VOLUME NO. 2, ISSUE NO. 6, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2012

# Community Services

The Community Services Department is involved in four major projects. The community is invited to participate in all of the current projects. Including, Presque Isle Sign Project, Tourist Park Land Use Plan, Presque Isle Playground and Senior Center Facility Plan.

## Presque Isle Sign Project

Marquette's recreational crown jewel, Presque Isle Park, is a popular regional facility located on Presque Isle, a 323 acre forested oval shaped headland/ peninsula which juts into Lake Superior in the northern tip of the City. Presque Isle is known throughout the United States for its natural beauty and offers visitors year-round outdoor recreation, nature observation and education and cultural experiences. When entering the park visitors are greeted by a beloved artifact, the Presque Isle Park sign. As the existing sign is in disrepair, the City will reproduce the original image. The City is currently requesting artist proposals for the reproduction of the sign's image. Proposals are due November 12 with final artwork completed by January 25, 2013. The project is scheduled to be complete this winter! For more information call Tiina Harris, Community Services Arts and Culture Manager at (906) 225-8641.

## Tourist Park Land Use Plan

Recently, the City of Marquette contracted with Sanders and Czapski, PLLC to conduct a land use plan for Tourist Park. The project is considered high priority in the City's Five-Year Recreation Master Plan approved last December. The project will focus on the following areas:

- Perform a thorough field study of Tourist Park
- Evaluate facilities for universal design principles that may apply
- Evaluate and consider campground layout by use of services and features
    - A. Sewage pump out stations
    - B. Utilities including electric, natural gas, sewer and water lines
    - C. Non-motorized boat launch
    - D. Minimizing utility extensions
- Evaluate the possibility of a centralized facility to accommodate campground administration, concessions, maintenance operations and restroom/shower facility
- Identify and recommend relocation and upgrade of playground and other public use facilities
- Decommission and recommend options for re-purposing baseball field
- Evaluate traffic flow and parking options when providing access to the campground, public recreation facilities, City's non-motorized path and Noquemanon Trail System unimproved trails
- Incorporate social and environmental sustainable concepts with all concepts and recommendations

## Presque Isle Playground

The Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee will be working with UP Engineers and Architects this fall in developing an inclusive playground plan that will be featured at Presque Isle Park.

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Page 2 — **Presque Isle Sign, City Commission Information**

Page 3 — **Tree Disposal, Winter Parking Ban**

Page 4 — **Upcoming Community Events**

# Bill's Blog...

*Bill Vajda, Marquette City Manager (pictured right), shares his comments on the health of our City in "Bill's Blog." The City Manager is the chief administrator for the City government. Vajda welcomes comments from the community at (906) 225-8102 or manager@mqtcty.org.*

"Whatever Marquette hopes may come must first come from hope in the hearts of Marquette." - Marquette Mayor Pro Tem John DePetro, 2012

In my last blog, I wrote about how Marquette needs to grow in an "agile, balanced, and sustainable. way." Many residents have stopped by to share their positive views of this statement, and as a result, I thought I'd capture the spirit of that dialogue and elaborate a little further.

Given the plethora of challenges facing today's economy, the City Commission and community leaders are highly focused on identifying new ways to attract and retain people, develop a prosperous local economy, nurture and retain businesses, foster innovation and entrepreneurism, and create jobs. This creates an interesting dichotomy, in that terms like "attract" and "retain" imply making choices based upon preserving the way the community exists today, while "develop," "innovation," and "create" imply changing the way things are, or adding something new. The passion and attachment Marquette-ians feel for their community is strong and as diverse as the views and opinions of its residents. Chartering a path that preserves what people love about Marquette, those wonderful things that make people want to put down roots and build a life here, while at the same time pursuing a growth strategy that might require some change as a way to create new opportunities is a very complicated challenge!

So how will we address this?

An "agile" community is one that is well governed, well informed, preserves a clear sense of place, has high expectations for its quality of life, and is open to new ideas, people, and opportunities. Leaders who are confident in this knowledge are better able to respond to challenges the world presents, and initiate strategies that best match the will of the people. A "balanced" community is one that preserves its quality of life – its aesthetic beauty, its institutions and social opportunities, and its openness and inclusion for all members and visitors. People are defined by the communities they live in, and communities are defined by their residents. A "sustainable" community is one that positively manages trade-offs between the way it exists today with the vision it holds for tomorrow, and the capacity to pursue opportunities to prosper and grow. Building a sustainable community is a journey based upon broad conversations and inclusion, and a ceaseless process of working together to build a brighter future for all current and future residents.

*Continued on page 3.*

*Presque Isle Playground continued from page 1*

The Presque Isle Park Advisory Committee will be working with UP Engineers and Architects this fall in developing an inclusive playground plan that will be featured at Presque Isle Park. The plan will include the following considerations:

- Conduct a public planning process resulting in recommendation of site plan that includes detail recreation features and location of inclusive playground considering, at a mini mum, the following:
  - E. Use of existing playground space
  - F. Evaluation of alternative locations with minimum environmental impact
  - G. Evaluation of utilities including: water, sewer, natural gas and electric
  - H. Incorporation of interactive features for an inclusive universal design
  - I. Incorporation of the natural environment into design concepts
- Identify partners or grant options resulting in a funding plan
- Evaluate traffic flow, parking options and walk-able connectivity when providing access to the proposed playground, relationship with other public facilities, Moosewood, Community Gardens, City's non-motorized path
- Incorporate social and environmental sustainable concepts with recommendations

This will require community input. A community meeting date has yet to be determined. Once the time, date, and location is set, details of the meeting will be publicized to the local media and featured on Channel 21 and the City's website, www.mqtcty.org.

## Senior Center Facility Plan Community Meetings Scheduled

As part of the 2012/13 City budget, the City Commission approved funds to hire a firm to evaluate the existing Senior Center facility and develop a facility plan that will accommodate the needs of the community that it serves.

The Architectural firm UPEA will be presenting potential ideas on renovating and/or relocating the Marquette Senior Center and your input is needed. Various options will be presented and on display, and we are asking that you come to listen, review, and respond.

**Tuesday, November 13, 2012**
1:00 – 2:30 pm
Marquette Senior Center
300 W. Spring Street, Marquette

**Tuesday, November 13, 2012**
6:30 – 8:00 pm
Peter White Public Library Community Room
217 N. Front Street, Marquette

**Presque Isle Park Winter Hours**: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Hours go into effect Sunday, November 4, 2012

# Holiday Events in Marquette

It's that time of year again! Thanks to all the participating groups and citizens, Marquette can prepare and participate in the Holidays in a festive way. With many activities quickly approaching, make sure you mark your calendars so you can take part in the cheer.

**November 29, 2012.**
*6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Marquette*
Bundle up with friends and family as illuminated floats, tinsel-strewn trucks and the jolly man himself transforms Third Street into a magical scene from the North Pole. The parade starts at the corner of North Third Street and Fair Avenue and ends at the Marquette Commons.

*7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Marquette Commons*
After the parade, spectators are welcomed to the Marquette Commons (112 S. Third St.) where Santa Claus and friends will light up Downtown at the 37th annual City of Marquette tree lighting. Festivities include, a performance by the Marquette Redman Chorale, warm cider and cookies, and a visit with Santa Claus. The Redman Chorale will perform seasonal favorites. After the tree lighting, little ones may visit with Santa until 8:30 p.m.

**November 30 —December 2, 2012**
TV6 Christmas Craft Show at the Superior Dome. All items hand crafted by the vendors.

**December 1, 2012**
*10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the 12th Annual Holiday Art Sale* in the Marquette Arts and Culture Center located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library. This Juried art show will feature work of 25 vendors.

**December 13, 2012**
*5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Hose Drawn Carriage Rides in Downtown Marquette.* Shoppers in downtown will have the opportunity to experience the nostalgia of holidays past with horse drawn carriage rides on Thursday, December 13th and December 20th from 5-8 p.m. (last ride begins at 7:45 p.m.) The route will take passengers through several streets through historic Downtown Marquette. The carriage rides are a wonderful way to experience the beauty and charm of downtown's lake view and one-of-a-kind shops and restaurants.

**December 31, 2012**
*11:30 p.m. Downtown Marquette*
Celebrate the New Year and watch the annual ball drop from the Savings Bank Building. Corner of Washington and Front Streets.

## Marquette City Commission

**Mayor**
**John Kivela**
(c) 869-6672
jkivela@mqtcty.org

**Mayor Pro-Tem**
**John DePetro**
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**Commissioner**
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**Commissioner**
**Frederick Stonehouse**
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## City Commission Meetings

The Commission usually meets the second and last Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, 300 West Baraga Avenue, unless noted otherwise. Citizens are invited to attend.

**Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Commission Chambers**

**Monday, November 26, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Commission Chambers**

**Monday, December 10, 7:00 p.m., Commission Chambers**

**Monday, December 17, 7:00 p.m., Commission Chambers**

Meetings are televised on the City of Marquette's Channel 21.

Additional meetings may be called, and changes may be made in accordance with the City Charter. Notices will be posted for such changes in compliance with Public Act 267 of 1976.

City of Marquette Michigan

# Christmas Tree Deposal and Rubbish Sites

The Compost Site will close for the season on Saturday, November 17, 2012.
The Household Rubbish Site will close for the season on Saturday, November 10, 2012.
There will be **NO** delay in garbage collection for Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year's holidays. Garbage collection will remain on schedule.

The City of Marquette is asking all residents to please remove all portable items from the right-of-way with the anticipation of the upcoming snow removal season. Examples of portable items would be basketball nets, lawn ornaments, landscaping rocks, bricks and/or boulders. Any permanent structures that have been placed in the right-of-way are the resident's responsibility to clearly mark the location for any future snow removal activities that may occur. Any damage that may occur to any personal items that are located in the right-of-way will not be replaced and/or repaired by the City of Marquette.

Properties paying the "Garbage/Yard Waste" 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 Wednesday, December 26, 2012 through Monday, January 14, 2012 there will be two (2) drop-off sites available for Christmas tree disposal.

**One (1)** site is located at the west end of Lakeview Arena parking lot, place tree inside orange fencing.
**Second (2nd)** site is located east of 850 W. Baraga Ave. Access can be obtained from Baraga Ave. or W. Spring St., place tree inside orange fencing.

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

Neighborhood maps are available at www.mqtcty.org. For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at (906) 228-0444.

# Low Alkalinity in Lake Superior Water Causes Challenges at the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Alkalinity can be defined as the buffering capacity of a water body. Alkalinity measures the ability of a water body to neutralize acids and bases thereby maintaining a stable pH. Since alkalinity offers buffering capacity, the pH level of a lake would change immediately when an acid is introduced. This would in turn affect the biological populations that reside in that water body. Biological populations tend to prefer a pH neutral environment.

Lake Superior has a naturally occurring low alkalinity level. The underlying cause of this is the areas geology which consists largely of granite. Granite bedrock underlies much of the Lake Superior watershed and basin. Granite is deficient in alkaline materials. By contrast, limestone bedrock that is high in alkaline materials exists in large quantities in the lower great lakes region.

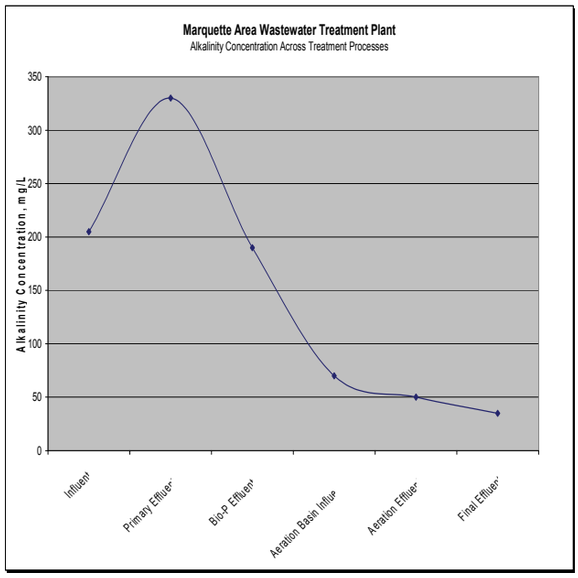
How in the world would this cause a challenge to the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Plant, one might ask? Well, here it is...treatment processes utilize multiple forms of microbiology to meet permit limits. Some biological treatment processes consume alkalinity while others generate alkalinity. A significant consumer of alkalinity is the nitrification process whereby ammonia is converted to nitrate. In this process, 7.1 pounds of alkalinity is consumed for each pound of ammonia treated. The consequence of this process is treated water that does not offer much resistance to pH change. pH is a regulated parameter in the facility's permit.

The low alkalinity issue became apparent upon start up of the upgraded and much more robust treatment facility. It became more prominent when the operation began shifting the way in which residual biosolids are processed at the facility.

The challenge is currently being dealt with. The operation is transitioning from an acidic (alkalinity consuming) to a basic (alkalinity adding) phosphorus removal chemical. The new chemical, sodium aluminate, has been tested and has proven effective in 1) precipitating phosphorus, and 2) adding alkalinity to prevent pH change and the potential for permit violation. Of recent, sodium aluminate has been dosed to add alkalinity to the water to foster healthy microbial treatment populations as well as protect against pH change in the treated effluent.

The challenges faced at this facility are fairly unique to the region. While many other facilities have similar permit conditions, source water used by most communities comes from wells rather than Lake Superior surface water and since well water tends to have much higher alkalinity concentrations, there is more resistance to pH change.

If you have any questions about the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Plant or its operation, contact the plant at (906) 228-0485.




# Winter Tax Information

Winter Property Tax Statements will be mailed to City residents on November 30, 2012. Tax collection begins December 1, 2012 and payments are accepted without penalty through February 14, 2013. Tax information can be accessed 24/7 on the City's website www.mqtcty.org and is free to the property owner. Non-property owners are charged a $2.00 lookup fee.

# Landfill Permits Available

Applications may be downloaded from the City's website www.mqtcty.org or picked up in the City Treasurer's office.

Commercial Haulers: Permits expired on October 31st. Renewal applications were mailed in October. The permit fee of $65.00 is for a one year period from November to October. New haulers may be required to also provide a deposit of up to $1,000 with their application.

Residential Customers: The application fee for residential permits is $10.00 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 Parking Ban Hours

The Marquette City Police Department starts enforcing the winter parking ban on November 1, 2012. During the ban, vehicle owners will have to find off-street parking from *1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.* every night because of the snow plows. If in violation, the owner of the car will be issued a ticket of **$50** and if not paid after 14 days, the ticket price will rise to $55. The ban is lifted on April 1, 2013.

***"Bill's Blog"- Continued from page 1.***
The bond people have with Marquette is more than "it's just somewhere to live." Marquette's residents have strong pride in their history, a positive outlook on the City's future, and above all else, a sense that the community and surrounding Upper Peninsula is a unique and great place to be. Therefore, as we move forward together, Marquette needs to grow – and will do so in an agile, balanced, and sustainable way!

# Call for Arts Instructors

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center invites instructors to apply for the Winter 2013 Workshop series and NEW senior arts program instructors. The workshop series is open to all arts and culture related subjects; it has proven to be a great opportunity for instructors to share their talents with the community and make new contacts. Due to public request, the Arts and Culture Center is especially looking for instructors in the following subjects: Glass Art, Jewelry, Collage, Book Art, Movement, Photography, Mixed Media, Drawing, Oil Painting, Theatre, Ensemble Music, Watercolor, Pottery, Cultural, Language and Digital Arts.

If interested, applications are available at the Arts and Culture Center, located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library or soon will be available online at www.mqtcty.org/arts_workshops.html. Applications are due by **Friday, December 7th, 2012** and weekly classes will begin the week of **Monday, January 21st, 2013**. Instructor pay is individualized. Applications can be mailed to the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center 300 W. Baraga Ave, Marquette MI, 49855. If you would like to drop off your application in person please brings it to the Arts and Culture Center located in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library. For more information or questions, please contact (906) 228-0472 or email arts-culture@mqtcty.org.

# 24th Annual Holiday Hockey Tournament

Once again, the Marquette and Iron Range Associations are combining to present the longest continuously running invitational tournament in Upper Michigan. The 24th Annual Marquette Holiday Invitational will take place in three arenas (Lakeview, Berry, Negaunee) and will feature competition in the Squirt B, Pee Wee B, and Bantam B Divisions. Deadlines for entries is November 26, 2012. The tournament will be held December 14th through the 16th.

# Northern Michigan Hockey Games at Home

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| November 23 and 24 | ALASKA | 7:30 P.M. At Berry Events |
| December 4 | MICHIGAN TECH | 7:30 P.M. At Berry Events |
| January 11 and 12 | MIAMI | 7:30 P.M. At Berry Events |
| January 18 and 19 | OHIO STATE | 7:30 P.M. At Berry Events |
| February 8 and 9 | FERRIS STATE | 7:30 P.M. At Berry Events |
| March 1 and 2 | LAKE SUPERIOR STATE | 7:30 P.M. At Berry Events |

# Skate Hours at Lakeview Arena

**DROP-IN FIGURE SKATING**
Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. -9:50 a.m.

**6 & UNDER DROP-IN**
Mondays & Fridays 9:00 a.m. -9:50 a.m.

**PRESCHOOL/PARENT & SENIOR CITIZENS**
Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m.-11:50 a.m.
Friday 10:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m.

**DROP-IN HOCKEY**
Monday-Thursday 12:00 p.m.-12:50 p.m.
Friday 11:00 a.m.-12:50 p.m.

**OPEN SKATE (All ages)**
Monday-Friday 1:00-2:50 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday 1:30-3:20 p.m.

**SENIOR/ADULT SKATE (18 & older)**
Mondays 7:30 p.m. -9:20 p.m.
(Free to Marquette City Senior Residents with ID)

**Skating Rates:**
$2 Children (12 & under)
$3 Drop in Figure Skating
$2 Seniors (50 & over)
$5 Drop in Hockey
$3 Adults/Students
$3 Skate Rentals
Season Pass Rate:
Individual Pass -- $60 / Family Pass -- $200

**Lakeview Arena:**
(906) 228-0490
401 East Fair Ave. Marquette
Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
www.mqtcty.org • parks@mqtcty.org

**Disco Ball Drop: Skate into the New Year!**
Come celebrate New Year's Eve disco style December 31, at Lakeview Arena from 1:00 pm to 2:50 pm. Come dressed in '70 attire and admission is only $2; otherwise, standard rates apply. Skate rental is $3 per person. Rentals will be limited.

**Holiday Skating Hours at Lakeview Arena**
Arena will be closed on the following days: November 22, December 24, 25, and January 1. December 31st will have regular skate hours until 1:00 pm. Disco Ball Drop is from 1:00 to 2:50 pm. No Monday night Senior skate on December 24, and 31.

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

Wildcats

# Holiday Art Sale

The Marquette Arts and Culture Center presents the 12th Annual Holiday Art Sale Saturday, December 1st from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Over 25 artists will be selling their work in a variety of mediums.

# Photography Exhibit

LSAA presents Marquette Native, Cindy Larson. Her show *Visual Textures* will be in the gallery at the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center December 4 through January 4. The opening reception will be held December 6 from 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. Come meet the artist and enjoy a cup of hot cider.

## Annual St. Mark's Church THANKSGIVING DINNER

The Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will take place once again this year at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. A home style dinner will be served at 1:00 p.m. (doors open at noon) on Thanksgiving Day to those who would otherwise be alone for the holiday. St. Mark's Church is located on the corner of Presque Isle and Fair Avenue. **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**, please call St. Mark's office, (906) 226-6857.

## Join us for AMCAB's THANKSGIVING LUNCH

The staff of the Marquette Senior Center is pleased to announce that we will once again this year offer AMCAB's Thanksgiving noon meal on **Wednesday, November 21st.** This delicious Thanksgiving meal of turkey with all the trimmings will be served to you by the City staff. **Pre-registration is required by Friday, November 16th.** A $3.00 suggested donation is requested. Please call the Center office today at (906) 228-0456.

# Christmas Tree Safety Tips

- Choose a fresh Christmas tree.
- Re-cut the base 1 inch shorter prior to installation.
- Maintain the tree water.
- Use a heavy tree stand to support the tree with pets and small children.
- Don't block exits.
- Use Christmas lights with a UL or FM third party testing label.
- Use appropriate lights for indoor or outdoor use.
- Inspect light strings for drying or cracking and replace if needed.
- Use miniature lights and/or LED lights. These produce little or no heat especially when used on a natural Christmas tree.
- Check outdoor lights for damage after a wind storm.
- Avoid having extension cords running under carpets or through doorways.
- Avoid overloading electrical circuits.
- Only burn candles in a room that is occupied.
- Monitor pets and small children in an area with lit candles.
- Maintain clearances from candles and curtains, lamp shades, etc.

*Marquette Matters* Volume 2, Number 6
*Marquette Matters*, published bimonthly by the City of Marquette, is available to all residents and businesses online at www.mqtcty.org. To sign up for our e-mail list or for story ideas please email marquettematters@mqtcty.org. Any individuals who would like to receive the information in this publication in another format may contact the *Marquette Matters* newsletter at marquettematters@mqtcty.org, or the Arts and Culture Center at (906) 228-0472.