

Photo by Linda Morgan

Marquette Matters

A bimonthly publication produced by the City of Marquette

Halloween Spectacle Takes Flight

On October 27, 2012 be witness to the City's first Halloween Spectacle. The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center and the Downtown Development Authority will host a large-scale community outdoor performance of giant puppetry, percussion and theatrical dance. Ravens on skates, zombie folk dancers, stilt walking spirits, a life-size dragon and skeleton marching band are just a few of the enchanted. As the evening grows dark, the community is invited to join in processions throughout the City converging at the Marquette Commons .



This spectacle of pageantry encourages collaboration and a creation of a new community tradition, bringing together diverse groups for one knock out performance. Creativity and innovation is challenged by a low budget encouraging performers to dig deep into closets, junk piles , garages and attics for costumes and props. A garbage can becomes a drum and an old hockey helmet is up-cycled into a mask. The Arts and Culture Center will host workshops in large-scale puppetry, instrument making and theater macabre one month prior to the performance. To be part of this unforgettable event contact the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center at 228-0472 or visit us on facebook. Get involved and keep arts and culture thriving in our community.



Saturday October 27, 2012 Processions - Sunset 6:41p.m.

We invite costumed revelers of all ages to join in processions to view the Spectacle departing from the following locations.

- Peter White Public Library
- Lower Harbor Mattson Park
- Harlow Park
- Rock Street Parking Lot

Halloween Spectacle 7:00 p.m.

The Spectacle takes place at the Marquette Commons. This original performance only happens once so don't be late.

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@mqcty.org.

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift, which is why we call it the present."
- Bill Keane

Marquette needs to grow! To some people that statement poses promise; to others a threat – but therein lies the challenge before us. The term "growth" can mean many different things to people, so I won't hope to address all the consequences here. Rather, without defining HOW Marquette needs to grow, let me share a few pieces of data collected during the 2010 U.S. Census for Marquette: The total population is 21,355, of which 9,949 (approximately 47%) are between the ages of 15-34. The next largest group is people over 60 (3,752, or ~18%) followed closely by people between the ages of 45-60 – 3,695 (approximately 17%). Children under 15 make up 2,124 (~10%); and there are 1,835 between the ages of 35-44 (~9%).

Apart from being the largest group in the City, people between the ages of 15-34 are also interesting because they are statistically considered to be in their prime reproductive/child rearing years – in short, most likely to have children (and increase the population!). They are also the most likely group to frequently change jobs (they are choosing and climbing career ladders), change housing arrangements (i.e., moving out of Mom and Dad's place to a dorm or apartment, and possibly from apartment to buying a home). In short, a group who is very focused on the future, with very agile and dynamic growth needs. Healthy, sustainable communities benefit from having large youth populations – and Marquette benefits greatly from their energy and enthusiasm.

The employment figures tell an equally interesting story! The number of people in our local labor force is 11,204. The number of people available for employment (I.E. over 16, not adjusted for personal choices or impairments) is 18,783. The difference is due to many factors (military service, out-of-state students, jail, disability, etc.), as well as unemployment – and the figure suggests there is too much idle labor. The largest business sectors in town are education and healthcare (3,641 jobs ~ 33%), followed by retail sales and food service/hotel/entertainment (3,473 job ~ 31%). "White collar" jobs (I.E. information management, finance, public administration) make up 1,684 jobs (~15%), and other trades and services make up the difference.

How does this match up with the population figures? We don't know for sure, but can make a few guesses. Typically, "white collar" jobs require more experience and more senior people, which would imply few of these positions are held by people in the 15-34 age bracket. *Continued on page 3.*

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Information about Marquette's Proposed New City Charter

Marquette Voters: A proposal regarding a new Marquette City Charter will appear on the November 6, 2012 ballot. Please review the issues, listed below, and vote on this important ballot proposal.

What is the purpose of a city charter?

A city charter is a basic law formulating the government for a City. It establishes the framework of government, defines powers and duties, and identifies the rights and responsibilities of a city in fulfilling the needs of its citizens.

What was the job of the Marquette City Charter Commission?

In November 2011, the voters of Marquette approved a ballot proposal calling for the revision of the City Charter. The voters also elected a nine person Charter Commission to draft a proposed new City Charter which would be submitted to the voters for their approval. Members of the Charter Commission are: Robert Kulisheck –Chair, Thomas L. Baldini – Vice Chair, Members: Robert Berube, Sara Cambensy, Martha E. Conley, J. Michael Coyne, M. Cameron Howes, Cornelia Mazzuchi, Thomas Tourville, and Administrative Liaison – Dave Bleau - City Clerk.

The Charter Commission conducted a series of public hearings, and held joint work sessions with the City Commission and City staff. The Charter Commission invited representatives of the Board of Light and Power, the Peter White Public Library and members of the City's appointed boards, commissions and committees to present suggestions. Prior to each Charter Commission meeting, the topics to be covered during that meeting were reported by the local media and residents of Marquette were encouraged to submit written statements and/or attend the meetings and present their comments.

The Charter Commission's primary mission was to draft an updated, understandable, modern charter that will enable the City to operate in an efficient, effective and transparent fashion. The Charter Commission has now completed its work and the draft of the new City Charter will appear on the November 6, 2012, ballot.

Will the proposed new City Charter affect the millage rate or the type of taxes collected by the City?

Questions relating to taxation are of major concern to the people of Marquette. The proposed new City Charter will not increase the millage rate nor will it alter the type of taxes collected by the City.

Where can a draft of the proposed new City Charter be found, along with a record of the work of the Charter Commission?

A draft of the proposed new City Charter and documentation relating to the work of the Charter Commission are available for review on the City's website www.mqtcty.org. Hard copies of the proposed new charter may also be reviewed in the City Clerk's office at the City Hall and at Peter White Public Library.

Why is it important for Marquette residents to vote on the ballot proposal for a new City Charter at the November 6, 2012 election?

Given the importance of a City Charter, Marquette voters are encouraged to review the proposed new charter and to cast a ballot on the proposal at the November 6, 2012 election. If the past is a guide, a new City charter could serve our community well into the 21st Century.

Why is it necessary to write a new Marquette City Charter?

First, numerous provisions in the current City Charter are no longer relevant because they have been nullified by changes in state and federal

laws, regulations and court decisions. The antiquated nature of the current charter forces City staff to waste time verifying that proposed new City policies do not violate state or federal laws and regulations.

Second, the City's fiscal year as designated in the current City Charter is no longer the same as the state and federal fiscal years. This inconsistency causes delays, complicates grant applications and interferes with the City's overall interactions with state and federal agencies.

Third, the dollar values stated in the current City Charter regarding bidding requirements etc. are based on 1951 dollar values. Using the average rate of inflation, \$1.00 at the time the current City Charter was written is now worth \$9.29.

Fourth, antiquated and confusing provisions in the current City Charter make it difficult for City staff to operate the City in an efficient and cost effective fashion.

Fifth, because of these antiquated and confusing provisions, the meaning of the current City Charter is not clear. Citizens of Marquette should be able to read and understand their City's Charter without the assistance of a lawyer.

Sixth, following a thorough review, it was discovered that the current City Charter should be completely revised. There were found to be so many major changes needed in the current City Charter that it would be impractical to revise the Charter through a series of twenty or more separate amendments.

What elements of the current City Charter are retained in the proposed new charter?

Based on the information gathered during public hearings, public comment during Charter Commission meetings, joint work sessions with the elected and appointed City officials, and a review of written comments submitted to the City Clerk, the Charter Commission discovered that the people of Marquette were not in favor of changing the basic structure of municipal government. Consequently, the draft of the proposed new City Charter retains the current Commission-Manager form of government, while also making necessary changes in procedures that will enable the City to operate in a more efficient, effective and transparent fashion.

What changes appear in the proposed new Marquette City Charter?

- Establishment of fiscal year dates consistent with those of the State and Federal Governments;
- Establishment of up-to-date ethical standards covering volunteer members of boards and committees as well as elected officials and employees;
- Establishment and maintenance of an up-to-date communication plan using current print, electronic and other appropriate media;
- Establishment of procedures related to the long term leasing of City property;
- Requirements for periodic review of the City Charter;
- Requirements for regular strategic planning;
- Requirements for continuing economic development planning;
- Requirements for the annual evaluation of the City Manager and City Attorney;
- Promotion of intergovernmental relations and cooperation;
- Clarification of the relationship between the City and the Board of Light and Power;
- Elimination of scores of redundant, antiquated and confusing provisions in the current charter.

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, September 10, 2012, 7:00 p.m.,
Commission Chambers**

**Monday, September 24, 2012, 7:00 p.m.,
Commission Chambers**

**Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 7:00 p.m.,
Commission Chambers**

**Monday, October 29, 2012, 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.

Fall Yard and Brush Collection

Properties paying the "Garbage/Yard Waste" fee on their monthly utility bills (green bag users) are eligible to dispose of yard waste through this collection. Owners and tenants of properties not paying the fee should contact their regular waste hauler for service. This service is supported by fees, not taxes.

These collections are for brush, leaves, grass clippings and garden debris only. No rubbish is allowed. All collected material will be composted. Material is not to be placed more than one week prior to pickup date. Material must be placed curbside prior to 7:00 a.m. of the scheduled pick up date.

Pile yard waste on the lawn next to the street edge, not in the gutter or on street pavement. Keep yard waste in front of your own property. Do not pile on vacant adjacent properties. Motorists are asked to avoid parking in positions that block access to leaf piles. The brush volume from each property is limited to one pickup load, a pile approximately 12'L x 6'W x 5'H.

Crews will collect loose or bagged leaves October 29 – November 2, 2012. Crews will return to the same routes November 5 – November 9, 2012 and collect only bagged leaves. All debris placed curbside after the first collection date must be bagged. Do not use City green bags for yard waste. Bags containing garbage or other rubbish mixed with the yard waste will not be collected.

The City will not collect material after the last date listed below for each route. Residents are asked to deliver it to the composting site on Lakeshore Boulevard, one block south of Hawley Street. The site is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The site closes Saturday, November 17, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. for the season. Any yard waste will be accepted but brush will be limited to one pickup load per day. Proof of residency or garbage fee payment is required for admittance.



The following are dates and details of the City of Marquette's brush and leaf collection.

WEEK 1 BRUSH ONLY	WEEK 2 LEAVES - BAGGED OR LOOSE	WEEK 3 LEAVES - BAGGED ONLY	NEIGHBORHOOD
October 22	October 29	November 5	All streets north of Fair Ave.
October 23	October 30	November 6	East Marquette bounded by and including Front St. on the west, Fair Ave. on the North and Baraga Ave. on the south.
October 24	October 31	November 7	The area west of Front St. and north of US 41 Bypass bounded by and including Fair Ave. on the north and Seventh St. on the west.
October 25	November 1	November 8	All streets south of the US 41 Bypass
October 26	November 2	November 9	The area west of Seventh St. and north of the US 41 Bypass bounded by and including Fair Ave. on the north.

Please remember that open burning is not permitted in the City of Marquette. Neighborhood maps are available at www.mqtcty.org. For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at 906-228-0444.

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

These types of jobs might be the ones youth aspire to as they build a career, as they provide higher pay and benefits. Choosing a career in the largest business clusters (i.e., healthcare/education), a person may be able to build a career without the need to switch jobs as frequently as other professions. If a person works in the food service/hotel/entertainment industry, there are lots of local businesses that offer opportunity to "climb the ladder", but positions in this field can

have substantially lower pay and benefits when compared with other professions.

It's clear that people want good, high-paying job opportunities, and they want to stay in Marquette to achieve those goals. So what happens if all of our youth want to climb a ladder, build a career, start a family, and buy a house – and NOT work at the Hospital, NMU, or in the food service industry? What happens if family members who moved away, want to come back home, or other people want to

Flammable Liquid Safety

Liquid fuels are convenient energy sources used to power cars, trucks, watercraft, lawn mowers, and garden equipment. Liquid fuels are also used to start charcoal fires for barbecues. Campers utilize liquid fuels for their lanterns, RV's and portable generators.



The most common liquid fuels employed for these purposes are gasoline, diesel fuel, gasoline/oil mixtures, compressed natural gases, propane, and high grade kerosene/naphtha mixtures often referred to as white gas.

Most of these liquids are highly flammable and can be ignited easily by flame, spark or even static spark. These flammable liquids readily emit vapors; the warmer the weather, the more readily these liquids vaporize and become potentially dangerous. In addition, inhaling vapor of flammable liquids is unhealthy, and in concentration, can be dangerous. Finally, always remember that burning flammable liquids create dangerous carbon monoxide gas. Any use of machinery operated on flammable liquids indoors, should always be in a well ventilated area.

Safety Tips of Using Flammable Liquids

- Always fill and transport flammable liquids in their approved containers, and in small amounts of five gallons or less.
- Always make certain that flammable liquid containers are secured and well sealed. Leaky containers should never be used for transporting flammable liquids.
- Always be sure to place portable flammable liquid containers on the ground when filling. Grounded containers help defeat any static spark that can develop during the flow of liquid fuels.
- Always know the operating specifics of small engines in regard to type of fuel, and safe fueling practices.
- Always store liquid fuels in a safe, secure area that cannot be accessed by children or pets.
- Always make sure that when filling any liquid fuel tank the fill nozzle remains in contact with the edge of the fill opening. This will help preclude static sparking.
- Never refill portable flammable liquid containers that are not in contact with the ground.
- Never refill engines or devices while they are still hot. One should be able to touch an engine with the back of the hand without discomfort.
- Never smoke or refuel near sources of heat or flame.
- Never spray flammable liquids onto fires that are already burning; i.e. barbecues, campfires, or any other type of open fire.
- Never use gasoline for other than its intended purposes. Gasoline is designed to operate machinery from enclosed tanks. Gasoline is not intended for igniting exterior fires, barbecues, campfires, etc. The ignition of gasoline and its vapors used in these purposes can react explosively causing serious injury or worse.
- Never refill flammable liquid tanks or containers indoors, without good ventilation. Whenever possible, filling tanks or containers should be accomplished outside.
- Never utilize leaking flammable liquid containers.

relocate to Marquette and continue to build a life and career in their chosen path? What happens if families want to stop exporting their children to opportunities that benefit out-of-area economies and businesses?

If we can't answer these questions, or provide the opportunities people may seek, it's a pretty safe bet they will relocate to areas that can, and Marquette will be worse off for it.

Marquette needs to grow – and we will do so in an agile, balanced, and sustainable way.

Trash to Treasure Day Scheduled

City of Marquette residents are invited and encouraged to participate in the community-wide "Trash to Treasure Day" on Saturday, September 8, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is the only day for this event.

The purpose of the program is to provide a venue for the recycling of reusable household items such as furniture, lamps, electronics and other working household items. The program is designed to increase awareness in recycling by creating an alternative means of reusing items that would otherwise end up in the landfill.

Trash to Treasure Day Guidelines

Residents can place reusable/serviceable items in front of their house on the curb no earlier than 8:00 a.m. Saturday, September 8, 2012. Unclaimed items must be removed from the curb no later than 2:00 p.m. the same day.

Removal of items will be strictly enforced in accordance with Section 22.33 of the City's Nuisance Ordinance: It shall be unlawful for any person to accumulate rubbish or any articles or junk, except as may be necessary for construction work or normal course of a business. Items left at the curb will be picked up by the Public Works Department and invoiced to the property owner on a time, material and disposal fee basis.

College students are encouraged to participate in the treasure hunt in that they may find items which will be useful to them in their dormitory or apartment.

Examples of items that can be recycled include lamps, tables, chairs, dishes, etc. Please, no rubbish. Rubbish is defined to mean anything that does not work, is not clean and is not serviceable. Depositing unwanted items is prohibited.

It is suggested that residents remove lawn ornaments and other wanted items to avoid mistaken identity.

The Household Rubbish Drop-Off Site will have extended hours of operation on Saturday, September 8, 2012. The hours of operation will be 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Normal operating hours of Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the second Saturday of every month, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., will resume on Tuesday, September 11, 2012.

For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at 906-228-0444.



Committee Bootcamp Scheduled

The City has instituted a new training session for the members of the 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 date/time:

Tuesday, December 4, 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@mqctcy.org) or call her at (906) 225-8104.

Fall Workshops Offered for All Ages

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center's Fall Workshop Series will begin the week of September 24, 2012. The series offers an opportunity for community residents of all ages to explore and learn about visual arts, language and cultural arts, and movement and wellness arts with highly qualified instructors.

Visual art classes include: Beginning Watercolor Painting for Adults, Figure Drawing, Paper Casting, and Redesign Your Wardrobe. Literary art classes include: Creative Poetry and Anishinaabe Language. Wellness classes include: Beginning Meditation, Belly Dancing, Hoop Shakti Yoga, and Tai Chi.

Classes especially exciting for teens (but also open to adults) include: Bouncy Ball Necklace, Felted Acorns, Upcycled T-Shirt Necklace, and Pop Art!, Top Down Gloves: Fingers First Knitting, Fused Glass Jewelry and Ornaments, Music Theory for Beginners, How to Make a T-Shirt Headband, Flower Adventure Book, Beginning Japanese, and Writing the Everyday.

Please visit www.mqctcy.org/arts.html, visit the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center, located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library, or call (906) 228-0472 for a complete schedule and class descriptions.



City Committee Volunteer Opportunities

Current open City committee positions are listed at right. If interested in becoming involved and filling a position, an application form can be found at www.mqctcy.org/communitynetwork.html. More information can be obtained by contacting Wendy Larson in the City Manager's office via email wlarson@mqctcy.org or by phone 906-225-8104.

Committee Name	Vacancies
Arts and Culture Advisory Committee	One Vacancy
Harbor Advisory Committee	One Vacancy
Investment Advisory Board	One Vacancy
Local Officers Compensation Commission	Four Vacancies
Marquette Brownfield Redevelopment Authority	One Vacancy
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board	Two Vacancies
Planning Commission	One Vacancy
Regional Recreation Authority Business Plan Ad-hoc Committee	One Vacancy - Alternate
Sister City Advisory Committee	Two Vacancies

Medicare Assistance Available at Senior Center

The Marquette Senior Center is please to announce that their Social Work staff has completed all the necessary educational training in becoming certified MMAP (Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program) counselors. As MMAP counselors they are available to assist City residents ages 65 or older with the important and often confusing decisions pertaining to health insurance. The Social Work staff are not connected with any insurance company and are not licensed to sell insurance, nor do they advocate for any insurance company. The staff can help you: understand Medicare and Medicaid, compare and enroll in Medicare part D or Medicare Advantage plans, review your Medicare Supplemental Insurance needs, apply for Medicaid or a Medicare Savings Program, determine Eligibility and apply for Low Income Subsidy Assistance, and identify and Report Medicare and Medicaid fraud, abuse, or scams.

This year the annual enrollment period for Medicare prescription drug plans will be October 15 - December 7, 2012. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the Senior Center at 906-228-0456.

Flu Shots Available

The Marquette County Health Department will be on-site at the Marquette Senior Center to provide flu shots to the community on Friday, October 12, 2012. The Health Department will bill Medicare, but participants must have their card with them. Without Medicare coverage, the cost of the flu shot is \$25.00. If interested, please follow the schedule listed below:

1:00 - 1:30 Last name starting with A - G
 1:30 - 2:00 Last name starting with H - N
 2:00 - 2:30 Last name starting with O - Z
 2:30 - 3:00 Open to anyone

Senior/Adult Skate Scheduled

The Marquette Senior Center is hosting the popular Monday night Senior/Adult Skate at Lakeview Arena beginning Monday, October 8th. Every Monday evening from 7:30 - 9:20 p.m. This event is free for City residents over the age of 50; non-residents over the age of 50 pay only \$2.00. Skate rentals are available for a small fee. For more information, please call the Senior Center at 228-0456.



Gallery Exhibit featuring U.P. Artist

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center Gallery is proud to present *Meditations*, a gallery exhibition featuring new artwork (pictured, right) by Keweenaw Peninsula artist, Joyce Koskenmaki. The work includes meditative abstract drawings in color pencil and watercolor and is on display from September 5 to the 29.



The Superior Woodturners Group will be featured for the month of October. The Lower Level Gallery is located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library, 217 North Front Street, Marquette.

Thursday Concerts Rock into Fall

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center's First Thursday Concert Series will feature two original Marquette groups on September 6, 2012: *Shadow Arcade* and *Gratiot Lake Road* at 7:00 p.m. On October 4, 2012 *Middle of Nowhere* will perform at 7:30 p.m. *Middle of Nowhere* is a dynamic and talented group of four high school musicians from Alger and Marquette counties that play a mix of alternative, classic and original rock songs. First Thursday Concert Series events take place in the Peter White Public Library Community Room.

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