



# Chamber Chatter

## After 10 Years... We're Back!

It's official! The Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Area Chamber of Commerce is up and running. After months of hard work, a dedicated group of volunteers accomplished their mission of reorganizing a chamber of commerce for the west end of Marquette County.

The new chamber office is located in the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame on U.S. 41 in Ishpeming.

It's been a busy first month, with the anticipation that it's only going to get busier!

We know a chamber was at one time a very strong and positive organization for west end businesses and the community. We, the new chamber, are determined and confident that will once again be the case.

## Hello, Thank You, and Welcome.

*A note from: Elizabeth Peterson, Executive Director*

Last year at this time I was asking myself... Would I ever leave the television industry? I wasn't sure. I knew if the right job came along, I was ready, but it had to be the "right" job. One thing I was sure of, when I left the anchor desk, I wanted to continue working with the community, residents and businesses, and for the betterment of the area. Now, what are the chances a job like that would come along? I figured pretty slim. I figured wrong.

September 13, 2010, my first day as the Executive Director of the Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Area Chamber of Commerce... and what a month it's been! I'm truly enjoying this new position and want to extend a very large THANK YOU to all of the residents, business owners, and employees who have made my first month so wonderful. And to the over 50 new members, WELCOME! I'm so excited to be working with you. Oh, and of course, let me not forget the chamber board! You are all AMAZING!



The new chamber board: (from left to right) Michelle LaMere, Paul Bonetti, Bruce Turino, Pat Bureau, Elizabeth Peterson, Tony Lofaro, Sandee Sundquist, (bottom row) Charlie Anderson. Not in photo: Jered Ottenwess, Nick Joseph, John Jackson

## Meet the Chamber, a success!

This month we held our very first business after hours. Given this was the first; we had no idea what to expect.

Chamber board member Sandee Sundquist said when she pulled into the parking lot of the Country Village Banquet and Conference Center, she thought, "there must be a bowling tournament going on." And then she walked in. "It was amazing, the place was packed!"

The turnout was incredible, over one hundred people stopped by! And not only were the numbers good, but the energy in the room was positive and upbeat. Thanks to everyone who made it out, offered your opinions and ideas... and those who signed up! We had a great time! You can be sure there will be more of these to come.



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Terry Patrick of Carpet Specialists listens to George Morse as he spreads his message of encouragement to small businesses in Ishpeming and Negaunee.



In front of the famous wall in the lower level of Globe Printing, Kurt Gronvall and Stacey Willey jump in front of the camera and declare, "We believe in Michigan!"

**"...IT'S THE GREATEST STORY NEVER TOLD."**

**-GEORGE MORSE**

## George Morse runs for MI

"We believe in Michigan!" That was the sentiment Subway business owner and personal development coach, George Morse spread through Ishpeming and Negaunee September 30<sup>th</sup>. Morse is running through 200 cities across Michigan to encourage small businesses to stay strong, not give up and keep proving, Michigan is a great state.

During his visit to the U.P. he ran through downtown Ishpeming, along the Heritage Trail and through downtown Negaunee. While running, Morse also carried a video camera and documented his journey. He took pictures of the businesses along his route and video from inside a number of businesses, where he had employees shout, "We believe in Michigan!"

You can watch the video and learn more about Morse at [www.thousandmilesformichigan.com](http://www.thousandmilesformichigan.com).

He says, "It's different to be a small business owner. A lot goes on behind the scenes, it's the greatest story never told." Morse is running to tell that story, so people understand and can appreciate the hard work behind every small business.

Morse started his run at the chamber office, stopped at Jasper Ridge Brewery, went over to Carpet Specialists, stopped into Globe Printing (enjoying some great music by Kurt!), and continued to Wilderness Sports. He then ran the Heritage Trail, visited with Grand Effex Salon, and Midtown Bakery & Café.

He says, "We can't change the economy, but we certainly can change our philosophy."



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## Membership Expands

The Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization. It could not have gotten started without the generous donation of \$20,000 from the Ishpeming DDA. And it can't continue without the support of the local business community.

Remember to **Shop Local** to support your friends and their businesses and organizations that continually support projects in the area.

## Welcome New Members!



### Mark Your Calendars!

**Business After Hours**  
 November 3, 2010  
 5-7pm  
 Country Grill Pub & Eatery

Networking, prizes, hors d'oeuvres, drink specials

This event provided by your GINCC, hosted by the Country Grill Pub & Eatery



Be sure to check out our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/GINCC](http://www.facebook.com/GINCC)

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

- Elaine's Place
- LaFreniere's Inc.
- Pioneer Square L.C.
- Church and Korhonen, PLLC Attorneys at Law
- Country Village Construction Services, LLC
- Ishpeming Hills, LLC
- Main St. Antique Mall
- Bjork & Zhulkie Funeral Home
- Nick Joseph



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## Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Area Chamber of Commerce

610 Palms Ave.  
Ishpeming, MI 49849

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

### Upcoming Events

#### **First Annual Haunted Hay Ride, October 22 & 23**

- Marquette County Fair Grounds, 7-10pm
- 906-942-7111 for more information

#### **Country Village Kids Halloween Party, October 24**

- Country Lanes, 2pm
- Free costume party, games, treats

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Costume Party, October 30**

- Jasper Ridge Brewery, 9pm-1am
- Costume judging, prizes, drink specials

#### **Ladies Night Out, November 16**

- City wide store specials, all day-8pm

### Support Local Hockey

#### **Negaunee Miner Hockey Evergreen Sale**

- Wreaths, garland, candy canes, and crosses
- Place orders by Nov. 14
- Call Ken Farley for more information, 906-486-8776



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## Are you a member yet?

There couldn't be a better time to become a member of the Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Area Chamber of Commerce. Learn about the great benefits that come along with a membership and the plans for the chamber into the future. Call Elizabeth at the chamber office, 486-1111 or send her an email, [ishpemingnegauneechamber@gmail.com](mailto:ishpemingnegauneechamber@gmail.com) and get your application today!