



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

News From

Grand Ledge Area Chamber of Commerce

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MARCH 2005

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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
- April 19 – Chamber Annual Dinner
- May 7 – Victorian Day
- May 10 – GLHS Madrigal Concert
- May 20 – Night Owl Shopping
- May 21 – 28 – Michigan Week
- June 17 – Night Owl Shopping
- June 23-26 – Yankee Doodle Days
- June 24-25 – Mudge's Follies Musical Revue

Color Cruise & Island Festival

Next Meeting: Tues., March. 22 @ Opera House
 10,000 brochures are in process. Major activities are confirmed.
 Demonstrator and business applications are in the process of being mailed. Chair: Marilyn Smith 627-5170

Victorian Day

Next meeting: March 7, 2 PM @ Opera House
 Saturday, May 7th only
 Parade, Teddy Bear Tea, High Tea, Victorian Funeral Reenactment, May Pole Dance, Picture with a Pony and Civil War Reenactment confirmed. Tussie Mussies & May Baskets, rope making, cane lace making & spinning some of the demonstrations & Make-It, Take-It scheduled. Quilt show added. Parade forms and business participation forms will be out soon. All businesses are encouraged to plan an activity for in front of their business and stay open until 5 PM. 5,000 flyers in process. Chair: Marilyn Smith 627-5170

Rockin' Relay for Life in 2005

The Grand Ledge Area Chamber of Commerce will be joining Relay for Life of Grand Ledge this year. We will be working with Heather Holland and Sloan Knight in this partnership. If you would like to volunteer and help the Chamber sponsor its booth, please call our office and provide us your name, address, telephone number and email address. Great Cause! Cancer has touched all of us in one way or another. Come join our team to defeat this terrible disease. Norman Snyder, Executive Director

Chamber Annual Dinner

It's almost time for our Annual Dinner banquet. This year's annual dinner will be on April 19th at 6:00 PM until 9:30 PM. The banquet will be hosted at the Grand Ledge Opera House. Susan Sasse will be exchanging the Chamber gavel to Bill Atkin. We have a nice dinner and program planned so mark your calendar and get your reservations in early. Invitations will be mailed out the first week of March. You can call in your reservation and pay by credit card or mail in your remittance with a check. Look forward to seeing you and sharing an evening of great entertainment.
 Norman Snyder, Executive Director

Public Relations

Next Meeting: March 17, noon @ Blake Room
 Committee discussed hierarchy for events and festivals listed on Chamber website. We continued to work on getting newsletter to members via email. Still working on getting map finished.
 Chair: Karla Chamberlain 627-2154

Director's Corner

Over the last three months we've called on our student ambassadors to help us with several Chamber events. Each time we've asked for their help. Their reply has been "okay". I have to tell you, I admire and respect their dedication to this Chamber. Last weekend I was talking with some of our student ambassadors and volunteers about what they do in their off time. I was amazed to learn these students volunteer and work with a variety of community organizations. My hat goes off to them for their involvement in our community. Their dedication and leadership needs to be recognized and respected by our community organizations, which I'm certain is already the case. Sometimes we get so involved with our day to day challenges and time lines we forget the support resources we have with our youth. Their youthfulness creates a new vision and often gives us a little different view on issues. I find nothing wrong with those ideas. What I am thankful for is we have students who rise to meet the challenge of our community or a friend. They demonstrate creativity and a vision for tomorrow. Their hunger for education and something new reassures me our community is going to be in safe hands tomorrow. How fortunate we are to have such youth resources available in our community and school system. Not only are these our leaders of Grand Ledge's future, but they will come to be our leaders of a proud and strong nation. These are the same young men and women who go to distant shores to preserve our way of life in America. Next time you observe a student volunteering or working on a community project; please take a moment to tell how proud you are of their contribution... and thank you!
 Norman Snyder, Executive Director

Spotlight on the Spotlight

No meeting scheduled for March
 102 seats will be removed from the theatre and sent to be refurbished. We have David Songer scheduled for August 11th and the Doo-Wops for September 15th.
 Chair: Cheri Locker 627-8600

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Soon our Membership Committee will be presenting an optional membership package to the Chamber members. This program will provide several benefits rolled up under one membership package which is not available currently. It is anticipated we will select an insurance carrier to provide health care benefits for our membership in April 2005. Tentatively we are looking at health care, dental and optical benefits. Also, we are looking at offering our Chamber businesses an option for workers compensation.

We would like to WELCOME the following new businesses to the Grand Ledge Area Chamber of Commerce:

- McDonald's Restaurant**
- McNeilly Photography Studio**
- Creekside Condominium Assn**
- MTM Bookkeeping & Tax Service**
- Covenant Christian Reformed Church**
- Natures Pond & Stream**
- Barrington Woods Condominiums**
- ACD.net**

Another benefit we are considering is a Member to Member Value Program, which allows fellow Chamber Businesses to benefit and share product or service discounts with Chamber members. This process is in relationship to promoting Home Town Shopping.

We continue to work on improving and providing Membership Value.
 Chair: Bill Atkin

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Economic Development

Met with some people thinking about Grand Ledge for an assembly plant. They will employ 214 people. We will have to give them 12 acres if we want them.

Chair: Leo Maguire

DDA

Next meeting: Wed., March 9, 6 PM @ City Hall

Last month the regular DDA meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum and rescheduled for February 16th, one week later. If you are planning to attend the meeting a quick call to our office might be useful as these meetings are occasionally cancelled.

The owners of the old Car Quest building, 300 N Bridge and E Main, have approached the DDA for a Façade Grant to aid in the renovation. The design is very attractive.

The City is starting its budget process for the 2006 fiscal year (July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006). This also includes the DDA and LDFA. Neither Development authority is planning any major new projects for next year.

Director: Mark Sullivan

Executive Committee

We discussed the proposed Board of Directors. These will be voted on at our March 15 full membership meeting. We reviewed the proposed changes to the affiliation policy. Also the Political Group participation policy. Reviewed the financial position of the chamber – cash flow is very tight. We talked about the need to free up Norm's time so he can go out to get more members. Growing the membership is critical.

Chair: Susan Sasse, Chamber President

Government Affairs

Next meeting: March 15, 7:30 AM @ A&W Restaurant

GLPS is gathering feedback from the community on a plan developed by parent, community members and staff that addresses the school district's long range needs.

Meijer development on the corner of Saginaw Hwy and M-100 is in jeopardy because of a recent decision by MDOT allowing only 2 entrances, instead of 4 as planned.

Co-chair: Steve Krumm/Jon Bayless

The Art of Networking Seminar

The Art of Networking Seminar is a program that focuses on improving your networking skills. Whether you are a salesperson or not, networking skills are crucial to your success in the business world. Building a successful business relationship takes practice. In this program you will interact with others and work on ways to introduce yourself and how to properly enter and exit a conversation. This event will provide you with tools you will need to further your career and become a successful networker. The Art of Networking Seminar is sponsored by Independent Bank. You can make reservations by calling our Chamber office (517) 627-2383 or calling directly to the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce (517) 543-9638.

Additional information is available on the Chamber's website www.grandledgemi.com. Great opportunity. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity being sponsored by Independent Bank.

Norman Snyder, Executive Director

Ambassadors

Next Meeting: March 30, 7:30 AM @ Blake Room

After Hours will be held March 16, 5 – 7 PM, at Barrington Woods Condominium complex. Please join us for a networking evening. We want to thank Matthew Moyer and the Granger Group for hosting the After Hours.

Chair: Liz Andrews 627-8448

GLAR

Meeting: every Wednesday, 8:30 AM @ Opera House

Second meeting to plan events and activities for the year is scheduled for Thursday, 7 PM at the Opera House Blake Room. All welcome. Nite Owl, March 18, is combined with the Easter Egg Hunt for March 18 & 19. Visitors look for the egg with a number in all participating stores. The coupons will be turned in for a drawing on a basket. Please call Samantha @ Perk-Up to let her know you are participating. All businesses welcome. Continuing to work on some joint hours. Easter bunny will be around town Fri. evening, Sat. and Sunday.

Chair: Marilyn Smith 627-5170