



Monthly Business Connection

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January 2017

*Chesaning
 Chamber of Commerce
 Board of Directors*

Greg Bruff,
 President
 Waddell & Reed

Ron Ebenhoeh
 Vice President
 Metro Mortgage

Jessie Woods,
 Secretary
 Sovis Insurance

Steve Keck,
 Treasurer
 H&R Block

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

Cindy Tejkl
 Community State Bank

Christopher Theile
 Swartzmiller Lumber

Kate Weber
 Executive Director

The President's Corner

Greetings! For those of you who may not know me, I am Greg Bruff, a Financial Advisor with Waddell & Reed, Inc. located at 115 Broad Street in Chesaning. My lovely wife, Nicole, and I have one son, Jacob, who is a sophomore in high school. It is my honor to serve as your Chamber Board of Directors President this year!

With the well-attended Annual Membership Dinner and Meeting behind us, it is time to plan for another busy year at the Chesaning Chamber of Commerce. Our Board is ready to serve our membership by partnering with our community government and organizations to continue moving the Chesaning area forward through marketing projects, public events and promotion of business opportunities.

Chesaning is "170 years young" this year! Be sure to read Bobbi's article on the back page of this newsletter for information about our plans for a fall dinner celebrating this remarkable milestone and the great story of Chesaning.

Another new endeavor that the Chamber is pursuing in 2017 is the purchase of a new electronic message (LED) sign to replace our out-dated marquee located next to the post office. This popular member benefit will offer much more flexibility and information-sharing with the change to an electronic sign. In 2016, the Sign Committee sought bids for a new double-sided 19mm Watchfire Electronic Mes-

saging Center and the Committee is moving forward with the bid received from Chamber member Agnew Graphics, Signs & Promotions. We will be offering sponsorship opportunities to our members in February.

I encourage you to get involved in Chamber committees and events! We welcome participation from our member businesses and organizations, community volunteers and school groups! Please do not hesitate to contact me to share your ideas for the Chamber.

Wishing you the best in 2017~

Gregory C. Bruff

Board of Directors President
 989-845-7699-work or 989-280-4838-cell



*Greg Bruff,
 President*

A Note From Randy Stoddard

It doesn't seem possible that we are entering another new year. We had a great time at the chamber dinner on Saturday night. The whole evening seemed to enhance the idea that makes Chesaning, Chesaning! The idea of the strength of "family" in middle America!

Thank you all for the volunteer award; it sure was a surprise to me. I pray that our business community continues to grow in the idea of unity and family togetherness. I have considered it a pure blessing to be able to give a little back to the community that I truly love these last 9 years.

Thank you one and all... Randy

Inside this issue:

Member News	2
February Calendar	2
Annual Dinner & Meeting Recap	3
2017 Anniversaries	4
Gift Certificates Keep It Local	4
Valentine's Beer & Wine Tasting	5
Kicking Off the 170th Birthday Celebration	6

Member News & Community Highlights

- Mark your calendar for Tuesday, February 14th (Yes~Valentine’s Day!) The Chamber Board of Directors will be sharing the love with the **Indian’s Café** as they cut the red ribbon at **8am** celebrating their grand opening! Be sure to stay for breakfast if you can make it! Owners Michele and Chad Kolleth are planning a week of fun and specials, so if you can’t make it in for the ribbon cutting, stop in throughout the week to see what they are featuring!
- **Misiuk Funeral Home** is offering a Dinner & Discussion Program on Tuesday, **March 7, 5:30pm** at The Junction Restaurant (4136 Peet Road). Enjoy dinner while learning about the benefits of planning your funeral the safe way, followed by informal questions and answers. Please call to reserve a seat as space is limited— (989) 385-3584 or (989) 845-3096.

Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to announce our newest Individual members, **Tom and Angie Meder**, who have joined the Chamber for 2017. Individual membership is open to residents who wish to have access to Chamber emails and newsletters, support our events with their time and talent or simply to show their support of the Chamber and community! Thank you to all of our Individual Members!


- To accommodate longer press releases from our members, we are offering a new page on our website with recent news links! This is a great way to find older press releases, also, as they are kept in date order. Check out the latest news at www.chesaningchamber.org/member-news--press-releases.html

December Chamber Statistics:
We received
81 Phone Calls,
358 Emails &
120 Visitors



February 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8am Chamber Marketing Meeting	2 Chesaning Township Board Meeting 7:30pm Library Comedy Night	3 5pm K of C Fish Fry	4
				Owosso Poker Room Fundraiser Thursday-Sunday, February 2-5, 5pm-2am nightly		
5 7:30am-11:30am American Legion Post #212 Breakfast	6	7 7:30pm Village Council 8pm Queen Of Hearts	8 Noon Chamber Raffle 6pm DDA Meeting	9 8am Chamber Board Meeting	10 5pm K of C Fish Fry	11 Free Community Supper at Trinity UMC 5-7pm
12	13 6:30pm School Board Meeting	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> 8pm Queen Of Hearts	15 5-7pm K of C Hamburg/Social Night	16	17 5pm K of C Fish Fry 7-10pm Chamber Beer & Wine Tasting at Riverfront Grille	18 11am-1pm Library Family Fun Day: Western Round-Up
19	20 	21 7:30pm Village Council 8pm Queen Of Hearts	22 Noon Chamber Raffle	23	24 5pm K of C Fish Fry	25
26	27 5:30pm Candlewalk Committee Meeting	28 7:30am Task Force Meeting 8pm Queen Of Hearts				Save the Date! Saturday, March 4, from 9am-9pm: Chamber Scrapbook Crop Day! Watch your emails for information!

“A career is wonderful, but you can’t curl up with it on a cold night.” – Marilyn Monroe

Honoring Great People for Great Achievements

One of the highlights of the Annual Dinner and Meeting is the announcement of the recipients of awards honoring the outstanding contributions of business owners, employees and citizens of the community of Chesaning. Nominations for these coveted awards were collected in December from our Chesaning Chamber members.

After reviewing the very competitive submissions this year, the selection committee was pleased to present the following awards to the winners:

- ⇒ **Star Employee Award - Stephanie Braeutigan of Family Insurance Sevice.** Presenting the award was Bob Schulte.
- ⇒ **Distinguished Business Person Award - Laura Greenfelder of Creative Passions Crop & Quilt Retreats.** Presenting the award was Tammy Wenzel.
- ⇒ **Lifetime Achievement Awards - Tim & George Gewirtz of Gewirtz Hardware and Joe Gewirtz & Mary Jo Wood of Showboat Restaurant.** Presenting the awards was Mary Kay Hoerner & Nancy Rehmann with special introduction by State Representative Ben Frederick.
- ⇒ **Volunteer of the Year & Past President's Awards - Randy Stoddard of Stoddard Mobile Court & Sales.** Presenting the award was Steve Keck.

Celebrating 2016 Chamber Member Anniversaries

Each year, the Chamber wishes a "Happy Anniversary" to businesses celebrating a 5-year increment milestone. Certificates of achievement were presented at the Annual Meeting to:

- 20 Years – David J. Tomac, General Contractor
- 25 Years – Designs by Bean and M-57 Surplus
- 35 Years – Hedrich Excavating, Dr. Jeannine Hopfensperger/Dr. Thomas Teal, Valentine Mini-Storage and Chesaning Sports Boosters
- 40 Years – Dale's Appliance Service, Family Insurance Service, LaClair Sales Inc. and Showboat Restaurant
- 50 Years – Stoddard Mobile Court & Sales and PNC Bank
- 55 Years – Main Beverage Company
- 60 Years – Malt Shop
- 70 Years – Chesaning Body Shop and Hehr International
- 95 Years – Memorial Healthcare
- 160 Years – Nelson House Funeral Home—Martin Chapel

Meet Your New Chamber Board of Directors

Four board positions with three-year terms are decided by votes from our Silver and Gold-level members every year. This year, one of your previous Board members chose to run for re-election, and three new faces join the Board of Directors, plus a vacant position was filled for the remaining year of its term. Here is your new team of hard-working board members:

Working for you are:

- ◆ President **Greg Bruff** of Waddell & Reed
- ◆ Vice President **Ron Ebenhoeh** of Metro Mortgage
- ◆ Treasurer **Steve Keck** of H&R Block
- ◆ Secretary **Jessie Woods** of Sovis Insurance
- ◆ **Annette George** of Chesaning Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- ◆ **Valina James** of The Silver Thimble
- ◆ **Tom Lavery** of CenturyLink
- ◆ **Bobbie McIntyre** of Studio 124
- ◆ **Ron Poyer** of H&R Block
- ◆ **Nick Stoddard** of Stoddard Classic Cars
- ◆ **Cindy Tejkl** of Community State Bank (A Division of the State Bank)
- ◆ **Chris Theile** of Swartzmiller Lumber

Thank you to **The Public House (by Pintown)** for the delicious dinner and great accommodations for the Chamber's Annual Dinner & Meeting!



Jami Meyer, Shawn Sloan, Randy Stoddard and Anne Swartzmiller will be greatly missed at the Chamber Board meetings. We appreciate their contributions to the Board for these past years!

Are You Celebrating an Anniversary in 2017?

Please take a peek below and make sure that our information is correct! Here's what we have on file for 2017 five-year increment business anniversaries—let us know if we've missed you or if our information is incorrect!

- **5 Years - 2012** Big Rock Millwork Resourceful Recycling
- **15 Years - 2002** Big Joe's Layton Corners Bar Full Moon Fitness & Tanning AFS-USA Mid-Michigan
- **25 Years - 1992** Michigan Festival & Events Association
- **30 Years - 1987** E&L Hardwoods
- **30 Years - 1987** McDonald's of Chesaning
- **35 Years** – 1982 Kiwanis Club of Chesaning
- **40 Years** - 1977 Chesaning Family Dental Hass Vision Center
- **45 Years** - 1972 Krupp's Heating and Cooling
- **50 Years** - 1967 Chesaning Lions Club
- **65 Years** - 1952 Giesken's Flooring & Cabinetry
- **70 Years** - 1947 Neu-Rich Jewelers
- **80 Years** - 1937 Waddell & Reed
- **105 Years** - 1912 Swartzmiller Lumber

Wanted on February 2-5: Night Owls!

One of the best fundraisers available to the Chamber is the opportunity to act as hosts at the Owosso Poker Room. Our next scheduled dates are on Thursday-Sunday, Feb. 2-5. Although we have some workers scheduled already, we are required by the state to supply 3 people at all times. The hardest shifts to fill are nightly from **9:30pm-2am**. It is actually the easier portion of the evening to volunteer as the tournaments are already underway and you are just helping to sell poker chips and concessions as needed, or tallying numbers for the paperwork. Dress is casual and food or drinks are allowed! We still need 1-2 people for each night; please let us know if you can help by calling 845-3055!



Gift Certificates Continue to “Keep It Local” in 2016

Chesaning Chamber Gift Certificates continue to be a great way to support our local businesses by encouraging customers to shop locally. This year was no different and we'd like to thank all of our members who participated in the Gift Certificate program.

In case you've never checked into our Chamber Gift Certificates, they are available in \$20, \$10 and \$5 denominations and have no expiration dates. They may be purchased at the Chamber office or at Ed Rehmann and Sons Clothing.

Chamber merchants whose dues are current may accept gift certificates from their customers for payment and bring them to the Chamber for reimbursement. Community State Bank and PNC Bank will also credit the accounts of businesses who bank with them for the gift certificates.

We would like to extend a big “Thank You” to **Hehr International, Chesaning/Brady Fire Department and the CAER Center** for purchasing a large amount of gift certificates this year, especially during the holidays. Many Chamber businesses benefited from these employee and community gifts!

Give a round of applause to our **Top 5 Merchants** of the 34 businesses who re-deemed over **\$12,000** in Chamber Gift Certificates in 2016:

- ◆ **Frank's Super Market** \$5620
- ◆ **Showboat Restaurant** \$880
- ◆ **Ace Hardware (Ches. Sales)** \$845
- ◆ **Paxson Oil/Marathon** \$745
- ◆ **Ed Rehmann & Sons Clothing** \$660

“You can't buy HAPPINESS but you can buy LOCAL and that's kind of the same” ~ unknown

Valentine's Beer & Wine Tasting Set for February 17!

Plan ahead to bring your sweetie out to our annual Valentine's event on Friday, Feb. 17 from 7-10pm at the Riverfront Grille! Enjoy an evening of food, fun and friends while sampling local beers from Midland Brewing Company and Modern Craft wines paired with delicious menu creations by Riverfront Grille! Details are still being finalized... stay tuned for more information!

Sponsors Needed!

- **Donate \$100 or more, receive 2 free registrations** as well as your logo and/or business/organization name included in all advertising! **Please respond by January 31 to be included in newspaper advertising.**
- **Silent Auction Items are needed**, also! Donors will be highlighted during the event and in follow-up news release, as well as Facebook coverage of event. Silent Auction items will be accepted until February 15th!

Valentine Beer & Wine Chesaning's 170th Birthday Kick-Off



Enjoy an evening
of Food, Fun & Friends!

Sample Local Beers from Midland Brewing Company
and Modern Craft Wines paired with Delicious
Creations by Riverfront Grille



Friday, Feb. 17, 2017 from 7 - 10pm

Tickets are \$20/person

Riverfront Grille, 128 N. Front Street, Chesaning

Purchase tickets by calling or stopping by the Chesaning Chamber Office
989-845-3055

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**FEELING
LUCKY?**

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday March 18, 2017
Chesaning Sports Booster
15th Annual
Dinner Dance
\$125 per Ticket
(Admits Two 21 & Over Adults)
More Info Coming Soon

3rd Annual Comedy Night

Thursday, February 2nd, 2017
at The Public House, formerly The Peet Community Center, in Chesaning

Doors Open at 6:00pm
Show begins at 7:30pm

This year we will be having the hilarious co-headliners Carl Johnson and Chris Young to entertain you throughout the night!

Advanced tickets are \$10
Tickets at the Door are \$15
Tickets are available at the River Rapids District Library

There is a 180 ticket limit, so get yours before they are gone!

Raffle Winners:**December 28****Ruth O'Conner****Drawn by Jessica****Reniewicz****January 11****Bob Schulte****Drawn by Cindy Tejkl****2017 Chamber Raffle****Tickets are still
available!****HaPpY BiRtHdAy, Chesaning ~ 170 Years Young!**

She looks pretty good for 170! Of course, she has had a few face lifts over the years (her most recent, the bridge over the Shiawassee River). But all in all, we live in a strong and vibrant community. Just think of before we even had a bridge; how would our town have been then??

It all started in 1819 with the Saginaw Treaty. This was a treaty signed between the Saginaw tribe of the Chippewa Indians and the United States. It established 10,000 acres of land along the Shiawassee River to be known as " the Big Rock Reserve". It wasn't until 1837 that a second treaty was put into place which led to the reserve being surveyed and offered for sale. The first property was sold for \$5 an acre and was purchased by George W. Chapman and Rufus Mason. (anyone have these two men in their family tree?) These men returned to Massachusetts to get their families and move them to their new home, which happened in the summer of 1842. In the meantime, other settlers came and started a sawmill and a grinding mill. The little village was called Northampton in honor of their homeland. In 1853, legislation changed the name to Chesaning, "Big Rock Place".

Our community has survived many ups and downs, not just familiar to us, but to our ancestors over 100 years ago. Our town was originally built on the east side of the Shiawassee river because of the forest setting, which provided much lumber to build stores. But because of coal heating systems, there were many fires which destroyed entire blocks. Eventually Chesaning moved to the west side of the river because of the fires and the arrival of the railroad.

The first township elections were held in 1847 and are considered to be the birthday of the community. The first elected officials were:

- William Smith - Supervisor and Justice
- Rufus P. Mason - Clerk
- L Stevens - Treasurer

This was the first saga of Chesaning. The Chamber would like to honor our town with a 170th birthday celebration on September 9th, 2017. Keep your eyes open for more details coming soon. Each month we will put a little piece of history in your news letter. We would love any information, pictures or old items from the past that will help make our celebration great. If you'd like to help with the birthday celebration, give us a call!

~Bobbi McIntyre, Birthday Celebration Committee

CHESANING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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