

*Chesaning
 Chamber of Commerce
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 Executive Director

Networking for Success

*Written for the editorial section of the Tri-County Citizen
 by Chamber Director, Kate Weber*

There is power in numbers... an old cliché, for sure, but so true! And very apparent when a community comes together to work towards a common goal. Alone we can only accomplish so much, but combining forces to benefit from the many talents, ideas and energy brought to the table by different people with different perspectives... that is when the magic happens.

Here in the Chamber office, I have noticed a common topic of conversation with our members and concerned citizens; there appears to be an ongoing lack of volunteers, limited financial resources and overlapping community events operating independently instead of coordinating their efforts for the greatest impact. Out of those conversations, an idea was born to help facilitate communication, collaboration and idea-sharing among our local non-profit, volunteer-driven organizations. With the many spring, summer and fall activities that are beginning to fill our community calendar for 2018, the Chamber Marketing Committee decided that now was the time to host a **Non-Profit Networking Night on Monday, February 26, 5:30pm at Pintown Pizza.**

We hope that if you are involved with a non-profit or community organization, church or school event committee that you will plan to attend this informal, round-table discussion. Bring your calendars to make sure that your

events are included on the [Chesaning Community Calendar](#), discuss strategies to share your organization's mission, build membership, and enhance community engagement.

Chesaning is blessed with a small but mighty force of dedicated individuals who provide generous support to those in need, entertainment for citizens and visitors and many other civic projects that benefit the masses. Imagine harnessing the power of these groups so that together, they can go farther than they had ever hoped!

Mark your calendar for the upcoming events that directly support community programs or offer free/low-cost entertainment to our residents: River Rapids Library offers a Family Fun Day Carnival on February 17th at 11am, Trinity Methodist hosts a free community supper on March 10 from 5-7pm, Friends of the Library invites you to see Magician Baffling Bill at Chesaning Middle School on Saturday, March 10 at 7pm and Chesaning Kiwanis Club sponsors the 4th Annual Kids Spring Sucker Tournament on Saturday, April 21 in Showboat Park from 11am-2pm!

These are just a few of the kick-off events to what promises to be another great year in Chesaning. Get involved, start the conversation, work together and enjoy the success!



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Member News & Community Highlights

- Have you ever felt like you've been billed by your insurance company incorrectly? Do you need help explaining insurance to your employees? Come join I Care Advocate Consultants at Chesaning Nursing and Rehabilitation Center at 201 S. Front Street, Chesaning February 13th at 2pm. There will be light refreshments and good conversation. If you have questions please call 989-845-6602.
- Union Court Assisted Living is planning an Open House for Friday, March 2nd from 12pm-7pm at their new Chesaning location! Stay tuned for more information in upcoming emails!
- The State Bank announced another successful year raising funds for the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and recently presented the organization with a check for \$25,000! [Read the full story HERE!](#)

Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to announce our newest Individual members, Theresa & Spencer Kane. We appreciate your support of the Chamber and community!

Individuals and married partners who wish to support the Chamber mission while enjoying access to Chamber publications, email alerts and member-only invitations are also welcome as members for a low annual dues commitment.

- Fat Tuesday Fun: Trinity United Methodist Church is offering a Pancake Supper from 5-7pm on February 13.
- Don't forget to pick up your Paczkis at Frank's Super Market... available in assorted flavors for a limited time!

**January
Chamber Statistics:**
**We received
140 Phone Calls,
524 Emails &
136 Visitors**



March 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Repeating Meetings/Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotary Club meets at noon on Tuesdays • Am. Legion Queen of Hearts Raffle is on Tuesdays at 8pm • Kiwanis Meets at 7am on Wednesdays except on 3rd week when they meet at 7pm • K of C Hosts their Fish Fry on Fridays from 5-8pm 				1 Chesaning Township Board Meeting 7:30pm	2 Union Court Open House Noon-7pm	3 Family Movie Day at Library 11am-1pm
4 7:30am-11:30am American Legion Post #212 Breakfast	5	6 7:30pm Village Council	7 8am Chamber Marketing Meeting	8 8am Chamber Board Meeting	9 7:30 pm Chamber Comedy Night at Riverfront Grille!	10 Free Community Supper at Trinity 5-7pm Baffling Bill Magician at CMS 7pm
11 Daylight Saving Time Starts... Spring Forward! 	12 6:30pm School Board Meeting	13 5:45pm Candlewalk Meeting	14 Noon Chamber Raffle 6pm DDA Meeting	15	16	17 Zion Lutheran Easter for Kids Program 8:45m
18	19	20 7:30pm Village Council	21 5-7pm K of C Hamburg/ Social Night 7pm Book Club at Library	22	23	24
26	26	27 7:30am Task Force Meeting	28 Noon Chamber Raffle	29	30 Good Friday—Office Closed Today Through Tuesday, April 3	31 Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt/10am Showboat Pk Christ Lutheran Easter Egg Hunt/10am

"Many an opportunity is lost because a man is out looking for four-leaf clovers." -Unknown

Possum’s Party Store Celebrates 5 Years in 2018!

Possum’s Party Store re-opened in June of 2013 after sitting vacant for a year and a half. This family-owned business was given new life by Kurt and Suzanne Lane, who re-modeled the store to include more windows, an upgraded touch-based register system including a second register to accommodate busier times, and a fresh new look. Kurt is a full time firefighter with Waterford Township and he and Suzanne bought the store to start working towards retirement.

Offering Sunoco gasoline to keep their customer’s vehicles satisfied, Possum’s Party Store also has a full liquor license with Sunday morning sales availability and pre-order kegs for your party needs, as well as a full line of snacks, fountain beverages and coffee for the road and convenience items. For the outdoors-lovers, they also offer DNR licenses and snowmobile/ATV permits.

The store boasts a dedicated team of eight employees including two who have been working at Possum’s since Day 1: Evelyn

(Dude) Blazo and Paula Rhodes

Plans are underway to celebrate their 5 year anniversary with a customer appreciation day this summer; be sure to watch your Chamber newsletters and Facebook page for more information! Possum’s also offers their own [Facebook page](#) with updates about products and store information.

Looking towards the future, Kurt and Suzanne are making plans to buy or build another store within 5 -10 years in the Mid-Michigan region. The Chesaning Chamber of Commerce toasts their current success and wishes the Lanes and staff of Possum’s Party Store the best of luck in years to come!



Happy 10th Anniversary to Union Court Assisted Living

Union Court Assisted Living has much to celebrate this year! Not only is it time to recognize a decade of care for residents at their St. Charles facility, but they are also thrilled to have welcomed the first residents to their brand new facility in Chesaning!

Owned by Ray and Mary Cornford and Pat and Kelly Cornford, Union Court has provided a sense of independence and normalcy to those in their care, allowing their residents to live life to the fullest since 2008. The award-winning St. Charles facility was recognized by Saginaw Future with the Outstanding Economic Investment award and also received the Business of the Year award from St. Charles Chamber of Commerce. In 2010 and 2011 they were named Best of the Best by the Saginaw News.

Their website states “we are an HFA licensed facility in good standing with the State of Michigan. As a locally owned and operated facility, we truly connect with and care about the community. We value seniors as an essential part of our society, and our goal is to always provide exemplary care. We offer different levels of service to meet the

changing needs of elderly adults who wish to maintain the highest possible level of independence.”

Their facilities reflect this commitment with a variety of services, amenities and room styles, including suites, semi-private and private rooms and specialized care rooms. The St. Charles facility offers living space for up to 86 residents, having completed a 10,000 sq. ft. addition in 2016, and the Chesaning facility will house up to 62 when it is at full capacity.

The Chesaning Chamber looks forward to celebrating the opening of Union Court’s second Assisted Living community at their Open House on Friday, March 2nd from Noon to 7pm. Keep an eye on your Chamber updates and [Union Court’s Facebook page](#) for more information! In the meantime, the Chesaning location is open for tours in case you have a loved one who needs their tender care.

Congratulations, Union Court Assisted Living! Thank you for your commitment to our community!



2018 Shiawassee Home Garden Business EXPO

Booth reservations are being accepted for the 2018 Shiawassee Home Garden Business EXPO, scheduled for March 10 and 11 at Owosso High School.

Here is an excerpt from communication about the event that was received at the Chesaning Chamber office from the Shiawassee Regional Chamber:

"We are fortunate to have high interest in the 2018 show already. With nearly 2,800 people in attendance last year, this is a great opportunity for any businesses of any size, to meet and greet potential customers," said Kevin Maurer of Maurer Heating and Cooling, Chairman of the EXPO Planning Committee.

The Downtown Owosso Farmers Market and Owosso Main Street have again joined together to create an "Indoor City Market". Maurer stated, "The 'winter market' was a terrific addition to the show last year and we look forward to that special attraction being bigger and better this year."

Any business is invited to participate with affordable hall tables for home based busi-

nesses and non-profits. Any chamber of commerce or homebuilders' member will qualify for a 45% members-only discount on full-sized booth space.

"We are pleased to offer the member discounts to businesses in our region. Members of other chambers and homebuilders/business associations are welcome to receive the discount as a thank you for supporting their local association," said Chamber Vice President Sue Kadlek. Questions on eligibility can be directed to Kadlek.

The Home Garden Business EXPO is an annual event of the Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce.

There is an early registration discount on booth cost until Friday, February 16th and, as noted above, Chesaning Chamber members enjoy the discounts offered to Shiawassee Regional Chamber members! [Click HERE for details!](#) Questions? Contact the Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce at 989-723-5149.

Crop Until You Drop (Or Knit... or Sew... or Stamp...)

For those of you who enjoy crafting of any kind, plan ahead to join your Chamber Board of Directors members, Valina James and Bobbi McIntyre, on Saturday, April 7 for an all day event (9am until 9pm). Get those projects ready, gather up your crafty friends and make a day of it! Participant cost will be announced soon.

We are seeking vendors who would like to have their products available during the Scrapbook Crop event. The cost for vendors to participate is simply a door prize donation (minimum \$25 value) and the price of their meals (TBA). Vendors can hold their booth/table space for the entire day or half of the day (9am-2:30pm or 3:30pm to 9pm).

The Scrapbook Crop committee is also seeking bids from potential locations including member restaurants with meeting/



banquet rooms and organizations with meeting halls. The bid should include the cost rental of the location from 8:30am until 9:30pm on Saturday, April 7 and the per-person price of lunch and dinner (if available). Please contact the Chamber office with your proposal by Feb. 23rd for consideration.

Call the Chamber office to pre-reserve your seat or vendor space. A registration form will also be made available in the March newsletter. Stay tuned for more information!

2017 Scrapbook Crop at the Public House

"Never iron a four-leaf clover, because you don't want to press your luck." -Unknown

Coming Attractions!

Saginaw County Fair Horse Department Presents...



TACK SALE & EDUCATIONAL DAY

MARCH 3RD 2018 10AM TO 4PM

Setup starting at 7am

11350 PEET RD CHESANING

100 Vendors
BUY & SELL
New & Used
SILENT AUCTION

WE ARE OFFERING **FREE**
EQUINE WORKSHOPS TO
GET YOU READY FOR
SHOW SEASON 2018
11:00AM-2:00PM

\$1 ADMISSION
\$25 10'x10' RENTAL FEE
\$5 ELECTRIC

To Reserve Vendor space Fill out and return no later than Feb. 28th

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Email _____

Description of Items to be sold (attach photo) _____

Spaces ___ @ \$25, ___ Electricity \$5, Tables ___ @ \$10, Total Due \$ _____ Check # _____

Make checks payable to: Saginaw County Fair Horse Department, PO Box 449, Chesaning MI 48616

Tickets \$5 **Baffling Bill** **Family Fun**
The Magician

March 10, 2018 7:00 p.m.
Middle School Auditorium
Doors Open @ 6:15 p.m.

Chesaning area
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
Helping the community
to grow in knowledge.

Proceeds go to
River Rapids Library
Summer Reading
Program

River Rapids District Library
989-845-3211
www.riverrapidslibrary.org
facebook.com/riverrapidslibrary

Save the Date!
Chamber Comedy Night
Friday, March 9, 2018
Riverfront Grille
Doors open at 7:30pm ~ Show starts at 8:30pm

\$20 per person or...
Reserve a table for 8 for \$150!
~ Appetizers Included ~
Door Prizes and More!

Space is Limited!
Make reservations early by calling
The Chesaning Chamber office at 989-845-3055
(Send payments to P.O. Box 83, Chesaning, MI 48616)

Fishing Fun in Chesaning!

4th Annual Kids Spring Sucker Tournament
Saturday, April 21, 11am-2pm
Showboat Park
Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Chesaning

Chesaning Area Walleye Fishing Contest
Saturday, April 28 – sponsored by the
Chesaning Area Conservation Club!

Easter Egg Hunts Coming Soon!

Be sure to contact the Chamber office with details about your community Easter Egg Hunts and other Easter activities for inclusion in our March Newsletter!

Raffle Winners:**January 24****Nick Leonard****Drawn by****Nick Schlachter****(Chesaning Resident)****February 14****TBA****Drawing at Valentine****Mini-Storage****2018 Chamber Raffle****Tickets are still
available!****Join Our New Chamber Ambassador Program**

The Chesaning Chamber of Commerce Marketing Committee is trying something new! We are looking for a few dedicated members (or employees of members) who might like to be a part of our brand-new Ambassador Program. This year will help shape the program goals, procedures and Ambassador benefits, so we encourage you to consider this opportunity to lend your voice to the process!

The Chesaning Chamber Ambassador Team is a membership outreach and retention program designed to involve and inform all Chamber members and prospective members. Ambassadors are volunteers who, on behalf of the Chesaning Chamber, make goodwill calls to encourage membership participation and actively support Chesaning Chamber programs. Joining as an Ambassador is one option members can exercise to increase their commitment to the Chesaning Chamber while gaining additional exposure for themselves and their business. Ambassadors generate excitement and enthusiasm through participation in ribbon cuttings, grand openings, and other Chesaning Chamber networking events and functions. Anticipated perks of being a Chamber Ambassador include:

- Increased visibility at Chesaning Chamber programs and events
- Earn rewards based on level of participation
- Recognition among peers as a community leader, both individually and for the business or organization you represent.
- Be the first to meet new chamber members for potential business and social contacts.

Do you have great communication skills, a love for the Chesaning Chamber and community, and a positive attitude? Consider joining our team! Potential ambassador names will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval and will serve a one year term (dates of service are still being determined). This opportunity is open to all business, associate and individual members; call the office today for more information!

WE**OUR
MEMBERS!**

CHESANING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
P.O. BOX 83
CHESANING, MI 48616
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED