

*Chesaning
 Chamber of Commerce
 Board of Directors*

Greg Bruff,
 President
 Waddell & Reed

Ron Ebenhoeh
 Vice President
 Metro Mortgage

Jessie Stewart,
 Secretary
 Sovis Insurance

Steve Keck,
 Treasurer
 H&R Block

Stephanie Domina
 The State Bank

Annette George
 Chesaning Nursing &
 Rehabilitation Center

Valina James
 The Silver Thimble

Tom Lavery
 CenturyLink

Bobbi McIntyre
 Studio 124

Ron Poyer
 H&R Block

Nick Stoddard
 Stoddard Classic Cars

Christopher Theile
 Swartzmiller Lumber

Kate Weber
 Executive Director

Rumor Has It...

The 2017 Chesaning Christmas Candlelight Walk was a success thanks to many generous sponsors, donations to the Festival of Trees, diligent volunteers, and cooperative weather. An informal survey of the crowd found that we had visitors from as far away as Illinois and Wisconsin, as well as many locations in Michigan. Reports by the businesses who stayed open for the 2-day event indicated that they enjoyed a boost in sales that carried into the next days and weeks as shoppers returned to purchase items that had been pointed out by their family members during their Thanksgiving weekend visit. The event even earned a reasonable profit for the Chamber for the first time in the past several years.

A rumor has been circulating that this was our last Candlelight Walk. Please know that we review the results of Candle Walk annually and weigh the many details, resources and finances that a large event like this requires. We are happy to report that Candle Walk will return for its 35th anniversary in 2018 but its future beyond next year still remains uncertain.

Sustaining a large festival requires many teams of volunteers handling the multiple details that keep the crowd and community happy, entertained and safe. Candle Walk Committee Chairperson, Bobbi McIntyre, noted that there are many different subcommittees that need volunteer support to keep the event running smoothly; details such as decorating the downtown, distributing gingerbread houses, monitoring youth volunteers, organizing the Nativity Challenge and other activities

all require significant investments of time and talent and cannot be handled by a half dozen dedicated but tired committee members or the chamber board of directors. To continue the event for generations to come requires new volunteers to jump in enthusiastically, learn the ropes, offer new ideas and commit to keeping Candle Walk fresh and new for residents and visitors alike, as well as beneficial for our local businesses and organizations.

Currently there is a common lament among our community organizations that there is a huge lack of people willing to donate their spare time to events and causes. We hear it often here in the office and see it in the organizations to which we belong outside of the Chamber. We understand that many times it is easier to offer a donation of money instead of a donation of time, and those monetary contributions are certainly needed to fund large festivals. However, it is always the people that are an organization's most valuable resource. Whether it's for the next Candle Walk or another community event or cause, please consider giving of yourself in 2018 to make a difference in Chesaning and our surrounding communities. And thank you for being the "behind-the-scenes heroes" who make good things happen for so many!

All the best to you and your families this holiday season~

Kate Weber
 Executive Director



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Member Memos

- Don't forget to support the Chesaning Area United Appeal! Make your donation payable to CAUA and mail to P.O. Box 88, Chesaning MI 48616. Your donations support many area non-profit services.
- Congratulations to Santa's Village at the Saginaw County Fairgrounds for another successful season and kudos to all of our members who generously sponsored the event this year!
- The Knights of Columbus are taking a break for the holidays but will be back in action with their popular Eat-In and Take-Out Friday Fish Fry on January 5th through the end of March with take-out service available on Ash Wednesday (February 14) and Friday, April 6.
- THANK YOU to Hehr International for supporting our community with their generous purchase of Chamber Gift Certificates for their employees during Thanksgiving and Christmas! Their gift encourages over 165 employees to shop local during the holidays!
- The State Bank has recently announced several new officers and promotions including Judy Relf as the company's Assistant Vice President, CRA Relationship Officer, the promotion of Chris Dickinson to Senior Credit Analyst, and Aaron Wirsing as the Senior Vice President Chief Financial Officer. Read more about these noteworthy employees at our member press release page found on the Member tab on our [Chamber website!](#)

November Chamber Statistics:
We received
157 Phone Calls,
452 Emails &
133 Visitors

Happy New Year



January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Chamber Closed 	2 Rotary Club Noon 7:30pm Village Council 8pm Queen of Hearts	3 Kiwanis Club 7am 8am Chamber Marketing Meeting	4 Chesaning Twp Board Meeting 7:30pm	5 K of C Fish Fry 5-7pm	6
7 American Legion Breakfast 7:30-11:30am	8	9 Rotary Club Noon 8pm Queen of Hearts	10 Kiwanis Club 7am Noon Chamber Raffle DDA Meeting 6pm	11 8am Chamber Board of Directors Meeting 6pm Library Photoshop Workshop	12 K of C Fish Fry 5-7pm	13 Library In-Stitches Knitting Group 11am Trinity Free Supper 5-7pm
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr Day 	16 Rotary Club Noon 7:30pm Village Council 8pm Queen of Hearts	17 5-7pm K of C Hamburg/Social Night 7pm Library Book Club Kiwanis Club 7pm	18	19 K of C Fish Fry 5-7pm	20 Chamber Annual Dinner 6pm at Riverfront Grille
21	22	23 Task Force 7:30am Rotary Club Noon 8pm Queen of Hearts	24 Kiwanis Club 7am Noon Chamber Raffle	25	26 K of C Fish Fry 5-7pm	27
28	29	30 Rotary Club Noon 8pm Queen of Hearts	27 Kiwanis Club 7am	28	29 K of C Fish Fry 5-7pm	30

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear." ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

Swartzmiller Lumber Company: 105 Years Young!

In the year 1912, the property of 802 West Broad Street was purchased by Mr. Fred Swartzmiller, to conduct business as Swartzmiller Lumber Company. Little did he know, he would be the beginning of one of the oldest operating family-owned lumber companies in the state of Michigan. Fred had two sons; Joseph and Allan. Both were immediately introduced to the business.

Eventually Joe and Allan split up to conduct business in their own ways. Joseph ran the lumber company and Allan started a new business under the name of Swartzmiller & Associates. Joe spent a considerable amount of his time helping the community, and was one of the original seven to build the first Showboat. Joe continued the lineage with his son Donald as the third generation.

Over the course of 55 years, Don evolved the business into what it is today, adding a Redi-Mix concrete plant and expanding the inventory in the store to accommodate anything that the builder or homeowner may need. Don currently remains on the board of directors as Chief Executive Officer. In 2016, Don's daughter, Annette, was elected as President of the corporation, and her son, Christopher, as the Vice President.



The Swartzmiller greeting committee is always eager to welcome customers!



Swartzmiller Lumber Company has taken on numerous different business endeavors to stay profitable when times were tough. Some notable opportunities the company has added outside of their usual business efforts are U-Haul truck and trailer rentals and Auction-It-Today on E-Bay. Most recently, the family trio has undertaken opportunities to become a federal contractor and to diversify and expand business.

Community involvement has always been a key part of this family and business. Anne served on the board of directors for the Chesaning Chamber of Commerce and the Showboat Decorating Committee for 10 years, and the Garden Club for 20 years. Chris is now currently serving on the board of directors for the Chesaning Chamber of Commerce. Chris plans to continue the family business as his predecessors did and be an active member in the community.

If you find yourself taking on a project, make sure to stop in to Swartzmiller Lumber Company for estimates, materials, and even some advice that has been passed along for over 100 years.

The Chesaning Chamber congratulates Swartzmiller Lumber Company in achieving the status of being our oldest Chamber Business Member and celebrates with you 5 generations of longevity and community involvement! Thank you for all that you do!

Board of Directors Elections

Every year, four board positions with three-year terms are decided by votes from our silver and gold level members. The result? Our membership builds a team of twelve community-minded individuals who work tirelessly to promote the interests of Chesaning businesses and citizens. Nominations are currently being accepted at the Chamber office for our 2018 election ballots which will issued around the first week of the

year; if you are interested in running for a board member position, please contact the Chamber office or talk with a current board member for more information.

Our event and marketing committees are eager for new ideas, as well. If you'd like to be involved in any of the Chamber's activities in 2018, please contact the office for more information! We love our volunteers!





NOMINATION FORM FOR ANNUAL AWARDS

The Chesaning Chamber of Commerce is continues our tradition of recognizing excellence in our community by celebrating businesses, employees and citizens for their service and contributions. The awards will be presented during the Annual Dinner on Saturday, January 20, 2017. We invite your nominations for consideration by our Annual Dinner Committee.

Guidelines to be observed:

1. Nominee must be a Chesaning Area Chamber of Commerce member, or the volunteer or employee of a member
2. Nominee gives generously of themselves and/or staff in time and resources to the Chamber and community.
3. All replies will be confidential.
4. Deadline for submitting entries: December 31, 2017

Please mark the award for which you are nominating the business or person:

Distinguished Business or Person **Lifetime or Outstanding Achievement** **Star Employee Award**

Nominee's Name: _____ Length of Service: _____

Contact Name of person making the nomination: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone number: _____

Business or Organization Represented: _____

Reason for Nomination: _____

Please Note Nominee's Accomplishments, Service, Leadership, etc: _____

You may use additional paper if needed!

Please return to the Chamber at P.O. Box 83, Chesaning, MI 48616, email at info@chesaningchamber.org or Fax to 989-845-6006 -
Deadline is December 31, 2017

Remembering Our Heritage

It was 37 years ago, on July 1st, 1980, the Chesaning Heritage House was opened for a unique dining experience restaurant. It was dedicated as a historic site five years later in December of 1985. The Broad Street mansion was built in 1908 by George M. Nason, a man who made his living in lumbering. Dr. and Mrs. Henry Forsythe purchased the home on Feb. 1, 1963, and raised their six children there. Howard and Bonnie Ebenhoeh bought the home from them on March 13, 1980. The Ebenhoehs had altered a few interior walls and added some new carpeting and furniture, but basically kept the house intact. Chairs, furniture and dishes had been selected to blend with the original style. Even waitress uniforms were like outfits worn in the early 1900's. One interesting fact is that Howard Ebenhoeh's mom was a maid for the Nasons.

Even though times have come and gone, we still have the wonderful memories. Whether you worked for the Ebenhoehs or just experienced a wedding, birthday party, memorable dinner or Christmas event, it was magical. The place was always decked out for whatever season it was. Maybe you sang along with Tullemore Dew at the Rathskeller with a drink in your hand and the famous Rathskeller pizza on your plate. And you cannot forget those awesome blueberry muffins.

I had many great times at the Rathskeller and good meals upstairs, but I will always remember a picture of my youngest daughter, Brandi, and her girl scout troop on the



"A shot of the Heritage House at Christmas when it was still in operation (pre-2007)"

~ River Rapids District Library

front steps of the porch. They had just finished a meal and had earned their 'manners badge'; the girls were so excited to eat at a fancy place. What a wonderful experience to offer in our home town.

It was great traveling down memory lane with you the last twelve months with these historical articles. I've enjoyed the research and learned a lot about our town that I didn't know. There is a lot more info at the River Rapids Library and the Historical Museum. But this concludes our history lesson. Just remember: Chesaning's past is remembered; our present is lived, and our future may surprise you. So.... hold onto the past in your heart, but live for the future in your mind.

~Bobbi McIntyre, Birthday Celebration Committee

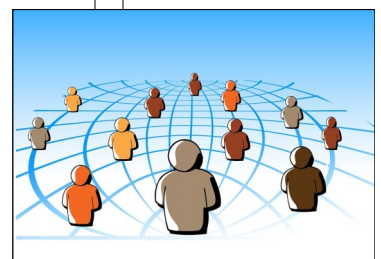
THANK YOU to Bobbi McIntyre for your articles covering 170 years of Chesaning's history that you have shared with us throughout 2017!

Networking Nights are "Under Construction"!

Did you have a chance to respond to the survey that was sent by email on Tuesday, December 12 regarding our plans to offer member Networking Nights in 2018? We will partner with member businesses and organizations to host these evenings and hope to offer discussions or seminars about local topics, business education and more. The Marketing Committee is seeking hosts for events in Mid-February, June or August. Plans are already underway for April

16 and in October! Our April event will be held at Chesaning Nursing & Rehabilitation Center who will host State Representative Ben Frederick for his office hours and October has been claimed by The Silver Thimble with a possible computers or technology focus.

Let the Chamber office know if you'd like to be involved and watch your emails and newsletters for more information!



Raffle Winners:**November 22**

Doug Moeggenborg
(Repeat Winner!)

Drawn by

Lisa Palko & Brandon

McKillop

(Paxson Oil Marathon)

December 13

Hass Vision Center

Drawn by

Joe Birchmeier

(Big Joe's Layton

Corners Bar)

2018 Chamber Raffle

Tickets are now available and make great stocking stuffers! Call the Chamber office for more information

Chesaning Area Friends of the Library, serving for 50 years!

It recently came to the attention of the Chamber office that the Friends of the Library are celebrating half-a-century strong this year! This hard-working group of volunteers supports the River Rapids District Library by volunteering their time and sponsoring services and activities throughout the year, generating funding for special needs that are not covered by the library's budget.

The Chesaning Area Friends of the Library "are dedicated to promoting the growth of our public library & its services throughout our community" according to the library website, noting that "Members share a passion for books, knowledge and library advocacy, and collaborate with other community partners on events and activities that benefit the library and its patrons. Membership funds are used for programs and services that enrich and educate our community and provide a source of enjoyment for all ages, such as the Summer Reading Program, Overdrive eBooks and eAudiobooks, the annual Reading Between the Vines wine tasting event and more." Denise Navarre, current president of the group, mentioned that sometimes the support that the Friends offer to the library meet unseen needs such as the purchase of a good vacuum!

Want to get involved? The Friends are currently working on their membership drive for 2018 and invite you to meet at the library

on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm. Active volunteers with the group include Sue Wolfe, treasurer, Abby Hoover, secretary, Kathy Dickie, Cheryl Bates, Lynne Clark and, of course, Sally Alexander of the River Rapids District Library and her staff. Paul Martin puts on a magic show during the summer and he and his wife, Lynn, sit on the library board of trustees. Many parents help during the summer crafts and activities and even the younger crew get involved such as Pierce VanHaaren, a young 3rd grader who shared his love of Legos with a demonstration for summer reading. Friends of the Library also offers a "used book nook" to help raise additional funds for the library. Denise states that plans for 2018 include hosting a magician in March and an independent vendor event in May.

The Chesaning Chamber of Commerce wishes the Chesaning Area Friends of the Library a very happy 50th anniversary and wishes to express our gratitude for your commitment to our community! Your dedication provides valuable resources and services to our residents, young and old, and for that we applaud you!



CHESANING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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