

Small town. Natural Wonders. Endless Opportunity.

Grand Ledge

Area Chamber of Commerce

Volume 4, Issue 1

January, 2010

What's Happening in Grand Ledge?

BIG 6
SPONSORS

Doty Insurance/Auto-Owners

MSU Federal Credit Union

Snap Fitness

Vollman Ford

**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**



Saturday, Jan. 16th
8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

at Grand Ledge Masonic Temple
(Dodge 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

Printing provided by Ledges Printing & Copying 517-627-1539

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

02/21— 7th Annual Opera House Bridal Show

02/28—Earl Nelson Singers Concert, 4pm @ Opera House

March

03/12-13—7th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration

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

Opera House



Nationally known ragtime pianist Bob Milne will be presenting a concert "Mississippi Ragtime" on Sunday, January 24, 3pm at the Opera House. Tickets are \$13.00 presale at the Opera House, MacDowell's Hearth & Floral and ACE Hardware. \$15.00 at the door.

The Opera House Authority has established two new programs. They have joined with the Capital Region Community Foundation to create the GRAND LEDGE OPERA HOUSE ENDOWMENT FUND. Contributions to the Grand Ledge Opera House Endowment Fund qualify for the Michigan Endowment Fund Tax Credit. The credit is a 50% nonrefundable credit obtainable through filing your Michigan income tax return. Each individual is eligible for a \$100.00 credit with a \$200.00 contribution. The contribution also qualifies as a contribution on your federal tax return for individuals that itemize their deductions. The proceeds from the Endowment Fund will be used to assist in the operation and beautification of the Opera House, including construction of the elevator. For further information call Melanie May, Opera House manager, 627-1443 or Harlan MacDowell, Opera House Author-

ity chair, 627-8973. The second program is for corporate sponsors of the Friends of the Opera House for 2010 with a donation of \$1,000.00. Annual benefits include public recognition on printed programs, GLOH website at www.gloperahouse.com, Opera House Facebook page and a donor recognition display at the Opera House which is visited by more than 30,000 people each year, as well as special corporate rental rates for your business related events at the Opera House. The Opera House is a 501(3)(c) organization. For further information and forms contact Opera House manager Melanie May, 627-1443 or Opera House Authority chair Harlan MacDowell at 627-8973.

Marilyn Smith, Director, 627-5170

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, January 6, Ski Clinic, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- > Saturday, January 23, Ski Clinic, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- > Saturday, January 23, Snowshoe Clinic, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- > Saturday, February 6, Ski Clinic, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- > Saturday, February 6, Snowshoe Clinic, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- > 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, January 29, Saturday, January 30, Friday February 5, Saturday, February 6, 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.

TRADITIONAL LONG BOW BUILDING WORKSHOP- What is more traditional than to build and use your own long bow for target or bow hunting? Learn the art of bow making from a leader in the industry, Gene Winter, leading founder of the Iowa Bowhunter's Association (IBA), President of the Iowa Traditional Bowhunter's Society (ITBS), and owner of Winter Bow Shoppe, LLC, who will guide you every step of the way. Eaton County Parks will be hosting a two day (18 hour) self bow class at the Lincoln Brick Park Interpretive Center Saturday, February 20, and Sunday, February 21, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Class size is limited to six students and will be filled on a first registered, first reserved base. Cost for this program, including wood and supplies, is \$285 per student. Advance registration and payment is required by Wednesday, January 27, 2010. The self bow shooter must be prepared. He/she is the most important element in this satisfying sport of traditional archery - modern archery equipment has been designed to take the human element out of archery.

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, January 22, Saturday, January 23, 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 Potterville. 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.

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.

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 January, February, and March, 2010. Please see dates and times below.

- > January 8—9, 7:00 p.m.—12:00 midnight, Astrophotography, \$5/person
- > January 22—23, 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m., View Moon and Jupiter, \$1/person or \$5/family
- > January 29, 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m., Mars is at closest approach!, \$1/person or \$5/family
- > February 5—6, 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m., Orion and his entourage, \$1/person or \$5/family
- > 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, please visit our website at www.eatoncountyparks.org or call the park office at 517-627-7351.

2010 Poised To Be A Great Year for The Chamber

By George Vollman, President



I am privileged to be your 2010 Grand Ledge Chamber President. Looking back over the last year, I want to thank John Maurer and the Executive Board for their tireless work and for providing us a healthy Chamber that is **Poised To Have a Great Year!**

We start this year in January instead of April and now have an opportunity to have a full 12 months to facilitate business growth. We have many great projects that will be coming on line because of this extra time.

The festivals that the Chamber sponsors will not change. Yankee Doodle Days, the late summer Golf Outing, Color Cruise and Island Festival and the Christmas Parade will be fantastic. We are looking forward to several new venues such as "Taste of Grand Ledge" and a Chamber sponsored raffle that will in part fund a "Buy Grand Ledge" campaign. Working with other business groups and the local government, a holistic marketing campaign needs to be developed. We will help to lead these efforts and have fun in the process.

If your business is part of the Chamber, help us by volunteering your time to make these festivals and programs successful. If you're not a member of the Chamber, why not join us? We'll love the opportunity to work with you. The Chamber is now open at 222 South Bridge Street, Grand Ledge, 5 days a week from 10:30am to 3:00pm. I would love to hear from you. My email is: george@vollmanford.com

Awards Presented at Chamber Dinner



Congratulations to Pamela O'Berry-Business Person of the Year, Melody Patterson-Teacher of the Year and Nicole Noll-Williams- ATHENA recipient. These people were recognized at the Chamber Annual Dinner on January 7, 2010 for their contributions of time and effort to our community. Thanks for all you do to make the Grand Ledge area better.

SMALL TOWN. NATURAL WONDERS. ENDLESS OPPORTUNITY.

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GRAND LEDGE IS FINEST RETIREMENT LIVING COMMUNITY

St. Jude's Ranch for Children Recycles Your Used Greeting Cards

Give your old holiday greeting cards a future life by donating them to St. Jude's Ranch for Children, an organization for abused, abandoned and neglected children. The children earn money by removing the fronts of donated cards to make new ones sold in packets of 10. This year's cards will be accepted through February 28, 2010. More donation and purchasing information can be found at stjudesranch.org. Donations can be sent to:

St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Recycled Card Program, 100 St. Jude's Street, Boulder City, NV 89005.

Excerpt taken below from St. Jude's Ranch website:

Recycled Card Program History

Over thirty years ago, wishing to show our donors appreciation for making St. Jude's Ranch for Children possible, the idea was conceived for turning the previous year's Christmas cards into "new" cards for the coming season. The recipients were so delighted with their unique "thank you," they requested the children sell them the special cards. And so, the St. Jude's Ranch Recycled Card Program was born.

Since then, the Program expanded to include all occasion greeting cards...just about anything that starts with a used greeting card front. People from all over the world have sent us their used card fronts!

The children participate in making the new cards by removing the front and attaching a new back. The result is a beautiful new card made by the children and volunteers. The benefits are two-fold: customers receive "green" holiday cards for use and the children receive payment for their work and learn the benefits and importance of "going green".

The ongoing support for the Recycled Card Program has been overwhelming! The Program grew and soon we were receiving over one million cards.