

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

~ Executive Director - Norman Snyder - 627-2383

While enjoying our Greater Northern Michigan recently I revisited a book called "See You At The Top". You're right - the author is the one and only Zig Ziglar. It's been some time since I've read the book. I'm a person who likes to revisit books and refresh my inner soul. This is one book that does that for me. Zig shares the following: "In all aspects of life, you must have a solid foundation on which to build, then you take six specific steps to reach life's objectives. The six steps being self-image, relationships, goals, attitude, work and desire." It always does me good to read this book and rethink what I'm reading and how I can apply what I've read to my life and work. Crazy as it sounds, I do get excited about seeking out new ventures or trying new ideas.

This brings me to membership. We are 255 members strong, and our goal is to be over 300 members by year-end. The continued efforts by our board of directors and committees to provide membership value is challenging and extremely time consuming. I look at our volunteers performing day in and day out - working to bring membership value to you. I see our volunteers with strong self-image, caring about membership relationships, setting goals for achievement, a team attitude, totally dedicated to working with the Chamber, and a desire to see this Chamber deliver membership value. We all need to be on this page! Network with your fellow members and join us in "sharing a vision". Take an active part in your Chamber and make "sharing a vision reality"!



August's Sparkplug: This month I want to say thank you to Linda Mulder for her volunteerism and sponsorship not only to the Chamber, but also to our community. Her tireless efforts and dedication is truly a standard for all to follow. Thank you Linda, you are August's Sparkplug!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ Chair - Bill Atkin - 627-2531

Special thanks to all who made Yankee Doodle Days a success! Also thanks to Dart Bank for hosting Sharing a Vision, After Hours in July. The food and fellowship were very nice and provided a great opportunity to network. I would like those Chamber members who attend most of our events (Golf Outing, Annual Dinner, etc.) to consider the President's Circle. When you add up everything that is offered to you as a President's Circle member in the way of tickets to events and advertising exposure, it is really a good value.

GRAND LEDGE OPERA HOUSE

~ Co-Chairs - Walt Eschtruth - 627-7554 and Bill Ferrigan - 627-8431

Normal maintenance projects are being completed such as painting of the outside stairs going down to the Terrace Level. The benches in the gardens are being sanded and restained. Five new speakers have been added to the PA system to allow events out on the Terrace Level to hear anyone on the microphone being used on the terrace. A new piece of sculpture is being placed on the grounds between the gardens and the river as a donation from the Carol Basso art group. A new enclosure for a piano is being installed in the Grand Hall.

AMBASSADORS

~ Chair - Sheila Laing - 627-3882

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 31 - 7:30 AM - Blake Room - Opera House. There are no ribbon cuttings at this time. We welcome you to join us at our next meeting.

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING ~ SEP 8

~ Chair - Chad Lake - 622-8552

The Annual Golf Outing is coming up on Thursday, September 8th at Centennial Acres. Approximate tee off time will be 12 noon. We need teams to register as soon as possible. Volunteers are needed for the day of the outing. Sponsorship signs will be sold during the month of August. Please contribute as much as possible this year. Options for sponsorship will be detailed in the mail piece as well as through personal phone calls. Door prizes will also be collected during the next few weeks. Call Chad Lake at 230-5452 or Norm at the Chamber Office if you have any questions.

COLOR CRUISE & ISLAND FESTIVAL ~ OCT 7-9

~ Chair - Marilyn Smith - 627-5170

Next meeting: Thursday, August 23 - 12:00PM - Opera House. Businesses that want to participate should contact Marilyn Smith at 627-5170 or marnor1@comcast.net for an application. We still need day chairs (couple or two singles) for one day (Friday or Sunday). There are seven bus tours scheduled so far.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

~ Co-Chairs - Deb Pozega-Osburn - 381-1900 and Karla Chamberlain - 627-2154

Meetings: Thursday, August 18 (third Thursday of each month) - 11:30 AM - Blake Room. The committee is reviewing text for the inserts for the informational folders and will finalize the text this month. It has formulated questions for a member survey to determine preferences for content and delivery methods of the newsletter and continues to work to update the email distribution process. Committee members also formulated a list of key words that describe Grand Ledge and will use the list as it finalizes the new tagline.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

~ Director - Mark Sullivan - 622-5256

Meetings: Wednesday, August 10 (second Wednesday of each month) - 6:00 PM - City Hall. The DDA has contracted with Grand Designs to clean, tuck, point, and seal the brick walls near the parking lots, Scott & Bridge Street, and the Opera House. The painting of the downtown decorative streetlights is moving along well and will be completed before winter. The DDA is looking at building a park on the Halsted Lot (North Bridge & East Front Streets). It is going to the Planning Commission for site plan review. The LDFA is scheduled to meet on August 9, 2005 at the City Hall Annex at 319 Taylor Street, behind City Hall. However, we suggest that if you are interested in attending the meeting, please check ahead of time to ensure that the meeting is not cancelled for lack of agenda items. Contact our office at 622-5256 or 627-6469 for confirmation.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

~ Chair - Jon Bayless - 627-2149

Special meeting: Friday, August 12th - 7:30 AM - A&W. The committee will not meet on August 16 (the usual meeting date).

GRAND LEDGE AREA RETAILERS

~ Chair - Marilyn Smith - 627-5170

Meetings: Every Wednesday - 8:30 AM - Opera House. Thanks to Bill Atkin for providing music for July Night Owl on the apron at Ledge Craft Lane's corner. The next Night Owl is scheduled for August 19. We provided shopping dining packets to parents of the PONY National Zone Baseball Tournament held in Grand Ledge at Gorman Field from July 26 - 30 (coming from all over Mid-America). We are working on a shopping card that can be inserted in the Best Western Key Card. Thanks to Ron Graber for organizing the purchase of small American flags and distributing them to Bridge Street businesses when the Guard left for Kosovo. Ten businesses joined together with Ledge Craft Lane to produce a coupon handout to be distributed at Island Art Fair.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SPOTLIGHT

~ Chair - Cheri Locker - 627-8600

Meetings: Tuesday, August 2 (first Tuesday of each month) - either 8 AM or 4 PM - Opera House. The Spotlight Actors have just announced that this will be their last season performing as their group has gotten smaller over the years. The Spotlight on the Spotlight Committee is still going strong, and we will continue to keep Ledges Playhouse active! We are just finishing up with some of our summer projects around the playhouse. We have spruced up the bathrooms, and new carpet will be laid next week. David Songer will be performing on August 11th at 8 PM and that will be a sellout crowd of about 400. The Doowops will be performing on September 15th!

CHAMBER'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

~ Susan Sasse - 627-1052 and Lisa Vickers - 627-4743

If you received a hard copy of this newsletter and would prefer to receive an online version, please send an email to adde@mail@grandledgemi.com with the name of your business, and we will add it to the Chamber's database.

Attention Chairs: Please email your committee information for the September 2005 newsletter to newsletter@grandledgemi.com by August 25. Thanks!

SHARING A VISION, AFTER HOURS

~ Executive Director - Norman Snyder - 627-2383

The Chamber's Sharing A Vision, After Hours will start at 5:30 PM and go until 7:00 PM or whenever. They promise to be excellent evenings for networking and promoting your business among the Chamber membership. Refreshments, beverages, and entertainment will be provided.

August 24, 2005	Barrington Woods Condominiums	Matthew Moyer
September 21, 2005	Image Projections, Inc.	Ron Nichols
October 19, 2005	Key Realty	Leo & Ronald Maguire
November 23, 2005	Four Season Gift Shop	Kenneth Black
December 21, 2005	Loursel Day Spa	Sheila Laing

ONEIDA FIELD MARKET ~ SEP 24-25

The Oneida Field Market is located ½ mile south of M-43 on Benton Road. Hours are 10AM-5PM on Saturday, September 24 and 10AM-4PM on Sunday, September 25. Visit the Oneida Field Market booth for pumpkins, gourds (dried and fresh), broom corn, Indian corn, fall décor, and more. The Field Market also features arts and crafts, antiques and collectibles, business booths, children's games, food concessions, door prizes, and entertainment. For more information, please call 627-7114.

UPCOMING FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

~ Please visit the www.grandledgemi.com for more detailed information

- Aug 6 ~ 32nd Annual Island Art Fair @ Island Park
- Aug 11 ~ "Love Songs and Songs you Love" with David Songer @ Ledge's Playhouse
- Aug 19 ~ Night Owl Shopping
- Aug 24 ~ Sharing a Vision, After Hours @ Barrington Woods Condominiums
- Sep 8 ~ Annual Chamber Golf Outing @ Centennial Acres Golf Course
- Sep 15 ~ The Doowops @ Ledge's Playhouse
- Sep 16 ~ Night Owl Shopping
- Sep 21 ~ Sharing a Vision, After Hours @ Image Projections, Inc.
- Sep 24-25 ~ Oneida Field Market
- Oct 2 ~ Victorian Days Home Tour 2005 (Sponsored by Charlotte Chamber of Commerce)
- Oct 7-9 ~ Color Cruise & Island Festival @ Island Park
- Dec 2 ~ 7pm Santa Parade
- Dec 3-4 ~ Festival of Trees @ Opera House



Grand Ledge

Area Chamber of Commerce

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