Marquette Police Implement New Body-Worn Camera Technology

According to a nationwide survey, the majority of law enforcement officers across the country are finding an increased need for body-worn cameras. Although the in-car cameras have served their purpose, officers routinely encounter situations in which their patrol cars are not in the vicinity they are required to work in, and thus not recording their interactions. Having body-worn cameras allows a recording to take place anywhere an officer or detective is required to be, at any time.

In April of 2013, the Marquette City Police Department was the recipient of an award through the Michigan State Police Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. The Marquette Police Department was awarded a grant in the amount of $40,015 for technology enhancement projects.

The Department has since purchased new video/audio/radio microphones and equipment to properly store the digital evidence produced in daily operations, preserving it for future use in many applications.

The technology that’s been purchased includes 35 Wolfcom 3rd Eye Police Body cameras. All uniform officers and detectives are now equipped with the Wolfcom 3rd Eye, a high-definition body camera that pins to an officer’s lapel and stores up to 17 hours of video, 500 hours of audio and 20,000 photos. The body camera also serves as a radio microphone, digital camera, and is equipped with night vision and GPS capabilities.

Once evidence is captured, it is downloaded into a secure evidence server that is maintained through the Marquette City Police Department. If needed, the evidence is produced and used in appropriate judicial proceedings. Officers have received approximately two hours of in-service training on the operation and policy/procedure of the Wolfcom 3rd Eye.

The Department will continue the use of in-car cameras, as they’ve been depending on them for over a decade. In-car cameras will continue to capture unique and valuable information by capturing an objective view of the scene, not just from the officer’s perspective. Although body-worn cameras aren’t new to many law enforcement agencies, the technology was a much needed and welcome resource for the Marquette Police Department to acquire, and they are already noticing the value.

When deciding how best to introduce myself to the community, I wanted to find a way to explain a bit about my history and what led me to become the assistant city manager for the City of Marquette.

It was in that pursuit that my mind was drawn to a February evening, not too many years ago, when I stepped off a small airplane — it had landed just south of Marquette — and into the brisk Upper Peninsula evening.

When we reached the car we’d be driving into the city, my fiancée and I — physically and mentally numbed at the conclusion of an exhausting, globe-hopping, stress-inducing trip that spanned two days and a dozen time zones — were able to quickly and easily toss everything we owned into the back seat.

Just one week previous, we were living in a two-room apartment in China, lost in a concrete landscape on the opposite side of the world, when a job offer emerged from the snow-covered hills of Marquette. It was the city where we met and where we both graduated from college. It was the city that we both watched fade into a rearview mirror nearly two years before, unsure if we’d ever return. We began packing almost before I hung up the phone.

After returning to Marquette, we got re-acquainted with family we hadn’t seen in more than a year and after crashing on my brother-in-law’s couch for a couple of days, we moved all five of our suitcases into our very own apartment. For that first month, we slept on a newly purchased air mattress, watched old DVDs and infrequently ate small portions of what can loosely be described as food.

Looking back now, it sometimes seems surprising that we didn’t spend more time asking ourselves just why, exactly, we were doing this and what had led us to this position.

Most likely, we didn’t spend much time on those questions because the answer, for us, was simple. We had both decided, long before and in our own way, that the answer was Marquette.

Sure — many things have changed in the time since that cold February night. My fiancée is now my wife and we have a house and a dog and a life that we’ve built, quite literally, from the floor up.

And recently, after spending years closely following local and regional events as a member of the media, I was honored to be hired as the assistant city manager in the City of Marquette.
November 5, 2013 General Election

At the City general election to be held on November 5, City voters will elect two of four candidates that will serve a three-year term on the City Commission. Also, one of two candidates for the Board of Light and Power (BLP) will be elected to serve a three-year term on the BLP. Please note that these are the only items that will appear on the ballot as there will be no federal, state or county races and there will be no propositions on the ballot.

Candidates for the City Commission are: David J. Campana, Mike Plourde, Sarah Reynolds and Tony Tollefson. Candidates for the Board of Light and Power are John Braamse and Jerry Garceau.

In preparation for the general election, the Clerk’s Office has been processing applications for those who wish to vote by absent voter ballot. The ballots for this election have been received and voters on the permanent absent voter list who have returned their application to vote were sent their ballots beginning September 25. The last day to register to vote in this election was October 7, 2013. Anyone with questions can call the City Clerk’s Office from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 906-225-8657.

Precincts 1 and 2 will vote at the Baraga Gym in Marquette City Hall, Precincts 3, 4, and 5 will vote at the Marquette Armory, and Precincts 6 and 7 will vote in the gym at the Marquette County YMCA. The polls of said election will be open at 7 a.m. and will remain open until 8:00 p.m. to vote were sent their ballots beginning September 25. The last day to register to vote in this election was October 7, 2013. Anyone with questions can call the City Clerk’s Office from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 906-225-8657.

New Personal Property Legislation

Public Acts 397-404, and 406-408 of 2012, amended the General Property Tax Act as it relates to the assessment of personal property. Public Acts 401, 402 and 403 reduce property taxes on different types of personal property, depending upon several factors. Public Acts 397-400 make adjustments for properties associated with PA 198 abatements, technology park abatements, locally granted abatements, and enterprise zone abatements. Public Acts 404 and 406-408 provide various ways to replace a portion of the revenue lost as a result of Public Acts 397-403. Not all losses experienced by the City of Marquette may be eligible for reimbursement.

The Public Acts have varied beginning dates, with most becoming effective upon the successful August 2014 statewide ballot question of whether to approve a local use tax levy through the creation of the Michigan Metropolitan Areas Metropolitan Authority (MAMA). If the August 2014 ballot question is approved, the state’s 6.0% use tax rate will be lowered by the amount of the use tax levied by the MAMA. The MAMA would levy a “Metropolitan Areas Components Tax,” which is a local use tax levied against certain activities or transactions, that was previously levied by the state. The MAMA would distribute the replacement tax revenue.

Beginning December 31, 2013, the small taxpayer exemption takes effect, which is Public Act 402 of 2012. This Act exempts all commercial and industrial personal property owned by a single taxpayer, within the City of Marquette, if the total value of the property is less than $40,000. This same taxpayer may have this same exemption in another taxing jurisdiction. The exemption is not based on the total value of all personal property within the State, but within each tax collecting unit. In order to qualify, the taxpayer must file a form each year, by February 20, to receive the exemption. Failure by the taxpayer to file the form will require the Assessor to estimate the value of the property and place that value on the tax roll even if the taxable value is less than $40,000.

Per Public Act 408, which requires the August 2014 ballot question, vote results will determine whether most of the new acts will take effect or remain in effect. The bills will be repealed or will no longer be effective if the ballot question is defeated, except the small taxpayer exemption which will remain in effect for 2014 only.

Legistar Legislative Management Suite

Marquette City Commission agendas, minutes and videos, which were previously located on the City’s website, are now being created and managed using Legistar, the City’s online legislative management program. Utilizing Legistar’s public portal, which provides robust functions for searching, archiving and setting alerts, the City is able to make City Commission documents more accessible than ever.

Information for other boards and committees is not currently posted to Legistar, but will still be available through the City website’s government page, http://mqtcty.org/government.html.

The Marquette City Commission’s Legistar page can be accessed here: mqtcty.legistar.com.
Listen Up!

Winter Tax Information
Winter property tax statements will be mailed to City residents on November 27, 2013. Tax collection begins December 1, 2013 and payments are accepted without penalty through February 14, 2014. Tax information can be accessed 24/7 on the City’s website at www.mqtcty.org and is free to the property owner. Non-property owners are charged a $2 lookup fee.

Landfill Permits Available
Applications may be downloaded from the City’s website at www.mqtcty.org or picked up in the City Treasurer’s Office.

Commercial Haulers: Permits expired on October 31. Renewal applications were mailed in October. The permit fee of $65 is for a one year period from November to October. New haulers may be required to also provide a deposit of up to $1,000 with their application.

Residential Customers: The application fee for residential permits is $10 and the permit period is for one week, Monday through Friday. Items such as shingles, tires, and construction debris can be hauled to the landfill. This service is only for City of Marquette property owners.

Drop-Off Sites to Close for Season
The City of Marquette compost drop-off site, located at the old Cliffs Dow site off of Lakeshore Boulevard, and household rubbish drop-off site located off of Wright Street, between Presque Isle Avenue and Lakeshore Boulevard, will both close for the season on Saturday, November 9, 2013.

The sites will reopen in the spring, weather permitted.

Brush/Leaf Pickup Reminder
The final week for fall leaf collection will take place November 4-8, 2013. This collection is for bagged leaves only. Residents are advised to not use City green bags for yard waste. Bags containing garbage or other rubbish mixed with the yard waste will not be collected. The neighborhood map used to determine the schedule is available on our website: http://www.mqtcty.org/Maps/FallCompostCollectionMap.pdf.

Christmas Tree Drop Off Sites
Properties paying the “Garbage” fee on their monthly bills (green bag users) are eligible to use the Christmas tree drop-off sites. Owners and tenants of properties not paying the fee should contact their regular waste hauler for service. These sites are supported by fees, not taxes.

Beginning December 26, 2013, through January 13, 2014, there will be two drop-off sites available for Christmas tree disposal.

One site is located at the west end of the Lakeview Arena parking lot. Please place trees inside of the orange fencing.

The second site is located east of 850 W. Baraga Ave. Access can be obtained from Baraga Avenue or West Spring Street. Please place trees inside of orange fencing.

Residents are to remove all decorations and stands before disposing of their tree inside the orange fencing.

Winter Parking Ban in Effect
Marquette city residents, NMU students, and visitors are reminded the City’s winter parking ban will be in effect beginning November 1st. The winter parking ban requires owners of vehicles to find off street parking between the hours of 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. each morning.

The winter parking ban will be in effect from November 1, 2013, to April 1, 2014. The fine for violating the parking ban is $50.

Marquette residents are encouraged to find alternate off-street parking before the parking ban goes into effect.

Curious About How to Serve Your Community?
The City of Marquette has several openings for various volunteer advisory boards and committees. Check out our website for the most up-to-date vacancy information, and for an application at www.mqtcty.org/government.html.

- Aging Services Advisory Committee—One opening (housing representative)
- Arts and Culture Advisory Committee—Three openings
- Harbor Advisory Committee—One opening
- Local Officers Compensation Commission—Two openings
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board—Two openings
- Planning Commission—One opening
- Regional Recreation Authority Business Plan Ad-Hoc Committee—One alternate opening
- Sister City Advisory Committee—Five openings
- Traffic-Parking Advisory Committee—Three openings

Biannually, the City Manager along with the City Clerk and City Attorney, host New Committee Member Orientation to give volunteer committee members an overview of City government, parliamentary procedure, policies, and other general information about serving. The next session will be held on February 25, at 4 p.m. in Commission Chambers. Members are asked to sign up ahead of time at the City Manager’s office.

Offices Close for Holidays
City offices located at Marquette City Hall, 300 W. Baraga Avenue; the Lakeview Arena, 401 E. Fair Avenue; the Marquette Arts & Culture Center, 217 N. Front Street (Peter White Public Library); and the Municipal Service Center, 850 W. Baraga Avenue, will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holidays, respectively. The Fire and Police Departments will remain open and staffed during these times.

Winter Hours at City Hall
City Hall offices are open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. For operating hours of other City departments and facilities, please visit our website www.mqtcty.org/contact_us.html.

Manager Open Office Hours
City Manager Bill Vajda holds community office hours on the second Wednesday of the month, from 10 a.m. until noon in the main floor conference room of the Peter White Public Library. It 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.
Annual 9/11 Ceremony Honors First Responders and Military Members

The Michigan House of Representatives conducted its third annual 9/11 memorial service, commemorating the 12th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. The House also honored the eight military members and first responders from Michigan who lost their lives in the line of duty in the past year. Pictured (right) at the ceremony are Marquette Police Chief Mike Angeli, State Representative John Kivela and Marquette Fire Chief Tom Belt at the State Capitol in Lansing.

Presque Isle Park Receives a New Sign

Marquette’s recreational crown jewel, Presque Isle Park, has a new addition! The Parks and Recreation Division has been working on updating all park signs for consistency. The community has expressed interest in the Presque Isle sign remaining uniquely representative of the history of the island. This new addition to the island combines the recognizable park sign form with the traditional artistic representation of the island and adds a new element of cultural collaboration between the City of Marquette, Northern Michigan University’s (NMU) Center for Native American Studies and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC).

This unique partnership with NMU and KBIC ensured a culturally appropriate, authentically representative, and artfully symbolic sign for Presque Isle. A group of nine photography students, under the leadership of artist Kristine Granger, documented Ojibwe artist Sherri Loonsfoot-Aldred’s process of creating the sign in a photo essay book. The photo essay book will feature the students’ photos, a history of Presque Isle and some Anishinaabe language. Stay tuned—copies of the book will be available early in the new year!

The entire collaborative project was named Mikwendaagzi, Anishinaabe for “To Be Remembered.” The project included the painting, the photo journaling, the digitizing of the art, the creation of the sign from the digital image of the painting, an unveiling ceremony once the sign was installed, and the publishing of the photo essay book documenting the entire process. A big thanks to KBIC, NMU, the students who participated and to the artists for helping to create such an incredible sign for our community’s most beloved park!

Exhibitors will decorate an artificial wreath or artificial tree of any size. Exhibitors will decorate the tree or wreath with hand-crafted ornaments or an assortment of collectibles. The use of a decorating theme and title is encouraged. Registration forms and exhibit details are available at the library or online at the library website: www.pwpl.info.

The display will debut at the library’s Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 8, 2013 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Following the open house, trees may be viewed during normal library hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday 1- 6 p.m. For more information call the library at 906-226-4318.
Downtown Development Authority

Ladies Night
Indulge in a night of shopping, delicacies, entertainment and fun at the 17th annual Ladies Night on Thursday, November 21, from 4 - 8 p.m. Ladies Night provides the perfect opportunity to spend a night on the town as you primp, shop and sip your way through Marquette’s downtown district. Dress to impress and treat yourself to some much deserved retail therapy as participating businesses pamper customers with in-store giveaways, hors d’oeuvres, sales, specials, prizes and more. Travel in luxury as complimentary limousines will be provided throughout the district at various stops. Shoppers can also register for one of three custom gift baskets valued at $700 each and stocked full of gift certificates and goods from participating businesses. To register, ladies can stop by one of four distribution centers located throughout the district during the event to pick up an official Ladies Night Passport. Passports will be available with a donation of $1, with all proceeds benefitting the Marquette Women’s Center.

Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony
Celebrate the magic of the holiday season at the third annual downtown Marquette ‘Winter Snow Fun’ holiday parade, scheduled for Thursday, December 5, at 6:00 p.m. Bundle up with friends and family as illuminated floats, tinsel-strewn trucks and colorful carolers transform Third Street into a magical scene from the North Pole. The parade will begin at the corner of North Third Street and Fair Avenue and end at the Marquette Commons. After the parade, spectators are welcomed to the Marquette Commons where Santa Claus and friends will light up downtown at the 38th annual City of Marquette Tree Lighting. Festivities include a performance by the Marquette Senior High School Redmen Chorale, hot chocolate and photos with Santa Claus and his reindeer. The Marquette Post Office staff will be helping Santa’s elves by collecting children’s letters to Santa along the Holiday Parade route.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is extending an invitation to all local businesses, organizations, musicians and bands to enter a decorated float, vehicle or marching unit in the parade. There is no cost to participate. If interested in entering the parade, contact the Downtown Development Authority before Friday, November 22, by calling 906-228-9475.

New Year’s Eve Ball Drop
Ring in the New Year at the 25th annual New Year’s Eve ball drop in downtown Marquette on Tuesday, December 31, 2013. Count down to midnight with friends and family and watch as the illuminated ball is lowered from the historic Savings Bank Building on the corner of Front and Washington Streets. Share in the magic of the 12th strike marking the beginning of 2014 at this family friendly community celebration.

Kyle’s Blog… Continued from page 1.
I started work in September and was excited to take this job for largely the same reason that I was excited for that 16-hour ride in an economy class seat.

I have high hopes for the future of Marquette and I look forward to meeting and working with the smart, creative and hard-working people that populate this city. The residents are the heart and soul of this community, and though their stories are varied and the paths that led them to the southern shore of Superior are all different, so many of these individuals are here for the very same reason – they want to live, work and raise families in the best place they’ve found.

Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery
The City of Marquette Fire Department would like to remind City residents to “Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery” as we “fall back” when Daylight Savings time ends on November 3, 2013. Our annual campaign is to remind residents that battery replacement in their smoke detectors is part of a sound home safety strategy. Again this year, Energizer Battery has donated nine-volt batteries for use during this promotion.

The Marquette Fire Department also provides free smoke detectors to single family homes and non-rental units with children 14 years of age and under and adults 65 years of age and older. Working smoke detectors double your chances of surviving a house fire. Telephone, or stop by the Marquette Fire Department on Third Street, for a free smoke detector or battery. The giveaways will be given one per household as long as supplies last.

Holiday Fire Safety Tips Brought to you by the Marquette Fire Department
Following these simple fire safety tips can boost survival rates dramatically. Knowledge is the best fire protection.

• Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
• Never put holiday tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove.
• When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it picked up by a community pick-up service.
• Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wire, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
• Only use UL approved lighting.
• Do not overload outlets. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.
• Do not leave lit holiday lights unattended.
• Never leave fireplaces or space heaters unattended.
• Avoid using lit candles. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down.
• Never leave the house with candles burning.
• Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test the batteries every month and change them at least once a year.
Workshops at the Marquette Arts and Culture Center

The below workshops are brought to you by the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center (MACC). The MACC is located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library, at 217 N. Front Street. The MACC can be reached by phone at 906-228-0472 or by e-mail at arts-culture@mqtcty.org.

Make a Mess Art Class with Wendy Johnson
First and third Tuesday of each month October-May at 10-11 a.m.
$5 drop-in, pre-registration encouraged, small material fee
Stretch your child’s imagination through art projects designed to inspire young artists. Explore a variety of artistic mediums engaging the senses, fine motor skills, creativity and imagination. Using natural materials children will paint, draw, wet felt, build with clay and much more. Projects are adapted to a wide range of ages and abilities. Ages 3 and up.

Beginning Acrylics with Gene Bertram
Saturdays, November 2-December 14, at 12-3 p.m.
$75 city resident, $80 non-city, lab fee $25.
Learn the fundamentals of basic technique with acrylic paint with veteran painter.

Watercolor Christmas Cards with Carl Mayer
Saturday, November 9, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
$40 city residents, $45 non-city
Paint beautiful one of a kind Christmas cards with Carl Mayer. Students should bring their own supplies.

Nature Drawing with Jason Limberg
Sundays, November 3-30, at 12-3 p.m.
$50 city resident, $55 non-city
Students will meet at the Presque Isle Pavilion to and should bring paper, pencils, and a ballpoint pen.

Handbuilding Ceramics with Gene Bertram
Tuesdays, November 12-December 17, at 5:30-7:30 p.m.
$50 city resident, $55 non-city, lab fee $25
Learn the basics of handbuilding and moldmaking and create a beautiful ceramic piece to take home.

Senior Arts
First and third Tuesday of every month, 1-3 p.m.
November 5, Acrylic Christmas Cards with Gene Bertram
November 19, Acrylic Christmas Cards with Gene Bertram
December 3, Ornament workshop with Renee Michaud (all ages)
Professional artists instruct this successful program for seniors only. Each month a new professional artist will lead the group. Funded by the Reynolds Foundation and the City of Marquette Senior Center. Participants MUST pre-register for this FREE class at the Senior Center at 906-228-0456.

Senior Dancing with April Nyquist and Dan Ohman
First and third Wednesday of each month from 2-3 p.m.
Location: Baraga Gym (thru December), Peter White Public Library (January-June)
To register for this FREE class, call the Senior Center at 906-228-0456.

Senior Acting with Jeff Spencer and Monica Nordeen
Saturdays, November 2, 9, 30, and December 7, 1-3 p.m.
This class, for seniors only, will teach the beginning techniques of acting by using the body as an instrument of portraying emotion, improvising games, breathing techniques, and scene acting. This class has been made possible by the Reynolds Foundation and the Senior Center. To register for this FREE class, call the Senior Center at 906-228-0456.
Location: Marquette Arts and Culture Center

Intermediate Senior Acting with Jeff Spencer and Monica Nordeen
Saturdays, November 2, 9, 30 and December 7, 3-5 p.m.
Intended for seniors who participated in last terms acting class, or for seniors with previous acting experience. This class has been made possible by the Reynolds Foundation and the Senior Center. To register for this FREE class, call the Senior Center at 906-228-0456.
Location: Marquette Arts and Culture Center

100 Day Project Informational Meeting with Ann Russ and Melissa Middleton
Saturday, December 7, from 1-4 p.m.
Featuring work created over 100 consecutive days by nine Upper Michigan artists. The 100DayProject will launch a Community 100DayProject, challenging everyone to explore their creativity. The Community 100DayProject launches January 21, 2014. To register and learn how to participate, visit the 100DayProject website at the100dayproject.com.
Holiday Art Sale

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center (MACC) is proud to announce the 2013 Holiday Art Sale, held on Saturday, November 23 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. This sale will take place at the MACC, located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library. The sale will stretch through all three of the MACC’s workshop spaces, the main gallery and into the Community Room.

There will be 34 featured artists in a variety of the following mediums: wood, glass, metal, fibers/wearable art, painting, jewelry, ceramics, sculpture, photography and Christmas décor.


This is a one-day sale, so don’t miss out on these unique gifts that are sure to complete everyone’s gift list, with artwork at all price points.

For more information about the Holiday Arts Sale, please contact the MACC at 906-228-0472 or e-mail arts-culture@mqtcty.org.

November Exhibit

This exhibit offers a glimpse into the artists’ minds and their creative process. Featuring work created over 100 consecutive days by nine Upper Michigan artists. The 100DayProject will launch a Community 100DayProject, challenging everyone to explore their creativity. The Community 100DayProject launches January 21, 2014. To register and learn how to participate visit the 100DayProject website at the100dayproject.com. This exhibit runs through November 21.

December Exhibit

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center is proud to announce Russell Prather as the end of the year exhibit. Prather, an English professor at Northern Michigan University, will have multi-layered, Plexiglas hanging installations in the gallery on November 26-December 21, 2013.

Prather is a visual artist who has exhibited his work nationally in solo and group shows. He was winner of the Featured Artist Award for his installation at the Northern Exposure XIX exhibit at the Bonfias Fine Arts Center in Escanaba.

There will be an artist reception on Thursday, December 5 at 6-8p.m. Refreshments will be available and the public is encouraged to attend. The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center is located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library. For more information or questions, please contact 906-228-0472 or email arts-culture@mqtcty.org.

SmallWorks Gallery

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center has transformed the former gift shop space into a new SmallWorks Gallery. SmallWorks is a multi-use educational gallery that encourages creativity and community involvement. For the month of December, watercolorist, Carl Mayer will be exhibiting his artwork.

There will be an artist reception on Thursday, December 5 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in conjunction with the main gallery reception and the First Thursday Performance Series concert. Refreshments will be available and the public is encouraged to attend.

“I can remember precisely when my love affair of over fifty years began. It started while I was watching my supervising teacher, Ms. Josephine Morris, demonstrating the marvels of watercolor. I was immediately enthralled with the way this painting medium behaves. The colors blend so readily and it’s so exciting to use the many different techniques that watercolor has to offer. Nature has always been my inspiration to paint the north woods landscapes. I am particularly challenged with the potential of old, dead trees because they have so much variety and interest. Another fascination of mine is the many moods of Christmas décor. And so this love affair of mine has lasted over a half century.” - Mayer

First Thursday of the Month Concert Series

November

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center’s First Thursday Performance Series welcomes Eric Leonardson on Thursday, November 7, at 7:00 p.m., at the MACC. Leonardson is a Chicago-based composer, radio artist, sound designer, instrument inventor, visual artist, and teacher. He will perform a solo concert on his self built instrument – the “Springboard.”

This concert will be followed by a lecture-demonstration about the instrument, including the technical, historical, musical and creative concerns that inspired its invention and performance.

December

Nancy Royce Railey, piano teacher and Craig Randall Johnson, piano soloist, will have a shared concert on Thursday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m. For over 25 years, Railey has been performing and teaching in the Marquette area. She is a founder of the Lake Superior Piano Workshop and is active in the Marquette Area Piano Teachers’ Association providing private lessons in her home studio.

Johnson is a Minneapolis-based conductor, piano recitalist/accompanist and double bassist. An active teacher and accompanist, his work and interests have taken him across the United States and to several European countries, performing and promoting 20th century and new works to which audiences can find a connection, in addition to standard and popular repertoire.