Inside this issue of Marquette Matters

Contact us today

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Visit our website at marquettemi.gov

Past issues of Marquette Matters are available online at: marquettemi.gov/newsletter/ While there, you can also join the digital mailing list for Marquette Matters.

Commission Work Sessions

Lighthouse Park Capital Projects
Thursday, Nov. 1
4 p.m., 401 Coast Guard Road

Joint City Commission/Planning Commission Work Session
Land Development Code
Monday, Nov. 26
4:30 p.m., Commission Chambers, City Hall

https://marquette.novusagenda.com/Agenda-public/
Message from Mike

In each issue, the Marquette City Manager shares his comments in the form of a column. This issue, City Manager Mike Angeli (pictured right) reflects on fall in the City. City Manager Angeli can be reached at 906-228-0435.

I’m writing this with two days left in October and, by the time that you read this, October will be behind us. So I’m going to go out on a limb here and say that the last two months (especially October) were good for us. I pay special attention to these two months for two reasons. First, everyone is back in school and, second, the weather (which relates back to the first).

The impact of roughly 3,000 public school and 10,000 NMU students is noticeable in several ways. Mostly good, but with the caveat that we really want everyone to be safe. Not only safe while traveling and learning, but also safe while recreating. Which brings me back to me second point, the weather.

Last years month of October brought a very violent storm to the area that hit around the third week. Not only did it cause extensive damage to several areas, including our shoreline, it also took two lives. Although not students, the two were visitors to the area who couldn’t resist the lure of watching the big waves on Lake Superior caused by that storm. There were also other “close calls” reported where people could have just as easily been injured or lost their own lives.

Marquette is a beautiful place to be in the fall. Even after the leaves have turned and fallen, there’s still the lake that can put on a pretty good show when the weather is right, and it’s not just limited to October. In 1975, November brought the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald and the rest of the winter can often bring strong winds and weather. My point is that I’d like everyone to enjoy our splendid beauty but do so with some caution (and common sense) especially when close to Lake Superior.

City Rubbish and Compost Site Closing for Season

The City of Marquette household rubbish drop-off site, located at 1415 Pioneer Road will be closed for the season beginning Sunday, Nov. 11. Due to no lighting at the site, the site will be closing at dusk during the week. The remaining days will be Nov. 5 and 7 from 3 p.m. to dusk and Nov. 10 from 1-4 p.m.

The Compost site will remain open as weather permits. An announcement will be issued at time of closure.

Leaf Pickup Reminder

Fall yard waste pickup is ongoing and will continue through the second week of November. A schedule of the remaining dates and related announcements can be viewed at www.marquettemi.gov/compostandrubbish/. After curbside pickup has been completed, residents are asked to deliver any additional waste to the composting site at 1415 Pioneer Rd. The site is open Tuesdays from 3-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The compost site will remain open as weather permits. Notification of the exact date will be sent out via public service announcement. Any yard waste will be accepted but brush will be limited to one pickup load per day. Proof of solid waste fee payment and ID is required for admittance.

“Centre of Attention” flickr photo by Henry Hemming https://flickr.com/photos/henry_hemming/38537606712 shared under a Creative Commons (BY) license
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City Commission Meetings
The Commission usually meets the second and last Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Commission Chambers at 300 W. Baraga Avenue, unless otherwise noted. Citizens are invited to attend. Regular Meetings:

Monday, Nov. 12, 2018, 7 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 26, 2018, 6 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 10, 2018, 6 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 17, 2018, 6 p.m.

Meetings are televised on local (Charter Cable) Channel 191. 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.

Interested in serving your community?
The City of Marquette has several openings for various volunteer advisory boards and committees.

Check out the City’s website for an application and the most up-to-date vacancy information: marquettemi.gov/commission/boards-and-committees/vacancies/

- Board of Zoning Appeals | Four Openings
- Board of Review | One Opening
- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority | Two Openings
- Harbor Advisory Committee | Four Openings
- Investment Advisory Board | Two Openings
- Local Development Finance Authority | Three Openings
- Local Officers Compensation Commission | Two Openings
- Marquette Housing Commission | One Opening
- Marquette County Transit Authority | Two Openings

Holiday Closure
City offices located at Marquette City Hall, 300 W. Baraga Ave.; the Lakeview Arena, 401 E. Fair Ave.; the Municipal Service Center, 1100 Wright St.; and the Marquette Arts & Culture Center, 217 N. Front St. (Peter White Public Library) will be closed Nov. 22-23, Dec. 21, 24-25, 28, 31 and Jan. 1 for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s holidays. The Fire, Police and Public Works and Utilities Departments will remain open and staffed during this time.

Manager Open Office Hours
City Manager Mike Angeli holds community office hours on the second Wednesday of each month, from 10 a.m. until noon. The Nov. 14 session will be held in the Dandelion Cottage Room, located on the first floor off of the Huron Mountain Gallery of the Peter White Public Library, and the Dec. 12 session will be held in main floor conference room of the Peter White Public Library.

The meetings are intended to provide informal opportunities to discuss issues within the community, and to give citizens a chance for direct dialogue with City staff about interests and concerns.

Rental Inspection Reminder
City Code (Ordinance #667) requires all rental dwelling units to be registered, inspected and certified with the City of Marquette. Any structure or dwelling unit that is occupied by persons other than the property owner, pursuant to any oral or written rental or lease agreement or other valuable compensation, is considered a rental dwelling unit. Rental properties are required to meet City Code requirements for fire safety as well as Zoning Ordinance requirements.

Registration forms and information can be obtained online at www.marquettemi.gov/departments/fire/inspections/, in person at the Marquette City Fire Department, 418 S. Third St. between the hours of 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., by phone (906-225-8596 or 906-225-8941) or by emailing fire@marquettemi.gov.
City Charter Ballot Proposal

On Nov. 6, voters in the City of Marquette will be asked to approve a change in the City Charter. The proposal would change the way “Payment in Lieu of Taxes” (PILT) is calculated between the City of Marquette and the Marquette Board of Light and Power (BLP) from a formula based on the total capital assets of the BLP to 5.5% of the BLP’s annual operating revenues. The change is being made to simplify the administration of the PILT process. Currently, much administrative time is required to make the annual calculation. Staff at both the City and the BLP must classify, value and account for the variety of capital assets held by the BLP. This process is also subject to changes in state law, which can create unintended consequences for the PILT calculation; the most recent example being the state’s change to personal property taxes. Changing the PILT formula to a simple percentage of operating revenues will save administrative time and resources. Doing so will also provide for a more consistent budgeting process and better long term planning for both the City and the BLP.

The 5.5 percent rate the MBLP and the City mutually agreed to is substantially equivalent to the current PILT payment. The percentage was also benchmarked against other municipalities and found to be in line with national averages for publicly owned utilities such as the BLP.

BLP customers will not see a difference in the amount or the calculation of their electric bill. Both the City and the BLP worked together to develop this change.

The ballot proposal reads as follows, “Shall Sections 11-6 and 11-7 of Chapter 11 of the Marquette City Charter be amended to revise the calculation related to the payment of a portion of electric light and power utility system revenues to the City of Marquette, which payment is made in lieu of taxes that would be paid on electric light and power utility system property if it were privately owned?”. [Yes No]

Drug Take Back Day

The Marquette Police Department participated in the DEA Drug Take Back Day initiative and 216 lbs of pills were collected and turned over to the DEA for disposal. The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Initiative addresses a critical public safety and public health issue. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the United States continue to be alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Because the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration have advised the public that flushing their prescription drugs down the toilet or throwing them in the trash pose potential safety and health hazards, the DEA launched its prescription drug take back program to encourage the safe disposal of medications.

Utility Rates to Increase Dec. 1

The Marquette City Commission held three public hearings at their regular meeting on Oct. 29 to discuss and vote on rate increases to water, sewer and stormwater utilities.

As part of the FY 2019 budget process, a revision of the utility rates was recommended for utility customers by Raftelis, the City’s utility rate consultant. The rate increase is necessary to keep a balanced budget and to keep the utility funds solvent. Currently, all three funds are running at a deficit and the “sewer utility has a negative fund balance so it has a negative balance in its bank account”, according to Thomas Beckley of Raftelis. As a result of the increases, the City funds are progressing towards financial stability after 20 years of minimal changes in rates.

The City Commission voted to increase water rates by 12.25%, sewer rates by 25.0% and stormwater rates by 15.25% effective Dec. 1. Customers will effectively see a 20% total rise in their monthly bills. To view the final report from the rate consultants and other information regarding this change, please visit: www.marquettemi.gov/utilityratestudy.
Land Development Code Project in Final Phase - Hearings Planned

For the past 16 months, the City of Marquette has been fully engaged in the monumental task of overhauling all of its codes that specifically address the use and development of private property in the City, namely the Zoning Ordinance and Waterfront Form-based Codes, the Sign Ordinance, the Fence Ordinance and the Subdivision/Condominium Ordinance. This has been done with the goal of consolidating these ordinances into a modern, user-friendly Land Development Code (LDC). After consultant McKenna Associates drafted the initial LDC document, based on a comprehensive diagnostic study and direction from the Planning Commission, Community Development Department staff and the ad-hoc Land Development Code Advisory Committee, the entire draft Code was analyzed, revised and rewritten over the course of several months to ensure this would be the right product for Marquette. The intended impacts of this project are to update zoning districts and standards for various land uses and development, to reduce the complexity of the current land-use ordinances, to reduce the number of variance cases caused by outdated standards and to incorporate new standards for increased environmental protection and the mitigation of the negative impacts of urbanization and growth.

A community Open House event on Oct. 23 featured a presentation and Q&A on the LDC project. The Planning Commission will hold work sessions on the LDC at their November meetings (Nov. 13 and 20), and the public is encouraged to voice their questions and/or concerns at those Tuesday evening meetings (which begin at 6 p.m.). As well, there is a public comment period open until Nov. 25 regarding the Community Master Plan Amendment that the Planning Commission recently completed drafting.

A copy of the Draft LDC Amendment can be found in the Community Development office located at 1100 Wright St., Marquette, in the Peter White Public Library and online at www.marquettemi.gov/projects/land-development-code-project/

The Community Master Plan Amendment may also be obtained at the Community Development office and online at www.marquettemi.gov/departments/community-development/planning/

Following is the tentative schedule for further public input regarding the Draft LDC and adoption of the Land Development Code and the Community Master Plan amendment:

Nov. 13- Planning Commission work session on draft LDC.
Nov. 20- Final PC work session on draft LDC.
Nov. 26- Joint Work Session of Planning Commission and City Commission to discuss the draft LDC and Community Master Plan (CMP) Amendment.
Dec. 4- Planning Commission public hearings for 1) CMP amendment and, and 2) adoption of draft LDC.
Dec. 17- City Commission public hearing and vote on Land Development Code. The LDC would go into effect 10 days after an affirmative vote to adopt the LDC.

Written comments regarding the draft LDC may be submitted to the Community Development Department office or by e-mail to the City Planner at dstensaas@marquettemi.gov. Comments by telephone may be made to the City Planner at 906-225-8103.

Landfill Permits Available

Applications may be downloaded from the City’s website www.marquettemi.gov/departments/financial-services/treasurer/ or picked up in the City Treasurer’s Office.

Commercial Haulers: Permits expired on Oct. 31. Renewal applications were mailed in October. The permit fee of $65.00 is for a one year period from November 1 to October 31. 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 $10.00 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.

Winter Tax Information

Winter property tax statements will be mailed to City residents on Nov. 30. Tax collection begins Dec. 1 and payments are accepted without penalty through Feb. 14, 2019. Tax information can be accessed 24/7 on the City’s website www.marquettemi.gov and is free to the property owner. Non-property owners are charged a $2.00 lookup fee.
Farmers Market Season Ending

Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful…and lit at the Downtown Marquette Farmers Market through November and December. Wherever you are headed this holiday season, be sure to shop at the Downtown Marquette Farmers Market for everything you need including food, gifts and decorations. The market is open every Saturday through Dec. 15 at the Marquette Commons 9 a.m.-1 p.m., in Downtown Marquette, your holiday preparation location.

What can you expect to find at the market in late fall? Plentiful produce including greens, late season tomatoes and all kinds of root vegetables including potatoes, onions, carrots, beets, parsnips, turnips, rutabagas, radishes and kohlrabi. Many varieties of squash, cabbages, Brussels sprouts, herbs, dried beans, maple syrup, honey, eggs, meat, jam, treats, bean-to-bar chocolate and locally roasted coffee beans. Fabulous food for feasting, stocking stuffers and hostess gifts. Stock up on the storage food to get you through the winter, until the market opens in spring.

November and December are decorating and gift-giving times. Absolutely beautiful artisan goods are available at the Downtown Marquette Farmers Market. Autumn arrangements and wreaths, Christmas trees and wreaths, custom knives, bird houses and feeders, greeting cards and gift labels, candles, woolen goods, jewelry, personal care products and much more. When you are shopping for gifts, show you care by choosing unique, locally produced goods.

Credit/debit cards are accepted, SNAP/Double Up Food Bucks distributed, Hoophouses for Health accepted where eligible. Check mqtfarmersmarket.com for the weekly vendor list.

See you at the market through Dec. 15.

DDA Moves to New Location

The Marquette Downtown Development Authority has moved from their former South Front Street location to a new, larger office space at 337 W. Washington St. The DDA has grown significantly in the past decade, adding several staff positions to meet the operational needs of the bustling organization. As they’ve expanded, they’ve outgrown their former office space. “With a dedicated conference room, reception area and individual offices, the new space allows us to greet guests and visitors in an inviting, comfortable and professional environment. Although we'll miss our Front Street location, we're thrilled to be a part of the exciting developments happening on the west end of the downtown district,” said Rebecca Salmon, Assistant Director.

“We would like to thank Christine Pesola, the contractors and everyone involved in creating such a beautiful space for the new home of the DDA,” said Salmon. The DDA office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feel free to stop in, check it out and say hello.

Downtown “Magic of the Seasons”

Celebrate the magic of the holiday season at the eighth annual Downtown Marquette ‘Winter Snow Fun’ Holiday Parade, scheduled for Friday, Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. Bundle up and invite your friends and family to watch 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 invited to the Marquette Commons where Santa Claus and friends will light up Downtown at the 43rd annual City of Marquette Tree Lighting Ceremony. Festivities include carolers, pony rides and visits with Santa Claus.

The Downtown Development Authority is extending an invitation to all local businesses, organizations, musicians and bands to enter a decorated float, vehicle or marching unit into the parade. There is no cost to participate. If interested in entering the parade, contact the Marquette Downtown Development Authority before Monday, Nov. 26, or visit www.downtownmarquette.org.
2018 Reconstruction Projects, End of Season Update

The 2018 reconstruction year proved to be challenging due to a dispute between the Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association and Operating Engineers Local 324, the union representing operators of cranes and other heavy equipment. The dispute affected projects that required the placement of hot mix asphalt. The dispute started on Sept. 4 during the final phasing of our projects. To date, a settlement still has not been reached but a temporary pause in the lockout with a good faith agreement between the parties restarted asphalt production and construction on Sept. 27. This lockout has had an impact on some of our projects and has delayed completion on some until next spring.

Presque Isle Avenue (Fair Avenue to Wright Street): This project started on April 29 with Hebert Construction. All underground construction has been completed. Paving on Presque Isle Avenue is complete with only a few side streets remaining. Before, during and after construction photos are pictured below.

Fifth Street (Fisher Street to Spring Street): This project started on June 18 with Smith Construction. All underground work and paving has been completed. The contractor is addressing punch list items to finish the project. Before and after construction photos are pictured below.

Homestead Street (Grove Street to Ward Street): This project started on July 2 with Smith Construction. All underground work and paving has been completed. The contractor is addressing punch list items to finish the project.

McClellan Avenue Widening (US 41 to Washington Street): This project started on Aug. 14 with Oberstar, Inc. All underground work is complete. The lockout had a direct effect on this project. A planned mill and overlay has been postponed until next spring.

Street Improvement and Maintenance Projects (SIMP): This project started on July 23 with Oberstar, Inc. The lockout had a direct effect on this project. Initially the streets were planned for a mill and overlay but this has been postponed until next spring.

Sanitary Sewer Lateral Replacement Program: This project started on July 23 with Oberstar, Inc. All underground construction is complete.

Sidewalk Repair and Replacement Project: This project started on Aug. 8 with Premeau Construction. All work is complete.

Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and Televising Project: This project was started in August and completed by the Upper Peninsula Rubber Co.

Presque Isle Parking Area Upgrade (Band Shell Parking): This project started on Sept. 17 with Oberstar, Inc. and has been completed. The contractor is addressing punch list items. The completed project is pictured on the right.

Eagle Drive Upgrade (Cemetery): This project started on Oct. 2 with Oberstar, Inc. and has been completed. The contractor is addressing punch list items.

Lighthouse Multi-Use Pathway: This project is on hold until next year.

East Baraga Avenue Extension (Lakeshore Boulevard to the East): This project started on Sept. 10 with Hebert Construction. All underground construction completed. Paving is expected to be completed soon.
After an extensive renovation project, the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Division of Community Services is excited to announce the reopening of the MACC in late November! Staff’s preparing to move back into the lower level of Peter White Public Library by mid-November, with the Center reopening to the public shortly thereafter.

Improvements to the space include the replacement of the old studio space skylights with new vertical windows to allow for better climate control, improved lighting and signage, a new exhibition wall outside of the entrance to the MACC, increased privacy for user groups with the addition of a closed-door option for both rentable studio spaces and increased patron comfort with new chairs and tables for classes, workshops, meetings and other events. Structural improvements and repairs were also made to the Library in addition to the installation of a new HVAC system for increased energy efficiency.

Beginning Monday, Dec. 3, the Creative Community Series programming will start back up. Room reservations are now being accepted, and local groups and organizations are encouraged to contact Tristan Luoma at tluoma@marquettemi.gov or 906-225-8655 for more information about the refreshed space or to make a reservation. Room rental fees are drastically reduced for groups that offer quality arts and culture activities and education to the community that are open to the public, thanks to the support of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

To celebrate the reopening of the MACC, a special Open House will be held on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., during which tours will be given of the new facility, artist receptions will be held for the inaugural exhibitions and tables will be set up with information on all MACC and user group activities coming in December and beyond. The Open House is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be provided.

19th Annual Holiday Art Sale

The Marquette Regional History Center and MACC are excited to announce the 2018 Holiday Art Sale, to be held on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The sale will take place at the Marquette Regional History Center, located at 145 W Spring St. in Marquette, featuring local artists at every medium – the perfect opportunity to find that unique gift!

The MRHC is a destination, providing holiday shoppers even more reasons to attend. World-class exhibits, an old-fashioned bake sale, educational toys and puppets in the History Center store, the annual Dollhouse Days event in the Exhibit Gallery, and other surprises will be sure to keep shoppers in the holiday spirit.

There will be a $2.00 admission fee, which gives visitors access to the sale as well as all museum galleries, with all proceeds supporting the MRHC, a non-profit 501c3 and community gem.


For more information or questions, please contact the Marquette Regional History Center at 906-226-357.
**Annual Art Awards**

The City of Marquette is welcoming citizens to nominate deserving members of the community to be considered for the 22nd Annual Art Awards. These awards are offered to recognize and thank citizens who have demonstrated artistic excellence and/or have made significant contributions to awareness of the arts in our community.

Nominations for the 22nd Annual Art Awards are being accepted for the following categories: Arts Volunteer, Arts Activist, Arts Educator, Youth Award, Visual Artist, Performing Artist, Special Recognition, Community Arts Impact, Art Business Honor Roll and Writer.

Nomination forms and criteria may be picked up at the MACC office, located in Peter White Public Library at 217 N. Front St., or found online at [https://goo.gl/1Yniqq](https://goo.gl/1Yniqq). Nominations will be accepted until Friday, Nov. 30, an extension of the previous deadline.

The Award recipients will be honored at a public ceremony on Saturday, Jan. 19 in the PWPL Community Room and the MACC, both located in the lower level of Peter White Public Library. Please note that nominations for non-residents are welcome, as long as the nominee has made contributions to the City of Marquette. A complete list of past award winners can be found at [https://goo.gl/3yPsWi](https://goo.gl/3yPsWi). For more information, contact the MACC at arts-culture@marquettemi.gov or 906-228-0472.
Senior Arts Series
All senior programming is open to individuals ages 60+ and cater to a wide variety of skill levels. Participation is free to City of Marquette residents and non-residents are welcome to attend for a small donation of $5 per class to help cover the cost of instruction. Interested parties must pre-register.

Visual Arts
Senior Visual Arts classes are offered twice-monthly from 1-3 p.m. in Room A of the Marquette Senior Center, located in the lower level of City Hall, 300 W. Baraga Ave. Parking is available on Spring Street. Please contact the Center at 906-228-0456 to register or with any questions.

Tuesday, Nov. 6, 1-3 p.m.: Acrylic Painting with Gene Bertram
Tuesday, Nov. 13, 1-3 p.m.: Acrylic Painting with Gene Bertram

Senior Visual Arts classes will NOT be offered in the month of December. The public, including all Senior Arts participants, are invited to the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center Grand Reopening Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the lower level of Peter White Public Library, where information will be available about the program and its 2019 offerings!

Senior Acting
November Senior Acting classes will be held at Rohana Yoga and Wellness, located at 205 S. Front St., Suite 2G in Marquette. In December, Senior Acting Classes will return to the Marquette Arts and Culture Center, located in the lower level of Peter White Public Library, 217 N. Front St. in Marquette. Please contact 906-360-7126 to register, or with any questions.

Class Schedule
Monday, Nov. 5, 2-4 p.m.: Senior Acting Class, Rohana Yoga
Monday, Nov. 19, 2-4 p.m.: Senior Acting Class, Rohana Yoga
Monday, Dec. 10, 2-4 p.m.: Senior Acting Class, MACC
Monday, Dec. 17, 2-4 p.m.: Senior Acting Class, MACC

Superior Theater Experience
In addition to acting classes, Senior Acting Experiences take place each month with local theatre companies. For more information about Experience offerings, contact 906-360-7126.

Performance Schedule
**Sweeney Todd – Saturday, Nov. 3 at 1:00pm, Forest Roberts Theater**

**Experience Schedule:**

*Sweeney Todd Backstage Tour – Saturday, Nov. 3 at 11:15 a.m., Forest Roberts Theater*

**TH132 Acting Theory – Monday, Nov. 12 from 1-2:40 p.m., NMU Blackbox Theater**

Introduction to theoretical and applied aspects of acting. Applied onstage exercises include solo and ensemble acting assignments.

**TH352 Directing Theory – Thursday, Nov. 15 from 1-2:40 p.m., NMU Blackbox Theater**

Introduction to the theoretical and practical aspects of stage direction.

**TH131 Entertainment Tech 1 Final Project – Monday, Dec. 3 (Time and Location TBD)**

This course provides a basic knowledge of beginning technical theatre aspects. Topics such as set construction, stage electrics, painting, props, and basic rigging will be discussed.

**TH131 and TH352 Acting/Directing Theory Final Project – Dec. (Date, Time, and Location TBD)**

Introduction to theoretical and applied aspects of acting. Applied onstage exercises include solo and ensemble acting assignments and the theoretical and practical aspects of stage direction.
Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

**HOLIDAY DECORATING**

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer’s instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

**HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING**

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

**Facts**

- More than a third of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- Forty-two percent of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

**Before Heading Out or to Bed**

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.