



*‘A meaningful tribute to those who served’*

# Cruisers support U.P. Honor Flight

By Jennifer Champagne  
Beacon Correspondent

The Munising Bay Cruisers, a local organization of car enthusiasts, recently donated \$1,800 to the Upper Peninsula Honor Flight, a program dedicated to honoring veterans by providing free trips to Washington, D.C., to visit memorials commemorating their service.

This donation is in line with Munising Bay Cruisers’ mission to support local veterans.

The Upper Peninsula Honor Flight is a regional hub of the national Honor Flight Network, which serves to honor veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The program prioritizes older veterans and those with terminal illnesses, ensuring they have an opportunity to reflect at memorials that honor their sacrifices.

“This mission is about giving veterans a chance to visit the memorials dedicated to their service,” said Scott Knauf, president



Upper Peninsula Honor Flight

Mike, Pete and Harry Lindquist participated in an Upper Peninsula Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., in September.

of the Upper Peninsula Honor Flight. “It’s a powerful way to thank them for their sacrifices and share a day of camaraderie with fellow veterans.”

Knauf’s involvement in the Honor Flight began when he served as a guardian on Mission 5, accompanying a World War II veteran on a trip to Washing-

ton, D.C. “It was my first time in D.C., and the experience was life-changing,” he said.

When Barb Van Rooy, who founded the Upper Peninsula Honor Flight, announced her retirement, Knauf stepped up to ensure the program would con-

See CRUISERS, Page 3

## CHRISTMAS FOR THE KIDDOS UPDATE

# Led by Thwaites, community provides holiday cheer to kids

By Jennifer Champagne  
Beacon Correspondent

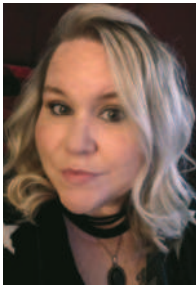
Stephanie Thwaites has long been a cornerstone of the Munising community, known for her energy, dedication and ability to bring people together.

This holiday season, Thwaites once again spearheaded the Christmas for the Kiddos program, ensuring local families experienced the magic of Christmas.

Thwaites, who many will re-

member as a radio personality on WQXO, has worn many hats over the years. During her time on air, she hosted her own show, engaging listeners with an array of topics and interviews.

Her platform drew recognizable names, including Oscar-nominat-



Thwaites

ed talent, in support of community causes. Dream Hampton, Michael Madsen, John Hawkes, Garret Warren, Max Ryan, Richard Tyson, Jesyca Durchin, Zoe Bell and Todd Sheridan Perry were just a few of the notable guests featured during one such fundraiser benefiting the Munising Fire Department.

After stepping away from radio, Thwaites transitioned to the hospitality industry. She now

See THWAITES, Page 3

## CITY COMMISSION



City of Munising

This YouTube screen capture is from the Munising City Commission’s Dec. 4 meeting. The city is now capable of recording meetings on video and posting them online.

# City begins posting video from meetings

By Melissa Wentarmini  
Beacon Correspondent

The City of Munising has made strides in promoting government transparency and accessibility by introducing video recordings of some of its board and commission meetings.

This initiative, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, involved upgrading the audio/visual system at City Hall to provide high-quality recordings that residents can view remotely.

After test runs in October and further refinements in November, the city began using the new system in December for its City Commission and Planning Commission meetings.

The effort underscores a commitment to keeping residents informed and engaged in local government, regardless of their ability to attend in person.

“The goal is to increase the ability of residents to access meetings without requiring them to attend in person,” City Manager Devin Olson said. “We have a number of meetings in any given month, and it can be inconvenient for members of the public to attend whether it be time constraints or even poor weather.”

By adding digital access to public meetings, Munising is embracing modern technology to enhance transparency and community engagement. The system ensures that community

“

The goal is to increase the ability of residents to access meetings without requiring them to attend in person.

—Devin Olson

”

members, including those with demanding schedules, limited mobility or concerns about inclement weather, can stay connected to local decision-making processes.

The upgrades to City Hall’s audio/visual system reflect careful planning and a commitment to quality.

Early tests identified areas for improvement, and the city has been working to refine the audio and streamline the editing process. These adjustments aim to deliver clear, professional recordings for public use.

Residents can access the video recordings through the City of Munising’s website at cityofmunising.org. Links to the videos can be found on the Minutes page for each of the relevant boards and commissions.

Additionally, the city has made the recordings available on its official YouTube channel (youtube.com/@cityofmunisingcitycommission8012) offering additional means of access for residents.

## MORE INSIDE

**Health:** There’s risk in overcomplicating your wellness plans and routines. Page 4

**Sports:** Munising freshman Bowerman scores 35 points in varsity debut. Page 9

**Scenes:** Rekindle the Spirit gave the community an opportunity to gather. Page 12

