



LAKESHORE CHAMBER

Your source for business and tourism information.

Officer Clark Speaks About Identity Theft

Are you concerned about business and personal identity theft? Officer Michael Clark, representing Baroda-Lake Township Police Department, strongly urges you to protect your business by preventing identity theft. Protecting the personal information of your customers, your employees and yourself is the number one way to prevent identity theft.

To learn more about identity theft, please join Officer Clark at the next General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 22nd at 12 noon. The luncheon will be held at the Park Inn Conference Center in Stevensville. 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.



Identity Theft Information

Did you know the crime of identity theft has reached epidemic proportions? Each year this non-discriminatory crime claims millions of victims...and the number is growing. Find out if you are at risk for identity theft by answering the below questions brought to you by Johnny R. Ray, author of Johnny Ray's Guide to Preventing Identity Theft.

1. Do you have a mail slot on your door or a mailbox with a locking mechanism on it?
2. Do you keep your social security number in a safe and secure area within your residence?
3. Do you shred and/or tear all personal information prior to disposal?
4. Do you scrutinize your monthly bank and credit card statements?
5. Do you order and review a copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus at least once a year to make sure no fraudulent accounts have been opened in your name?
6. Do you minimize the number of credit cards you carry in your purse or wallet?
7. Do you avoid pre-printing your

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8. Do you put your garbage out the morning of trash pickup?
9. Do you maintain an emergency listing (with 800 phone numbers and account numbers) of creditor accounts in case of emergency?
10. Do your credit cards have your photo printed on them?

If you have answered "No" to three or more of these questions, you are putting yourself at risk! So, what can you and organizations do to protect themselves? Below are 10 Identity Theft Prevention Strategies.

1. Be extremely cautious when handling and disclosing personal information ie. Social Security card, mother's maiden name, date of birth, past addresses, bank and credit account numbers.
2. Invest in a personal shredder.
3. Place garbage out on the morning of pickup rather than the night before.
4. Consider listing only your name and phone number in the telephone book, or get an unlisted and unpublished number.
5. Be aware of other directories in which you may be listed.
6. Install a residential mailbox with a locking mechanism or purchase a door with a mail slot.
7. Don't leave outgoing checks or paid bills in your residential mailbox.
8. Opt out of pre-approved credit card offers by calling (888) 5OPTOUT, or (888) 567-8688.
9. When you order new checks, do not have them sent to your residence.
10. Call your credit card company if your card has expired.

For information on how you can prevent identity theft send a request via e-mail at info@identitytheftinfo.com. Johnny May provides an up-to-date and comprehensive guide with the necessary tools to effectively combat this devastating crime.

Mr. May has lectured extensively on security and crime prevention topics and is regularly cited by the media as a leading authority. He has appeared on "NBC Nightly News" with Tom Brokaw, A&E Open Book, Comcast Newsmakers and scores of other television and radio shows.



New Member Spotlight Briefs

Welcome new Lakeshore Chamber members:

Barodafest - an annual festival held the Saturday after Labor Day, featuring a full day of family activities – Pancake Breakfast, 5K Run/Walk, Car Show, Garden Tractor Pull, Children's Games, Parade, Arts & Crafts, Food Booths, and live entertainment all day. This small-town, homey festival winds down with dancing and music under the stars. Go to www.barodavillage.org for a full list of events and schedule. For additional information regarding Barodafest, please call 422-1779 or 422-2300.

Renée Schoenwitz, Just Girls Fitness Center - located in the Lincoln Town Center, at the crossroads of Red Arrow Highway and Glenlord Rd., Just Girls Fitness Center is a part of the Contours Express system of women's gyms. The center features a 29 minute CardioFit circuit using real weight equipment designed specifically for women's bodies. Renée will use the same space that Curves used in the center. According to Contours, real weights help prevent osteoporosis and arthritis, help increase metabolism and fight obesity, help fight heart disease, help reduce the risk of diabetes, and help prevent injury, while helping women feel better about themselves. In addition to circuit training, the center will feature limbering classes, health and wellness presentations, therapeutic massages, a nutritional program and products, and a shower facility. They plan to be open all day. For more information call Renée at 921-9661.

Brad A. Woods, A. G. Edwards - (a Division of Wachovia Securities, LLC) As an A. G. Edwards Financial Consultant, Brad can offer you a wide range of services from individual investments to developing Business Retirement Plans. His focus is on 401K rollovers and college savings plans, but is prepared to help you make informed investment decisions based on your specific needs. Contact Brad at 269-408-1776 or 800-944-7301 to see how easy it is for you to work toward your financial future.

A Round of Applause



We would like to give a big round of applause to the following Directors who have served during the past few years and are now retiring or resigning from the Board: Dave Boelcke (Boelcke Heating & Cooling), Jim Archer (Chemical Bank Shoreline - Baroda Branch), Jim Brow (Baroda Twp. Supervisor), John Walker (United Federal Credit Union), Rob Burgess (Lakeshore Public Schools).

A heart-felt thank you to all for their continued support through the years and dedication to the Lakeshore Chamber.

\$1000 Scholarship Program

For the four past years, the Lakeshore Chamber has been awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to a student who resides within the Lakeshore School District boundaries and plans to attend Lake Michigan College. This year's scholarship was presented to Katherine Sukys of Lakeshore High School at the Annual Meeting in January.

Katherine plans to attend Lake Michigan College in the Fall to begin her studies. Following her two years at LMC, she plans to transfer to a university to continue her studies in pre-law and then on to law school. Her eventual goal is to become a judge.



Pictured from left to right: President Diane Mensinger, Katherine Sukys, Barbara, Vytautas Sukys



ABC's of Lakeshore

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

Celebrate Spring Break at the library this year. In addition to their regularly scheduled story times, the Lincoln Township Library will be offering additional programs from their April Fools' Day Fun Fest to their Ronald McDonald Show and Mario Kart Tournament. Or, how about some "bowling" fun at Lakeshore Lanes?

The Lakeshore area is comprised of beautiful parks and beaches. Weather permitting and in the thinking "Spring" mindset, Grand Mere State Park offers over a mile of Lake Michigan shoreline, magnificent sand dunes and trails for your walking or biking pleasure. Just north of Grand Mere State Park you will find yet another beautiful park with a lovely boardwalk and beach access - Lincoln Township Park and Nature Center.

Got Community? The Village of Baroda does. A new program called, "Music in the Park," will be an afternoon of free music and relaxation at the Village Park on June 22, July 26 and August 24. Bring your picnic lunch and blanket (or lawn chairs), listen to the music and visit with friends. Refreshments will be available. All programs begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Park Pavilion. This year's line-up of performers include Bob Flood (variety of music), B4 (rock/pop/blues) and Penny Brant (vocal/guitar). Contact 422-1779 for additional information.

2007 Business of the Year Award

Nature's Way Landscaping was named the 2007 Business of the Year at the Chamber's Annual Meeting at Tabor Hill Winery and Restaurant in January. Chamber President, Diane Mensinger, stated that Nature's Way Landscaping was selected as this year's recipient because of their community spirit, longevity and the fact that it is a family-owned multigenerational business.



Gene de la Foret started his business in 1976 in a garage. He now has over 40 employees at their 1113 John Beers Road location. His son Shawn serves as General Manager and Vice President. His daughter Nicole works in the Design Support area. The business focuses on landscaping and hardscaping (walkways,

waterfalls, patios, etc.) and is known for their creativity. In Mr. de la Foret's acceptance speech at the Annual Meeting, he stated that his success is due to his creative staff. One example of Nature's Way community spirit is their work with the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation on the "Growing Lakeshore Pride" campaign to re-landscape the high school.

Road to Success

This past fall, the Board of Directors held a visioning session. From that session came our Mission and Vision Statements, which were announced at the Annual Meeting.

Mission: The Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce exists to promote the interests of Stevensville, Baroda and its surrounding areas for the growth and advancement of businesses and communities.

Vision: The Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce is a member-driving organization, which seeks to be ...

A valuable resource to the business community
A conduit for business attraction and retention
A highly effect asset for our communities
A leader in creating meaningful partnerships
An advocate for business

We discussed what our strengths and weaknesses are and how we can improve in both areas. And we looked at the future of the Chamber. We've set goals and objectives for this next year and into the future.

Future plans include expanding our scholarships to include not only Lake Michigan College, but also

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Sienna Heights and the Western Michigan University Extension. We are also in the beginning stages of discussing a scholarship for adult continuing education. We hope to have this program developed by the end of the year.

We have also restructured our committees. In the past, the Board of Directors has filled all of the committees. Now we invite you to participate by serving on a committee. As a member driven Chamber with no paid staff, we need everyone to participate to ensure the future success of the Chamber. We encourage you to sign-up for a committee that you're interested in or in your area of expertise. Each committee will be lead by a member of the executive committee. We expect the committee meetings to be approximately an hour, but it will be up to each committee to decide on the frequency and duration of their meetings. Please consider filling out the enclosed volunteer form and fax it to the Chamber office at 429-8882.

Board of Directors



Paul Roy – Secretary
Kristine Williams – 1st Vice President
Diane Mensinger – President
Griffin Ott – 2nd Vice President
Larry Wozniak – Past President
Jamie Conrad – Treasurer (not pictured)

Nancy Adams - Chemical Bank
Wendy Bedell - Net Designs
Jamie Conrad- Select Tool & Die
Doug deBest - Michigan Community Blood Center
Don Frank - Lakeshore Public Schools
Sharon Geisler - Lincoln Charter Township
Jessica Kehrer - 1st Source Bank
Marilyn Lauer - CrownPointe Senior Living Community
Diane Mensinger - Village of Baroda
Griffin Ott - Ott Insurance Agency, Inc.
Kim Richardson - 1st Source Bank
Paul Roy - Lincoln Township Public Library
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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Fax: 269.429.8882 P.O. Box 93
Stevensville, MI 49127
E-mail: information@lakeshorechamber.org
www.lakeshorechamber.org

Weddings

The popularity of green weddings has gained substantially in the last few years and wedding favors are following suit. Pampered Chef Consultant, Karen Lemieux, would like to share some unique ways to make your (or someone you know) wedding more environmentally friendly while maintaining the elegant quality you require.

In her researching, Lemieux has found options for a green wedding to be unlimited – from menu planning to green gift giving. Below is a sample listing of the many ways you can go green.

- ~ Eco-friendly champagne flutes
- ~ Organic beer
- ~ Menu featuring local and organic ingredients
- ~ Organic wedding cake
- ~ A menu made of edible chocolate (yummy!)
- ~ Decorations made from soy-based materials
- ~ Potted plants and orchids
- ~ Flower seeds or tree seeds as favors
- ~ Charitable gift giving

Today, Lemieux believes the most-unique (and green) wedding gift and/or favor is a charitable gift. Today, brides and grooms can make a difference by joining The Pampered Chef Round-Up from the Heart campaign. By purchasing Pampered Chef's beautiful heart-shaped trivet, the company will donate \$2 to America's Second Harvest (the Nation's Food Bank Network) ending hunger. The campaign runs through August 31, 2008.

You can also check out the I Do Foundation registry. Here you can register for your favorite charities (including the National Wildlife Federation and the Sierra Club) and retailers who will donate a percentage of each gift's cost to the charities of your choice. Wedding guests will be honored knowing a portion of their gift was benefiting a charity close to your heart.

Office Environment

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 type.

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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 and will be announced in the Summer edition of Lakeshore Chamber.

"Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads."
Henry David Thoreau

Don't Believe Everything You Read

“Don't believe all the gloom and doom you read and hear about the economy of Michigan. It's a time that things are not at their best, but good things are happening and more opportunities are on the horizon. Southwestern Michigan has a lot going on.” These are the words of Sharon Tyler, Executive Director of Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance, Inc. (“SMEGA”).

SMEGA is a nonprofit economic development corporation dedicated to the retention and creation of jobs, and the tax base and has been very busy. SMEGA serves as a support role for the Berrien County Manufacturer's Council (BCMC) and is very active in a number of projects.

In 2007, SMEGA assisted in bringing three new businesses to the area. It also processed 16 new Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate Applications in the amount of \$10,299,457 granted for 12 years. The 2007 projects will retain 555 jobs and 82 new jobs were pledged.

The three **new** businesses are Bear Lake Fibre, LLC; Repellex USA, Inc.; and Working Person's Store:

Bear Lake Fibre, LLC recycles paper and returns it for industrial use. In September of 2007, the Company began production in an 82,000 square foot leased building, which is located in the Simplicity Pattern building in Niles City. The Company purchased the paper machine assets from Simplicity Pattern Company. The Company began the operation with fifteen employees and hopes to hire additional fifteen.

Repellex USA, Inc. is a manufacturer of all-natural animal repellents, insecticides and herbicides. The Company was established in early 2007 to acquire the product line from an established Canadian company. The Company is leasing 5,827 square feet of space in Niles Charter Township. The Company created four jobs.

Working Person's Store announced in the July of 2007 that the Company has expanded their operations center to Buchanan Township. The multi-channel retailer specializes in brand name work apparel and footwear. The Company has relocated their distribution center from Lakeville, Indiana. The Company has created sixty-three jobs and anticipates future growth.

In addition another new business will announce shortly. Retention visits are another high priority for SMEGA and BCMC. These are a few of the 2007 highlights:

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Faulkner Fabricators, Inc. manufactures hardboard and wood spools and reels for wire. The Company was located in a 24,000 square foot building and has constructed a 9,000 square foot addition in Oronoko Charter Township. In addition, they purchased machinery and equipment. The estimated project cost was \$402,718. The Company employs twenty-four and plans to create four jobs.

Edwin Kerlikowske Jr. Farms recently purchased approximately 80,000 square feet of building space in Eau Claire Village for the use as an agricultural processing facility. The project involved renovations to the buildings, machinery and equipment. The estimated project cost is \$482,000. The Company is transferring eight year round and twenty-five seasonal employees. They plan to create twenty seasonal jobs.

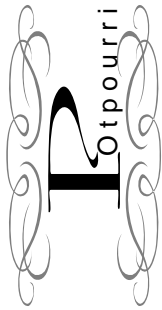
LECO CORPORATION a manufacturer of analytical and metallographic instruments and supplies and refractory ceramics located in St. Joseph Charter Township. The project involved a 12,500 square foot addition to their existing 50,000 square foot building, and a 225 square foot storage building. In addition, they purchased machinery and equipment. The estimated project cost was \$1,380,000. The Company employs fifty-six and transferring fifteen employees from their other facility.

Select Tool & Die, Inc. specializes in the design and repair of aluminum, zinc, and magnesium die cast dies and plastic molds; building prototype components and prototype hard tooling; and machine castings. The Company was located in a 5,092 square foot building in Baroda Village. In January 2007, they purchased a 7,500 square foot building. The Company added a 2,500 square foot expansion to their existing building. They project included additional building improvements, machinery and equipment. The estimated total project cost is \$467,400. The Company employs eight and plans to create three jobs.

Zick's Specialty Meats, Inc. is an USDA meat processor of ready to eat meat products located in Berrien Springs Village. The Company constructed a 3,000 square foot addition to their existing building for a new sausage kitchen, a smokehouse room, and storage. In addition, they purchased new machinery and equipment. The estimated project cost was \$522,000. The Company employs eight and plans to create three jobs.

Even more exciting is the anticipated growth from projects, which are now in the planning stages. There is a lot going on and more good news will be announced during 2008.

(Article written by Sharon Tyler)



Got Ideas?

The Lakeshore Chamber welcomes your input. Please submit any/all ideas, business news, or community events for possible inclusion in the next issue of Lakeshore Chamber to cheflemieux@hotmail.com

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.

Cookbooks are In

The Discover Stevensville Festival committee has announced the availability of "Kitchen Keepsakes from Our Community" cookbooks. If you would like to order a cookbook, please contact Bev Gough at 429-4287.



Mark Your Calendars

APRIL 22nd General Membership Meeting

Visit www.lakeshorechamber.org for a complete listing of community events.



Lakeshore Chamber Membership Benefits

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

Membership Directory Availability

Membership Only \$65



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