



# LAKESHORE CHAMBER

Your source for business and tourism information.

## ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER & PROGRAM

You are invited to join the Annual Scholarship Dinner & Program on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at Tosi's Restaurant, 4337 Ridge Road, Stevensville, MI. Social hour begins at 5:30pm-6:30pm with dinner following. Special guest speaker Dr. Bob Harrison, President of Lake Michigan College, will be available during the scholarship presentation. To make your reservation, send payment to the Lakeshore Chamber, P.O. Box 93, Stevensville, MI 49137 by Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$28 per person. For more information, you may call the Chamber office at 269-429-1170.

### RIP CURRENT AWARENESS

The Lakeshore Chamber & Great Lakes Insurance Management have teamed up to present RIP Current Awareness by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration served. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am and 4:00pm. At the Super 8 Conference Room on Red Arrow Highway. The session is approximately 1 ½ hours long and will focus on safety at the lake and how to educate visitors to our Lakeshore area on rip currents. Make your reservation by calling the Chamber Office at 269-429-1170 or email to [information@lakeshorechamber.org](mailto:information@lakeshorechamber.org). Seating is limited for this event...call now to save your spot!

### SUPPORT LANCER FOOTBALL 2011

Now you can support the Lakeshore Lancers and make an impact on your business all fall with the Mid-West Family Broadcasting High School Football Booster Club! The Lakeshore Chamber has decided to offer its members an opportunity to advertise and share in the support of the Lancers. Every Lancer Football game will be broadcast on WSJM 94.9FM.

### SAFETY DAY

The Village of Baroda, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission and the City of Bridgman have joined forces to hold Safety Day Olympics on June 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a free event open to the children from the three Lakeshore Elementary Schools and the Bridgman Elementary School to teach them bicycle safety, fire safety, water safety, farm safety and more. Representatives from various departments will have activities for the children to do to earn stars on their Olympic Activity Card.

The Safety Day Olympics will be held on June 12<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00pm at Toth Park in Bridgman. For more information, please call Diane Mensinger at 422-1779 or Suzann Flowers at (269) 925-1137 x 17.

### GRAND OPENING

The **Root Seller**, owned and Operated by Ruth Semones, Announced the purchase of Sunshine Perennial Gardens and the Grand opening of the Root Seller at Sunshine Gardens. The event was hosted on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at



Noon. The expansion allows Ruth to advance her unique ability to find and grow exotic, unusual and hardy variety of trees, shrubs and perennials. Ruth welcomes you to come visit the new location at 1251 Hinchman Road in Baroda or call the office at (269) 422-1849 or cell at (269) 876-2852.

### NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The **Root Seller** offers an extensive collection of Day Lilies in the tradition set by Sam and Shirley Samora, former owners of Sunshine Perennial Gardens. The day Lilies are also available in bare root stock. In addition to the eclectic variety of flora and fauna, the Root Seller plans on offering something for everyone:

Shoppers and collectors can find antique items, art, beadwork, and other interesting items related to history, gardening and the great outdoors. Rock hounds can browse the broad range of mined stones, including unique pieces of quartz, geodes, and Petosky stones. Tag-sale items entice the bargain hunters. The gardens offer a wonderful relaxing atmosphere. The Root Seller invites all folks to come and enjoy a stroll through the grounds.

Ruth has been in part of the landscaping culture in the greater southwest Michigan since the late 1980's and active in the industry 30 plus years. She refers to herself as a gardener and to the more sophisticated gardener, offers her knowledge as a consultant. Please feel free to inquire how Ruth can add to your garden and landscape. Website: [www.rootsellerllc.com](http://www.rootsellerllc.com) email: [ruthrootseller@comcast.net](mailto:ruthrootseller@comcast.net)

## NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT CONTINUES

Stephen W. Smith is an attorney with the law firm of **Troff, Petzke & Ammeson**. A native of Berrien County, Mr. Smith received his Bachelor of Arts degree, Magna Cum Laude, from the University of Notre Dame, and his law degree from Georgetown University. Prior to joining Troff, Petzke & Ammeson, Mr. Smith practiced law in the Washington D.C. area for nearly a decade. Mr. Smith focuses his practice primarily in the areas of real estate and land use & development. In this field, Mr. Smith has represented a wide range of homeowners, developers, condominium associations, and contractors in matters ranging from real estate development and closings to construction projects and disputes, and from condominium administration and development to environmental issues. In his spare time, Mr. Smith is involved in a number of community organizations. An avid fan of local and Michigan history, Mr. Smith authored "Jack Dempsey and the Battle of Benton Harbor" (Michigan History Magazine, May/June 2009), an account of the only heavyweight title fight in Southwest Michigan. We welcome Stephen to the Chamber and welcome you to contact him at 269.983.0161 ext. 120 or visit [www.tpalaw.com](http://www.tpalaw.com).



Greta E. Hurst, Mosaicist of **Tabula Rasa Mosaics**, studied at the Chicago Mosaic School and art glass fusing at Water Street Glassworks in Benton Harbor, MI to learn innovative techniques to cut and shape glass and realistically incorporate light values into her pieces. Creating these mosaic designs is a painstaking process of cutting the glass material into many, many small pieces and patiently placing the fingernail sized pieces, using a magnified lens and a tweezers to create a compelling design and view of nature. Through membership in the Society of American Mosaic Artists, Hurst first learned of the concept "tabula rasa", which is Latin for "blank slate," as represented by a discarded vintage window which she now often uses as the foundation for the mosaic artwork to be built upon and further reflect light.



*Continued...*

Greta uses a palette of stained, vitreous, fused and Smalti glass, ceramic tile, porcelain, pebbles, and found objects to create both abstract and representational mosaics to portray her vision of the natural beauty and character of rural life including pastoral landscapes, vineyards, and the earth itself. She strives to convey her passion for the basic elements of "terroir", a sense of place, the soil and weather to depict the agricultural processes and abundance they produce.

You may contact Greta in her studio, a converted chicken coop, nestled in the rolling vineyards of Southwest Michigan's wine country, to commission one of a kind mosaic artwork. See [www.tabularasaphotography.com](http://www.tabularasaphotography.com) for news on Tabula Rasa Gallery – showcasing mosaic and photographic art to open in Baroda at 8918 1st Street at the end of May. You may also visit the Rasa Mosaics website via [www.tabularasamosaics.com](http://www.tabularasamosaics.com).



### Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stacy Loar-Porter – President  
Amber Topp – 1st Vice President  
Beverly Gough – 2nd Vice President  
Kellen VanHulle – Treasurer  
Paul Roy – Secretary  
Griffin Ott – Past President

Wendy Bedell - Net Designs  
Rob Burgess – Lakeshore Community Schools  
Doug deBest - Baroda Township  
Beverly Gough - Great Lakes Insurance Management  
Tomeka Kine – Horizon Bank  
Stacy Loar-Porter - Lincoln Charter Township  
Diane Mensinger - Village of Baroda  
Griffin Ott - Ott Insurance Agency, Inc.  
Paul Roy- Lakeshore Tai Chi  
Bernice Tretheway - Retired Registrar of Deeds  
Amber Topp - Midwest Family Broadcasting  
Kellen VanHulle - Chemical Bank Baroda  
Bret Witkowski - Berrien County Treasurer  
Larry Wozniak – Super 8

#### 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

**Call the Mrs.**, with team members Tami Gage and Brian Humes, has been servicing most of Berrien County since 1987. The company cleans homes and offices on a nightly, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or on-call basis. They also offer detailed Spring cleaning and construction cleaning. Through the request of their customers, they also offer window, carpet and upholstery cleaning as well as air duct cleaning. Their trained professionals are bonded and insured to provide you with the comfort you deserve. Your trust in their company is their number one goal. Please call (269)556-0599 for a FREE estimate. Please take a few minutes to visit their website at [www.callthemrs.com](http://www.callthemrs.com).

**The Herald Palladium**, the area's largest daily newspaper, has served Southwest Michigan for over 140 years by providing community news the way readers want it, how they want it, and when they want it. Over the years, the paper has continued to devote most of its resources to building the leading community news source and advertising solution. The way many readers search out news has evolved over the years. At the inception of the paper, people read the paper on just four pages with no ads. Then, shrewd business leaders realized placing their messages in a product that reaches people in a timely basis more efficiently than postal mail is a creative solution, thus creating advertising space. Nowadays, people get their news and advertising messages through print, web, and on their phones. The Herald Palladium has kept up with the trends by offering news and advertising solutions on their powerful website ([www.theh-p.com](http://www.theh-p.com) or [www.heraldpalladium.com](http://www.heraldpalladium.com)). The advertising team has taken advertising one step further by offering text messaging and video emailing for advertisers, a combined service only offered in southwest Michigan by the Herald Palladium. For more information on the Herald Palladium, call Mr. David Holgate at 269-429-2400. Call Bob Earley, Advertising Director, for more information pertaining to advertising.

[buyitonmainstreet.com](http://buyitonmainstreet.com) is here to promote your business. The internet is a big place. It is becoming increasingly difficult to stand out in the crowd. Small businesses are often overlooked on the web.

Consumers are purchasing from larger and larger online companies, forgetting that many times the items and services they need are available in their own communities. We are here to help. Consider [buyitonmainstreet.com](http://buyitonmainstreet.com) to be your affordable "online promoter." BuyItOnMainStreet.com is a website built on



*Continued...*

the innovative idea that creating an online presence for your business should not be an overwhelming expense. We promote "doing business locally" by offering affordable online options that include several perks that put us above the competition. By coming together on a common website -- we all win! Advertising with [buyitonmainstreet.com](http://buyitonmainstreet.com) is different from other advertising services. Becoming part of our "family" is taking advantage of what we call the "group effort effect." There are many benefits to collective or "group" advertising. When you become a part of [buyitonmainstreet.com](http://buyitonmainstreet.com), you will benefit from ALL the advertising and promotions that point viewers to [buyitonmainstreet.com](http://buyitonmainstreet.com). We have been advertising in each issue of the Lakeshore Light (reach 8500) and had a great write-up in MailMax (reach 35,942). Each individual ad page is also searchable, which allows visitors to find our site through many different avenues and search techniques. For instance, search for "live music, Stevensville, mi" - you will see that one of our advertisers "Four Spacious Guys" is at the top of the google search list! Is your current website in need of an overhaul? If yes, call Wendy Bedell to learn more about some unique discounts and Chamber member offerings on "website redesign" now through July 1, 2011. Contact Net Designs at 269-428-5016 today!

**Merritt Engineering Inc.**, a consulting engineering firm, has served both the public and private sectors for over 36 years. Our design and



construction administration experience includes: drinking water and sanitary sewer systems; water and waste water treatment systems; community septic systems; highways and roads; storm water drainage and runoff management; dam safety; commercial, industrial and residential development; federal, state, and local permitting and environmental assessments and investigations. Our full-time staff includes civil engineers, field inspectors/technicians, CAD designers and support personnel. The firm's project engineers, licensed in Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, have 16-37 years of individual professional experience. This staff is supported by both personnel and equipment resources that include: electronic and manual surveying, testing and monitoring equipment, computer modeling and design software. At Merritt Engineering Inc., we pride ourselves on building and maintaining relationships with our clients. We offer the engineering knowledge and tools necessary to complete assignments, no matter the size, in a timely, cost-effective manner. For additional information, you may call Chamber contact Pam Olsen at 269.428.4424 or visit [www.merrittengineeringinc.com](http://www.merrittengineeringinc.com).

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



**Return Service Requested**

### **Member2Member Discounts**

- Ott Insurance** 8-10% discount on personal lines  
12-14% discount on commercial
- Super 8** 20% discount on rooms reserved  
by a member for themselves,  
friends or their family
- Anytime Fitness** 10% off regular rates for  
Chamber members
- Net Designs** Call 269-428-5016 for details

### **Mark Your Calendars**

- RIP Current Awareness**  
May 10th from 9:00am-4:00pm
- Annual Scholarship Dinner & Program**  
Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm
- Safety Day Olympics**  
June 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm-4:00pm
- Memorial Day Parade**  
May 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 followed by Service at Ruggles  
Cemetery.

### **Top 11 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
- Inclusion in the New Member Spotlight
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies

