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# Grand Ledge

Area Chamber of Commerce

Volume 5, Issue 3

March, 2011

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## From the President's Desk

February 24th was an exciting day. The Chamber held a ribbon cutting for our own building/office. It was good to see so many Chamber members and community friends there to visit our new place. We now have some much needed office and storage space. More importantly, we are in the heart of Grand Ledge and visible to visitors to our community.

Committees are meeting and planning for the success of our sponsored events/festivals. Many new activities have been added to Yankee Doodle Days and there is something for everyone, young to not-so-young. Children in particular may want to plan on decorating their bikes to ride in the parade. The Spring Fashion Show was a sell out last year. And lots of fun, too. Tickets will be available soon. Get yours early.

There is a great need in our community. The Chamber will sponsor a food drive on April 23rd at Food Fare (formerly Felpausch). Donate non-perishable food items that will be given to the Grand Ledge Food Bank for those that may be struggling.

Mark your calendars and plan to participate in the festivities planned for St. Patrick's Day. Enjoy a parade, bagpipe band, Irish Stew cook-off, pub crawl, and of course, lots of good food and beverages.

One of the questions often asked of Chamber officers is "What will the Chamber do for me?" My response is "What would you like to see the Chamber do for you that we aren't already doing?" The Chamber works diligently to promote the Grand Ledge community. If you have comments or suggestions, I would be glad to meet with you to discuss your ideas. Or you may contact me by phone or email.

*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.

**Astrophotography-** Astrophotography Imaging Nights will be held at the Fox Park Observatory on the Friday and Saturday nights listed: 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.

**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.

**Public Observatory**—Everyone is invited to join us this winter at the Fox Park Observatory for public viewing nights on the following dates; 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](mailto:dasakjason@sbcglobal.net). For more information or to register for an activity, call (517) 627-7351 or visit [www.eatoncountyparks.org](http://www.eatoncountyparks.org)

## Ledges Playhouse Restoration

We urge you to consider sponsoring a seat at Ledges Playhouse. Our goal is to have 50 seats refurbished during the winter off-season. A sponsorship form is included in this mailing. We are encouraging groups to sponsor seats also.

Put Monday, March 28 on your calendar to eat a spaghetti dinner at A & W. The committee gets \$2.00 of every \$5.99 meal.

May 21, 7pm, the DooWops will perform a benefit concert at Ledges Playhouse. Let's fill the house.

The theater will present two full productions this summer. July 8-24: "Remember WHUU" a fun and nostalgic look at daytime radio in the 1940's; September 9-25: "A Private Campaign" a play based upon Mark Twain's short story "A Private History of a Campaign That Failed" - to help commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

Marilyn Smith 627-5170

## Chamber News

Plans are underway for most of the events/festivals for this year. The Chamber will be sponsoring a food drive for the Grand Ledge Food Bank on Saturday, April 23 (the Saturday before Easter) in the parking lot of Food Fare (formerly Felpausch). The Fashion Show promises to be a big hit again this year. It is planned for Sunday, May 15th, 2-4pm at the Opera House. Fashions from several stores, vendors, drawings/give-a-ways, and refreshments will be featured. Mark your calendar for a fun-filled afternoon. Space is available for more vendors. Call Susan Sasse 290-3933 to reserve your spot. The Yankee Doodle Days committee has planned some new events for this year's festival. They include 5K run, parade, High Heel race (and rumor has it that Police Chief Marty Underhill will compete), motorcycle judging, craft show, vintage car show, BBQ pig roast, beer tent, Battle of the Bands, and Duck Race. The crafters and vintage cars will be located on Charlevoix Drive to help out businesses in that area with some extra traffic and business. As always our aim with our festivals is to bring as many people to our community as possible. Plans are underway for another GREAT Color Cruise and Island Festival.

Flags will be displayed on the bridge again this year and installed just before Memorial Day. The Chamber has purchased all new flags. We had soooo many calls last year as to how nice it looked with all the new flags. Sadly within just a couple of weeks, vandals had taken/destroyed most of them.

/all of these events/festivals require many, many volunteers. If you can extend a helping hand, please call the Chamber office.

Susan Sasse, Treasurer

## Chamber Hosts Ribbon Cutting for New Building/Office



The ribbon cutting for the new Chamber building/office was held Thursday, February 24th. Several Chamber members were in attendance along with community friends. The Chamber purchased the building at 220 S Bridge Street last December and moved into the building in January. For the past four years, the Chamber has been in office space provided by Pam O'Berry in her office building and later back in downtown Grand Ledge in rented space in the Image Projections building. The temporary quarters served our purpose, but the Chamber needed more space and a place of our own. We now have the office space needed for the Chamber and a large space for the board and committees to meet. There is also a nice storage space for storage of items used for our festivals and events in the community. There is space in the rear of the building available for rent. It has it's own back entrance with parking and a large window.

Four years ago the Chamber had a major setback, but since that time we have moved forward in a positive manner. We continue to sponsor all of the events and festivals as before and have added new events. Our membership is strong and the community has supported us as we support the community. With the festivals and events that we sponsor, we bring thousands of people into our community. It is our goal to expose as many people to our wonderful community as possible. We encourage them to shop in our stores, eat in our restaurants and use the services offered by businesses in town.

These are just a few of the events/festivals that the Chamber sponsors: Annual Dinner, winter coat/clothing drop off, ribbon cuttings, food drives, Yankee Doodle Days, Annual Golf Outing, German Student Breakfast, Color Cruise and Island Festival, Christmas Parade, Spring Fashion Show, Student Ambassadors, host community forums.

We invite everyone in the community to stop in and visit our new office. As always we welcome your comments and

### Victorian Day

Plan to attend the benefit spaghetti dinner Monday, March 7 from 11am—8pm to help raise funds to sponsor Victorian Day.

We encourage businesses to sponsor an appropriate activity on Victorian Day, May 7 from 10am-5pm.

Marilyn Smith 627-5170

*In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock.*

*Thomas Jefferson*

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

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*This newsletter is a publication of the Grand Ledge Area Chamber of Commerce Public Relations Committee and brought to you courtesy of:*



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## What's Happening in Grand Ledge?

### March, 2011

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, 7:30-11:30 pm, Fox Park Observatory  
March 27—Clarinet Connexk, 5476j  
ions, Opera House, 3pm  
March 28—Benefit Spaghetti Dinner for Ledge's Playhouse, 11am-8pm, A & W



### April, 2011

April 10- "The Art of the Composer", 3pm, Opera House, Mark Herman, Organist  
April 23- Chamber sponsored Food Drive for Grand Ledge Food Bank, 9am -4pm, Family-Food Fare (old Felpausch)

### May, 2011

May 7—16th Annual Victorian Day  
May 10- GLHS Madrigal Concert, 7:30pm, Opera House  
May 15, 2011- Chamber Spring Fashion Show at Opera House  
May 21—8th Annual Thank The Troops Event  
May 21— The Doowops, 7pm, Ledges Playhouse, benefit concert  
May 27—GLHS Bands & Community Band "Concert on the Grand", 6pm, Opera House