



Chamber Chatter

Dancing with the Stars Marquette County Style!



TO BENEFIT THE UPPER PENINSULA HOSPICE FOUNDATION

Coming up this May is a new event in Marquette County that I am honored to be a part of! Together with my husband, Landon Stelwagen we'll be dancing the Waltz raising money for Upper Peninsula Home Health, Hospice & Private Duty in Dancing with the

Stars Marquette County Style. All of the proceeds of this fun, first time event will go to the Hospice Foundation and their Make a Wish program.

The event itself is May 23rd at Forest Roberts Theater. Tickets go on sale to the public on March 25th and will be available at the Chamber, LSCP and U.P. Home Health. In the meantime, Landon and I are practicing daily at home and weekly with our instructor, Jill Grundstrom. We are definitely stepping outside our comfort zone with this one, but we're having an amazing time and are thrilled to be helping one of our many great assets in Marquette County. How can you help? We need votes! Online voting has opened on their website, and every vote helps Landon and I get closer to taking home the Mirror Ball Trophy.... And we want that trophy! ☺



More information can be found on their website, www.uphomehealth.org and you can follow our dance journey on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/journeytothemirrorballtrophy

Thanks for the support!

-Elizabeth Peterson

Pioneer Square revives ground floor

For the first time in over 20 years, the ground floor of the historic Pioneer Square in downtown Ishpeming is at full occupancy. The building houses eight businesses and organizations: Pathways, Early Head Start, Great Start Readiness Program, Typing Unlimited, Northern Mist, Nook & Cranny, Revisions Design Studio and Blue Mohawk Studio.

Owners Sandee and Paul Arsenault are thrilled that their building is coming back to life. And they have both put a lot of time into making sure their tenants are happy and the space they rent fulfills their needs.

"They are the best landlords," said Ben Argall of Blue Mohawk Studio. "Whatever I need, whether it's wiring for lighting or a wall put up, they help me make the space what I want."

Just right across the Hall from Blue Mohawk Studio is Revisions Design Studio, where artist Michele Dugree works on her porcelain art. Michele's space serves as more of a work space than a studio, as most of her business is done online. She actually has a kiln to fire up her designs right on site, something the Arsenaults helped her install. She sees potential in making the space a retail location.

"It's fun being on the first floor with other artists," said Michele. "There is a brewing creativity here."

"This building housed a major employer for the women in our community," said Sandee Arsenault. "It has historical value, and we want to see it being utilized."

Pioneer Square also holds value in its second and third floors, and the Arsenaults assured that they were going to "build up" to filling those spaces as well.

Growing up in Ishpeming, Ben is excited to not only see the first floor of Pioneer Square become vibrant again, but he's glad to be part of it.

"I remember coming in here growing up and having memories of this place," he said. "It's coming back to life, and it's great to see."

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Business Feature of the Month: SIR Federal Credit Union

SIR Federal Credit Union provides the services a credit union normally does. But as CEO Ron Lauren said, SIR does "everything." From daily hometown banking needs, to in-house mortgage payments, to giving back in donations and time, SIR is a prominent business to the communities in which it serves.

SIR Credit Union has undergone many transformations since starting in downtown Negaunee in 1948. The Negaunee branch moved to its current location along US 41 in the mid-1980s and has undergone three expansions since then. SIR has over 11,000 members between the three banks in Marquette, Gwinn, and of course, Negaunee. CEO Ron Lauren hopes to expand the SIR banking (and member) services to most of the Upper Peninsula.

"We are here for the members," said Lauren. "The members are the focus to SIR's approach to hometown banking."

SIR does all its servicing in-house. The mortgage payments, loan payments, account services, and other services are all handled at the credit union, not by an outsourced company.

"People in this area like to come in and talk to someone," explained Lauren. "It is important to have a personal touch, and for people to feel like they can go and sort through their mortgages or loans with an actual person."

Giving back to the community is a vital part of SIR's mission, a goal they are pushing more in 2013. This year, they have supported the Jack Pine 30 dog sled race, the Suicide Hill Mud Plunge, the Negaunee Football Score board and the Gwinn Booster Club.



SIR CEO Ron Lauren speaks to a personal finance class in Gwinn.

"I think it's important to support the different events in the area," said Lauren. "The events bring the community together, and we want to be a part of that."

SIR has also awarded students from the Negaunee, Marquette and Gwinn school districts scholarships. SIR also supports the school through "Making the Right Money Moves," a program that advocates for financial literacy courses in the schools. From Ishpeming to Gwinn, Lauren advocates for the importance of teaching kids the fiscal responsibility before college, speaking in classes and to school boards. He is even working with a state representative to have more financial class electives in middle schools and high schools around the state of Michigan.

"Education is important," said Lauren. "We need to teach our children early on how to not only balance a checkbook, but how to budget and manage their money and credit."

Whether it's servicing its members, schools, or the community at large, SIR Federal Credit Union strives to be more than just a simple credit union providing the basics.

"Our motto is to be our members' most trusted financial partner, today and into the future," said Lauren. "We will be here for the members and continue to serve them in our small, hometown fashion."

Congratulations to Ron Lauren & the employees at SIR Federal Credit Union for being a great influence in Marquette County, and for being this month's featured business.

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Exhibit at Peter White Library features Chamber member

The Peter White Library in Marquette has an exhibit that features work by Corbin Lutz of Picture This Art Center. The exhibit is called "Winter Charm" and the work was on display for the months of February & March. Congratulations to Corbin for recognition of her art! And way to represent the West End artists!



Corbin Lutz's water color paintings (left) are featured in the exhibit titled "Winter Charm" at the Marquette Arts & Culture Center in the Peter White Library. Her work will be on display until the end of March and is located on level 1 of the library.

Main Street School of Cosmetology will celebrate 5th Anniversary

The Main Street School of Cosmetology is hosting an open house to celebrate its 5-year anniversary! The open house will be at the school on Thursday, April 4 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. There are a variety of activities planned, including a fundraiser for the students that attend the institution, as well as prizes for those who visit the school. Potential students, business owners and the entire community are all invited to attend!

Come celebrate Main Street School of Cosmetology's anniversary at 116 Main Street in downtown Ishpeming!

GINCC Townwide Rummage Sale



The GINCC is organizing a townwide rummage sale on Saturday, June 15, 2013. Residents of Ishpeming, Champion, Republic, Michigamme, Negaunee, and surrounding townships are welcome to sell their old items in hopes that their junk will be another person's treasure.

A list of registered sale locations will be made to locate the rummage sales. These lists will be available at the Ishpeming-Negaunee Chamber and at gincc.org. The registration fee is \$10, and the deadline to submit your payment is June 1, 2013.

The GINCC will also have a designated parking lot in Ishpeming for residents who may live too far from town, but still want to participate in the townwide sale. The more the merrier!

For any additional information or questions, please feel free to contact the GINCC at 906-486-1111 or at ginccmarketing@gmail.com. More details on the day's events coming soon!

Get involved with the Ishpeming 4th of July Celebration!



The 4th of July Committee is looking for committee members to join their ranks! Anyone is welcome to join the committee and help organize Ishpeming's largest event! This year's theme is "Welcoming home our Korean & Vietnam War Vets." Those interested in joining the committee or seeking additional information should contact Paul Bonetti at 906-485-4454 or at pbo@chartermi.net.

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Thank you to our renewals!

Dave's Collision Center
 Jackson's Do It Best Hardware
 Northern Health Chiropractic
 A.Lindberg & Sons.
 Pioneer Square, LLC
 Pit Stop Quick Lube
 RE/MAX 1st Realty
 Thomas R. Fleury, CPA
 Graybill & Mead, PLLC.
 Picture This Art Center
 Bell Forest Products
 Seelen's Home Improvement
 Bell Hospital
 Radio Shack
 Iron Town Pasties
 Pioneer Kiwanis of Ishpeming
 Wells Fargo
 Upper Peninsula Luge Club
 Pizza Hut, Inc.
 Dead River Campers
 Charter Media
 North Country Disposal
 Citizens Bank
 Semco Energy
 UP Fabricating, Inc.
 Grace Episcopal Church

Welcome New Members!

CrossBridge Church
 Superior Design
 Sawyer International Airport
 Blue Mohawk Studio
 Ishpeming Little League
 Larry's Heating & Cooling

And our new/renewed Gold Members!

Gadzinski Accounting & Tax Service
 Wawonowin Country Club
 Edward Jones (Downtown Ishpeming location)
 Tino's Bar & Pizza

GINCC MEMBER EVENTS

March Events

Boat, Sport & RV Show, Mar. 22 - 24

- Superior Dome, Marquette
- Fri.: 4 – 9 p.m., Sat.: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., Sun.: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

IHS Alumni Assoc. Night of Music, Mar. 23

- Peterson Auditorium, Ishpeming, 7 p.m.
- Purchase your tickets at the Chamber!

Business After Hours, Mar. 27

- Rare Earth Goods, 200 E. Division St., Ishpeming, 5 – 7 p.m.

April Events cont.

Cosmetology School Open House, Apr. 4

- Main Street School of Cosmetology, 116 Main St., Ishpeming, 3p.m. – 7 p.m.

Women's Health Expo, Apr. 13

- Bell Hospital, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

YMCA Run/Walk, Apr. 20

- Marquette YMCA, 1420 Pine St., Marquette, 9 a.m.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marquette & Alger Counties Annual Bowl For Kids' Sake

- Country Lanes, Ishpeming, Apr. 20
- Superior Lanes, Marquette Apr. 25 - 27

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

For more information on our upcoming events, check out our calendar on www.gincc.org.