



# LAKESHORE CHAMBER

Your source for business and tourism information.

## Educational Theme at Lakeshore Chambers Quarterly Meeting

Join us for an educational themed luncheon at the Park Inn Conference Center in Stevensville on April 28, 2009 at 12:00 noon. Speakers include Don Frank, Superintendent of Lakeshore Public Schools and Dr. Robert Harrison, President of Lake Michigan College. Cost for this informative luncheon will be \$10 per person and includes a salad & sandwich buffet...and dessert. For reservations, please call the Chamber office at 429-1170 and/or payment to the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 93, Stevensville, MI 49127 by April 11th. All members and non-members are welcome.

### Annual Meeting was Festive

The Lakeshore Chamber's Annual General Membership Meeting, which was held at Tosi's Restaurant on January 27, was quite the event to have joined. The festivities began at 6:00pm with a social hour and dinner being served at 6:30pm. Following dinner, the Lakeshore High School Choir entertained us by singing in the New Year. A short business meeting was held and announcements of the Business Person of the Year Award afterwards.



We would like to thank Tosi's for a great venue and delicious food as well as the Lakeshore High School Choir for providing the wonderful entertainment for the evening. A congratulations to Scott Geiger of Brunke-Geiger Heating & Cooling on winning the Business of the Year Award for 2008.

### Business of the Year Award 2008



Scott Geiger is a business owner of Brunke-Geiger Heating & Cooling located in Baroda. As your local Lennox dealer, Scott offers the finest heating, cooling and

indoor air quality products, with prompt and professional customer service. Regardless of the season or the temperature outside, Scott and his team can make your home feel perfectly comfortable. According to Diane Mensinger, Past Chamber President, Brunke-Geiger Heating & Cooling was selected recipient of the 2008 Business of the Year because of their business growth, for bringing other businesses into the community, and for their community spirit and support.

### Mushrooms are Popping Up in Lakeshore Community

Mushroom hunting is typically a Spring festivity in Michigan, but for one Lakeshore Chamber member, mushrooms can now be found all year round. But, these are not just any mushroom, these are a gourmet confectionery -- meringue mushrooms. Lakeshore Chamber Member, Karen Lemieux, has teamed up with Michigan Thyme in New Buffalo, making these meringue creations a highly prized treat for year round gift giving. "These mushrooms are a bit of work," stated Karen. "But, the end result tastes absolutely delightful." Most people love interesting flavors. Karen makes her original shroom with vanilla that people just can't get enough of, and there was an orange flavored carrot (and eggs) that was a hit during the Easter holiday. And, with Mother's Day upon us, Karen will be offering beautiful floral meringue. "I love experimenting with meringue. It's almost like an art." So, why meringue creations we ask? Karen quickly learned about a secret ingredient in baking after her and her husband brought home 10 ducks in April of last year. Research has revealed that many bakers love baking with duck eggs because the whites have more albumin (protein). Duck eggs are also a tastier alternative to chicken eggs, especially for those people with chicken egg allergies. (Karen has volunteered to provide samples at the Quarterly Meeting).

### Honorary Chamber Member

A congratulations to Sharon Geisler who was awarded as a honorary Lakeshore Chamber member upon her retirement from the Lincoln Charter Township. For over 15 Years, Sharon served as Clerk for the township. The members of the Lakeshore Chamber wish Sharon a happy and healthy retirement. A thank you for her continued support through the years and dedication to the Lakeshore community.



## New Member Spotlight

Welcome new Lakeshore Chamber members:

**Frank Beltran, Candlewood Suites** -- local, full service hotel accommodations, geared for business travelers, located on Marquette Woods Road in Stevensville. It is Southwest Michigan's premier hotel for overnight, corporate housing and relocation accommodations. Each room is equipped with a full size kitchen, high speed Internet, DVD movies. Also available for everyone is free laundry, private patio grill area, hot tub & fitness center, and a mini-store. There are also meeting rooms and business support for corporate meetings.

**First Data Independent Sales** -- established in 1964, a Flint-based credit and debit card processing service for local merchants. The Kalamazoo branch of First Data Independent Sales is a 3rd party processing company wholly owned by the First Data Corporation which approves/declines 2/3rds of all credit transactions worldwide. As a result of our dismal economic situation throughout the United States, it is their goal to meet and speak with as many business owners and merchants to see if they can provide them some relief by means of rate reductions for day to day credit/debit card approvals.

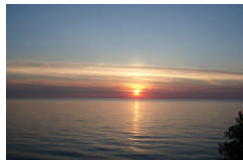
**Sharon Tyler, State Representative 78th District** -- representing the 78 House District, which includes parts of Berrien and Cass Counties.

**Sharon Geisler, Honorary Member** -- in recognition of her many years of service as Clerk of Lincoln Charter Township, and as the Township representative on the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce Board.

**Gary Ruhl, Baroda Lake Township Police Department** -- Chief of Police providing police services for Baroda Village, Baroda Township, and Lake Charter Township

## Chamber Website gets a Makeover

The Lakeshore Chamber website has been sporting a new look lately. In an effort to better serve our members more efficiently, the Lakeshore Chamber website underwent a re-design, thanks to Wendy Bedell and her creative team. The new website includes some new and exciting opportunities for our members to showcase their businesses and enhance their membership experience. Upon viewing the website, please contact Net Designs, llc via [wendy.bedell@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.bedell@gmail.com) if you experience any difficulty finding the information you are looking for, or need to update your member listing.



## Board of Directors Update

The Lakeshore Chamber has recently announced five new members to their 2008-09 Board of Directors team and new Chamber President, Griffin Ott. A heart-felt thank you to those that served on the BOD's and a warm welcome to Nancy Adams, Beverly Gough, Michelle Pingel, Stacy Loar-Porter, and Amber Topp.

The Lakeshore Chamber would also like to recognize Diane Mensinger for her role as Chamber President for the last two years. Diane has really been the face of the organization from ribbon cutting ceremonies and scholarship announcements to local festivals and Lakeshore Chamber events. We appreciate all her hard work, support and continued dedication to the Chamber and Lakeshore community. Below is a look back at a few of the many activities we've seen Diane's face. Thank you, Diane, and keep smiling!



### Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce

#### Board of Directors

Griffin Ott – President  
Jessica Kehrer – 1st Vice President  
Amber Topp – 2nd Vice President  
Paul Roy – Secretary  
Nancy Adams – Treasurer  
Diane Mensinger – Past President

Nancy Adams - Chemical Bank  
Wendy Bedell - Net Designs  
Doug deBest - Michigan Community Blood Center  
Regina Ciaravino - Cornerstone Chamber of Commerce  
Don Frank - Lakeshore Public Schools  
Beverly Gough - Great Lakes Insurance Management  
Jessica Kehrer - 1st Source Bank  
Marilyn Lauer - CrownPointe Senior Living Community  
Diane Mensinger - Village of Baroda  
Griffin Ott - Ott Insurance Agency, Inc.  
Michelle Pingel - Metal Processors, Inc.  
Stacy Loar-Porter - Lincoln Charter Township  
Kim Richardson - 1st Source Bank  
Paul Roy- Lakeshore Tai Chi  
Bernice Tretheway - Retired Registrar of Deeds  
Amber Topp - United Federal Credit Union  
Kristine Williams - Chemical Bank Shoreline  
Bret Witkowski - Berrien County Treasurer  
Larry Wozniak - The Park Inn

#### Contact Us.

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

## ABC's of Lakeshore

The Lakeshore Chamber represents the areas of Stevensville, Baroda and south St. Joseph. Spring is here and the Lakeshore Chamber encourages you to get out there and support the Activities, Beauty, Community (ABC's) of Lakeshore. Think green!



The **Blossomtime Festival** marks the official welcoming into this blooming season located in the heart of St. Joseph. For a listing of events, please visit [www.blossomtimefestival.org](http://www.blossomtimefestival.org).



As April showers bring May flowers, the Lakeshore community is perfect for strolling Lake Michigan beaches, touring the local area wineries and exploring the apple and cherry trees bouquets of pink and white blooms. Visit local orchards which sell jams, pies and asparagus. Take a tour of one of the area's best-known wineries...**Taber Hill**, and then indulge in a leisurely lunch in their glass-walled restaurant overlooking the vineyards. Did you know that the **Red Arrow Highway** was named for a World War I Army division from Michigan? Take a ride on this highway, just south of Stevensville, which runs alongside Lake Michigan and view mountains of golden sand that rises 240 feet above the shore at **Warren Dunes State Park**.



Drive a bit further and take in an unforgettable musical. The **Lake Michigan College Mendal Center** is hosting its Ragtime the Musical as well as, Movin' Out musical during the month. Both events are sponsored and/or presented by the **Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra**. And, in-between your Lakeshore and surrounding community travels, don't forget to "think green." April 22 marks its annual Earth Day celebration in St. Joseph with a festival of locally grown foods, sponsored by **St. Joseph Today**. Happy Spring.

## Going Green in the Office

The subject of environmentally friendly offices remains strong, which is why we bring you a reprint of last year's "Going Green" article.

According to the National Geographic, there are so many simple things we could be doing to save resources that probably never even crossed our minds within the office that we work...from setting the printer to make double sided copies, to recycling ink cartridges and teleconferencing instead of expending money and emitting CO2 to travel a meeting.

A small office (a satellite office of the National Geographic) is making changes in the paper they buy. While reducing paper is their number one priority, what type of paper they generate has to be of the recycled

*Continued...*

type. Cities from around the United States are competing to be the greenest and offering incentives to businesses that want to be greener. Is Stevensville or Baroda one of them? If not, should they be? It may surprise you that indoor air pollution affects many offices - thanks to poor circulation and toxin off-gassing from rugs, cabinets and computers. A greener office can be a cleaner, safer office with your employees in mind...an office that's energy and water efficient, free of indoor air pollutants, flooded with natural light, a place that is easy to get to by public transportation or even on foot or bicycle.

Below are other "easy effort" actions to lowering your CO2 emissions within your office:

- Replace an old computer, monitor and printer with new Energy Star ones
- Recycle all steel (tin) cans in your garbage
- Recycle all aluminum cans in your garbage
- Recycle all glass bottles in your garbage
- Take one less domestic round-trip flight this year
- Take one less overseas round-trip flight this year
- Use a washable mug for your coffee in the morning rather than using a Styrofoam cup
- Get a reusable water bottle instead of using disposables
- Use washable plates and cups for office meetings and luncheons instead of plastic and paper goods
- Unplug electronics when you are not using them
- Turn out the light when you leave the room
- Shut down your computer and peripherals each night
- Get off junk mail lists
- Buy carbon offsets for what you can't reduce

Talk with your colleagues, put together a committee, conduct an audit of your workplace to determine the issues and the solutions. Making your workplace greener results in a healthier place to spend your day.

## Too Much Green Talk?



The Lakeshore Chamber listens. Do you think there is too much "green" talk? Give us your feedback. Have a suggestion on a way you can help save the environment? We want to hear from you. Comments and suggestions can be forwarded to [cheflemieux@hotmail.com](mailto:cheflemieux@hotmail.com) and will be announced in the Summer edition of the Lakeshore Chamber newsletter.

"Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads."

*Henry David Thoreau*

**Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce**  
4290 Red Arrow Hwy.  
P.O. Box 93  
Stevensville, MI 49127



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## Top 12 Reasons to Join the Chamber

- Increased Visibility in the Community
- Free Participation in Tourism & Visitor Welcome Packet
- Free Directory Listing & Receipt of Quarterly Newsletter
- Numerous Educational Opportunities
- Naming of Lakeshore Chamber Business of the Year Award
- Local Festival and Event Support
- Chamber Website Referrals and Promotion
- Special Event Advertising
- Networking at General Membership Meetings
- Bulk Mailing Permit Permission
- Inclusion in the New Member Spotlight
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies

Visit [www.uwsm.org/calendar](http://www.uwsm.org/calendar) for a complete listing of events within the Lakeshore area.



## Vote Yes!

Community members are asking you to Vote Yes for Lincoln Township Zoning in the May election..

## Appreciation

The Chamber would like to thank all the volunteers at CrownPointe Senior Living Community for helping in the folding and labeling of our newsletter

## Member2Member Discounts

- Park Inn 20% discount on rooms reserved by a member for themselves, friends, or their family
- Anytime Fitness 10% off regular rates for chamber members

## Mark Your Calendars

### General Quarterly Meetings

Tuesday, April 28 at 12 noon - Park Inn  
Guest speakers include Don Frank, Lakeshore Schools Superintendent and Dr. Robert Harrison, Interim-President of Lake Michigan College

Tuesday, September 22 at 12 noon – Park Inn

Tuesday, November 24 at 12 noon – Park Inn

### Chamber Booth at Barodafest

Saturday, September 12 (8am - 5pm)

### Chamber Booth at Cornerstone Chamber of Commerce Trade Show

Tuesday, October 6 (4-7pm)

