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So Different, And Yet, So The Same

As many of you know, I recently had an international adventure as a flight chaperone for AFS-USA Intercultural Programs that took me to both the country of Kyrgyzstan to visit a former exchange student and to the city of Moscow for a quick tour before my assignment of bringing 22 American students back from their summer language program. Being immersed in the cultures of other countries so different than our own gave me many new perspectives, both of the countries that I visited and of the USA.

I realized while touring with local guides and native friends that, no matter where you may travel, there is always a strong sense of pride in one's hometown... a desire to share the best of your city's history, sites and unique features with those passing through. There are, of course, the natural comparisons made between what is home for you and the location visited, but sometimes finding the similarities is the most interesting. Take, for example, Kyrgyzstan: This is a country of many cultures, religions, and ethnicities formed along the ancient Silk Road

trading route with strong traditions rooted in a nomadic background. What stays with me from my time there isn't so much the differences that I noted, but the familiar designs, art and facial features of the Kyrgyz people which could have been found in any Native American cultural site in the USA. Aisuluu's father even commented that our Native Americans and the Kyrgyz nomads were relatives because of the travel paths of ancient people through the Bering Straits. It made me think of Chesaning's pride in our own Native American history; our "place of the Big Rock".

Celebrating Chesaning's unique culture as an American Midwest small town, our history full of our own Native American legends and artifacts, as well as the development of the community by European settlers, our successes and even our struggles is what the coming month is all about. The first elections in 1847, 170 years ago, established Chesaning (then called Northampton) as an official township and we've been developing our own unique cultural identity since then. We take pride in our history but also look forward to our future. Let's all be ambassadors of our own little corner of the world; come, celebrate Chesaning with us and be sure to share what makes us unique with visitors in our community!

Happy 170th Birthday, Chesaning!

Kate Weber

Kate Weber, Executive Director



Kate and her Kyrgyz exchange student, Aisuluu, inside a traditional yurt

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The Chesaning Chamber of Commerce Invites You To

Chesaning's 170th Birthday Dinner Celebration!



Saturday, September 16, 2017 6:00pm

Member Memos

- **Molly Carroll**, winner of the July 12th drawing of the bi-monthly Chamber raffle, used her windfall to help furnish her apartment near the University of Las Vegas! We are happy that the raffle winnings have helped a deserving student!
- **ZCI Feed Sales** on M-57 east of Chesaning have added 16 new storage units to their existing building ~ Congratulations, ZCI! Call them at 845-6913 for more details.
- **Primerica Open House and Ribbon Cutting, Tuesday, Aug. 29 from 5-6PM:** Tabitha Sjoberg & Associates located at 805 W Broad St - Suite 1 invite you to meet Tabitha and her staff, enjoy light refreshments and celebrate with them!
- **Creative Passions Open House and Ribbon Cutting, Sunday, Sept. 10 from noon to 5PM:** Tour the newly renovated Retreat Center at 710 Broad St ~ Laura and her staff are eager to share their newest location with you!
- The **Gypsy Harvest Festival**, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 16 from Noon until 9PM in Showboat Park is seeking sponsors and vendors! Call Lisa Trzil at 989-964-1436.
- The MI Snowmobile Assoc. presents the annual **Outdoor Recreation Swap Meet** at the Saginaw Co. Fairgrounds on Friday, Sept. 22 from 1-7PM and Saturday, Sept. 23 from 8AM—4PM. Admission is \$5 (under 10 are free) and vendor space is available; Call Mark Ervin at 845-3033.
- The **Great Lakes Rehab Center (Comfort Care)** invites you to a ribbon cutting celebration on Friday, Sept. 22 at 12:30pm at their new location in Saginaw. More details can be found by clicking [HERE](#). We look forward to their Chesaning Comfort Care location opening soon!

July Chamber Statistics:
We received
84 Phone Calls,
355 Emails &
106 Visitors

Safe Food Handling Training—Sept. 30:
 The American Legion Post 212 is hosting the MSU Extension program from 9AM until noon: "Cooking for Crowds". \$10 per person; register by clicking [HERE!](#)

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 August	28	29 5pm Primerica-T. Sjoberg & Assoc. Ribbon Cutting and Open House	30	31	1	2 Market Off Broad 9am-1pm
3	4 OFFICE CLOSED 	5 Chesaning & St. Charles First Day of School! 7:30pm Village Council 8pm Queen of Hearts	6 8am Chamber Marketing Meeting	7 7:30pm Chesaning Twp Board Meeting	8	9 Market Off Broad 9am-1pm Free Community Supper at Trinity UMC 5-7pm
10 11:55am Ribbon Cutting and Open House at Creative Passions Retreat Center	11	12 8pm Queen of Hearts	13 Noon Chamber Raffle DDA Meeting 6pm	14 8am Chamber Board of Directors Meeting	15	16 Market 9am-1pm Gypsy Harvest Fest Noon-9pm 6pm Chesaning's 170th Birthday Dinner
17	18 5:30pm Candlewalk Committee Meeting	19 7:30pm Village Council 8pm Queen of Hearts	20 5-7pm K of C Hamburg/Social Night	21	22 Outdoor Recreation Swap Meet 1-7pm <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Halloween Camping in Showboat Park!</div>	23 Market Off Broad 9am-1pm Outdoor Recreation Swap Meet 8am-4pm
24 Halloween Camping	25	26 7:30am Task Force Meeting 8pm Queen of Hearts	27 Noon Chamber Raffle	28	29	30 Market Off Broad 9am-1pm American Legion Safe Food Training 9am-noon

"It is impossible for a man to learn what he thinks he already knows." — Epictetus

HaPpY bIrThDaY Chesaning!

The birthday party is just around the corner... is everyone ready to celebrate? Al fresco dining on our beautiful walking bridge in Cole park with 100 of your friends and family on a lovely fall evening sets the stage for an amazing celebration. Picture the trees starting to turn color in the evening glow, the sound of the water rolling over the rapids, and the hint of fall in the air. I'm so glad that I live in this wonderful small town with such scenic beauty.



Parshallburg Bridge in Cole Park (Before)

The walking bridge was newly constructed in 2014. The former bridge rested for 109 years on the banks of the Shiawassee River in Parshallburg, just a few miles south of Chesaning. It was moved to Cole Park where it spanned the river for 9 years as a foot-bridge before mother nature took her. Tragically, on December 28th, 2008 during a storm, ice floes on the swollen river struck the original footbridge, twisting and pushing the bridge off its base, eventually demolishing the structure. A group called the River Rapids Bridge Committee raised enough money to replace the bridge with the current one. She is now enjoyed by many who walk, run, bike or fish over her. Just today I saw someone using her as a backdrop in their selfie. Many family and graduation pictures are taken by her, also. We are blessed to have such a nice asset in our community.

I can't think of a better place to have our birthday celebration than over the river where has been the center of so much of our history. Chesaning originally started on the east side of the bridge, but many fires caused

entire blocks to be destroyed, thus moving town to the west side of the river. In 1863, a dam was constructed to power the local grist mill. Again, change came along in 2005 when a partial collapse of that dam caused safety hazards and lowered water levels. Ideas were tossed around by many and the idea of a weir (fish ladder) was thought to be the solution. In 2009, the dam was removed and the rock ramps were put into place. This project gave walleye and lake sturgeon in the Saginaw River and Lake Huron access to 37 miles of spawning habitat in the Shiawassee river. The weir also created whitewater rapids that attract many kayakers. The foot bridge was the icing on the cake, a perfect ending to a perfect setting.

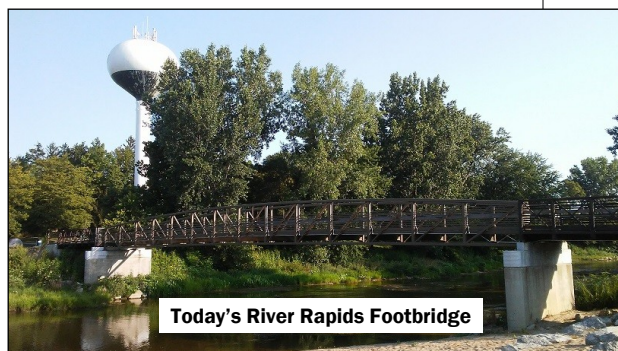
Although Chesaning has seen many ups and downs, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. With all the progress we are making, from our schools, the uprising real estate market, new businesses coming in, new roads, bridges and our wonderful parks, I think we are again on the up. So, let's get this party started and celebrate Chesaning's life. Remember our past, learn from our mistakes and embrace our future.

Can't wait to see everyone in September! If you have any historical, antique or unique items about Chesaning, please bring them to the chamber office. We would love to display them during the dinner. We are also giving away 2 tickets to the dinner for the most unique item.

~Bobbi McIntyre, Birthday Celebration Committee



Parshallburg Bridge in Cole Park , off it's base (After the storm)



Today's River Rapids Footbridge

Raffle Winners:

July 26

Doug Moeggenborg

Drawn by

Tim Rosencrans

August 9

Ellen Rodman

Drawn by

Valina James

What's Up in Chesaning



Every Saturday, July 15-October 14
9:00am-1:00pm
On S. Chapman St. at Broad St.



43rd Annual Show
August 17- 20, 2017

MID MICHIGAN




OLD GAS TRACTOR ASSN, INC.

FEATURING ALLIS CHALMERS
"GATHERING OF THE ORANGE"

Chesaning's 170th Birthday Celebration Raffle
Proceeds support the Christmas Candlelight Walk
\$20 per ticket
WIN A 2017 FORD F-150 TRUCK
*If 3000 tickets are not sold, the drawing will revert to a 50/50 raffle with a minimum prize of \$1000
*Drawing Date, 8pm on Saturday, September 16, 2017
During the 170th Birthday Celebration Dinner on Cole Park's River Rapids Bridge
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE CHAMBER OFFICE
*Need not be present to win
License # R42696



Movies will start at dusk, the movie screen will hang on the Ace Hardware building and the audience will sit in the parking lot. Concessions will be available.

SCHEDULE:
Friday, Aug. 25—**Willy Wonka (G)**, Enjoy a candy bar before the show!

Sunday, Aug. 20 @ 2:00 PM & 5:00 PM
Monday, Aug. 21 @ 4:30 PM & 7:30 PM
At the Saginaw County Fairgrounds

Contact: Kelly Miller Circus - 580-326-8345
<http://kellymillercircus.com/>



AMERICA'S ONE RING WONDER!
FOUNDED IN 1938

CHESANING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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