



# Marquette Matters

A bimonthly publication produced by the City of Marquette



Bill Brazier (above), co-chair of the Sister Cities Advisory Committee, during the Higashiomi, Japan 2010 Sister Cities Delegation visit to Marquette in August. Bill has been a member of the Sister Cities Advisory Committee since 2005.

## Bill's Blog....

Bill Vajda, Marquette City Manager, will share his comments on the health of our city in "Bill's Blog" as part of each issue of "Marquette Matters." The City Manager is the chief administrator for the City government. Vajda welcomes comments from the community at 225-8102 or [manager@mqcty.org](mailto:manager@mqcty.org).

Coming home after so long away is a priceless blessing, and my family and I are grateful for the chance to live and serve our fair community. During this holiday season, it's wonderful to reconnect with family and friends, remember "the old times", and compare notes on how much change has occurred over the course of our lifetimes. Every day brings new smiles and nostalgia, and chances to marvel at the latest chapter in the Marquette story. On many days, I draw on the memories of my 18-year-old youth to convey to my (approximately) 18-year-old sons what life was like when I was their age, and give them a little insight into how I see Marquette today. This is especially important when I share memories of family members who they never had a chance to meet. It helps them gain greater insight into the confluence of luck and influences that resulted in themselves!

As a City, it's equally important to understand the forces that shape our cultural heritage, and how they continue to influence the expectations of our community. Just for the sake of discussion, (how I always start the conversation with my kids), a human generation is usually 18 years of age. If we consider for a moment, the cultural context of a typical 18-year-old inhabitant of the Earth:

China, India, and Egypt have existed as nations for approximately 5,000 years. Their cultures are based upon 278 generations of human history. Rome, Italy has been around for approximately 2,761 years, enjoying a culture spanning 154 generations. England (as a nation) is about 1,100 years old, or approximately 60 generations; the United States of America is 234 years old, or 18 generations. The State of Michigan was incorporated in 1837 – ten generations; the village of Marquette began in 1849, and wasn't incorporated as a City until 1871 – barely eight generations ago.

A typical 18-year-old Marquette resident might have a mother/father around 40 years old, a grandmother/father around 65, and a great grandmother/father around 85. That's four generations, or roughly half the existence of the City of Marquette. Using this same logic, one could reasonably conclude that an 85-year-old resident of Marquette could remember having spoken with or met people who helped incorporate the City (even if they were very young at the time). With a little leap of faith, one could argue that the hopes and dreams of our founding fathers are still very much alive in the hearts and minds of our residents today!

So what does this mean? Unlike ancient nations with long traditions and diverse experiences that inform their modern cultures, Marquette is brand new, with opportunities to understand first hand the historical influences that have defined us, and with few burdens constraining what we want to become. Unlike nostalgia for stories of the past, our future will be written by the efforts of city residents participating on boards and committees through powerful support for working groups and ad-hoc task forces, through volunteer efforts with charities and local non-profit organizations, and through the fiercely independent entrepreneurial spirit and pride we share in our community.

## City Seeks Volunteers for Boards and Committees

To be considered for any of these volunteer positions, you must be a resident of the City of Marquette and complete an application form in the City Manager's Office. For more details, log on to the City's website: [www.mqcty.org](http://www.mqcty.org) or call (906) 228-0435.

**Elections Board** **One Opening**  
Various meeting dates and times held throughout the year. See the City Clerk's Office for a listing.

**Investment Advisory Board** **One Opening**  
Meetings held quarterly at 8:00 a.m. in Room 103 of City Hall.

**Local Officers Compensation Commission** **Two Openings**  
Meets in the odd numbered years at the call of the Chairperson.

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** **One Opening**  
Meetings held the first Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in Room 103 of City Hall.

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (One Opening - Marquette Schools' Representative)** **One Opening**  
Meetings held the first Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in Room 103 of City Hall.

**Police Fire Pension Board** **One Opening**  
Meetings held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in Room 103 of City Hall.

**Public Works Advisory Board** **Three Openings**  
Meetings held the third Monday of each month at the Municipal Service Center at 3:00 p.m.

**Senior Service Task Force** **Three Openings**  
Meeting date, time, and place to be determined.

**Traffic/Parking Advisory Committee** **One Opening**  
Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in Room 103 of City Hall.

<p><b>Page 2</b></p> <p>Meet your <b>City Commission</b>; Get the status of <b>projects</b> that are in progress.</p>	<p><b>Pages 3 &amp; 4</b></p> <p><b>Recreation and Entertainment</b> Discover what is planned for the winter season!</p>	<p><b>Pages 5 &amp; 6</b></p> <p><b>Protecting our Community</b> Reports and articles of interest.</p>
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## City of Marquette Bond Ratings Increase in Ranking

Standard & Poor's ("S&P"), a nationally recognized statistical rating organization, recently increased the City of Marquette's credit rating from AA- to AA, according to Gary Simpson, the City's Chief Financial Officer. S&P cited the City's growing role as a regional economic center, strong per-capita property values, a low debt burden, and extensive financial flexibility due to strong and prudent reserves and available operating millage.

"In what has been an especially challenging time for Michigan municipalities, the City's rating upgrade is a remarkable accomplishment," said Warren Creamer of Robert W. Baird & Co., the City's financial advisor.

According to Simpson, "The rating upgrade was a result of the City's efforts to finance various improvements in connection with the Founders Landing development." He added, "The improved rating is expected to lower the City's borrowing cost by approximately 20 basis points. Over the life of the \$2.6 million financing, this will likely translate to savings of more than \$60,000."

The bonds include the construction of a seawall and boardwalk at Founders Landing (photo at right).

## City Manager Offers Community Office Hours

Marquette residents, business owners and community partners are invited to meet with City Manager Bill Vajda, as well as other administration leaders on Wednesday, January 12 from 10:00 a.m. - noon in the main floor conference room of the Peter White Public Library. The meetings are 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.

"Informed citizens are the key to successful community policies, and informed staff is the key to successful governance. We're excited to offer one more way for citizens to share information and great ideas about our community," explains Vajda.



Bill Vajda



Founder's Landing as of July 13, 2010.

## City Invites Public to Open House

The City of Marquette will host a Community Open House on Thursday, February 10, in the Citizens Forum Room at Lakeview Arena from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for the community to get acquainted with the departments of the City and City partners. Come and play City Trivia for a chance to win a door-prize gift basket or see the interactive displays.



The daytime session will offer guided tours of Lakeview Arena at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. along with a Community Services Treasure Hunt for the children. Kids can also view fire, police, or other City vehicles, meet Nero the police dog, or pick their favorite sticker or tattoo. Free ice skating will be offered during the morning session with refreshments of coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies.



Children will have the opportunity to meet Sparky the Fire Dog at the Open House!

## City Hall Galleries' Designations

Locally created artwork is now being displayed at City Hall to publicly recognize and promote the artists and culture of our community. It is hoped that this will encourage public dialogue, understanding and enjoyment of the visual arts.

The City Commission passed a designation of gallery spaces at the Monday December 13, 2010 City Commission meeting. These designations include City Commission Chambers designated as the People's Gallery; the main floor of the City Hall hallway designated as the Mayor's Gallery; and the City Manager suite designated as the Manager's Gallery. Exhibitions will be changed seasonally January-March, April-May, June-August, and September-December.

For more information, contact Nikke Nason at (906) 228-0472 or [nnason@mqctcy.org](mailto:nnason@mqctcy.org)

Photos: Mayor John Kivela, Mayor Pro Tem John DePetro, Commissioner Fred Stonehouse, Commission Robert Niemi, City Manager Bill Vajda, Community Services Director Karl Zueger, and Arts Administration Director Nikke Nason at the ribbon-cutting for the new city gallery spaces on Friday, December 17, 2010.



## Marquette City Commission



**Mayor  
John Kivela**  
(h) 228-3761  
[jkivela@mqctcy.org](mailto:jkivela@mqctcy.org)



**Mayor Pro Tem  
John DePetro**  
(h) 228-6581  
[jdepetro@mqctcy.org](mailto:jdepetro@mqctcy.org)



**Commissioner  
Robert Niemi**  
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[niemi1702@att.net](mailto:niemi1702@att.net)



**Commissioner  
Don Ryan**  
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**Commissioner  
David Saint-Onge**  
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**Commissioner  
Jason Schneider**  
(c) 361-0857  
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**Commissioner  
Frederick Stonehouse**  
(h) 226-6014  
[fstonehouse@mqctcy.org](mailto:fstonehouse@mqctcy.org)

## 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.

**January 10, 7:00 p.m.,  
Commission Chambers**

**January 31, 7:00 p.m.,  
Commission Chambers**

**February 14, 7:00 p.m.,  
Commission Chambers**

**February 28, 7:00 p.m.,  
Commission Chambers**

Meetings are televised on City of Marquette Channel 21, and are available on streaming video at [www.mqctcy.org](http://www.mqctcy.org).



## Winter Wonderland Weekend

February 17 through the 21 will be an eventful several days in Marquette. First, the Upper Peninsula Sled Dog Association will host the 2011 *UP 200*. The weekend will kick off with the Musher Banquet on Thursday, February 17 at the Holiday Inn at 6:00 p.m. in Marquette. Tickets are available for purchase in the merchandise room of the Holiday Inn. Friday night, the *UP 200* will start promptly at 7:10 p.m. downtown Marquette in front of the Mining Journal Building.



The excitement doesn't end with the beginning of the races, Saturday February 19th is another fun-filled day. The Jack Pine 30 six-dog, thirty mile race will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at UpFront and Company in downtown Marquette. Lake Superior Art association will host its 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual *Glacier Glide Winter Outdoor Art Exhibit*. This free exhibit will be open from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Presque Isle Park in Marquette. People can hike, snowshoe or ski around Presque Isle to experience and enjoy this outdoor art. Refreshments will be provided and those who attend are able to vote for the "People's Choice" and "Best in Show" awards. There will be ribbons and cash prizes given to the artists who win. Kaleidoscope 2010, a kids educational fair, will be held from 12-4 p.m. at the Superior Dome on the campus of Northern Michigan University. This annual event offers crafts, games and fun educational activities for pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade youths. Admission is \$1 per person.



The weekend will come to a close on Sunday with the UP 200 sleds coming in at Lower Harbor Park. Also new this year are "Tail End" festivities in downtown Marquette. Tentative plans include: broomball, youth activities, a sledding hill, and NMU's Winterfest activities.

*UP 200 2010 sled dog race photos courtesy of Jack Deo and the Downtown Development Authority*

## Alice in Wonderland Performance

Wonderland's favorites will come to life at the Kaufman Auditorium when the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center's Youth Theatre Program stages Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland." The performance will be available at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 28, 2011 and at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 29, 2011.

A curious young girl, Alice Liddell (played by Mallory Grugin), begins the journey of a lifetime after falling deep into a rabbit hole. When she finally reaches the bottom, she is greeted by many peculiar and extraordinary creatures including the White Rabbit (David Bashaw), the sneaky, smiling Cheshire Cat (Grace Feliz), the wise, genteel Caterpillar (Ethan DeRose), the fanatical Mad Hatter (Jessica Sattler) the nonsensical Doormouse (Kayla Grugin), the simpering King and the terrifying Queen of Hearts (Chris West and Mariah Rosado). "Alice in Wonderland" plays with logic in ways that have



given the story lasting popularity with adults and children.

The show features 73 local youth, ages four to eighteen years old, and is directed by Nikke Nason, with assistance from Courtney Brown. Brown is also the stage manager. Mary Ann Rotter is directing music and vocals. Jill Grundstrom is the choreographer and Jill Vermuelen is the dance captain. Mia Cinelli is designing costumes, Mariah Rosado and Ryan White are designing hair and make-up.

Tickets for "Alice in Wonderland" are on sale at the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center, located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library. To order tickets by phone, please call (906) 228-0472. Seating is reserved and no refunds or exchanges will be accepted. For more information, visit [www.mqtcty.org](http://www.mqtcty.org).

## "Elemental Constructs" Art Exhibit

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center Lower Level Gallery is proud to present "Elemental Constructs," featuring artwork by photographers Diane Jarvi and Jessica Zerbel, and sculptor, Mark Mitchell.

"Elemental Constructs" will be on display at the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center Lower Level Gallery from January 5<sup>th</sup> through January 29<sup>th</sup> with a public reception for the artists on Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

This exhibit may be viewed during regular library hours at the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center, located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library. For more information, please call (906) 228-0472.

*Right: "Pebbles" by Diane Jarvi*



## Recreation and Entertainment

### "Shots and Stories" Competition

In conjunction with Peter White Public Library's Storytelling Festival, the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center is seeking submissions from community members who want to share their story in the second annual "Shots and Stories."

"Shots and Stories" is a non-juried exhibit featuring local photography enthusiasts and short description of or the story behind their image. The exhibit will be on display for the months of February and March in the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center's Workshop Room #3. An opening reception will be held on February 3, 2011 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The "Shots and Stories" exhibit will move to Marquette City Hall, located at 300 West Baraga Avenue for the months of April and May.

Visitors to the exhibit during the month of February will be encouraged to vote for their favorite image and corresponding story. Prizes will be awarded to the top three compositions and the winning compositions will be published in the March 2011 edition of the *Marquette Monthly*.

For information about submitting, please visit [www.mqtcty.org/arts.html](http://www.mqtcty.org/arts.html) or e-mail [arts-culture@mqtcty.org](mailto:arts-culture@mqtcty.org).

### Commons to Open for Skating

The Marquette Commons Facility and Ice Rink will be staffed and open for free ice skating, weather permitting, Thursday through Sunday beginning December 30th from noon to 8:00 p.m. The rink is always available for skating at other times, however, the warming house may not be available and groomed ice is not guaranteed at times other than the posted hours. Last year over 1,700 adults and children skated at the facility. It is a great opportunity for winter family fun.



*Photo by D.D.A.*

### Winter Workshop Series Scheduled

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center invites the Marquette community to participate in their Winter Workshop Series. The series is meant to offer an opportunity for community residents to explore and learn about visual arts, language, performance and movement with highly qualified instructors at little to no cost.

Beginning on January 24<sup>th</sup>, weekly classes include, Life Drawing Instruction, Cultivating Inner Awareness through Art, Toddler Musikgarten and Musikgarten, Aikido Self-Defense, Modern Yoga Fusion, Tai Chi Easy, Tai Chi for Balance, Tai Chi for Gentle Relief, Ballroom Dance (all levels), Belly Dance (all levels), Dog Whispering, and Japanese Language (free workshop developed by native Japanese speaker, registration still required). Other specialized classes throughout the winter include Fused Glass Tiles, Ayurveda 101, Re-design Your Wardrobe using eco-friendly creativity and a one-day mid-winter retreat focused on art, meditation and gentle movement.

A full schedule can be found on [www.mqtcty.org/arts.html](http://www.mqtcty.org/arts.html). Call (906) 228-0472 to register.

### Marquette Matters Volume 1, Number 2

Marquette Matters, published bimonthly by the City of Marquette, is available to all residents and businesses online at [www.mqtcty.org](http://www.mqtcty.org). We are always looking for ideas for new articles.

To sign up for our email list or for story ideas please email [marquettematters@mqtcty.org](mailto:marquettematters@mqtcty.org) or call Nikke 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 [marquettematters@mqtcty.org](mailto:marquettematters@mqtcty.org), or the Arts and Culture Center at 906-228-0472.

## Mid-Winter Storytelling Festival Includes Something for Everyone

Peter White Public Library and the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center present the Third Annual Midwinter Storytelling Festival during February and March 2011. Come and celebrate the gift of stories.

We are pleased to present two award-winning guest storytellers, Yvonne Healy from downstate Howell and Linda Gorham from Chicago. Healy grew up steeped in Irish stories and culture. She travels throughout the United States telling stories according to her family motto, "Never let the truth stand in the way of a good story." Healy will lead a workshop on Saturday, February 12 followed by a family performance later that evening.

Gorham, who jumps into storytelling with both feet, all heart, and unstoppable energy, has led storytelling tours of

Egypt and South Africa. Gorham will lead a workshop on Saturday, March 12, followed by a family performance that evening.

Other activities include the "Shots & Stories" exhibition, a "Murder in Vegas" mystery party game for teens, and classic movies, feature films, and documentaries. Local authors Valerie Bradley Holliday, Connie Sather and Don Curto are special guests. Middle schoolers will direct a live clue game. Vertigo Theatre will present a puppet show and Jack Deo will offer a 3D mine tour. An Open Mic Night and a children's concert will be offered. Truly, there is a story for everyone!

For more information go to [pwpl.info](http://pwpl.info), visit the Peter White Public Library and the Marquette Arts and Culture Center, or call Margaret Boyle at (906) 226-4318 or Nikke Nason at (906) 228-0472.



*Beladinas dance and music performance during "Bollywood Night"*



*Family activities "Love Indian Style" cultural fair are held during Storytelling Festival 2010.*

### Lakeview Arena Wedding Venue Booking for 2011

Lakeview Arena has floor space available for rent from April through August. Rental includes event time, set-up and take down time, tables and chairs for up to 600 guests, food/cake/gift tables, raised platform for head table, and curtains hung around arena circumference. Contact the Community Services—Parks & Recreation/Lakeview Arena Office at (906) 228-0490 for more information.



### Marquette County Convention and Visitors Bureau Spearheads Community Calendar

After years of hearing both visitors and locals express the need for a one site calendar where all of the various county wide events can be found is finally going to happen. A small group of local event planners has been meeting to discuss the possibility of a one stop community calendar that everyone in the county can access, input their individual events, or just research future events for sensible planning. The goal is to stretch out events and eliminate overbooking events on one weekend and having nothing going on the next.

After several discussions with local organizations, The Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) will take the lead in this project by having the calendar system designed and hosted on their web site. The calendar system is being designed to allow any organization or individual to list their event and any information about it along with a web site link. Most important is the fact that the calendar will allow visitors accessing it to pick and choose the information they need without accessing all events.

The committee, in the upcoming months, will attempt to contact service clubs, athletic personnel, chambers, and any event planners currently hosting events in the county to introduce them to the calendar and work with them on how to input their data. Marketing efforts will also include local residents via both newspaper and TV ads. The goal will be to reach as many individuals as possible and make them aware of this new calendar and how to use it.

According to Pat Black, executive director of the CVB, "We agreed that we are the best site for the calendar due to the fact that we deal heavily in events and event planning. We have one staff member assigned to constant updating of the events calendar, so it makes sense that we should take responsibility for it."

More information on this project will continue to be released in the upcoming months to the Marquette County population to make them familiar with the community events calendar.

## Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority Works to Convert Soo Line Bridge

Residents of Marquette probably go under the Soo Line bridge on the U.S. 41 Bypass nearly every day and don't think twice about its significance. However, think of the days when the trains ran down to the Lower Harbor to drop ore into the pockets of the hulking Duluth South Shore dock. When these massive freight trains rumbled into Marquette, they could have disrupted traffic many times a day if the bridge hadn't been built. Now, it's been awhile since the trains have come into downtown Marquette, but a re-use has been found for the bridge for the burgeoning new kind of traffic: pedestrians and bikers.

The Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority (IOHRA) will be working to convert the Soo Line bridge to a pedestrian and bike friendly bridge that will allow safe access across U.S. Hwy 41 and provide a critical connection between the Iron Ore Heritage Trail that will be built in 2011 with the City's multi-use path system. The reuse makes perfect sense as it is accommodating transportation needs plus allowing the IOHRA to utilize a structure that was significant in transporting ore dug in the western portion of the Marquette Iron Range to the Marquette harbor to make its way to steel mills throughout the Midwest.

In Spring of 2010, the IOHRA applied for several grants to build 12 miles of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail connecting Negaunee's trail to Marquette's trail. The bridge was an unknown then. However, MDOT wanted to see the bridge included in their grant application and efforts began to secure an arrangement between the City of Marquette, MDOT (the owner of the bridge), and the IOHRA. In November, the City applied to MDOT to allow the bridge to be included in their annual "permit to use" application. With this "permit to use" agreement in place, the City was then able to lease the surface of the bridge to the IOHRA. The IOHRA will add the bridge to its Transportation Enhancement grant to allow upgrades to make the bridge pedestrian and bike friendly and safe.

The IOHRA is working hard to make sure the 12 miles of trail and the bridge are ready to use by November of 2011. With the citizens approving the millage request in August of 2010, they'll see an immediate return on their investment by allowing this trail to open and allowing a safe crossing across the busiest section of highway in the Upper Peninsula.

Partnerships are the basis of the IOHRA's success thus far, and the this new agreement with MDOT and the City of Marquette will provide an opportunity to interpret and reuse an important part of Marquette's history.

### City Fire Department Shares Cooking Safety Tips

- Do not leave cooking unattended.
- Use a timer for food cooking in the oven.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Keep a lid handy to smother a fire in a pan or a pot.
- If you have an oven fire, keep the door closed and turn off the oven.
- Do not wear loose clothing when cooking.
- If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the oven or stovetop.
- Have a working smoke detector. It will double your chances of surviving a fire in the home.

**REMINDER:** The Marquette Fire Department has free smoke detectors for City residents if one of the household members is 14 years or younger, or 65 years or older. Contact the Marquette Fire Department at (906) 228-0412 for more information.

## City Partners with Advanced Metering Infrastructure

The Marquette Board of Light and Power (MBLP) and the City of Marquette are partnering in an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project to enhance customer service while saving money and improving metering accuracy. The AMI Project will conservatively generate \$6 million in savings to the MBLP over a 20-year period. The City anticipates an additional savings of approximately \$1 million. The AMI Project will consist of two phases. The first phase includes the replacement of all electric meters with new digital meters.

This phase is slated to begin in the spring of 2011 and continue over the next two years. The second phase involves a water meter con-

version and is slated to begin in spring of 2012.

A letter to residents will be sent out after January 2011 to inform them about this project in greater detail.

## Christmas Tree Drop-off Sites

Properties paying the "Garbage/Yardwaste" 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 January 1 through January 16 there will be two drop-off sites available for Christmas tree disposal. The first site is located at the west end of the Lakeview Arena parking lot. The second site is located at the Baraga Avenue ice rink located east of 850 West Baraga Avenue. Access can be obtained from Baraga Avenue or West Spring Street.

Residents are to remove all decorations and stands before disposing their tree inside the orange fencing. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at (906) 228-0444.



## Waste Water Treatment Plant Invites Visitors

The Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Plant operates to protect public health and the environment.

As a result of public interest, plant staff host many tours each year. To demonstrate the value of high quality water and the aquatic environment, plant staff maintain a 300 gallon fish tank which houses four large mouth bass and four blue gill.

In the photograph to the right, students from North Star Academy witness feeding time. The students visited the plant on October 21st following a brief presentation and plant walk-through. Tours are available upon request. Contact Supervisor Tom Asmus at (906) 225-4054.

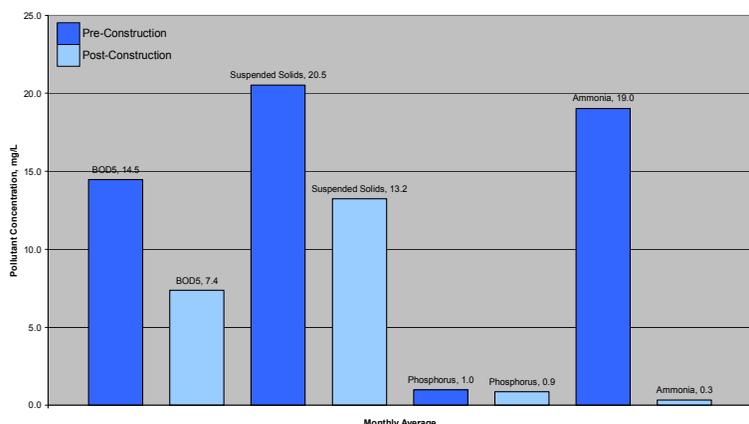


Local residents use three million gallons of water per day. Wastewater is conveyed to the wastewater treatment plant, which returns water to a suitable condition for discharge to the environment.

The wastewater division is responsible for the operation and maintenance for lift stations and the wastewater treatment facility.

Prior to the plant upgrade in December of 2009 the existing treatment plant had been operating above capacity for several pollutant parameters. The recently completed facility addresses new and more stringent effluent limits imposed by the MDNRE. The chart below represents four primary pollutants measured at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and illustrates pre and post upgrade effluent.

Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Treated Water for Discharge  
The New Treatment Plant at Work



### Winter Tax Collection

The 2010 winter tax bills were mailed November 30. Citizens can pay their bills through February 14 without penalty. A three percent penalty will be applied for payments received between February 15 - 28.

Payments received after March 1 will be considered delinquent.

### Off-Leash Area Permits

The City Clerk's Office is now selling Off-Leash Area permits for any citizen wishing to obtain a permit for the off-leash dog park located at Tourist Park Campground. This is the only area in the City where you can walk your dog off leash. The dog park is open through April 30.

## Water Filtration Plant Keeps City Residents Safe

It is the Water Filtration Plant's mission to provide the residents with the best water possible from our fantastic Lake Superior water source at a reasonable cost. The inscription on the commemorative plaque on the wall in our entry-way sums it up this way: "Protecting Public Health and Preserving our Resources through Technology." The Water Filtration Plant was built in 1997 using new technologies, which included the use of membranes to filter the water and the use of Hypochlorite Generators, which eliminate the use of chlorine gas.

The treatment process and the use of microfiltration membranes was a first in many ways. When built, the plant was the largest microfiltration plant in North America.

- First membrane plant in the state of Michigan.
- First membrane plant in the world filtering cold water.
- First microfiltration membrane plant above the 45th parallel.
- First water plant in Michigan to use Hypochlorite (chlorine solution) Generators.

### Fast Facts:

We produce THREE MILLION GALLONS of water on an average day.  
We can produce SEVEN MILLION GALLONS of water per day.  
We produce over ONE BILLION GALLONS of drinking water annually.

### Microfiltration Array

Each Microfiltration Array (in photo, right) contains 90 modules that contain 20,000 hollow fiber membranes, or 1,800,000 membranes that total 1,200 miles! We have a test that can detect a single broken membrane in a module. The membranes filter out anything that is a particle in the water including bacteria.



Each Array can filter ONE MILLION GALLONS of water per day.

Hypochlorite generators make a chlorine solution using salt water and electricity.

Producing hypochlorite solution eliminates the use of toxic chlorine gas.

Our "certified" laboratory at the water plant performs over 22,000 tests annually to ensure water quality.

Our laboratory tests all of the public swimming pools and hot tubs in the county, including schools and hotels.

Our laboratory does drinking water bacteriological analyses for neighboring communities and individual private wells.

Our laboratory also tests the public beaches in the City to be sure the water is safe for swimming.

For more information or questions, please contact Curt Goodman, Superintendent of Water & Wastewater at (906) 225-4055. The facility's 2009 Annual Water Quality Report is posted at [www.mqtcty.org](http://www.mqtcty.org).

## Parks and Recreation Five-Year Master Plan to be Updated

The City of Marquette is known for its high quality of life. One of the leading factors in the community's economic development model relates to the attractive recreation, cultural and open spaces that abound in the City. These qualities are not just happenstance, but carefully planned decisions that community leaders have made over the past years. Many of these decisions are the result of good planning and planning tools. One such tool is the Five-Year Recreation Master Plan. The existing plan, which can be reviewed in its entirety on the City's website [www.mqctv.org](http://www.mqctv.org), was approved by the City Commission in November 2006. A new plan will be required to be completed and approved by January 2012. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is in the process of updating the City of Marquette Five-Year Recreation Master Plan.

The plan ideally forms the road map for the decisions made in the next five years regarding the provision of parks and recreation land and other open spaces in the City. The coordination of recreation planning with broader community and regional planning allows City leaders to better understand how recreation and open space planning can be used to improve the City's ability to factor population growth, population demographics,

planned transportation systems and land uses, among other variables, into the plan.

The process is about a year long exercise in detailing the community, administrative structure, recreation inventory, resource inventory, community goals and objectives and ultimately an action plan outlining proposed improvements or additions to the City's recreation infrastructure.

The plan is not only a public policy guide for decision making, it is also used as a resource when pursuing public grant funding. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides financial assistance through its recreational grants program to communities within the State of Michigan that want to acquire land for parks and open spaces or that want to develop recreation facilities. Assistance is available from the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund and federal Land and Water Conservation Fund as well. To be eligible to apply for these grants, the City must have an approved five-year recreation plan on file with the State.

The current recreation plan was used in pursuing funding for the Waterfront Master Plan, which has resulted in a planning grant and the first phase of the Presque Isle Marina revitalization effort.

The recreation plan also provided support for the bike path extension to McClellan and pending South Lake Street extension. Other initiatives included improved park signage, trail development support, restroom and playground improvements.

The proposed update will include an extensive public input process. The process will involve existing boards, committees and commissions. It will also engage the public throughout the process. The Board anticipates soliciting a consultant to help guide the process that most likely will occur this Spring 2011. The City Commission will consider a final plan in the fall. Once the community has approved the direction, it will be submitted to the State for their record.

The process is detailed and extensive. It is designed that way to ensure the direction is comprehensive and engaging. As indicated, this will be use for the next five years when considering public policy decision. Community Services hopes the community gets involved and informs the Department quality of life desires. As indicated, it could be considered one of the most important tools for our community's future.

## Skating Hours at Lakeview Arena

Regular skating hours are as follows:

*Monday - Friday:*

9:00 - 9:50 a.m. Drop-In Figure Skating  
10:00 - 11:50 a.m. Preschool/Parent and Senior Citizens Open Skate  
12:00 - 12:50 Drop-In Hockey  
1:00 - 2:50 p.m. Open Skate

*Tuesday and Thursday:*

9:00 - 9:50 a.m. Youth Stick and Puck (Russell)

Friday: 7:00 - 8:50 p.m. Open Skate (Olson)

Friday: 8:00 - 8:50 p.m. Adult Skate (Russell)

Saturday: 1:30 - 3:20 p.m. Open Skate

Sunday: : 1:30 - 3:20 p.m. Open Skate

Children: \$2, Adults: \$3, Skate Rental: \$3

The arena will be closed on the following days:

January 1, January 14:  
Adult Skate Cancelled,

February 4: Open Skate Times TBA

Contact Lakeview Arena Office at (906) 228-0490 for more information.

## Marquette's DDA Seeking Amendment to Development and Tax Increment Financing Plans



The City's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is in the process of amending its Downtown Development and Tax Increment Financing Plans. After an extensive planning process, the authority board accepted the plans at their December 9, 2010 meeting. The plans will now go to the City Commission for review and approval. It is anticipated that the Commission

will hold a public hearing in late February on the amendments. The plans are consistent with the City Master Plan and include maintenance and enhancements to existing public facilities including restoration of the Bluff Street Parking Ramp, improvements to the parking and transportation systems, and promotional activities. Future projects are those that help to enhance adjacent areas and those that integrate emerging technologies. Plans include improvements to Baraga Avenue and Jackson Cut Alley, enhancements to the Farmers and Artists Market, street-scapes, utility burial, and additional parking facilities. The current plans

expire in December 2012, however, according to the DDA Board of Directors "in order to facilitate future development we need to know that funding is in place; therefore, it is important to seek the renewal at this time." The DDA was formed in 1976 according to Michigan Public Act 197 to assist in the renewal and contin-



ued revitalization of Marquette's downtown. The goals of the DDA are to increase property values, maintain a positive business climate, and to ensure the sustainability of the downtown. The DDA uses several sources of funding for its purposes including an additional tax on downtown properties and Tax Increment Financing (TIF). TIF is a funding tool used to encourage private investment in central business districts. It uses gains in taxes to finance improvements to create additional investment. TIF has proven successful in Marquette as a catalyst for private investment of \$60 million and \$1.8 million in grant funding for downtown projects. Since the inception of the DDA and TIF, property values in the downtown district have grown steadily and the assessment on the properties have increased over 75 percent. The health of the downtown reflects the health of the entire city and region. Continued redevelopment of the City's downtown can provide for a major opportunity for economic growth for the entire City as a healthy downtown is a critical component to attracting new businesses and jobs to the City.



## Peter White Public Library Receives National Medal in Washington D.C.



Friday, December 17, 2010

The White House

*Pictured: Jane Ryan, Community Member; Pamela R. Christensen, Library Director; and First Lady Michelle Obama.*