



# Chamber Chatter

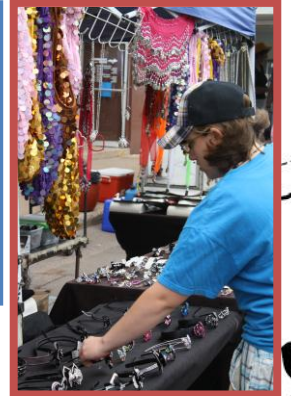
## Community Celebrations!



Ishpeming's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic



Festival of Treasures, July 1



Golf outing at Wawonowin, July 2



Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors and community supporters who helped make these events possible, and fun!



Pioneer Day Parade, July 9



## This month's feature: Negaunee Beautification Committee

Negaunee's city parks have undergone some transformations over the years, such as the new playground equipment and the addition of a pavilion in Miner's Park. These recreational pieces did not appear overnight, but were generated by the efforts of the Negaunee Beautification Committee. With the support of the Negaunee Parks and Recreation department, the Negaunee Beautification Committee is committed to enhancing the environment of Negaunee's city parks.

"The Parks and Recreation department have a lot to do with the general upkeep of the parks," said committee chairperson Anna Mattson. "But we are here to see what we can do to create opportunities to keep Negaunee looking attractive."

The committee has 12 core participants, but other organizations, such as the Lions Club, Boy & Girl Scouts of America, Lakeview Elementary School, continually lend a hand in the beautification of parks. Mattson hopes to add more individual volunteers to the committee's ranks.



Fifth graders from Lakeview Elementary participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Marigold Mania at Miner's Park in Negaunee as part of a volunteer encouragement activity with the Negaunee Beautification Committee.

"We are not looking for a lot of commitment from people," explained Mattson. "We just want people to know that if you have an hour or an evening to spare, anyone can help. Anyone can play a part making their community a nicer place to live."

The Beautification Committee has some big plans for their work bees this summer. Their goals include a picnic table in Pocket Park, landscaping around the pavilion at Miner's Park, and a plan for the entrance to the Heritage Trail.

"People want to live someplace nice," said Mattson. "Negaunee really is a nice place, and our goal is to make it better and better."

Mattson said the committee has had some support from local businesses as well, and the community as a whole. "Nobody says 'no,'" said Mattson. "I have a lot of pride in the community and their appreciation towards our parks."

For more information on volunteers opportunities with the Negaunee Beautification Committee, contact Anna Mattson at [annamattson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annamattson@sbcglobal.net)

## Summer Concert Series

Thursday nights in downtown Ishpeming are filled with music once again! Playing from the base of Old Ish, the concerts are held every Thursday and play the last note on August 25. This is the Series' sixth season, growing from just 20 people to 150 last summer. The concerts present a different kind of entertainment for the summer that can be enjoyed by all. Kurt Gronvall has coordinated the bands for the past six years, and is looking to help Ishpeming and Negaunee grow culturally.

"We're trying to bring a little culture to the west end," said Gronvall. "We're trying to diversify with different types of music genres. We've got some country rock, jazz, [and] blues. We want to make each week different."

The schedule is as follows:

July 21 <sup>st</sup>	– Cheshire Dogs
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	– Terracotta Half Life
Aug. 4 <sup>th</sup>	– Jeff Crabs
Aug. 11 <sup>th</sup>	– Dave & Julie Williams
Aug. 18 <sup>th</sup>	– Border Town
Aug. 25 <sup>th</sup>	– Wednesday Night Music Club

Grab a chair and head downtown this summer on Thursdays to see and hear some great local bands play just for Ishpeming. Can't make it Thursdays? Tune into the Wednesday Night Music Club, which airs live from the Roosevelt Cultural Center Wednesdays from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. on Fox 103.3.

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## Mud Plunge Coming Together

The Suicide Mud Plunge is quickly gaining recognition and popularity, and there are still two whole months before the event on August 27. There are already over 250 participants registered, and the number climbs every week! The GINCC and Ishpeming Ski Club are very excited to execute the first mud run in Marquette County!

The event has gathered a number of great sponsorships. But there are still openings get your logo or name on the t-shirts and racer bags or add a trinket!

If you want to take part in the challenge, register online at [gincc.org](http://gincc.org), or at the Chamber office in the ski hall. Participants can register as a team or individually.

If you don't want to get down and dirty, the Mud Plunge needs volunteers as well! Contact Jeni Jewell at [jeni\\_jewell@hotmail.com](mailto:jeni_jewell@hotmail.com) to find out how you can lend a hand to this one-of-a-kind event.

Any questions? Contact Elizabeth at 486-1111 or visit [www.facebook.com/suicidemudplunge](http://www.facebook.com/suicidemudplunge).



One of the many great obstacles! (on right)

Many thanks to our Mud Plunge sponsors:



MARQUETTE COUNTRY  
IN MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA  
DISCOVER HOW CIVILIZED OUR WILDERNESS CAN BE



Lofaro's Market



## SBAM UPDATE

The following is a message from the Small Business Association of Michigan.

### Health Insurance: Choose SBAM & Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and get more for your money.

As an SBAM member, you have access to group and individual health, vision, dental and prescription benefits available through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) and Blue Care Network (BCN). BCBSM and BCN deliver quality benefit programs and extensive provider networks.

Members who enroll in an SBAM-sponsored BCBSM / BCN plan receive an exclusive consolidated billing statement that includes their insurance premiums along with the affordable fees for any of our additional services such as COBRA administration, Premium-Only Plan administration, life and disability.

The easy-to-read billing statement comes with access to SBAM's customer service department for help with claims and billing questions, ordering ID cards and much more. When you leave a voice or email message for one of our customer service department representatives, you will receive a response within 2 hours on a regular business day.

In addition, participating members get FREE customized Summary Plan Descriptions (SPDs) that reduce the hassle of managing health insurance even more.

Visit [www.sbam.org/bcbsm](http://www.sbam.org/bcbsm) for more details or to get a quote.

### Welcome New Members!

Ishpeming High School Alumni Association  
Advance America  
Edward Jones  
Ironwood Oil Co./Holiday Station Stores  
CrossFit 906  
Negaunee/Ishpeming Water Authority

**"DEDICATED TO BUILDING GREAT BUSINESSES, GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS, AND GREAT PLACES TO EXPERIENCE THE U.P."**

# Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Area Chamber of Commerce

610 Palms Ave.  
Ishpeming, MI 49849

Return Service Requested

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

## Upcoming Summer Events

### **Jackson Mine Farmers & Crafters Market**

- Jackson Mine Park, Negaunee
- Every Wed. 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., June 1 – Aug. 31

### **Thursday Concert Series**

- Old Ish Park, Ishpeming
- Every Thurs. 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. July – Aug.

### July Events

#### **Book Signings, July 16**

- Country Village Bookstore & Coffee House
- July 2- 3:00-4:30 p.m., July 7- 5:00-6:00 p.m., July 16- 3:00-5:00 p.m.

#### **Bell Foundation Golf Outing, July 19**

- Wawonowin Country Club, 12:00 p.m.

#### **Business After Hours, Wednesday, July 27**

- Hilltop RV, Ishpeming, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

#### **Teal Lake Swim, July 30**

- Teal Lake, Negaunee, 9:00 a.m.

#### **Ishpeming Italian Fest, July 30**

- Al Quaal, 12:00 p.m.

### August Events

#### **U.P. Gem & Mineral Show, Aug. 5 - 11**

- Ishpeming Elks Club Hall, 9:30 a.m -4:30 p.m.

#### **Art Faire & Renaissance Fest, Aug. 6**

- Lake Bancroft Park, Ishpeming, 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

#### **Marquette County Fair, Aug. 11 - 14**

- Marquette County Fair Grounds

#### **Ore To Shore Bike Race, Aug. 13**

- Shore Rock- Lakeview Arena, Marquette, 8:00 a.m.
- Soft Rock- Lakeview Elementary School, Negaunee, 9:00 a.m
- Hard Rock- Downtown Negaunee, 9:45 a.m.
- Junior Rock & Littlest Rock- Lakeview Arena, 4:00 p.m & 5:00 p.m.
- Little Rock- Lakeview Arena, 5:15 p.m.

#### **Suicide Mud Plunge 5K Adventure, Aug. 27**

- Suicide Ski Bowl, Negaunee, 10:00 a.m.
- Suicide Splash 1K, 1:00 p.m.

#### **Business After Hours, TBD**

- Fox Negaunee, 5:00 p.m –7:00 p.m.

*For more information on our upcoming events, check out our calendar on [www.gincc.org](http://www.gincc.org).*

**WE STAND *STRONGER*  
WHEN WE STAND *TOGETHER***