

Join us for a January Coffee Connection at Mr. Mike's Grill

This month's Coffee Connection will be hosted by Mr. Mike's Grill on Thursday, January 11, 2018. A Coffee Connection is an informal gathering of Chamber Members over coffee. No need to RSVP, no need to sign in when you get there. Just bring plenty of business cards and a couple of bucks for breakfast. Mr. Mike's Grill is located at 6047 N. Wayne Rd. We will be meeting from 8:00am – 9:00am. Just get there when you can make a few connections and head on to work. It's a great way to meet other busy business owners and still get some work done. Hope to see you there!



Yippee! January After Hours Hosted by LONGHORN STEAKHOUSE

Please join us for a FREE casual networking event on Thursday, January 25, 2018! LongHorn Steakhouse, located at 35400 Warren Rd. will be our host this month. They are a gem in the Shopping and Dining District and well know for their excellent food and service!

LongHorn Steakhouse will be providing FREE appetizers for us from 5-7pm. Just bring plenty of business cards, a few bucks for the cash bar, and a friend or two if you wish. For those of you that are unfamiliar with what an After Hours is - They are a chance for you and your staff to come meet other business owners in the community, maybe pass a few business leads, and gain some new business for yourself. These events are set up for you to feel comfortable and come as you are. No need to stress about what time they start or end. Just stop in on your way home from work. If you have any questions or would like to attend, please call the Chamber at 734-326-7222, or email us at westlandchamber@yahoo.com.

2018 Westland Chamber of Commerce Membership Directory and Community Guide Arriving This Month!

If you'd like to have these beautiful full color books available for your customers at no charge, just give us a call and we'll happily deliver them to you! We also have a limited number of acrylic stands to keep your directories neatly on your counter or desk. These are while supplies last so put your request in now by calling 734-326-78222 or email us at westlandchamber@yahoo.com. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members for their loyalty, especially, those who supported this year's Membership Directory and Community Guide. Thank you to all who helped with this year's directory!

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Mary Vellardita - Advertising Sales/Production

www.westlandchamber.com

Meet Shaun Clinton, Your Newest Board Director

We're pleased to announce the addition of Shaun Clinton, a Division Leader with Primerica Financial Services, to our Board of Directors. He joined the Westland Chamber of Commerce this past summer and started attending events and volunteering right away. In addition to being a Director, he has also signed on as a Chamber Ambassador and started recruiting new members!

Primerica offers debt elimination, financial planning and insurance of all types. The company was founded by Art Williams in 1977 and has evolved from 85 people to 123,000 licensed insurance agents. Shaun and his wife Ashley are both passionate about Primerica and serving their customers.

When asked what sets their business apart from the others, Shaun responded "Honesty. We always do what's right for our clients. We offer solutions, not solicitations. We're about educating people and bringing back financial literacy."

He continued, "Our mission is to help you build financial independence. Advising clients to buy term life insurance (versus more costly whole life insurance) and investing the difference to build your wealth is our winning strategy".

Clinton joined the Westland Chamber this past summer because he saw our vision and knew that teaming up with the Chamber would help his business grow. Since we were both in the business of helping others, he knew he was entering into a mutually beneficial relationship!

"Being a Chamber member has already given me increased credibility with prospective clients, new friendships and access to high quality people," stated Shaun. "I'm looking forward to all of the events...the Coffee Connections and After Hours events are personal and make it easy to communicate. The large community events are excellent to gain a massive audience."

What's the best advice you can give to other businesses? Shaun responded, "If you're building a business, Chamber membership is the best way to get your message out and reach large numbers of potential clients rather than trying to do it on your own". He added, "I'm looking forward to being part of the Chamber's leadership and helping grow the business community in Westland".

To contact Shaun Clinton, call him at 734-837-8339

or email him at teamclintons@yahoo.com

Business hours: Mon.-Sat. 9am-9pm • www.primerica.com/clinton





The Mayor's Corner

By Westland Mayor
William R. Wild

Dear Chamber Member:

I hope your holidays were enjoyable and restful and like me, you're now ready to begin a new year of progressive and innovative ideas that will better your organization and those you serve. 2017 was an incredible year for our All American City and I look forward to continuing on that momentum in the upcoming year.

In November, Westland kicked off the Shop & Dine Westland Holiday Campaign for the 8th year in a row. Shop and Dine is a 6-week multifaceted marketing campaign entitled "Shop & Dine Westland" which promotes Westland's premier shopping district as a location that bears "Everything you want. Everything you need" for everyone's holiday season shopping list. The Campaign includes TV commercials, radio ads, billboards on major freeways and a large digital and social media presence. The campaign also focused on Small Business Saturday, the antithesis to Black Friday and Cyber Monday, which promotes shopping at local, small businesses over the holidays. We also drew a large crowd at the Westland Shopping Center when we gave away a \$1,000 shopping spree to one lucky winner. The contest, which was facebook driven, received over 3,000 submissions from individuals all over the region.

It's extremely exciting to see all of the new investments and re-investments happening around our community. Last month we celebrated Comerica Bank on Wayne Rd. for their Grand Re-Opening on December 14 after the completion of an entire interior remodeling project. We welcomed some new faces, as well, with Ashley Furniture Homestore and 6th Sensation Psychics both celebrating their grand openings in December.

A number of you reached out to my office over to holidays to list your job openings on our Westland Works! page. I hope that you found this to be a useful service and that you were able to find qualified, hardworking individuals to help get you through these busy months. Please keep in mind that we offer this service year round, so whenever you have job openings just contact my office and we will be happy to help spread the word.

I know at the beginning of the year many of you may be budgeting out your sponsorship allocations for 2018. Please keep in mind that the City of Westland has a number of events throughout the year that are great opportunities to get the word out about your business to our residents. If you are interested or need more information, please call my office at (734)467-3200.

The City's website www.cityofwestland.com, the City's Facebook and Twitter and our cable station WLND remain the place to go for the latest on news, services and events happening here! Also, be sure to sign up for our E-Insider Newsletter on the city's website to stay up to date on everything you need to know in our All American City.

In closing, I greatly value the relationship the City of Westland has with its thriving business community and look forward to continued progress in the year to come!

Warm regards,

William R. Wild, Mayor



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Westland Chamber & Westland Rotary Team up for a Successful 2017 Holiday Taste Fest

On Tuesday, December 5, 2017 approximately 400 people enjoyed Westland's premier charity event, the Holiday Taste Fest at the Hellenic Cultural Center. The Westland Rotary Club teamed up with the Westland Chamber of Commerce for the fourth year in a row to raise funds for scholarships and other worthwhile projects in the community. The event hosted 13 restaurant/vendors treating guests to some of Westland's best culinary treats. The stars of this year's event were Jonna's Market Westland (also a winner in 2015!), which received the Culinary Excellence Award for having the best food and William D. Ford Culinary Arts Department, for their creativity and best table display. This great event wouldn't be possible without the support of our sponsors, the generosity of our donors and restaurants/vendors. *Thank you to everyone!*



Above: Chef Tony and his award-winning William D. Ford Culinary Arts Department students took the top spot for Creativity in their food and display



Zeal Credit Union was happy to attend and help sponsor the Holiday Taste Fest.

Above right: Lou Kyriakoza, Jonna's Market manager, accepts the award for Culinary Excellence from Chamber CEO Brookellen Swope and Taste Fest Chairperson Dr. Amanda Apfelblat and Antoinette Martin, Westland Rotary.

Our 2017 Holiday Taste Fest Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors

DTE Energy and Michigan Chiropractic Specialists, PC - Dr. Amanda Apfelblat

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 Wayne County Community College District/Ted Scott Campus
 Westland City Council President James Godbout
 Westland Floor Covering • Westland Shopping Center
 Westland Nursing & Rehabilitation Centre
 Westland Youth Assistance/Paul Motz • Zeal Credit Union



Westland Rotarians, happy to serve and volunteer at the event. Half of the proceeds fund Rotary Charity projects.

Thanks to Our 2017 Vendors

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 888 Sushi | Mario's Pizza |
| Biggy Coffee | Olga's Kitchen |
| Costco Wholesale | Ram's Horn Family Restaurant |
| Famous Dave's | Texas Roadhouse |
| Hammon's Kitchen | Toarmina's Pizza |
| Hellenic Cultural Center | William D. Ford Career & Technical Center - Culinary Arts Dept. |
| Jonna's Market Westland | |



A full house: Westland residents and Chamber members look forward to this culinary extravaganza every year!

A Big Thank You to Our Auction Donors

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Alexander the Great | Juenemann Insurance Agency | Ram's Horn Family Restaurant |
| American Therapy Centers-Kim Pianko | Kathy Hurt | RSM Tech - Jim Hart |
| Anna's House | Koda Group Inc. | Smoler Smiles - Dr. Bruce Smoler |
| Avon Westland - Jill Lezotte-Kates | Kristi Nimsgern - Westland Rotary Club | Saint John's Episcopal Church - Sande Godbout |
| Albert Boglarsky | Legal Shield/ID Shield - Ali C. Sanders | Starbucks Westland |
| (in memory of Ceil Boglarsky) | Longhorn Steakhouse | Texas Roadhouse |
| Big Ben's Party Store | Lowe's | Toarmina's Pizza - Lou Toarmina |
| Biggy Coffee | Maria Mitter - Westland Rotary Club | Westland City Council President Jim Godbout |
| Century 21 Dynamic - Chris & Doug Peterson | Mary & Don Oesterwind - Westland Rotary | Westland Grand Digital Cinema 16 |
| C&M Printing & Imaging - Dick Isham | Mary Vellardita - Westland Rotary | Zeal Credit Union |
| Comfort Keepers - Joanne Darga | Mario's Pizza | |
| Dan & Antoinette Martin | Men On The Move - Gary Bulson | |
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| Earl Ludwig - Westland Rotary | My Lady's Florist | |
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| Famous Dave's | North Brothers Ford, Inc | |
| Gordon Chevrolet | Olga's Kitchen | |
| Great Lakes Trophy | Parkside Dental Team - Dr. Ricardo Seir | |
| Inspire Theatre | Precision Jewelers | |
| Jack Demmer Ford | Primerica Financial Services - Shaun & Ashley Clinton | |
| Jonna's Market | | |

Please accept our apologies if we have inadvertently left anyone out!

For more great pictures see page 8. All photos are courtesy of WLND.

Thank You To:

Marsha Gayle Band
 RC DJ and Video Productions, Inc.
 Westland Rotary Club Members
 Westland Chamber of Commerce Board Members, especially Gary Bulson, Men on the Move staff, the Hellenic Cultural Center staff and all of our volunteers!

2017 Holiday Taste Fest Committee:

Chair: Dr. Amanda Apfelblat, Michigan Chiropractic Specialists, PC
 Westland Chamber of Commerce Board Member & Past President

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
 Brookellen Swope, Westland Chamber of Commerce CEO
 Antoinette Martin, Westland Rotary Taste Fest Chairperson
 Mary Vellardita, Westland Chamber/Westland Rotary

Thanks to WLND for our Taste Fest photos

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Crunch Fitness Launches New Corporate Member Program

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Send Us Your News!

Share your good news or special events with your fellow Chamber members. Just email your info by the 15th of each month for the newsletter, and we'll help spread the word!

Send your news to: westlandchamber@gmail.com

JANUARY 2017

Calendar of Events

734-326-7222 • www.westlandchamber.com



Mark Your Calendars!

Chamber Events:

Jan. 11 Coffee Connection, 8-9am at Mr. Mike's Grill (6047 N. Wayne Rd.)

Jan. 25 After Hours, 5-7pm at LongHorn Steakhouse (35400 Warren Rd.)

Chamber Meetings (at the Chamber office):

Jan. 2 Board of Directors, 9 am

Jan. 26 Marketing / Ambassadors Meeting
9:30 am, Chamber Office

City Meetings (in City Hall Chambers, 36300 Warren Rd.)
Jan. 2 & 19 City Council 7 pm



Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to all of our members and your families!

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More Great Pics from the 2017 Holiday Taste Fest!



Above left: Jonna's Market took the Culinary Excellence Award. Above center: Chef Tony, staff and students from the William D. Ford Career Technical Center's Culinary Arts Department won honors for their creative food and display. Above right: Wayne County Community College District sponsors enjoying the event: Dr. Paige Niehaus, Trustee Sharon Scott, and Ted Scott Campus President Mike Dotson.



Above left: Ram's Horn Family Restaurant and their popular food. Above center: Texas Roadhouse is always busy and we know why... those pulled pork sliders were awesome! Above right: Gold Sponsor's Parkside Dental Team with Ricardo Seir, D.D.S. third from the left.

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