

Small town. Natural Wonders. Endless Opportunity.

# Grand Ledge

## Area Chamber of Commerce

Volume 5, Issue 1

January, 2011

### What's Happening in Grand Ledge?



Doty Insurance/Auto-Owners

MSU Federal Credit Union

Snap Fitness

Vollman Ford

#### January, 2011

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

Jan. 7 & Jan. 8—Illuminated Winter Ski & Snowshoe Fest, 6-9pm, Fitzgerald Park

Jan. 11—Chamber Annual Dinner

Jan. 14 & 15— Fox Park Observatory, 7-10pm

Jan. 16— Accafellas, Male Accapella Vocal Ensemble & Russell Nebeling, Classical Guitar, 3pm, Opera House

Jan. 19—Snowshoe Owl Prowl, 5:30-7pm, Lincoln Brick Park

Jan. 21 & Jan. 22 - Illuminated Winter Ski & Snowshoe Fest, 6-9pm, Fitzgerald Park

Jan. 28 & 29—Astrophotography, 7-11 pm, Fox Park Observatroy

Jan. 30— Bob Milne, Ragtime Pianist, 3pm, Opera House

#### February, 2011

Feb. 2—Snowshoe Owl Prowl, 5:30-7pm, Lincoln Brick Park Feb. 4

& Feb. 5—Illuminated Winter Ski & Snowshoe Fest, 6-9pm, Fitzgerald Park

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

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

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

March 27—Clarinet Connexions, Opera House, 3pm

The Grand Ledge Opera House Presents

# "Olde Tyme Ragtime"

## Bob Milne

ragtime & Boogie Woogie

Sunday, January 30 - 3:00 p.m.

**Tickets:**  
 Presale \$13.00  
 At the door \$15.00  
**Available at:**  
 The Grand Ledge Opera House, MacDowell's Food & Fireplace, and Ace Hardware, 307 1910th

**Information:**  
 Call 517-627-1443 or 517-627-5170  
 Visit [www.gloperahouse.com](http://www.gloperahouse.com) or [www.bobmilne.com](http://www.bobmilne.com)

**OPERAHOUSE GRANDLEDGE**  
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 Corner of Bridge & Riverstreets

Supported by  
 national Federal Savings Bank, a corporate sponsor, Friends of the Opera House benefit.

In Memoriam  
Our condolences are extended to the family and friends of Helen Holihan who passed away in December. Helen was very active in the Chamber and community.

## 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, Jan. 7 & Sat, Jan. 8, Fri, Jan. 21 & Sat, Jan. 22, Fri, Feb. 4 & Sat, Feb. 5, 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: Jan. 5, Jan. 19, Feb. 2, 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: Sat, Jan. 8 Ski Clinic 9:30am-11:30am, Snowshoe Clinic 1pm-3pm; Sat, Feb. 5 Ski Clinic 9:30am-11:30am, Snowshoe 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: Jan. 28 & 29, 7-11pm; 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. *(schedule continued on next page)*

### *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: Jan. 14-15, 7-10pm, view the Moon, Jupiter, Uranus, and the star cluster of the Winter Milky Way; 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 Pottersville, 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](mailto:dasakjason@sbcglobal.net).

**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 Welcomes New Parks Director**— John Greenslit, Eaton County resident since 1972, has been named Director of the Eaton County Parks as of November 1, 2010. Greenslit formerly served as Executive Director of the Michigan Recreation and Park Association for nearly 23 years, as well as the Director and State Liaison Officer of the North Dakota Outdoor Recreation Agency for six years. He formerly chaired the Delta Township Parks and Recreation Commission, which initiated the development of Sharp and Delta Mills Parks. Greenslit also serves as an Eaton County delegate to the Tri-County Advisory Committee on Aging.

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

### Chamber News

Busy, busy, busy is the word to describe the Chamber office. With a successful Christmas parade behind us, we move forward to the new year in our new building. The Chamber of Commerce has purchased the old “Bead Building” and for those that go way back—the “Ewing Shoe Store”. We now have a home. We will have space to spread out and have the opportunity to “spotlight our members”. We will take the month of January to get moved.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those that helped with the Christmas parade. A special thanks to Roger Love and teach Beth Boyd for assisting us with the honor students handling traffic control. We had over 50 entries for the parade. Thank you to all that participated.

The Chamber acts as a collection center for winter coats and clothing for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. A large collection of items was taken over to the food bank just before Christmas. Thank you to those that donated items. The need in our community is so great.

Mark your calendars for the Annual Dinner. The event will be held on January 11th, 6:00 pm at the Opera House. Invitations have been mailed out. Please return your RSVP as soon as possible. Help us celebrate with our new president Karla Chamberlain. This is the “Party” for our members.

Yankee Doodle Days committee has had several meetings. We are trying to expand the festival. If you have any ideas that you would like to see happen at the Yankee Doodle Days festival, please call the Chamber office.

Membership invoices have been mailed out. If you would like your company name and phone number published in the phone book in BIG< BOLD< BLACK letters, your membership must be paid by January 1st. Also, pay now and use it as a tax deduction this tax year.

As always we welcome your comments, suggestions and concerns. Call the Chamber office or drop us a line by mail.

Susan Sasse, Treasurer

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

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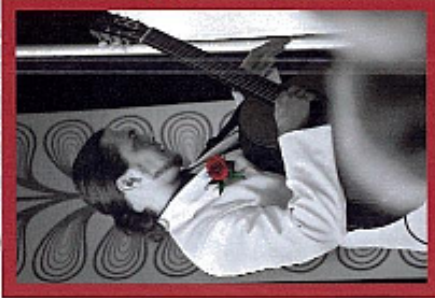
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Classical Guitar



A capella Ensemble

**Sunday, January 16 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Tickets: Presale \$8.00 - At the door \$10.00 - Students \$5.00**  
Available at The Grand Ledge Opera House, MacDowell's Floral & Fireplace, and Ace Hardware.  
For more information, call 517-627-4443, 517-627-5170 or visit  
[www.glopera.house.com](http://www.glopera.house.com), [www.russelguitar.com](http://www.russelguitar.com), [www.msuaccfellias.com](http://www.msuaccfellias.com)

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