



# QUARTLY CONNECTION



## Women in Business Networking Night.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at Carriage House Events on Thursday, November 16th for the first Women in Business Networking Night: Connect 4@5. The committee was hopeful this first time event could attract 35 local business women and we were pleased to welcome 49 members! Attendees played a small ice breaker game that helped groups interact and meet board members and new members, share information about their businesses and ideas they would like to see within the Chamber itself.

Stacy Rolf and Rachel Gross attending the Connect 4@5 Event photo booth.

## CONNECT 4 @ 5



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[www.chesaningchamber.org](http://www.chesaningchamber.org)

## Swartzmiller Lumber Warehouse Project



business from that warehouse, right off the highway. Once the electrical was completed, demolition started on the first half.

The decision was made to construct the building in two 48 foot sections, to make a 96 foot wide building. The complexity of the area warranted this decision. With M-57 on the south and warehouses and the ready-mix plant to the north the ability to swing a 96 foot truss wasn't feasible. The new warehouse gives Swartzmiller Lumber 8,000 square feet to stock all sizes of dimensional treated lumber, wood decking, composite decking, finish grade plywood, construction grade plywood, OSB and a ton of other sheet goods and lumber products.

The North end of the building has a new 22 foot door opening, which will allow customers with large trucks the ability to drive in, pull their order, make a complete loop around and exit. This entrance will also give accessibility to the store for handicapped customers.

Swartzmiller Lumber hopes to have the new warehouse completed and operation by the New Year and they are excited to get feedback from their customers.

Christopher Theile,  
Vice President  
Swartzmiller Lumber Company



Last year Swartzmiller Lumber decided they needed a new treated lumber warehouse. The former warehouse sat between three different buildings and was added on over the years. Originally, a very long time ago, this area of the business was used for building wagon bodies. As the years passed, they needed more room for pressure treated lumber, plywood, and paneling products, so it was converted into a warehouse.

Plans were made during last winter to demo the old warehouse and erect a new one with the same footprint, but more accessible and customer friendly. All electricity for the store, the warehouses, and the ready-mix plant had to be rerouted because it comes into the

## Ponderings of the President



Laura Greenfelder, President  
Owner of Creative Passions, LLC  
Creative Passions Quilt Shop

"If you don't ask,  
the answer is  
always no."

-Nora Roberts

What a wonderful fall we have had with beautiful weather and successful events. Last month we enjoyed Connect 4 @ 5, a Women In Business networking night at the Carriage House. Since the event was sold out, we were able to meet and interact with many business members. Our whiteboard was full of thoughts and ideas for the upcoming year. If you missed out on the night, don't worry, we are planning to have networking nights throughout 2024.

As we wrap up the calendar year, I hope you have had a chance to look at your Chamber of Commerce Membership renewal paperwork. Remember the important date of December 22 to turn in your ten paid raffle tickets to receive \$100 off your membership. In your renewal packet, you also received a form to nominate a Star Employee, Volunteer and a Business Person of the year. Please take time to nominate someone you feel worthy as we will be choosing from these nominations the last week of the year.

By now, you should have received by mail an invitation to the Annual Dinner on Saturday, January 13, at Riverfront Grille. Please go online to the Chamber website and reserve a spot for yourself or a table of eight for your business. We are looking forward to another fun night celebrating and supporting our businesses and individuals.

The last Saturday in January your Chamber will be hosting a comedy night at Riverfront Grille for \$20 per person. It is a fun and inexpensive evening out right about the time cabin fever starts to set in! This is our first event of the year to fundraise for our amazing fireworks this summer.

I am honored to be part of a Chamber of Commerce board that encourages and supports its businesses with ribbon cuttings, open houses, and networking nights. If you have any ideas for events and would like to join in volunteering, we would love to have you!  
Growing Business with You,  
**Laura Greenfelder, President**

GIFT CERTIFICATES  
REDEEMED:  
\$1,340.00 in sales  
September to November.

September:  
most redeemed by:  
Showboat Restaurant.

October:  
most redeemed by:  
Ed Rehmann & Sons  
Clothing

November:  
Ed Rehmann & Sons  
Clothing

GIFT CERTIFICATES  
SOLD: \$2,560.00 in  
Gift Certificates since  
September of  
2023.(counting the 2023  
golf outing)

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE CHESANING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Cordially Invites You*

**Saturday, January 13th, 2024**

**99TH ANNUAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING & DINNER**

**6 PM COCKTAILS | 7 PM DINNER**

**at Riverfront Grille, 128 N. Front St.**  
Meeting and awards to follow. Beer & Wine provided. Cash Bar Available.


**\$40 PER  
PERSON**

Reservations must be paid in advance.  
RSVP by January 4, 2024  
CALL: 989-845-3055 or  
EMAIL: [info@chesaningchamber.org](mailto:info@chesaningchamber.org)

## Annual Raffle Tickets

Annual Raffle tickets are a big part of the Chamber's fundraising efforts for the Chesaning Area Fireworks display. The cost of our beautiful show is over \$10,000 but it draws 1,000's of people to town on the Thursday before the Fourth of July. Many local families plan around the display for family parties and it's a great way to start the holiday weekend! The Chamber also has sponsorship opportunities to allow members advertising in Showboat Park to all the show watchers that gather with the best viewing opportunity.

Tickets are a great holiday gift idea - an entire year of a chance to win \$300. Chamber Business members also receive a \$100 discount on their membership if they sell or gift 10 tickets. Get your tickets in by January 8th, 2024 so you don't miss out on any drawings!

**2024 Annual Raffle**

**\$300 Cash Prize Each Drawing**

\$20 per ticket includes all 24 drawings.

Winners name returned to the draw- You may win again!

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

Drawings Begin Wednesday, January 10, 2024  
Last Drawing Wednesday, December 26, 2024

*Proceeds support Fireworks and Chamber Projects  
Sponsored by the Chesaning Chamber of Commerce*

Raffle License #X09731

RAFFLE WINNERS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER:

October 11, 2023  
Missy Neubecker

October 25, 2023  
Janet Amman

November 8, 2023  
Neida Angst

November 22, 2023  
Robert Sager

PAST ANNUAL RAFFLE TICKET TOTAL TICKETS BY YEAR:

- 2015: 535 tickets
- 2016: 588 tickets
- 2017: 655 tickets
- 2018: 624 tickets
- 2019: 625 tickets
- 2020: 610 tickets
- 2021: 852 tickets
- 2022: 615 tickets
- 2023: 656 tickets

LET'S BREAK A NEW RECORD FOR 2024!  
PLEASE SELL OR PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS BY: JANUARY 4TH 2024

### Now Hiring!

Area Job Listings



Chamber Members  
Share your job openings with us and let the Chamber help you get your message out!

Each week the Chamber offers the ability to add your job openings to our listing in the Membership Matters email.

Simply send what you would like listed and any links to your website can be added as a hyper-link to more information.

DEADLINE: THURSDAY AT NOON.



## IF EVERYONE IS MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER, THEN SUCCESS TAKES CARE OF ITSELF.

-Henry Ford

# 3 IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

- 1** DECEMBER 22ND: Deadline for Board and Award Nominations are due.
- 2** JANUARY 4TH: RSVP for the 99th Annual Dinner
- 3** JANUARY 27TH: Date of the Chamber Comedy Night. Held at Riverfront Grille. Tickets available soon.

SHOP LOCAL! SHOP CHESANING!

## Membership Drive 2024

Thank you to our board members for delivering 97% of all renewal packets by hand this year. If your business knows that email renewals work best for your business - please let us know. ALL of our renewal information can always be found on the Chamber website: [www.chesaningchamber.org](http://www.chesaningchamber.org). Business payments can be made through our on-line portal - \$350.00 for regular renewal or \$450.00 if you want to purchase your 10 raffle tickets and save.



### Chesaning Community Brochures

The newest Chesaning Community Brochure has been printed and delivered to the Chamber office. This brochure is delivered to MDOT welcome centers and rest areas throughout the state of Michigan. The newest version has a QR code that will have the most current possible listing of Chamber members. By directing people to the Chamber Website even mid-year joining will be included. Need copies to give out at your business? Call the office today to get some and promote Chesaning businesses and events.

### 5 Years of our Electronic Sign

At the top of Chamber membership perks has to be the ability to post messages to the LED sign 12 full weeks each year. With it's dynamic capabilities and central location hundreds of impressions a day are made from this sign. This year 51 business and associate members took advantage of their "sign time" by posting a message at least one week out of the year. To get your message on the sign simply call, email or stop in to the Chamber office and let Lisa design a message that fits your business.



The Chamber Board Meets in the Village Council Chambers on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:00 am. All are welcome to attend. We welcome your ideas and suggestions.

## Chamber Board Members

Laura Greenfelder, Creative Passions LLC  
Emily Cannon, Blush Salon  
Jessica Lichnovsky, The State Bank  
Amy Handley, Citizens Bank  
Lori Austerberry, Chesaning Realty  
Nick Stoddard, Stoddard Classic Cars

Jeremy Hoover, JHoover Construction  
Juan Bush, Garber Chevrolet/Buick  
Greg Bruff, MMB Advisors  
Bobbi McIntyre, Studio 124  
Jessica Stewart-Walter, Sovis Insurance



Come Grow With Us!

**REMINDER:** Are you receiving our Friday Membership Matters emails? Please make sure your email is up to date with the Chamber Office so that you don't miss out on important and timely news!

### Chamber Mission

The Chesaning Chamber of Commerce works diligently to achieve its mission  
"To actively foster business growth, member services and a united community."