

Marine City Chamber News

Volume 2
Issue 2
February 2011

Organized for the purpose of actively developing, promoting, focusing on and ensuring the economic growth and development of our business members and the community at large.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, Feb 15

- Downtowns Summit, Marine City, **Riviera Restaurant**, 8:30 am

Wednesday, Feb 16

"Discover the Blue" business program

Thursday, Mar 10

Networking Mixer at **The Sweet Tooth**

Tuesday, Mar 15

Downtown Summit, Algonac, site TBD, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Apr 12

Downtown Summit, Yale, site TBD, 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 17 & 24

Business Plan Workshops

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Chamber Events

Have you "**Discovered the Blue**"? Please attend our February 16 program and find out what it's all about and how our area and perhaps your business can benefit. It will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Chamber office. Our presenter will be Marci Fogal, President, Blue Water Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, lead group for "Discover the Blue." Bring your questions—discover how Marine City fits in "the Blue"!

A Winter Market will be held at the Chamber office each Tuesday from February 15 to mid-April, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sanevido's Bread, Good Natured Gardens, **Verellen Farm**, and Tom's Birdhouses have committed so far. See you at the Market! Tell your friends!

Thanks to **Anita's Place** for hosting our January Mixer! Great food and conversation were shared among about 25 "mixers."

"Meet the Candidates" on February 1 went very well. Ten of twelve candidates for the February special election of Marine City Mayor and Commission participated. Many thanks to event Chair James LaLonde of **Steinmetz-Vandendbossche Insurance**. You can watch this event "on-demand" at www.watchctv.org, click on "meetings" (2).

Next Mixer: March 10, 5-7, The Sweet Tooth

Annual Membership Meeting
Recap— see page 4!

President's Report

On February 15, Marine City will host the first of three Downtown Summit meetings for smaller communities in St. Clair County. Organized by the Community Foundation and St. Clair Chamber, this meeting is in response to the lack of focus on cities other than Port Huron by the county's Economic Development Strategic Plan. Participating downtowns will discuss what they are currently concentrating on, what their concerns and opportunities are, and whether there are some common interest areas suit-

Georgia Phelan

able for collaboration. Similar Downtown Summit meetings were held in 2008 and led to the development of "Discover the Blue" and the Business Concierge program, both of which are doing well today. At those meetings, Heather Bokram and I represented Marine City. This time around, I hope other Marine City stakeholders will also contribute. This is an 8:30 a.m. breakfast meeting at no charge. To RSVP, call 810-329-2962 or email jody@stclairchamber.com.

From Our Committees

The Marketing Committee announces that new Marketing Coordinator Elizabeth Steiner has begun work! She'll be helping with the many responsibilities of marketing Marine City to the world—well, Michigan and Ontario, anyway! Her first responsibility will be development of this year's Marine City Visitors Brochure. Watch your mail for your advertising opportunity in this popular

product. Ad prices have been nudged up by four dollars, but Chamber members will now enjoy a 15% discount instead of the 10% previously offered. And after research we conducted last summer, it looks like we will be adding Sombra, Ontario, to our brochure, adding an international option to visitors to both towns.



Welcome New Member!

Kern Chiropractic Center
Steven A. Kern, C.C.
260 S. Parker St.
Marine City MI 48039
T 810-765-9700
F 810-765-5825
kernchiropractic@yahoo.com
Founded: 1991



State Senator Phillip Pavlov and Patrick Phelan, City Commission Chair, were guest speakers at the Annual meeting; see article on page 4.

Member News



VG's Food Center is now offering select free antibiotics, prenatal vitamins, and diabetes medications in addition to \$4/30-day and \$10/90-day supplies of nearly 300 generic medications to all members of their new **yes Rewards** program. VG's also offers free assistance with Medicare and Medicaid billings. The **yes Rewards** program is a new customer loyalty program that offers savings on groceries and pharmacy prescriptions plus the opportunity to earn points on purchases and redeem those points for free grocery items or reduced prices on select items throughout the store. VG's is launching the program with a one million points sweepstake contest, which runs through March 19, 2011. Every time customers swipe their **yes Rewards** card, they are entered to win. There will be over 800 total sweepstakes winners with prizes valued at more than \$5,000 in free groceries. For more information, visit the store at 6764 S. River Road, or call 810-765-4061.

from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays from Feb. 7 to April 13 and is for people who wish to start their own business. Participants will learn to use the innovation process to identify and develop an idea and then implement a business plan to capitalize on that opportunity through entrepreneurship. Participants must complete pre-assessment testing at least one week prior to class start date. For details or to register, visit www.sc4.edu/preparetework or call 810-989-5788.

Congratulations to Kim Turner, **Marine City Music Festival**, for her recent award from the Michigan Festival and Events Association for her graphic work for the festival.

Congratulations also to **The Sweet Tooth** and owner Todd May on the occasion of their first anniversary, January 20! What a great addition they've been to the Marine City retail family. Best wishes for many more years of success!

WINTER FARMERS MARKET



Tuesdays
Feb. 15 to mid-April
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Chamber office
218 S. Water St.

Sanevido's Bread
Good Natured Gardens
Verellen Farm
Tom's Birdhouses

Michigan honey & syrup,
breads/, herbs, & more

Holy Cross School is holding their Annual Auction/Dinner on March 12, 2011. They are soliciting higher value donations for a live auction and lesser value for a silent auction. Expected attendance is 300+ and donors will be listed in their program. To donate, contact Gretchen Rogus at 810-329-9649.

St. Clair County Community College Workforce Training Institute is offering a series of workshops on customer sales and service in February, March, and April. Visit www.sc4.edu/workforce for more info (click on "Register for classes," then "Winter 2011 Catalog," and then go to pages 16 & 17). The Institute will also offer an innovation and entrepreneurship program on the college's Port Huron campus. The program will run



Annual Chamber Award Winners: Todd May, **The Sweet Tooth**, New Business of the Year; Chris Talley, **River's Edge Wash & Lube**, Customer Service Award; Lynn Zyrowski, **City of Marine City**, Volunteer of the Year; John Stewart, **Anita's Place**, Most Improved Business; see article on page 4.

Member Products & Services

MEMBER PRODUCTS

- Free member business listings on:
 - www.marinecitychamber.net
 - www.visitmarinecity.net
- Free Regional Chamber Directory listing
- Member Discounts on Products & Services
- Newsletter advertising
- B-to-B advertising
- Marine City Visitor's Brochure
- Chamber Events
- Member-to-Member mailing labels
- Area business mailing labels

- Member-to-Member "Quick Deals"
- Blue Cross Blue Shield products

MEMBER SERVICES

- Networking Mixers at no cost
- Business Education programs
- Red Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
- Participation "Discover the Blue" tourism
- Community & business marketing
- Free Business Concierge assistance
- S.C.O.R.E. Business Counseling



Part of the crowd of 75 attendees at our Annual Meeting on Jan. 27 at AJ's Salt Docks; see page 4.

Member List

AB Computer Solutions
 AJ's Salt Docks
 Anchor Inn Motel
 Anderson Consulting
 Anita's Place
 Back Porch Antiques
 Beauchamp, Gauss, Gschwind, PLLC
 Bill MacDonald Ford
 Blue Water Ferry
 Bower-Rose Funeral Home
 Butler Plastics
 City of Marine City
 Comm. Pride & Heritage Museum
 Corner Grocery
 Cottrellville Township
 Cynthia Lane, Attorney at Law
 D. Bruce Beaton, Attorney
 East China Charter Township
 Edson, Melissa
 Edward D. Jones, Patrick Dorcey
 Edward Jones, Alice Jehle
 FB Package & Shipping Center
 Fifth Third Bank
 First Michigan Bank
 Frank Real Estate
 General Printing, LLC
 Harbor Health Home Care
 Harvest Time Church
 Henderson Glass
 Historical Society of Marine City
 Holy Cross Catholic Elem. School
 JGM Property Group, Inc.

KD Bookkeeping Services
 Kenneth McCormick, DDS
 Kern Chiropractic Center
 Kloeffler Industries
 Lester-Brown Foundation
 Living Faith Lutheran Church
 Maid in the USA
 Maple Lawn & Landscaping
 Marine City Civic Women's Club
 Marine City Dental, PC
 Marine City Gunsmith
 Marine City K of C Banquet Center
 Marine City Music & Art Festival
 Marine City Rotary
 McBride, Manley, & Miiller, PC
 McDonald's Restaurant
 MediLodge of St. Clair
 Michigan Notary Service
 Muffler Doctor Auto Repair-Sales
 Nickel & Saph, Inc.
 North Bay Building Co.
 Real Estate One Westrick
 RehabCare
 River's Edge Wash & Lube
 Riviera Restaurant
 Safe Haven 4 Kids of Michigan
 Saph & Saph, PC
 Save-A-Lot
 Schantz, Randolph T.
 Seaway Community Bank
 SEMCO Energy Gas Company
 Shangri-La Mobile Home Park

St. Clair Chevrolet, Buick, GMC
 St. Clair Chrysler, Jeep, Ram
 St. Clair County Community College
 St. John River District Hospital
 Steffy Builders
 Steinmetz-Vandenbossche Insurance
 Sunrise Convenience Store
 Terhune Sales and Service
 The Apple Core
 The Arc of St. Clair County
 The Heather House
 The Little Bar
 The Sweet Tooth
 The Voice Newspaper
 Thompson-Phelan Group
 Thumb Print News
 Vera Grace Emporium
 Verellen Farms
 Verus Financial
 VG's Food Center
 Washington Life Center
 Waterford Financial Management
 Zimmer Chiropractic
 Zimmerman's Meat Market

**The future is
not a gift;
it is an
achievement.**

Robert Kennedy



**Marine City
Chamber of Commerce**

**218 S. Water Street
Marine City MI 48039
810-765-4501**

**Email:
Chamberoffice@marinecitychamber.net**

**Website:
www.marinecitychamber.net**

**Office Hours:
March 2011 Tuesday & Thursday 10-1**



Al Nichols, Heather & Bill Bokram (*The Heather House*), Chris Kadey (*KD Bookkeeping*), Circuit Court Judge *Cynthia Lane*, and Marsha Nichols enjoy their dinner selections at *AJ's Salt Docks* along the St. Clair River.

2011 Annual Membership Meeting

Seventy five Chamber members and their guests enjoyed a delightful evening January 27 at *AJ's Salt Docks* for our Annual Membership Meeting. This meeting is specified in our by-laws and is a wonderful opportunity to focus specifically on us as Chamber members. On those lines, we employ this event to focus recognition on exceptional people and businesses within our membership. This year, the following awards were given out: Best New Business, *The Sweet Tooth*; Customer Service Award, *River's Edge Wash & Lube*; Most Improved Business, *Anita's Place*; Volunteer of the Year, Lynn Zyrowski (*City of Marine City*). Congratulations to these deserving folks and thank you for all of your efforts in the Marine City area. This is a good time for all of us to make a mental note to keep track of other Chamber members to nominate for the 2011 awards this fall.

Many thanks to our guest speakers, City Commission Chair Patrick Phelan and State Senator Phillip Pavlov; it's always good to hear from our elected officials with their plans and focus on the current affairs of our government. We also need to thank our event sponsors, *Fifth Third Bank* and *Safe Haven 4 Kids of Michigan*; door prize sponsor, *The Sweet Tooth*; table flower sponsor, *VG's Food Center*; and our hosts, *AJ's Salt Docks* for a delicious meal and wonderful service. And finally kudos to event chairs Gary and Patti Forst and Georgia Phelan. We credit them with increasing attendance by 50% over last year's event!

Chamber Board of Directors & Committees

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President Georgia Phelan
Thompson-Phelan Group
- Vice President Christine Kadey
KD Bookkeeping
- Secretary James LaLonde
Steinmetz-Vandenbossche Agency
- Treasurer Amy Hart
McBride, Manley, & Miiller, P.C.
- Directors Art Bryson
AB Computer Solutions
- Jeff Arpan
Fifth Third Bank
- Gary Forst
Muffler Doctor
- Jesse White
Marine City Gunsmith
- Todd May
The Sweet Tooth

COMMITTEES

- Marketing: Chair Georgia Phelan
Thompson-Phelan Group
Chris Phelan
First Michigan Bank
Scott Anderson
Anderson Consulting
Sue Jenken
North Bay Builders
Craig Vermette
VG's Food Center
- Membership: Gary Forst
Muffler Doctor
- Newsletter: Amy Maddox

To volunteer for Chamber activities, place an ad, or be an event sponsor, please contact us at chamberoffice@marinecitychamber.net or 810-765-4501.



Find us here:

www.marinecitychamber.net

www.visitmarinecity.com

City of Marine City on Facebook