

# THE TOWNSHIP CRIER

Special Edition 2006

Newsletter of the Charter Township of Marquette

Volume 06 Issue 1

## SUPERVISOR'S PERSPECTIVE

By Ray Adamini, Supervisor

2005 was a very exciting year for Marquette Township! We're more than 50% of the way to completing our Water System. The effort toward regionalism started with our Manager, Randy Girard; and the Board embraces this concept. The sharing of resources throughout Municipalities saves the taxpayer's dollars.

We've started a county wide coalition of elected Township Supervisors called the Marquette County Supervisors Association, to help one another on any and all local issues that affect all of us. There is strength in that kind of unity. Thanks to Sands Township Supervisor Earl Yelle and the Sands Township Board, we've entered into an agreement to jointly manage the lands recently purchased in Sands Township by the City, helping to protect the future uses of the land and current borders.

With our Township Manager working with Pete O'Dovero we're in the process of purchasing the Ski

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## MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

By Randy Girard, Manager

As you know from previous Township Crier articles, as well as formal public hearings and meetings conducted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Township Board over the last 1 ½ years, we are developing our own municipal water supply system. This results directly from our current water supplier, the City of Marquette, taking deliberate and intentional actions to force us to either find another source of water; or to agree to unreasonable conditions and acceptance of a huge increase in the cost of water to help stabilize their declining financial condition.

Faced with these options and following detailed cost/benefit analysis, the Township staff and Board determined that our most feasible option was pursuit of another source of water. Yes, the decision will increase the cost of water for Township users; however, not as much as continuing with the City as our supplier. The City's hard-line position, which they have maintained throughout the litigation that is currently in process, demanded that effective January 1, 2003 Township water rates reflect an

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## MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Installation of 12 inch water main along County Road 492 near the Grove Street intersection to connect Well/Pump House and 320,000 gallon storage tank.



SUPERVISOR'S PERSPECTIVE

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Hill property. The purchase will put the land under Township management enhancing continued recreational opportunities for residents, and future expansion for our new municipal water supply.

On April 1, 2006 our Fire Department will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to residents. In 2005 the Fire Department expanded their mutual aid agreements with Sands Township and Chocolate Township to include joint training and cooperation in an expanded effort to share resources. Negaunee Township has also expressed interest in joining with us, and may do so in the near future. Regionalism is starting to grow and hopefully will encompass additional important items like recreation, law enforcement, transportation and roads, etc. Taxpayer dollars will go farther when this becomes a reality.

We've added 81 new residential units – 34 in 2004 and 47 in 2005; our population is growing. Our commercial area is also growing which adds greatly to the economy, jobs, and our ability to continue to provide cost effective services to residents.

Yes, we have a lot of roads that are in need of upgrading and can only do so at the pace of the ability of the Road Commission to pay their 50% portion. To help the Road Commission we're asking our legislators through the Michigan Townships Association, the Marquette County Township Association, and the Township Supervisors Association to have their funding increased. (All roads belong to the County). County Road HQ (Target Road) funding has been approved as part of the Federal Transportation Bill and is expected to connect to Wright Street near Forestville Road in 2007.

Road connections are vital for a higher level of access and safety. Moran Street has been connected to Commerce Drive and will enable emergency services to reach many areas of the Township faster. We're hoping to have County Road 492 rerouted to connect with the old railroad grade going behind WalMart and Menards coming out at South Brickyard Road taking some of the traffic off the US41/M-28 Highway Corridor. A rear exit from Red Lobster and Culvers to Brookton Road, which we expect to be completed this spring, will also take traffic off the Corridor.

Evelyn Woodbridge donated 5 acres of land (across County Road 492 from Lost Creek) to be developed into a park/walking trail and we're happy to report that the

development of Schwemwood Park is currently under construction.

Centrup Properties have chosen to locate their new Country Inn and Suites on the US41/M-28 Corridor. Their planned deceleration lane will help traffic flow on the corridor. I welcome them to the Township.

I want to commend our Township Manager, Randy Girard for his insight and planning that helped steer us through the obstacles we've encountered over the last few years. By all indications, we're in position for an even better 2006.

WOW! 25 Years!!



Kirk Page, Superintendent of Public Works

Congratulations to Superintendent of Public Works **KIRK PAGE**. Kirk has been providing outstanding service to our Marquette Township residents since December 1, 1980.

If you see Kirk, take the opportunity to offer congratulations on his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## Municipal Water Supply Project

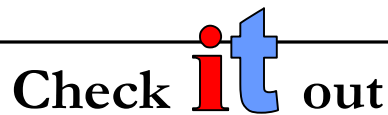
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amount that is 200% of what City water users are charged. Yes, I said **200%**. To put that into perspective, under the City demand a typical Township residential water user (family of 4) consuming 7,500 gallons of water per month would see their monthly water bill immediately increase from \$51.00 to \$93.76 – an increase of \$42.76 per month for **ALL** Township water users. The Township was successful in finding another source of municipal water; a groundwater source that is beneath Township owned property, that complies with all municipal water supply requirements, and is producing water of exceptional quality to the point that no treatment is required by the DEQ.

Last July the Township began an aggressive construction project that is expected to be completed and serving about two thirds of our current water users by August of 2006. The project entails construction of five municipal water wells, a collection and pumping facility, a 320,000 gallon storage tank, and transmission mains to serve our current Northwoods and Grove water districts. The project is funded by a low interest (2.125%) twenty year loan from the Michigan Drinking Water Revolving Fund administered by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

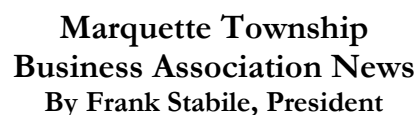
With the project approximately 50% complete and with funds expended, beginning January 1, 2006 water users that will be served by the project within the Northwoods and Grove water districts are assessed a monthly debt retirement fee of \$30.00 in addition to their normal water use billing. This is \$12.76 per month less than demanded by the City of Marquette, and will reduce as additional connections occur. The debt retirement fee applies only to the Northwoods and Grove water districts.

The Township did not plan or wish to go this route; the City intentionally acted to terminate our water supply contract to attempt to extract increased revenues from Township residents – similar to the City's non-resident income tax and recreation fee attempts. In response to the intentional acts by the City, the Township initiated litigation to enforce the contract and to recover the actual damages caused to the Township and its residents by the City actions – the cost of developing another source of municipal water. That litigation is anticipated to continue into 2006, with any cost recovery being applied directly to reducing the debt retirement fee.


 The logo features the words "Check it out" in a stylized font. "Check" is in black, "it" is in red with a blue dot above the 'i', and "out" is in blue. The text is enclosed in a black rectangular border.

Our Township website a listing of staff and responsibility areas as well as contains important announcements for events such as changes in garbage days due to holidays; seasonal items such as when the Township Hall will be closed; leaves/brush disposal times; or dates for getting rid of your old Christmas tree.

Just go to our website at: [www.marquettetownship.org](http://www.marquettetownship.org) then click on 'Announcements' where many of your questions may be answered.


 The text is centered within a black rectangular border.

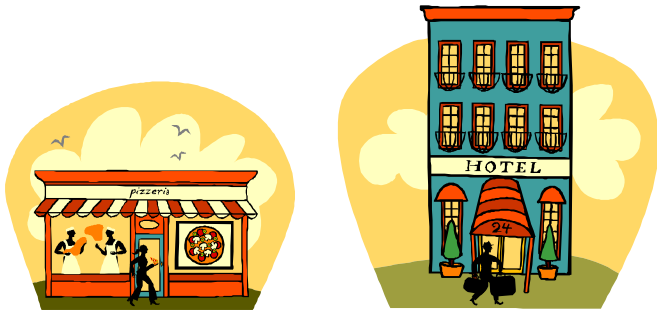
A lot has happened since the last newsletter announced the newly formed Marquette Township Business Association. We assembled and adopted a set of bylaws to help guide us into the future. We have a ten-member Board of Directors; our bylaws allow fourteen so we have room to grow.

We have formed sub-committees to work on areas the Directors felt were of the most importance in the near future. The committees are, US 41 Corridor chaired by Jim Clark, Utilities chaired by John Jilbert, Membership chaired by Dave Savolainen, and Ordinances chaired by Frank Stabile. There are many issues and challenges that these committees are working on and we would urge any person that owns or is part of a business in the Township to join one of the committees that interest them. We also have a bank account at Range Bank, Marquette Township branch, and have started an application for non-profit status, thanks goes to our Treasurer Pat Couvion.

The most important area that I want to announce is our membership drive, chaired by our Vice Chairman Dave Savolainen. Our organization needs your support and input to give us direction and power to address issues that are important to us all. You are welcome to contact us at our regular meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Days Inn. Our members mentioned above are also joined by Cyndi Wiggins, our secretary, who handles all our agendas and meeting minutes—Thanks Cyndi, Bud Kellan, Amy Nagel, Scott Tyler, and Jim Grundstrum. I thank all our Board of Directors members for their support and commitment and look forward to seeing new members in our organization.

*Thank you.*





## WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION? By Randy Girard, Manager

No, not all the media commotion about the ongoing issues between our Township and the City of Marquette – that's another story, for another time.

I'm talking about the commotion surrounding continued growth in our community that continues to add to the vibrancy of the Township. You've seen it, but likely didn't know what it might become – so here's the scoop:

American Mall on County Road HQ (Target Road) is completed and now houses Armed Forces Recruiting, Sylvan Learning Center, Weight Watchers, and Bay Medical;

US Fish and Wildlife building is beginning construction just behind Target on County Road HR;

Cedarville Townhomes has 32 units under construction just north of Commerce Drive near Wright Street;

Orlich Office Complex II on the corner of Commerce Drive and Moran Street will provide professional office space;

Visions North on the corner of Venture Drive and Commerce Drive is where Dr. Heidi Johnson will be offering optical services;

Midwest Expansion is constructing a 9 unit shopping center in front of Goodwill on US 41, expected tenants are not known at this point;

Taco Bell recently completed reconstruction of a new restaurant with expanded drive through service;

Country Inn & Suites is under construction on the north side of US 41 near the intersection with Erickson Street;

Comfort Suites is completing an expansion on the south side of US 41;

Forest Ridge Condominiums on Brookton Road is expanding and has added 8 new residential units in the last year, with more to come; and,

Chapel Ridge Subdivision off County Road 492 continues its development of 14 new residential home sites.

Several additional projects are in varying stages of the planning and site plan review process and may begin development in the spring – keep an eye out!

## Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention

Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, sometimes known as the silent killer, can be caused by improper care and use of home heating sources; and unless important heating safety precautions are taken, it can strike your family.

According to a recent study from the Home Safety Council, the State of Home Safety in America Report™, 67 percent of households use gas, wood, kerosene, coal or fuel as their major heating source, all of which release carbon monoxide when burned. More than 100,000 medical visits each year are caused by old or poorly serviced heating sources. "Odorless and colorless, carbon monoxide poses a very harmful threat to our families," said Meri-K Appy, president, Home Safety Council. "Unfortunately, only 35 percent of homeowners have a carbon monoxide detector in their home - leaving more than half of families in potential danger of CO poisoning." According to the report, CO poisoning from heating equipment causes five percent, or nearly 300 cases, of unintentional home-poisoning deaths each year.

Carbon monoxide poisoning isn't the only winter safety threat; the number of house fires increase as the months grow colder. The State of Home Safety in America Report found that 97 percent of homes have smoke alarms installed, but only 19 percent test them properly. That leaves millions of smoke alarms untested, and perhaps ineffective. "The winter months lead the rest in the number of home fires, most likely due to homeowners using alternative heating sources such as wood stoves, fireplaces or space heaters," said Appy. "To reduce the number of winter home fires, people need to properly

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Construction of foundation for Well/Pump House (August 9, 2005).

Well/Pump House nearing completion (December 22, 2005) looking northwest.



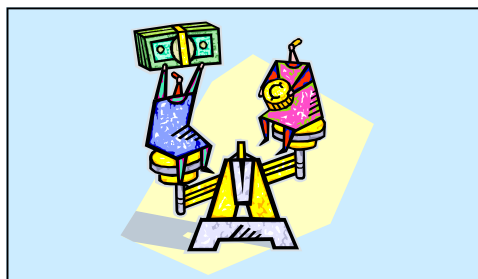
Installation of 12 inch valve and valve service well along County Road 492 (August 15, 2005).

**TOWN HALL MEETING**  
By Ray Adamini, Supervisor

Our fourth Town Hall Meeting was held on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Township Hall. As in previous meetings, there was no formal agenda – it was an informal open forum for whatever attendees wanted to discuss or ask about.

Members of the Township Board, Planning Commission and the DDA were present to address attendee’s questions on a variety of topics including the 2006 budget, residential garbage collection, noise control in residential areas, on-street parking concerns, ordinance enforcement, condition of roads, road funding and improvement options, impact of growth, water system, and County Road Commission services.

The next Town Hall meeting is planned for May 2006. The specific date/time/place to be announced in the April issue of the Township Crier – watch for it. Hope to see you there!



**2006 BUDGET**

At their regularly scheduled meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>, the Township Board held a final public hearing and adopted the balanced 2006 Township operating Budget and Fee Schedule. The Public Hearing and adoption followed advertised public budget sessions held at the Township Hall on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>.

Complete detail of the adopted budget and individual departmental narratives are available for public inspection at the Township Hall during regular business hours, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**2006**  
**MARQUETTE TOWNSHIP**  
**BUDGET SUMMARY**

**GENERAL FUND**

Revenues ..... \$1,168,449

**Expenditures by Activity:**

Township Board.....	\$ 26,029
Supervisor.....	\$ 12,052
Township Manager.....	\$ 96,970
Elections.....	\$ 5,000
Assessor.....	\$ 162,740
Professional Services.....	\$ 42,100
Clerk.....	\$ 81,896
Board of Review.....	\$ 1,187
Treasurer.....	\$ 27,512
Building & Grounds.....	\$ 54,710
General Services Admin.....	\$ 92,896
Law Enforcement.....	\$ 110,755
Planning.....	\$ 75,806
Zoning Board of Appeals.....	\$ 1,338
Street Signs.....	\$ 1,000
Street Lighting.....	\$ 17,500
Recreation Facilities.....	\$ 10,197
Library Services.....	\$ 129,162
Insurance.....	\$ 9,900
Capital.....	\$ 7,000
Debt Service.....	\$ 141,328
Transfer Out.....	\$ 55,000
Appropriations.....	\$ 5,400

**Total Expenditures** ..... \$1,167,478

**FIRE FUND** ..... \$ 317,436

**LIQUOR LAW ENFORCEMENT** ..... \$ 4,592

**TOWNSHIP IMPROVEMENTS** ..... \$ 58,500

**DDA DEBT SERVICE FUND** ..... \$ 11,305

**DDA FUND** ..... \$ 700

**DWRF DEBT SERVICE**..... \$ 281,050

**WASTEWATER FUND**..... \$ 577,535

**WATER FUND**..... \$1,036,309

**SOLID WASTE FUND**..... \$ 282,556

**STORMWATER FUND**..... \$ 0

**METRO AUTHORITY**..... \$ 0

*A detailed Budget is available for public viewing during regular business hours.*



Carbon Monoxide

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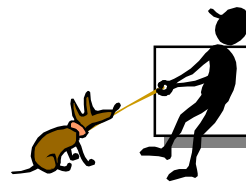
install and maintain alternative heating equipment, monitor the carbon monoxide levels in their home, and use extreme care when burning wood for heat."

The Home Safety Council recommends the following tips to avoid potential dangers:

- Install at least one smoke alarm and CO alarm on every level of your home and near the sleeping areas,
- Have a trained professional inspect, clean and tune-up central heating system and repair leaks,
- Keep gas appliances properly adjusted and serviced
- Never use a cooking stove to heat your home,
- Verify that wood stoves bear the label of a recognized testing laboratory (e.g. UL) and meet local fire codes,
- Burn only wood and be sure the wood stove is placed on an approved stove board to protect the floor from heat and hot embers,
- Keep all flammable objects, including wallpaper, bedding, clothing and pets, at least 36 inches away from fireplaces and wood stoves,
- Open flues when fireplaces are in use,
- Hire a professional sweep to clean your chimney at least once a year to prevent creosote build-up,
- Turn off space heaters before leaving a room or going to sleep,
- Supervise children and pets at all times when a portable space heater is in use,
- Use proper fuel in kerosene space heaters,
- Never use space heaters to dry flammable items such as clothing or blankets,
- Use space heaters in well ventilated areas,
- Keep all flammable objects at least three feet from space heaters.

The Marquette Township Fire Department has a very sensitive meter that can detect Carbon Monoxide and three other common dangerous gases down to 1 part per million. If you suspect that you might have Carbon monoxide present in your home or business in Marquette Township, or simply want the peace of mind that comes with having your residence checked, contact the Fire Department at our non-emergency number of 228-4296.

We will be happy to visit your home or business to perform a Carbon Monoxide screening for you.



## ANIMAL CONTROL

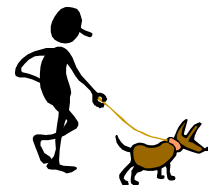
Due to numerous contacts from residents, the Charter Township of Marquette is distributing this information advising you of the responsibilities required of all pet owners, pursuant to State law, Township Ordinance, and community courtesy. Our hope is to gain your compliance so as to avoid future citations, costs, and anguish to you.

Owning a pet brings with it many responsibilities—it's a fact of life! You must keep your pet controlled. You must "clean up" after your pet if it should soil a neighbor's yard – these issues are definitely bothersome to some and yes...it's very understandable.

Currently, under Michigan law...you **can be cited** for having a pet at large/not being properly controlled. Our District Court routinely renders a \$55 - \$75 fine for such occurrences. Basically, "at large" means...not leashed, fenced, or controlled in some positive manner. Clearly, a pet allowed to roam freely, or one not leashed, is or can be a concern to those that live near you. Worse case scenario...a "problem" loose pet issue can lead to a misdemeanor criminal citation. In no way do we, as your elected representatives, expect things to rise to this level – we're better than this as a community.

We are asking that you follow these guidelines and be a good and courteous neighbor – respect the rights of those that live around you. Save yourself the headaches associated with not being a responsible pet owner.

If you observe a pet running loose, dial 9-1-1... don't delay the call. Let Central Dispatch sort out the issue. Your responsibility is to call 9-1-1 and the dispatcher will handle the call from there and prioritize it. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Ray Adamini, Supervisor  
Kathleen Musolf, Clerk  
Lou Myefski, Treasurer  
Karen Lohf, Trustee  
Randy Ritari, Trustee  
Rich Robinson, Trustee  
Linda Winslow, Trustee

**TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES:**

Randy Girard, Manager  
Kirk Page, Superintendent of Public Works  
Tim Haydon, Assessor/Zoning Administrator  
Cindy LaMere, Secretary/Cashier  
Dulcee Pokela, Deputy Treasurer  
Lois Stonehouse, Assistant Clerk  
Joe Greet, Crew Leader  
Barry Marietta, Service Worker  
Leonard Bodenus, Service Worker  
Dave Larson, Service Worker  
Ron DeMarse, Fire Marshal  
Rock Viviano, Inspection/Enforcement Tech.

**NEWSLETTER:**

Randy Girard, Editor  
Cindy LaMere, Production Coordinator

**PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Robert Wright, Chairperson  
Judy Boyle, Secretary  
Rich Robinson  
Ellen Sargent  
Michael Springer

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT**

**AUTHORITY:**

Diane Giddens, Chairperson  
Ray Adamini, Vice-Chairperson  
Tom Wright, Secretary  
Dale Aho  
Louis Lattrel  
Ellen Sargent  
Lynn Swadley  
David Savolainen

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:**

Peg VanOverloop, Chairperson  
Scott Brogan  
John Markes  
Mike Springer  
John Wasmuth

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Robert Sims, Fire Chief  
Dan Pompo, Assistant Chief  
Ron DeMarse, Fire Marshal

**BOARD OF REVIEW:**

Judy Boyle  
Mary Jean Brennan  
John Wasmuth  
Ray Adamini

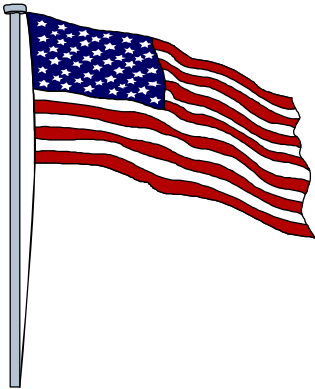
**DEPUTIES:**

Patricia Mayer, Deputy Clerk  
Dulcee Pokela, Deputy Treasurer

**Public Access:** The Township Board meetings may be seen on Channel 8 (Charter Communications Cable T.V.) on a taped delay basis, Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

**Township Meetings:** Township Board meetings are normally held on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Planning Commission meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) meetings are held on a quarterly basis on first Monday of that month at 7:00 p.m. The Recreation Committee meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. All meetings are held at the Township Community Center.

*The public is encouraged to attend!*



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