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Office Hours: M-Th 8:30AM-4:00PM

Quarterly Connection

Ponderings of the President

What lessons will you take from 2020? Did you take the lemons that were thrown at you and make lemonade this year? I have been so impressed with the businesses and individuals who have not only overcome challenges but found new ways to thrive despite the pandemic. From new online shopping and ordering platforms to new ways of delivering products and caring for your customers, you have risen to the challenge, Chesaning.

Please know that your Chamber board of directors and staff are working hard for you. We recently learned about the Consumers Energy "Our Town" gift certificate grant that other Chambers were promoting. Some detective work and a call to Consumers Energy resulted in our Chamber receiving a \$9000 grant for 1:1 matching funds for our gift certificate program just in time for Christmas. That translates into \$18,000 being poured into our chamber member businesses, giving our community a huge economic boost to start the new year!

With the new vaccines for COVID-19 being released, things are starting to look up for 2021. Although we know it will take some time to "return to normal", we also know that nothing will ever be quite the same... and maybe that's ok. Take the lessons that you have learned from this year and build on them to position your businesses and organizations for future success. Even your Chamber has embraced alternative ways to conduct our business, including learning to have meetings online, offering curbside service, and building more connections with other chamber professionals for the benefit of our members.

As the year comes to a close, we want to thank you for your continued commitment to the Chesaning Chamber and to your community. May 2021 bring you all good health, happy days, and success in all that you do. Happy New Year!

Greg Bruff, 989-280-4938
Board of Directors President



*Happy
Holidays!*

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Event Report

- Due to MDHHS gathering restrictions, we will not be hosting our Annual Dinner this year. We will still celebrate the Annual Awards virtually; watch your weekly emails for details!
- The Consumers Energy "Our Town" matching gift certificate promotion, held on December 21, was a sell-out event in just one hour! See the complete story inside.

Celebrating Milestones

This quarter, we acknowledge the achievements of these chamber members:

75 YEARS - 1945

Chesaning Area Conservation

Club - Located at 13750 W Baldwin Road, this club of conservation-minded individuals offers educational classes in hunting, gun safety and archery. They are currently promoting their annual Gun Raffle fundraiser: \$10 for the chance to win 10 different guns on January 14, 2021!

Contact Dennis McDonagh at 989-865-6333 for tickets!

Knights of Columbus #2943 -

Founded on the principal of charity, the Knights of Columbus St. Christopher Council #2943 has accomplished many good deeds for 75 years, including their recent donation of coats, gloves, and hats to the elementary schools at St. Charles, Chesaning, and New Lothrop.

Sovis Insurance Agency - Since 1945, Sovis has provided quality personal and business insurance plans at a competitive price. They are an independent insurance agency which allows them to research the best insurance options to fit your needs. Their employees are all local community members and together they offer over 200 years of combined insurance experience!

Welcome, New Chamber Members!

Our chamber family grew by three new members in the second half of 2020!

- Living Proof Together Foundation joined the chamber as our newest associate member in August. We are excited to support them in their mission to "supplement the financial gap that individuals experience from lost wages due to cancer". Learn more about their efforts by visiting their page at [Facebook.com/LivingProofTogether/](https://facebook.com/LivingProofTogether/)
- Century 21 Signature Realty became a silver business member this past fall after settling into the office space on Broad formerly occupied by Edward Jones. Realtors Julie Worstenholm & Karen Haley Colston are your local agents ready to assist you in buying or selling your home; call them at 989-845-4800 or visit c21signaturerealty.com.
- Poppin' Decor is our newest silver business member, joining just in time for the new year! Check out this creative balloon company owned by Sam and Jennifer Martinez by visiting their webpage at www.poppindecor.com, by calling (989) 445-0366, or stop by their store next to NeuRich Jewelers.

"Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, 'it will be happier.'" ~ Alfred Lord Tennyson

News From Our Members



Greenfelder Law Office is pleased to announce that Attorney Marisa Copes has joined the law firm.

Marisa graduated from Saginaw Valley State University in 2016 earning a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and then attended the University of Detroit Mercy, School of Law earning her Juris Doctor degree.

Marisa started an internship with Greenfelder Law Office in 2019, while attending Detroit Mercy School of Law. As an intern, Marisa was introduced to multiple areas of law, including real estate law, corporate law, criminal law, family law, estate planning, and litigation.

Marisa is originally from New Lothrop and now resides in Hazelton Township with her husband, Taylor, and her daughter, Rae. She enjoys spending time with her family, participating in fitness classes and working out at their gym, Fit Physique, located in New Lothrop.

Marisa is accepting new clients and focusing in the firm's Family Law, Real Estate and Probate sections. Please call Greenfelder Law Office at 989-845-4333 to schedule an appointment.



JOIN OUR 1ST ANNUAL



GIVE AWAY
SHARE THE WARMTH!

JANUARY 3RD 11-2 PM

GIVING AWAY NEW COATS TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN NEED
MASKS REQUIRED | 1 COAT PER PERSON | COATS OF ALL SIZES

WANTING TO MAKE A DONATION?
PLEASE CONTACT:
REBECCA WEISENBERGER
989-323-2092

PICK UP LOCATION:
THE PUBLIC HOUSE
(FORMER PEET COMMUNITY CENTER)
130 NORTH SAGINAW STREET



**Great Pierogi
& Polish Favorites
Drive Up**

Sunday, January 10
10 am - 6 pm
Saginaw County Fairgrounds
CHESANING, MICHIGAN

January events are starting to pop-up on the Community Calendar... be sure to submit your events for 2021 to the Chamber by email or to MyChesaningCalendar.com!

Consumers Energy “Our Town” Grant



BROUGHT TO YOU BY
Consumers Energy
Count on Us®

Thanks to a generous donation from Consumers Energy as part of their “Our Town” community gift card program, the Chesaning Chamber of Commerce was able to offer a dollar-for-dollar match on all gift card purchases up to \$250 on Monday, December 21. We announced the program to our email list that same morning, selling out of the matched funds in just one hour!!

Consumers Energy provided \$3,000 to \$40,000 to organizations in the Lower Peninsula where they provide electric and natural gas service in their promotion that ran from December 10-31. Shoppers earned the matching dollars when they bought gift cards directly from their local chambers and downtown organizations. The Chesaning Chamber of Commerce was thrilled to be included in the second round of funds offered by Consumers Energy.

The donation from Consumers Energy put \$18,000 additional Chamber gift certificates into our local economy, giving our small businesses a boost in sales at the end of a rough year and into 2021. We would like to share a very big “THANK YOU!” to Consumers Energy from the Chesaning Chamber of Commerce for their support of our community’s businesses and to the lucky individuals who were able to take advantage of the promotion!

Milestones (Continued from pg 2)

140 YEARS - 1880

Chesaning Sales Company/Ace Hardware - Chesaning Sales

Company was opened in 1880 as a farm machinery and hardware store, selling all brands of farm implements. Currently owned by Joe Greenfelder, six generations of Greenfelders have worked in the store, including Joe’s children. The store offers all major brands supplied by Ace Hardware and boasts large plumbing and electrical sections. They are known for their helpful employees and are proud to offer “a big box selection in a small-town atmosphere.”

175 YEARS - 1845

Chesaning Union School District

- Our local schools started in a small shanty and were taught by Eliza Smith in 1843-44. The first frame school house was built in 1845-46 and, in 1845, the school district was formed. Today the district is part of the Saginaw Intermediate School District and serves a wide geographic area including several townships and the Village of Chesaning. The district has endured an unusual 175th year with students and teachers transitioning to remote learning due to COVID-19. We are applaud their commitment to excellence in education despite the challenges. Go Indians!

Chamber Mission & More

The Chesaning Chamber of Commerce works diligently to achieve its mission to actively foster business growth, member services and a united community.

REMINDER:

Are you receiving our weekly update emails every Friday?
Please make sure that you have a current email address on file with the Chamber office so that you don't miss out on important and timely news!

News From The Office

It has been a busy month at the Chamber office to finish this unusual year. I am excited to say that about 2/3 of our business members took advantage of the early-bird renewal discounts and returned their 2021 membership commitments by the December 23rd deadline. If you haven't had a chance yet to renew, please remember to send in your member updates and dues by January 31 to avoid any lapse in benefits. (Monthly and quarterly payment plans are available.) We have big plans for 2021 and hope you'll "Stick With Us!"

Good news: we are ahead of last year for our Annual Raffle ticket sales and look forward to having extra funds to help make our Fireworks event extra fun in 2021! Thank you for your outstanding support of this important fundraiser for the Chamber and good luck to everyone who entered!

Finally, although we can't gather in January for our Annual Dinner and Awards, we won't let the moment slip past without highlighting our outstanding chamber members and recapping the successes of 2020. Watch for news about our virtual 2020 Annual Awards, coming soon!

Chesaning - Come Grow With Us!



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Chesaning Chamber of Commerce

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE