
DIRECTOR'S CORNER

~ Executive Director - Norman Snyder - 627-2383

I had the pleasure of sharing lunch with Bill Atkin, and while enjoying a hamburger and talking about membership, benefits, community programs, and financial planning for the Chamber, I could not help but sit back and take pride in Bill's leadership role. His positive attitude and determination can only mean one thing for this Chamber - success in growth and membership value! Finishing lunch I walked back to the Chamber smiling and saying to myself - "We are going to the next level, yes!"

Talking with our directors I see positive attitudes and determination in their eyes to meet today's challenges and prepare for tomorrow's responsibilities. Believe me, we all have our little traits and opinions. Watching this board come together and prepare for another 36 years of community involvement makes me proud of this team. If you are a member, please don't hesitate about attending a board meeting. You are always welcome. Better yet, express your opinion and get involved with your Chamber. We are seeking to promote our community and preserve our history and quality of life - the challenges change, as do the responsibilities. Our Chamber is up for the task. Your membership is an investment for tomorrow - an investment to help us meet those challenges and responsibilities. To our directors, I take pride in working with you and say thank you for your commitment. Leadership, responsibility, and just caring help in **Sharing A Vision**. We all need to be on the team.

July's Sparkplug - This month I want to say thank you to Karla Chamberlain for her leadership, stewardship, and commitment to this Chamber. Karla exemplifies and demonstrates by her actions what it is about being a director and better yet, what it means by being involved with her Chamber. Karla does make a difference! Thank you Karla - you are July's Sparkplug!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ Chair - Bill Atkin - 627-2531

We are now ready to call on potential corporate sponsors giving them an opportunity to be one of six companies to be promoted and advertised during the next 12 months at all six of our Chamber events {Yankee Doodle Days, Color Cruise, Golf Outing, Annual Dinner, Winter Thaw (new event), and Holiday Parade}. Having a place in the "Big Six" will expose your company's name to thousands of people.

Thanks to Dale, Craig, and Norm for their work on formulating a budget to help meet our challenges. Thanks to all committee chairs and committees for all of their work during this busy time.

I encourage every member to reach out to business owners, managers, and salespeople new to the area or already established who are not yet members of GLACC to consider membership. Please let Norm and/or me know who they are and WE WILL follow up with them about membership. The larger and stronger our membership is the more we can accomplish to help each other and our community.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

~ Chair - Staci Holmes - 627-6085

We would like to extend a BIG welcome to our new Chamber members! Please stop by and personally welcome them to the Chamber.

➤ CBS Payroll Solutions, Complete Music, Great Lakes Mortgage & Investments, Shpigler Group, Synergy Soup Interactive

GRAND LEDGE OPERA HOUSE

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

No report submitted from committee.

AMBASSADORS

~ Chair - Sheila Laing - 627-3882

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 27 - 7:30 AM - Blake Room - Opera House. There are no ribbon cuttings scheduled at this time. We welcome you to join our Ambassador's Committee.

YANKEE DOODLE DAYS

~ Chair - Ron Maguire - 627-3267

Per Norm Snyder, all indications are we had a successful festival; however, we have not totally collected all of the funds or paid our bills yet. At our July board meeting we will have this year's results. I would like to thank Ron Maguire for his commitment and leadership to this committee. It has been a pleasure to work with Ron and his team leaders (Staci Holmes, Ken Black, Karla Chamberlain, Mark Bruce, Libby Brandon, Karl Glarner, Judy Walters, and Kimberly Bengel) in sponsoring Yankee Doodle Days 2005. Great job and sincerely thank you!

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING ~ SEP 8

~ Chair - Chad Lake - 622-8552

Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 8 at Centennial Acres. The Annual Golf Outing is just a couple months away. Gather your foursomes! Information regarding teams, sponsorship, and donations will be delivered soon.

COLOR CRUISE & ISLAND FESTIVAL ~ OCT 7-9

~ Chair - Marilyn Smith - 627-5170

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 13 - 12:00PM - Opera House. The Chamber is using wrist bands this year instead of admission buttons to save money. There are 42 demonstrators & displays who have committed so far plus boat, airplane, helicopter, and wagon rides as well as a Masonic Craft Show. There are seven bus tours scheduled.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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

Meetings: Third Thursday of each month - 11:30 AM (new time) - Blake Room. The committee will be gathering information on the newsletter (if content and availability meet members' needs). They are proceeding with efforts to find tagline for Grand Ledge.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

~ Director - Mark Sullivan - 622-5256

Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month - 6:00 PM - City Hall. A contract to paint the decorative lamp posts downtown has been given to Craig Electric, which includes painting the Opera House clock. Several new trees have been planted on Scott Street and in front of the Theater. At first they looked dead, due to the heat and transplant shock, but they are now coming around with new leaves sprouting. The DDA agreed to pay for half of the cost of replacing the sidewalk on the north side of West River Street between the Masonic Temple and Ledge Craft Lane. Also, in conjunction with the City Planning Commission, the DDA is involved in a traffic calming study on M-100 from the Fire Station to just south of the Quality Dairy on Clinton Street. JOHO Technologies' new building is under construction with the shell mostly completed. The Dr. Pepper facility is getting close to completing its construction.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

~ Chairs - Jon Bayless - 627-2149

Next meeting: Third Tuesday of each month - 7:30 AM - A&W. The committee will review governmental projects and activities at the state and local level at their next meeting on July 19.

GRAND LEDGE AREA RETAILERS

~ Chair - Marilyn Smith - 627-5170

Meetings: Every Wednesday - 8:30 AM - Opera House. Thanks to "What's Left Over of the River City Boys" for the music at June's Night Owl Shopping. We are working on music for July 15th's Night Owl Shopping. If you know anyone who would like to participate musically in any of the upcoming Night Owls, please contact Marilyn Smith. Several businesses had sidewalk/tent sales, chalk art, pop a balloon for a prize, and in-store specials to provide traffic and activities during Yankee Doodle Days. We walked in the parade with activity handouts. Adams Billboards made a presentation to GLAR. Several businesses are providing 280 items for Fitzgerald Park Car Show goody bags on July 9. We are holding special evening meetings on cross promotion with each other and discussing ways to create exposure, generate floor traffic, and increase sales. There are a couple of new businesses downtown - Self Defense America and Sweet Linda's Café. Stop by and say "hi"!

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SPOTLIGHT

~ Chair - Cheri Locker - 627-8600

Meetings: First Tuesday of each month - either 8 AM or 4 PM - Opera House. The two public bathrooms have new paint and flooring. The stage bathroom is in process. The dressing rooms have been painted and are waiting for new carpeting. The city has allocated funds, but we have been able to do a lot more because we had four GM Job Core people working for two weeks. Spotlight Actors Workshop opened the season June 16 with three plays in rotating Thursday through Sunday. Visit www.spotlight-theatre.com for the schedule. David Songer and Friends are doing a fundraiser on August 11 at 8 PM - "Love Songs and Songs You Love". Tickets are available at the Opera House/Chamber office.

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 August 2005 newsletter to newsletter@grandledgemi.com by July 25.

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.

July 20, 2005	Dart Bank	Craig Goble
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

UPCOMING FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

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

- Jul 9 ~ Ledges Classic Auto Show @ Fitzgerald Park
- Jul 15 ~ Night Owl Shopping
- Jul 20 ~ Sharing a Vision, After Hours @ Dart Bank
- Aug 6 ~ 32nd Annual Island Art Fair @ Island Park
- Aug 24 ~ Sharing a Vision, After Hours @ Barrington Woods Condominiums
- Sep 8 ~ Annual Chamber Golf Outing @ Centennial Acres Golf Course
- 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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