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Grand Ledge

Area Chamber of Commerce

Volume 5, Issue 2

February, 2011

What's Happening in Grand Ledge?

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February, 2011

Feb. 11 & 12—Fox Park Observatory, 7-10pm

Feb. 12— Create Your Own Dreamcatcher, 10am-noon, Lincoln Brick Park

Feb. 13—"Not Just For Kids", David Peckham, Organist, Opera House, 3pm

Feb. 16—Snowshoe Owl Prowl, 5:30-7pm, Lincoln Brick Park

Feb. 18 & Feb. 19—Illuminated Winter Ski & Snowshoe Fest, 6-9pm, Fitzgerald Park

Feb. 20— 8th Annual Opera House Bridal Show

Feb. 24—Ribbon Cutting, 5:30pm, at new Chamber office

Feb. 25 & 26—Astrophotography, 7-11pm, Fox Park Observatory

Feb. 27—Earl Nelson Singers, Integrated Ensemble, Opera House, 4pm

March, 2011

March 2—Snowshoe Owl Prowl, 5:30-7pm, Lincoln Brick Park

March 3—"Abraham Lincoln In Song", Chris Vallillo, Folk Musician, Opera House, 7pm

March 5—Pileated Woodpecker Presentation, 10am, Lincoln Brick Park Interpretive Center

March 5—Nest Box Building Workshop, 1-3pm, Lincoln Brick Park

March 7—Benefit Spaghetti Dinner for Victorian Day, 11am-8pm, A & W

March 11 & 12—8th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration

March 11 & 12—Fox Park Observatory, 7:30-10:30pm

March 25 & 26—Astrophotography, 7:30-11:30pm, Fox Park Observatory

March 27—Clarinet Connexions, Opera House, 3pm

March 28—Benefit Spaghetti Dinner for Ledge's Playhouse, 11am-8pm, A & W



From the President's Desk



It was wonderful to see many of you at the Annual Dinner in January in spite of the snow and chilly weather. Congratulations to ATHENA recipient Jeana Rohrs, Teacher of the Year Beth Boyd and thank you for awarding Business Person of the Year to my husband and me. It is an honor to receive it.

As our new year begins, festivals are in various stages of planning. We want to showcase Grand Ledge with each event. The chairs of the committees will tell you that it takes a lot of work, organization and many volunteers. If you would like to participate in planning a festival or event, let me know. When you get the call to help, please tell us we can count on you.

As a Chamber member, your input is valuable. Please know that I would appreciate your suggestions and comments. Give me a call if you'd like to meet for coffee or lunch. I would love to hear from you. You are also welcome to attend any Chamber board meetings.

Karla Chamberlain, President

(517) 626-8008 wk, (517) 749-4979 cell, email: miriverboat@aol.com

Eaton County Parks

Calling All Crafters— The Friends of Eaton County Parks are looking for people interested in exhibiting their crafts at the 22nd Annual Ledges Classic Auto and Craft Show on Saturday, July 9, 2011, from 9am to 4pm. More information and a registration form are available on the website.

Illuminated Winter Ski and Snowshoe Fests— 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 illuminated night fests run from 6pm to 9pm on the following weekends: Fri, Feb. 18 & Sat, Feb. 19. Warm up throughout the night by the sledding hill stove or stop by the park office for a cup of hot chocolate. Cross country ski and snowshoe rentals are available on a first come, first served basis at the Fitzgerald Park office for those who need equipment. A pictured ID is required for rentals. Cost for the event is \$2 per person with own equipment or \$5 per person per hour to rent equipment.

Snowshoe Owl Prowl— Register now to reserve a set of snowshoes or bring your own and join Naturalist Jackie Blanc on a night hike through the winter wonderland in search of screech owls, looking for animal tracks and making a few of your own. Snowshoe Owl Prowls will be held from 5:30pm to 7pm on the following Wednesday nights: Feb. 16, and March 2. All hikes will be held at Lincoln Brick Park located just north of Grand Ledge on Tallman Road. Program fee is \$2 per person with your own equipment or \$5 per person if you need to rent snowshoes (reduced youth group rates are available). If there is not sufficient snow cover for snowshoeing, a night walk will be held instead for a cost of \$2 per person or \$5 per family.

Create Your Own Dreamcatcher— In the spirit of the Anishinabe Ojibway First Nation people, individuals will have the opportunity to learn the legend of the dreamcatcher and to create their own version of this famous web. A Dreamcatcher Workshop will take place Saturday, Feb. 12, at the Lincoln Brick Park Interpretive Center from 10am to 12 noon. Program fee is \$10 per dreamcatcher. Space is limited and advance registration is required.

Beginner Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Clinics— Beginner clinics are designed to teach novices the basics of cross country skiing or snowshoeing. 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. Participants need only attend one of the following classes Clinic 1pm-3pm; Sat, Feb. 19 Ski Clinic 9:30am-11:30am, Snowshoe Clinic 1pm-3pm. Class size is limited and advance registration is required.

Winter Rentals—Cross country ski and snowshoe rentals are available at Fitzgerald Park in Grand Ledge. Rental Hours: Open Daily 10am-5pm (weather permitting); Rental Rates: \$5 per hour per set/pair, \$15 per day per set/pair, \$50 per weekend per set/pair; a pictured ID is required; Weekend rate is from Friday afternoon to Monday noon. Visa, Mastercard and Discover accepted.

Nest Box Building Workshop—Spring is just around the corner and soon the birds will be nesting! You're invited to join us for an Introduction to Birding Workshop on Sat, March 5, from 1pm-3pm at the Lincoln Brick 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.

Pileated Woodpecker Presentation— Join John Baumgartner, Michigan Audubon Society board member, Saturday, March 5 at 10am at the Lincoln Brick Park Interpretive Center as he shares his insights and knowledge from his documented studies of this massive woodpecker along with information about its habitat and communities. Participants are welcome to join in a bird walk directly following the presentation (weather permitting). Program fee is \$3 per adult, \$2 per child 12 and under, or \$8 per family.

Astrophotography—Astrophotography Imaging Nights will be held at the Fox Park Observatory on the Friday and Saturday nights listed: Feb. 25 & 26, 7-11pm; March 25 & 26, 7:30-11:30pm. Bring your camera and work with experienced photographers to capture photos of our beautiful night sky. Program fee is \$5 per person.

Annual Park Passes on Sale Now— An annual 2011 park pass would make an ideal gift for the dog walker, hiker, or nature lover. Resident annual pass is \$20 (\$15 for senior citizens); non-resident \$25 (\$20 for senior citizens). Annual passes are valid from January 1—December 31, 2011.

Eaton County Parks Schedule continued

Fox Park Public Observatory—Everyone is invited to join us this winter at the Fox Park Observatory for public viewing nights on the following dates: Feb. 11-12, 7-10pm, view the Moon, Jupiter, and the wonders of the winter sky; March 11-12, 7:30-11:30pm, view the Moon and Orion and his entourage. Public observation nights are suitable for people of all ages. Program fee is \$2 per person or \$5 per family. Local area astronomer and Friends of Eaton County Parks member Jason Blaschka will be on hand during public observation nights to answer questions about the night sky. The Observatory, located at 3979 Gresham Hwy in Potterville, is an open air facility so please dress appropriately for the weather and wear sensible shoes or boots for the 200 year walk to the Observatory. 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 on sky conditions. For more information or to register for this program, please send an email to Jason Blaschka at dasakjason@sbcglobal.net.

For more information or to register for an activity, call (517) 627-7351 or visit www.eatoncountyparks.org.

Ledge's Playhouse Restoration

The major restoration goal for the playhouse in 2011 is to refurbish 50 more chairs. The cost is \$227.00 per chair which includes removing the chair, restoring the framework, reupholstering the cushions, reinstalling the chair and installing a nameplate designating the seat donor. We are asking individuals, groups and businesses to help preserve and promote the playhouse.

The fundraising campaign will start in March with a benefit Spaghetti Dinner at A & W on Monday, March 28 from 11am—8pm. \$2.00 of each \$5.99 dinner will be donated to the Ledge's Playhouse Restoration Committee by A & W. Put the date on your calendar now! Plans are underway for a Doowops benefit concert in May.

Marilyn Smith 627-5170

Victorian Day

The date is May 7. New this year will be a Victorian Wedding at Bridge Street Wedding Chapel. The Civil War Encampment on the island, High Tea at the Opera House, Teddy Bear Tea at Ledge Craft Lane, quilt show and several demonstrators have been confirmed. If you have any ideas for new activities or would like to help, let us know. An A & W benefit Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Monday, March 7, 11am—8pm. \$2.00 of the \$5.99 dinner will be donated by A & W to help finance Victorian Day.

Marilyn Smith 627-5170

Chamber News

The Chamber office is now all moved into our new building. It certainly is nice to have space to spread out. We have a nice display of our sweatshirts, tee shirts and tote bags for sale. And we now have room for meetings to be held at the Chamber office. Plans for the 2nd Annual Fashion Show are well underway. The event will again this year be held at the Opera House on May 15th at 2pm. We will have 20 vendors and about six stores with their fashions to be modeled. If you would like to be a vendor, please call Susan Sasse at 290-3933 to reserve your spot.

Yankee Doodle Days will be right on the heels of the Fashion Show so those plans are well underway, too. We are trying to expand the Yankee Doodle Days this year. We are hoping to have a large area of crafters and a car show (those plans are still being finalized). Yankee Doodle Days will be June 16, 17 and 18. Mark your calendar. More final details of both events will follow in the next newsletter.

Our attempt with these events is to bring awareness and people to our community. As we bring events to downtown Grand Ledge, it allows the business owners to showcase their stores and products. We encourage each business to plan a special sale or event for their store to draw shoppers into their stores.

In April the Chamber will be planning a food drive. We know the demand at the Food Bank is great. A date has not been set yet. Watch next month's newsletter for more details.

As always we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Susan Sasse, Treasurer

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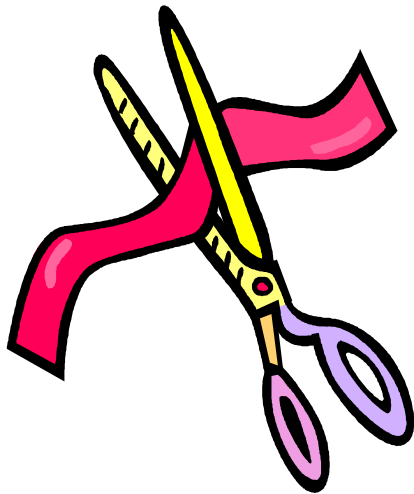
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GRAND LEDGE IS FINEST RETIREMENT LIVING COMMUNITY



You're Invited

Thursday, February 24 5:30pm

Ribbon Cutting- new Chamber office

222 South Bridge

Refreshments