

**PETOSKEY CHAMBER CELEBRATION OF CHAMPIONS**



One thing that can be said with certainty about the Petoskey Chamber of Commerce is that they know how to throw a celebration party. That fact was more than evident on Wednesday, December 4 at the Great Lakes Center for the Arts. The evening began with a social hour which included yummy, yummy food from Barrel Back Restaurant, Little Bay Gourmet, NOMAD, Petoskey Cheese, Rusty Saw North, Spring & Porter and Stafford's Bay View Inn.

And, of course the big attraction was the announcement of those individuals and organizations who were honored for their contributions to the community.

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|------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Chairman's Award     | The Manna Food Project     |
| • Athena Award         | Jennifer Wixson            |
| • Marty Van De Car     | Eric Hemenway              |
| • Thriving Petoskey    | Klepadlo, Winnell, Nuorala |
| • Service Effect       | Ross Restaurant Group      |
| • Entrepreneur of Year | SludgeHammer Group         |
| • Community Enthusiast | David "DJ" Jones           |
| • Ambassador of Year   | Andrea Koch                |
| • Project of the Year  | Citizens National Bank     |
| • Honorable Mention    | Elder Piper Beer & Cider   |

**USELESS FACTS**

- Jingle Bells was originally written for Thanksgiving.
- To deliver all the gifts around the world on Christmas Eve, Santa would need to travel at 650 miles per second and visit 822 homes per second.
- In Japan, it's traditional to eat Kentucky fried chicken for Christmas. Children traditionally leave mince pies, brandy or milk for Santa, and a carrot for his reindeer.
- Alabama was the first state to officially recognize Christmas in 1836.

**IMPRESSIVE INDIVIDUAL**

Northern Community Mediation (NCM) is fortunate to have many outstanding individuals who serve on its Board of Directors and/or as mediators. One of those volunteers was recently featured in the Charlevoix County News. Not only is Bruce Herbert an exemplary mediator, it could be said that he is a poster child in the world of volunteerism. Whether it is the Charlevoix Area Community Pool, the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, Circle of Arts, Alano Club, Big Brothers, Lions Club or the First Congregational Church of Charlevoix (to name a few), Bruce gives his all. He does have a very simple message. "GET INVOLVED!"

**EXCITING NEWS**

During COVID, the US Treasury made funding available to help companies and organizations maintain employment of their present staffs. This was referred to as the payroll Protection Plan. NCM benefited from that program. Following COVID, the Treasury again made funding available for those who did not have to lay anyone off during COVID. NCM qualified for \$33,939.37. Unfortunately, the money dried up, but guess what? Last week, NCM received \$42,055.82, \$8,116.45 more than requested. Patience is a virtue. The difference is the result of interest.

This will have a significant impact upon our mortgage. Why? NCM purchased our office condominium for \$220,000. We put \$45,000 down. Earlier this year, we paid down the loan by \$40,000, which came from Capital Campaign donation. We will add the \$42,000 towards the pay down of the loan. These amounts coupled with what has gone towards the principal in monthly payments will mean that our mortgage will be just over \$86,000. And, our monthly payments will then be roughly \$650, which is what we paid in rent to St. Francis. What a Christmas present!

**ANNUAL MEETING**

On Thursday, January 16, Northern Community Mediation will hold its annual meeting at City Park Grill in Petoskey. The meeting will begin at noon and usually lasts just over an hour. The meeting is open to everyone. For those who attend, you are welcome to have lunch at your own expense. Please, however, if you plan to attend let me know so that the City Park staff can set up accordingly.

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

A Hanukkah Message: "May your 8 days be filled with love, light, and latke this Hanukkah! May Hanukkah be more than a Festival of Lights. May it also be a Festival of Togetherness, Health, Joy, and Peace. Happy Hanukkah!" ~ Anonymous