

Small town. Natural Wonders. Endless Opportunity.

Grand Ledge

Area Chamber of Commerce

Volume 4, Issue 8

August, 2010

What's Happening in Grand Ledge?



Doty Insurance/Auto-Owners

MSU Federal Credit Union

Snap Fitness

Vollman Ford

August-2010

Aug. 13-14—Fox Park Observatory, 9-11pm
Aug. 16—Junior Ranger Program, 9:30am-1:30pm, Eaton County Parks
Aug. 19—World of Raptors Program, 9:30am-4:30pm, Eaton County Parks
Aug. 21—Eaton County Parks, Astrophotography, time to be announced
Aug.23-Junior Ranger Program 9:30am-1:30pm, Fitzgerald Park

September-2010

Sept. 9—Chamber Golf Outing—
Sept. 10-11, Fox Park Observatory, 9-11pm

October-2010

Oct. 8,9,10—Color Cruise and Island Festival

November-2010

Nov. 5-7—Holiday Open House

December—2010

Dec.3—Christmas Parade
Dec. 4-5—Holiday Traditions Tour: Homes, Tables, Trees and Trims
Dec. 16-17—Holiday Wishes Benefit Concert

A Message from Chamber President George Vollman

There have been several significant changes to the Grand Ledge Chamber this year.

1. Our monthly board meetings are open to all Chamber Members. This change occurred several months ago and we want to make sure everyone knows about it. The meeting is held at Independence Village at 12 noon on the third Tuesday of every month. We look forward to seeing you!
2. We will be revising our by-laws this year and would welcome your input. You can obtain copies of the current by-laws by calling Judy at the Chamber office (517) 627-2383.
3. Recently the mayor of Grand Ledge voiced his concern regarding the Chamber and their budget/accounting process. In the past three years, the Chamber has taken many steps to ensure the safe guarding of Chamber assets. We currently use QuickBooks to organize our finances and reports. We will be consulting with an accountant later this year to ensure that correct accounting procedures are in place and to make suggestions as to what we might do better or differently. As a Chamber member, you have the right to examine our books any time. We do this by appointment so do not hesitate to contact Judy at the Chamber office to arrange a time.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Eaton County Parks Events

The Eaton County Parks Department wants to remind everyone that Fitzgerald Park in Grand Ledge has **canoes** available for rent Memorial Day through Labor Day on a first come, first served basis. So grab the family or your friends and come on out to the park to enjoy a leisurely hour or two float on the Grand River. Rental hours are 11am to 5pm every day, weather permitting, with equipment and canoes due back no later than 7pm. Cost to rent a canoe is \$10 for the first two hours and \$5 for each additional hour. Each canoe hold up to three people depending on weight. Life jackets and oars are provided with your rental.

Eaton County Parks invites children ages 7 to 14 to join us for one day **Junior Ranger** programs on Mondays from 9:30am to 1:30pm this summer. Some of our adventures will take us to Fitzgerald Park and Lincoln Brick Park in Grand Ledge. Others will take us to Sleepy Hollow State Park. The Junior Ranger program is an in depth look at nature's connections, water cycles, geology, plants, animals and people in our local environment, forensics and how wildlife crimes are investigated, and environmental careers. We will also have GPS geo-caching adventures and use journaling and digital photography as tools to develop a deeper understanding of our natural resources. Junior Ranger programs will be held on the following Mondays: August 16– Sleepy Hollow State Park and August 23-Fitzgerald Park (Transportation to Sleepy Hollow State Park will be provided by Clinton Area Transit System from Lincoln Brick Park). Program fee is \$15 per day per child. Class size is limited and advance registration is required.

Eaton County Parks invites children ages 7 to 14 to explore the **world of raptors**—birds of prey— at the Wildside Rehabilitation and Education Center in Eaton Rapids this summer. This one day field trip will take place from 9:30am to 4:30pm on Thursday, August 19. Experience the excitement of a live falconry demonstration and learn about the connections this hunting sport has to people through the past and present. Participants will discover the difference between owls, falcons, hawks, and other raptors, see owls up close, dissect an owl pellet and find out what makes raptors so unique. Program fee is \$20 per child. Transportation to Wildside Rehabilitation will be provided by EATRAN from Fitzgerald Park. Class size is limited and advance registration is required.

Fox Park Observatory-Summer Viewing Schedule

August 13 and 14—9 –11pm: View the moon, Jupiter, Neptune and Uranus. See the summer Milky Way in all its glory once the moon sets. Perseid meteors will still be going strong.

August 21—Time to be announced: Astrophotography-Bring your camera and work with experienced photographers to capture photos of the night sky. To register or for more information, please email Jason Blaschka at dasakjason@sbcglobal.net. Program fee is \$5 per person.

September 10 and 11—9-11pm: View the moon, Jupiter, summer Milky Way, and the Great Square of Pegasus.

Public observation nights are suitable for people of all ages. Program fee is \$2 per person or \$5 per family unless otherwise noted. Observation nights will not be held on nights with more than 30% cloud cover. You may call the Observatory at (517) 645-6666 using public viewing hours to check on sky conditions.

For more information contact: friends.ecparks@gmail.com. or call the park office at (517) 627-7351. Please visit "eatoncountyparks.org".

Ledges Playhouse Restoration

The painting of the Ledge's Playhouse in Fitzgerald Park has been completed! What an improvement to see the whole "red barn" painted for the first time in many, many years. Thanks to the support from community donations, the Ledge's Playhouse Restoration Committee and the City of Grand Ledge. Donation canisters, easily identified by their distinctive red barn photo, are placed around the city. Money is still needed to help pay for preservation of this historic Grand Ledge building, so each contribution is appreciated.

Marilyn Smith 627-5170

Island Art Fair

A Grand Day in Grand Ledge for the 37th Annual Island Art Fair. The weather was perfect, the crowds about 8,000, lots of neat arts and crafts, the Grand Princess giving rides— the first day operating in Grand Ledge with their new boat. Thanks to the Chamber operating the Grand Ledge Welcoming Booth, the City, Grand Ledge Public Schools, Independence Village, Baders, the hard working committee and many community volunteers.

Chamber Corner

The Chamber has just completed the Yankee Doodle Days Festival. Now we start the planning for a successful golf outing. The golf outing will take place on September 9th. This year it will be held at the Grand Ledge Country Club. Mark your calendars. Applications can be found on the Chamber web site, you can call the Chamber office and one will be sent or faxed to you and one is included in this newsletter. Get your team together, come out and enjoy a fun filled day. Lunch, dinner and lots of prizes.

Vandals struck July 25th. Five of the beautiful flags that the Chamber bought and installed on the bridge were taken. We will take a look to see if there is any other way to install them. We have bolted them in place now, but somehow the vandals found a way to take them.

As always, if you have any suggestions or concerns, please call or email the Chamber.

Susan Sasse

Opera House News

Board members are working on three brochures to promote contributions, with the goal of helping insure the future of the Grand Ledge Opera House. They include: 1) Friends of the Opera House Annual Memberships, with 4 tax deductible levels—\$18.84 (the founding date), \$50, \$100, \$250. 2) Business Sponsors, advertising expenses deductions, 3 levels—Bronze \$250, Silver \$500, Gold \$1,000. 3) Grand Ledge Opera House Endowment Fund, through the Capital Region Community Fund, contributions being tax deductible.

A feature article on the Grand Ledge Opera House as a wedding venue appeared in the June 26, 2010 online edition of "Shore Vride Magazine", including six different views of the Grand Hall, Terrace Level, Gazebo and grounds set up for weddings.

For more information or to join Friends of the Opera House, contact Melanie May, Manager (517) 627-1443, email: glohWgloperahouse.com. Visit the website: gloperahouse.com for general information and updates.

Walt Eschtruth 627-7554

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GRAND LEDGE IS FINEST RETIREMENT LIVING COMMUNITY



Members of the Grand Ledge Area Chamber of Commerce recently did a ribbon cutting at the Boondox Restaurant in Wacousta. Owners Roger and Mary Hansen have located their eatery in a more secluded area. This cozy restaurant offers outside seating on the deck with peaceful scenery providing an ideal location for family dining. The menu selection includes cornbreaded catfish, homemade hush puppies, BBQ ribs, sweet potato fries, fresh baked pies and the “swampper” sandwich which is made with fresh baked sour dough bread. Looking for a sweet treat? Boondox offers Hersey’s ice cream. The restaurant is located behind the Wacousta General Store on Wacousta Road.