



BARRY COUNTY CHAMBER E- NEWS

THE MAY 2020 ISSUE



BARRY
COUNTY
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE &
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
ALLIANCE

OFFICE IS CLOSED TO PUBLIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Our team is dedicated to serving our members & the community. Let us help you remotely in an effort to keep everybody safe!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

No upcoming events this month.

MONTHLY INSPIRATION

"Sometimes you can have the smallest role in the smallest production and still have a big impact."

SPECIAL OFFERS

Take advantage of these membership perks!

PRESS RELEASE

Check back later for updates.

Dealing with COVID-19

Hopefully this newsletter finds you all safe and healthy. The Chamber has been working remotely as we tackle these unusual circumstances. With the cancelation/postponement of many events, our goal as a staff has been to provide a steady stream of reliable information to Barry County. We know there is an abundance of information out there, and our goal has been to summarize and streamline that to one place for easy access. You can find a listing of available resources on our website [here](#).

We will continue to promote our members and support them in any way that we can. We encourage you to follow us on Facebook for updates. In an effort to support local restaurants that are still open for delivery or takeout we have created a Facebook group where information is constantly being added. [Join that group here!](#)

RECOGNITION TO HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS, TEACHERS &
ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Thank You!

YOUR HARD WORK &
DEDICATION ARE APPRECIATED

PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE PLAN

Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-59 requires, among other things, businesses to develop a "COVID-19 preparedness and response plan". The Workplace Law attorneys at Bodman Law have stepped in to help Chamber members' prepare their plans. Here are four different templates for your use:

LOWER RISK EMPLOYER'S COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan
MEDIUM RISK EMPLOYER'S COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan
HIGH RISK EMPLOYER'S COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan
VERY HIGH RISK EMPLOYER'S] COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan

WEST MICHIGAN WORKS! VIRTUAL JOB FAIR

Are you currently hiring? The West Michigan Works! Virtual Job Fair allows you to connect with job seekers who are actively seeking work in West Michigan.



This virtual event will be held Wednesday, May 20 and Thursday, May 21 from 9am-12pm and 1-4pm. Employers can sign up for as many of the four time blocks as they like; each block includes twelve 15-minute time slots to discuss job opportunities with pre-scheduled candidates. Registration begins Monday, May 4 and ends on Friday, May 8 at 5:00 p.m.

West Michigan Works! will handle the registration details, scheduling and promotion to job seekers. Prior to the event, you will receive a final schedule with a list of interview candidates and their contact information. You will then call candidates at the scheduled times to discuss job opportunities.

[Register Here!](#)

RE-ENGAGING THE RURAL ECONOMY: VIRTUAL ROUND TABLE

Over the next two weeks members of our rural county team will host several virtual round table events for our new series, Re-Engaging the Rural Economy. This week, they'll host round tables on Human Resources/Talent, Manufacturing Operations

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

The Curley Cone



"The Curley Cone is an iconic Gun Lake landmark established in the '50s. My husband Jim and I bought it 3 years ago when we learned that it was being taken back by the bank and would then be liquidated with no attempt to sell or reopen. Hating to see one more old school charming business gone forever, we bought it with the intention of making it THE place where the community gathers and a destination location for people near and far 364 days a year.

The "Cone" has evolved from a seasonal stand-alone ice cream and burger stand to a year-round diner, bakery, espresso bar and of course one of the largest ice cream shops in this part of the state. We also have a party room that seats 50, perfect for corporate functions, showers and birthday parties. Our food truck is perfect for corporate functions, graduation open houses, and customer or employee appreciation days. The Cone is opened 6:00 am to 10:00 pm 364 days. We pride ourselves on mentoring a young staff that develops an outstanding work ethic, are proactive, not reactive, possess an appreciation for attention to detail and learn to lead, train, manage and push themselves.

There's always something going on at the Cone. In the summer we feature a farm stand, outdoor movie nights, car shows, boat shows, and craft shows. In the fall we have a pumpkin patch and a Halloween Spook House. In the winter we are known for our beautiful Christmas tree and huge display of toys collected for Toys for Tots. Outside our farmers market features freshly cut trees and a manger scene. No matter the time of year or if you choose catering, the party room, food truck, dine-in, carry out or drive-thru, you will be greeted with a welcoming smile and a wonderful customer experience."



Pierce Cedar Creek Institute

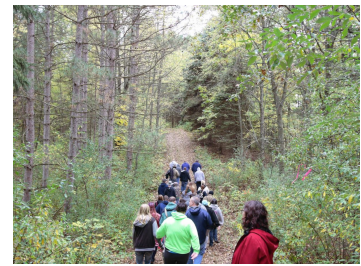


"Pierce Cedar Creek Institute is a mix between an environmental education center, nature center, and biological field station. The mission of the Institute is to inspire appreciation and stewardship of our environment. To fulfill the mission, the Institute offers environmental education and sustainable land management programs to the community, undergraduate research grants and research partnerships with a consortium of area colleges and universities, and a diverse curriculum for pre-K through 12th grade teachers and students. The Institute also provides visitors with an opportunity for exposure to a blend of diverse habitats including forests, wetlands, marshes, streams, lakes, and prairies with nine miles of hiking trails open to the public.

In 1951 Willard "Bill" Pierce, his wife Jessie, and their two young sons, Gary and Joe, moved to Hastings, Michigan from Battle Creek. Later Bill partnered with Doug DeCamp, and they founded Flexfab Horizons International, Inc. or FHI, a manufacturing company still headquartered in Hastings.

In 1988 Bill and Jessie formed The Willard G. Pierce and Jessie M. Pierce Foundation as a way to give back to the community that meant so much to them. Bill and Jessie passed away in 1998, but just prior to their deaths, the idea of building an environmental education center was conceived while sitting on the deck of a friend's house and enjoying the natural beauty of Barry County. Pierce Cedar Creek Institute was founded to protect and enhance our quality of life through ecological education, research, and stewardship of the natural world. The Willard G. Pierce and Jessie M. Pierce Foundation is a private operating foundation and a 501(c)(3) corporation.

Our trails continue to be open every day dawn to dusk. Please continue to adhere to CDC Guidelines for social distancing. Physically distance yourself six feet from others and wear a mask. Free parking and no admission fee!"



Emmanuel Episcopal Church



"Although occasional Episcopal services were held in Hastings as early as 1846 by Episcopal missionaries, the first regular congregation gathered on August 30, 1863, during the Civil War at the home of Joseph Webb Bancroft, an instructor at the Hastings Union School and a lay reader, The articles of agreement establishing Emmanuel were signed October 17, 1863. After meeting in homes and buildings across Hastings, October 14, 1866, marked the first service at the Emmanuel Chapel, now the Rev. Donald and Lucille Gury Parish House.

On Christmas Day, 1891, the congregation occupied the new church that was built adjacent to Emmanuel Chapel.

The J.H. and C.S. Odell pipe organ, 1867, opus 63, was moved to Emmanuel in 1910 from St Mark's Episcopal Cathedral church in Grand Rapids. The organ is mechanical action, has 2 manuals, 22 stops and 1079 pipes. The Odell was restored in 2000 and is in regular use.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church is Eucharist-focused, inclusive, affirming, and welcoming. The church hosts a community breakfast every Saturday and is a venue for the Thornapple Jazz Festival and Family Promise, and organizations including Alcoholics Anonymous, Family Promise, the Thornapple Garden Club and SuperHeros.

As part of its commitment to care of creation, Emmanuel generates electricity from a rooftop solar array on the Gury Parish House, practices energy conservation, composts and recycles."



If you are interested in having your business featured in our Member Highlight section and on social media, please email Aleshia Blauvelt at aleshia@mibarry.com!

ADVOCACY NEWS

Innovative Flexibility Helps this Veteran Networker Adjust to Social Distancing

An expert in the art of in-person networking is changing with the times and pivoting his small business toward producing live virtual events. "I built my entire career with handshakes and just being in the community and attending events and supporting various causes and events, so this new world of COVID-19 is something that is a very big challenge," says Derek Dickow, the founder and president of Metro Detroit-based public and political relations firm Steward Media. "So, in a business mindset, I'm putting on my entrepreneurial hat and we decided very quickly to pivot instead of panic." Learn more about Dickow's new business strategy when he talks with Michael Rogers on SBAM's Weekly Podcast.

[Listen Here](#)

How COVID-19 Has Affected Workforce Strategies

A new AON survey, *Adjusting Total Rewards Programs and Workforce Strategies in Response to COVID-19*, shows how companies around the world are adjusting workforce strategies and supporting employees in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read More Here](#)

On-Demand Webinars on COVID-19 Issues

Watch recordings of previous Webinars!

[Watch Here](#)

2020 CORPORATE SPONSORS: THANK YOU!

Chamber Silver Tier



Chamber Bronze Tier



Economic Development Alliance "Torchbearer" Partner



Economic Development Alliance "Pathfinder" Partner





M2M DISCOUNTS

A'n'D Signs
Abstract Glass
Adrounie House
Advanced Eyecare Professionals
Affordable Metal
Applebee's
B&L Outdoor Services, LLC
Barlow Florist
Bay Pointe Inn
Belton Hearing Center
Brann's Steakhouse & Grille-Caledonia
Buckland Insurance Agency
Bullseye Pest Defense
Coleman Agency
Court-side Screenprinting & Embroidery
Creekside Vision & Hearing
Delton Family Pharmacy
Designwear
Diamond Dazzle Cleaning
Edelman Consulting, LLC
Hastings Napa
iGeek Repair & Gaming
J-ad Graphics
JPixel Website Design
Leach Lake Cabins
Mercantile Bank
Mexican Connexion

Mid-Michigan Group Ins.
Performance Plus QuickLube
Pharmacy Care
Preferred CPA's
PrimeNRG
Spectrum Health Wellness Center
Spiritual Care Consultants
Step'n'Time Dance Studio
The General Store
Tires 2000
Trumble Agency
VanDyk Mortgage
Walker, Fluke, & Sheldon
Weick's Pharmacy

[Complete Online Listing](#)
[M2M List-PDF](#)

*Individuals must identify themselves as Chamber members in order to take advantage of these discounts; some restrictions may apply.

If you need more M2M discount cards for your staff, or if you are interested in offering your own M2M Discount, please contact aleshia@mibarry.com.

Thank you!

IMPORTANT CHAMBER LINKS & DOCUMENTS

[Barry Bucks Participant Brochure](#)

[2020 Annual Events](#)

[M2M Discount List](#)

Follow us on [Facebook](#) & [Twitter!](#)

[MIC Login](#)

[2020 Corporate Sponsorship Brochure](#)

[2020 Full Schedule of Events](#)

[SBAM Benefits Sheet](#)

CHAMBER MISSION STATEMENT

The Barry County Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to the economic prosperity of the county through connectivity, promotion and business community support.