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Grand Ledge

Area Chamber of Commerce

Volume 8, Issue 1

January 2012



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From the Chamber Office:

The Christmas parade is now behind us and we are looking forward to the new year.

The Christmas parade was a smashing success again this year. We had 50 entries. The streets were lined with families awaiting the arrival of Santa Clause. Once again this year the Sun Theater played a free movie for the children. The stores and restaurants enjoyed an increase in business before and after the parade.

The Chambers Annual dinner is the next big event, which is scheduled for Jan. 10th at 6:00. The Annual dinner is the "Party" of the year for the membership. It will be held at the Opera House with the social hour starting at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00. At the dinner we recognize a Business Person of the year, A teacher of the year and the ATHENA recipient.

It's an honor to receive one of these awards. We have some very outstanding individuals in our community.

Membership dues have been coming in very well. Thank you

Clothing donations are still being accepted. I took a very large load of coats, and winter clothing to the Grand Ledge Food Bank just before Christmas. We will continue to accept clothing thru-out the winter. Please drop off any winter items that you might not have a need for anymore.

The chamber sponsored a tree, this year at the Opera Houses' Festival of Trees. Our tree was decorated with hats, mittens, and scarf's. When the event was over I took the items over to the Grand Ledge Food Bank.

As always should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop by the chamber office. We value your comments.

Susan Sasse



Arts Council of Greater Lansing

2012 Individual Artist Grant Application and Workshop Reminder

The Arts Council of Greater Lansing is now accepting applications for the 2012 Individual Artist Grant Program. \$1,000 grants are available to greater Lansing artists - both emerging and established - working on projects in the literary, performing, or visual arts. All projects must have a strong local public component. The application and guidelines are available for download from the grants page of the Arts Council's website www.lansingarts.org.

A free informational workshop about the Individual Artist Grant Program and Application will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2012 from 4 p.m. until approximately 5 p.m. at the office of the Arts Council of Greater Lansing (1208 Turner Street, Lansing, MI 48906). The workshop is not an obligatory part of the application process, but is offered as a service to potential applicants. A sample successful application can also be viewed by appointment at the Arts Council office.

Please RSVP for the workshop so that Arts Council staff can prepare a sufficient number of hand-outs. To RSVP, or for questions about this grant program, please contact Katie Robiadek, Program Manager at katie@lansingarts.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to have added two new members this week to the chamber: Flock Marketing and Meijer (grocery store) .

We have also added 2 new BIG 6 sponsors for 2012: CASE Credit Union and Hyundai of Lansing.



EATON COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT

The annual awarding of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants on December 7, 2011 has a very positive impact on Eaton County units of government as Dimondale, Grand Ledge and Eaton Rapids were successful in their applications. With a strong emphasis on water based recreation access to Michigan rivers and streams, all three communities scored high in their proposals to provide improved and new access to the Grand River. Subject to various adjustments, Dimondale was awarded \$169,900 to improve Island Park, Grand Ledge will receive \$138,800 for the Jaycee Park Boat Launch and Eaton Rapids obtained the maximum development grant of \$300,000 for the Mill Street Landing improvements. Local awards totaled \$608,700 in this competitive grant program, which matches local funds on a 3/1 minimum basis. MNRTF grants are administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for development and acquisition projects for park and recreation projects. Neighboring communities also received grants including Lake Odessa (Beach Development, \$200,000), Hastings (Riverwalk Trail Extensions, \$244,900), and Delhi Township (North Trail Connector, \$300,000). St. Johns, Pewamo, Ionia County and Aurelius Township had unsuccessful applications, but were encouraged to re-apply in the next round of consideration with project submissions due on March 1, 2012. MNRTF was established in 1976 by the voters to amend the Constitution to place oil and gas royalties into a Trust Fund to re-invest in natural resources, land acquisition and development projects for local governments and State agencies. The grant-in-aid program was modeled after the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund of 1964 which provided 50/50 matching fund grants to local and State units. MDNR also administers In the best interest of local communities and a high priority for collaboration and cooperation efforts, the Eaton County Parks Department supplied endorsement letters for the successful projects at Eaton Rapids, Grand Ledge and Dimondale. Congratulations to all involved is in order.

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 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays only through the end of December. Weekend rentals (weather permitting) will start after the first of the year. 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.

NATURE AT NIGHT - SNOWSHOE OWL PROWL: Register now to reserve your pair of snowshoes or bring your own and join Eaton County Parks 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 our own. A series of Nature at Night hikes will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on the following Wednesday evenings: January 4, January 18, February 1, February 15, and March 14. All hikes will be held at Lincoln Brick Park located just north of Grand Ledge on Tallman Road. Program fee is \$5 per person with equipment rental or \$2 per person with your own equipment (reduced youth group rate is 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.

SMALL TOWN. NATURAL WONDERS. ENDLESS OPPORTUNITY.

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GRAND LEDGE'S FINEST RETIREMENT LIVING COMMUNITY

What's Happening in Grand Ledge?

Chamber of Commerce

- 01-10-12: Annual Awards Dinner
- 03-17-12: St. Patrick's Day Parade
- 04-12: Food Drive
- 05-12: Annual Fashion Show
- 05-26-12: Memorial Day Parade
- 06-21,22,23-12: Yankee Doodle Days
- 08-04-12: Island Art Fair
- 09-13-12: Annual Golf Outing
- 10-12,13,14-12: Color Cruise & Island Festival
- 11-30-12: Christmas Parade

Grand Ledge Opera House

presents

Bob Milne
Simply the Best!



Piano Rags & More

Ragtime & Boogie Woogie

3 P.M. Sunday, January 29, 2012

Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge

Advance Tickets

\$12.00

at the Opera House,
Ace Hardware, &
MacDowell's Flower Shop

Tickets @ the Door

\$15.00

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For Tickets and Information: 517-627-1443
gloperahouse.com