



# Chamber Chatter

The GINCC has been busy kicking off summer with ribbon cuttings and grand openings! Congratulations to all of you, and welcome to the West End, new businesses!



*O' Reilly Auto Parts celebrated their ribbon cutting ceremony on April 17<sup>th</sup>.*



*Peninsula Bank, located inside Negaunee's newly renovated Super One, celebrated their ribbon cutting ceremony May 7<sup>th</sup>.*



## *Blue Mohawk Studio: Grand Opening*

Ben Argall of Blue Mohawk Studio celebrated his grand opening May 9<sup>th</sup>. His studio, located in downtown Ishpeming's Pioneer Square, combined the building's historic charm with Ben's modern, colorful art. If you would like to order or see more of Ben's work, you can visit:  
**[www.bluemohawkstudio.com](http://www.bluemohawkstudio.com)**

## THANK YOU, MUD PLUNGE SPONSORERS!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Suicide Hill Mud Plunge is on track to be another great event full of mud, obstacles, running and music! A big thank you to all of this year's sponsors – we wouldn't be able to put together such an event without your support!

**A. Lindberg & Sons**

**Bell Hospital**

**CrossFit906**

**Fox Negaunee**

**Marquette County Convention & Visitors Bureau**

ABC 10, Anytime Fitness, Auto Value of West Ishpeming, Beauchamp Plumbing & Heating, Carpet Specialists Carpet One, Charter Media, Cliffs Natural Resources, Country Village, Dave's Collision Center, Great Lakes Radio, Ishpeming Business Association, Magic 97.1, McDonald's of Ishpeming, Northern Michigan Bank & Trust, Peninsula Bank, Peninsula Glass, Rio Tinto, St. Onge Insurance, Subway of Ishpeming, Superior Iron Range Credit Union, The Eagle Radio Group, TruNorth Federal Credit Union, U.P. Catholic Credit Union, UPPCO, Wells Fargo, and Wilderness Sports.

## Border Grill

BUSINESS FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Chances are, if you live in Marquette County and have ever had a craving for Mexican food, you've probably been to Border Grill. With fresh, made-from-scratch food and vibrant atmosphere, it's easy to see why people love the restaurant. Founded in 1997, Border Grill began as a one location restaurant in Marquette. Now, nearing twenty years in business – sixteen years this July – Border Grill has expanded to three locations, something restaurant owner Dan Torres marvels at.

"I never would have imagined where we ended up. Honestly, I thought we'd have one little restaurant. I did not envision having three."

Torres' inspiration for Border Grill came while working in California at a restaurant chain which served fresh, Mexican grill style cuisine. The chain was successful, and Torres saw a niche developing in the dining industry; people were turning away from typical fast-food restaurants and wanting healthier alternatives, served in a fast-casual setting. Torres also noticed something else.

"I was eating twelve to fifteen meals a week in the restaurant, and I realized two things – I never got tired of the food, and I never gained a pound. I had never experienced that before."

Armed with these two powerful conclusions, Torres began to formulate an idea for a fast-casual, fresh-food eatery: Border Grill. After some discussion about opening a restaurant in the U.P., Torres found and purchased a small building on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Washington Street in Marquette.

Torres knew his mission was to keep food convenient, but fresh. The motivation to provide healthy food drove Border Grill forward, winning people over as the restaurant expanded to two Marquette establishments and one in Negaunee.

"I think that really is the number one key to our success," Torres said. "It's really home cooking, but you happen to have it in the convenience of a restaurant. I think we prove that healthy can still taste good."

An important aspect of Border Grill's menu is that the food is not processed. There is one product Border Grill does not make, which is the Caesar dressing; everything else is cooked from scratch. Rice and beans are bought and sorted daily, while the whitefish used in menu items is bought locally and "was probably swimming in the lake" shortly before preparation, Torres laughs. The website features a downloadable PDF of nutrition facts, and Border Grill also offers vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options.

But perhaps the most important feature of the restaurant is the employees, both in the way employees are treated and how employees interact in the customer service environment.

"The restaurant business is easy; doing it is hard," Torres said. "The people part is key. You've got to have the right personality and you have to really love and be passionate about serving people, working with people, and being around people."

Border Grill frequently has seasonal holiday parties for employees and their families, and ten employees recently ran together in the Hope Starts Here race.

"I hope my tombstone reads that I was in the people business, not the food business," Torres said.

Check out Border Grill on Facebook, and at [www.bordergrill.net](http://www.bordergrill.net) for nutritional information, menus, and more.

*Congratulations on being our featured business!*





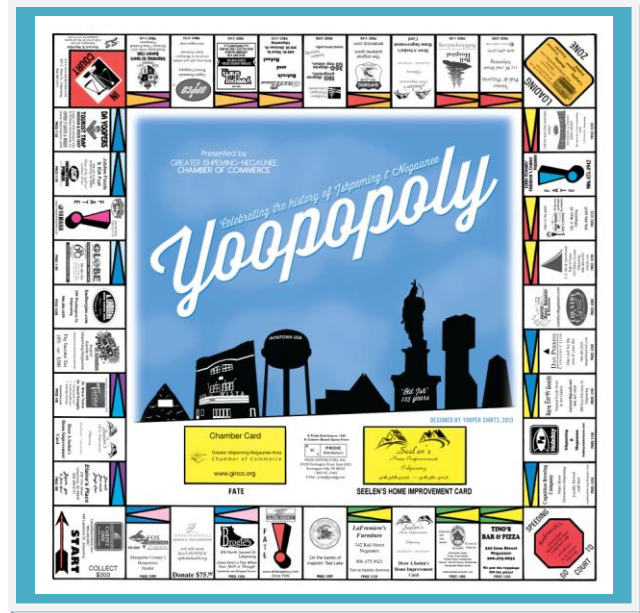
# Chamber Chatter

## Yoopopoly!

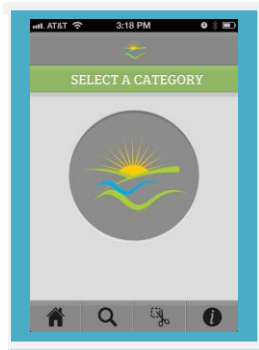
We are very excited to announce a project that has been quite an undertaking. Promoting local businesses and having fun at the same time, the Chamber has developed “Yoopopoly”, a spin on the classic board game, Monopoly.

The game aims to promote the history of Ishpeming and Negaunee. Local businesses sponsored squares that players will be able to buy in the game, just like Park Place or New York Avenue.

The game will be available for purchase beginning this summer. Yoopopoly will be sold at the Ishpeming-Negaunee Chamber, various Chamber businesses, and also at the following events: Festival of Treasures, Fourth of July picnic at Al Quaal, and Pioneer Days.



## New: GINCC's Mobile Directory!



GINCC's business directory is now mobile. We have been diligently working with 906 Technologies to develop this application, which is now available for iPhone and Android users. You'll have business information at your fingertips – menus, phone numbers, addresses, and more. Check it out today!

## PARTY IN THE PARK WEST

The GINCC is trying something new with Party in the Park West, an event happening this summer during the 4th of July celebration at Al Quaal Recreation Area. The event will be held from 5PM-9PM with games and bounce houses for children. Admission is 50 cents per ticket; wristbands for unlimited bounce house access will be \$10.

We are currently in need of ten adult volunteers to help with assisting children at the bounce house stations. Those interested can contact the GINCC at **906-486-1111**.



**Welcome, new members:**

- Ishpeming Public Schools District No. 1
- KCD Construction
- O'Reilly Auto Parts
- Good News Assembly of God
- Nook & Cranny Art Studio
- Superior Auto Parts
- Sovereign Communications
- Wautier Wellness
- Michigan Education Association (MEA)
- Paw-rific Pet Grooming
- St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
- Woodworks Chainsaw Carving

**Thank you to our renewals:**

CrossFit 906  
Johnson Glass Cleaning  
Auto Value, West Ishpeming  
Peninsula Bank  
Pine Crest Resort  
Little Friend's Children's Center

**Thank you to our Gold Members:  
Anytime Fitness****SUMMER CONCERT SERIES SCHEDULE**

Old Ish, Downtown Ishpeming, 7-8PM, free to the public, bring your own chair; sponsored by the Ishpeming Development Authority.

**JUNE:**

6<sup>th</sup> – Dave & Julie Williams  
15<sup>th</sup> – Rusty & Bailey  
20<sup>th</sup> – VIP  
27<sup>th</sup> – Harbor Town

**AUGUST:**

1<sup>st</sup> – Drew & The Geezers  
8<sup>th</sup> – Jackpine  
15<sup>th</sup> – *To Be Determined*  
22<sup>nd</sup> – UP Gumbo  
29<sup>th</sup> – Bongo Fury

**JULY:**

3<sup>rd</sup> – Festival of Treasures  
11<sup>th</sup> – Black Pearl  
18<sup>th</sup> – Kim Lenten  
25<sup>th</sup> – Heart Harp Bones

☆☆4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY EVENTS☆☆July 3<sup>rd</sup>

- **Michigamme Fireworks** – Michigamme Township Park; fireworks at dusk
- **Festival of Treasures** – downtown Ishpeming, 11AM-6PM

July 4<sup>th</sup>

- **Party in the Park West** – 5-9PM before the fireworks, Al Quaal Recreation Area, Ishpeming
- **Ishpeming 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration** – children's parade, main parade, community picnic, F-16 flyover, and fireworks at dusk.
- **4<sup>th</sup> of July Jubilation** – Van Riper State Park, 851 County Road AKE, Michigamme Township, MI 49814

**GINCC MEMBER EVENTS****MAY****MCCVB Business After Hours**

- 29<sup>th</sup> – Jasper Ridge Brewery, 5-7PM

**JUNE****Kiwanis Golf Outing**

- 11<sup>th</sup> – 3432 Co. Rd. 478 MI, 49814

**Townwide Rummage Sale**

- 15<sup>th</sup> – Ishpeming, Negaunee, surrounding townships, 9AM

**Wautier Wellness Business After Hours and ribbon cutting ceremony**

- 19<sup>th</sup> – 1000 Country Lane, Ishpeming, 5-7PM

**Log Cabin Days and Antique Car Show**

- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Michigamme, MI, 11AM-4PM

**JULY****Croatian Chicken Dinner**

- July 6<sup>th</sup> – Michigamme Township Park, Michigamme. Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling (906) 323-9023.

**Pioneer Days**

- 7<sup>th</sup> – Downtown Negaunee

**State of Michigan Major Little League tournament**

- 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> – Ishpeming playgrounds

**Hiawatha Music Festival**

- 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> – Tourist Park, Marquette

**Hilltop RV Business After Hours**

- 24<sup>th</sup> – Hilltop RV, 600 US 41 West Ishpeming

**Blueberry Festival**

- 26<sup>th</sup> – Downtown Marquette

**Gwinn Fun Daze**

- 27<sup>th</sup> – 10AM, Peter Nordeen Park, Gwinn

**Italian Fest**

- 27<sup>th</sup> – Al Quaal Recreation Area, Ishpeming

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

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