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# Grand Ledge

Area Chamber of Commerce

Volume 4, Issue 4

April, 2010

## What's Happening in Grand Ledge?

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### Chamber Member Honored

Congratulations to Chamber member Justin Lowell, a local agent for Farm Bureau Insurance. Justin was honored for his sales and service to his clients during 2009 at a recent convention held in Traverse City. Justin earned 2 awards and was recognized by Farm Bureau Insurance's Executive Vice President Jim Robinson. He mentioned that "Farm Bureau is proud to have agents of Justin's caliber representing the company and helping their clients. He is a trusted advisor for clients."

### April—2010

04/12—Ledge's Playhouse Spaghetti Benefit, 11am—8pm, A & W

04/17—GBGL Pancake Breakfast, 8:30-11:30am at Masonic Temple

04/17—Composting 101 Workshop, 10am—12 noon, Lincoln Brick Park

04/17—Eaton County Spring Splash Canoe Trip, 1pm, Delta Mills Park

04/18—Birding Workshop, 1pm-3pm, Lincoln Brick Park

04/18—Pops Concert with Clark Wilson, organist, 3pm @ Opera House

04/27—Hayes MS Vocal Ensembles Concert, 7:30pm @ Opera House

### May—2010

05/01—15th Annual Victorian Day

05/01—Arbor Day with Smokey Bear, 9:30am—12:30pm, Fitzgerald Park

05/02—Chamber Fashion Show, 2pm, Opera House

05/04—Wildflower Walk, 6pm, Bennett Park, next to Charlotte Fairgrounds

05/07—DooWops Benefit Concert, 7pm at Ledge's Playhouse

05/07-08—Viewing at Fox Park Observatory, 9:30pm-11pm

05/11—GLHS Madrigal Concert, 7:30pm @ Opera House

05/12—Wildflower Walk, 6pm, Fitzgerald Park

05/13—Wildflower Walk, 6pm, Fox Memorial Park

05/15—Food Drive for Grand Ledge Food Bank at Felpausch, 10am-4pm

05/15—Breakfast with the Birds, 7:30am-10am, Lincoln Brick Park

05/15—GBGL Pancake Breakfast, 8:30-11:30am at Masonic Temple

05/15—Beading Workshop, 10:30am-12:30pm, Lincoln Brick Park

05/15—Wildflower Walk, 1:30pm, Lincoln Brick Park

05/15—7th Annual Thank The Troops Picnic in the Park

05/23-29—Michigan Week

05/28—GLHS Bands & Community Band "Concert on the Grand", 6pm @ Opera House

### June—2010

06/11—World Premier of "Mr. Sims Will See You", Ledge's Playhouse

06/12—River Clean-up, 9am

06/17-19—27th Annual Yankee Doodle Days

06/19—Community Wide Garage Sale, Island

06/24—"An Evening with Mark Twain", on the Michigan Princess Riverboat

06/25-26—30th Annual Mudge's Follies

"Back To Broadway" 7pm, Grand High School Auditorium

06/27—7th Annual Garden Tour

### Ledge's Playhouse Restoration Committee.

The Ledge's Playhouse Restoration Committee invites you to eat spaghetti at A & W in Grand Ledge on Monday, April 12 between 11am and 8pm to help raise funds to paint Ledge's Playhouse in Fitzgerald Park (often referred to as the Red Barn). Meet Kevin and Tanya Burnham, directors of Capital Theater-

Works between 5 and 7pm. They will have information on this summer's Theater Season which opens June 11. \$2.00 of the \$5.00 spaghetti dinner will be donated to the restoration committee.

Join us for the 50s & 60s DooWops benefit concert Friday, May 7, 7pm at Ledge's Playhouse. Money is being raised to paint the playhouse. Look for the "Paint The Barn Red" canisters around town. Help us buy paint by filling the canisters. Marilyn Smith 627-5170



## Eaton County Parks Events

**GOING GREEN- COMPOSTING 101**—Composting is a natural and beneficial process that converts organic matter into a soil-like material that is excellent for use as an amendment or organic fertilizer. Learn more about composting, recycling, and other ideas for “Going Green” from Clinton County Department of Waste Management Environmental Education Coordinator Kathleen Donahue and Eaton County Parks Naturalist Jackie Blanc as they partner to present Composting 101 for all Eaton and Clinton County residents. The Composting 101 Workshop will take place Saturday, April 17, from 10am to 12 noon at the Lincoln Brick Interpretive Center in Grand Ledge. Program fee is \$3 per adult, \$2 per child 12 and under, or \$8 per family. A reduced youth group rate is available. Advanced registration is recommended.

**EATON COUNTY PARKS SPRING SPLASH**— Load up your canoe or kayak and join the Eaton County Parks Naturalist Saturday, April 17 for a three hour excursion down the Grand River from Delta Mills Park to Fitzgerald Park while taking in the sights and sounds of spring. Participants will meet and launch at Delta Mills Park at 1pm. Individuals are encouraged to bring snacks, water and warm clothes. The crew will be arriving at Fitzgerald Park at approximately 4pm and will have the opportunity to tour the Fitzgerald Park Nature Center while waiting for a shuttle back to the launch point at Delta Mills Park for those who need it. The Parks Department has a limited supply of canoes available for use at a cost of \$10 per person. Program fee is \$5 per person with your own canoe or kayak. Advanced registration is required.

**BIRDING WORKSHOP AT LINCOLN BRICK PARK**—It’s springtime and the birds are singing! Eaton County Parks invites you to join us for an Introduction to Birding Workshop on Sunday, April 18, from 1pm to 3pm at the Lincoln Brick Park Interpretive Center just north of Grand Ledge. Topics to be covered will include learning about local birds, their food and habitat needs, and basic bird watching techniques. Participants will have an opportunity to make a song bird nest box for use in the wild or as a decoration for your home. Participants are welcome to join in a bird walk directly following the presentation (weather permitting). Cost is \$10 per nest box kit. Space is limited and advance registration is required.

**ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION**—National Arbor Day is celebrated the fourth Friday of April throughout the nation. Eaton County Parks and the Friends of Eaton County Parks invite everyone to join us in celebrating Arbor Day 2010 at Fitzgerald Park on Saturday, May 1, from 9:30am to 12:30pm. This is a great event for families, friends, and youth groups. Spend the morning with Smokey Bear and enjoy a variety of hands-on educational and entertaining tree related activities for children and adults inspiring people to plant, nurture and care for trees and the environment. Everyone is encouraged to come to this event by a form of green transportation, whether it’s by biking, using public transportation (EATRAN), walking, skating or car-pooling. For those interested in making a day of it, pack your lunch and join the Friends of Eaton County Parks under the pavilion at noon for a picnic after the morning’s celebration. We’ll provide the grill heat and a picnic table for a seat and you provide your own eats. If you would like to volunteer at this event, please contact Events Coordinator Jackie Blanc at [jblanc@eatoncounty.org](mailto:jblanc@eatoncounty.org) or by phone at (517) 627-7351 ext. 23.

**WILDFLOWER WALKS**—You’re invited to join Eaton County Parks Naturalist Jackie Blanc to explore the wonders of nature as you wander through the woods in search of wildflowers on the following dates:

Tuesday, May 4, 6pm at Bennett Park next to the Fairground in Charlotte. Interested participants should meet in front of the Ranger Station.

Wednesday, May 12, 6pm at Fitzgerald Park in Grand Ledge. Interested participants should meet in front of the Nature Center.

Thursday, May 13, 6pm at Fox Memorial Park on Gresham Hwy just north of Potterville. Participants should meet at Pavilion #2.

Saturday, May 15, 1:30pm at Lincoln Brick Park on Tallman Road in Grand Ledge. Participants should meet at the Interpretive Center.

Walks are suitable for all ages. Program fee is \$2 per person or \$5 per family. A reduced youth group rate is available.

**FOX PARK OBSERVATORY - SPRING VIEWING DATES**—If the sky is sufficiently clear, the Fox Park Observatory will open its doors for public observing on selected astronomical objects on the Friday and Saturday nights listed below.

> April 9-10, 9pm-11pm, May 7-8, 9:30pm-11pm, June 4-5, 9:30pm-11pm

The Observatory, located at 3979 E. Gresham Hwy., Potterville, MI 48876, is an open air observatory so please dress for the outdoors and bring your family out to explore the universe. Interested participants will need to park in the main parking lot and wear sensible shoes or boots for the 200 yard walk to the observatory. Program fee is \$1 per person or \$5 per family payable at the donation box on site. Friends of Eaton County Parks and local (continued on next page)

astronomers, Jason Blaschka and/or Kevin Keys, will be on hand to answer questions about the night sky. Observation nights will not be held on nights with more than 30% cloud cover. You may call the Observatory at (517) - For during public viewing hours to check sky conditions.

**BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS**—Bring your family and friends to learn the basics of bird watching and bird identification during Breakfast with the Birds Saturday, May 15, from 7:30am to 10am at Lincoln Brick Park just north of Grand Ledge. A continental breakfast will be provided by the Friends of Eaton County Parks for all participants. Sturdy walking shoes, field guides and binoculars are recommended. Program cost is \$4 per person and advance registration is required.

**BEADING WORKSHOP AT LINCOLN BRICK PARK**—Eaton County Parks invites you to join us for a Beading Workshop on Saturday, May 15, from 10:30am to 12:30pm at the Lincoln Brick Park Interpretive Center in Grand Ledge. Participants will have the option to make either a beaded bracelet or a beaded necklace for themselves or as a gift for a loved one. Program is appropriate for adults and children. Young children (ages 3-6) may need some assistance from a parent. Cost is \$6 per bracelet/necklace and space is limited. Registration deadline is Wednesday, May 12th.

For more information about any of the events or programs listed here or to register for any of the activities, please visit [www.eatoncountyparks.org](http://www.eatoncountyparks.org) or call the park office at (517) 627-7351

### Opera House

In order to preserve a strong future for the Opera House, the Board of Directors have approved an agreement to establish the Grand Ledge Opera House Endowment Fund through the Capital Region Community Foundation. A \$400 annual gift to the fund could create a \$300 tax credit for the giver. The Board's next major goal is adding an elevator to the Opera House. We have some gift monies set aside and are looking into possible ways to finance the project. Hayes Middle School Select Vocal Groups will be performing a benefit concert at the Opera House on Tuesday, April 27, 7:30pm. Groups being featured are the Select Men, Select Women Fermatas and Just 4. Walt Eschtruth 627-5334

### Victorian Day

Lots of activities on May 1, 10am-5pm. Start out by joining the Mayor's Walk at 10:30am at Jaycee Park and end up downtown for the Victorian Etiquette Symposium 10:30am at the Wedding Chapel or the Pie Contest at Imagine This followed by the non-motorized parade at 12 noon. Join us for the High Tea 1:30pm at the Opera House and the Civil War Skirmish on the Island at 3:30pm. For kids there is a Kite Flying at 10:30am on the Opera House Commons and a Teddy Bear Tea at Ledge Craft Lane at 3pm followed by a May Pole Dance. Check the flyer or website ([www.victoriandays.org](http://www.victoriandays.org)) for lots of other activities for everyone all day at May Pole Park and around town. Sponsored by Growing Business in Grand Ledge. Marilyn Smith 627-5170

### Chamber Office

The Chamber of Commerce has planned a **Fashion Show**. It is open to the public. It will be held on May 2, 2010 at 2pm at the Opera House. There will be six different stores with fashions. Also the balcony will have vendors for shopping. There will be Wine and Hors d'oeuvres as well as music by Phil Denny (Too Smooth for Notes). Tickets will be available for pre-sale at ACE Hardware and the Chamber office. Tickets can be purchased at the door also. Admission is \$5.00. Mark your calendar's. Come watch the models strut their stuff on the runway with new Spring fashions. Door prizes and drawings. For any questions, call the Chamber office at (517) 627-2383. This event promises to bring many people to our community. The Chamber of Commerce has a **Food Drive** planned for April 15th from 10am-4pm at the Feldpausch parking lot. All food will be donated to the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Please try to stop by and donate some food items. The need in our community is GREAT. A **River Clean-up** has been scheduled for June 12th at 9am. The two meeting areas will be at the boat launch area behind the Scout Building and at Fitzgerald Park. We welcome everyone to join us. Help us clean up the banks of the Grand River. It's really a fun couple of hours. **Yankee Doodle Days** plans are well under way. Yankee Doodle Days will be held on June 17, 18, and 19th. Thursday night will again be the Battle of the Bands under the big tent. Friday will also be a fun filled night of music under the beer tent. Saturday will start off with the 5K run, a parade at 11 am, Kiwanis Duck Race and new to the activities this year is a **Community Wide Garage Sale** on the Island. Reserve your spot on the Island and bring your garage sale items to sell. Hundreds of people will walk the Island and shop your sale items. \$15 will reserve your 12 foot space to display your items for people to view and buy. You must reserve your spot by calling the Chamber office. Fireworks will again be provided for your enjoyment on Saturday night at dusk. The Yankee Doodle Days festival brings thousands of people to our community. Plan to enjoy the event and shop in our stores. The Chamber of Commerce office is open Monday-Friday from 10am to 3pm. Feel free to stop by. The Chamber hosts many events throughout the year to bring awareness to our community. If you would like to be a part of the Chamber, stop by or call. We'd like you to join us. The Chamber is not just for business owners. Be A Friend of the Chamber. Susan Sasse, Treasurer Chamber office (517) 627-2383

**SMALL TOWN. NATURAL WONDERS. ENDLESS OPPORTUNITY.**

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*This newsletter is a publication of the Grand Ledge Area Chamber of Commerce Public Relations Committee and brought to you courtesy of:*



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GRAND LEDGE'S FINEST RETIREMENT LIVING COMMUNITY



**SPRING FASHION SHOW  
MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**2:00 p.m.**

**HORS D'OEUVRES &  
VENDOR RECEPTION**  
(WINE AVAILABLE \$3/GLASS)

**OPERA HOUSE**

ADMISSION \$5.00

Tickets at Chamber Office, ACE Hardware, & at the door

EMCEED BY TIFFANY DOWLING

*President-Motion Marketing & Media*

*Publisher-Capital Area Women's*

*LifeStyle Magazine*

*Co-Founder-In Her Shoes, Talk Radio Show*

**FASHIONS BY:**

COLDWATER CREEK

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DELTA FLOWERS

**MUSIC BY- PHIL DENNY----TOO SMOOTH FOR NOTES**

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