



# LAKESHORE CHAMBER

Your source for business and tourism information.

## Join the Lakeshore Chamber for Business After Hours

With the tremendous turnout at the Chamber's first event recently, Founders Wine Cellar will host the next Lakeshore Chamber Business After Hours on Tuesday, December 1 from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. Join chamber members for complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages and lots of great networking! Founders is located at 8691 Hills Road in beautiful downtown Baroda. It is suggested that all Chamber members attend as well as anyone interested in Chamber membership. Make your reservation by calling the Chamber at 429-1170 or email [information@lakeshorechamber.org](mailto:information@lakeshorechamber.org). See you there!

### Tremendous Turnout

The September 23 mixer took place at the office of Janka Financial Group in Stevensville with a very pleasing turnout. A huge thank you to Duane Janka and Tabor Hill Winery and Restaurant for hosting this Lakeshore Chamber Business After Hours event. Chamber members enjoyed a delicious selection of cheese and Tabor Hill wine. This was the first Business After Hours for the Lakeshore Chamber and members were very pleased with the turnout.



### Tabor Hill to Host Chamber Annual Meeting

The Lakeshore Chamber's Annual General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26 at Tabor Hill Winery and Restaurant. Mark your calendars now to reserve the night for this special event! Detailed information will be in the next newsletter and available on the Chamber's web site via [www.lakeshorechamber.org](http://www.lakeshorechamber.org).

### Reason for Dues

The Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce offers a very reasonable dues rate of just \$65 per calendar year. What do you get in return?

- Increased visibility in the community
- Free participation in the Tourism & Visitor Welcome Packet
- Free Directory Listing and Receipt of Quarterly Newsletter
- Numerous educational opportunities
- Chamber website referrals and promotion
- Special event advertising
- Networking at the Annual and General Membership Meetings
- Use of Bulk Mailing Permit
- Ribbon Cutting and/or Grand Opening Ceremonies

So if you haven't already paid your dues, please mail them in by January 20th to the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 93, Stevensville, MI 49127.

### The Chamber's Whereabouts

The Lakeshore Chamber participated in the Cornerstone Chamber of Commerce Fall Trade Show on October 6. There was a successful donation of prizes, totaling 21, from the following Lakeshore Chamber members.

### A Thank You for Donating Prizes

- Anytime Fitness - Stevensville
- Big Boy Restaurant
- Candlewood Suites
- Competitive Edge
- Dairy Queen
- Hometown Deli & Catering
- Lakeshore Lanes
- Lakeshore Shell Food Mart
- Lakeshore Tai Chi
- MailMax
- Net Designs
- Southshore Health & Racquet Club
- Tabor Hill Winery and Restaurant
- Tosi's Restaurant



The grand prize give-away was a free one-year membership to the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce. Doris Higgins, Volunteer Center for SW Michigan, was the lucky winner. Congratulations and a warm welcome to Doris from all Chamber members!

### A Beautiful Day at Barodafest

Mother Nature provided the community with beautiful weather for Barodafest 2009. The Lakeshore Chamber was represented at the September 12 event with a Chamber booth.

A drawing for eight prize gift baskets, with items from contributing member businesses, was well received. Thank you to all of the businesses who took part in this annual celebration.



## New Member Spotlight

Welcome new Lakeshore Chamber members:

**Kimberly Risk & James Tomczyk, Lakeshore Excellence Foundation** -- Since 1998, the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation exists to enhance student development through unique educational opportunities; to encourage faculty and staff creativity and excellence; to develop partnerships between Lakeshore Schools and the community; and to promote the Lakeshore School District as a center for community learning. The purpose of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation is to acquire and distribute resources for programs and projects aimed at enhancing, enriching or supplementing learning opportunities for students, staff and the Lakeshore Public School community. The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation is an independent, 501(c)(3) organization with an all-volunteer board. For additional information visit their website via [www.l-e-f.org](http://www.l-e-f.org).

**Doris Higgins, Volunteer Center of Southwest Michigan** -- With offices in St. Joseph and Niles, the Volunteer Center of Southwest Michigan has been connecting people with opportunities to serve, and identifying needs specific to our communities for 30 years. They promote, support, and connect volunteers working to build a strong, caring community. Their vision is: everyone Volunteers. Nonprofits, Schools and Governmental Organizations are invited to list their volunteer opportunities with them. If you are looking for ways to make a difference in either Berrien, Cass or Van Buren county either call 269-983-0912 or visit their website at [www.volunteerswmi.org](http://www.volunteerswmi.org).

**Leonard R. Olson, Founder's Wine Cellar** -- Founders Wine Cellar is located in Baroda, Michigan, in the heart of the valley's entrance to Southwestern Michigan's famous wine country. It lies in the middle of the fruit growing section of Southwestern Michigan - a region known as the Fruit Basket of the Midwest. The back section of the original Baroda City Mill is where you'll find Founders Wine Cellar, the last building before the water tower. They make and bottle wine, for sale at retail and wholesale. Every great growing region of the world has one common characteristic - which is a large body of water on the windward side - to temper the climate. Southwest Michigan is no different. Ensuring the region as one of the top growing regions of the world is its location on the southeast shore of Lake Michigan. Where Germany has the Rhine and Mosel Rivers, France has the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf Stream, and Napa Valley has the San Francisco Bay - the Fruit Basket of the Midwest has Lake Michigan. There are over 20,000 acres of grapes, 15,000 acres of cherries, 8,000 acres of peaches, 10,000 acres of blueberries. Wine Master Len Olson is also the original founder of neighboring Tabor Hill Winery. Be sure to come to their Business After Hours for the Lakeshore Chamber on Tuesday, December 1, 5:00 - 7:30 pm. Visit [www.Founderswinecellar.com](http://www.Founderswinecellar.com) today.

**Don Damron, Vineland Center** - Established in 2007, the Vineland Center is the perfect venue for your next gathering. Southwest Michigan's newest conference and banquet center has ample free parking and is a barrier free facility. Vineland Center was designed with flexibility and ease of use for everyone in mind. Contemporarily decorated conference and banquet halls, along with quality cuisine, and friendly service provide just the right blend of technology and comfort for many occasions. Visit [www.VinelandCenter.com](http://www.VinelandCenter.com).

## Chemical Bank and Local Chambers Hold Joint Mixer

Many thanks to Chemical Bank for hosting the 2nd Annual Autumn Fest at Lemon Creek Winery. Members from the Lakeshore Chamber, Harbor County Chamber, Bridgman Chamber and the Berrien Springs/Eau Claire Chamber gathered on a beautiful Autumn afternoon to enjoy the wine tasting, a hearty chili dinner, meringue mushrooms and door prizes. Be sure to join us next year for this special networking event!



## Board of Directors

The Chamber's By-Laws state that we can have up to 20 directors on the board. We currently have 17 Directors. If you would like more information about becoming a Chamber Director, please contact Griffin Ott at 422-1001.

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 Blood  
Regina Ciaravino - Cornerstone Chamber of Commerce  
Don Frank - Lakeshore Public Schools  
Beverly Gough - Great Lakes Insurance Management  
Jessica Kehrer - 1st Source Bank  
Marilyn Lauer - Retired  
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 - Concept to Promotion  
Kristine Williams - Chemical Bank Shoreline  
Bret Witkowski - Berrien County Treasurer  
Larry Wozniak - Stevensville Inn

### Contact Us.

Phone: 269.429.1170      Mailing Address: 4290 Red Arrow Hwy.  
Fax: 269.429.8882      P.O. Box 93  
Stevensville, MI 49127

E-mail: [information@lakeshorechamber.org](mailto:information@lakeshorechamber.org)  
[www.lakeshorechamber.org](http://www.lakeshorechamber.org)

## New Member Spotlight Continues

**Kellen Van Hulle, Chemical Bank Baroda** -- Chemical Bank is the third largest bank headquartered in Michigan, with assets of \$3.9 billion as of December 31, 2008. Their commitment to Michigan runs deep. For over 90 years, Chemical Bank's hometown approach to banking has remained steadfast and focused on community banking, highlighted by local leadership and decision making, a devotion to community and personalized service. With their expertise and advice, along with a wide range of products and services such as business checking and cash management services, employee benefit plans, and loans and credit options, they can help you meet your financial goals. Chemical Bank offers credit card merchant services to help maximize your profits. Accepting additional methods of payment from your customers can help reduce your accounts receivable and increase your average sales amount. Chemical Bank actively invests in their communities on a regular basis. In addition to the financial support they provide to local organizations, their employees dedicate countless volunteer efforts on an ongoing basis. Chemical Bank employees are leaders, members and volunteers of charitable organizations and community events including United Way, Junior Achievement, 4-H clubs, Habitat for Humanity, American Cancer Society, and the Chamber of Commerce, among others. For additional information, please visit [www.chemicalbankmi.com](http://www.chemicalbankmi.com).

**Bill Graffenius, American Homes Real Estate Century 21**-- Helping to bring buyers and sellers of real estate together in Southwest Lower Michigan, located at 4532 Red Arrow Highway. The firm continues from its former franchise with Century 21, at the same location.

**Tracy Marsh, Von Tobel Lumber** -- A building materials supplier that serves the professional contractor, the remodeling contractor and the do-it-yourself consumer. Great pricing and an outstanding selection are just the beginning at Von Tobel Lumber & Hardware. They add value to the products they sell by employing a knowledgeable and friendly team of professionals. They pride themselves in providing an outstanding level of customer service. Their goal is to treat their customers in such a way that they will always choose Von Tobel Lumber & Hardware for their projects, no matter how big or small. Von Tobel is a 100% employee owned business built on a solid foundation of core values that drives the company's behavior and decision-making. They serve customers throughout northern and central Indiana, with locations in Valparaiso, Michigan City, Schererville, Lafayette and Stevensville, MI. Visit [www.vontobels.com](http://www.vontobels.com) today.

**St. Joseph-Lincoln Senior Center** -- Located at 3271 Lincoln Avenue in St. Joseph, the St. Joseph-Lincoln Senior Center provides safe, friendly, positive social, educational and recreational services for the 60+ citizens of our community. The center provides transportation during the morning hours only, to the center, to grocery stores, doctor's offices, beauty salons, and volunteers jobs. Transportation requests must be received three days in advance. Current activities at the center include Resistance and Range of Motion Exercise classes, Music in Motion, Beginning and Advanced Line Dancing, Quilting, Bridge, Pinnacle, Mah Jongg and Greeting Card Making. For further information, you may reach the center at 429-7768.

## For Immediate Release

### Michigan Community Blood Centers Announces Name Change

Michigan Community Blood Centers has changed its name to Michigan Blood. This change was made to better communicate their singular focus on blood and blood related services for Michigan hospitals and residents. The new name also unites their blood donation centers in four regions of the state under a single name and brand.

Michigan Blood is a nonprofit community service organization. They are the provider of choice for blood and blood related services to Lakeland Healthcare. Michigan Blood conducts more than 350 mobile blood drives each year out of the St. Joseph site. The drives are sponsored as a community services by businesses, schools and churches, as well as youth, civic and municipal groups.

The name is meant to emphasize the fact that the blood collected by Michigan Blood stays in the state to meet the needs of Michigan's hometown hospitals first. It also underscores the fact that the organization is based in Michigan and has a local workforce of 32 employees and over 50 volunteers working out of their St. Joseph site.

At the same time it's introducing a new name, Michigan Blood is also introducing a new logo and brand promise: "MI Blood Saves Lives." It reflects the organizations Michigan first philosophy and is intended to remind state residents of the importance of donating blood.



### Hospice at Home Takes Holiday Orders

Chamber Members can now order a beautiful 24" Douglas Fir Wreath -- perfect for home, office or gravesite -- \$25.00 each or 5 for \$100.00. Gravesite easels are \$3.00 each.

Delivery is available upon request. Free delivery for purchases of 5 or more, \$5.00 per address for purchases of 4 or less.

Wreaths will be available for pick-up at the Hospice at Home offices in St. Joseph, South Haven and Buchanan beginning Monday, November 23. To order your wreath today, please call 269-429-7100.

Avon Holiday gift packages and baskets can be purchased as well by calling Hospice at Home. All proceeds will benefit Hospice at Home. Orders are accepted no later than December 8. Visit their website for package details or become a fan of Hospice at Home on Facebook via <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Hospice-at-Home/195803470730?ref=nf>



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



**Return Service Requested**

### **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 Opportunities at Various Events
- Bulk Mailing Permit Permission
- Inclusion in the New Member Spotlight
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies

### **Member2Member Discounts**

- Ott Insurance 8-10% discount on personal lines  
12-14% discount on commercial policies
- Stevensville 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**

**Business After Hours**  
December 1 at 5pm – Founders Wine cellar

**Dues are Due**  
January 20, 2010

**Annual Chamber Meeting**  
January 26, 2010

**Visit the Lakeshore Chamber Website**  
[www.lakeshorechamber.org](http://www.lakeshorechamber.org) for Up-to-Date Information and Events

