



Coloma Watervliet Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 418 142 Badt Drive
Coloma, MI 49038
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Summer Newsletter 2015



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Edgewater Bank

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Board Member

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Community Development

Coordinator
Chana Kniebes

Watervliet Independence Weekend Celebration

Always a great time, please plan to come to downtown Watervliet during the 4th of July weekend.

Duck Race Tickets are for sale at the following locations.

**B & B Outlet, Board of Trade, Hawgsville Saloon,
Sharon Yoder State Farm Insurance, Tri-City Record,
Tri-County Computer,
Watervliet City Hall, Watervliet Hardware**

Schedule of Events

Friday, July 3, 2015 Noon to evening

Sidewalk sales

Food and Craft Vendors

8:30 pm Live Praise Music and guest speaker...Will Jones Main Street

Tent

Fireworks at Dusk (Hays Park)

Saturday, July 4, 2015

Pancake Breakfast 7:00am (Watervliet Fire Station)

Car Show (Arclight Brewery Parking Lot)

Mr. & Miss Firecracker 10:30am (Main Street Tent)

Parade 1:00pm

Vintage Baseball game Hooterville Hitters vs. House of

David Echoes (4th Annual) 6:00pm (Hays Park)

Country Showdown 7:00pm (Main Street Tent) Sponsored by Hawgsville
and New Country 99.9

WHFB-FM Fire Eaters Show - (Sponsored by Hawgsville Saloon)

Sunday, July 5, 2015

Ping Pong Ball Drop 1:00 pm (Watervliet Airport)

Duck Race at Mill Creek 2:00 pm

Letter from our President

Summer has arrived !

And along with it, lots of festivals and parades. Read on for highlights of the upcoming events in Watervliet and Coloma.

Take a chair and enjoy the Watervliet July 4th parade and events (Friday Fireworks!) and before you know it the Coloma Glad Peach Festival will arrive on July 31 – Aug 2.

Check out the NB Historical Society for all the programs they have scheduled and don't forget the libraries and Sarett Nature Center. Check the local churches for their VBS times for the kids. Pick up the Tri City Record and read about all the local happenings this summer. Stop by the Chamber office on Badt Drive and pick up an area map and Visitors Guide.

Remember to visit all our local farmer's markets to see what is available in fresh fruits and vegetables. Lots of chocolates to taste and maybe some wine or a visit to the brewery. Enjoy the Summer!

Susie

Newsletter Highlights

Watervliet 4th of July Events

BBQ and Blues Recap

After Hours Edgewater Bank

Lee Scherwitz Retires

Baker Park Tree Carving

Community Golf Outing



CWACC Meetings
Second Tuesday Noon
July 14th Board of Trade
August 11th Friendly
Sept. 8 th Board of Trade
October 13th Friendly
Nov. 10th Board of Trade
December Business Recognition Date & Place TBA
Meetings are 1 hour and
RSVP is not required so
come and give your input.

Membership Renewals Reminder and New Map

Member renewals were mailed out in May, if you have not taken the time to renew please do so as everyone's current membership expires on June 30th. Thank you for the continued support of the Coloma Watervliet Area Chamber of Commerce. Dues are \$95.00 yearly from July 1st-June 30th each year and once payment is received a receipt and your new membership sticker is mailed out. **Also if you need more of the new maps, stop in the chamber office or contact Chana for delivery to your business.**



New Leadership handed over with phone and keys at the SWMI Regional Airport's recent transition ceremony. Many local leaders and business people were in attendance at a press conference on June 18th. Vincent DesJardins left, Scherwitz pictured on the right. DesJardins will be succeeding Scherwitz as airport manager on June 30. We wish Lee well in his "retirement" but he will still be at the airport part time. Lee previously served terms as Vice President and President for Coloma Watervliet Area Chamber of Commerce as well as numerous other boards and committees positions he held. You may also have seen Lee when we works at White Pine Winery in St. Joseph. You can be sure Lee will keep busy in around the area and he and his wife Sue will still reside in Coloma. We know Lee loves to travel, so have fun spending more free time doing all the things you enjoy. Don't be a stranger Lee, stop into a Chamber meeting when you can!



Good crowds and good friends at our 5th Annual Coloma BBQ Blues and Cruise on June 13th. Pictured above: a view of Baker Park from the steps of City Hall and one of the beautiful classic cars from the Car Show. Photo left: Isabelle Barchett and Randy Pompey. Have a great time in your retirement Randy!

Coloma BBQ Blues and Cruise 2015

Thank you to everyone that attended the 5th annual Coloma BBQ Blues and Cruise 2015. The weather was hot but thankfully no rain and a good crowd was present throughout the day to participate in the fun, beginning with the beautiful car show coordinated by Austin and Tony Bertuca After the car show, crowds enjoyed a day in Baker Park and listened to great blues music into the evening. There was great music on our Main Stage with bands Bluesmith, Marci Linn Band and our headliner J.R. Clark and the All Stars Blues Mob. Our very popular local band, Rum Boogie, kept the crowds entertained on the Spotlight Stage. Randy Pompey did a great job of being our emcee for the day and co-chaired the event. We have truly appreciated all his dedication to the BBQ and Blues Festival during the past five years and will truly miss him but wish him well as he moves on into his retirement. Thank you to COSY 103.7 and Spencer Rivers that broadcast from the downtown in the early afternoon. We appreciate the delicious vendors who set up in the Park. We were fortunate to have BBQ from Charlie's Piggin N Grinnin and Eddie's Drive In. Thank you also to Keith Hammond from D.W. Hammond Chocolates and Fudge for selling such a variety of delicious dessert items in your shop. Any event takes a group effort of sponsorship, coordination and in-kind donations by generous local businesses, clubs and anonymous contributions. We could not have Coloma BBQ Blues and Cruise without the financial support and volunteers. Thank you: AEP American Electric Power, Bestway Disposal/Orchard Hill Landfill, Chemical Bank, Coloma City, Coloma Lioness Club, Coloma Charter Township, Denise Barowicz or Edward Jones Investments, Easy Street, Edgewater Bank, Four Season's Spa and Pool, Friendly Tavern, H & R Block Thelma Evett, Honor Credit Union, Justin VanFerrari, Linda Freitag, Mark and Darla Crawford, Marsha Hammond, Michigan Mold, Midwest Civil Engineers, North Berrien Community Development, Randy's BP, R.B. Stelter Farms, Rory Bell, Sharon Yoder State Farm Insurance, Tri-City Record and the Coloma Township Police Department. We appreciated the Pupedis Family from the Coloma Glad Peach Festival for their time and effort putting up the stage and canopy and making sure things were in place for the evening activities and the job of tearing down. We can't say enough about our Coloma City Publics Work Department who work tirelessly many days before the event getting the City ready for the big day and all during the festival, working wherever they are needed. Thanks to Apryl Watson our wonderful photographer who took hundreds of pictures and will post them on our Coloma BBQ Blues and Cruise Facebook Page for everyone to enjoy. We hope to continue to do exciting community events and appreciate the support from the people who live, visit and work in our community. Thank you again to everyone involved and to anyone we may have overlooked we do appreciate you.

After Hours Event at Edgewater Bank, Coloma**Wednesday July 22nd 5-7 p.m.**

**The Coloma Watervliet Area Chamber of Commerce
Invites you to Join us for a
Business Afterhours at Edgewater Bank**

When: Wednesday July 22nd 5-7 p.m.**Where: 167 Paw Paw St., Coloma****Highlights of the evening:**

- Meet the Edgewater Bank staff
- Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, wine, and other beverages
- Network with Chamber members

12th Annual Community Golf Outing**Paw Paw Lake Golf Club****Friday, September 11th** (Registration and Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.) **Golf begins at 9:00 a.m.**

Cost: **\$60.00 per person** includes continental breakfast lunch, cart, green fees
4-person scramble format! Mulligans! Raffle Prizes! String! Prize Money!

\$10,000 Hole in One Contest!**Major Corporate sponsor****Seeking Hole Sponsors \$150.00 and Raffle Prize Donations.****We are a 501(C) 3 – your donation is tax deductible. RSVP to Chana 468-4430 or 757-2457 by September 8th**

**SWMI REALTORS Association Awarded Placemaking Grant to
Help Improve Baker Park in Coloma**

ST. JOSEPH, MI - The Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors® has received a \$2,200 Placemaking micro-grant from the National Association of Realtors® to help make Baker Park in Coloma a better place to live and work by transforming unused public spaces into vibrant community places. The grant is intended to help Realtor Associations partner with others to plan, organize, implement and maintain placemaking activities in their communities. The North Berrien Community Development Association will use their grant from the Southwestern Michigan Association of REALTORS to help reach their goal to raise funds to complete an artistic tree carving project in Baker Park. Located at the entrance to the downtown area, Baker Park is an historical landmark and a key gathering spot for residents and visitors. Near the center of the park is a 25 foot trunk of a tree that is over hundred years old which Woodworks Chainsaw Carvings will carve their design into the tree. The detailed design will reflect the local history and the activities, wildlife and agriculture aspects of the community.



Accepting the check from Debbie Floor, President of Southwestern Michigan Association of REALTORS is Chana Kniebes, Community Development Coordinator, North Berrien Community Development. Also attending the ceremony in Baker Park were James Polashak, Mayor of Coloma, Gary Walter, EVP, SWMAR, Keith Hammond, Committee Member, Marsha Hammond, Committee Member/City Commissioner, sponsoring Realtor, Mikki Swisher, American Homes, Coloma and Linda Freitag, Coloma City Commissioner. If you would like to help with this project to raise the additional funds needed with a tax deductible donation please contact Chana Kniebes at 468-4430.

Looking Ahead 2015

July 3-5 Watervliet
Independence Celebration

July 22nd After Hours Edge-
water Bank 5-7 p.m.

July 31st-August 2nd
Coloma Glad Peach Festival

September 11th Community Golf
Outing Paw Paw Lake Golf
Club 9:00 a.m.

October 31st Halloween in the
Park 3-5 pm Baker Park
Coloma

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COLOMA, MI 49038

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B & B OUTLET
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CENTRAL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
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WATERVLIET PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEST STREET STATION
WIL-O-PAW ANIMAL HOSPITAL
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WTP

