

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

News From

Grand Ledge Area Chamber of Commerce

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February 2005

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 13 – Happy With the Blues – A Tribute to Harold Arlen, Barry Baker, organist
Fe. 18 – Night Owl Shopping
Feb. 20 – Bridal Show @ Opera House
March 6 – An Afternoon Musical Interlude presented by Kathleen Buchin and Martin Underhill
March 11 & 12 – St. Patrick's Day Festival
March 18 – Night Owl Shopping
March 20 – Capital City Brass
April 15 – Night Owl Shopping
May 7 – Victorian Day
May 10 – GLHS Madrigal Concert
May 21-28 – Michigan Week
June 23-26 Yankee Doodle Days
June 24 -25 Mudge's Follies Musical Revue

Executive Committee

We discussed job evaluations for our office staff and ways to improve making the office run more efficiently. We expressed the need to continue to grow our membership as that is our source of income. If you have any questions or comments, please call.
Chair: Susan Sasse, president 290-3933

Victorian Days

Victorian Day, Saturday, May 7th only this year, due to Mother's Day on Sunday, May 8th. Activities confirmed to this point include non-motorized parade at 10AM, Teddy Bear Tea, High Tea, Quilt Show, carriage rides. Contact Marilyn Smith if you would be interested in serving on the committee or know of people with horses, wagons and carriages.
Chair: Marilyn Smith 627-5170

Color Cruise

Next meeting: March 22, 12 noon @ Opera House
Color Cruise dates are Oct. 7 – 9, 2005. Karla Chamberlain and Lynne MacDowell will serve as co-chairmen. Boat, airplane and wagon rides confirmed.
Chair: Marilyn Smith 627-5170

DDA

Next meeting: Wed., Feb. 9, 6 PM @ City Hall
Snow removal is the major activity at this time. This represents a large portion of the maintenance budget of the DDA. We are working on the maintenance and landscaping requirements for the year, and we hope to start obtaining bids on some work soon. Of particular interest is the painting of the decorative streetlights downtown and repainting the clock tower in front of the Opera House.
From the LDFA, Dr. Pepper has presented their site plans for a new building in the Industrial Park and we expect to receive site plans from JOHO Technologies for spring construction. Zion Industries building is complete and they should be having a ribbon cutting soon.
Director: Mark Sullivan

Public Relations

Next meeting: February 17, noon, Opera House
Committee is working on policy guidelines for Chamber web page information. Policy on festival participation by political groups discussed.
Chair: Karla Chamberlain, 627-2154

Economic Development

Sold 2 acres to Hires Root Beer. They will be building in the spring.
Chair: Leo Maguire

Spotlight on the Spotlight

We will be sending our 100 seats (from the theatre) to be restored. The seats should be completed and installed by the summer season. We are planning our 2005 schedule now. David Songer and the Doo-Wops are scheduled to perform.
Chair: Cheri Locker 627-8600

Director's Corner

Now the holidays are over, I'm safe once again. Such a busy time of the year. Seems as Christmas morning comes, next we are looking at New Year's Eve. New Year's Eve always seems to be a special day. I find myself thinking back on all the things that I did and did not do. I call it my day of reflection.
Speaking of reflection, I cannot help but think back over how many members of this Chamber have come to our need, both in sponsorships and volunteerism. Sometimes I get so involved in the day to day activities and challenges, I totally forget the strength of our Chamber membership. Over the course of the last two years we have worked hard to point our organization in a much different direction. By that I mean, we have worked to expand our membership base and develop quality benefits to meet our membership's needs. In all honesty, I'm not happy in the progress I've made in achieving those goals. Some days I have found myself taking three steps backwards rather than three steps forward. It's times like this when I receive profound advice from directors, such as: "It's these times which provide you with the experience and knowledge to meet tomorrow's challenges." Oh, boy, that wisdom. Then I sit back in my office chair and reflect. By golly there is considerable truth to that experience and knowledge thing. It's then I think how lucky I am to have directors who are there to support our Chamber activities and events. Directors who bring a smile to my face and always let me know they are there if I need any help. These are my champions! These people are here to meet our community challenges and make Grand Ledge a place to call home. Reflections – pretty important word. Again I would ask, when you have nothing to do you're bored, take a minute to drop one of our community military people a card or note saying "Hello". To those of us who are veterans, we know what it means getting that little note when you are far from home. Let's make sure they know how proud we are of their sacrifice. May they all come home safe and sound to their families.
Norman Snyder, Executive Director

Ambassadors

The student ambassadors appreciation party will be Thursday, February 24 at the Opera House. 3 PM. There will be music, food and cards. The party is open to any students that have volunteered in our community. We just welcomed H & R Block with a ribbon cutting. Help us welcome them to the community.

Chair: Liz Andrews 627-8448

GLAR

Night Owl – Feb. 18 – Several stores open until 11 PM.

Reviewing business survey results. Concentrating on hours. Are there some that we can agree on to be consistent? Now surveying businesses for Wed. eve until 8 PM. Committee working on a flyer with listings of all businesses to be distributed to 700 school employees, to encourage them to shop locally. State Women's Bowling Tournament in Lansing area Feb. – June. Each weekend 1,000 to 1,500 bowlers in town. Preparing flyers to visit and shop Grand Ledge to be inserted in Grand Ledge brochures and distributed to west side hotels. 2nd planning session for the year on March 10, 7 PM, Opera House Blake Room.

Chair: Marilyn Smith 627-5170