

# Escanaba Express

Issue No. 165 | March Edition



## March News Roundup

Introducing our brand new City Newsletter! We're thrilled to present this updated format and hope you find it engaging and informative.

Going forward, this newsletter will be your main source for staying informed about all things happening in Escanaba and at City Hall. Our aim is to keep you up-to-date and educated on events, changes, and all matters of importance.

While you can still pick up a copy at City Hall or read it on Facebook, we're excited to offer it next month as an e-newsletter! Read April's Escanaba Express to learn how to sign up for this service.

We're also pleased to announce the launch of our newest newsletter feature – Community Lens. This is where we shine the spotlight on you, the residents of Escanaba, and your talents.

Have a beautiful photo of Escanaba you'd like to share?

Send it our way, and it could be featured in an upcoming edition!

As we embrace the arrival of spring, we're anticipating the variety of ways we'll be celebrating the return of warmer weather. From sock hops to craft shows, you'll find a roundup of local events happening in March right here.

Both the Library and the Recreation Department are gearing up for a month brimming with events and projects to chase away those cold, grey days. Whether you're craving a concert or a game of pickleball at the Civic Center, there's something for everyone.

We'd also like to remind you that City offices will be closing at noon on **March 29th** in observation of Good Friday.

Here's to a warm and sunny March!

*- City Staff*

In this newsletter you can expect:

Community Updates

Community Events

Department Updates

Helpful Information

Community Photos

City Services & Information

---

## Upcoming Public Meetings

03/07/2024	7:00 pm	City Council
03/12/2024	4:30 pm	Housing Commission
03/12/2024	5:00 pm	Harbor Advisory Committee
03/12/2024	6:00 pm	Recreation Advisory Board
03/14/2024	6:00 pm	Planning Commission
03/18/2024	4:15 pm	Historic District Commission
03/21/2024	7:00 pm	City Council
03/25/2024	5:00 pm	Board of Library Trustees
03/26/2024	8:00 am	Public Safety Retirement Board
03/28/2024	8:15 am	Downtown Development Authority

## Upcoming Public Events

03/01/2024	4:00 pm	Healthy Young Athlete Expo - Learning Center
03/02/2024	All Day	TV6 Spring Craft Show
03/09/2024	6:30 pm	NERF Night at the Turf - Hannahville Sports Complex
03/14/2024	2:00 pm	Celebration of Women's History Month: Artist Talk - Bay College
03/14/2024	5:30 pm	Failte Concert - Escanaba Public Library
03/15/2024	All Day	RRN 3rd Annual Sports & Rec Show - Ruth Butler Building
03/16/2024	6:00 pm	Spring Fling Sock Hop - YMCA
03/23/2024	7:00 pm	Laurel Premo and Jake Shulman-Ment Concert - Bonifas Arts Center
03/27/2024	5:00 pm	Business After Hours
03/28/2024	6:00 pm	Paint N Sip with Staci Berg: Spring Break - Bonifas Arts Center



## Library News

Get set to fuel your imagination and bid farewell to boredom this month at the Library!

Join the talented members of Ink Society, where you will have the chance to explore your creative potential and hone your storytelling skills.

For our young adventurers, Lego League is back with exciting building challenges that will inspire creativity and problem-solving. Bring the whole family to our Great Start Family Fun Night, a lively evening filled with games, crafts, and exploration designed to delight both kids and parents alike.

Immerse yourself in the mesmerizing sounds of Celtic music with a live performance by Failte' or delve into the mysteries of the universe with the Delta Astronomical Society as they guide you through safe solar eclipse viewing techniques.

For our littlest library-goers, Toddler Time offers a special opportunity for interactive storytelling and play that will enchant and entertain.

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](http://www.escanabalibrary.org).



## Recreation News

Check out what's happening at the Recreation Department this March!

Our after-school program is booming with over 270 students already registered! This free program provides a safe and supervised environment where students can work on homework, socialize, and have fun in our game room after school hours.

The Civic Center is busy with a full schedule of activities including basketball, volleyball, pickleball, aerobics, and open gym and game room time.

In February, the Civic Center received a generous donation from Women of Steel Local 21. Their contribution helps offset costs for our after-school program, ensuring that all children have access to a safe and healthy environment to grow and thrive.

Stay tuned for exciting summer activities like concerts, movies in the park, and our spectacular 4th of July fireworks!

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 wishes to remind residents about the recent increase in fraudulent activities affecting our area. Scammers often prey on fear and urgency, coercing victims into making hasty decisions. If you feel pressured or uncertain, hang up the phone, step away from the situation and call someone you trust to help you.

Scammers often demand payment via prepaid gift cards or cryptocurrency, impersonating businesses or government agencies. Be cautious of unsolicited texts or emails, or receiving blank checks. Refrain from sharing personal or financial details.

Scamming affects everyone, with scammers relying on victims' reluctance to report crimes. There's no shame in being a victim; all crimes should be reported.

If you suspect you've been scammed, please contact Public Safety at (906) 786-5911 or report it at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov)



## Planning & Zoning News

The Planning & Zoning Department is preparing for two commission meetings this month: the Planning Commission on the 14th and the Historic District Commission on the 18th. The public are encouraged to attend these meetings.

As the weather warms, permit applications are increasing. Residents are urged to download permit applications online or visit the office to obtain one. Unsure about permit requirements? Please call the department at (906) 786-9402, and our staff will happily assist you.

Residents planning to build fences this spring should consider property and City easements, which may affect fence placement. Similarly, those planning accessory structures like sheds should be mindful of setbacks and lot size.

The Planning & Zoning Department is ready to assist you with any questions regarding permitting, zoning, or planning in the City. Escanaba works better when we act together.



## Utilities/ Public Works News

**Public Works** has used the unseasonably warm weather to get a kick start on tree trimming, casting repair, and building projects and maintenance. The lack of snow also made it possible for Havelka Construction to finish crushing over 23,000 tons of concrete for the Department.

The Public Works Department would like to extend a big thank you to the Escanaba Rotary Club for a grant that will allow the department to replace all swings and swing chains throughout all city parks.

They would like to remind residents that the City Geographical Information System (GIS) is in the midst of a software update. This update will add new layers and make improvements that will help the with the usability of the software.

**The Water/Wastewater Department** would like to let residents know that as they continue to work on valves in the City there is the possibility of dirty water running from facets when in use. The department recommends running water for 5-10 minutes to clear the line or, if the issue persists, to contact the department.

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](http://www.escanaba.org/electric/page/energy-optimization-program)

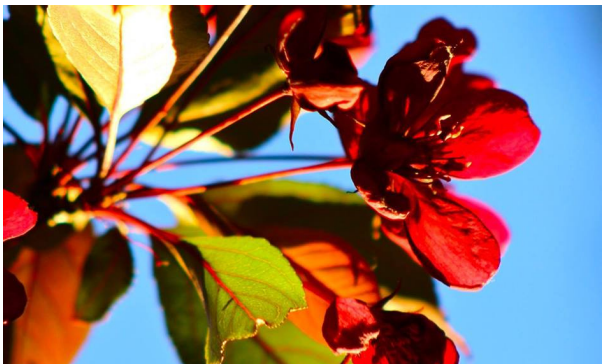
Questions can be directed to 906-786-0061 or [cityelectric@escanaba.org](mailto:cityelectric@escanaba.org)

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

---

# 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](mailto: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](http://www.escanaba.org/bc) or email [clerk@escanaba.org](mailto:clerk@escanaba.org).

## Board of Equalization & Review

**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!**

The Board of Equalization and Review was created to handle property assessment appeals. In Michigan, all property owners who believe their property was inaccurately assessed have the right to bring their complaints to such a board for appropriate corrections.

It is the Board's job to review and, when suitable, correct inaccurate assessments. This board is made up of the Mayor and 4 other members—with 2/3 being property owners and electors of the City.

James McNeil, staff liaison to the Board, explains that the Board is an important way that the City can stay transparent and serves as a venue for citizens to contest their property assessments if they feel they are inaccurate or unfair.

Good candidates for board membership might include individuals with backgrounds in law, real estate, or finance, as well as those with strong analytical and communication skills. It's also beneficial for them to have an understanding of local issues and the needs of residents.

You can find more information about the Board of Equalization & Review by going to [www.escanaba.org/bc-ber](http://www.escanaba.org/bc-ber)

---

# 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](http://www.escanaba.org/parks-rec/page/parks-facilities) for more information on pricing and availability.



## City Services & Information

City Manager - James McNeil	<a href="mailto:jmcneil@escanaba.org">jmcneil@escanaba.org</a>	906-789-7322
City Controller - Melissa Becotte	<a href="mailto:mbecotte@escanaba.org">mbecotte@escanaba.org</a>	906-786-0605
Water/Wastewater Sup - Jeff Lampi	<a href="mailto:jlampi@escanaba.org">jlampi@escanaba.org</a>	906-786-3291
Public Works Sup. - Kent Dubord	<a href="mailto:kdubord@escanaba.org">kdubord@escanaba.org</a>	906-786-1842
Electric Sup. - Gerald Pirkola	<a href="mailto:gpirkola@escanaba.org">gpirkola@escanaba.org</a>	906-786-0061
Public Safety Director - John Gudwer	<a href="mailto:jgudwer@escanaba.org">jgudwer@escanaba.org</a>	906-786-5911
Recreation Director- Kim Peterson	<a href="mailto:kpeterson@escanaba.org">kpeterson@escanaba.org</a>	906-786-4141
City Clerk - Phil DeMay	<a href="mailto:clerk@escanaba.org">clerk@escanaba.org</a>	906-786-1194
Library Director - Carolyn Stacey	<a href="mailto:cstacey@escanabalibrary.org">cstacey@escanabalibrary.org</a>	906-789-7323
HR Director/Treasurer- Heather Calouette	<a href="mailto:hcalouette@escanaba.org">hcalouette@escanaba.org</a>	906-789-7305
City Assessor - James McNeil	<a href="mailto:assessor@escanaba.org">assessor@escanaba.org</a>	906-789-7381
Planning & Zoning Admin. - Tyler Anthony	<a href="mailto:tanthony@escanaba.org">tanthony@escanaba.org</a>	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	<a href="mailto:mammel@escanaba.org">mammel@escanaba.org</a>
Mayor Pro Tem Karen Moore	<a href="mailto:kmoore@escanaba.org">kmoore@escanaba.org</a>
Council Member Ronald Beauchamp	<a href="mailto:rbeauchamp@escanaba.org">rbeauchamp@escanaba.org</a>
Council Member Tyler DuBoard	<a href="mailto:tdubord@escanaba.org">tdubord@escanaba.org</a>
Council Member Todd Flath	<a href="mailto:tflath@escanaba.org">tflath@escanaba.org</a>

*Thank you for reading!*