



Chamber Chatter

Thank you, Paul Argall.

Written By

Elizabeth Peterson, Executive Director

What many people may not realize, and what I myself was just beginning to understand, The Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Area Chamber of Commerce would not be here today if it were not for the efforts of one determined, passionate and dedicated man; Paul Argall. In the days since his passing, I've heard him described as the "Oz behind the screen," "an anonymous giver," "a hard working yet modest professional."

The Chamber was just one of many projects that Argall supported. Of course, we can all see what happened when he looked at a vacant field in Ishpeming and had a vision. Today, that vision consists of 22 businesses that make up the Country Village. And I have a feeling the Village was just the beginning of Argall's plans and in the years to come, we'll continue to see and feel the impact of what he had planned for Western Marquette County.

The community certainly lost a leader, but in his absence, are his students, his pride and joy, his children. He worked to secure their future, now they'll work to honor a man they've looked up to their entire lives. Michelle, Brad and Ryan... they were taught by one of the best and we are lucky they will continue working for our community.

I'm saddened for Argall's family. I'm saddened that I never got the chance to know him better. But, as the Chamber continues to grow, let us not forget the man who brought us here. And let us not forget to say 'Thank you'.

Paul Argall



1951-2010

110 Members and Growing

As the New Year approaches, one thing is for certain... activity in the Chamber is picking up. We're now 110 members strong and growing!

This month we celebrated a very successful first three months at the Holiday Business After Hours at the Country Village Conference Center. The event was hosted by Lofaro's Market, Wilderness Sports and the Country Village Conference Center. It was another fantastic evening of networking, food, and great prizes! We noticed a lot of new faces that night. It was great to see all of you!

The Chamber also participated in two Christmas parades this month, both the Ishpeming and Negaunee parades. Snow and chilly temperatures didn't keep people away, as both events were full of rosy cheeks and kids excited to see Santa!

It was great to see both downtowns filled with people!

First Chamber Luncheon

The Chamber is excited to welcome George Morse, personal development and business coach, back to the Upper Peninsula!

Join us Monday, January 24, 2011 at the Ski Hall from noon until 1pm.

Monday's topic: Motivation! Getting motivated and sustaining that motivation to have your best year!

George will help you get prepared for 2011!

Tickets are \$15 for members and can be purchased through the Chamber in advance. Lunch will be provided.



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**"...OUR CUSTOMERS ARE
REALLY GOOD PEOPLE."**

-CHARLES VAN BEYNEN



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www.gincc.org. Read past
newsletters and business
features, browse through
member profiles and more!*

This month's featured business: AmeriGas of Negaunee

In 1995, AmeriGas, the country's largest propane supplier, saw an opportunity in the Upper Peninsula and opened a new office in Negaunee on US-41. The decision has since proven to be successful, as the company continues to thrive.

AmeriGas of Negaunee supplies propane for residential, commercial and industrial uses. The company also installs tanks and provides safety leak checks. It's a service that District Manager Charles Van Beynen says is unique to AmeriGas as safety is their number one concern.

Van Beynen is new to the company, joining the team in September 2010. He says he's looking forward to increasing AmeriGas' involvement in the community, specifically with non-profit organizations and area schools.

Currently AmeriGas participates in the "School Days" program, a fundraising opportunity for schools. Customers save their propane bills, schools collect them and AmeriGas gives a percentage of the total back to the school district.

Van Beynen says his first four months with AmeriGas has gone well. He's enjoying getting to know his customers, their names and faces.

"Working in the U.P., in Marquette County, with local residents is a tremendous benefit of this job," he added. "Our customers are really good people."

This is the busy season for AmeriGas. Keeping people warm through the winter, businesses operating and machines running... from now until spring it will be nonstop. And they look forward to many more years of servicing the U.P.



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Chamber Adopts A Family

In the spirit of the season the GINCC adopted a family through the Salvation Army. We were able to purchase everything on their wish list. And we'd like to thank everyone who helped make this a happier time of the year for one area family.

Lofaro's Market, The Country Village, Carpet Specialists, Wilderness Sports, Main St. Antique Mall, and Kim Alanko—Thank you!

We also received a number of anonymous donations, all of which were incredibly generous and appreciated!

This is what it's all about! We look forward to making this an annual Chamber tradition!

124th Annual Ski Tournament

**January 7-9, 2011
Suicide Hill
&**

Al Quaal Recreation Area

Support the Ishpeming Ski Club and athletes!

Weekend buttons available in advance at the Ski Hall for \$10 or at the gate for \$15

Join the Chamber on Saturday night for a community dinner at the Elks Club!



Be sure to check out our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/GINCC

“DEDICATED TO BUILDING GREAT BUSINESSES, GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS, AND GREAT PLACES TO EXPERIENCE THE U.P.”

Welcome New Members!



- Antilla's Towing
- Ishpeming Housing Commission
- Kiwanis Club of Ishpeming
- ABC Storage
- Macdonald Photography
- Hats Off Hair Design
- Auto Value West Ishpeming
- Michigamme Moonshine Art Gallery
- Niemi Excavating
- Pine Crest
- Gadzinski Accounting & Tax Service
- Ishpeming Ski Club
- Ishpeming Lions Club

Mark Your Calendars!

Business After Hours

January 20, 2011

5-7pm

PC Medic

Networking, fantastic prizes, hors d'oeuvres, drinks

This event provided by your GINCC, hosted by PC Medic



Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Area Chamber of Commerce

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610 Palms Ave.
Ishpeming, MI 49849

Return Service Requested

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

Upcoming Events

124th Annual Ski Tournament, January 7-9

- Suicide Hill & Al Quaal Recreation Area
- Tickets available at the Ski Hall or at the gate

Heikki Lunta, January 15-16

- Teal Lake, Negaunee
- Fishing Derby, Bonfire, Fireworks and more!

Business After Hours, January 20

- PC Medic, 5pm-7pm

Bell Foundation Blizzard Ball, January 22

- Bell Hospital, 7pm-11pm
- Ticket information, 485-2699

Chamber Luncheon, January 24

- Guest Speaker, George Morse & Lunch
- Noon-1pm, \$15/members, \$20/non-members

For more information on these events and others in your area
log onto www.gincc.org and click on the calendar link.

Thank you Chamber
members for your continued
support! We look forward to
working with you in the New
Year and wish you and your
family the best in 2011!



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**WE STAND STRONGER
WHEN WE STAND
TOGETHER**