



Monthly Business Connection

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

December 2019

*Chesaning
Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors*

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Where Did The Year Go?

As 2019 comes to a close, we look back over the events of the past twelve months and are pleased with what our Chamber and community has been able to accomplish. In January, the Chamber celebrated a great kick-off to the year with a nearly sold-out Annual Dinner. Later that winter, we enjoyed a St. Patrick's Day-themed Comedy Night that was another chance for our members and residents to share a laugh together. Spring brought our annual Craft 'n Crop event which was another opportunity for us to share a favorite community hobby, as well as multiple Easter events offered by local organizations.

The Chamber is very proud of the continued success of our Annual Golf Outing which supports scholarships for Chesaning High School seniors. This year we were able to increase the scholarship amounts from \$500 to \$1000 for two hard-working students. We also added a new twist to the Golf Outing, introducing the chance to shoot a golf ball from an air cannon... a huge hit with our players. We hope that you will continue to support this event for our students in 2020.

Summer is always a lot of fun in Chesaning with great festivals, fairs and events offered by our community organizations. Our residents and visitors always look forward to the Town-Wide Attic Sales, Car Show, Dawn Patrol Fly-In, Saginaw County Fair, MMOGTA Tractor Show and, of course, the Fireworks in Showboat Park. We were fortunate this year that our Poker Room

fundraisers were very successful enabling us to add new family-friendly entertainment to the Fireworks, such as a petting zoo, balloon twist and more. The Chamber hopes to make 2020's fireworks event bigger and better yet again and welcomes your participation. If you'd like to be a part of the planning committee, please contact the Chamber office to be included.

In an effort to help our members make valuable connections in the community and find resources to grow, the Chamber has been committed to offering more networking events. This past year, we introduced a new member meet and greet networking morning that was very well received. We also hosted a "Meet Your SBDC" event to connect our small businesses with the Great Lakes Bay Region Small Business Development Center, resulting in many beneficial follow-up meetings for the businesses in attendance.

As you know, our new sign arrived just in time for Christmas and we are excited about the opportunities moving forward for our members to utilize this state-of-the-art promotional tool. 2020 is already shaping up to be great and we look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Dinner on January 18 to start the year off right!

Please take time to enjoy your families over the holidays... I wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Greg Bruff, President

989-845-7699(w), 989-280-4838(c)



Greg Bruff
Board President

**THANK YOU to
Agnew Sign
Company and
Meyer Electric for
making installation
of our new
LED sign a reality
before the
holidays!**

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Member News & Community Highlights

- In addition to the regular Friday night take-out Fish Fry, the **Knights of Columbus** will also be hosting a **Bake Sale to benefiting the Food Bank for Veterans** on Friday, Dec. 20 from 5-7:30pm. Plan to pick up dessert along with dinner at the K of C Hall located at 9171 Deitering Road. Their last bake sale raised enough for 72 Coats for Kids!
- Easton Church of Christ**, located at 3477 Easton Road, Owosso, invites you to a **Christmas Concert with Chris Mulpas** this Saturday, December 21 at 7pm. Chris Mulpas is an evangelist who travels the country, proclaiming the Good News through song and sermon.
- Billy Gunther Band and Alex Schofield & The Revolvers will be hosting a **Christmas Jam at The Public House by Pintown** on Friday night, December 20; show starts at 9pm. Free Admission!



Welcome, New Chamber Member!

Located at 1117 N. Main Street, this locally-owned Michigan Licensed Producer of cannabis flower and concentrates was founded by lifelong friends, Jason and Sarah Steele and Nick and Becca Weisenberger. Find their story and more on their website: www.micountryboyfarms.com

- Congratulations, Doug Moeggenborg and staff... they have relocated their offices across the road to 115 S. Chapman (the former law offices of Steven Rygiel) and celebrated with a ribbon cutting and open house on Friday December 20!

November Chamber Statistics:
We received
61 Phone Calls,
447 Emails &
45 Visitors



*Last chance to visit Santa's Village for the 2019 Season: **December 21 & 22***

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Weekly Meetings/Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Am. Legion Queen of Hearts Raffle, Mondays, 8pm at The Back Forty Rotary Club: noon, Tuesdays, Riverfront Grille Kiwanis: 6pm, Tuesdays, Riverfront Grille K of C Take Out Fish Fry, Fridays, 5-7:30pm, K of C Hall 			1 Office Closed <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2 Chamber Annual Award Nominations Due Today Chamber Fundraiser @ Owosso Poker Room 5pm-2am, Jan. 2-5, 2020	3 Business Members Due Date to Qualify For Membership Renewal Discounts	4 Library Movie Day 11am
5 American Legion Breakfast 7:30-11:30am Chamber Poker Room, continued	6	7 Village Council 7:30pm	8 Chamber Raffle Noon	9 RSVP's Due For Annual Dinner Today! Chesaning Township Meeting 7:30pm	10	11 In-Stitches Knitting & Lego Groups @ Library 11am Trinity Free Supper 5pm
12	13	14	15 KofC Hamburg Night 5pm DDA Meeting 6pm Adult Book Group @ Library 6pm	16 Ballots Due for Board of Directors Elections Today!	17	18 CHAMBER ANNUAL DINNER @ Riverfront Grille 6pm New Wine Free Community Dinner 5-7:30pm
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr Day Chamber Board of Directors Meeting 8am	21 Village Council 7:30pm	22	23 Jr Book Discussion @ Library 6pm	24	25
26	27	28 Task Force Meeting 7:30am YA Book Discussion @ Library 6pm	29	30	31	1 FEBRUARY "Save The Date!" Chamber Craft 'n Crop 9am-9pm Public House

"And now let us welcome the new year, full of things that never were." ~ Rainer Maria Rilke

Chamber Newsletter Moves to Quarterly in 2020

In an effort to streamline our communications from the Chamber office and devote more time to member services, the Monthly Chamber Connection newsletters will become the “Chamber Quarterly Connection” beginning early in 2020. We will follow a seasonal format highlighting events and news relevant to winter, spring, summer and fall happenings in and around Chesaning.

Fear not, your favorite features will still

be included, such as the President’s message, member anniversaries and important chamber news. Some articles will also be shared in our weekly email updates between newsletters, so be sure to scan your Chamber emails for timely information. As always, the [Community Calendar](#) continues to be your best resource for events within the Chesaning School District. Be sure to submit your events and news early for the most exposure!

CenturyLink Celebrates 110+ Years In Chesaning

Bell Telephone of Saginaw was established in 1879 and by 1898 a “Toll Station” was established at Albert Cantwell’s General Store (the present location of Family Rexall Pharmacy at 202 W. Broad Street). This required customers to visit the store to place or receive a long-distance call at a predetermined time. After some local dissatisfaction with Bell Telephone, on October 31, 1908 a group of prominent residents signed an agreement to organize a company to buy the switchboard from Bell Telephone. The new company was incorporated as the “Chesaning Home Telephone Company” on November 14, 1908 with the subsequent purchase from Bell Telephone of Saginaw taking place on February 1, 1909 for \$9000 (so it could be said this is the 111th year). The yearly cost of service in 1910 was \$18 for a business, \$15 for a one-party residential line, \$13.50 for a two-party line and \$12 for a four-party line. The new phone company established a central office in a 2-story building located at 140 S. Saginaw Street that is no longer there but is next to the existing CenturyLink central office at 144 S. Saginaw Street.

In 1950 the name was changed to Chesaning Telephone Company by the then-owner Vic Shapley. In 1959 the name was changed again to Central Telephone Company after acquisitions of 7 other Michigan exchanges. The company was sold in 1971 to a phone company from Monroe, Louisiana by the name of Century Telephone Enterprises. In 1999, after another corporate acquisition,

the name was changed to CenturyTel. In 2008, during the largest acquisition to date with Embarq, the company name was changed once again to CenturyLink. In 2011 the company acquired Qwest Communications creating one of the largest communication companies in the United States. In 2017 CenturyLink acquired Level3 communications creating the second largest domestic communications provider. CenturyLink provides High Speed Internet, Voice, Managed Services, Cloud and IT solutions, Networking and Security products.

CenturyLink (NYSE: CTL) is a technology leader delivering hybrid networking, cloud connectivity, and security solutions to customers located in more than 60 countries. Through its extensive global fiber network, CenturyLink provides secure and reliable services to meet the growing digital demands of businesses and consumers. CenturyLink strives to be the trusted connection to the networked world and is focused on delivering technology that enhances the customer experience. Learn more at <http://news.centurylink.com/>.

Over the years, CenturyLink has been a great supporter of the Chamber including sponsoring the Christmas Candlelight Walk and Scholarship Golf Outing and most recently sharing the time and talent of Region Operations Supervisor, Thomas Lavery, as one of our hard-working Board of Directors members. The Chamber appreciate their contributions to our community and wishes them continued business success for years to come!




CenturyLink™

Raffle Winners:**November 27****Suzanne Lane****By****George Fletcher****HJV Equipment****December 11****Grace Carroll****By****Nancy Rowe****Chesaning Area****Historical Society &****Museum****Chamber Annual Raffle - Supporting Our Mission**

The Chamber Annual Raffle impacts our community in a positive way every year, helping to fill-in any shortages in our Fireworks account and supplying extra funds for marketing our members and community. For the past few years, we have been able to put some money aside towards the purchase of our new sign, thanks in part to the income generated by each \$20 raffle ticket.

Thank you to those who have already turned in their raffle tickets with their membership dues or who are sharing them with friends, family and customers! Your efforts are starting to add up... we are working our way toward our goal of 750 tickets sold! Be sure to return all sold tickets to the Chamber office by January 7 to be included in all 24 drawings. And we are scheduling guest raffle drawers for 2020... call the office to find out how to use the raffle to highlight your business or organization!



Raffle 2020

\$300 Cash Prize Each Drawing

\$20 per ticket includes all 24 Drawings

**Winners name returned -
You may win again!**

**Winning Tickets drawn every 2nd and 4th Wednesday
at the Chamber of Commerce Office**

**Drawings Begin Wednesday, January 8, 2020
Last Drawing Wednesday, December 23, 2020**

Proceeds support Fireworks and Chamber Projects
Sponsored by the Chesaning Chamber of Commerce
Raffle License # X01859

Important January Due Dates To Remember:

- January 2: Annual Award nominations due (Forms available in office)
- January 3: Renewal deadline for business members to qualify for full-pay and raffle discounts
- January 9: RSVPs due for the Annual Dinner
- January 16: Ballots to vote for Chamber Board of Directors due