

BATTLE CREEK

insight

a publication of the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce

WELCOME TO
Battle Creek

July | August | September 2018

welcome new members

Professional &
Personal Wellness

Marquee Crew

Snelling Staffing

Kayla McCarthy

Photography

Argonomo

Broadway Grille

Five Star Pizza

Groups Recover

Together Inc.

Farm Bureau Insurance,

Larry Robinson

Clean Zone Marketing

Massage Green Spa

Wood & Associates,

P.L.L.C.

The Annex of

Battle Creek

Small Business

Development Fund,

City of Battle Creek

BC Cargo Pop-Up

Shop Marketplace

- Café Rica, LLC

- Totally Memories

- Urbana/SW MI

Urban League

- BC Welcome

Center Outlet

- Veggz Café/

Baezar 8910 LLC

- Embyr

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

The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce's Strategic Plan is in year two of a three-year plan to promote our strengths, expand our existing businesses and business opportunities, and significantly improve the economic future for all who call Battle Creek and Calhoun County home.

For the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan to be successful, we need dynamic and genuine leadership as well as authentic engagement from a broad base of community leaders. The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce will provide the staffing and overall management of this plan, but the execution of these priority goals and the opportunity to succeed relies on our 12 volunteer Board Leaders and the engagement of our 500 members and the community at large.

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.

Vision Statement: 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.

Where We Are Going...

Our priorities focus on the following:

- ✓ **Strengthening the local economy:** support and enhance a flourishing economic environment in Battle Creek and its surrounding areas in all of Calhoun County
- ✓ **Voice of business:** support an environment where business grows and thrives
- ✓ **Advance community excellence:** promote Battle Creek and Calhoun County as the premier community for businesses and residents to connect, impact and develop
- ✓ **Strong military awareness:** A continued, enhanced and focused coordination of the military and community partnership with all local installations of the federal government and community at large that continues to lead to the highest of community awareness and support
- ✓ **Provide value to members:** provide comprehensive, effective, coordinated cross-sectored opportunities through education, training, business support and inclusion
- ✓ **Provide unique competitive advantages to our members:** the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce will be the catalyst for connectivity to resources, to ideas, and to one another

Chamber Guidelines to Success...

- Tell our story powerfully, both as a community and as an organization
- Continually listen to our membership and community

(Continued on page 7)



UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



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

45 Year Anniversary:

WW Thayne Advertising/
Scene Publications

40 Year Anniversary:

Manpower, Inc.

25 Year Anniversary:

Sam's Club
Bedford Market
Schlotzsky's Deli
The Hinman Company

20 Year Anniversary:

Adams Outdoor Advertising
Rolling Hills Community

15 Year Anniversary:

Liberty Commons

10 Year Anniversary:

CTI Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
Bandein Orthodontics
Talia Champlin
Nelson Karre

5 Year Anniversary:

ASEA and RENU Advanced Cellular Health
Behnke Transportation, LLC
Cereal City Concert Band
Gary Estep
Veronica Johnson
U.S. Representative Justin Amash

Announcing NEW Member 2 Member Discounts!

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.

Remember the ABCs of the Member 2 Member Discount Program:

Ask if the business you plan to buy from is a member

Buy from Chamber members whenever possible

Call the Chamber at 269.962.4076 to let a staff person know of Potential member businesses who will expand your network and resources

Contact 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 decisions.

Visit battlecreek.org to view more ways to save.

Tomak & Podolsky, PLLC

Discount: 10% discount on all legal services for Chamber members and their families.

*Contact info: Tracie Tomak – Senior Partner
269.965.3185 • tracie@topolaw.com*



Advanced Business Advisors, LLC- Business Brokers

Discount: We offer a service to determine a current market price for businesses called a market comparison at \$800, we will offer all Chamber members a 25% discount using the code BC25. Register at advancedbusinessadvisorsllc.com/market-comparison.html. We will also offer Chamber members a 50% discount on required commitment fees, reducing initial cash flow impact to retain our services.

Contact info: E. Brad Scoffin- Director of New Business Development

269.903.8143 • brad@ABA-BusinessBrokers.com

The Springbrook Golf Grill

Discount: 15% off Italian Bistro & Tap house total bill at restaurant and catering, as well as golf. (excludes alcoholic beverages & merchandise)

*Contact info: Doug Victoria- Owner
269.441.7529 • doug@springbrook.golf*



Marquee Crew

Discount: New client discount- 2 hours free of Alteryx Quick Start, plus \$100 off initial 1-year subscription of Alteryx license, Limit 1 per company.

*Contact info: Mark Frisch- Founder
269.841.4993 • mark@marqueecrew.com*



Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce Staff

Kara E. Beer – President
Billy Beers – Director of Marketing & Engagement
Jennifer Blank – Accounting Manager
Ryan Fleury – Administrative & Communications Specialist
Kayla McCarthy – Member Services Specialist

Board of Directors

Debi Southworth

Chair, OMNI Community Credit Union

Bud Dunn

Immediate Past Chair, Atlas Sales, Inc.

Dr. Emily Bandeen

Secretary, Bandeen Orthodontics

Jim Lance

Legal Counsel, Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos P.C.

John Banks

Motor Shop Electrical Construction Co.

Shane McClung

Post Foods, LLC

Jim McKernan

Bronson Battle Creek Hospital

John Gayda

Kellogg Company

Denise Jones

Graphix 2 Go

Joey Vernon

Treasurer, CTS Telecom, Inc.

Michael Miller

Culver's Battle Creek

Jeremy Wilson

DENSO Manufacturing

Bryan Teff

National Guard – 110th AW/CC



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 500+ 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.

Credibility

"When I became the Executive Director of a local nonprofit I knew there was much for me to learn. I reached out to the Chamber and found many contacts and opportunities for staff and myself. The Chamber staff has been available to answer any question and helped me learn the ropes of becoming the boss for the first time. They invited me to events and meetings and introduced me to businesses and community members who have been instrumental in our ability to increase our capacity in Calhoun County. The Chamber is a gift to our Habitat mission!" – **Beverly Kelley, Executive Director, Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity**

"A great reason to join or be a member of the Chamber of Commerce is due to the number of references we and other businesses receive from the Chamber. When an individual reaches out to the Chamber or looks to their website, they are easily connected to businesses in the local area to match their needs. I know that when I reach out to them for suggestions personally or professionally, they will give me solid suggestions on where I can take my business."

– **Debi Southworth, Chief Lending Officer, OMNI Community Credit Union**

Networking

"I will forever be grateful for the events the Chamber continues to host, for my successes in Battle Creek hinge upon them. I will continue to attend these events until turnkey merchandise programs, llc, is a "household brand name" here in this community. Because of the continuous efforts and professional events being offered on a weekly basis by the Chamber, I know, it won't be long before my growth, the strength of my network, and the visibility of my organization will have superseded even my own personal goals and expectations." – **Amber Duncan, Business Development Director, Turnkey Merchandise Programs, LLC**

Growth

"Working with the Battle Creek Chamber of Commerce enabled me to network with other professionals and meet business owners, which increases our nonprofit's capacity to serve more individuals. Being a Chamber member gives you an all-access pass to resources, networking, development, and socialization. As a professional, these are all key components to running a successful organization." – **Leah Ortiz, Executive Director, The Arc of Calhoun County**

"As a City on the move, Battle Creek is fortunate to have such a proactive and engaging Chamber of Commerce. Their advocacy work in the areas of small business, economic development and military affairs goes above and beyond anything I have seen in other communities. The Chamber's staff and strategic direction are one of the reasons Battle Creek is well poised for community growth." – **Rebecca Fleury, City Manager, City of Battle Creek**




Next... Insight will focus on stories from members as they share how the Chamber's Voice and Learning opportunities through their membership have impacted their personal and professional growth.



calendar of events

July | August | September



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

Thursday, July 12

5:00 Dash: Networking within 60 Minutes & Ribbon Cutting Celebration at Heritage Cleaners (North Avenue Location)

Friday, July 13

Chamber U: Membership & Benefits Roundtable

Friday, July 13

Women in Business Luncheon at BC Cargo

Tuesday, July 17

Meet-n-Eat: Speed Networking

Wednesday, July 18

Silent Observer Committee Meeting

Friday, July 20

Ambassador Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 24

Java & Beer Coffee Hour

Wednesday, July 25

Military Affairs Committee Meeting

Friday, July 27

Email Marketing with Constant Contact, see article page 5

Tuesday, August 7

Ribbon Cutting Celebration, Grand Opening and Renovation of KCC's Miller Physical Education Building 4 - 5 p.m.

Friday, August 10

Women in Business Luncheon

Wednesday, August 15

Silent Observer Committee Meeting

Friday, August 17

Ambassador Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 22

Military Affairs Committee Meeting

Saturday, August 25

Backyard Burgers & Brewsfeet

Tuesday, August 28

Java & Beer Coffee Hour

Friday, September 7

Rap with Your Reps

Saturday, September 8

Salute to the Military Ball

Tuesday, September 11

Eye Opener Breakfast & Business Expo

Thursday, September 13

5:00 Dash: Networking within 60 Minutes

Friday, September 14

Chamber U: Membership & Benefits Roundtable

Tuesday, September 18

Meet-n-Eat: Speed Networking

Wednesday, September 19

Silent Observer Committee

Friday, September 21

Golf Ball Drop
Riverside Golf Course, 5 - 8 p.m.

Friday, September 21

Ambassador Committee

Wednesday, September 26

Military Affairs Committee

5:00 Dash: Networking within 60 Minutes & Ribbon Cutting Celebration

Thursday, July 12, 2018

5 - 6 p.m.

Cost: FREE

Location: 146 North Ave., Battle Creek, MI

Parking: Groveland & Franklin Streets

Build YOUR networking contact list in just one, quick hour at the newly renovated Heritage Cleaners.

SPONSOR



Meet-n-Eat: Speed Networking

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Noon - 1 p.m.

Cost: \$10 for Members

Location: Italian Bistro & Tap House

1600 Avenue A, Springfield

Quickly build YOUR contact list over lunch.

SPONSOR



Java & Beer Coffee Hour

Tuesday, July 24

& August 28, 2018

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Cost: FREE

Location: Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce, Lobby

34 W. Jackson Street, Suite 3A, Battle Creek

Mug club sponsored by Atlas Sales, Inc.



Rap with Your Reps

Friday, September 7, 2018

7:30 - 9 a.m.

Cost: FREE

Location: Kool Family Community Center,

200 W. Michigan Ave, Battle Creek

Connect with your lawmakers about what is important to you.

SPONSOR



Eye Opener Breakfast & Business Expo

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

7:30 - 9 a.m.

Cost: FREE for Members, \$10 for Potential Members

Location: Kool Family Community Center,

200 W. Michigan Ave, Battle Creek

Be informed through timely topics of interest while mingling and doing business with other Chamber members.

PRESENTING SPONSOR



Will you be joining us? Call 269.962.4076 or email Ryan Fleury at rfleury@battlecreek.org.

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



5:00 Dash: Networking within 60 Minutes

Thursday, September
13, 2018
5 – 6 p.m.

Cost: FREE

Location: 6081 B Dr. North, Battle Creek

Build YOUR networking contact list in just one, quick hour.



Meet-n-Eat: Speed Networking

Tuesday, September 18, 2018
Noon - 1 p.m.

Cost: \$10 for Members

Location: Leila Arboretum,
928 W. Michigan Ave, Battle Creek

Quickly build YOUR contact list over lunch.

SPONSOR



featured member benefit

Constant Contact®

Email Marketing Quickstart

...a step by step walkthrough of setting up Constant Contact's email tool for your business.

Email Marketing; can't live with it, can't SURVIVE without it. We understand that kick starting your email marketing strategy can be a daunting task. It takes all of the things that small businesses and non-profits don't seem to have- time, effort and budget. That's why Constant Contact is offering a workshop that it designed to assist you with finally taking the email marketing leap that you've wanted to make.

Whether you are looking to switch from a competitor or you have never used email marketing before, we guarantee that by attending this workshop you will walk away with:

- The newest and coolest version of Constant Contact
- An understanding of the basics of creating mobile responsive emails that produce real results
- Next steps in producing your email marketing strategy
- An exclusive offer for Chamber members

Join us on Friday, July 27 from 9 – 10 a.m. at the Chamber Loft to grow your skills and learn more about ways to save through Constant Contact's member discount. Call 269.962.4076 to reserve your seat at the table, seating is limited. FREE for Chamber members, \$10 for Potential members.



Learn ways to save with your membership through the Chamber's Featured Member Benefits at battlecreek.org



MemberCare®
BUSINESS TO BUSINESS NEW PROGRAM
SAVINGS FOR YOUR EMPLOYEES
LIFECARE
AMBULANCE SERVICE

ATTN: EMPLOYERS & HR PROFESSIONALS

LifeCare Ambulance is partnering with you to provide *Your Company* employees with a great benefit at a reduced price! Health insurance plans often don't cover the full cost of ambulance service when required for your emergency medical needs. This plan, normally offered to individuals and families for \$38 per year, is being made available at a discounted rate of **\$30 per year!**

Call today for more information! 269.565.4125
LifeCareEMS.org

ribbon cuttings & grand openings

March | April

Contact us for a ribbon cutting!

Is your business growing?

Have you recently expanded your footprint within the Greater Battle Creek Area or enhanced your portfolio of products and services? Visit battlecreek.org for our Ribbon Cutting Celebration form, and contact us to learn more about how the Chamber can help highlight a significant part of your businesses history. Also, the Chamber is now going Facebook Live during all Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Celebrations to increase our member's digital footprint one view at a time. Happy House Gift Shop, Springbrook Golf Course, and Ganton Senior Communities digital footprints were increased by 4,619 video views and 2,088 minutes viewed.



**4,619 Total
Video Views**

**2,088 Total
Minutes Viewed**



March 23, 2018 – Happy House Gift Shop

Chamber Staff, Ambassadors and Members celebrated the Grand opening of Happy House Gift Shop with Ribbon. New owners, Joan and Rolland Frey, opened their first Hallmark store in 1976. Daughter, Kimberly Frey-Asbury joined the team in 1986 after graduating from Michigan State University. They opened a second store in 1993, which is now in Ypsilanti. As members of Palmer Marketing and Southwest Buying Group, and attending national and international markets, they are able to offer unique products throughout the store. **For more information, visit happyhousegifts.com or call 269.962.0650. 100 Columbia Ave. E., Battle Creek, MI 49015**



April 27, 2018 – Ganton Senior Communities | Reflections Memory Care

Chamber Staff, Ambassadors and Members celebrated the Grand opening of "Reflections Sensory Room" at Reflections Memory Care with Ribbon. The sensory room will be used with resident's one on one, or in small group settings, to provide a calming, sensory deprivation experience for over stimulated individuals. **For more information on Reflections Memory Care, or on any one of Ganton Senior Communities assisted living facilities, please call 269.870.5537 or visit gantonseniorcommunities.com. 14316 Helmer Rd. S., Battle Creek, MI 49015**



April 2, 2018 – Springbrook Golf Course | Italian Bistro & Tap House

Chamber Staff, Ambassadors and Members celebrated the season opening of Springbrook Golf Course, and the new lunch menu at Springbrook's Italian Bistro & Tap House with Ribbon. For the golfer or non-golfer, come enjoy a round at Springbrook Golf Course, or enjoy the exceptional, Italian-inspired food menu at their Italian Bistro & Tap House. With 11 craft beer options, a substantial wine list, and unique mixed drink options, they will find the drinks that pair with your menu choices. **For more information, visit their website site at springbrook.golf or call 269.441.7529. 1600 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037**



CTS Telecom, Inc. is a proud partner of the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce. We offer special discounts and free fiber installations (where available) to our fellow Chamber Members. Call or email us today for more information.



Internet Voice Transport Cloud Colocation

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(Continued from page 1)

- To be a genuine and authentic partner to the business community and community
- Continually operate with integrity and enthusiasm
- Actively participate in planning for the future of our community

The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce's core purpose is to advocate for businesses and the initiatives that are in the best interest of the ENTIRE business community, and to help each business define and achieve success while enhancing a thriving business community.

We will take visible action to champion a strong local and regional economy.

The Chamber is the voice of business for the Battle Creek Area, supporting growth in the marketplace and an entrepreneurial spirit. The Chamber has a distinct role to play as the advocate for policies that promote a pro-business environment and support efficient and effective government. Collaborating with other local organizations will help ensure success for the business community as well.

We will be bold in developing the next generation of business leadership.

The Chamber must commit to making the organization the best it can be through an emphasis on future leadership and excellence. Through ongoing development and planning, the Chamber will be ready to embrace new opportunities and continue a track record of success.

We will provide a compelling portfolio of products and services, meeting the needs of the business community.

All Chamber programs and services should be evaluated in order to ensure the organization is providing the maximum amount of value to members. Ongoing research and development on industry trends and best practices is essential to ensuring the Chamber is staying current in representing business interests. A diverse mix of start-up, small, mid and large size businesses will ensure a diverse mix of products and services provided as the needs are all different.

We live in a time of rapid change. The opportunities and challenges for businesses are different than they were just a few years ago. The greater Battle Creek area is doing well at capitalizing on opportunities and it is a time to stay nimble, forward thinking, and collaborative. The collaboration we have seen in our community over the past few years has been a key to the action we are seeing today.

While we will continue to provide great networking opportunities, celebrate our local businesses, and continue to be the effective Chamber you have known and loved, you will see a few changes in the coming year that hopefully will have you loving us even more.

For the past eight years, we've had a 5-star accreditation from the US Chamber of Commerce. Of the 7,000 chambers in the United States, 205 of these are accredited and only 112 are 5-star accredited chambers. In short, it means we are a progressive Chamber that is forward thinking in representing its membership. The future of our organization looks very bright due to the strength and enthusiasm of our nearly 500 members. Our Community IS Our Business!

Poppin' in with Appreciation

What's Up Wednesday is an opportunity for members to connect with our Chamber Ambassadors as they "pop" in to say hello. Getting the chance to "pop" in with our members is extremely important to the overall growth of our organization. It keeps us up-to-date on what our members need and value which allows us the opportunity to understand our members at a higher level. "Delivering Popcorn on Wednesday afternoons has been a trip," said Chamber Ambassador Sue Smith. "I've had fun delivering that awesome smelling popcorn and talking with the Chamber members for a bit about how they are doing and if there is anything we could do for them (besides more popcorn). Some even start eating it right then and there (Sherri Sherban) while we are talking. Someone asked why we do this. Sure, it's time away from my real job but it is interesting to talk with the business owner about any concerns and update them on what's happening around Battle Creek. I love this extra touch and hope they enjoy it too," added Smith.



So, be on the lookout as you never know when we'll be poppin' in to see you next!

Thank you NCG Cinema for providing popcorn and helping us show our appreciation to our Members.



spectacular
ambassador

Karen M Rial, Partners Insurance Agency of Southwest Michigan

Being an Ambassador with the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce is such an enjoyable opportunity and one I take as an honor and a privilege. Meeting new members and sharing with current members provides a new opportunity to deepen current relationships while discovering new services, making new friendships and sharing about business services with members. As an ambassador, it allows me to share the history of this community and let folks know about our rich heritage and the hidden jewels that remain to be discovered. A proud chamber member for 15 years in November and an Ambassador for 10 years.

member's business spotlight

Share...

the excitement of your growth, expansion, and impact your business has on the success of our community. Contact the Chamber to utilize one of your benefits of membership by featuring a Member Spotlight within the October issue of the Insight newsletter.

AccessPoint



AccessPoint, a full-service Human Resources, staffing and recruiting organization, has named Javier Ramirez as chief financial officer. As CFO, Ramirez will be responsible for leading the finance and accounting departments. Ramirez has been a strategic financial leader in the PEO, Technology, and Financial Services industries for more than

15 years. He most recently served as the interim CFO of Florida-based organizations, CoAdvantage and Engage PEO. "Javier's experience with strategic planning and optimizing operations will make him an ideal resource to position AccessPoint for smart and efficient growth," said AccessPoint CEO Greg Packer. AccessPoint has more than 600 clients across the United States and 11 offices in Michigan while employing more than 100 people with more than 6,000 worksite employees.

To learn more, visit apteam.com.

The Annex of Battle Creek

The Annex of Battle Creek offers furnished student apartments just steps from Kellogg Community



College. Here, students can find a community that promotes a well-rounded lifestyle that balances work, class and relaxation! With free, high-speed Internet, cable package, 24-hour fitness center, TV lounge, Business Center, Clubhouse and more, we love making KCC students feel at home! We offer leasing per person in our 1 bed/1 bath apartments to our 2 or 3 bedroom townhouses, and most utilities are included!

Argonomo Venture Studio Now Expanding to South-West Michigan

Argonomo is one of the first venture studios in Michigan providing digital design and technology services for



small- to mid-size companies. Services range from brand design, web and mobile application development, and software solutions all under one roof. Through 2018, Argonomo is offering complimentary brand and digital audits to Battle Creek Chamber members looking to refresh or restart their brand.

Book your audit by contacting us at argonomo.com.

Biggby Coffee New Ownership

The original Biggby Coffee of Battle Creek on Beckley Road has changed ownership/management with over five years in business. This is Charles and Jessica's second Biggby Coffee in Battle Creek (first location, Wattles Park) with a third Pennfield location coming this fall! Biggby Coffee is a Michigan company Charles has been frequenting since it's early days in 1995, just off campus of MSU in East Lansing. Biggby Coffee exists to LOVE People! We're heavily involved in the Battle Creek community and dedicated to proudly serving the Best Coffee & Specialty Beverages in the World. **Come out and see us soon!**



**5466 Beckley Rd
Battle Creek, MI**

Brass Band of Battle Creek

Brass Band of Battle Creek is hosting a Youth Brass Band Summer Camp for all student's grades 9-12 following on the successes of its Spring Concert, "Music Royalty." The Camp will take place July 16-20 at Marshall High School featuring some of the world's top brass musicians as faculty, and conclude with a FREE public concert at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 20, 2018 at Marshall High School Auditorium. "We're extremely excited this year to host this outstanding educational experience for high school bandmen from across the Midwest," Jeremy Root, BBBC Camp organizer and Director of Education and Outreach said. "Those who attend will get a once in a lifetime experience, and opportunity to learn from, and play with the very best in music today," he added.



Registration forms can be found on the BBBC website, bbbc.net.

Café Rica | Costa Rican Coffee

We established ourselves as an online coffee retailer in 2016 and have seen a steady increase in our customer base ever since. Café Naranjo isn't a recognized brand in the US yet, so we decided that getting people to try our coffee would be the best way to gain brand recognition. BC Cargo is a great way to get the word out about our coffee while providing our Battle Creek customers with gourmet coffee.





New Executive Director of Community Inclusive Recreation/DeafLINK



Rhonda Ostrander-Cook appointed Executive Director of Community Inclusive Recreation/DeafLINK. "I'm honored and excited to be back at CIR/DeafLINK," said Ostrander-Cook. "It's been such an impactful organization over the years and served so many people

in our community. I'm excited to see what new things we will be able to offer." Ms. Ostrander-Cook will also continue as the Director for E3 Achievement, a complementary non-profit organization that offers pre-vocational, entrepreneurship, and adult literacy programs. Since 1994, CIR has used advocacy, education, arts, and recreation to connect individuals of all abilities to their community. DeafLINK connects Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals with American Sign Language interpreters on a round-the-clock basis.



New Cereal History Exhibit

The Calhoun County Visitors Bureau has opened up a brand new Cereal History Exhibit. The exhibit features historical advertisements from Post and Kellogg, a whole display dedicated to Tony the Tiger,

Kellogg collectable plates, and Post and Kellogg memorabilia.

The exhibit is open at 34 W. Jackson St., Suite 1B, Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Health.

Our Health Access Hub serves as a connector to community resources. Services include health coaching, evidence-based wellness programs, caregiver support, training and more.

Independence.

We provide Care Management, Senior Nutrition, and other independence-promoting services to seniors in Calhoun County.

Choice.

Our Medicaid/Medicare Assistance Program provides high quality, unbiased benefits counseling without charge or financial incentive.

REGION 3B AREA AGENCY ON AGING

CareWell services 

PROMOTING HEALTH • INDEPENDENCE • CHOICE

Call us 
We're here to help!

Resource Line:
1-800-626-6719

Main Office Line:
1-269-966-2450

Online:
carewellservicesw.org

Grand Slam Investigations

How do you know what you don't know? Grand Slam Investigations can give you the answers to the questions you need answers to! Our employment and tenant background checks will help you make sure that you are getting the right person for your job or apartment. We also offer different ways to determine if you are hiring a good employee or one that will cost you thousands. Our private investigation team can help you solve problems that others don't know how to solve.

For more information visit our website, gsipi.com or call 231.359.1555 because "Knowledge is Power!"



Farm Bureau Insurance



Larry Robinson Agency was founded in 1970 in Marshall, Michigan. Serving local clients, has and always will be his focus. Offering Life, Home, Auto, Farm and Commercial Insurance, Farm Bureau Insurance has grown to become one of Michigan's most respected companies. Solid steady growth along with giving high quality local service, is our mission. Larry's been married 53 years and enjoys family events and fishing in his free time.

Professional & Personal Wellness

Professional & Personal Wellness designs and manages interactive and comprehensive corporate wellness programs. Our services



are personalized and focus first on quality of life, not the scale. We serve businesses of all sizes; each with unique programs based on their needs. We'd like to help every Battle Creek company be able to offer an effective employee wellness program. We have a variety of new, old, and custom plans to fit every wellness vision and budget.

For details, please visit properwell.com.

Wood & Associates, PLLC, adds Spanish Speaking Staff Member



Wood & Associates, PLLC, has expanded their legal team! Attorney Paul Umlauf, a 2013 graduate of Michigan State University College of Law, joins Attorney Kent Wood, II, and Paralegal Jami Rosado at the rapidly growing Law Firm. The Firm specializes in family law, Chapter 7 Bankruptcy, probate matters, wills and trusts, and also offers in-office DNA testing.

Learn more at lawservicesmi.com. Se habla español!



TIME TO GET YOUR **VEGAS** ON™



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I-94 to Exit 104 | 11177 Michigan Avenue





We've got plans to cover all of yours.

No matter where you go, the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan mobile app allows you to access your health care coverage information anytime, anywhere.

Get yours today!

GROUP HEALTH PLANS | SPECIALTY BENEFITS | [BCBSM.COM/EMPLOYERS](https://bcbsm.com/employers)



DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP





Meet in Battle Creek

Bring your next business or organization meeting to Battle Creek! We need your help to promote Battle Creek as a Meeting Destination. Call or email Jay Gladstone for more information about our venues and services, and request a copy of our **Meeting Spaces Guide**. You will be rewarded with a \$10 gift card to the Battle Creek Welcome Center Store as a "thank you" for your referral.

Jay Gladstone, Sales Manager, 269-420-5973, jay@battlecreekvisitors.org

Become a Certified Tourism Ambassador™

CTA certification training teaches us that tourism is big business and affects everyone who lives and works in our area. This program gives tips on how to give exceptional customer service, and how to find resources to answer visitor questions. CTAs also learn the history and current attractions that our county has to offer.

Every CTA gives Calhoun County and its businesses, attractions, and organizations an advantage over other destinations. Sign up yourself and your staff today at CTAnetwork.com. The cost is \$25 per person, scholarships are available.



Downtown Battle Creek in the Riverwalk Centre
34 W. Jackson Street, Suite 1A
1-800-397-2240 • www.BattleCreekVisitors.org



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a black tie event honoring the red white and blue

Saturday, September 8, 2018

Once a year our Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Military Affairs Committee hosts a formal Military Ball in which military spouses, veterans, and

the community can attend. It's an exciting time for military communities to get together, build relationships, and share in comradery.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 8, 2018 from 6-11 p.m. at McCamly Plaza Hotel – Bronson Ballroom for the Salute to Military Ball.

What to Wear

In a military ball, service members wear dress blue or class A uniforms while guests complement them with formal attire. Male guests typically wear dark suits with a bow tie or a tuxedo. Women wear knee- to floor-length gowns, but also have the option of cocktail dresses, as long as detailing is minimal. Patterns and bright colors should be avoided.

Cocktail Hour

The evening kicks off around 6 with a cocktail hour where service members and guests can mingle. There will also be a photographer for formal pictures.



Dinner Hour

When dinnertime is sounded by a horn, it's time for you to take your assigned seat. It's a good idea to open the lines of communication and introduce yourself to your table. You may find a program at your table with the evening's events as well as any responses you should give during toasts and speeches.

There will be presentations to honor service members as well as tributes to the colors.

After Dinner

When the presentation ends, the dance floor and bar will open up. We will have a DJ or band for the evening so more contemporary music can be played. You can let loose on the dance floor, but be sure to leave the club moves at home.

Do you have an interest in being a part of this year's Salute to Military Ball? If so, contact Kara Beer at 269.962.4076 or kbeer@battlecreek.org.




Saturday, August 25, 2018

Flippin' hot! Saturday, August 25 is about to get a few degrees hotter than normal when Battle Creek's finest burger emporiums and restaurants fire up their grills at the 4th Annual Backyard Burgers & Brews Fest. Add to that a rockin' music

lineup, cornhole tournament and giant games as we wrap up this summer with a sizzling hot FREE festival!

In addition to mouth-watering patties for the Burger Competition and 2 live bands, this year's festival will also feature a variety of food options as the Chamber is seeking 15 participating restaurants and/or food vendors. 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.

Attendance to the Festival is *FREE* thanks to the support and generosity of the 2017 – 2018 Chamber Champions. Burgers and Brews will be available for purchase at the event separately.

Visit battlecreek.org or the Chamber's  page for more details and the 2018 Schedule of Events!

FREE attendance provided by the 2017– 2018 Chamber Champions:



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Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce

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For more information: www.bcsummerfest.com