

Escanaba Express

Issue No. 167 | May Edition



May News Roundup

March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb, April threw us for a loop! With blizzards, thunderstorms, and days hitting 60 degrees, this month seemed determined to keep us on our toes.

On April 3rd, we weathered a pretty rough storm. Some woke up to power outages and yards strewn with branches and low-hanging lines. A big thank you goes out to residents who reported issues, lent a hand to neighbors, and showed patience as the City tackled the cleanup. We feel that residents really exemplified the Escanaba spirit of resiliency and kindness during this storm.

We'd also like to give a shout out to all of our crews from Public Works, Electric, and Water/Wastewater, along with our Public Safety Officers who worked overtime to make sure power was restored and people were safe.

Looking into May, we're excited for all of the upcoming events that will be happening in and around Escanaba.

On May 3rd, there is a Food Truck Rally on the Municipal Dock and on May 16th, the library is hosting an author talk with Rod Sadler who will be discussing his newest True Crime novel.

We also want to remind Escanaba residents about our Spring Voucher program kicking off this month. You can get your \$10 voucher to the landfill at the Utility Window in City Hall. There are limited amounts, so make sure you get yours soon!

As always, we want to remind readers to send in their photos of Escanaba to becklid@escanaba.org for a chance to be featured in the Escanaba Express! We love seeing Escanaba through your eyes.

Here's to a happy and safe May!

- City Staff

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Community
Updates

Community
Events

Department
Updates

Helpful
Information

Community
Photos

City Services &
Information

Upcoming Public Meetings

05/02/2024	7:00 pm	City Council
05/09/2024	6:00 pm	Planning Commission
05/14/2024	4:30 pm	Housing Commission
05/14/2024	5:00 pm	Harbor Advisory Committee
05/14/2024	6:00 pm	Recreation Advisory Board
05/16/2024	7:00 pm	City Council
05/20/2024	5:00 pm	Board of Library Trustees
05/23/2024	8:15 am	Downtown Development Authority
05/28/2024	8:00 am	Public Safety Retirement Board

Upcoming Public Events

05/03/2024	6:30 pm	Adult Paint Night - NLYMCA
05/03/2024	4:00 pm	Food Truck Rally 2024 - Municipal Dock
05/04/2024	All Day	Cabin Fever Craft Show - Ruth Butler Building
05/11/2024	10:00 am	Delta Plaza Mall Spring Craft Show
05/11/2024	1:00 pm	Mother's Day Paint Party - Bonifas Arts Center
05/16/2024	6:00 pm	Author Talk with Rod Sadler - Escanaba Public Library
05/17/2024	All Day	EMS Conference - Bay College
05/18/2024	6:00 PM	Live at Leigh's: The House Band - Leigh's Garden
05/22/2024	5:00 pm	Gardening Tips With Dave Gafner - Bonifas Arts Center
05/31/2024	All Day	Krusin Klassics Fun Run



Library News

This month we are excited to kick off our Author Talk series on May 16th with Rod Sadler, who will be discussing his latest book, "Grim Paradise". This true crime novel delves into the unsolved murder of Frances Lacey in the 1960s. As a seasoned law enforcement veteran, Sadler takes readers on a captivating journey through the twists and turns of this decades-long mystery.

Our local writing group, Ink Society, meets on the 4th and welcomes all interested individuals to join us for a meeting. On the 11th, our Lego Club celebrates the season with a May theme of "Baby Animals".

Toddler Time meets every Wednesday. It's a fantastic chance for toddlers to make friends, explore new experiences, and dive into the wonders of storytelling. As a reminder, this program does require registration.

Having issues with a new tablet or kindle? Stop in for Tech Tuesday every Tuesday at 11:00 am and one of our librarians will help you.

There is always something for the curious and the creative at the Library. For more information on these events and more, visit us at www.escanabalibrary.org.



Recreation News

May kicks off with a Food Truck Rally on the 3rd at the Municipal Dock! Swing by for lunch from Grateful Cheese or Curious Pig starting at 11:00 am. Then, at 4:00 pm, Lacatrina, Tumbleweeds, and Wildmans join the lineup, serving up a variety of delicious eats until 8:00 pm. Don't miss out on kickstarting your weekend adventures with something amazing!

The Recreation Department would also like to extend a thank you to the Hannahville Indian Community and the Escanaba Elk's Lodge #354 for their generous grant money, allowing us to purchase a Mobi-chair for the Escanaba

Municipal Beach. Mobi-Chairs are floating beach wheelchairs that allow wheelchair users to transition from the sand to the water. This chair will be free to use and housed at the Beachhouse.

Make sure to check out the Facebook page for lots of fun events and programming coming up, like the soccer program and spring aerobics.

For more information about our programming and upcoming events, don't hesitate to reach out to us at (906) 786-4141.



Public Safety News

Public Safety officials would like to remind the public about the dangers of fentanyl. Recently, there have been several fentanyl-related awareness events in the area, prompted by a sharp increase in drug-related deaths involving the substance across the US.

Fake pills are the primary cause behind the growing number of fentanyl-related deaths among young people. It is important for parents and caregivers to have open and age-appropriate conversations with their children about the drug.

Fentanyl is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine.

In 2020, 76% of drug deaths in people 14-26 involved fentanyl.

To reduce the risk, it's crucial to only take pills prescribed by a doctor, avoid mixing substances, and watch out for one another. Maintaining clear and open communication with your children helps them feel comfortable enough to speak up and seek help in potentially dangerous situations.

We understand that these discussions can be difficult, but by coming together as a community and taking practical steps like those mentioned above, we can begin pushing back against fentanyl.



Planning & Zoning News

The Planning & Zoning Department has a few meetings in May. On the 9th at 6:00 pm, the Planning Commission meets to discuss a few different issues of importance including a Special Land Use application for a proposed ice cream store, a proposed motor vehicle maintenance ordinance, and the proposed 2024 Capital Improvement Plan.

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets on the 21st at 6:00 pm to look over a variance request. As always, the public is encouraged to attend both meetings.

Residents who are concerned about zoning violations are encouraged to contact the Department or fill out a complaint form, which can be provided if asked. We are working hard to make Escanaba a safer place for everyone.

The Planning & Zoning Department is ready to assist you with any questions regarding permitting, zoning, or planning in the City. Please feel free to reach us at 906-786-9402. Escanaba works better when we act together.



Utilities/ Public Works News

Public Works has been keeping busy over the last month with tree trimming and are making great progress with the backlog of problem trees. They were able to clean up from the storm in three days, a job that previously would have taken them a month for a similar-sized storm. The department would also like to thank the residents for their patience during the cleanup and for their supportive comments toward the crews.

The Department is also planning some long-term work in area parks and playgrounds. While the playgrounds have served residents well, it is time to look at some updates and fixes so that future generations can enjoy them, too.

The Department would also like to remind residents to remember to get a Spring Clean Up Voucher at City Hall this year!

The Water/Wastewater Department is staying busy with major projects happening throughout the City. While the work can be disruptive, crews are working fast to make sure that residents have access to clean drinking water and safe roads. They would like to thank the public for their understanding and patience during these projects and assure residents that they are doing everything they can to keep the disruptions to a minimum.

The Department is also hosting informational meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month in the Council Chambers in City Hall at 6:00 p.m. The meeting subjects will vary by month but will help the public understand and prepare for upcoming City projects that may impact them. The public is encouraged to attend.

The Electric Department would like to remind the public about their Energy Optimization Program. The program is for residential, commercial, and industrial customers who would like to reduce their energy usage, lower costs, and earn rebates. To qualify, you must be an electric utility customer through the City of Escanaba and your account must be current. The appliances must also be labeled with a blue Energy Star logo.

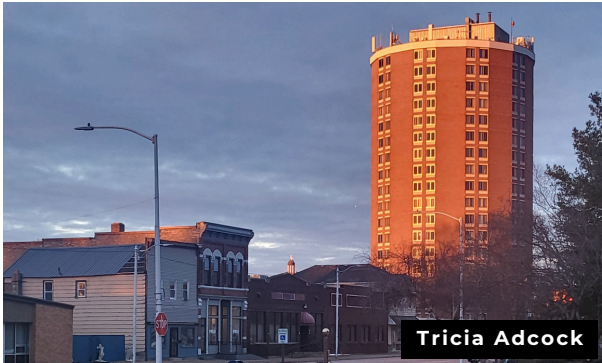
A full listing of rebates and applications are available at:
www.escanaba.org/electric/page/energy-optimization-program

Questions can be directed to 906-786-0061 or cityelectric@escanaba.org

Electrical Department	906-789-0061	Engineering Department	906-786-1842
Water Department	906-786-3291	Wastewater Department	906-786-1301
Public Works Department	906-786-1842		

Community Lens

Calling all residents of Escanaba with a knack for photography! We want to showcase your talent in our newsletter. Send your best photos of Escanaba to becklid@escanaba.org along with your name and contact details for a chance to be featured!



All photos are credited to their photographers, honoring their creativity and ownership. Join us in celebrating photography with respect and recognition for the talented individuals behind the lens.

Boards and Commissions

Board of Equalization and Review - 1st Tues following 1st Mon in March

Board of Library Trustees - 4th Mon of the month at 5:00 pm

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority - at the call of the Chair

City Council - the 1st and 3rd Thurs of the month at 7:00 pm

Downtown Development Authority - 4th Thurs of the month at 8:00 am

Electrical Advisory Committee - Every Jan, April, July, and Oct on the 2nd Wed at 4:00 pm

Harbor Advisory Committee - 2nd Tues of the month at 5:00 pm

Historic District Commission - Every March, June, Sept, and Dec on the 3rd Mon at 4:00 pm

Housing Commission - 2nd Thurs of the month at 6:00 pm

Planning Commission - 2nd Tues of the month at 4:30 pm

Public Safety Retirement Board - 4th Tues of the month at 8:00 am

Recreation Board - 2nd Tues of the month at 6:00 pm

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - 3rd Tues of the month at 6:00 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals - 1st Tues of Jan, April, July, and Oct at 6:00 pm

Joining city boards and commissions is not just civic duty—it's an opportunity to shape the very fabric of your community.

Your voice, expertise, and passion can drive positive change, influencing local policies and decisions directly. It's a chance to be a proactive force in building a better, more vibrant Escanaba for everyone.

Join today, and let your commitment be the catalyst for a brighter tomorrow!

If interested in applying, or for more information, go to www.escanaba.org/bc or email clerk@escanaba.org.

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

The work that boards and commissions do shouldn't be a mystery. Each month we go over one board or commission, explain what they do, and give you information on how you can get involved!

In 1997, Escanaba's City Council decided that creating a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority would be in the best interest of the public. The City of Escanaba Brownfield Authority (CEBRA) designates Brownfield redevelopment zones and individual properties that are functionally obsolete or are likely to be environmentally distressed pursuant to Act 381 of 1996.

The goal of this Authority is to encourage the reuse and redevelopment of property which is less desirable than "greenfields" – property which has not been previously developed by reimbursing developers for costs involved in making damaged property as desirable as untouched property.

Good candidates for board membership might include individuals with a background or interest in real estate, finance, business, law, and planning.

The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority meets at the call of the Chair.

You can find more information about the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority by going to www.escanaba.org/bc-bra

Recreation Rental Information



Ludington Park Pavillion

Located near the south end of Ludington Park, the pavillion has ample 110-volt electric service, potable water, and a large capacity BBQ grill. Included are 10 eight- person picnic tables with ample green space surrounding.

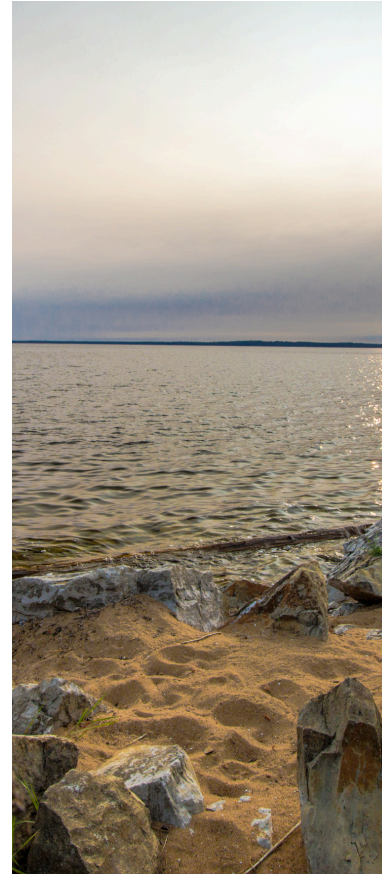
1/2 day fee of \$75 resident and \$100 non-resident. Full day fee of \$100 resident and \$125 non-resident .



Ludington Park Gazebo

Located across from Sand Point Lighthouse, the 20' x 20' gazebo is equipped with electrical outlets and external lighting. On street parking is available with bathrooms available at the Municipal Marina.

\$50 fee per two-hour block for resident and \$75 for non-resident.



Band Shell

Located on the south end of Ludington Park, the facility can seat up to 300 people with plenty of green space for other spectators. Parking for up to 100 vehicles and restrooms are available close by.

Day fee of \$75 for resident and \$100 for non-resident. Full-day fee of \$100 for resident and \$125 for non-resident.



Escanaba Marketplace

Located across from the Upper Elementary, the Marketplace boasts an 8,000 sq. ft. pavilion, restrooms, commercial kitchen, sound stage, fire pit, and a fenced in playground! Included are 40 tables, 200 chairs, and a parking area.

Day fee for residents is \$150. Please contact the DDA for reservations at 906-789-8696

Important Reservation Info

- For reservations, call the Recreation Department at 906-786-4141.
- Advanced reservations are required for all rentals.
- Multiple rooms in the Civic Center are available for rent with seating ranging from 30 to 75 people. Please call the Recreation Department or go to www.escanaba.org/parks-rec/page/parks-facilities for more information on pricing and availability.

City Services & Information

City Manager - James McNeil	jmcneil@escanaba.org	906-789-7322
City Controller - Melissa Becotte	mbecotte@escanaba.org	906-786-0605
Water/Wastewater Sup - Jeff Lampi	jlampi@escanaba.org	906-786-3291
Public Works Sup. - Kent Dubord	kdubord@escanaba.org	906-786-1842
Electric Sup. - Gerald Pirkola	gpirkola@escanaba.org	906-786-0061
Public Safety Director - John Gudwer	jgudwer@escanaba.org	906-786-5911
Recreation Director- Kim Peterson	kpeterson@escanaba.org	906-786-4141
City Clerk - Phil DeMay	clerk@escanaba.org	906-786-1194
Library Director - Carolyn Stacey	cstacey@escanabalibrary.org	906-789-7323
HR Director/Treasurer- Heather Calouette	hcalouette@escanaba.org	906-789-7305
City Assessor - James McNeil	assessor@escanaba.org	906-789-7381
Planning & Zoning Admin. - Tyler Anthony	tanthony@escanaba.org	906-786-7302

Important Phone Numbers

Public Safety	906-786-5912
Garbage/Recycling	906-786-1842
Wastewater Issues	906-786-1301
Potable Water Issues	906-786-3291
Public Library	906-789-7323
Electrical Issues	906-786-0061
Civic Center	906-786-4141
Complaint Hotline	906-789-7317

City Council

Mayor Mark Ammel	mammel@escanaba.org
Mayor Pro Tem Karen Moore	kmoore@escanaba.org
Council Member Ronald Beauchamp	rbeauchamp@escanaba.org
Council Member Tyler Dubord	tdubord@escanaba.org
Council Member Todd Flath	tflath@escanaba.org

Thank you for reading!