



Monthly Business Connection

1-800-255-3055 ~ 989-845-3055
 Email: info@chesaningchamber.org
 Web: www.chesaningchamber.org

April 2017

*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

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
 The State Bank

Christopher Theile
 Swartzmiller Lumber

Kate Weber
 Executive Director

Building a Plan for the Future

Dear Members:

The 2017 Chesaning Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is in the process of making a huge decision to help maintain the viability of the Chamber in the future. Our beautiful building that was built with Chamber & Showboat funds has become very expensive for the Chamber to maintain on its own. It is also going to need some extensive repairs over the next few years.

The Chamber's reason for existence is to promote our members and to help grow our business community. The normal day to day expenses along with the need for \$25,000 to \$40,000 in repairs have put the Board in a precarious position.

In the last several months we were approached by representatives of the Village about the possibility of sharing our building and property with the Village of Chesaning. Their office buildings are in need of a tremendous amount of repair as well. The Board has been floating ideas back and forth with the Village about possible ways for this "sharing" to happen. The Village has now proposed to do a large addition to "our" building at no cost to us. However, in order to make the financing possible, The Chamber would need to deed the building and property over to the Village in exchange for a 100-year lease (that automatically renews every 99 years) for \$1.00 per year. The Village would be responsible for all maintenance inside and outside of the building. The Chamber would

pay a small percentage of the utilities based on the size of our office in relation the total square footage of the building. Partnering with the Village would give the Chamber the opportunity to dedicate more of its budget to marketing its membership and the community of Chesaning.

After having discussed this at many meetings, 2017 Board of Directors feels it is in the best long term interest of the Chamber to accept this proposal from the Village. Financing for this project must still be secured by the Village before it can move forward. This was not an easy decision and it was definitely not taken lightly as we understand the pride of ownership of this beautiful building and property by our membership. We welcome your questions and input on this decision. Our next Board of Directors meeting is Thursday, May 11th at 8:00AM.

Thank You,
 Greg Bruff, President
 Ron Ebenhoeh, Vice-President
 Jessie Stewart, Secretary
 Steve Keck, Treasurer



Inside this issue:

Member Memos	2
May Calendar	2
Celebrating Anniversaries	3
Spring Events	4
Town Wide Attic Sale	5
Fireworks Opportunities	5
Chesaning: 170 Years Young	6

Member Memos

- Did you know that April 30-May 6 is [National Small Business Week](#)? According to the MI-SBDC Great Lakes Bay Region, Michigan has “856,352 small businesses, which is 98.2% of Michigan businesses and 1.8 million small business employees, which is 50.2% of Michigan employees”!
- Congratulations to our neighbors: the Shiawassee Regional Chamber formally purchased the Owosso Armory and is beginning a redevelopment project to “create class-A office space and collaborative incubator and community initiatives”.
- Great job to all of our Chamber members who offered springtime fun for all ages including fishing contests, Easter bunny events, egg hunts & children’s programs!
- Check out the latest member press releases at www.chesaningchamber.org/member-news--press-releases.html!

Welcome New Members!

The Chesaning Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School is our newest associate member! Zion Lutheran has been an active participant in our Christmas Candlelight Walk for years and we are delighted that they are now also members.

This busy church established in 1873 counts 450 members and offers Sunday services at 8am and 10:30am, as well as Bible classes, youth activities and other special events. Their school provides education to students from preschool to 8th grade. For more information about the church, call 989-845-3006. For school enrollment information, contact principal Matthew Augustine at 920-327-9613.

March Chamber Statistics:
We received
89 Phone Calls,
443 Emails &
106 Visitors

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:30pm Village Council 8pm Queen of Hearts	3 8am Chamber Marketing Meeting	4 6pm Library: WWII in their own Words 7:30pm Chesaning Twp. Board Meeting	5	6
7 7:30am-11:30am American Legion Post #212 Breakfast	8	9 8am Golf Outing Meeting 8pm Queen of Hearts	10 Noon Chamber Raffle 6pm DDA Meeting	11 8am Chamber Board of Directors Meeting	12	13 Free Community Supper at Trinity UMC 5-7pm
14 	15 5:30pm Candlewalk Committee Meeting	16 7:30pm Village Council 8pm Queen of Hearts	17 5-7pm K of C Hamburg/Social Night	18	19	20
21 Chesaning Chamber  9am at Twin Brooks	22	23 7:30am Task Force Meeting 8pm Queen of Hearts	24 Noon Chamber Raffle	25	26 <div style="background-color: #ffffcc; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Town-Wide Attic Sales 9am-5pm</div>	27
28	29 OFFICE CLOSED 	30 8pm Queen of Hearts	31			

“A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself” - Joseph Campbell



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

AFS Mid-Michigan - 15 Years Old!

AFS Intercultural Programs began in 1915 as the American Ambulance Field Service (later to be known as the "American Field Service" or AFS), a voluntary ambulance and truck organization which emerged soon after the outbreak of World War I and was reactivated in WWII. After the wars, AFS created a high school exchange program hoping to maintain and strengthen the international friendships they had fostered during their wartime humanitarian work.

Today, AFS is a global community including 59 country partners and affiliates, over 12,000 participants, 43,000+ volunteers, 1000+ staff and alumni (returnees) numbering 450,000 and counting! At the local level, AFS Mid-Michigan is a chapter of the AFS Michigan Team serving the area encompass-

ing roughly Genesee, Saginaw, and Shiawassee counties and the Lansing area. AFS Mid-Michigan began in 2002 when local volunteers felt the need to organize regionally to better support their participants. This year, the chapter is supporting 18 students hosted within our region and a New Lothrop student who is studying abroad in Thailand.

Jessica Andres, Pam Shelito and Kate Weber are the local volunteer coordinators for the chapter and are currently seeking host families for the 2017-18 school year as well as students interested in studying abroad and additional volunteers. For more information, visit www.afsusa.org or call Jessica at 989-277-3677 or Kate at 989-493-6297. Congratulations, AFS Mid-Michigan, for 15 years of sharing the [AFS Effect!](#)



Happy 25th to Michigan Festivals & Events Association!

In 1990, Sue Bila, President/CEO of MFEA, was working with a privately-owned festival in Frankenmuth and serving on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Fairs Association. Through her work with these groups, she saw the opportunity for providing education and marketing to the many Michigan festivals and their volunteers. She shared her idea with a newly formed advisory board who formed the vision of what MFEA was to become and, in 1992, took that vision to a new level with 40 charter members.

Great accomplishments often come from humble beginnings. MFEA started in a home office during the era of no cell phones, no websites, and no social media. Sue and her staff relied on the telephone and postal system, as well as the work of many members and friends who have helped carry the organization to the level it has attained today. Long time sponsors, including Pepsi (the official soft drink of MFEA) have become true partners in their success. Local support from Chamber member businesses has been greatly appreciated as well; for example, CenturyLink has graciously provided a home to the MFEA offices for over 20 years.

Through careful stewardship, MFEA has been able to exceed the responsibilities of grant funds received and is now recognized as the largest State Festivals, Fairs, Events, & Destinations Association in the Nation!

Today, the [Michigan Festivals and Events Association](#) is a statewide non-profit organization boasting over 850 members. Their busy office staff (2 full and 3 part time employees) work diligently to market and provide education to their members including festivals, events, tourism and government-related agencies, main attractions, year-round and seasonal fun spots, lodging, students, and vendors catering to festivals and events. This year, they are reaching new heights with a new annual magazine highlighting member events and their much-anticipated move to the historic Carriage House located behind Chesaning's Heritage House (summer of 2017).

Chesaning is fortunate to have such a wonderful Michigan asset make its home in the heart of our community! Congratulations to Sue and her staff, the MFEA Board of Directors and members. The Chesaning Chamber wishes you continued success!



MFEA's current location



The Carriage House ~ MFEA's future home!

Local Events!

**EARTH DAY
ELECTRONIC
RECYCLING DRIVE**

ALL MICHIGAN RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES WELCOME

WHERE

FRANKS SUPERMARKET
1045 WEST BROAD ST CHESANING, MI

WHEN

APRIL 21 FRIDAY 9AM-6PM + SATURDAY 9AM-2PM APRIL 22



UNFORTUNATELY WE CAN NOT ACCEPT CRT (GLASS) TVS OR MONITORS

ELECTRONIC ITEMS ACCEPTED

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| COMPUTERS | SERVERS |
| COMPUTER COMPONENTS | CELL PHONES |
| LAPTOPS | VIDEO GAME CONSOLES |
| PRINTERS/COPIERS | WIRE |
| DVD PLAYER/VHS | FLATSCREEN TVS |
| NETWORKING DEVICES | |



IF IT HAS A BATTERY OR CORD - WE CAN RECYCLE IT!

FREE ON-SITE
HARD DRIVE
DESTRUCTION



**RESOURCEFUL
RECYCLING**

WES@GLBRRR.COM
(989) 323-9296
WWW.RESOURCEFULRECYCLING.COM

Be A Winner...
The Party Continues!!!

GOING ONCE...
GOING TWICE...
GOING ONLINE!!

The Michigan Festivals & Events Foundation
Online Auction Runs
April 13 - May 25, 2017

Visit www.biddingforgood.com/michiganevents
for a full list to fill your bucket!!

United Financial CREDIT UNION

After-Hours

Fiesta

Thursday, May 4, 2017 5:00-7:00PM

Chesaning Chamber Members:

Join us to celebrate the new location of the United Financial Credit Union Branch located at 1720 W. Brady Rd in Chesaning! Mingle with United Financial staff and chamber members while enjoying Cinco de Mayo treats!

Please RSVP to the Chamber office by Friday, April 28

Chesaning CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Phone: 989-845-3055
info@chesaningchamber.org

Chesaning Area Walleye Fishing Contest

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 29th and plan to go fishing! This one day, one fish contest benefits the Chesaning Area Conservation Club Youth Activities. The entry fee is only \$10 and registration is open to any person with a valid Michigan fishing license who enters no later than midnight on Friday, April 28th. The contest begins at 5am and weigh-in ends at 5pm on the 29th.

Applications are available online (address below) or at the Chamber office, Ed Rehmann's & Sons, Ace Hardware, Riverfront Grille, McFarland's or the Back Forty. Questions, contact Gary Dankert at 845-7647 or Jim Mowl at 989-766-3054.

The largest fish prizes include Stormy Kromer, Carhart & Redwing/Irish Setter Boot packages; door prizes are available, too! Good luck!



[For more information, CLICK HERE!](#)

Chesaning CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

22nd Annual Golf Outing

Twin Brooks Golf Course
Sunday, May 21st, 2017
Shotgun Start at 9 a.m.
Fee \$60 per person

(Include: 18 holes, cart, lunch & beverages)

Call Twin Brooks Golf Course to Register
989-845-6403

- Four Person Scramble (form your own team)
- Hole-In-One Winner - Prize TBA
- Event Winner for Every Hole!
- Door Prizes From Local Businesses
- Putting Green Contest - \$5000 to the Winner!
- Puttin' for Poker - \$200 Guaranteed Winner!!

Event Proceeds Fund Two \$500 Scholarships For Chesaning Union High School Graduates
2016 recipients were: Heather Mahoney and Taylor Murphy

Town-Wide Attic Sales: A Community Tradition

Every spring, the Chamber office begins to receive inquiries about the Town-Wide Attic Sales that have been held on the Friday and Saturday of Memorial Day weekend for 27 years. It's a tradition that is anticipated by both the sellers and the shoppers alike with many out-of-town visitors planning a trip to Chesaning to hunt for treasures.

Recently, the Chamber offered coordination of the Attic Sales to other organizations who might be interested in turning it into a fundraiser or volunteer opportunity with their own fresh perspective. Although most people support continuing the Attic Sales in some form, no one has stepped forward to take charge to date. To avoid disappointing the many residents who count on the sales every year, the Chamber office will once again promote the sales through print, electronic and social media, as well as on our marquee, but will not be publishing a map with participant addresses as in years past.

Participants will be encouraged to contact the Tri-County Citizen to place classified ads promoting their sales.

As a courtesy, the Tri-County Citizen has graciously offered discounted advertising to members who would like to promote their In-Store Specials, Sidewalk Sales, any Attic Sales Coupons & Special Offers, or would just like to promote the event in general:

TRI-COUNTY CITIZEN DISCOUNTED ATTIC SALE AD RATES & SIZES:

Exclusive to Chamber Members Only
All Ads Include FREE Color!

- 1/16th = \$42 (\$60 value)
- 1/8th = \$70 (\$105 value)
- 1/4 = \$129 (\$200 value)
- 1/2 = \$253 (\$395 value)
- Full = \$500 (\$785 value)

Publication – Sunday, May 21st
DEADLINE – Monday, May 15th

Contact: Lorraine DeHues at 989-341-4806 or tccsales@mihomepaper.com



Be a Friend of the Fireworks

In past years, many businesses have been generous supporters of the Chamber Fireworks Show that is enjoyed by our community every summer. This year, we thought we would offer a more formal sponsorship program that will give back to our members in return! **Each chamber member who makes a minimum \$100 donation to the 2017 Fireworks Show will receive 10 free passes (a \$50 value) for admission to the Fireworks, which are scheduled for Thursday, June 29th.** You may share these passes with employees and customers, or use them for your own marketing promotion! As always, sponsors will be acknowledged in press releases, advertising and social media.

We are also seeking member businesses with high levels of foot traffic who would be interested in displaying our collection canisters for small change donations from the community. Last year, we raised almost \$200 in the 8 weeks prior to the show with these festive canisters. Every little bit helps make our shows bigger and better!

Finally, we are accepting vendor applications for the Fireworks Show as well. Associate members (non-profit) may participate free of charge, business members may participate for a \$25 fee and non-member vendors can apply for a \$100 fee but are not allowed to sell anything that competes with one of our member vendors. Call the office for more information at 845-3055!

Electronic Sign on Hold

Thank you very much to all of the Chamber member businesses who pledged their support with sponsorship commitments and donation offers to help fund the proposed LED sign to replace our outdated marquee. Unfortunately, we did not meet the minimum fundraising goal to pursue the sign at this

date but we will be revisiting the project in the future. We had a lot of positive feedback about the benefits of changing to an electronic sign and still feel that it would prove to be a fantastic marketing tool for both our Chamber members and the Chesaning community.

Providing a Warm Welcome!

Please help the us welcome new Chesaning area businesses by providing any brochures or member-to-member offers to the Chamber office for inclusion in our new "Welcome to the Community" Folders. This is also a great opportunity for our member organizations to provide information about their volunteer opportunities! Call the Chamber office for more details.

Raffle Winners:

March 22

Virginia Cymbal

Drawn by

Kevin Carlton of
Carlton Camping
Center

April 12

Mike Bueche
Construction

Drawn by

Dan Robinette of
Village Sales & Service



Anna Gall with Chesaning Nursing & Rehabilitation Center's administrator, Annette George

Chesaning's Oldest Living Resident- Anna Danek Gall

The life of a little girl in the early 1900's was different from today, but the same in many ways. Anna Danek Gall was born on May 4, 1915 on a farm on state road south of Chesaning. She is 102 today and just as bright as can be. Her hearing may give her a few problems, but she is just as beautiful and interesting as ever. I had the privilege to talk to her and hear a little bit about history as a young girl in the early 1900's. She couldn't understand why anyone would be interested in her life. I said who better to learn about history then from someone who has lived 102 years. She replied "oh, no one cares about that stuff". Little does she know how amazing she really is.

As a little girl, she lived on a farm that had a wood range for heat and cooking. They used lamps for light before they had electricity, and used an outhouse for a bathroom. For fun as a child they played ball and hung out at Easton Hall. Her family of 5 brothers and 2 sisters played together, and visited relatives with their parents. Her brother Tony Danek went off to the war.

Anna walked to a one room school house which she attended until the 8th grade. They heated the school with coal and wood, and had a pail of water for drinking with one dip-

per for everyone to use. There were 2 outhouses, one for the boys and one for the girls.

Anna married the love of her life, John Gall, at the age of 22, he was 24. They had a ceremony at the Methodist church in Chesaning and moved across the road from her childhood homestead. John worked at Hehr, was a farmer and a bus driver. Anna was a homemaker and cleaned the bank, which is now PNC. They would hang out at the elevator in town and liked to play cards and polka dance. They also never missed a Showboat. It was a simple life filled with many memories and the love of a close family.

One of her most interesting memories was the Detroit Tigers coming to Easton Hall and playing ball for a benefit (around the 1950's, she couldn't remember the exact year). She said there was a very large crowd that attended. The Detroit tiger story was probably the most surprising to me. If only I could crawl inside her brain for a day to experience a small piece of the life she lived. It sounds like she grew up down the road from *Little House on the Prairie*, but lived through the experience of all the technology of the 20th century. I can only pray that I live to be 102 and have lived life like Anna has.

~Bobbi McIntyre, Birthday Celebration Committee



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