



**Marquette Downtown Development Authority**

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**Marquette Commons Ice Rink Opens for the Season**

Bundle up, grab your ice skates, and get ready to take a spin around the rink at the Marquette Commons! The Marquette Commons ice rink is open for free ice skating, weather permitting, Thursdays through Sundays from noon to 8 p.m. The rink is always available for skating at other times; however, the warming house may not be available and groomed ice is not guaranteed at times other than the posted hours. Ice skate rentals are not available at the Marquette Commons.

The rink's surface is dependent on below-freezing temperatures to preserve the quality of the ice. While our maintenance staff works diligently to flood the surface in times of cold temperatures, the slightest thaw can compromise its integrity, forcing the closure of the rink for public skating. We make every attempt to notify the public of the rink's closure with announcements updated regularly on the DDA website, <https://downtownmarquette.org/>, and Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/downtownmarquette/>. We encourage skaters to check these sources to verify the rink's status when planning to skate.

Users of the Marquette Commons ice rink and facility are reminded that parking is available in the Marquette Commons Parking Lot, located directly adjacent to the north side of the plaza. Please note, the Pathways Parking Lot to the south of the plaza is privately owned and not available for public parking.



Ice skating at the Marquette Commons

**UP200 & Midnight Run Kick Off Downtown**

The UP200, an Iditarod qualifying race, is one of America's premier twelve-dog, mid-distance sled dog races and draws mushers from around the United States and Canada. Coinciding with the UP200 is the eight-dog Midnight Run, a race from Marquette to Chatham and returning to Marquette. The Midnight Run, or MNR, draws premier teams wanting to test their skill on a technically challenging trail.



UP200  
Photo credit: Brittany Munger

Celebrate the start of both races in Downtown Marquette on Friday evening, February 15, beginning with the Opening Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. in front of The Mining Journal on the 200 block of West Washington Street. UP200 teams will hit the trail at 7 p.m., followed by Midnight Run teams at 8 p.m. The race route is set on Washington Street, heading east along Lakeshore Boulevard.

Washington Street will be closed in preparation for the race beginning Thursday night, February 14, at 10 p.m. and is scheduled to re-open Saturday morning by 8:30 a.m.

UP200 mushers are expected to return to Mattson Lower Harbor Park on Sunday, February 17, between 12 noon and 3 p.m. For more information, visit <http://www.up200.org/>.

**Kiddie Mutt Races Provide Family Fun**

The Marquette Kiwanis Club will sponsor the annual Kiddie Mutt Races at the Marquette Commons, 112 South Third Street, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 16. Dog sleds will be available for those who would like to bring their children and family dog to join in the fun of mushing. This event is weather dependent.



Kiddie Mutt Races

**UP200 Warm Up Parties Hosted Downtown**

In addition to all of the restaurants and businesses in Marquette's Downtown District that will be gearing up for the UP200 spectators, several businesses and organizations will be hosting warm up parties between and during the sled dog races, all of which are open to the public.

**Marquette DDA at the Commons**

- 112 South Third Street
- 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Warm up by the fire and enjoy the soothing sounds of Jim and Ray
- Complimentary restrooms

**The Nature Conservancy**

- 101 South Front Street, Suite 105
- 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Join The Nature Conservancy at their open house for cocoa and cookies during the dog sled races.

**U.P. Children's Museum**

- 123 West Baraga Avenue
- 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Slice of pizza & a cookie for \$1, hot cocoa
- Sled-dog themed activities



**Yoop-Phoria**

- 156 West Washington Street
- 12 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- \$4 crepes; add coffee or hot cocoa for \$1.50

<https://downtownmarquette.org/up-200-midnight-run-sled-dog-races/>

## DDA Welcomes New Businesses to the Downtown District

### Superior Design



Superior Design

On Thursday, December 6, **Superior Design** held a grand opening for their new location at 621 North Third Street in Downtown Marquette. Superior Design offers graphic design, sign and banner printing, photography, and videography services. Pictured, from left to right, is Andy Ferns, owner and Chief Fun Operator for Superior Design and Rebecca Salmon, DDA Assistant Director.

### MQT Dry Ice



MQT Dry Ice

On January 8, the DDA welcomed **MQT Dry Ice** to their production location in Marquette's Downtown District. MQT Dry Ice offers large quantities of wholesale dry ice direct, with smaller quantities available for pick up at Meijer in Marquette.

Pictured, from left to right, is MQT Dry Ice owner Dominic Smigiel; MQT Dry Ice owner Steven Williams; and DDA Executive Director, Mona Lang.

### Flagstar Bank



Flagstar Bank

On Tuesday, January 22, the DDA welcomed **Flagstar Bank** to their new location at 101 West Washington Street. Flagstar Bank offers exceptional full-service banking and lending expertise with a distinctive, personal focus.

Pictured, from left to right is Tony Retaskie, DDA Board Chair; Kelly Ross, Flagstar Bank Branch Manager; Tara Laase-McKinney, DDA Promotions and Events Coordinator; Sean Geary, Flagstar Bank Regional Manager; Gary Wolf, Flagstar Bank Branch Integration Director-Quad State and First Vice President; and Mona Lang, DDA Executive Director.

## Downtown Businesses Support Furloughed Federal Workers

Several businesses in Marquette's Downtown District are helping to ease the pain of the government shutdown for federal workers:

- **Synergy Fitness:** Free three month membership for federal workers with federal I.D.
- **U.P. Children's Museum:** Free admission to families and children of federal workers.
- **Babycakes Muffin Company:** Free coffee and muffin for furloughed federal workers.
- **Border Grill:** Free meal to furloughed workers every day until government shutdown is over. Available in all three locations. Federal I.D. required.
- **DIGS Gastropub:** Bring in your federal I.D. for a free meal for the duration of the shutdown.



## Blueberry Festival Vendor Registration to Open February 5



Blueberry Festival

Downtown businesses, artisans, food vendors, and nonprofit organizations are invited to register for a booth during the 18th annual Blueberry Festival on Friday, July 26, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Washington and Front Streets in Marquette's Downtown District. Vendor registration will open Tuesday, February 5, and run through Friday, May 24.

The popular festival features all day sidewalk sales and specials, children's activities, local performances, demonstrations, and live "Blueberry Jam" music on Center Stage. If you're interested in participating as a vendor in the Blueberry Festival, please visit our website, <https://downtownmarquette.org/blueberry-festival/>. For more information, contact the DDA at 906-228-9475 or email [Tara@downtownmarquette.org](mailto:Tara@downtownmarquette.org).

## Marquette Regional History Center Hosts Museum After Dark



On Saturday, February 16, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the **Marquette Regional History Center** will host an exciting family adventure called "Museum After Dark". Encounter historical figures, see rare artifacts, and hunt for others. Each year a new theme brings the exhibits to life after dark. Snacks, hands-on activities, and surprises await. For ages 7 and up. Advance ticket purchases are recommended, but they can also be purchased at the door: \$9 for 18 and under, \$5 for adult accompanying youth, and \$7 for an individual adult. For more information, email [jbays@marquettehistory.org](mailto:jbays@marquettehistory.org) or call 906-226-3571.

## Spotlight On Business!



Welcome to the Downtown District:

### Marquette Artist Collective

130 West Washington Street, Suite U-7  
Marquette, MI 49855

<https://www.facebook.com/mqtartistcollective/>

906-362-5510

*Dan's Bridal & Tuxedo has moved to a new location and is under new ownership. Welcome, Emma Cole!*

### Dan's Bridal & Tuxedo

203 South Front Street, Suite 1-B  
Marquette, MI 49855

<https://www.facebook.com/DansBridalAndTuxedo/>

906-236-0378

Business in the News:

**Stucko's Pub & Grill**, 900 North Third Street, received a fun mention recently at <https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/m.../unhealthy-resolutions-mi/>. From poutine to salads, Stucko's has something for everyone!

### Comments and Suggestions Welcome

This newsletter is brought to you by the Marquette Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to keep you informed of progress, developments, and changes within the Downtown District. We welcome any suggestions or comments. If you have any news items you would like covered in future issues of *Building Blocks* please contact Rebecca Salmon at [Becky@downtownmarquette.org](mailto:Becky@downtownmarquette.org). Visit [www.downtownmarquette.org](http://www.downtownmarquette.org) for more information on these articles.