

Small town. Natural Wonders. Endless Opportunity.

Grand Ledge

Area Chamber of Commerce

Volume 4, Issue 2

February, 2010

What's Happening in Grand Ledge?



Doty Insurance/Auto-Owners

MSU Federal Credit Union

Snap Fitness

Vollman Ford

February

02/09– Tax Forum Informational Meeting, 3-5pm, Dart Bank Lower Level
02/11– Tax Forum Informational Meeting, 7-9pm, Dart Bank Lower Level
02/14–Pops Concert featuring Scott Smith, organist, accompanying 2 Buster Keaton Silent Movie Comedies, 3pm @ Opera House
02/20—GBGL Pancake Breakfast, 8:30-11:30am at Masonic Temple
02/21– 7th Annual Opera House Bridal Show, 11am –4pm, at Opera House
02/26—Ledge Craft Lane “Art Aid and Silent Auction Party” 6:30-8:30pm at Ledge Craft Lane
02/28—Earl Nelson Singers Concert, 4pm @ Opera House

March

03/08—Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Victorian Day at A & W, 11am-8pm
03/12-13—7th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Celebration
03/20—GBGL Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 – 11:30 am at Masonic Temple

03/28– Clarinet Connexions Concert, 3pm @ Opera House

April—2010

04/3—GBGL Easter Egg Hunt, 11am, site to be announced, “Make-It, Take-It” at Ledge Craft Lane
04/17—GBGL Pancake Breakfast, 8:30-11:30am at Masonic Temple
04/18—Pops Concert with Clark Wilson, organist, 3pm @ Opera House
04/27—Beagle & Hayes MS Vocal Ensembles Concert, 7:30pm @ Opera House

May—2010

05/01—15th Annual Victorian Day
05/11—GLHS Madrigal Concert, 7:30pm @ Opera House
05/15—GBGL Pancake Breakfast, 8:30-11:30am at Masonic Temple
05/15—7th Annual Thank The Troops Picnic in the Park
05/28—GLHS Bands & Community Band “Concert on the Grand”, 6pm @ Opera House

Most people join an organization as the result of a personal invitation. Have you invited someone to join the Chamber? Here are the benefits of belonging to the Grand Ledge Area Chamber of Commerce:

- >**Health Care Insurance (BC/BS)**-allowing you to obtain selected insurance policies best suited for your business.
- >**Fleet Vehicle Insurance**-providing you an opportunity to save on cost and have adequate fleet vehicle insurance.
- >**Commercial/Residential Insurance**-up to 14% savings.
- >**Business Cards and Brochures**– can be displayed in the Chamber lobby promoting your business.
- >**Referral Plan**– is a program used by the Chamber to pass on referrals to our membership from current memberships, email and telephone inquiries, community residents and office walk-in visitors.
- >**Event Sponsorship**– opportunities to spotlight and promote your business through sponsorship of Chamber events such as Yankee Doodle Days, Annual Golf Outing, Color Cruise & Island Festival, Holiday Parade and Chamber’s Annual Dinner. The Chamber sponsors several festivals and events throughout the year, bringing thousands of people to Grand Ledge to shop and purchase in your business.
- >**Business Visibility**– is offered by the Chamber’s Ambassadors Committee to organize and implement Grand Openings, Ground Breakings and Ribbon Cuttings events for businesses.
- >**Chamber Web Site**– provides free business listings and additional opportunities for website links and promotions.
- >**Member To Member Value**– allows you an opportunity for discounts and other benefit values from our membership businesses, by shopping at Chamber memberships.
- >**Monthly Newsletter**– to our membership displaying Chamber activities and current community events.
- >**Membership Directory**-publication that includes membership by type of business.
- >**Phone Book Listing**– of your business in **BIG BLACK** lettering.

WHO WILL YOU ASK TO JOIN THE GRAND LEDGE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

Eaton County Parks Events

CROSS COUNTRY SKI AND SNOWSHOE RENTALS AT FITZGERALD PARK- Eaton County Parks is again offering cross-country ski and snowshoe rentals at Fitzgerald Park in Grand Ledge this winter season. The park office is open for rentals daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (weather permitting). Cost to rent equipment is \$5 per hour, \$15 per day, or \$50 for a weekend (weekend rate is from Friday afternoon to Monday noon). Cross-country ski rental includes skis, poles, and boots. A picture ID is required for rentals. Rental equipment is available in both children and adult sizes. Mastercard, Visa, and Discover cards accepted.

BEGINNER CROSS COUNTRY SKI AND SNOWSHOE CLINICS-Eaton County Parks is offering beginner cross-country ski and snowshoe clinics this winter, weather permitting. Beginner clinics are designed to teach novices the basics of cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. Participants need only attend one of the following classes:

> Wednesday, February 17, Ski Clinic, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

All clinics are held at Fitzgerald Park in Grand Ledge. Cost for each two hour clinic is \$15 for those who need to rent equipment or \$10 for those with their own equipment. Mastercard, Visa, and Discover cards accepted. Class size is limited and advance registration is required.

ILLUMINATED WINTER SKI AND SNOWSHOE FESTS-Eaton County Parks invites everyone to come cross country ski or snowshoe under the stars on illuminated trails or enjoy the sledding hill (weather permitting) with family and friends during our night ski and snowshoe fests at Fitzgerald Park in Grand Ledge. All night fests run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the following weekends:

> Friday, February 19, and Saturday, February 20.

Participants can warm up by the wood burning stove at the sledding hill or at the Nature Center. The Nature Center, located at the bottom of the sledding hill, will be open and heated to serve as a warming area providing hot chocolate for those that are interested. Cross-country ski and snowshoe rentals are available on a first come, first serve basis at the Fitzgerald Park office for those who need equipment. Cost for event is \$2 per person with own equipment or \$5 per person per hour to rent equipment. A picture ID is required for rentals.

SNOWSHOEING THROUGH THE WINTER WONDERLAND- Eaton County Parks invites everyone to bring their snowshoes and join the Parks Naturalist at Fox Park for a walk through the winter wonderland looking for tracks and making a few of your own. A series of Nature at Night walks will be held on the following weekends (weather permitting): Friday, February 19, and Saturday, February 20.

All night hikes begin at 6:00 p.m. Interested participants should meet at the new comfort station at Fox Park in Pottersville. This program is suitable for all ages. Program cost is \$2 per person with your own equipment or \$5 per person if you need to rent snowshoes. Program fee will be collected on site and exact change is appreciated. A reduced youth group rate is available. Advanced registration is required. The Fox Park Observatory will be open for public viewing from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (weather permitting) on the dates listed above.

FOX PARK OBSERVATORY - PUBLIC VIEWING DATES-If the sky is sufficiently clear, the Fox Park Observatory will open its doors for public observing on selected astronomical objects during the months of February and March, 2010. Please see dates and times below.

> February 19—20, 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m., View the Planets, \$1/person or \$5/family

> March 5—6, 7:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m., Exploring the Galaxy, \$1/person or \$5/family

> March 12—13, Starts at 7:30 p.m., Messier All Night Marathon, \$5/person.

The Observatory, located at 3979 E. Gresham Hwy., Pottersville, MI 48876, is an open air observatory so please dress appropriately for the weather and wear sensible shoes or boots for the 200 yard walk to the observatory. Local area astronomer, Jason Blaschka, 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 517-645-6666 during public viewing hours to check sky conditions.

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 or call the park office at (517) 627-7351.

Chamber Office

January was a busy month in the office. We successfully planned the Annual Dinner and it was enjoyed by many members. The theme was "Winter Wonderland". The weather that night didn't let us down. We enjoyed a very delicious dinner provided by J & K Steamboat/Catering. Entertainment was provided by Parts Unlimited, a barbershop quartet led by Charlie Martin.

Membership is increasing. We have several new members this year. If you have not sent in your dues, please do so.

Events that are coming up include Tax Informational Meetings, which are open to the public. We will be hosting 2 meetings: Tuesday, February 9th, 3-5pm and Thursday, February 11th, 7-9pm. They will be held in the lower level of Dart Bank in the Community Room. Please invite your friends and clients. This is an informational meeting to help the public understand property taxes vs property values. The guest speaker is from Eaton County Equalization Department.

Michigan Week this year is May 15-21. The Chamber will participate in the week long events by providing the breakfast for the awards program.

Our big festival will soon be upon us. Yankee Doodle Days plans are already in the works. Yankee Doodle Days will be on June 17, 18, and 19th. Mark your calendars. If you can volunteer for this event, please call the Chamber office and leave your name and phone number.

Watch for details on some of the other events that we are working on for the near future. River Cleanup, Food Drive and maybe a community wide garage sale. The Chamber continues to sponsor events that will bring awareness to our community and bring people into our town to shop in your businesses. This is what YOUR CHAMBER DOES FOR YOU....

--Please feel free to call the Chamber with any suggestions 627-2383.

Susan Sasse, Treasurer

Opera House

We are pleased to announce Eaton Federal Savings Bank as a corporate sponsor.

The 2010 Bridal Show will be held at the Opera House on Sunday, Feb. 21 from 11:00am to 4:00pm. 47 local area vendors will be present to help brides and grooms plan their wedding. Good promotion for our local wedding businesses. Admission \$3.00.

The Earl Nelson Singers present "Sound of Strength and Hope" on Sunday, February 28 at 4pm. The program includes spirituals and gospel music. Presale admission \$8.00 at Opera House, MacDowell's Hearth & Floral and ACE Hardware. \$10.00 at door, \$5.00 students.

Marilyn Smith, 627-5170

Victorian Day

A & W hosts a spaghetti dinner on Monday, March 8 from 11am to 8 pm as a fundraiser. A portion of the \$5.99 dinner will be given to the Victorian Day Committee to help with the expenses. Bring your family and friends, eat spaghetti and meet special Victorian guests during the dinner hours. Victorian Day plans are underway for May 1, 10am to 5pm with a parade, Victorian and Teddy Bear Teas, Civil War Encampment, Pie Auction and more.

Marilyn Smith 627-5170

Growing Business in Grand Ledge

We have started our pancake breakfasts again at the Masonic Temple. The upcoming dates are Feb. 20, March 20, April 17 and May 15, from 8:30 -11:30 am. Please join us the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 8:30am-10am in the Blake Room at the Opera House.

Colleen Austin, 622-4321

SMALL TOWN. NATURAL WONDERS. ENDLESS OPPORTUNITY.

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GRAND LEDGE'S FINEST RETIREMENT LIVING COMMUNITY

Ledge Craft Lane
invites you to attend the
5th Annual
“Art Aid and Silent Auction Party”
Friday, February 26, 2010
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
At Ledge Craft Lane
Hors d’oeuvres and music

Admission tickets are \$10.00 each or two for \$15.00. Businesses that donate auction items worth \$25.00 or more receive two free tickets. Raffle tickets available for knitted table cloth, quilt, \$200.00 Visa card and a night at Rosewood Inn with dinner at Houlihan’s. For more information call 627-9843.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Saturday, Feb. 20th

8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

at Grand Ledge Masonic Temple

(River Street across from Island Park)

Sponsored by Growing Business in Grand Ledge

Cost: **\$5.00** per adult

\$3.00 (10 and under)

All you can eat (pancakes)

Bring your family & friends

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