



Marquette Matters

A bimonthly publication produced by the City of Marquette

Marquette: An Award-Winning City

Dan and Betsy Rutz with their newborn son, Eero, right. "We chose to live in Marquette a couple years ago because we love the north woods and a small city with something going on. Now we are opening a business and really feel like part of the wonderful community! Marquette is a fantastic place to raise our son," says Betsy.



Forbes recently announced their "Ten Best Small Cities to Raise a Family," and Marquette was designated #3 in the nation. In reaching their decision, Forbes.com reviewed multiple quality-of-life measures that make living easier for families with a population under 100,000. Of the 126 cities falling under that parameter, they ranked each city on five measures including affordability, education and jobs.

Residents of the City of Marquette have long appreciated their community's abundant natural beauty, unique climate, and the high quality of life that is enjoyed here. A strong commitment by both city leaders and active community members has helped Marquette to become one of the nation's premier cities. These awards include Marquette's designation as one of "America's Most Livable Communities," its involvement in Michigan's "Cool Cities" initiative, and its receipt of the "All-American City" award. The following are awards the City of Marquette has received with the past two years:

- Marquette was designated a "Bicycle Friendly Community" by the League of American Bicyclists in 2010.
- Marquette has been named the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2010 Dozen Distinctive Destinations Fan Favorite. Marquette swept the voting competition with over 35% of the votes!
- The City of Marquette was selected to receive an Organizational Achievement Award from the Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council in 2009.
- Marquette was named one of five communities that are "2009 top performers at attracting and retaining entrepreneurial firms" in a study by researchers at the University of Michigan-Dearborn College of Business.
- The City of Marquette's marketing video, "A 21st Century City: Marquette, Michigan" has been named a Gold Award Winner in the MarCom 2009 International Awards competition.

Bill's Blog....

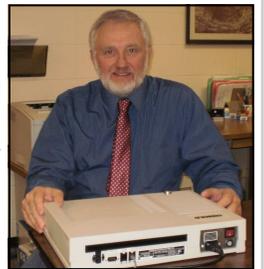
Bill Vajda, Marquette City Manager, will share his comments on the health of our city in "Bill's Blog" as part of each issue of "Marquette Matters." The City Manager is the chief administrator for the City government; Vajda has held this role since May 10, 2010. A Marquette native, Vajda is happy to be back in his home town after previously working with NATO, the U.S. Department of Education, the National Security Agency and the IRS. He welcomes comments from the community at 225-8102 or manager@mqcty.org.

I've had some interesting experiences in my life. Some of the most powerful memories I carry come from observing the start of democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq; the danger those citizens face in exercising the simple right to vote is tremendous. We've spent billions of dollars, and thousands of lives, on "200 lbs. of democracy" (roughly the weight of the total stack of paper ballots cast), and the dichotomy between the physical cost of a ballot, and the intangible total value of what they represent has been a powerful and lasting lesson.

One of the most satisfying elements of shadowing Clerk Dave Bleau on Election Day was the chance to watch the process first-hand. In a very real sense leaving Washington for Marquette brought me back to the front line of government, and it's extremely gratifying to see how well things work at home.

The chance to visit each district, meet all the volunteers, observe the procedures with registrations, ballots, technology snafus, and coordination necessary to close the day according to state standards was remarkable! I was proud to sit with the Clerk at 10:30 p.m. as the votes were transmitted to the County, and even more so when I had the opportunity to thank all those at the end of the day who made it all possible. This process re-affirmed my faith in our citizens.

To all involved, my sincere thanks on an outstanding job.



Dave Bleau, City Clerk, election night following the close of the polls uploading results directly to the County Clerk's office. The recent General Election turnout in the City of Marquette was 41.241%.

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, December 8, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. - noon in the main floor conference room of the Peter White Public Library. The meeting is intended to provide an informal opportunity to discuss issues within the community, and to give citizens the opportunity for direct dialogue with City staff about interests and concerns.



Bill Vajda

"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. Monthly community office hours will be conducted on the second Wednesday of every month at Peter White Public Library from 10:00 a.m. - noon.

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Discover what is planned for the holiday season!

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Protecting our Community
Report from Police and Fire.



Peter White Public Library Wins Highest National Honor



WASHINGTON D.C. (November 16, 2010) - Peter White Public Library of Marquette, Michigan has won the 2010 National Medal for Museum and Library Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS). IMLS has selected five museums and five libraries to receive the 2010 National Medal. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries that make extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions. Selection criteria can be found at www.imls.gov.

"This year's National Medal winners are serving their communities with innovative and creative new approaches to lifelong learning, commitment to addressing diverse community needs, plain old hard work, and a lot of heart," said IMLS Acting Director Marsha L. Semmel. "Many of our winners have evolved and grown despite tremendous challenges - all to empower and enrich the lives of their community members by cultivating collaboration and openness. I am deeply appreciative of their efforts to make a difference. They serve as the nation's role models."

Peter White Public Library (PWPL) is a learning hub for Marquette's residents and boasts circulation and attendance figures that are three times higher than other libraries its size in Michigan. PWPL serves the City of Marquette and nine surrounding townships for a total service area of 36,145 people.

"For 120 years, the Peter White Public Library has provided quality library service to the residents of the Marquette area," states Toni Eppensteiner, PWPL Board of Trustees President. "Our customers know we strive to exceed expectations in meeting their needs. We are fortunate to have a strong network of partners, an excellent staff and technology to assist us in delivering more than our users expect. We are so pleased that the Institute of Museum and Library Service has recognized that the Peter White Public Library is exceptional by honoring us with the National Medal."

Through strategic partnerships and fundraising, PWPL provides programs to promote acceptance and engage people from all walks of life. The library's mission is to inform the community, and it does not retreat from sensitive topics. The PWPL is also a huge advocate for the arts, strategically partnering with its building-mate, the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center, to sponsor youth theater, festivals, and battle-of-the-bands shows.

As the primary source of federal funding for the nation's museums and libraries, the IMLS has a unique perspective on the vital role these institutions play in American society. The National Medal for Museum and Library Service was created to underscore that role. The winners are as diverse as the nation's cultural landscape: small and large, urban and rural. They have one thing in common: they have developed innovative ways to serve their communities.

In addition to the National Medal, which will be awarded in an upcoming Washington, D.C. ceremony, each institution receives a \$10,000 award and visit from Public Radio's StoryCorps.

New Process for City Events

City of Marquette City Code, Title XIV - Chapter 201- Public Relations (established by City of Marquette Ordinance # 572) provide a mechanism for community groups to submit requests for funding to be incorporated within the annual City Budget process for consideration by the City Commission.

Funding is defined as fee waivers and/or in-kind services provided by the City and/or cash payments. All recommendations for funding must be approved by the Marquette City Commission. Funding may **not** be approved for activities/projects retroactively; therefore, a time frame allowing approval by the Commission must be considered when requesting funds.

If your organization is requesting any type of funding or fee release from the City for your special event, project or activity then you must now complete a required application. Applications will be accepted from the period of November 1st through December 31st annually to be considered for the City's next fiscal year Budget (July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012). **All applications must be received by December 31st.** Application is available on www.mqtcty.org. For questions, contact: Karl Zueger at (906) 225-8589, kzueger@mqtcty.org.

Water Conservation: Save Water... Save Time... Save Money!

How much water do you use in a day? A gallon? Do you use 25, 50 or even 100 or more gallons? Few people know how much they use. Studies show wide variation in the amount of water used by rural and urban households. Water use ranges from 66 to 118 gallons per person per day, with urban households using larger amounts.

Conserving water also conserves other resources—energy and money. It costs money to pump water and make it available in our homes, for irrigation, and for business and industrial uses. Energy is required to pump, move and to purify water. Both energy and money are required to heat water—whether it is the water we heat and use, or the water we heat and waste through poor management practices. By becoming more aware of your water use habits—both old and new—you can reduce water use (consumption), eliminate waste, and save energy and money.

- This list explains ways to conserve:
- Inspect the plumbing system to see that there are no leaks.
 - Install reduced-flow showerheads (2.5 gallons/minute).
 - Insulate hot water pipes. Having to clear the "hot" line of cooled water is wasteful.
 - A toilet leak can waste lots of water. Put a small amount of food coloring into the tank. If the color trickles into the bowl, there is a leak and repairs are needed.
 - Adjust the float level of the toilet to reduce the amount of water necessary to flush the toilet. Do this carefully to avoid damaging the system. Try only a slight adjustment.
 - Install a circulating hot water system.
 - Teach children to turn water faucets off quickly and tightly after each use.

Public Infrastructure Project Update

Every year the City Commission approves a six year capital plan. The following projects are the result of part of that plan, and can be reviewed on the City's website under the Community Development Department's Engineering Division at www.mqtcty.org.

- McClellan Avenue Extension: 75% complete with the preliminary work on the construction design. Soil borings have been completed and the report received.
- Forest Park Drive, Mildred Avenue, Fifth Street, and Ridge Street Projects: Engineering staff is in the process of obtaining field topography and other field information to aid in project design over the winter.

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. Citizens are invited to attend.
November 29, 7:00 p.m., Commission Chambers
December 13, 7:00 p.m., Commission Chambers
December 20, 7:00 p.m., Commission Chambers
Meetings are televised on City of Marquette Channel 21, and are available on streaming video at www.mqtcty.org.

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, or the Arts and Culture Center at 906-228-0472.

Nutcracker at Kaufman Auditorium

Leaping Candy Canes! Flurries of Snowflakes! Beautiful Sugarplum Fairy and a Legion of Rats! See them all swoop and soar across the Kaufman stage in America's favorite holiday event! This ballet fantasy features a cast of over 100 beautifully costumed local dancers of all ages, reveling in Tchaikovsky's beloved score. Come and join Marquette dancers on an enchanting journey through a landscape of yuletide dreams.

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center and the Second Skin Shop have teamed up to bring a community dance performance of *The Nutcracker* on Saturday, December 4, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at Kaufman Auditorium.

Tickets are available at the Marquette Arts and Culture Center Gallery Giftshop, located in the lower level of the Peter White Library. Call (906) 228-0472 to order by credit card. Tickets will also be available at the door. www.mqtcty.org for more information.



Photo by Camilla Mingay

Local dance talent will take to the stage in presenting "The Nutcracker" on December 4, 2010.

Annual "Shots and Stories" Competition Announced

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 or e-mail arts-culture@mqtcty.org.

Celebrate Saturdays Sale! at the Arts and Culture Center

Stop by the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center Giftshop, located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library, to Celebrate Saturdays! between November 13 and December 18. Each Saturday the giftshop will be offering a special holiday gifting promotion; visitors will have the ability to choose a discount slip from a bowl made by a local artist. The bowl will be filled with slips with discounts ranging from 10 to 25 percent off; you get to "pick" your own discount!

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center Giftshop features over 120 local and regional artists specializing in many medias at all pricepoints. Favorite items include handcrafted wood-working, ceramics, weaving and fiber arts and jewelry for men and women.

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center Giftshop is open Monday - Thursday from 2:00 - 8:00 p.m., Friday from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. and is Celebrating Saturdays! from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

"Islands of Joy" Art Exhibit

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center is proud to present "Islands of Joy," fine art by Shraavan Rajagopal and Wayne Francis, on exhibit from November 18th - December 18th at the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center Lower Level Gallery. A public reception will be held for the artists at the Art Center Gallery on Thursday, December 3rd, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. "Islands of Joy" may be viewed during regular library hours at the Marquette Arts and Culture Center Gallery.



Wayne Francis, "Passages Through Time"

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.



Holiday Hours at the City

Marquette City Hall, the Municipal Service Center, Lakeview Arena offices and the Arts and Culture Center will be closed on the following days in observance of upcoming holidays:

- November 25 and November 26 for Thanksgiving
- December 24 and December 27 for Christmas
- December 31 and January 3 for New Year

Marquette Police and Fire Departments will remain staffed.

Recreation and Entertainment

Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

The City of Marquette 35th annual tree lighting will be held on Thursday, December 2, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at the Marquette Commons. The festivities will begin at 5 p.m. with a performance by the Marquette Senior High School Redman Chorale. Santa will travel via a Marquette City Fire Truck and begin his journey this year at 5:15 p.m. the corner of North Third Street and Fair Avenue lighting the Village as he goes by, arriving at the Marquette Commons. Marquette City Mayor John Kivela will be on hand to greet him and with a little sprinkle of magic dust they will light the Holiday Tree. Pony rides will be available for a nominal fee. Complimentary photos with Santa will be taken until 7:00 p.m. For more information www.downtownmarquette.org.



Photo by Jack Deo

Farmers and Artists Market continues through December

A limited winter Farmers and Artists Market will be open on Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. beginning November 5 through December 18th at the Marquette Commons featuring the following growers, artists, and food producers: Seeds and Spores, 500 lbs of Beeswax, Black River Blades, Buddah Belly Bead Works, Smiling Dog Farms, Fat City Cupcakes, Sinfully Seductive Sweets, Greg Wixtrom, Native Sister Soap, and Earth Mama Company. See you at the Market!

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.



Disco Ball Drop: Skate into the New Year!

Come celebrate New Year's Eve disco style December 31, at Lakeview Arena from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.! Come dressed in '70s attire and admission is only \$2; otherwise, standard rates apply. Skate rental is \$3/person; rentals will be limited!

New Year's Eve Ball Drop 2011

Gather with family and friends to welcome 2011 at the 22nd Annual Ball Drop in Downtown Marquette on Friday, December 31, 2010.

Join in the countdown to midnight as the ball is lowered from the historic Savings Bank Building on the corner of Front and Washington Streets. Share the magic of the twelfth strike that marks the beginning of the New Year at this family-friendly community celebration.



Photo by Jack Deo

Holiday Skating Hours at Lakeview Arena

Regular skating hours are as follows:

- Monday - Friday: 1:00 - 2:20 p.m. Open Skate
- 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:

- November 25, December 24, 25,
- December 31 no evening skate, January 1

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

City Police Diligently Working to Keep Roadways Safe

The City of Marquette Police Department has increased its involvement with traffic on U.S. 41 South and would like the community to be aware of safe driving in this stretch of roadway.

According to Lieutenant Mike Laurila, the department supervisors have been assigning patrol units to the 41 South area to oversee the enforcement of controlling "left hand lane" drivers, speeding, and ticket issuance, when warranted. Most people do not know that the left lane is reserved for emergency vehicles and passing only. Officers have in the past written these violations, and or educated drivers on the use of the left lane. Mainly, the department hopes that the view of a patrol car will simply slow drivers down.

During the past five years, 180 accidents have been investigated on this stretch of roadway by officers of this department. Out of those 180 accidents, two sustained fatal

injuries. The increased assigned patrols on 41 South is a direct response to the high volume of traffic and accidents that have occurred on the stretch of roadway. Increased patrols are visible daily on 41 South, and the department tends to dispatch more patrols during high traffic volume times.

The department believes that most driving citizens are now familiar with and have driven on the new roundabout, replacing the old transition roads on the east end of the 41 South bypass. Studies have shown that roundabouts reduce accident rates and allow traffic to flow more freely. The east end of the bypass has, in the past, been a point of concern for traffic accidents and the new roundabout is expected to reduce them.

U.S. Highway 41 is maintained by the Marquette County Road Commission, not the City of Marquette. However, the City of Marquette Police Department recognizes that

41 South can be a treacherous stretch of roadway during the winter months. Officers make frequent calls during the winter when the road needs attention, whether it needs salt, sand or snow removal. Officers report to Central Dispatch frequently on the condition of the highway and when it needs attention. Central Dispatch is quick with a response, advising officers that the road commission was notified.

U.S. Highway 41 South has been

and will continue to be a concern for the Police Department. The department's goals have been to reduce traffic accidents by increased patrols, continuing to assign patrol units to the area on a daily and shift to shift basis, enforcing traffic violations, and educating the public during traffic stops when needed.

For more information, or to contact the Police Department, please call (906) 228-0400, or in an emergency, call 911.



Photo by L. Michael Angeli, III

Compost Site Winterizes

Saturday, November 20, 2010 is the last day the City's compost site will be open this year. Located on Lakeshore Boulevard (the old Cliffs-Dow site), the compost site will be closed until April, depending on the weather. Look for more updates in upcoming newsletters or by checking the City's website: mqcty.org.

Winter Tax Collection

The 2010 winter tax bills will be mailed November 30. Citizens can pay their bills beginning December 1 through February 14, 2011 without penalty. A three percent penalty will be applied for payments received between February 15 - 28. Payments received after March 1, 2011 will be considered delinquent.

Garbage Collection

Waste Management garbage collection times for the week of November 21 - 27, Thanksgiving week, will be as follows:

- Regular Monday collection - no change
- Regular Tuesday collection - no change
- Regular Wednesday collection - delayed one day (collected on Thursday)
- Regular Thursday collection - delayed one day (collected on Friday)

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 lease. The dog park is open November 1, 2010-April 30, 2011. The City Clerk's Office is also selling pet licenses.

Holiday Safety Report: FIRE DEPARTMENT

The City of Marquette Fire Department would like to remind citizens to take extra precautions during this holiday season. The holidays are a riskier time for fires as there is generally more readily available fuel (such as decorative items, trees, candles, paper, etc) in the household. Listed below are precautionary measures that you can take to ensure holiday safety in your household.

CHRISTMAS TREES

- Keep natural trees well watered.
- Re-cut the bottom of the tree trunk prior to installing it in the tree stand to improve absorption of water.
- Use chemical additives to the tree water to increase water absorption.
- Discard the tree if signs of excessive drying occur.
- Put up the tree ten days prior to Christmas and remove it ten days after Christmas.
- Secure the tree to the wall to prevent falling over.
- Keep the tree clear of exits.
- When purchasing an artificial tree look for a third party testing label like (U.L.) Underwriters Laboratory and (F.M.) Factory Mutual.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT DECORATIONS

- Use miniature lights and or LED lights because they operate at cooler temperatures.
- Do not run extension cords through doorways or under carpeting.
- Inspect light cords for drying and cracking and discard if this condition exists.
- Check outdoor lighting for damage after a wind storm.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.
- Do not leave lights on unattended.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

- All decorations should be nonflammable or flame retardant.
- Ensure decorations and gifts do not block exits.
- Never put wrapping paper in a fireplace or woodstove.

CANDLE CARE

- Avoid using lit candles.
- Never put lit candles on a Christmas tree.
- Use candles in stable holders that are fire resistant.
- Never leave the house with candles burning.
- Be aware of pets and small children around candles.
- Consider using candles with LED light display as opposed to a candle wick and flame.



SMOKE DETECTORS

- Always have a working smoke detector.
- A working smoke detector will double your chances of survival in a fire.

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.

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, 2011, 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.

Code Enforcement : Curbside Garbage Collections

The City has observed that many properties are placing their garbage curbside on the weekends. There are no approved pick-up times scheduled for the weekend days.

Letters have been sent to the properties informing them that they may place their garbage curbside for pick-up no earlier than the day preceding their scheduled pick-up within the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Enforcement of this policy will be enacted by Community Development Department.

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Marquette Matters, published bimonthly by the City of Marquette, is available to all residents and businesses online at www.mqcty.org. We are always looking for ideas for new articles. We also appreciate your input on ways to improve our newsletter.

For more information or story ideas please email marquettematters@mqcty.org or call Nikke at (906) 228-0472.

