

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

~ Executive Director - Norman Snyder - 627-2383

Well, here we are again. The summer has come and gone. I had the pleasure of enjoying a remarkable networking process at our Sharing A Vision – After Hours at Barrington Woods Condominiums with a beautiful evening, wonderful food, and exciting people. This was the setting for a roundtable discussion of business and history. Sitting back and listening to a conversation beginning to develop about the Civil War and events leading up to it was fascinating. Five of our Chamber members were talking about farming profitability and the use of slaves for farming both in the North and South. The back and forth talk was drawing these people into a conversation of profitability, business practices, attitudes, pride, and determination. I honestly have to share with you - I was so impressed with the conversation and their knowledge of our country's history and culture. I totally enjoy American History. When it came time to say good night and get home with the family, I left feeling absolutely fulfilled. It was a networking experience I've not encountered in a long time.

During this roundtable talk I listened to experienced financial and management individuals sharing history, practices of business survival, and sacrifices by people to sustain their businesses. This is an evening and *After Hours* which several people *Shared A Vision*. This is what it is all about! Networking and Sharing! Brings us back to a word we have used over and over - membership value. We provide the opportunity and place. If you choose not to share the experience or networking, you are really missing some opportunities. We have a great Chamber and outstanding membership. Opportunity, sharing, and learning is here for you. What you make of your membership and opportunities is up to you. So, next month join us After Hours aboard the Princess Laura on the mighty Grand River.



September's Sparkplug: This month, the month of Leo we want to recognize Rollin Dart of Dart Bank of Grand Ledge as our August Sparkplug. His mannerism, consideration and respect for people make him a leader in our business community. Rollin always has time to shake your hand and say "hello".

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ Chair - Bill Atkin - 627-2531

We are moving in a positive direction with our financial obligations. As it took some time to get in our situation, it could take the same amount of time to get out of it. I am confident that with the implementation of some of our new ideas in the area of member business promotion/advertising, membership value enhancement, along with steady membership growth, and continued success of our sponsored and affiliate sponsored events, we will see ourselves in the black. I wish to thank Norm and the executive board for all of your continued efforts. I also want to thank everyone involved in Color Cruise of every capacity. Please contact me directly at 290-1954 with any questions, comments, or ideas regarding our Chamber.

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.

➤ Centennial Wireless, Hospice of Lansing, Lighthouse Broadband, Precision Enterprises LLC, SCL Enterprises Inc.

GRAND LEDGE OPERA HOUSE

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

We have been busy with both inside and outside maintenance projects this last month as we approach the winter season. The 2005-2006 event schedule is available in the office and on the Chamber's web site. As we move to the fall preparations and marketing measures, we are preparing for school proms and holiday party bookings. If you are looking for a unique location for your holiday party, please call 627-1443.

AMBASSADORS

~ Chair - Sheila Laing - 627-3882

Next meeting: Wednesday, Sep 28 - 7:30 AM - Blake Room - Opera House. We had a ribbon cutting at Sweet Linda's Café in August.

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING ~ SEP 8

~ Chair - Chad Lake - 622-8552

The Annual Golf Outing is coming up on Thursday, September 8th at Centennial Acres. Even if you don't golf, you are still invited to join everyone for dinner (\$25 per person). Please call the Chamber to make reservations.

COLOR CRUISE & ISLAND FESTIVAL ~ OCT 7-9 (10AM-5PM)

~ Chair - Marilyn Smith - 627-5170

Next meeting: Monday, September 12 - 12:00PM - Opera House. Any businesses interested in participating should contact Marilyn Smith (marnor1@comcast.net) or call the Chamber soon! We will be laying the Island out and sending confirmation letters after Labor Day. Wristbands will be used instead of buttons. We need a Co-Chairman for traffic and Sunday Day-Chairman. Please contact Marilyn if you could help. Ann Eschtruth will be calling to arrange for workers for the weekend - please consider working a couple of hours. New this year will be a combination boat ride-nature walk - take the boat to Fitzgerald Park and walk the River Path back with Jackie Blanc, naturalist.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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

Meetings: Thursday, September 15 (third Thursday) - 11:30 AM - Blake Room. The member survey about the newsletter is finalized, and members should receive it either by email, fax or mail within the next several weeks; we appreciate your interest and prompt response. We are now testing tagline ideas to see how they resonate with various audiences. Marketing brochure inserts are en route to the printer. The committee also discussed creating materials ranging from talking points about the Chamber and the city to a 30-second "elevator speech" that could be made available to all Chamber members to help them when they are talking to others about the city and the business community.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

~ Director - Mark Sullivan - 622-5256

Meetings: Wednesday, September 14 (second Wednesday) - 6:00 PM - City Hall. The DDA is working with the Grand Ledge Library to improve the west entrance. This will include a pull off area with a book drop box accessible from a car and a place to drop off passengers. A fence will be erected along the sidewalk, and the sidewalk will be rebuilt. Also, the electric transformer located in the Log Jam parking lot is not adequate to the increased electrical demand of the block. Therefore, Consumers Energy is planning to add an additional transformer for the area. It will be located next to the existing transformer at the rear of the Log Jam Restaurant. Finally, the painting of the decorative streetlights is almost complete. The Opera House clock will also be re-painted under this contract.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

~ Chair - Jon Bayless - 627-2149

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 20 (third Tuesday) - 7:30 AM - A&W. To learn more about Government Affairs, please join Rick Jones (State Representative), Jon Bayless (City of Grand Ledge), Don Cooley (Oneida Township), and Al Kempf (County Commissioner).

GRAND LEDGE AREA RETAILERS

~ Chair - Marilyn Smith - 627-5170

Meetings: Every Wednesday - 8:30 AM - Opera House. We are working on a Grand Ledge shopping card to be inserted in Best Western key envelopes and to be given out at participating businesses -- name of business and special. Please contact Larry Austin at Ledges Printing (627-1559) if you are interested. We are also planning placemats for local restaurants every two months with seasonal activities in the center and ads surrounding - \$50 month or \$75 for four months. Please call Larry Austin to participate. GLAR is sponsoring a joint booth at Color Cruise. The next Night Owl Shopping is scheduled for September 16 - music at Sweet Linda's Cafe and outside.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SPOTLIGHT

~ Chair - Cheri Locker - 627-8600

Meetings: Tuesday, September 6 (first Tuesday) - either 8 AM or 4 PM - Opera House. The Spotlight Actors Group has announced that after 25 years this will be its last season performing. Our committee (along with the city) is considering what to do next. The theatre will remain open, and our committee will continue to raise money to restore it. David Songer performed at the Ledges Playhouse in August before a sold-out crowd of 400 people. All proceeds will go to the restoration of the Playhouse. The Doowops will be performing on September 15th!

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.

September 21, 2005

J & K Steamboat (Princess Laura)

John & Karla Chamberlain

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

CRUISE DOWN THE DETROIT RIVER ~ SEP 17

John and Karla Chamberlain of J&K Steamboat have offered our membership an opportunity to cruise the Detroit River on the Detroit Princess on September 17. We are taking a survey to see how many members, families, and friends would like to make such a trip. We would leave Grand Ledge by bus at 8:30 AM for Detroit and arrive approximately 10:30 AM at the Detroit Princess, which we would board for our cruise and return back at the Renaissance Center at approximately 1:00 PM. This would provide everyone some time to enjoy shopping or visiting the casino. A people mover stop is nearby. We are not certain of the price as of today. If you are interested in experiencing this trip, please call the Chamber office and leave your name and telephone number. If we can obtain enough people to rent a bus, we will make the trip. Those who call making a reservation will be called back with a price and confirmation no later than September 12.

ONEIDA FIELD MARKET ~ SEP 24 (10AM-5PM) & SEP 25 (10AM-4PM)

Oneida Field Market is located ½ mile south of M-43 on Benton Road. 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BLOOD DRIVE ~ OCT

If you would like to help the Chamber and its partners with a Blood Drive for the American Red Cross, please call our office and leave your name and telephone number. An exact date has not been set currently. We are looking at having the Blood Drive in October 2005.



UPCOMING FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

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

- Sep 8 ~ Annual Chamber Golf Outing @ Centennial Acres Golf Course
- Sep 15 ~ The Doowops @ Ledge's Playhouse
- Sep 16 ~ Night Owl Shopping
- Sep 17 ~ Cruise Down the Detroit River on the Detroit Princess
- Sep 18 ~ Michigan Princess Dinner Cruise (Eaton County Parks Fundraiser)
- Sep 21 ~ Sharing a Vision, After Hours @ J&K Steamboat (Princess Laura)
- 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

