

# THE TOWNSHIP CRIER

Fall/Winter 2003

Newsletter of the Charter Township of Marquette

Volume 03 Issue 2

## AND THE WINNERS ARE...



At a recent Marquette County Township Association banquet two of our Marquette Township Trustees and our Manager were honored. Manager Randy Girard received County Person of the Year, Trustee Ray Adamini received Volunteer of the Year, and Trustee Robert Atkins received Township Official of the Year (runner-up).

Pictured from left to right — Robert Atkins, Randy Girard, and Ray Adamini.

## *Articles of Interest*

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## **FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK**

**By Randy Girard**

What's New? It's a common question that we hear these days from residents and visitors alike. Not a rhetorical question, but a truly inquisitive one – everyone wants to “be in the loop” regarding the continued growth and expansion of assets within the Township, and there's quite a bit to keep up with! A good source for such information are the minutes of the Township Planning Commission that are posted to the Community Information System

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**FALL/WINTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**OCTOBER**

- 1 Township Recreation Committee Meeting
- 6 Township DDA Meeting
- 7 Township Board Meeting
- 8 Planning Commission Meeting
- 13 Columbus Day Holiday - **OFFICE CLOSED**
- 21 Township Board Brief Business/Work Session
- 22 Planning Commission Meeting

**November**

- 4 Township Board Meeting
- 5 Township Recreation Committee Meeting
- 5 Planning Commission Meeting
- 18 Township Board Brief Business/Work Session
- 19 Planning Commission Meeting
- 27-28 Thanksgiving Day Holiday - **OFFICE CLOSED**

**DECEMBER**

- 2 Township Board Meeting
- 3 Township Recreation Committee Meeting
- 10 Planning Commission Meeting
- 16 Township Board Brief Business/Work Session
- 24-25 Christmas Day Holiday - **OFFICE CLOSED**

**YEAR 2004 - These dates are subject to change**

**JANUARY**

- 1 New Year's Day Holiday - **OFFICE CLOSED**
- 6 Township Board Meeting
- 7 Township Recreation Committee Meeting
- 12 Township DDA Meeting
- 14 Planning Commission Meeting
- 20 Township Board Brief Business/Work Session
- 28 Planning Commission Meeting

**FEBRUARY**

- 3 Township Board Meeting
- 4 Township Recreation Committee Meeting
- 11 Planning Commission Meeting
- 16 President's Day Holiday - **OFFICE CLOSED**
- 25 Planning Commission Meeting

**MARCH**

- 2 Township Board Meeting
- 3 Township Recreation Committee Meeting
- 10 Planning Commission Meeting
- 16 Township Board Brief Business/Work Session
- 24 Planning Commission Meeting



**Comments From  
Max H. Muelle, Supervisor**

It seems like it was just a few weeks ago that we mailed out the Spring edition of our newsletter and behold fall is here. The past summer was certainly not uneventful but not as productive as it was in the previous summer for various reasons. The sluggish economy reduced commercial building starts somewhat.

Roads scheduled for improvement work for this construction season include County Road HV (Weiland Road) and County Road HJ (Lake Enchantment Road). Due to the late starting date these projects more than likely will not be completed this year.

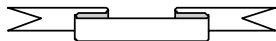
Our records show that we have twenty new homes this year, which compares to fourteen for the same time period last year. We continue to grow in housing with the addition of Chapel Ridge Subdivision (12 units) and Bishop Woods Subdivision No. 4 (25 units). We welcome all the new residents to our community. Please do not hesitate to call if you have difficulties that we can help you with. In the business area, we welcome the new Marq-Tran Transportation Center, Kohls, Pier One Imports and Jimmy B's Timber Creek Steakhouse.

Our road improvement program has slowed considerably. This was caused mainly by the Dead River flood. The County Road Commission, who does the road improvement work got way behind because of the road repair work caused by the flood damage. The roads included for this year are

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Weiland Road (County Road HV) and Lake Enchantment Road (County Road HJ). These two roads will not be completed this year because of the late start. As you are aware, the County Road Commission does most of the work on road reconstruction and is responsible for fifty percent of the project cost with the Township paying the other fifty percent.

These are some of the highlights of the past summer which went by so fast. Ever wonder why the winter months go by so slowly? Have a nice fall and winter. Any problems, please call me at the office 228-6220 or at home at 226-2180.



**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Property Maintenance Appeals Board**

The Charter Township of Marquette is accepting applications for appointment to the Property Maintenance Appeals Board. The purpose of the Appeals Board is to hear disputes regarding decisions made by the code official or a notice or order issued under the Property Maintenance code. This is a 5-member board consisting of one Township Board member and four residents of the Township to be appointed by the Township Board. The initial terms will be staggered as follows: three years for two members, five years for two members and 1 year for the Township Board member. Thereafter, each new member shall serve for five years.

An application may be picked up at the Marquette Township office located at 161 County Road 492, or may be printed off our website of [www.mqtinfo.org](http://www.mqtinfo.org) then click on "Local Government", under "Marquette Township" click on "Application for Board, Commissions and Committee Positions".

**Planning Commission Projects**  
**By Mark Woolard, Township Planner**

The Township Planning Commission has been working on several Zoning Ordinance amendments including access management, signs, bulk regulations, non-motorized trails, and planned unit developments.

The Commission continues to work on updating the Marquette Township Comprehensive Development Plan. Many people ask "What is a Township Comprehensive Plan"? It is an official document authorized by Michigan Law and adopted by the Township Planning Commission. The overall purpose of the plan is to formulate public policies in which to promote the public health, safety and general welfare.

The plan provides the blueprint as to what the community envisions the future character of the Township should be. It serves as the basis for a zoning ordinance, which is the primary tool used to implement the plan's goals and objectives. It also guides land use decisions on development and public capital improvements and should protect property rights by allowing individuals to invest in their property with a certain degree of expectation about the future surroundings. This is accomplished by regulating and prohibiting appropriate and inappropriate land uses, given the market demands, community character, environmental conditions, the availability and capacity of public infrastructure and services, and relationships to other existing or planned land uses.

Generally a comprehensive plan includes goals, a future land use plan and a variety of other elements. The additional elements include economic or market analysis, long range transportation plans, trail plans, environmental resources management, housing, community facilities and services, recreation, utility plans, and implementation steps such as a capital improvement plan.

**Water Supply Improvements  
By Kirk Page**

All public water delivered to your home or business and all public water used for fire protection in Marquette Township comes from a million gallon reservoir located on Cox Avenue, behind the Marquette Township Fire Hall. This welded steel structure, constructed in 1974, was completely renovated this spring and summer.

This project was completed for a total cost of \$111,830. The contractor was MK Painting Inc. of Lincoln Park, Michigan. Engineering and construction inspection services were provided by Nelson Tank Engineering & Consulting, Inc. of Lansing, Michigan.



Marquette Township Website

Go to **[www.mqtinfo.org](http://www.mqtinfo.org)**

Click on “Local Government”

Click on “Marquette Township”



Marquette Township water tank located on Cox Avenue.

**LEAF AND BRUSH DROP OFF SCHEDULE**

To dispose of leaves, grass clippings, garden debris, or brush, Marquette Township residents may use a drop off area located on County Road 492 across from the Marquette Township Center. A second site will be the southwest corner of Summit and Erie, north of Kiddie Park, and immediately west of Lion's Field. **These sites will be open for drop off from Saturday, October 4, 2003 through Sunday, October 26, 2003.** Two dumpsters will be located at each site. One dumpster is for leaves and garden/yard waste; the other dumpster is for brush/tree limbs a maximum of three (3) inches in diameter, cut in four (4) foot lengths.

**Household refuse may not be left at these sites.** Residents are requested to place their empty plastic bags in the barrel provided, not in the dumpsters. The leaf and brush drop off is for Marquette Township residents only, please.

State law prohibits compostable yard debris from being disposed of at Michigan landfills. Compostable materials cannot be included in weekly garbage collections or accepted at the transfer station.

**Illegal Dumping Will Not Be Tolerated**

This service is entirely funded by and is provided for Marquette Township Residential Garbage Customers.

As an alternative to disposal of yard wastes, residents are encouraged to use these materials as mulch or compost in their own gardens. Compost and mulches add essential nutrients and help to maintain moisture in your soil.



**Can't Wait For Spring Clean-Up?**

Marquette Township residents are welcome to use the Waste Management Transfer Station located off the US 41 by-pass at 910 W. Baraga Avenue to dispose of household debris/refuse items.

Hours are as follows:

- Office Hours: Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
- Hours for disposal: Monday through Friday  
8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.  
and  
Saturday 9:00 a.m.—12:00 a.m.
- Recyclables: Monday and Thursday  
3:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Waste Management will accept Type III household debris generated within the Township at the Transfer Station at no charge from residential garbage customers. Type III household debris includes: furniture, household appliances, water heaters, televisions, mattress and box springs, etc. Residents disposing of building material, construction material, tires, carpeting or yard waste will be charged Waste Management's current rate.

You may wish to telephone the Township office prior to bringing your items to the Transfer Station, we will alert Waste Management that a Township resident will be bringing in items for disposal at no charge; or, you may bring a utility bill listing garbage charges to identify yourself as a Township residential garbage customer. For more information contact Waste Management at 228-2028.

**Christmas Tree Pick-Up**

There will be a curbside collection of Christmas trees in early January 2004. Please watch for the schedule to be announced in the Mining Journal.

### Property Taxes

The County will mail the 2003 winter property tax bills during the last week of November. Collection will begin on Monday, December 1, 2003. Payments will be accepted at the Township office from 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

After September 14, 2003, unpaid 2003 summer property tax bills will incur interest and penalty charges unless the property owner qualifies for deferment. An application for deferment can be picked up at the Township office or printed off our web site. Summer taxes can be paid at the Township office until February 27, 2004, during normal business hours.

All unpaid summer and winter taxes will be turned over to the Marquette County Treasurer on March 1, 2004, as delinquent with additional penalties and interest added.

Please contact the Treasurer's office at 228-6220 if you have any questions.

### Will There Ever Be Electronic Funds Transfer?

The Marquette Community Federal Credit Union and the Township have been working together to make this service available to Marquette Township residents to pay utility bills and taxes. We will keep you posted of our progress via the website using the following three steps:

1. Go to [www.mqtinfo.org](http://www.mqtinfo.org)
2. Click on "Local Government"
3. Click on "Treasurer's Department" under "Marquette Township"

However, in the meantime the utility bill can be paid either at Marquette Community Federal Credit Union or First National Bank of Negaunee - the Mqt Twp branch only; and of course, you may still pay at our office or mail your payment in.

### Just a reminder— Delinquent Property Taxes

#### **Just a reminder:**

The law has changed concerning delinquent property taxes and the length of time a property can be delinquent before tax sale procedures are initiated. Previously, the old law allowed three (3) years and now the current law has shortened that time to one (1) year.

If you would like additional information or have concerns about your property, please contact the Treasurer's Office at 228-6220.

### Year 2004 Dog Licenses

Year 2004 County Dog Licenses are for sale at the Township Office beginning Monday, December 1, 2003. A rabies certificate stating vaccination tag number and expiration date is required at the time of purchase. Any dog found without a current dog license is subject to a citation with a minimum fine of \$50.00 plus costs.

Licenses may be purchased Monday through Friday, until May 31, 2004, at the Township Office from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### Homestead Exemptions

Beginning on January 1, 2004, new legislation was enacted that will change the name of the Homestead Exemption. The new title will be "Principal Residence Exemption". Please note: Properties already receiving the Homestead Exemption do not need to file a new form. The new forms will be required for exemptions after January 1, 2004.

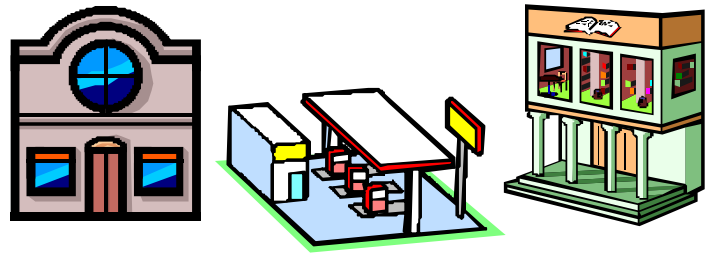
The date for filing the exemption has been changed from May 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**From The Manager's Desk**  
Continued from Page 1.

website that is available on-line at [www.mqtinfo.org](http://www.mqtinfo.org). Click on "Local Government", then on "Marquette Township", and finally on "Planning Commission" to access the most recent minutes and the archives. Some of the projects that we've recently been asked about include:

- Kohl's is well on the way to completion and opening for their target date in early October;
- Home Depot advises that they are still pursuing the purchase of a suitable location, and intend to move forward with a Marquette store;
- Jimmy B's Timber Ridge Steakhouse has begun construction next to the Days Inn;
- MarqTran has broken ground for their new transportation facility on Commerce Drive behind the Westwood Mall. Building construction is expected to begin this fall.
- Schwemwood Park, located off Co. Rd. 492 near the Township Hall and Lost Creek will begin to take shape yet this fall. The park will provide a rustic setting with a walking trail and nature viewing areas.
- Lion's Field has a new field layout, playing surface, and in ground sprinkling system to complete phase one of a three-phase renovation. Phase two and phase three are anticipated for completion in 2004 and 2005 respectively, and include new fencing and backstop; bleacher relocation and reconstruction; player facilities; and, an updated parking plan. Lion's Field is expected to be back in service for next spring.

With our available land resources and excellent public services, Marquette Township remains the preferred location for residential and commercial development. A number of additional projects are on the horizon, watch future issues of the Crier for updates.



**BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE**  
**"Grow With the Gold"**

The summer proved to be a wonderful year for flower growing. The flowers truly did grow as "gold". The volunteers planted flowers along the highway in Marquette Township, the Marquette Township Hall, at Vandebloom School and the flower beds at the road entrances to the Township. Thank you to the volunteers who prepared the flower areas; tilling, fertilizing, planting, weeding, and tending the flower beds all summer long. Thank you to past committee members and officers for the wonderful jobs they have done throughout the years. Thank you to the township businesses and township members who have contributed materials and monetarily for the beautification projects.

As we prepare for the 2004 beautification projects we ask for your support. We will continue to need those volunteers to plant and prepare in the spring, weed in the summer, and support the projects we have planned. We hope to continue to "grow with the gold" by planting some spring bulbs this fall.

Contributions are welcome throughout the year. This year we spent money on flowers, watering, mulch, postage and signage. You may send your contributions to:

Marquette Township Beautification Committee  
Attn: Linda Winslow  
2502 Norwood Street  
Marquette, MI 49855

Linda L. Winslow  
Beautification Chairperson



Spring Planting Day  
June 6, 2003

Pictured from left to right—  
Jim Pafford, Board Trustee  
Kathe Musolf, Township Clerk  
Max Muelle, Township Supervisor

Pictured from left to right—  
Kathy Thorrington  
Judy Boyle, Planning Commission  
Nancy Mattson, Zoning Board of  
Appeals



Pictured from left to right—  
Peg VanOverloop, Zoning Board of  
Appeals  
Ken Chrisman, Planning Commission







Pictured from left to right—

- Marilyn Keefe
- Mary Beals
- Laurie Weesen
- Sandy Pearson
- Kay Tauch

Pictured from left to right—

- Amy Adamini
- Carol McGlynn
- Jeaneane Adamini
- Mary Adamini
- Gina Adamini
- Carolyn Severson



Pictured from left to right—

- Sue Zhulki
- Carol Johnson
- Barbara Hutchinson



## Fall Fire Safety Tips

### Save Lives

Fire safety is a year-round concern, but most fires happen in the fall and winter months. Here's a roundup of fall fire safety tips to keep your family safe and sound.

#### Cozy up to a safe fireplace

Fireplaces are involved in thousands of home fires each year, according to the National Fire Protection Association. The association offers safety reminders before you toss a log on the fire. For example, have your chimney inspected annually and cleaned when needed. Creosote, the buildup of deposits, is a top reason for fireplace fires. In addition, cracks can allow poisonous carbon monoxide to seep into your home. And finally, a thorough inspection will remove any animals that may have built a home in your chimney during the summer.

The fire protection association also suggests the use of fireplace screens to keep sparks from floating out. In addition, don't leave your home or go out or go to bed with a fire left burning. And if you have a gas fireplace, have all the connections and lines checked. Finally be sure to burn only dry, seasoned hardwoods.

#### Change your clock and change your battery

It's a rite of passage to change your clock in the fall, but it's also time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms. Be sure there are working smoke alarms on each floor of your home, particularly outside of sleeping areas. Approximately 20 percent of alarms don't work because of dead or missing batteries. In addition to replacing smoke alarm batteries every year, smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. The Marquette Township Fire Department has a "SAFE AT HOME PROGRAM" and the Fire Department provides Free Smoke Detectors to Marquette Township residents. Fire Department personnel will even

install your new smokes detectors for you if you wish! Our fire prevention division will conduct a free home safety inspection at any time.

Families should also keep and learn how to select and use a fire extinguisher in places where there's a risk of fire, such as a home workshop or the kitchen. Install fire extinguishers near exits and check them periodically according to manufacture's specifications.

#### Have an escape plan in place

Be sure you have a family fire escape plan and practice it regularly. Have an escape route for each area of your home and a designated meeting place outside. Draw a map of the escape plan and make it easy for all members of the family to understand. Train everyone to stay low to the ground when escaping a fire. If you must travel through smoke to your exit, crawl and keep your head at a level of 12-24 inches above the floor.

Windows may provide a secondary means of escape from a burning home. For two-story homes, you may want to purchase a non-combustible escape ladder that's tested and listed by an independent testing laboratory. Store the ladder permanently near the window. Escape ladders are available at most hardware stores. Buy one that hooks and hangs away from the house, rather than right up against it. And practice deploying the ladder and that includes practicing how to use it from a first floor widow. A real fire is not the time to learn!

#### Keep Kids Safe From Fire

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 232 people were killed in 2002, and \$235 million in property was destroyed in fires attributed to children playing with fire. These are preventable fires. Here are some fire safety tips for every household with children.

- Store matches and cigarette lighters up high and out of sight and reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet.

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- Teach children to tell an adult if they find matches or lighters.
- Identify and eliminate fire and burn hazards in your home.
- Be a role model with such items as candles and fireplaces. Never play with fire. Children emulate adult behavior.
- Teach your children how to report an emergency. Post 9-1-1 stickers and other emergency numbers near your telephones.
- Have your children memorize their home telephone number and address, including city and state. Plus, teach them to get out first and then call for help.
- Teach the "stop, drop and roll" technique for cloths on fire. For those who use wheelchairs, learn how to use a rug or heavy fabric to smother flames.

Residents are encourage to call the Marquette Township Fire Department at 228-4296 with any questions concerning Fire Safety, Home Safety, our resident CPR program, or our "Beginning Baby Sitter" program. All of our services are provided free of charge to Marquette Township residents.  
Thank you.

Ron DeMarse  
Mqt Twp Fire Marshal



**Emergency Locator Light  
And  
The File of Life**

Triad of Marquette County has a BRIGHT IDEA for senior citizens living in Marquette County. It's a light bulb that can actually help emergency crews find your home. The EMERGENCY LOCATOR LIGHT is being made available for those over the age of 60 and/or those with disabilities.

The EMERGENCY LOCATOR LIGHT is an ordinary light bulb that becomes a flashing signal for help with a flip of a switch. The bulb fits any standard light bulb socket and can be used as your porch or yard light.

In an emergency, call 911 and let them know your front light will be flashing.

Then simply flip your light switch twice and the EMERGENCY LOCATOR LIGHT flashes, pinpointing your location to direct police, fire and rescue personnel right to your door. To cancel the flashing light, simply turn the light switch off.

Another item that is also available is the FILE OF LIFE. The FILE OF LIFE is a plastic pouch with a magnetic strip on the back in which you put a copy of your medical/emergency papers and then place on the refrigerator or in the glove compartment of your vehicle. In case of an emergency, trained EMS personnel have been instructed to look in these locations to help you.

Both the FILE OF LIFE and the EMERGENCY LOCATOR LIGHT are available through the Marquette Township Fire Department. If you would like either of these items or would need more information, please call the Township Fire Department at 228-4296.

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Max H. Muelle, Supervisor  
Kathleen Musolf, Clerk  
Carol Huempfer, Treasurer  
Ray Adamini, Trustee  
Robert Atkins, Trustee  
William Musolf, Trustee  
Jim Pafford, Trustee

**TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES:**

Randy Girard, Manager  
Kirk Page, Superintendent of Public Works  
Tim Haydon, Assessor/Zoning Administrator  
Mark Woolard, Planner  
Cindy LaMere, Secretary/Cashier  
Dulcee Pokela, Deputy Treasurer  
Faye Wetton, Accounts Clerk  
Lois Stonehouse, Assistant Clerk  
Lou Hutchings, Building & Grounds Caretaker  
Joe Greet, Crew Leader  
Michael Musolf, Service Worker  
Barry Marietta, Service Worker  
Leonard Bodenus, Service Worker

**NEWSLETTER:**

Randy Girard, Editor  
Cindy LaMere, Production Coordinator

**PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Alexandra Michaels, Chairperson  
Robert Wright, Vice-Chairperson  
Judy Boyle, Secretary  
Ray Adamini  
Ken Chrisman  
William Davis  
Linda Goodman

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:**

Ellen Sargent, Chairperson  
Max H. Muelle, Vice-Chairperson  
Dale Aho  
Diane Giddens  
Louis Lattrel  
Richard Robinson  
Lynn Swadley  
Tom Wright

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:**

Peg VanOverloop, Chairperson  
Nancy Mattson, Secretary  
Ken Chrisman  
Max H. Muelle  
John Was muth

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Robert Sims, Fire Chief  
Michael Farrell, Assistant Chief  
Ron DeMarse, Fire Marshal

**BOARD OF REVIEW:**

Mary Jean Brennan  
Karen Lohf  
Max H. Muelle  
John Wasmuth

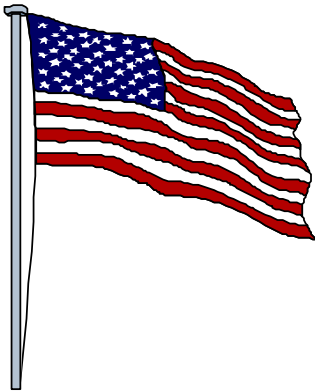
**DEPUTIES:**

Linda Winslow, 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 Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. and a brief business meeting followed by a work session on the 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 10:30 a.m. All meetings are held at the Township Community Center.

*The public is invited to attend.*



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MARQUETTE  
161 COUNTY ROAD 492  
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN 49855**

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