



# Monthly Business Connection

989-845-3055

Email: info@chesaningchamber.org

Web: www.chesaningchamber.org

July 2019

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

*Chesaning  
Chamber of Commerce  
Board of Directors*

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## Putting Chesaning on the Map

Your Chamber recognizes the value of having the Shiawassee River designated as a National Water Trail. Our letter of support to the U.S. Department of the Interior is below:

Honorable Secretary Bernhardt,

On behalf of the business, non-profit and individual members of the Chesaning Chamber of Commerce, we are writing to request your designation of the 88 miles of Shiawassee River flowing from Holly to Chesaning, Michigan as a National Water Trail. Already named one of the first eight State Water Trails by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in December of 2018, the Shiawassee River is a valuable asset to all of the communities along those miles as a source of recreation and eco-tourism.

The river winds through the rich history of Chesaning, having been a settling place for both Native Americans and immigrants, and providing a resource for fishing, commerce and tourism. Today, residents and visitors alike enjoy visiting the parks and businesses that line our stretch of the water trail. It is common to see families fishing along the banks, paddling their kayaks and canoes downstream or gazing over its beauty while relaxing on the deck of a local restaurant. Designation as a National Water Trail would put a larger spotlight on the communities lining the Shiawassee and give our businesses, townships and village an additional marketing boost for tourism and relocation.

Through the efforts of the Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition, there has been increased education in our communities to preserve and protect the river's natural resources as well as celebrate its natural and cultural heritage. It is the opinion of our Chamber of Commerce that designation of the Shiawassee as a National Water Trail will enhance those efforts and benefit the businesses, organizations and individuals who enjoy living, working and playing along its path.

We thank you for your consideration and encourage you to approve the Shiawassee River as a National Water Trail.

*Greg Bruff,* President

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

### 95 Years of Chesaning Chamber

We've had some great Annual Meetings over the years, but one for the record books happened in December of 1951. The meeting was being held at the Peet Community Center (now Pintown's "Public House") and was interrupted by a fire near the village's business district. Many of Chesaning's volunteer firemen at the time were also members of the Chamber of Commerce, so they recessed the meeting and hurried to the fire hall, led by Fire Chief Fordney Volker. Although the flames caused about \$300 in damage to the ceiling of the burning building, the fire was extinguished and the firemen returned to the meeting with soot on their faces. The agenda was resumed and Chief Volker was reelected to the chamber's board of directors.



*Greg Bruff  
Board President*

**Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Fireworks a great success this year! We had a good turnout, perfect weather and lots of nice feedback. We are already looking forward to next year's show!**

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## Member News & Community Highlights



- United Financial Credit Union, broke ground on a new office on June 18th at 1026 W. Midland Road in Auburn. The one level, 2,257 square foot building will replace the current office located at 4710 N. Garfield Road. Construction of this office has officially started and will be completed Fall of 2019. Read the full story in our [website press release tab!](#)

- Valentine Mini Storage is excited to announce that they are adding 10 new units (10' x 20') which will be available soon, bringing their total units to 146! Call 845-2303 for rental information.
- The Chesaning Military Golf Classic & Jersey Auction is set for Sunday, August 18 with noon check-in, 1pm shotgun start. \$60 per person (4 person teams) including dinner (Dinner-only is \$15/\$20). Dinner is at 6pm, Jersey & Ball Auction starts at 6:45pm!

**June Chamber Statistics:**  
**We received**  
**88 Phone Calls,**  
**427 Emails &**  
**35 Visitors**



**July 30<sup>th</sup> - August 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**11350 Peet Rd**  
**989.845.2143**

**View 2019 Fair Information & Grandstand events at**  
[saginawcountyfair.org](http://saginawcountyfair.org)

## August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<b>Weekly Meetings/Events:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotary Club meets at noon on Tuesdays, Riverfront Grille</li> <li>• Am. Legion Queen of Hearts Raffle is on Tuesdays at 8pm, Pintown</li> <li>• Kiwanis Meets at 6pm on Tuesdays at Riverfront Grille</li> </ul>					1 Blood Drive @ Ches-Brady Fire Dept Noon-6pm Ches.Twp Board 7:30pm	2 Blood Drive @ Ches-Brady Fire Dept 9am-3pm	3 Market Off Broad 9am-1pm
		Saginaw County Fair - July 30-August 3					
4	5	6 7:30pm Village Council	7 Marketing Meeting 8am Granny's Kitchen  Christ Luth. Music & Space Camp VBS 9am	8 Chamber Board of Directors Meeting 8am  Aug. 8-10 : The Scottish Play—Shakespeare in Showboat Park 7:30pm	9 Movies on Broad 7:30pm  Aug. 8-10 : The Scottish Play—Shakespeare in Showboat Park 7:30pm	10 Market Off Broad 9am-1pm Grace School Supply Give Away 10am-1pm Trinity Methodist Free Community Supper 5pm	
11	12 Red Cross Blood Drive @ Lions Club Noon-5:45pm	13	14 Noon Chamber Raffle 6pm DDA Meeting	15	16  MMOGTA Show - August 16-18	17 Market Off Broad 9am-1pm  New Wine Church Free Community Dinner 5pm	
18 MMOGTA Show  Military Classic Golf Outing & Jersey Auction Noon/6pm Dinner	19	20 7:30pm Village Council	21 Saginaw Co. Play-date in Showboat Park K of C Hamburg Night 5-7pm 7pm Library Book Club	22 Grace Food Ministry Give Away 4:30pm	23  Movies on Broad 7:30pm	24 Market Off Broad 9am-1pm	
25 Car Show at Ches. Nursing & Rehab 2-4pm	26	27 Task Force 7:30am	28 Noon Chamber Raffle	29	30	31 Market Off Broad 9am-1pm	

"Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others." ~ Booker T. Washington

## Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Mel Ervin Ford, Inc!

*This is the story of Mel Ervin Ford Inc, as told in their own words...*

Mel Ervin Ford Inc will be celebrating 40 years of business this coming December! Mel's passion for driving Ford cars started early in his teens. Growing up in Grand Blanc, MI his dad worked for Otto P. Graff Ford for years, located in downtown Flint. There his interest in cars started, he attended GMI in Flint and worked in GM's Tool & Die Plant in Grand Blanc. After learning the craft there for about 10 years or so, and fixing cars in his own garage for several years, he decided to spread his wings and open his own little used car lot with a bump and paint shop in the back in the Grand Blanc area.

As the years went by and his business grew and became successful, he expanded into RV sales. Mel and Kaye had one of the



*Photo courtesy of  
Tri-County Citizen*

busiest RV sales in the industry but was still considered a "Mom & Pop" store. Kaye worked in the office preparing all of the contracts and balancing all of the books, while still answering phones, assisting customers, and helping in the accessories department. Mel handled the sales and service departments. Many late nights he would be delivering a unit to a family getting ready to head out on their first adventure in their new motor home or camper. When he was old

*...Continued on page 4*



## MMOGTA Celebrates Their 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Congratulations to the Mid-Michigan Old Gas Tractor Association! Here is their story as told by Frank Young, who handles correspondence for the organization:*

In August 2019, MMOGTA will celebrate its 45<sup>th</sup> year as a hobby and family-based entertainment venue in Brady Twp. In 1974, a handful of Brady Twp. families first got together to host a small, backyard threshing bee, as an opportunity to showcase some of the antique farm tractors and machinery they had accumulated and restored. At that point in time, it was largely a neighborhood event attended by locals and passers-by. By the end of that weekend, it became apparent that there was much more interest than any had anticipated. Others clearly had an appetite for what had seemed to be a somewhat obscure hobby. Within just a couple of years, the group had outgrown their original home on the Lawrence Haak farm, leading them to lease some land from another founding member (Walt Ritenburg) nearby. With each passing year the growth continued, with several incremental land purchases culminating in the spacious show grounds that currently



covers over 150 acres, including display fields, crop demonstration area, numerous buildings, campgrounds, parking and event areas. As impressive as that sounds, many feel that the club's greatest asset lies in its 500 member families, a talented and unique group of people from all walks of life, who add the hands, feet, talents, and personality that has allowed the MMOGTA to flourish, and become well known as one of the busiest, and most entertaining shows of its kind.

*...Continued on page 4*



## Mel Ervin Ford (...continued from page 3)

enough, their son Jeff started helping out in the service department, getting the units ready for the lot.

His passion for Fords never went away and he started looking for a small dealership in the area of Grand Blanc. After a little searching he found one in the little town of Chesaning. After many discussions between Mel and Kaye about uprooting their whole family and leaving the community, they decided to follow their dream and finally become a Ford dealer themselves. They purchased the local Ford dealership in December of 1979. For nearly 5 years, Mel and Kaye drove from Grand Blanc to Chesaning to run the dealership, while still maintaining their business in Grand Blanc. After commuting for 5 years, they made the decision to sell the business in Grand Blanc and move permanently to Chesaning.

They immersed themselves into the community, finding it very friendly and welcoming! Mel joined the Rotary Club, worked on the Car Show, took tickets for the Showboat while Kaye was on the Decorating Committee meeting many wonderful families from town. After Jeff graduated from Delta in Auto Mechanics, he joined the dealership in

the service department and their daughter Marcy worked in the office along with Kaye. Mark started helping out in the service department and getting the vehicles ready for the lot when he was in high school.

In the early 1990's, Mel and Kaye were approached by the Thompson Boat Co., located in St. Charles, about selling their line of family-fun and affordable boats. Mel would sell the boats, which is his other passion, and Jeff would service them. Mel stopped selling Thompson boats when they closed their doors and quit manufacturing boats.

Today, Mel Ervin Ford is still a small, family owned business with Jeff managing the service department, Marcy heading the office and Mark as the General Manager. Over the years the grandkids have worked at the dealership in some capacity whether in the service department or in the office. You can usually find one of them to help you out or answer your question. Mel and Kaye are still involved, just to make sure their dream is still moving along!

*Congratulations, Mel Ervin Ford Inc!  
What a great story of perseverance and family enterprise! The Chamber wishes you continued success for years to come!*

## MMOGTA (...continued from page 3)

Sharing the hobby and growing, building and maintaining our show and facilities is our job, but the membership is keenly aware of its debt to the community that has supported and enabled us for the last 45 years. We try to give back wherever and whenever possible, responding to and cooperating with other local service groups and individuals in their time of need or loss. We are also very proud of our Annual Rural Education Day program that hosts around 600 elementary school students each September.

As we look back over the last 45 years, we remember good years and lean years, lifelong friendships gained, fellow members lost, and long hours of hard work, all spent in pursuit of sharing our history, hobby, and fun

with our loyal spectators and friends. We hope you can join us on August 16, 17, and 18, 2019 to celebrate our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*Thank you, MMOTA, for all that you do for our community! Have a great show!*





BROAD STREET EVENTS | 428 N. CLARK ST. | CHESANING | (517) 581-0108



**MARKET OFF  
BROAD ST**

**OPEN SATURDAYS  
FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.  
ON S. CHAPMAN ST. AT BROAD ST.  
JULY 27TH TO OCTOBER 5TH**

**FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE VISIT:  
WWW.BROADSTREETEVENTS.ORG**

**FARM FRESH LOCAL**



**THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 SPONSORS!**



**AMERICAN LEGION POST 212**

BROAD STREET EVENTS PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR 2019 SEASON

# MOVIES ON BROAD

Activities begin at 8:00 P.m. & movies begin at dusk in the Ace Hardware parking lot. In the event of inclement weather, the movie may be canceled. For more information visit [www.broadstreetevents.org](http://www.broadstreetevents.org)




**FRIDAY, AUGUST 9TH**  
SHOW DOGS UNLEASHED & UNDERCOVER  
JOIN US BEFORE THE SHOW FOR PAWSOME PUPS DOG SHOW!



**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23RD**  
WRECK IT RALPH RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET  
JOIN US BEFORE THE SHOW FOR AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

**PLEASE THANK OUR 2019 MOVIE NIGHT SPONSORS:**

**THE STATE S BANK** ANIMAL HEALTH CARE OF CHESANING  
*your financial partner for life*



**Without A, B and O, we can't save anybody.**

**Blood Drive  
Chesaning Lions Club**  
17200 Corunna Rd.

**Monday, August 12, 2019  
12:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.**

Sponsored by Lippert Components, Chesaning Nursing & Rehab Center and Chesaning Lions Club.  
To schedule an appointment visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code: CHESANING) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

**Not enough people donate blood. Only you can fill the #MissingTypes.**  
Download the Blood Donor App | 1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org/MissingTypes](http://RedCrossBlood.org/MissingTypes)

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# Music & Science Camp

Wednesday, August 7  
9:00—3:00

## Christ Lutheran Church and School

Learn about God's gift of Music and our Created World, as well as about His greatest gift of His Son!  
Camp is open to children in preschool through grade 6.  
All campers will receive a musical instrument and t-shirt.  
Lunch will be provided. Cost is only \$5.00 per child.  
Join us for some cool science experiments and learn to play musical instruments.  
To register and for more information, call 845-2600 or go online to [www.christ-oakley.org](http://www.christ-oakley.org)





**Raffle Winners:**

**June 26**

**Halie Loos**

**By**

**Connie Thiel**

**Hungry Howie's Pizza**

**July 10**

**Amy Ivan**

**By**

**Taylor Gross**

**Chesaning NHS**

**Student Volunteer**

**By Popular Demand: Quarterly Member Meet & Greet**

Our first New Member Welcome held this past April was well received by those who attended. Your Chamber Board of Directors decided that we should hold similar events throughout the year as an opportunity for our members to get to know each other. We want to encourage you to mark your calendar for our next New Member Meet & Greet: July 31 at McDonald's of Chesaning!

Join us as we welcome Blush Salon and representatives of the Handmade Music Festival to our Chamber family. RSVP's for this informal gathering are requested but not required. This is a chance to network with your fellow chamber members, also, so be sure to bring your business cards along to share. Do you have any questions or are you ready to RSVP? Give Kate a call at 845-3055!



**You Are Invited:  
New Member Meet & Greet!**

**Wednesday, July 31, 2019 \* 7:45-9:00AM**  
**McDonald's Restaurant of Chesaning, 12943 Brady Street**  
**Short program at 8:00AM**

**Introducing:**  
**Blush Salon & Handmade Music Festival LLC**

**Come welcome our newest members to the Chesaning Chamber at this relaxed networking opportunity!**

**Please RSVP by July 29 at 845-3055 - Thank you!**



CHESANING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
218 N. FRONT STREET ~ SUITE B  
CHESANING, MI 48616  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED