

# CHAMBER CHATTER

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*Happy 2014!*

Hello, and welcome to our 2014 edition of Chamber Chatter. It may only be February, but we have already completed the Arctic Blast Color Dash, cut ribbons, attended several community events, and have lots of plans in the works for the remainder of the year. We are excited to share our new ideas and events with this community, and thank you for your awesome support of our organization!

*Chamber Staff*



**Buck's Restaurant, Central U.P. Insurance Agency, and Wilderness Sports held a joint Business After Hours on December 19, 2013.**



The second annual **Arctic Blast Color Dash** snowshoe race took place **January 18, 2014.**



**Buck's Restaurant** in downtown Ishpeming celebrated a snowy Ribbon Cutting on **January 30, 2014.**



**The Negaunee Irontown Association** Held its Annual Membership Drive And Business After Hours on **February 12, 2014.**

Featured Business of the Month:

## Paw-rific Pet Grooming

On February U.P. days, while in the middle of another gripping Midwest snowstorm, Jill Rankinen would love to be in Hawaii visiting her son and his wife.

Yet as the snow continues to fall outside and temperatures are anything but balmy, Rankinen is busy taking care of something else she loves – animals.

Rankinen, along with her son and daughter-in-law, owns Paw-rific Pet Grooming in Ishpeming, Michigan, which established a storefront business on Highway 41 in 2011. Prior to the storefront, Rankinen ran part-time grooming services out of her home for thirty years.

Even though her son, who is the president of the business, lives thousands of miles away, he wanted to invest here in the U.P.

“It’s our family business, and we keep it family oriented with our customers, too, because it’s just more personal that way,” Rankinen said.

The name of the business speaks for itself, but in addition to specializing in grooming, Rankinen also has an impressive history of specializing in dog breeding, showing, and obedience training, including numerous awards.

Rankinen has always had a deep love for animals, and her interest began to grow with showing dogs at age five.

“My friend’s mom had kennels and showed poodles, so we spent a lot of time around the dogs,” Rankinen said. “My dad also showed dogs in the 1960s in the obedience category and I would help train the dogs.”

Rankinen spent many years studying, attending seminars, and having hands-on experience with obedience training, and now offers obedience classes through Paw-rific Pet Grooming during the warmer months.

“I think every dog needs to go through obedience classes because it makes a dog so much closer to their owner(s),” Rankinen said.

Although many aspects of the business revolve around dogs, Rankinen points out that cats are also welcome and that it’s just as important to groom your felines.

“Usually, people think because cats clean themselves, they stay clean, but the saliva attracts more dirt, and that can lead to cats getting matted.”



It’s true that most cats are famous for hating water, but Rankinen says some cats she grooms thoroughly enjoy the experience of being pampered.

“I’ve got some cats that come in here and just sprawl out on the table and then let me blow dry them. It’s really something.”

Whether you have a dog or a cat, you can be sure Paw-rific Pet Grooming carries the supplies you need for your furry friends.

Nearly all products the business carries are American-made and many of them are eco-friendly as well, made with recycled materials. Rankinen stands behind her products and sells only supplies she uses or would recommend for use and also honors product guarantees.

“I sell Lupine collars, leashes, and leads, and those have a lifetime guarantee. Even if a pet owner brings in the tiniest, chewed up piece of a Lupine collar, I’ll replace it for them.”

Although she is around animals all day, Rankinen is an animal lover through and through and at the end of the day, goes home to her farm, where she and her husband own Arabian horses, a donkey, dogs, and numerous barn cats.

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If you would like more information about the services Paw-Rific Pet Grooming offers, please call:  
(906) 486-7297. Paw-rific Pet Grooming is located at:  
658 Palms Avenue, Ishpeming, MI 49849.

Congratulations on being our Featured Business of the Month!



# Chamber News and Happenings

## SPACE FOR RENT

Are you looking for a location for your small business?

Space is available for rent in the Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Area Chamber of Commerce building. Open format allows for a multitude of options including offices, reception, and/or a display area.

The location includes frontage on U.S. Highway 41, adequate parking, plowing, and garbage. The rental agreement will include a flat fee for monthly rent, in addition to square footage based on space requirements.

Stop by the Chamber office to obtain a blueprint of the office space.

For more information, call: (906) 486-1111  
E-mail: ginccdirector@gmail.com



## SPORTSMAN'S TRIATHLON & IRONMEN CHALLENGE IS COMING! June 21st and 22nd of 2014!

Straight Line Archery, Wawonowin Country Club, the Negaunee Rod and Gun Club, and the Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Area Chamber of Commerce are excited to announce that the Sportsman's Triathlon and Ironmen Challenge will be coming to Western Marquette County.

The Sportsman's Triathlon is a four-person team event that includes trap shooting, 3D Archery and nine holes of Golf.

Ironmen can double the challenge for extra intensity. Participants are placed in a two-day schedule that rotates between the Negaunee Rod and Gun Club for the Trap Shooting and Archery portion of the event and the Wawonowin Country Club for the golf portion.

The Sportsman's Triathlon and Ironmen Challenge will bring teams of professional and amateur sportsmen and women alike. These groups often travel from outside the area, primarily Lower Michigan and Northern Wisconsin, and bring their families with them for this weekend-long event.

For more information, and to stay updated on the event, check out the Hiawatha Sportsman's Triathlon page on Facebook. If you would like to be a sponsor for this event, or to register a team, stop by the Chamber office at:

910 U.S. Highway 41 West  
Ishpeming, Michigan 49849



If you have enjoyed the Mud Plunge for the past three years, you're going to love this new event taking its place – **The Northern Lights Rave Run: 5K and Kids' 1K** is coming to Al Quaal Recreation Area on **August 23, 2014**.

The race is essentially a festival that ends with a race versus a race that ends with a festival. Instead of finishing the race crawling through mud, finish the race running into a giant dance party, filled with music, lights, and a lot of family-fun.

Participants are encouraged to get creative and deck themselves out with lights and paint, the brighter, the better! The race will provide options for games, picnics, and more. All levels of runners are encouraged to attend, and even if you don't run, come join us and walk the course!

Stay tuned to the GINCC and Suicide Hill Mud Plunge Facebook pages for updates and watch for registration soon to open on Active.com!



Welcome, new members:

- Marquette Builders Exchange
- Negaunee City Center
- Bell Auxiliary DBA, Bell Auxiliary Gift Shop
- Little Miss Sew and Sew
- 40 Below of Marquette County Young Professionals
- VFW Post 4573

Thank you to our  
**Gold Members:**

- Buck's Restaurant
- Holiday Companies
- Jubilee Fuel
- Meyer Family Vision
- Midtown Bakery and Café
- OK Industrial
- Peninsula Glass
- Rotary Club of Ishpeming
- St. Onge Insurance
- Steward and Sheridan
- Upper Peninsula Home, Health, Hospice and Private Duty
- WJMN

Interested in membership?

**Call:** (906) 486-1111

**Visit:** 910 U.S. Highway 41 West  
Ishpeming, MI 49849

**Online:** [www.gincc.org](http://www.gincc.org)

Thank you to our renewals:

- Bell Financial
- Best Western Country Inn
- Border Grill
- BP Country Mart
- Canda Manor
- Congress Pizzas
- Country Grill Pub and Eatery
- Country Village Ace Hardware
- Country Village Cinema V
- Country Village RV Park
- Dave's Collision Center
- Great Lakes Radio
- Greater Ishpeming Commission on Aging
- Holli Forest Products
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- Ishpeming High School Alumni Association
- Ishpeming Historical Society
- Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club
- Jasper Ridge Brewery
- Jasper Ridge Inn and Vacation Homes
- Kiwanis
- Loy Lawns by Design
- Mama Russo's
- Marquette County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Mather Nursing Center
- Meyer Yamaha
- Mining Journal
- Mitchell United Methodist Church
- Negaunee Irontown Association
- Negaunee/Ishpeming Water Authority
- Office Supplies N' Services
- OK Rental Sales and Service
- PCBM Management
- Picture This Art Studio
- Radio Results Network
- Rio Tinto
- Rob's C.A.R.S
- Saint's Auto
- Salvation Army
- Select Realty
- Shape Up Fitness and Tanning
- U.P. Catholic Credit Union
- U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame

# Upcoming Events



## Business After Hours availability

Are you ready to start the year off with an open house, business anniversary celebration, or a grand opening? Maybe you have been thinking of hosting a Business After Hours for a while.

We have availability for Business After Hours events this spring and summer.

Our Business After Hours events are free of charge and we will work with you to help you plan your event.

If you're interested, please call the Chamber office at **(906) 486-1111** to speak with us and discuss a date, time, and location that work for you.

## March

**5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>:** Art and Antiques  
Open House Daily 10AM-6PM  
308 Cleveland Ave., Ishpeming, Michigan

*\*There will be a Wine and Cheese Reception for Art and Antiques on March 7<sup>th</sup> from 5-7PM.*

**6<sup>th</sup>:** Little Miss Sew and Sew – Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting  
Open House: 8AM-6PM  
Ribbon cutting: 12PM  
308 Cleveland Ave., Ishpeming, Michigan

**7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>:** U.P. Builder's Show, Superior Dome, Marquette, Michigan

**17<sup>th</sup>:** Economic Club of Marquette County presents Executive Director of the Michigan Brewer's Guild, Scott Graham, The Ramada, Marquette, Michigan

**20<sup>th</sup>:** First day of **SPRING!**

**22<sup>nd</sup>:** Miss Upper Peninsula and Miss Teen Upper Peninsula Pageant, Forest Roberts Theatre, Marquette, Michigan

