be held shortly. For more information, please visit: <http://www.mqtcty.org/lakeshore.html>

Third Street Corridor Sustainable Development Plan

The City has received a \$75,000 grant from the Michigan State Housing and Development Authority (MSHDA) for the development of a sub-area land use plan and Form Based Code for the Third Street Corridor. The City has assembled a project team that includes the Downtown Development Authority, Northern Michigan University, Marquette Area Transit Authority, Marquette County Planning, the Marquette Access Group, the Lake Superior Community Partnership, and Michigan Economic Development Corporation, with consulting assistance from the Michigan State University Extension, MSHDA, and the Land Policy Institute at Michigan State University. The project team is currently in the process of evaluating proposals from consulting firms and it is anticipated that community meetings will be held in mid-May 2013 to kick off the community input phase of the project. For more information, please visit: http://www.mqtcty.org/3rd_st_corridor_plan.html

Continued on page 3.

Marquette City Commission



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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, March 11, 2013, 7:00 p.m.,
Commission Chambers

Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 8:00a.m.,
City Hall, Room 103

Tuesday, March 19, 2013, 8:00 a.m.,
City Hall, Room 103

Monday, March 25, 2013, 7:00 p.m.,
Commission Chambers

Monday, April 8, 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 Announces 2013 Elections

Elections are conducted annually in the City of Marquette for City Elective Offices (City Commission and the Board of Light and Power) as well as Marquette Area Public Schools (MAPS).

There are two City Commission seats up for election this year and there is one seat open on the Board of Light and Power. This is an odd-year election cycle where we likely see only local issues on the ballot. Generally, these odd-year elections are not in the public eye like last year.

The City Charter calls for nominating petitions to be filed for open seats on both the City Commission and the Board of Light and Power (BLP). Anyone interested in running for any of these offices can obtain nominating petitions at the City Clerk's Office beginning Monday, April 14, 2012. Note: Nominating petitions and Affidavit's of Identity must be filed with the Clerk' Office by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday May 14, 2013 in City Hall, at the City Clerk's Office.

For City elective offices there will only be a primary election in August if there are more than two candidates per available seat. For more 2013 election information please go to the City website at <http://www.mqtcty.org/clerk>.

Snow Load on Roofs

- One inch of fresh snow has 1 pound per square foot (p.s.f.) of weight.
- One inch of compacted snow has 2 to 4 pounds per square foot of weight.
- The rain, freeze and thaw cycle reduces the snow depth but increases the weight.
- Check roofs every 1 to 2 weeks for snow accumulation.

Have the snow removed from your roof after 60 inches of snowfall has been recorded.

If conditions indicate problems due to snow load, conduct an interior visual inspection. Look for recent cracks in drywall or plaster walls and ceilings, deflected ceiling tiles and grids. Check for doors that are out of square with the jambs. Listen for creaking or groaning from the roof structure above the ceiling. This would indicate a strain on the roof structure.

If snow removal is required, it should be implemented by a professional roofing contractor, utilizing appropriate fall protection equipment.

If the house or structure has a high efficiency furnace or boiler, the air intake and exhaust may be located on an exterior side wall near the foundation. Effort should be made to maintain the area around the pipe clear of snow to prevent problems with the heating units.

Parks Recreation Timeline 2013

March	Application and hiring process begins for summer part-time staff.
May 1	Marinas and Tourist Park open for the season.
Memorial Day Weekend	Beaches open for season (tentative)
September 1	Beaches closed for season
October 1	Tourist park for season
November 1	Marinas closed for season

Tax Season

The 2012 Tax Season is closed for City tax collection of real property taxes. Delinquent tax payments are to be made to the County Treasurer, 234 W. Baraga Ave., Marquette, MI 49855. Additional penalties will apply. Personal property taxes (business) will continue to be collected by the City at 300 W. Baraga Ave.

New Property Tax Collection Due Date

Effective with the July 1, 2013 tax billing, new City Charter requirements establish the due date for Summer tax payment as September 14th (previously August 4th). On September 15th and on the 15th (previously the 5th) of each succeeding month, interest of 1% of then unpaid taxes is added. There is no change to the Winter tax payment schedule.

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

So how do you proceed when you don't know what the federal budget plan is, the State budget assumptions do no appear to match the federal ones, and other performance indicators in the economy fail to provide clarity for anticipated costs or revenues? As the City Chief Financial Officer counsels, carefully! Our sincere focus will remain on preventing tax and fee increases. Now is NOT the time to take a lot of risk – and during upcoming budget talks the City Administration will offer recommendations that minimize reliance on ambiguous revenue, and that focus on critical investments and services.

"Update on Community Development Planning Projects"- Continued from page 1.

Public Transportation Planning - Smart Growth America

The City, Marquette Area Transit Authority, and Downtown Development Authority are receiving technical assistance from Smart Growth America and Current Transportation Solutions to evaluate public transportation within the City of Marquette. A special area of focus is evaluating the possibilities for a dedicated transit loop along the Third Street Corridor that serves downtown and Northern Michigan University on a more frequent basis. For more information, please visit: http://www.mqtcty.org/public_transportation.html

Cliffs Dow Site

The Community Development Department continues to lead an effort to address environmental issues at the former Cliffs Dow Site. The project team has been working diligently over the past 3 years to monitor the groundwater trends and work with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to map out scenarios for the property. A work session to update the City Commission on the progress at the site will be held on March 11th.

March Downtown For Art: March 1- 31

Businesses throughout Marquette's Downtown District are featuring the artwork of talented Northern Michigan University students in a month long art exhibition, beginning March 1 and ending March 31. Visit the many shops, galleries, breweries and restaurants and see for yourself what makes Downtown Marquette unique. For a list of businesses and the artist they're featuring, visit www.downtownmarquette.org or pick up a map at participating establishments throughout the downtown district. For more information call the Marquette Downtown Development Authority office at (906) 228-9475 or e-mail Emily@downtownmarquette.org.



DDA Accepting Farmers Market

The Marquette Downtown Development Authority is currently accepting applications for the 2013 Downtown Marquette Farmers Market. The market will be open Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Marquette Commons, located at 112 South Third Street. The regular season will begin on May 25th and run through October 26th. A \$60.00 application fee permits farmers, growers and artisans to sell every Saturday throughout the season. A daily vendor option exists for those who cannot commit to an entire season but would like to be considered for occasional market attendance. The deadline for application is Friday, April 12, 2013. Application packets are available online at <http://mqtfarmersmarket.com>, by calling the Marquette Downtown Development Authority office at (906) 228-9475 or e-mailing Becky@downtownmarquette.org.

Extended Deadline for Annual Arts Awards

The deadline for the 2013 Annual Arts Awards has been moved from March 1, to April 1. For the opportunity to nominate a deserving, local artists, print out a form found online at <http://www.mqtcty.org/Departments/Arts/Awards/Files/2013Nomination.pdf>. Awards can be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center. For more information, contact the MACC at (906) 228-0472.

A Place for Teens

Starting in March, the MACC will host a free drop-in program for teens. Teens are invited to stop by afterschool to work on sketches; practice acoustic instruments or just discuss plans for the coming weekend with friends. MACC will provide sketch books, art magazines, hot beverages and popcorn. The intent is to involve teens in the center and offer resources to help develop their creative potential.

National Quilting Day

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center will be celebrating National Quilting Month Saturday, March 16. This event is co-sponsored by the Marquette County Quilters Association (MCQA) and it will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Peter White Public Library.

Quilting is a tradition that goes back to the Egyptians as early as 3400 BCE, and is practiced everywhere in the world today. All ages are encouraged to drop in and try quilting for themselves. Sewing machines will be available for people to practice on and hand quilting demos will also be available. This event is a great opportunity for anyone interested in sewing for the first time, or looking to improve their skills. Members of the MCQA will be on hand to answer questions and demonstrate technique. All quilting skill levels are encouraged to participate.



March Exhibit

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center announces its March exhibit, "Another Hit of Fresh Air" by the artist group "Painters on the Loose." This group meets periodically to paint outdoors, "en plein air." Painting outdoors allows the artists to enjoy the local landscape while also providing them with a rich source of inspiration.



This show is in the Marquette Arts and Culture Center gallery, located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library.

April Exhibit

MACC will curate its first High School Art Show in April. Any high school aged student living in Marquette may submit work for this non-juried show. All mediums are welcome, including painting, ceramics, drawing, mixed media and video. Videos entered have the opportunity for broadcast on Channel 21. **Deliver work by March 28.**

Free Teen Workshops

In April, MACC offers two highly professional workshops in performing and visual arts by master artists. **No experience necessary.** Mask Construction and Theatre Training, pay tribute to Jacques Lecoq, best known for physical theatre, and movement at the Paris school of Internationale de Theatre Jacques Lecoq. Workshops are **FREE** for teens! Unique opportunity for students to gain exposure and skills in new art forms. Space is limited so reserve your spot today! This program is generously funded by the Kaufman Foundation.

Mask Construction

Ceramist, Dan Jarvis will instruct larval mask construction using neoprene and mold making techniques frequently used in film making. "It is the process that I would like the students to focus on, rather than the final form," said Jarvis, the MACC. The workshop runs Thursdays, April 11, 18, and 25 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Masks will have opportunity to be on exhibit after completion.



Theatre Training

Performing artist Gale LaJoye, best known for "Snowflake" will teach Theatre Training. Workshop will focus on acting methods using neutral mask. The actor's ability will be strengthened because they cannot rely on facial expression and instead has to act with ones whole body. This workshop runs Wednesdays, April 10, 17, 24, and May 1, from 3:30-5:00 p.m.



For more information contact the **City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center**, 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.

April Concert

"Laughter is the Best Medicine: Novelty Songs Through the Years," a concert will be held on Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of The Peter White Library. Featured performers will be Stan Wright, Bob Buchkoe, Caitlin Wright, Denise Dupras, Jack Bowers, Christopher Belles and Eliza Compton. This will be fun for the whole family. Admission is free with a free-will offering for the Comfort Cart program at MGH.

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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.