

BATTLE CREEK

insight

a publication of the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce

WELCOME TO
Battle Creek

July | August | September 2019

welcome new members

Heritage Leasing & Property Management
The Leonard Group powered by eXP Realty
Disability Network Southwest MI
Stanton Interiors Inc.
Kume Hibachi & Steakhouse
Markos Excavating LLC
Superior Cadillac
The Milton Apartments
Substance Abuse Council
Steensma Lawn & Power Equipment
Vantage Pointe Benefits
Cereal City Escapes
MedFarms

our vision

The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce is the premier business association whose influence, solutions, and networks drive economic growth in the Battle Creek area enabling businesses, community and people to prosper in an ever-changing economy.

mission statement

The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce will provide the best in member services and aggressive business advocacy to create a climate for employer growth and a prosperous community for all.



President's Corner

By Kara Beer, IOM, MPA

100 of 100

Chamber's Future Forward Campaign!

The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce is Celebrating Our Founding Members 100th Anniversary in 2019!

To help fund the **Chamber's Future Forward Campaign** we need 100 members to sponsor \$100. The Chamber's Future Forward Campaign has been established to ensure that the Chamber programming is around for another 100 years. Checks may be made out to the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce.

This unique sponsorship opportunity offers long term exposure for minimal investment as part of our centennial celebration slated to run throughout 2019.

\$100 Sponsorship Includes:

- Business name and link on 100 at 100 page on battlecreek.org
- Recognition at the Roaring 20's Celebration in October 2019
- Inclusion in social media and news release to wrap up the promotion

1 for 500 Do the work of 5 businesses and we will add your logo and link to the website page.

1 for 1000 Do the work of 10 businesses and we will add your logo and link to the website page, create an individual social media post with your business, and set up a photo to promote you as a 1 for \$1,000 sponsor.

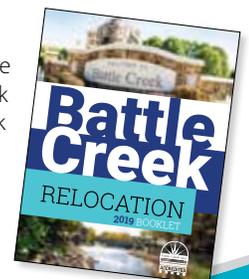
1 for 5000 Do the work of 50 businesses and we will add your logo and link to the website page, create an individual social media post with your business, and set up a photo and promotional video to promote you as a 1 for \$5,000 sponsor.

Contact Kara Beer to reserve your sponsorship today – **deadline is September 13, 2019!**

p. 269.962.4076 e. kbeer@battlecreek.org

Have you seen this years Relocation Booklet?

The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the release of its 2019 Relocation Booklet. Please visit battlecreek.org to check out this year's publication highlighting the Greater Battle Creek Area. Thank you to this year's exclusive advertisers who are providing the best first impressions of our community, along with allowing us to provide this **FREE** community resource to future residents of the Greater Battle Creek Area.



One Riverwalk Centre, Suite 3A,
34 West Jackson Street, Battle Creek, MI 49017
BattleCreek.org

269.962.4076
Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.





member anniversaries

30 Year Anniversary:
HandsOn Battle Creek

20 Year Anniversary:
REMAX Perrett Associates, Inc.
Southern Exposure Herb Farm

15 Year Anniversary:
King Jewelers

5 Year Anniversary:
11 Web Inc.
Calhoun County Prosecutor's Office
Community Inclusive Recreation, Inc.
MedExpress Urgent Care
Young Lee

Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce Staff

- Kara E. Beer** – President
- Billy Beers** – Director of Marketing & Engagement
- Jennifer Basso** – Accounting Manager
- Kayla McCarthy** – Member Services Specialist
- Braden Shanks** – Events Intern
- Konner Damerow** – Graphic Design Intern

Member 2 Member Discounts | Many Ways to SAVE

The Chamber's Member 2 Member Discount program encourages Chamber member businesses, organizations, and their employees to prefer other Chamber members when making buying decisions. Contact Member Services Specialist Kayla McCarthy at 269.962.4076 or kmccarthy@battlecreek.org to promote YOUR discount throughout our network and encourage members to choose YOU when making their buying decision. **Visit battlecreek.org to SAVE with 30 Member 2 Member Discounts!**

Barista Blues Café
Discount:
Buy 1 lunch get 50% off the second lunch of equal or lesser value. Valid Friday's only.
Contact info: Maryann Angelo, 269.968.8430



Biggby Coffee – Downtown Battle Creek
Discount: \$1.00 Off.
Coupon code: 642288
Contact info: Matt Lemmer, 269.753.1280



Charitable Union
Discount: 15% off non-handmade items in Charitable Union Gift Shop.
Ask about our frequent shopper's card!
Contact info: Teresa Allen, 269.964.7234



Firekeepers Casino Hotel
Discount:
15% off Smoke n' Fire restaurant.
Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Contact info: Amber Leclar, 269.660.5498



Plumeria Botanical Boutique
Discount:
Battle Creek Chamber members are offered a 10% discount for any in-store purchases.
*Wine is excluded.
Contact info: Elisha Hodge, 269.963.9499



Pro Djs
Discount:
10% off regular priced events.
Contact info: Ron Jones, 269.967.4596



Board of Directors

- Denise Jones**
Chair, Graphix 2 Go
- John Banks**
Vice Chair, Motor Shop Electrical Construction Co.
- Debi Southworth**
Immediate Past Chair, OMNI Community Credit Union
- Dr. Emily Bandeen**
Secretary, Bandeen Orthodontics
- Joey Vernon**
Treasurer, CTS Telecom, Inc.
- Jim Lance**
Legal Counsel, Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos P.C.
- Bud Dunn**
Atlas Sales, Inc.
- Leah Ortiz**
The Arc of Calhoun County
- Michael Miller**
Culver's Battle Creek
- Jeremy Wilson**
DENSO Manufacturing
- Elishae S. Johnson, PhD, LPC, CAADA**
HelpNet, Bronson Healthcare Group
- John Gayda**
Kellogg Retiree, Lyft Driver



visit battlecreek.org or the Chamber's  page for latest and up-to-date event details.

july

- 17 Wednesday** Silent Observer Committee | 8 – 9 a.m.
- 24 Wednesday** Military Affairs Committee | 3 – 4 p.m.
- 26 Friday** Rap with Your Reps sponsored by Comcast
7:30 – 9 a.m.
- 30 Tuesday** Businesses Combat the Opioid Crisis
8:30 – 10:30 a.m. (see article pg. 9)

august

- 7 Wednesday** Netwalking | walk, talk and grab a bite!
11 a.m. – Noon
- 21 Wednesday** Silent Observer Committee | 8 – 9 a.m.
- 24 Saturday** Backyard Burgers & Brewsfest | 6 – 11 p.m.
(see article pg. 9)
- 28 Wednesday** Military Affairs Committee | 3 – 4 p.m.

september

- 5 Thursday** 5:00 Dash -- Networking within 60 Minutes
5 – 6 p.m.
- 10 Tuesday** Eye Opener Breakfast & Business Expo
Business Expo sponsored by Squirrel Hollow Golf Course
7:30 – 9 a.m.
- 13 Friday** Women in Business Luncheon | Noon – 1 p.m.
- 18 Wednesday** Silent Observer Committee | 8 – 9 a.m.
- 24 Tuesday** Economic Club Luncheon | 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- 25 Wednesday** Military Affairs Committee | 3 – 4 p.m.
- 26 Thursday** Chamber ChitChat | 3 – 4 p.m.

Will you be joining us? Let us know you're planning to attend by calling 269.962.4076.

Chamber Refund & Cancellation Policy
Please visit battlecreek.org for our complete policy details

Editorial Policy: Articles written by outside authors do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce. The position of the Chamber will be clearly stated where applicable. The Chamber reserves the right to reject advertising based on content and does not accept advertising that conflicts with the mission or position of the Chamber. The advertising of products or services in the Insight does not necessarily represent endorsement by the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce. The Insight is published quarterly by the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce. Editor: Kara Beer, President

How YOUR Membership Benefits have made an Impact on YOUR Network

The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce thrives on creating an expansive network for members to grow their business and share their story. With a network of 575+ members, the opportunities and benefits offered through membership are unique to each and every member. In this issue, the following members are excited to share with you how their membership has impacted their personal and professional growth.

Spring into the Arts was an awesome experience. It was wonderful meeting the public, receiving feedback and just being able to share my work. I hope to participate again in the fall.

– Patricia Farmer, Artist/Author

I would like to thank the Battle Creek Chamber for bringing an event to our City to spotlight Art. There is so much talent in our area. We were able to unit together and share our thoughts with one another and fill our hearts with joy. There is so much Art all around us. You just have to look around and you will see life completely different. It was my joy an honor to be a part of Art Walk 2019, Spring into the Arts celebration.

– Gina Newsum, Fantasy Faces by Gina

I am new to the Battle Creek community. I began my new position, Marketing & Promotion Specialist for the Small Business Development Team/City of Battle Creek, in February of this year. My first connections were made with the Chamber Staff, Kara, Billy and Kayla. They made this new girl feel welcome! They didn't skip a beat in sharing with me ways to get involved, expand my network, and enhance my skills and knowledge. Had I not connected with these wonderful people that love their roles within the Chamber and support their members in exemplified ways, I would not have been so quick to say "I LOVE WHERE I WORK, THE COMMUNITY, THE PEOPLE, and THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT SURROUND ME!"

– Jacquie McLean, Marketing & Promotion Specialist, Small Business Development

We can't overstate just how amazing it has been to work with the Battle Creek Chamber of Commerce. This organization solely focuses on community growth and development, which is evident in their various initiatives. From networking opportunities to social media shout outs, the chamber has helped us quickly build our brand. Being a new business in Battle Creek, we are thankful to have such a great organization assist with our development!

– The Milton Leasing Team

Being an active member of the Battle Creek Chamber of Commerce has truly had a positive impact on Express Employment Professionals. Through networking opportunities provided and referrals from their involved staff members, we have seen positive growth of our organization.

– Emily Gould, Business Developer, Express Employment Professionals

ribbon cuttings & grand openings

April through June

spectacular ambassadors

The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce is honored to recognize STAR Ambassadors within our annual Business Excellence Awards. This award is given out to Ambassadors who exemplify excellence in all that they do. These Ambassadors are dedicated to the Chamber and have excelled in the areas of Service, Teamwork, Attitude and Reliability (STAR). Ambassadors all strive to be the STAR Ambassadors with everything that they do. STAR Awards are nominated by peer review, staff and community members based on the qualifications of the STAR Award.

Join us as we congratulate this year's STAR Ambassador Award winners:



Sue Smith
Ambassador Committee
Co-Chair, Comerica Bank



Lynn Ward Gray
Battle Creek Community
Foundation



Casandra Murray
Advia Credit Union

Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors are dedicated volunteers from diverse businesses through the Battle Creek area. Their mission is to welcome, nurture, and recruit new Chamber members; act as goodwill representatives at Chamber functions and aid in the support of Chamber members. Interested in becoming an Ambassador?

Visit battlecreek.org to download an Ambassador profile form, fill it out, and send it back to us today!

Is your business growing

Have you scheduled your Ribbon Cutting, Grand Opening, or Ground Breaking ceremony?



The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce is the best at celebrating, recognizing and sharing your milestones through one of your membership benefits, Ribbon Cutting Celebrations! Have you expanded your footprint within the Greater Battle Creek Area or enhanced your portfolio of products and services? If so, make sure to contact us to get your Celebration scheduled on our calendars so that we can begin sharing your story and success with other members. Simply visit battlecreek.org for our Ribbon Cutting Celebration form, or contact our office at 269.962.4076 to learn more about how we can help highlight a significant part of your businesses history.

For the months of April through June, we've had the opportunity to celebrate with the following members:



April 23, 2019 – CareHere! Health & Wellness Center

Chamber Staff, Ambassadors and Members of the community celebrated the Grand Opening of CareHere! Health & Wellness Center on Tuesday, April 23, 2019. The CareHere primary care facility in Calhoun County, Michigan serves a collaboration of employees from private companies; Musashi, Systex, and Toyota Tsusho, as well as government employees serving the citizens of Calhoun County. On May 1, the health center team began care in an all-new facility. **34 Green St., Battle Creek, MI 49014**



May 10, 2019 – Western Michigan University College of Aviation

Chamber Staff celebrated with Western Michigan University for their Ground Breaking Ceremony on a new \$22 million expansion to its Aviation Education Center in hopes to prepare students for the future of aviation maintenance. "We want to teach what's going on tomorrow," says Dave Powell, dean of the school's College of Aviation.



May 23, 2019 – Squirrel Hollow Golf Course

Chamber Staff, Ambassadors and Members of the community celebrated the start of a new season at Squirrel Hollow Golf Course. Attendees were able to enjoy their signature drink, the Blue Squirrel, while relaxing on the patio.
12111 Helmer Road S, Battle Creek, MI 49015



June 6, 2019 – BC Cargo Pop-Up Shop Marketplace

Chamber Staff, Ambassadors and Members of the community celebrated the Grand Opening with LIVE music by the Moonmen for the 8 new merchants at BC Cargo Pop-Up Shop Marketplace. Marketplace hours May 1 – October 26 are Tuesdays – Thursdays: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Fridays: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Saturdays: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. **Corner of McCamly and Hamblin Avenues**



June 18, 2019 – Advia Credit Union

Chamber Staff, Ambassadors and Members of the community celebrated the recent remodel of the Advia Credit Union Capital Avenue Branch. Attendees were able to network with Chamber and community members while enjoying delicious food and refreshments from Caveni's Pizza & Grinders.
2550 Capital Ave. SW, Battle Creek, MI 49015



June 20, 2019 – Kellogg Community College

Kellogg Community College invited members of the public to tour its newly renovated Regional Manufacturing Technology Center, 405 Hill Brady Road, Battle Creek, during an open house from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 20. KCC officials, along with representatives from the College's community partners, made brief remarks about the past, present and future of the RMTc. The RMTc is a 48,400-square-foot facility where KCC provides hands-on training in the areas of robotics, mechatronics, heating, cooling, machining, pipefitting, welding, renewable energy and other trades. Funding for the renovation included \$2.15 million from the State of Michigan, \$1.07 million from the Battle Creek Tax Increment Finance Authority, \$250,000 from the W.K Kellogg Foundation and \$830,000 from KCC's voter-approved capital millage.



June 25, 2019 – Summit Building Services, LLC

Chamber Staff, Ambassadors and Members of the community celebrated the introduction of Summit Building Services New and Exclusive Upscale "Smart Home" Condominium Development located within the residential property at the Ridge at Cedar Creek on Stone Jug Road. Personalized Tours were provided of their "Placid Model" to provide a detailed introduction to this unique, high quality and state of the art residential development. Summit Building Services, LLC is pleased to bring a development of this nature to our community and looked forward to meeting the Chamber membership and residences of the greater Battle Creek Community.
209 Ridgeview Dr. at the Preserves at the Ridge at Cedar Creek



June 27, 2019 – Reflections Memory Care

Chamber Staff, Ambassadors and Members of the community celebrated Reflections Memory Care – A Ganton Senior Community as they celebrated 10 years of exceptional caring. The team at Reflections was excited to share virtual dementia tours and guided tours of the campus. The team at Reflections was honored to have so many see first hand the pure joy they experience by caring for those with memory issues. During the campus tours, attendees gained knowledge of the fantastic programming available in their campus. On site was also the Miles for Memories Brain for attendees to experience. Attendees also were able to try their Reflections Summer Spritzer and enjoy their chef's prepared hors d'oeuvres.
14316 S Helmer Road, Battle Creek, MI 49015

member's business spotlight



Battle Creek Family Chiropractic



Battle Creek Family Chiropractic is a caring place that provides comprehensive spine services to treat all kinds of back, neck, and general health issues. Dr. Justin D. Casey DC also serves as the team chiropractor for the Battle Creek Bombers, providing a competitive edge for the players.

If you want to get well, feel well, or perform at your best, Battle Creek Family Chiropractic is for you. Conveniently located across the street from Willard Library, call 269.966.2006 for your appointment.

Consumers Professional Credit Union



Consumers Professional Credit Union is proud to announce Lynsee Gridley's promotion to Battle Creek Branch Supervisor. Lynsee is a Battle Creek native with a degree from KCC and experience in both deposits and loans. Her passion for helping local business owners reach their goals is unsurpassed. **Stop in and meet Lynsee and her team at 687 Capital Ave. SW or visit cpcu.co for more information.**

Building Success. Building Hope.



Express Employment Professionals is a leading staffing provider in the U.S., Canada and South Africa. Every day, we help job seekers find work and help businesses find qualified employees. The Battle Creek, Michigan Express office was founded in 2013 and is proud to serve our community by helping people find jobs and helping businesses find the people they need throughout Branch, Calhoun, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, and Jackson counties. Our Battle Creek office is locally owned and operated and dedicated to the mission of helping people succeed.

Habitat for Humanity



Local Habitat for Humanity Affiliate Announces New Executive Director. Robert J. Phillips is the new Executive Director for the Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity. He succeeds Beverly Kelley, who retired after nearly five years in that position. "Robert brings over 25 years of experience with the Habitat for Humanity organization in Lansing and Kalamazoo where he had been a construction volunteer and an active board member," commented Samuel Gray, Board Chairman for the Battle Creek Area affiliate. "I am looking forward to continue the mission of Habitat for Humanity in Calhoun County. This local affiliate has been instrumental in helping many area families find safe, affordable housing," Commented Phillips.

Hometown Hero Night



Say Thank You to our community's veterans and first responders that ensure our safety and serve our community by attending Hometown Hero Night at C.O. Brown Stadium on Thursday, July 11, 2019. The Battle Creek Area Chamber

of Commerce has partnered with the Battle Creek Bombers offering members an exclusive opportunity to receive 10 FREE tickets with a \$150 donation. With your donation you'll receive:

- 10 Reserved Bleacher tickets for your business/organization
- 10 Reserved Bleacher tickets for a veteran or first responder group with food included
- Your business recognized on the PA system during the game
- Your company logo listed in program handed out to every fan
- Recognition in official press release and media interviews for the night

For more information on how to take part in honoring those who protect and serve us every single day, contact Brian Nordstrom at 269.962.0735 or Brian@BattleCreekBombers.com.

Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan



Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan guides and supports individuals and their caregivers coping with illness, aging, dying, and loss by providing compassionate medical, emotional, spiritual, and personal care. Join us on Saturday, July 20

for our Butterfly Release and Remember event at Leila Arboretum at 9 a.m. Purchase a butterfly to release in memory of a loved one. Proceeds provide hospices services to those in need. **Learn more at hospiceswmi.org or call 269.345.0273.**

The Milton



Located in downtown Battle Creek and formerly known as The Heritage Tower, The Milton is a historic landmark community offering 85 newly

constructed and luxurious studio, one, and two-bedroom apartments as well as penthouses. Showcasing a 24-hour fitness center, Art Deco inspired community spaces, ground floor retail and restaurants, The Milton will serve as a premium place for people to work, live, and play in Downtown Battle Creek. **Call 269.220.6836, email mtn@villagegreen.com, or visit their website at themiltonbattlecreek.com to be the first to call this piece of history, home.**



member spotlight

Integrated Health Partners



Since 1995, Integrated Health Partners has worked to improve the health of the community. Together with health care providers and community partners, IHP is transforming the health care delivery system, while engaging and empowering patients. IHP is committed to the quadruple aim – improving clinical outcomes, reducing cost, and improving the experience of care for patients and providers. Better health care outcomes are achieved through building relationships and collaborating with community partners, employers, and providers.

Miles for Memories



Miles for Memories is a volunteer organization creating solutions for those impacted by dementia in Calhoun County through movement, programming, and research. Join us on September 14 for the

Annual Community Stroll Celebration in downtown Battle Creek starting at 10 a.m. Walk the full or half mile route, participate in a condensed version of programs, make a donation, or join us as a sponsor. Dollars raised support safe return programs, art & music programs, education, and prevention research. milesformemories.org.

Scene Magazine



Scene Magazine has been a positive voice for our community for over 40 years. In that tradition, Scene will soon be recognizing their next Man or Woman of

the year and we want your help. Do you know someone that has consistently gone above and beyond to make a difference for our community? **Call Cyd for more details at 269.979.1410 ext. 303 or email cyd@scenepub.com by August 15. Scene Magazine, where community comes first.**



Annual Business Excellence Awards

2019 Award Winners

The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce was honored to present The Greatest Show on Earth during this year's Annual Business Excellence Awards on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at Binda Performing Arts Center. The evening of the Awards Ceremony was for recognizing the achievements of successful businesses, nonprofits, organizations and industry professionals in the Greater Battle Creek Area for the contributions they make to the growth and prosperity of the local economy. "As we engage here with you tonight we also hope that if you need a reminder that you're in this world with talent and purpose that nobody else has, we welcome you to the Greatest Show on Earth," said President Kara Beer during her welcoming announcement. "If you need to be reminded to take risks, to pursue your passions, or to just dream again, engage with your Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce," said Beer. The theme based off of The Greatest Showman was set as a celebration of humanity. Beer shared with attendees that all of the nominees should be proud of who they are and what their businesses, organizations, skills and talents are in this world. "Your scars make you unique and your story is unlike any other," said Beer.

The 2019 Footprint, Businesses of the Year, and Outstanding Woman of the Year award winners include:

- The Footprint Award | Battle Creek Unlimited
- Start-Up Business of the Year | Kitchen Proper
- Small Business of the Year | Plumeria Botanical Boutique
- Mid-Size Business of the Year | Battle Creek Country Club
- Large Business of the Year | Post Foods, Battle Creek
- Outstanding Woman in Business | Brenda Hunt, Battle Creek Community Foundation

Overall, the 2019 Business Excellence Awards included over 85 nominees along with recognizing the STAR Ambassadors, Leadership Battle Creek Graduation, Choose Health Calhoun Workplace Wellness Recognition Award, Michigan Breastfeeding-Friendly Workplace Award, Harley Simmons Award, and The Randall Brock Memorial Award.

affinity program spotlight

Featured Member Benefits

Member Benefits & Discount Programs

All Access to Special Member Discounts & Savings

As a member of the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce, you have access to several member benefits and discounts that allow you to save not only on your bottom line, but also provides you the opportunity to help your employees save as well. We currently provide you with 8 member benefits which can provide you with the opportunity to redeem your membership investment through savings. The following businesses and organizations provide you with a membership benefit:

- **Accident Fund**

Workers Compensation



- **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan**



- **Constant Contact**



- **Grand Slam Investigations**



- **HelpNet**



- **Insperty**



- **Office Depot | OfficeMax**



- **United Networks of America**

FREE Prescription Assistance Program



We also provide you and your employees with a Member 2 Member Discount program encouraging Chamber member businesses, organizations, and their employees to prefer other Chamber members when making buying decisions. There are currently 30 member discounts available to you and your employees expanding your opportunity to save with your membership.

To learn more about all the different ways that you can save through your membership:

- Visit the Member Benefits & Member 2 Member Discount pages on battlecreek.org
- Call our office at 269.962.4076 to speak to one of our staff members
- Schedule an appointment with us to review your many benefits of membership
- Provide other members discounts and drive business to your business

Have ideas on new ways to save or resources needed to help grow your business? Connect with us to share your ideas and ways that we may be able to help assist you through your membership. We're always looking for new opportunities for our members.

Sharing community success all year long!

COMMUNITY FIRST
EVERY MONTH OF THE YEAR!

Senior Times (269) 979-1479
Scene (269) 979-1410
www.scenepub.com

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Ambulance service can cost \$800 or more per trip. But with Member Plus, you and your family are covered for only \$42 per year!

Member Plus through LifeCare Ambulance now covers 15 counties across southern Michigan. Become a member and rest easy knowing you and your loved ones are covered for any medically necessary ambulance trip in our expanded coverage area for \$42 annually.

Perfect for those with high deductibles, or seniors without insurance.
Call today to find out more 888.463.7587!

Member Plus (previously MemberCare)

www.lifecareems.org

events and programming



5th Annual Backyard Burgers & Brewsfest Saturday, August 24, 2019

Saturday, August 24 is about to get a few degrees hotter when Battle Creek's finest burger emporiums and restaurants fire up their grills at the 5th Annual Backyard Burgers & Brewsfest. We're piling on the fun with live music, a cornhole tournament, a pie eating contest, the new Chef's table Backyard plate competition, and much more! Come celebrate this summer with a sizzling hot *FREE* Festival!



We're looking to beef up the menu for this year's Backyard Burgers & Brewsfest, and we need your help! Whether you make a double stack, a savory slider, or create your own patty, it's time to fire up your grills and get cooking for this competition! Not into serving a burger, but have some other backyard flair? That works for this Festival too! The Chamber is seeking 15 participating restaurants and/or food vendors to take part in this burger and backyard bash. Participating restaurants and food vendors may opt into the Burger Competition allowing guests the opportunity to vote for their favorite Battle Creek burger along with the formal judges for this year's Festival. **Call Chamber at 269.962.4076 for 2019 vendor application.**

Attendance to the Festival is *FREE* thanks to the support and generosity of the 2018 – 2019 Chamber Champions. Burgers and Brews will be available for purchase at the event separately.

FREE attendance provide by the 2018 – 2019 Chamber Champions:



Businesses Combat the Opioid Crisis

The opioid crisis is devastating communities across the country, and businesses are part of the solution.

As part of its Sharing Solutions initiative, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation is traveling around the country on a national tour to discuss how businesses can play a critical role in combating the opioid crisis in both the workplace and community at large. Only 10 cities are being selected to host the tour and Battle Creek is the only location in Michigan.

You're invited to join the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce on July 30 for Sharing Solutions Michigan: Opioids and the Workforce. Hear from local and national employers, substance use disorder experts, and community leaders during a morning of thoughtful dialogue on leveraging insights and best practices to put forward solutions to the opioid crisis.

For more information, and to register please visit: battlecreek.org



Chamber Awards \$1,500 for 2019 Spring into the Arts

Spring into the Arts, artwalk, an annual event hosted by the Battle Creek Area Chamber Foundation, was held on Friday, May 24, 2019 along the beautiful Linear Path in downtown Battle Creek. This year, the Battle Creek Area Chamber Foundation introduced new ways to enjoy all that our community has to offer, as well as keeping some old traditions. "Spring into the Arts underwent a number of changes this year, its fourteenth year. One of the communities underutilized assets of natural beauty lies along the riverfront and our arts committee and staff wanted to show off one of our favorite places in the downtown," said President Kara Beer.



Moving the artwalk to the Linear Path increased the impact of awareness and exposure for the 55+ participating artists and businesses. "Seeing the amount of art being sold as attendees walked the path, and being asked by participating artists, businesses and vendors if they're able to stay past the artwalk's hours encouraged me that this year's artwalk was truly a success," said Beer. Downtown Battle Creek was full of community support as attendees enjoyed art along with the Battle Creek Farmers Market that evening.

While over 55 artists and businesses participated, 26 artists submitted artwork to compete in the People's Choice Award public vote. Participating artists entered artwork to be judged by attendees via an online poll hosted by the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce the day of the artwalk. Based on the number of votes, People's Choice rewards a cash prize of \$1,000 for first place and \$500 for second place. With 564 votes casted, we're proud to celebrate this year's Top 2 People's Choice Award winners:



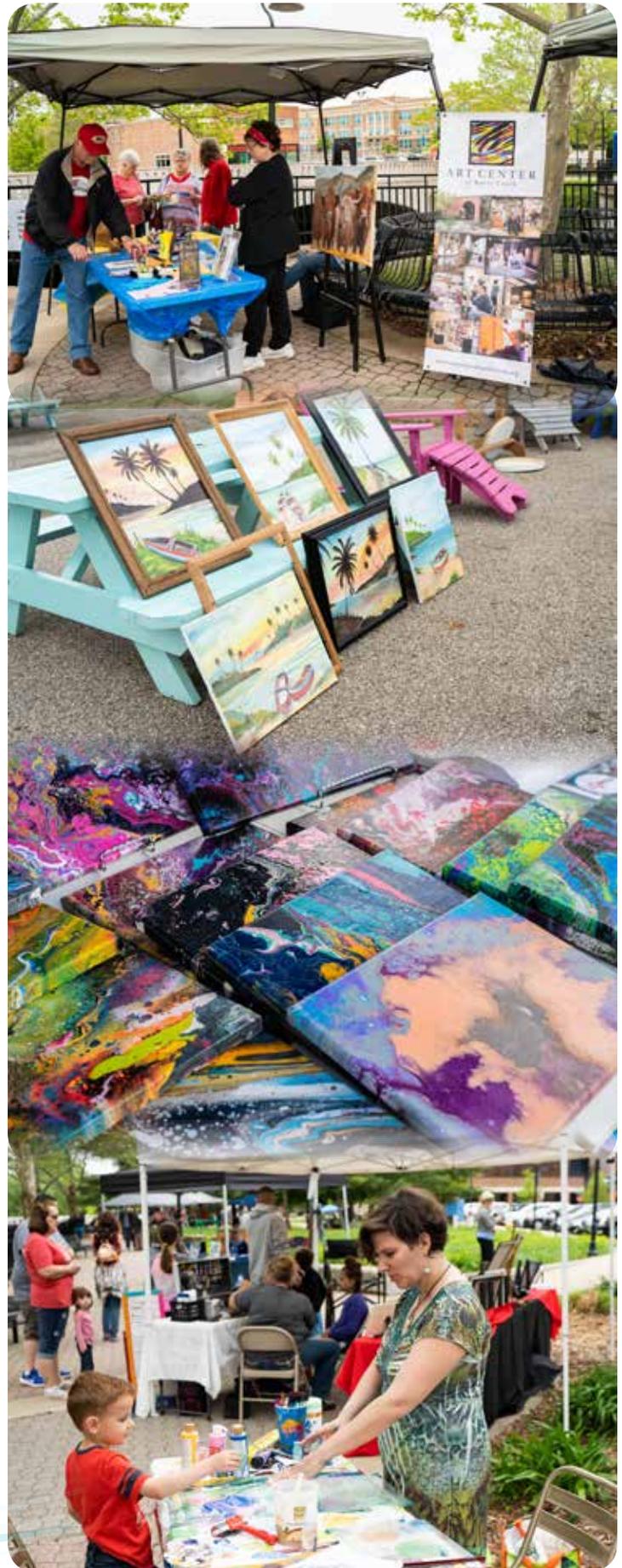
First Place | People's Choice #16
Jamari L. Taylor, Charcoal & Oil Paintings



Second Place | People's Choice #7
Fantasy Faces by Gina – Gina Newsum, Face Painting & Hand Painted Art

Congratulations to this year's People's Choice Award winners, and thank you to all of the 55+ participating artists and businesses within this year's artwalk.

Save-the-Date | Fall into the Arts
Friday, October 18, 2019



5%

Upfront savings on workers' compensation premiums.

Workers' compensation through Accident Fund gives you savings on premiums, loss prevention tools, convenient billing options, the potential to earn dividends, and more. So join us and see how we make workers' compensation work for you.

Visit accidentfund.com/groups to find an agent near you.



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R089267

TIME TO **TURN UP** THE VOLUME

BRAD PAISLEY
THURSDAY, AUGUST 1

JOHN FOGERTY
MY 50 YEAR TRIP
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

GEORGE THOROGOOD AND THE DESTROYERS
GOOD TO BE BAD TOUR
45 YEARS OF ROCK
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

BILL ENGVALL
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

DOORS: 8 PM • SHOWS: 9 PM



Tickets available at the FireKeepers Box Office or FireKeepersCasino.com
Must be 21 or older. Tickets based on availability. Schedule subject to change.

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