



## Chamber Chatter

### *A welcome letter from our new Executive Director, Kori Tossava!*

I want to applaud Elizabeth and the GINCC Board for the hard work they have done over the past few years to build the Chamber. They have obtained over 230 members, created successful fundraising events, and opened up communication among businesses with the Chamber Enquirer, Business After Hours and Ribbon Cuttings. To start something from scratch is infinitely more difficult than building on previous successes and this is not lost on me. These are big shoes to fill, their work has been vital to getting the GINCC to where it is today and I am honored to join this group of hard working community members.

As I sat across from a few of these hard working community members explaining why I was interested in becoming the Executive Director I was asked two questions: 1) how would I describe myself, and 2) how would other people describe me? It was a very straightforward question, but not one that I was expecting. I had spent most of my time preparing to talk about my work, education and experience, which is quite different than who I am.

So how do I think of myself? Well, at my core I'm just a N.I.C.E. girl that married a Negaunee boy. We decided to keep this place our home and where we wanted to raise our children: shop here, play here, live here. For me- it really is that simple.

As for how other people would describe me- that was a little harder. I'm a wife and a mother. I'm also a business woman, a grant writer and a Zontian. I research, I plan, and I fundraise. I've been known to tell a good story or two and can play a decent second base in softball. Through this litany of adjectives, there were two that I 'hoped' most people would use to describe me. I listen and I work hard.

It is my hope that I can do both of these for you- for the Chamber members looking to grow their businesses, those looking to join or start their business, and my friends and neighbors who want to see our area flourish. This means helping you with business development, increasing tourism, and helping our community come together in a way that we all know it can: as a home.

I was reminded of this during the last two weeks, watching the amazing work of the Fourth of July Committees and the Irontown Association as they executed the events surrounding one of my favorite holidays. I smiled at the children dancing to the Blue Notes as I once did, I cheered for the graduated classes coming together to play in the annual alumni games, I rode in the parades that I have always watched. I saw friends, who have since moved to town and cities far away, return home.

As I begin this new adventure with you and descend into what I now call "Mud Plunge Madness" I want you to know that I will be taking the time over the next few months to meet with you, listen to your stories and hear what you would like to see happen with our home.

I encourage you to visit the Chamber Office, stop by the Hilltop RV Business After Hours on July 24, register or volunteer for the Mud Plunge, or even chat with me as I'm out and about. I look forward to listening to what you need and working hard to get us there.



Party in the Park West was held on July 4<sup>th</sup> at Al Quaal Recreation Area in Ishpeming, just before the fireworks. This was the Chamber's first year hosting the event, and we are pleased to say it was a success. One volunteer remarked that just seeing the smiles on the kids' faces coming down the slides made it all worth it. And speaking of smiles, there were plenty of them to be seen on both kids and adults.

This is an event the Chamber would like to see happen again next year, hopefully going even bigger and better in 2014! We would like to thank all of the businesses and individuals who made this event possible, because without all of you, there would have been no Party in the Park.

We hope everyone enjoyed themselves and had a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July week and weekend with friends and family!



**THANK YOU TO:**

- 100.3 The Point
- 101.9 The Sunny Morning Show with Walt and Mike
- 4th of July Committee
- ACA Jumps
- ALL of the volunteers who helped at Party In The Park
- Carpet Specialists
- Elaine's Place
- Elizabeth Peterson and Landon Stelwagen
- FOX Negaunee
- Globe Printing
- Kori Tossava
- Michelle and Ryan LaMere
- OK Rentals
- Picture This! Art Studio
- TV6 - Upper Michigan's Source
- Wilderness Sports

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## *Hats Off Hair Design*

### *Business Feature of the Month*



Collecting old hats was just something

Greta Michels liked to do as a hobby – so was experimenting with people’s hair. Given these two facts, it’s only natural that she now owns Hats Off Hair Design in downtown Ishpeming.

Nearing twenty years in business, the full-service salon resides in a historic building, previously home to a dress shop and antique store. With the addition of a fireplace and tasteful decorating, Hats Off offers a unique environment, critical to business, Michels said.

“It’s nice to have a building where people are surprised when they walk in. I consider it different. I think it’s pretty laid back, relaxing, and homey.”

Michels originally began her business on Bank Street with three employees and a massage therapist. Now, the salon features five service chairs, a nail technician who does manicures and pedicures, waxing services, and massage therapy. Hats Off also sells antiques, local hand-made goods, and other merchandise.

“I was scared at first to run this business,” Michels said. “I worked hard to build it up, and now I’ve done it. We’re pretty established now, and I’m happy.”

Michels has established herself in the community as well, having lived here since age twelve. Most of the employees are local too, with three of them being relatives, and almost all of them having family ties to the area.

“I graduated from Negaunee High School, and I grew up here,” Michels said. “It’s nice to know I’m close to home and the community.”

Granted, running a business in a small community is not always easy, but Michels feels that she has a strong customer base, and is confident that the rewards far outweigh the drawbacks. She doesn’t advertise much, but rather relies on word of mouth and the hard work that she and the ladies of Hats Off Hair Design do for their customers.

“I like to make people look good and feel good,” Michels said. “There aren’t many jobs out there where you can see and create a transformation in people.”

*If you would like to make an appointment with Hats Off Hair Design, call:*

**906- 485-4215**

*Please call ahead to ensure someone will be there, as the stylists have different hours. They also take walk-ins.*

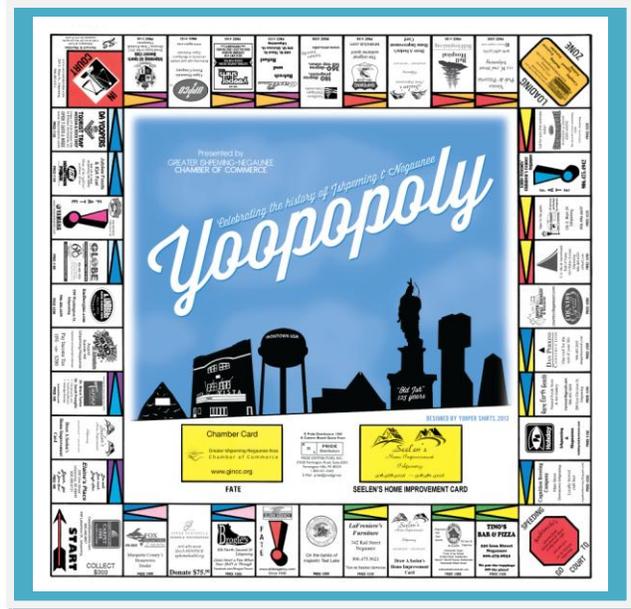
**Congratulations on being our featured business of the month!**



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## *Yoopopoly is here!*

The wait is finally over – Yoopopoly is here! The board looks great and we have sold nearly 150 games between Festival of Treasures, Party in the Park West, and at the Chamber. We will soon be shipping the games, as there is a high interest in shipping to downstate or out of state residents. The retail price of the game is \$25.00 and will be available for purchase at the Chamber and other local businesses.



### *Wautier Wellness:*

### *Business After Hours and Grand Opening*

Stephanie Wautier and the staff of Wautier Wellness celebrated their Business After Hours and Grand Opening on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Main Street School of Cosmetology provided free manicures and

Henna artist Kristianna Harris Pfaffle created beautiful Henna tattoos on everyone. Wautier Wellness is located at 1000 Country Lane in the Country Village in Ishpeming. Welcome to the West End, Wautier Wellness, and we wish you nothing but the best!

**Welcome, new members:**

- United Way of Marquette County
- Ed and Mary Jane Lorenz
- Red Earth Classic Bike Race, LLC
- Superior Health and Life Insurance
- Central UP Insurance Agency
- Davie Multimedia

**MUD PLUNGE SHCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- CrossFit 906 Kids' 1K Race, **7PM**
- Packet Pick Up (Suicide Hill Ski Bowl) **6-9PM**
- Croatian Chicken Dinner **5-8PM**
- The Crane Wives, **7:30-9:30PM**
- Twilight Run, **10PM**

**Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**

- A. Lindberg & Sons Competitive Run, **9:00AM**
- CrossFit 906 Suicide Hill Climb, **10:30AM**
- Bell Hospital Fun Run, **11:00AM**
- Awards Ceremony at Jasper Ridge Brewery, **4:00PM**



It's hard to believe, but the Mud Plunge is only a month away. Don't forget to register **before August 1<sup>st</sup>** to guarantee your t-shirt and racer goodie bag! The Mud Plunge will be held **August 23<sup>rd</sup>** and **August 24<sup>th</sup>** at the Suicide Hill between Ishpeming and Negaunee. Participants have some new events to look forward to this year, such as the Twilight Run and the CrossFit 906 Suicide Hill Climb. There will also be live music by The Crane Wives, a band sponsored by the Marquette County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and delicious Croatian Chicken Dinner on Friday night. Tickets for the Chicken Dinner **MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCED** and are available at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) and also at the Chamber office. Visit [www.gincc.org](http://www.gincc.org) for all the race details.

Don't miss out on all the fun – register to race and eat some chicken TODAY!

**GINCC MEMBER EVENTS**

**JULY**

**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

**Art on the Rocks**

- 27<sup>th</sup> – Mattson Lower Harbor Park, Marquette

**Music in the Park**

- 31<sup>st</sup> – Michigamme

**AUGUST**

**Shore to Shore Kayak Race**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Michigamme

**38<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem and Mineral Show**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lake Bancroft Park, Ishpeming

**Ishpeming Renaissance Festival and Art Faire**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lake Bancroft Park, Ishpeming

**Smokey in the Park – Camping with Smokey the Bear**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Van Riper State Park, Michigamme

**Iron Ore and the Civil War**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> – Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee Township

**Music in the Park**

- 7<sup>th</sup> – Michigamme

**Marquette County Fair**

- 8<sup>th</sup> – 715 County Rd. 553, Gwinn

**Buzz the Gut**

- 10<sup>th</sup> – Cliffs Shaft Mine Museum, Ishpeming

**Ore to Shore Mountain Bike Epic**

- 10<sup>th</sup> – Negaunee

**Suicide Hill Mud Plunge**

- August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> – Suicide Hill, Negaunee

**Kayaking 101 and 102**

- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Van Riper State Park, Michigamme

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).*