

Photo by Shawn Malone, www.lakesuperiorphoto.com

Marquette Matters

A bimonthly publication produced by the City of Marquette

Tourist Park Lake Project Scheduled to Open for Summer

The Tourist Park Lake Project is scheduled to be complete by mid-year 2012. Last spring, the Boy Scouts camped at Tourist Park and while they were there, did a wonderful job constructing fish cribs. The cribs have been placed in strategic spots within the basin; the waters will be stocked with approximately 2,000 smallmouth bass this spring. Bluegills and perch will follow in upcoming seasons. A fishing pier

will be placed at the end of the County Road 550 trail head. The pier is in the final design stage and will be erected later this year. The water level will remain low until construction has been completed and the concrete has properly set on the new dam, but the level will be brought up another six feet to normal elevation once the project is finished. The construction has been enjoyable to watch. Many residents are

looking forward to the return of this wonderful community asset. Tourist Park Campgroup, Lake and Dam are located at 2145 Sugarloaf Avenue, Marquette. The forty-acre park parallels the Dead River and when the lake returns, it will offer visitors a refreshing area to swim, fish and birdwatch. Photo left: Tourist Park Dam construction, summer 2011. Photo right: Tourist Park Dam construction, fall 2011.



City Hosts Community Open House

On February 9, 2012, the City of Marquette hosted its second annual City-wide Community Open House at Lakeview Arena's Citizen Forum Room. Each City Department and Division was represented with staff available to educate the community about current and upcoming initiatives. The event was well attended by the community and City organizer Cindy Noble hopes it will continue to grow. She commented, "The Open House's purpose is to give our citizens an accessible and casual event where they can learn about the many services the City offers. We were able to expand the event from last year's and our goal was met."

In addition to City departments, Peter White Public Library, Downtown Development Association, Brownfield Development Authority and Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Trust were represented.

A new feature to the Open House for 2012 was a department passport. Each attendee was given a passport when they entered and if they visited and gather information from enough departments, they were eligible to enter in a drawing for several gift baskets. This year's winners are pictured below. Not pictured is Deb Perry, winner of the Peter White Public Library gardening gift basket.



Left:
Ingrid
Lindquist,
winner of
the
Downtown
Develop-
ment
Association
gift basket.



Left:
Jan Grim,
winner of
the Peter
White
Public
Library
cooking
gift basket.



Left:
William
Joswiak,
winner of
the City of
Marquette
gift basket.

City Property Tax Collection

The last day for the City to collect property taxes for year 2011 is February 29, 2012. On March 1st, the delinquent tax roll is transferred from the City Treasurer to the County Treasurer for collection. After February 29th, tax payments other than personal property taxes (business), must be sent to the County Treasurer, 234 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette, MI 49855.

City Manager Open Office Hours

City Manager Bill Vajda is available to meet with citizens to discuss concerns, suggestions or simply have a brief chat. Upcoming open office hour sessions include:

Wednesday, March 14, 2012 and Wednesday, April 11, 2012, both from 10:00 a.m. - noon.

These functions are held in the Peter White Conference Room, on the main level of the Peter White Public Library. No appointments are required.

City of
Marquette
Michigan

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Charter Commission Schedules Chapter Review

Following its election at the November 8, 2011 City General Election, the City Charter Commission is making good progress in its effort to revise the current City Charter. The Commission has reviewed provisions in the current Charter that have been nullified by state and federal laws, regulations and court decisions, and identified other provisions that impede efficient management. A series of public hearings and a joint work session with the City Commission were held during which citizens and elected officials were given an opportunity to identify Charter provisions that may be in need of change. Also, the Commission has met with the City Manager to review his internal report of the Charter and, at another meeting, the Commission met with Municipal Code Corporation Attorney Roger Merriam to discuss the findings of a legal review of the current Charter by his firm. Now that the initial work of the Charter Commission has been completed, they are about to begin a chapter-by-chapter review that will cover the entire Charter. An outline of the Commission's calendar detailing the chapters that will be covered on specific proposed dates is as follows:

March 7 – *Municipal Powers, Elections, Appointed Officers & Powers of City Commission*

- Chapter 1 Name and Boundaries
- Chapter 2 Municipal Powers
- Chapter 3 Elections
- Chapter 5 General Provisions Regarding Officers and Personnel of the City
- Chapter 6 The Commission – Procedure and Misc. Powers and Duties

March 21 – *Utilities, Finance and Taxation*

- Chapter 8 General Finance
- Chapter 9 Taxation
- Chapter 10 Borrowing Powers

April 4 – *Legislation, Purchasing, Contracts, Leases and Franchises*

- Chapter 7 Legislation
- Chapter 11 Special Assessments – *Previously Repealed*

- Chapter 12 Purchasing – Contracts – Leases
- Chapter 14 Public Utility Franchises

April 25 – *Transitional and Miscellaneous Issues*

- Chapter 15 Supervisors – *Previously Repealed*
- Chapter 16 Municipal Court – *Previously Repealed*
- Chapter 17 Miscellaneous
- Chapter 18 Schedule

May 2 - *Chapter 13 Municipal Utilities and Preparation of Draft to be Reviewed by the State*
Preparation of draft that will be sent to the State for review and approval

May 16 and 28 – *Potential Extra Meeting Dates*
Extra meeting dates that are available if needed

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/community_network.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.

Committee Name	Vacancies
Arts & Culture Advisory Committee	Two Vacancies
Investment Advisory Board	One Vacancy
Local Officers Compensation Commission	Four Vacancies
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board	Two Vacancies
Sister City Advisory Committee	Two Vacancies
Traffic/Parking Advisory Committee	One Vacancy

Spring Brush Collection

Brush will be collected from City waste fee payers throughout the week of April 16, 2012. No other materials will be collected at this time. Please do not place brush on the right-of-way more than one week prior to scheduled pick-up date. The volume from each property is limited to one pickup load, (a pile approximately 12'L x 6'W x 5'H). A second collection will be offered in the fall. Place brush curbside in front of your own property according to the following schedule:

- April 16: All streets north of Fair Avenue
- April 17: East Marquette bounded by, and including Front Street on the west, Fair Avenue on the north, and Baraga Avenue on the south
- April 18: The area west of Front Street and north of US 41 Bypass bounded by, and including Fair Avenue on the north, Seventh Street on the west
- April 19: All streets south of US 41 Bypass
- April 20: The area west of Seventh Street and north of US 41 Bypass bounded by, and including, Fair Avenue on the north

City's Compost Site Opens April 14, 2012

Open Monday and Wednesday from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Located at the old Cliffs Dow site accessed from Lakeshore Boulevard.

City's Household Rubbish Drop-off Site Opens April 17, 2012

Open Tuesdays from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. and the second Saturday of every month from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Located off Wright Street between Presque Isle and Lakeshore Boulevard.

City Committee Boot Camp

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

- Thursday, May 17th, at 11:00 a.m.
- 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 (available on a first-come, first-served basis), please contact Wendy Larson in the City Manager's office via email wlarson@mqtcty.org or call her at (906) 225-8104.

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, unless noted otherwise. Citizens are invited to attend.

Monday, March 12, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Commission Chambers

Monday, March 26, 2012, 5:00 p.m., City Hall Room 103

Monday, March 26, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Commission Chambers

Monday, April 9, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Commission Chambers

Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 5:15 p.m., Commission Chambers, Special Budget Meeting

Thursday, April 12, 2012, 5:15 p.m., Commission Chambers, Special Budget Meeting

Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 5:15 p.m., Commission Chambers, Special Budget Meeting

Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 5:15 p.m., Commission Chambers, Special Budget Meeting

Monday, April 30, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Commission Chambers

Community Development Updates

There are a number of community issues being studied by the City of Marquette’s Community Development Department; however, the most pressing issue is wireless communications. Most recently, a trend has been recognized across the Upper Peninsula and Northern Wisconsin regarding a "surge" of telecommunications companies seeking locations for very large telecommunications towers. The City currently has an ordinance to address towers; however, staff has been reviewing the language as the ordinance is several years old. In addition, there are bills introduced in the State Legislature that allow the use of former rail corridors (under State ownership) for the telecommunications purposes and at a very reduced cost to the industry. The department is paying very close attention to the dynamics of the telecommunication industry's influence on public policy.

Other ongoing studies and projects include the work on Land Development Code (replacement for the Zoning, Sign, Fence, and Subdivision Ordinances), an update of the Community Master Plan, and an update of the Rental Housing Inventory (12% of residential class single-family style properties in Marquette are rental properties).



In addition to studies and plans, development also continues. The hotel structure at the north end of Founders Landing is well underway and is expected to be open this summer, leaving the northern portion of the site as the remaining developable area on Parcel number three. Citizens may wonder what the financing mechanisms are for the public portions of the project. A large portion of the Founders Landing project area is included in the State of Michigan Act 381 Brownfield Plan, which allows a portion of taxes from the site (only those above and beyond original established values) to be captured and used for public improvements. The first noticeable improvement has been the boardwalk and Seawall area (pictured above), made possible through the Brownfield tax capture. Periodic updates on these projects are available on Facebook; please search for “City of Marquette Community Development Department,” or contact the Community Development Department at (906) 228-0425 to be added to a distribution list.

Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in Wastewater

A common question posed by the public to Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Plant staff pertains to the treatability of endocrine disruptors and Pharmaceutical and Personal Care Products (PPCP) contained in municipal wastewater. The wastewater treatment industry has gotten some attention recently as a result of these compounds being detected in treated wastewater.

The answer given is something like this: at this time, the compounds in PPCP are not regulated, meaning that the public owned treatment works, such as the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Plant, are not required or designed to remove these compounds. In fact, these compounds are not measured in the wastewater flowing to or effluent flowing from these facilities. However, recent studies indicate that these compounds are very likely if not certainly present in water and wastewater throughout the country. Current treatment technology does not remove PPCP or convert them to a benign state prior to re-entry into the environment.

At a recent Michigan Water Environment Association conference attended by wastewater treatment plant staff, a United States Geological Survey scientist gave a very informative presentation on her research on Human and Veterinary Pharmaceuticals. Here are some highlights on the issue.

Why are PPCP solids a concern to us?
•PPCP may ultimately pose a threat to human health.

What products are included in PPCP?
•Antibiotics, human and veterinary
•Hormones and steroids
•Detergents, disinfectants, fragrances, fumigants
•Fire retardants
•Pharmaceuticals
•Illicit drugs
•Personal care products

Ultimately, these products end up in wastewater, which in turn ends up in streams, rivers, and lakes, which is where we get our water. Point sources of PPCP entering the environment include:
•Wastewater treatment plants
•Septic systems
•Land application sites of biosolids
•Run off from agricultural operations.

In what areas have measurable concentrations of PPCP shown up in Michigan studies? (Recent studies have been completed in Oakland and Huron counties in Michigan.)
•The aquatic environment
•Drinking water supplies
•Crops

Right: Treated wastewater outfall from the Marquette Area Waste Water Treatment Plant into the Carp River.

Why have wastewater treatment facilities received a lot of attention?
•Wastewater plants are point sources of discharge; therefore, control of PPCP is made simpler (if the technology existed) when compared to non-point sources.
•Numerous studies show a wide variety of PPCP in treated wastewater.
•Input into the environment from these facilities is constant.
•Treated biosolids from these facilities are a potential source into the environment.

Why are PPCP solids challenging to treat or remove from water?
•PPCP have many different chemical structures, making them difficult to treat. There are few generalities among PPCP for which a common treatment technology may be applied.

Does current treatment technology remove PPCP?
•Research is ongoing and results are inconclusive; however, “no” appears to be the best answer. Current technologies are designed to remove the common regulated pollutants, not PPCP. As a result, what goes into a treatment system comes out, either in treated wastewater or biosolids.
•Some PPCP are removed from the liquid treatment process; however, they end up in the treated biosolids.
•Currently, many agencies and scientists are working to prioritize chemicals and devise treatment strategies.

If and when PPCP becomes regulated, then municipalities would be required to apply treatment technologies that are proven effective in treatment or removal. Or, if such technologies are deemed ineffective, another possible solution may be controlling discharge of PPCP into the sanitary sewer system in the first place. For more information, please contact the Wastewater Treatment Plant at 906-228-0485.



Electrical Fire Safety Tips

- Replace or repair electric tools or appliances that show sign of worn cords, causes small electrical shocks, overheats, shorts out, or gives off smoke or sparks.
- Buy electrical products evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, like UL.

- Keep electrical appliances away from, or avoid using, around wet floors and counters.
- Give space heaters space; keep curtains, clothes, and other combustible items at least three feet from space heaters. Supervise small children and pets around space heaters.
- Never overload extension cords or wall sockets.

- Appliances with three-prong plugs should only be used in a three-slot outlet.
- Use safety closures to “child-proof” electrical outlets.
- Have a licensed electrical contractor replace light switches that are hot to the touch and have repairs made for lights that flicker.

Us and Not Us on Display at Art Center

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center will feature the paintings of Mike Letts in *Us and Not Us*, an exhibition on display in the Lower Level Gallery for the month of March.

A native of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Michael Letts is currently a professor of Art Education in the department of Art and Design at Northern Michigan University. His early influences include the simple drawing styles of Ernie Bushmiller and Charles Schultz, both used subtle humor and comic struggle to explore the themes of transcendence and everyday existentialism in their comic strip art.

In reference to the Upper Peninsula's influence on his recent paintings, Letts states." The constant in life here has been the power of nature and a tie to the land. Nature, in all its forms, within us and without us, hides currents, forces we don't easily sense. We get trapped in the bayous of time, far from the tides of the heart. These currents have sometimes



been divided in art. So, I use invisible structures as part of my process, putting trust in memory, intuition, a sort of fate, to try and give voice to the tides."

A closing reception for the exhibition will be held in the gallery on Thursday, March 29th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. *Us and Not Us* may be viewed during regular library hours. The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center is located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library.

In April, the Lower Level Gallery will feature several graduating students from the current class of NMU Art and Design students.

City Applies for Gold Medal Award

The City of Marquette's Community Services Department is currently applying for the National Recreation and Park Association's Gold Medal Award, one of the highest forms of recognition for administration in parks and recreation. The award application entails a comprehensive overview of the departments planning documents, program offerings, unique challenges, and consideration of the environment, technological integration, and special populations.

The Gold Medal Award is equivalent to an Academy Award in recognition for Parks and Recreation. By winning this award, the city will receive national attention for it's quality as well as increased funding and grant opportunities. The national exposure that this award entails will further Marquette's image as a place where quality recreation and leisure can be found. The first-round award decision will be made by April 27, 2012.



Spring Compost Collection

Leaves, grass clippings, and garden debris will be collected from City waste fee payers one time this spring season. Materials may be bagged or windrowed and placed on the lawn next to the gutter. Drivers are urged not to block access to debris piles with parked cars. Brush or household rubbish items will not be picked-up during this collection. Place your yard waste curbside in front of your own property according to the following schedule:

- April 23: Area bounded by Tracy and Sugarloaf on the west and lying north of Fair.
- April 24: Area bounded by and including East Fair on the north, East Hewitt on the south, and North Front on the west.
- April 25: Area west of North Front bounded by and including East Baraga on the south, and Front on the west.
- April 26: Area south of East Hewitt, bounded by and including East Baraga on the south, and Front on the west.
- April 27: Area south of West Hewitt, north of US 41 Bypass, west of Front and bounded by and including Seventh on the west.
- April 30: Area south of US 41 Bypass, bounded by and including Hampton on the south.
- May 1: Area south of Hampton.
- May 2: Area north of US 41 Bypass, west of Seventh, bounded by and including Cleveland on the north.
- May 3: Area north of Cleveland west of North Seventh, bounded by and including West Fair on the north.
- May 4: Area north of West Fair and West of NMU Campus.

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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. Article ideas are always welcomed. To sign up for our e-mail list or for story ideas please email marquettetommatters@mqtcty.org or call Lea at (906) 228-0472. Any individuals with disabilities who would like to receive the information in this publication in another form may contact the Marquette Matters newsletter at marquettetommatters@mqtcty.org, or the Arts and Culture Center at (906) 228-0472.

Upcoming Community Events

Pigs 'n Heat Charity Hockey Game

The 29th Annual Pigs 'n Heat hockey fundraiser is coming up soon, but before the police officers and firefighters hit the ice, there's "training" going on behind the scenes... [check out this video!](#) Please note that the 2012 hockey game will be played on March 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Lakeview Arena, located at 401 East Fair Avenue.



Maple Syrup Class Offered

MooseWood Nature Center will be hosting a maple syrup making program on March 24, 2012 at MooseWood Nature Center on Presque Isle from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. The program will be followed by their annual Candlelight Ski, Snowshoe and Hike around the interior island trails from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The maple syrup class will teach participants how maple sap is collected and boiled down into sweet, natural maple syrup and sugar. "Sugarbush" traditions such as selecting which trees are good for tapping, when the time is right, and how to make the syrup will be presented. Also included will be plenty of "sweetwater" and syrup to taste. The class is open to all ages. The cost is \$3.00 for kids, \$5.00 for adults, and \$15.00 for families; contact Moosewood Nature Center to register: (906) 228-6250.



Shannon Wyatt in Concert

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center invites the community to enjoy the music of Shannon Wyatt on April 5th at 7:00 p.m. for her First Thursday Concert Series premier performance in Peter White Public Library's Community Room.

Offering original and fabulously eclectic material, singer and songwriter Shannon Wyatt grew up playing folk guitar and classical piano. As a young adult, she pursued university studies in liberal arts and early childhood education in Athens, Ohio and Missoula, Montana, all while playing coffee houses. With her Gibson Hummingbird in tow, Shannon left academia in 1980 and returned to Cleveland, Ohio, digging her heels into the music scene there and releasing her first single.



Weaving carefully crafted lyrics with a musical style that has echoes of Rickie Lee Jones, Bonnie Raitt, Carly Simon, and Nancy Griffith, Shannon creates songs that unfold, coloring by coloring, revealing the subtle intensity that infuses her work with artistic depth and appeal. Please visit www.shannonwyatt.net for more information.