



Newsletter



121 S. Bridge Street
Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837

Volume 1 No. 1

Tele: 517.627.2383

Director's Corner

Talk about a busy September, that we were! We conducted our 17th Annual Golf Outing and hosted the Great Lakes Shriners Parade. I might add both were successful.

This last month we brought many people into our community. Some for the first time. I will tell you Mr. Todd Clayton, President of the Great Lakes Shriners Association was extremely happy over our support and the job our Chamber did hosting their parade. Mr. Clayton mentioned this is one of the best parades they have conducted in several years with such a large turn out. In talking with all of the Great Lakes Shriners Association officers we received a 4.0 rating for excellence. I'm indeed proud of our Chamber and community for helping hosting an awesome parade. Thank you!

Now we move on to our Annual Color Cruise & Island Festival starting October 13th and ending October 15, 2006. You can find details on our web site or you can call the office for further information.

We are working via reviewing several of our membership benefits and will be updating the membership be email over the course of October. This process is underway and the executive committee is working diligently to deliver quality benefits to you our membership.

We are in the process of updating our web site and working out the "kinks". For those who have not reviewed our web site it has a new look and several new features available. It's our plan to have these "kinks" worked out in the next 15 days.

No doubt you have noticed and read emails from my office regarding our flags. One evening we had some unknown souls remove 13 flags. Last week we had 5 flags taken from the bridge. After sharing this information with our membership by email two weeks ago, I had a call from Cheri Kratzer, general manager of Independence Village saying the residents will pay to have the flags replaced. To the residents at Independence Village I extend a big Thank You for your support of our flags. I have been in touch with our law enforcement and be assured we will catch the party or parties involved. When that happens I will do everything in my power to make sure they understand our seriousness toward the flags flying over the Grand River! How disrespectful these individuals are towards our community, nation and the men and women serving in our military during a state of war!

Thank you Chamber members for your continued support with our Annual Golf Outing and hosting one of the finest parades we've ever hosted in Grand Ledge.



Norman Snyder
Executive Director

Membership Committee

The executive committee is in process of reviewing our healthcare insurance benefits for Chamber membership. In September we finalized the process with the support of our board of directors approving a new healthcare insurance agent.

I'm happy to inform our membership our new insurance agent will be the Michigan Chamber Services. Mr. Scott Norman, Benefit Manager will be working with our executive director to start



Newsletter



As for implementation of our new options for healthcare benefits, it's our plan to have this program in place by November 1, 2006 or sooner.

We are in the processing of renewing memberships which we hope to complete by December 31, 2006. I would like to have you give consideration to taking a look at our President's Circle Membership and those features which apply to you. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact our executive director.

It gives me great pleasure in welcoming the following new memberships to the Grand Ledge Area Chamber of Commerce, so please join with me in extending a big welcome to these members:

Main's Mini Storage	Sharps Supply
Retail Advertising Sales Consultant	Motel 6
Fowler & Tuttle Lawyer	

Dale Bennett
Membership Committee

Treasurer's Journal

During August we experienced a stronger cash flow to meet our operations and community responsibilities. Primary result was due to annual renewals starting September. The Finance & Budget Committee is reviewing a number of managerial control points to strengthen our internal control of fundraisers and Chamber committee activities.

Our Annual Golf Outing was a success! Our profit from the golf outing did improve over last year's activities. The weather held out and we had great support from our Chamber membership.

Come September 25, 2006 we will start soliciting Big 6 Event Sponsorships for the next calendar year. If you would like to join the Big 6 Event Sponsorship you can go to our web site for information or call the Chamber office.

Craig Goble
Budget & Finance Committee

Great Lakes Shriners Association

The Chamber has been working two years planning the 57th Great Lakes Shriners Association parade which took place September 23rd in Grand Ledge. The hosting Shriners were Elf Khurafeh Shriners of Lansing. We have had the honor and pleasure of working with their representative Mr. Ed Purchis in making arrangements and plans to host the parade in Grand Ledge. Many new friends were made during the two year process and some good times were shared.

There were over 970 rooms reserved which hosted 23 Shrine Centers, of which 22 are located in the five states bordering the Great Lakes and one from Canada. These Shrine Centers conducted unit competitions for motor corps, clowns, horse patrol, patrol drill competition and bag pipe bands. These competitions were conducted between the Lansing Mall, Sundance Riding Stables and the Grand Ledge Opera House. The Chamber provided 1,200 welcome packages in Shriner member's room at the Sheraton Hotel.

The Shriners were founded in 1872 and have a current membership exceeding 450,000 members. There are 191 Shrine Temples in North America which Michigan has 4 Shrine Centers each responsible for a designated number of counties. The first Shriners Hospital was founded in 1922.



Newsletter



Mr. Todd Clayton, President of the Great Lakes Shriners Association stated this is the best turn out they have seen in several years. He could not say enough good things about Grand Ledge and its residents welcoming their membership and parade. His closing remarks to us after the parade were this is a great community and they should be very proud of their Chamber.

We were indeed honored to have a former patient who is Jennifer Aseltine. She joined us in the parade and also helped sing a song at our Meeting & Greet hosted by the Grand Ledge Lodge #179, F. & A.M. The parade was just under two hours in length with a great performance by the Great Lakes Shriners Association. If you would like more information about the Shriners please email us at glacc@grandledgemi.com or call the office at 627.2383.

Chamber's Shriners Parade Committee

Chamber Email Address Change

Please remember our email address has been changed to glacc@grandledgemi.com. If you are using our old email address we will not get your email or communications. Please change your email address and if you have changed your email address please notify the office by either email or fax. Thank you!

Karla Chamberlain
Public Relations Committee

September Spark Plug

Keeping with our acknowledgement and mission of the Spark Plug member it gives me pleasure to announce our September Spark Plug is Chad Lake for his commitment and dedication to providing a successful 17th Annual Golf Outing. Congratulations Chad and thank you!

Norman Snyder
Executive Director

Holiday Parade 2006

The Holiday Parade has met and is working to deliver another great parade on December 1, 2006. The parade will kick off at 7:00 p.m. sharp with Santa Clause kicking off this joyous Holiday Season. As of October 12th you can obtain your Holiday Parade applications on our web site which include further information about this year's Holiday Season.

Jon Bayless
Holiday Parade Committee

Ambassadors Committee

Our Ambassadors Committee was busy helping with the Shriners Parade and a ribbon cutting at Cellure Connection, who has joined our Chamber. Last month we kicked off our new Good Morning Grand Ledge formatted program and was honored to have Mr. Randy Thayer, Plant Manager of the Delta Township Assembly Plant as our guest speaker. To make it even better we were able to celebrate Mr. Thayer's birthday also. Go to our web site and see our Ambassadors in action.

Craig Goble
Ambassadors Committee



Newsletter



Member To Member Value Program

Take advantage of the cost savings program by enrolling in the Chamber's Member To Member Value Program. It costs you nothing. It was designed to enhance your business growth. Go to our web site and get further information on how to enroll in our Member To Member Program.

Norman Snyder
Executive Director

Up Coming Events & Mark Your Calendar

October 13, 14, & 15 – Color Cruise & Island Festival at Island Park, Grand Ledge
November 4th & 5th – Singers on the Grand, Opera House, Grand Ledge

Articles for the Newsletter

Articles for the November newsletter will need to be delivered to the Chamber's office no later than October 27th to be published in the November Newsletter. Either email your article to glacc@grandledgemi.com or fax it to our office at 627.5006. Just remember October 27th is the deadline.

Newsletter Committee



Coldwell Banker – Hubbell Real Estate, Susan Sasse
Felpausch Food Center
Lansing Automakers Federal Credit Union
Vollman Ford
Wal-Mart
Ledges Printing & Digital Technology, Inc.

Confirmation of Membership Emails

Currently we are conducting internal review of membership emails on our data base. It is our intend to use our email for communicating with our membership unless otherwise notified by a member or they do not have a PC. This process reduces our cost annually by \$1,500. It is important if you change your email address to advise our office so the proper changes can be made on our membership data base. If you have any questions please contact our office and speak with the executive director.

Opera House News

The Opera House Authority is working with the City of Grand Ledge to complete DNR requirements qualifying us for a state grant for the Riverwalk project, west from Jaycee Park, past the Opera House, ending near the bridge/Second Island.

The Opera House property, at 223 East River St., acquired March 15, 2006, was sold to the City in anticipation of future Riverwalk development. In addition, also for future Riverwalk growth, the Opera House is in the process of granting an easement to the City across Opera House property.



Newsletter



State DNR grants will be announced in December. If the City receives a grant for Riverwalk development, the Opera House has agreed to contribute \$80,000 as part of matching funds for the grant. It is our hope the Riverwalk could be completed in 2007.

Walt Esctruth
Opera House Authority



Auto Body Credit Union
CASE Credit Union
Complete Health Chiropractic, PC
Holihan-Atkin Funeral Home
Image Projections, Inc.
Imperial Mobile Homes, Inc.
Key Realty

"Small Town. Natural Wonders. Endless Opportunity."