



Chamber Chatter



Suicide Mud Plunge Recap



Usually, when there's activity and excitement at the Suicide Ski Jump, people are bundled up, a bonfire blazes, and the grounds are covered in snow. But the first annual Mud Plunge on August 27th provided a different scene of live music, food vendors, the fire department, teams of people, and mud.... Lots of mud!



Over two thousand people made the trek to the Suicide Ski Bowl for the event!



Obstacles included a 10 foot climbing wall!



The Plaid Billy Goats played live throughout the event.

The final count of participants came to over 700 men, women and children. Teams coordinated outfits, some with t-shirts and team names, while others bravely took on the course individually. Participants were excited at the starting line, and were all-smiles at the finish when the Ishpeming Fire Department hosed them down.



The final mud pit before the finish line... no one escaped clean!



One team of many that got down and dirty!



Thank you to the IFD for cleaning everyone off at the finish!



Congratulations to everyone who participated! And many thanks to the sponsors and volunteers who made this amazing first time event possible!!!



Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Area Chamber of Commerce

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This month's featured business: Wonderland Motel

Local business owners Pete and Fran Horn just toasted their 50th wedding anniversary on August 12, by sailing from Menominee to Door County and back, a pastime the couple enjoys immensely. When the Horns are not sailing, they are fulfilling their passion of running their mom-and-pop establishment, the Wonderland Motel.

Known for its marquee with words of wisdoms and adages, this Ishpeming business has been in the family for over 60 years. Fran's parents, Katherine and Joe Pepin built the business in 1960. Fran and Pete were dating at the time, and Pete even helped the Pepin family with the construction and electrical work for the motel.

Pete and Fran purchased the business in 1972 from the Pepins, and the two have poured their hearts into making it a great place to stay in Ishpeming. A cozy house located off US 41, the Wonderland Motel has the touch of a caring neighbor and the professionalism of a chain hotel. To the Horns, their business is their livelihood, and they put their whole hearts into their work. From the marquee, to lawn décor, and general upkeep, the Horns have invested a lot of themselves into the motel.

"We do it all ourselves," said Fran. "I do the housekeeping, and Pete takes care of the maintenance. We love what we do."

Now approaching their 40th year of management, the Horns continue to run their motel together, providing all the comfort, relaxation and amenities new comers desire, and regular customers look forward to. Forty percent of the clientele at the Wonderland Motel are repeat customers, and the Horns look forward to customers coming back.

"We love the people," said Fran. "We love meeting everyone that comes through the door and getting know them."

The Horns had hopes that the business would stay in the family, but they are not discouraged and plan to enjoy managing their motel for a few more years.

"We don't want to sell," said Fran. "We'll run it as long as we can."

Congratulations to the Horns, and thank you to for your inspiration and dedication to the Ishpeming business community!



Fran & Pete Horn with Theo outside the Wonderland Motel, which has been in the family for over 60 years.

We've Moved!

Have you heard? The Chamber has a new space! Now located at 910 U.S. 41 (the building by Jubilee) we feel our new location will allow us to serve our members, community, and tourists more efficiently. This new location is convenient and easy for out-of-town guests to find. We will also have a sign that will go up in the near future, so people know where to find the Chamber.

Being in our own building also gives us additional (and much needed) room! We'll be able to display more of our member's brochures, posters, and other information that the community will find useful. Having the ability to display all of this will also help us become a must-stop destination for tourists.

Yoooper Shirts, owned by Jeremy Symons, will be sharing some of our space, helping with rent and selling the popular U.P. custom-made apparel.

We believe moving into our own building will establish us as a more credible and functional organization. We're excited for this next step forward, and we'd love for you to stop by for a visit!

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One-Year Anniversary Celebrations!

The GINCC will be a year old this month, and after everything we've accomplished, we think a celebration is in store! In one year, we've managed to build an organization from the beliefs and hope for a better community through the passion of our members.

We've had over 15 BAH's, BBH's, and Chamber Luncheons, hosted an event that brought in over 700 participants, and have recruited more than 160 members. And this is only our first year! As our organization continues to grow, we know that the Chamber and its members will continue to help make our community stronger.

To commemorate our first year, the Chamber will host a Chamber 101 Breakfast at the Country Village Banquet & Conference Center on Thursday, September 15 from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Tickets are still on sale for \$20 per person.

This breakfast buffet with feature speakers who will review the Chamber and the services it offers to its members. Additionally, a representative from SBAM will speak on its partnership with the GINCC and further outline the benefits for members. The Chamber 101 Breakfast is a great way to brush-up on Chamber news, and even invite a non-member who is considering joining the GINCC.

Additionally, we will host our annual dinner at Wawonowin Country Club in November. Look for more information on this evening that will honor our first year and look forward to the next!

Thanks to everyone who has helped make this first year great!

Welcome New Members!

Charter Media
U.P. Insurance Agency, Inc.
Northern Michigan University - Office
of the President

"If you believe, belong"

Our Chamber would not have been such a success this year without our members. The support we offer to each other through the organization is crucial for the success of the Chamber, and even the community.

Part of our success depends on our members and their devotion, commitment, and belief in our organization's goals and overall mission. Even though we are 163 members strong, we can do better. We want to build on what we have. As a Chamber member, if you truly believe in the organization, advocate. Businesses have a great network, co-workers, fellow owners and friends. Talk to those in your professional network, bring them to a luncheon, BAH, or just tell them why they should consider being a member.

The larger we are, the stronger we can be, so encourage those you know to apply! Applications can be picked up at the Chamber office, or contact Elizabeth at 486-1111 for more information.



The Thursday Night Summer Concert Series in downtown Ishpeming was a huge success! The Wednesday Night Music Club closed off the two-month weekly show. Thank you to everyone who attended this series this summer!



The IBA has been fundraising for the Ishpeming Ski Club all year, and presented them with a check for over \$600 at the Summer Concert Series.

"Dedicated to building great businesses, great neighborhoods, and great places to experience the U.P."

Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Area Chamber of Commerce

910 US 41 W
Ishpeming, MI 49849

Return Service Requested

**YOUR BUSINESS. YOUR COMMUNITY.
YOUR FUTURE. YOUR CHAMBER.**

Upcoming Events

Business After Hours

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Sept. 26
Midtown Bakery & Grand Effex Salon, Negaunee

Chamber 101 Breakfast

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Sept. 15
Country Village Banquet & Conference Center, Ishpeming

NMU Family Weekend

9:00 a.m. Oct. 15
Northern Michigan University, Marquette

Business Before Hours

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Oct. 3
New GINCC Offices, Ishpeming
910 US 41 W, in front of Jubilee

Business After Hours

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Oct. 18
Jasper Ridge Brewery, Ishpeming

We're looking for members interested
in hosting Business After Hours and
Business Before Hours events.

For details call Elizabeth
486.1111

*People do business with
people they know!*

WE STAND **STRONGER**
WHEN WE STAND
TOGETHER