

Chamber Times

Letter from the President

For those of you that could not be with us at the Winter Ball and Best Outstanding Business Awards, I thought I would send you my "State of The Chamber" from that evening. It is just a snippet of what has gone on here, but I believe it is important.

"I would like to thank everyone for coming tonight. It really means a lot to us. In the last year, the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce has went through many changes. Some that have been very visible to the public and our members, other changes have been internal. I am very excited to share with you tonight the State of the Chamber.

"It has been said that you only get out of something what you are willing to put into it. I believe this with my whole heart. In the last year we have done some amazing things.

"We have given a 139-year-old building a face lift. And in the process we have learnt so much about this building. We found a bottle of wine under the floor boards, a train ticket in the wall and wooden floors. This face lift was only possible with the help of so many individuals.

"Some of the people who helped with the restoration are Morse Clark Furniture, PPG, Sheriff's Work Crew, The City of West Branch and the list goes on and on! This project has shown a true sense of community.

"In the last year we have revamped and revived the monthly members newsletter, The Chamber Times. We now include legislative affairs for current issues, member news, relevant articles and lots of feel-good information. Our newsletter is read by our membership monthly and is posted as a link on our website to read.

"We have added new benefits for our members – including a website offer by Interstate Domain, Welcome Center advertising at Tanger Outlets and Constant Contact e-mail marketing. These three new benefits give our membership an edge with technology and puts them in front of an already captured audience.

"For the 2010 election season we offered two candidate forums to educate everyone about the candidates. Those forums built a relationship with our now House Representative Bruce Rendon and Senator John Moolenaar. The Senator could not attend tonight but sent his regards. I ask that you give Mr. Rendon a round of applause for taking the time to come to West Branch.

"We have also offered seminars on how to sell to the government and we have another one coming up on March 10th. These are free to everyone, and are a service of the State of Michigan and PTAC. Our last seminar drew businesses all the way from Alpena. And the entries have been coming in for the next one.

"We have been updating our website and giving it a fresher look. It is still under construction and is very much a work in progress.

"We have gained 35 new members in the last year! It has been exciting and fulfilling to show the value of the chamber to our new members.

"Internally we have put in place eight committees, three of which are brand new. Those three committees include Knowledge is power, Economic Development and Membership.

"Knowledge is Power is working on a ground-breaking event. They are assessing who we need to be in front of, where the best value in programs is to our membership and how we can make it happen.

"Economic Development is designing a one stop piece for new or existing businesses moving to our area. This piece can be used by everyone in our community. Our idea is to make it business friendly by already having some of the legwork done – the who to see, what to do and where to go. This is a huge project but will be very beneficial to everyone from the business down the street, to the one we don't have, to the resident 8 miles out of town.

"Membership is working on our collateral material. Working on updating and reviving it – giving some jazz to every piece of information that passes through our hands to someone else's.

"One of our internal changes is a board orientation book. This book explains what our board does, what it means to be on the board, all the things we do and what our goals are. Super exciting. Our current board members include and please stand when I say your name and stay standing, Mark Wait, John Thibault, Dave Clouse, Jeff Hodges, Michelle Frechette, Julie Hock and Matt Arbour. Two past board members are Craig Scott and Andrea Rose. Please give the board of directors a round of applause.

"Thank you.

"They very much deserve that, for putting up with me. I get pretty excited about everything, and, well, it is safe to say that they have their hands full. But that is OK. I think they are all having a good time. This board has overcome challenges together; we have celebrated victories together; we truly are a team.

"The future holds so much more for us. We are currently in the process of getting the building certified historic, revamping our collateral material. Rolling out new member benefits, revitalizing events, the list goes on and on. Any ideas and or suggestions – pass them along. We are here for you.

"This last October I had won a scholarship to a Leadership Conference that is hosted by the Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals, or MACP. The MACP is the organization who names the Chamber of the year. Which I have my eyes on winning that. They are also the group that promotes Chamber of Commerce Month – which is October.

So MACP is giving us a challenge this year. And the challenge is to show why our membership and Community love us. So you will see Kylee and Hunter through these doors in the next room with a Flip Camera. All they need you to do is finish this line – My Chamber Rocks because _____. The chamber with the most entries wins an award at this year's leadership conference.

"I can't wait to see what you have to say, and thank you in advance.

"So as you can see, in the last year we have been very busy working to support, promote and attract Commerce in the West Branch Area.

Thank you."

See You Soon! – Christie

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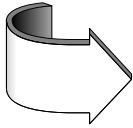
Chamber Hours

**Mon., Tues.,
Thurs., Fri.
9 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**Wed.
10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Board Members

**Mark Wait
Matt Arbour
John Thibault
Dave Clouse
Michelle Frechette
Julie Hock
Jeff Hodges**



Communication Barriers

Simple Process to Remove Communication Barriers

When communicating with your co-workers, do you sometimes feel like you're each speaking in a different language? Do you often wonder why people don't seem to get what you're saying, or why they always do the opposite of what you say? Are you tired of the bickering and infighting that stalls progress? If so, you're not alone.

Communication at work can be tricky, but when you properly assess the situation, you can take proactive steps to eliminate communication challenges so everyone is on the same page.

Here's an overview of how the process works:

State your challenge:

State your challenge in terms of what you want that you are not now getting. For example, do you feel that your co-workers never listen to you? Is your boss always overlooking you for a promotion? Whatever the challenge, state it as specifically as you can.

Identify the symptoms of the challenge:

How is your challenge exhibited? What are people doing or not doing that's causing communication problems? For example, perhaps for the last five meetings, whenever you presented an idea, a certain person dismissed your idea without giving it any consideration.

Figure out when the symptoms began:

Consider creating a time-line, beginning with your first contact with the person and ending with the present. This will help you uncover a possible trigger event that caused the communication breakdown to begin. For example, you might discover that your co-worker began dismissing your ideas when you got some fancy new equipment that he didn't get.

Honestly assess what you have done to correct the challenge:

State what you've said or done – either positive or

negative – to help fix the communication challenge. For example, when your co-worker dismissed your idea, did you retaliate by spreading gossip about him (a negative response) or did you privately ask him what he didn't like about your idea (a positive approach). If you've done nothing except complain to your family and friends about the situation, state that too.

Assess the results of your efforts:

What did the person say or do in response to each attempt on your part? Did the situation get better or worse? What symptoms still persist as a result of your efforts, or lack thereof?

Figure out what else you need to know to help you understand the nature and possible causes of your challenge:

The goal here is to consider things you may have overlooked. What assumptions have you made? Did you automatically assume your co-worker is simply a jerk and doesn't like you? Or did you consider that he might be under tremendous stress, facing personal challenges at home, or even sick and trying to hide a serious condition? The more objective you can be, the better.

Final Step

Armed with your information, you can now approach the problem and the person in a factual, authoritative way and remove the communication barrier once and for all. With a little thought and analysis on your part, you can approach any communication problem with tact and ease. Give it a try – you'll be amazed at the results.

© Joyce Weiss Training & Development LLC

Joyce Weiss, author of *Full Speed Ahead* and *Take the Ride of Your Life*, is a world renowned facilitator, certified speaking professional and executive coach on employee performance and group dynamics. She's motivated more than 50,000 people in over 500 businesses, captivated countless listeners on radio talk shows, and written for hundreds of publications.

Visit www.joyceweiss.com or call 800.713.1926

Visitors Bureau

Visitors Bureau is the promotion service for Ogemaw County. The Chamber office uses and provides others with a multitude of promotional tools and vehicles in the marketing of Ogemaw County to tourists, business representatives and dignitaries.

Get sports scores every night after the game at:

www.ogemawherald.com



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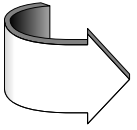
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Pure Investment: Ad campaign pays off for Michigan

Pure Michigan ads deliver increased tourist dollars and revenue for the state

Images of sparkling blue lakes, seas of sand and golden leaves dotting rolling hillsides will continue to lure tourists to Michigan as well as encourage residents to jump in the car and explore their own state – if the Legislature approves more funding for the Pure Michigan tourism campaign. And it should.

Even the most austere budget has to find money for marketing the state's resources.

In his first State of the State address, Gov. Rick Snyder asked the Legislature to allocate \$25 million annually to the successful national and regional effort. Even in the face of a significant budget deficit, Snyder believes Pure Michigan is a good investment that brings in more than \$2 in tax revenue for each dollar spent. Not a bad ratio.

Michigan's tourism industry is worth investing in, as it yields an estimated \$15 billion annually, generating around \$850 million in state taxes.

If the Legislature does provide the funding, the additional money will make life much easier to sustain the campaign. George Zimmermann, vice president of Travel Michigan, a business unit of the Michigan Economic Development Corp., says he's thrilled with the governor's pledge of support and looks forward to ending what has been a "budget rollercoaster" the past two years. The period of inconsistent, insufficient funding has left the tourism campaign with its hands tied.

Funding for the campaign has plummeted since 2009. The Pure Michigan budget for the 2011 fiscal year was reduced to \$5.4 mil-

lion, which had declined from \$17 million in 2010 and \$28 million in 2009. Last month, the ad campaign was pretty much over until the Legislature came through with a \$10 million lifeline in its lame duck session.

With \$25 million up front, Zimmerman says his staff will be able to plan the best advertising campaign possible – which includes landing ideal cable network spots – and highlight all four seasons in the state. Planning ahead will also provide better rates.

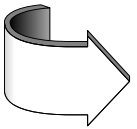
Pure Michigan boasts a proven track record of success and has captured the attention of many industry experts. Since it began in 2006, the campaign has won numerous awards, including making Forbes 2009 list of the top 10 tourism promotion campaigns.

And the ad campaign is more than just pretty images. According to a four-year study of Pure Michigan, \$32 million in out-of-state summer advertising from 2006 to 2009 attracted 5 million new visitors who spent \$1.3 billion. This produced \$93 million for the state, largely through sales taxes.

A Detroit News poll earlier in the month found that many voters in Michigan oppose increased funding for Pure Michigan. Fifty-eight percent said no and 34 percent said yes. It's not too surprising that voters feel this way, given the weightier concerns facing the state. But the positive results merit the investment in promoting one of the state's key industries.

Advertising draws tourists, and tourism creates jobs. Snyder, whose priority is job creation, is wise to continue the Pure Michigan spending.

From The Detroit News:
<http://detnews.com/article/20110124/OPINION01/101240302/Pureinvestment-Ad-campaign-pays-off-for-Michigan#ixzz1BxuNrEJK>



Michigan Milestone Celebrations ... 2011

160 Years – Waugoshance Shoal Lighthouse, Straits of Mackinac

140 Years – South Manitou Island Lighthouse, South Manitou

115 Years – McGulpin Point Lighthouse, Straits of Mackinac

100 Years – Baker College, Various Locations

Charlevoix South Pier Lighthouse, Charlevoix

Federal Building (Formerly Grand Rapids Art Museum),

Grand Rapids

Grand Beach Inn, Grand Beach

Owasippe Scout Reservation Camp (America's first scout

camp) Whitehall

Robinette's Apple Haus, Grand Rapids

The Terrace Inn, Bay View

Upper Peninsula Travel & Recreation Association

West Branch Greenhouse, West Branch

Whirlpool Corporation, Benton Harbor

95 Years – Sherman's Ice Cream, South Haven

90 Years – Baraga State Park, Baraga

(oldest state park in the UP)

St. Julian Winery, Paw Paw

85 Years – Holland State Park, Holland

75 Years – AuSable River Watershed Center, Roscommon

Borchers AuSable Canoe Livery, Grayling

Burton Memorial Carillon Tower at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Gray's Reef Light Station, Straits of Mackinac

Kalamazoo Astronomical Society, Kalamazoo

Ludington State Park, Ludington

Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse, Ludington

70 Years – Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles

& Campgrounds

65 Years – Highland Recreational Area, White Lake

50 Years – Classic Hampshire Golf Course at Hampshire

Country Club, Dowagiac

Delta College, University Center

Five-Mile Drive In, Dowagiac

Kalamazoo Nature Center, Kalamazoo

Kitsmiller RV, Mason

Les Cheneaux Snowsfest, Hessel

Stafford's Hospitality, Petoskey/Harbor Springs/Charlevoix

20 Years – Ferris State University Hospitality Department,

Big Rapids

Robert H. Manning Memorial Light, Empire

Tanger Outlet Center, West Branch

Zehnder's Snowfest, Frankenmuth (Jan 26-31)

15 Years – Arcadia Ales, Battle Creek

10 Years – Domaine Berrien Cellars, Baroda

Meal Tickets & Unusual Ideas, Traverse City

River Raisin Jazz Festival, Monroe (Aug 12-24)

Woods & Water Eco Tours, Hessel

5 Years – Sherwood Brewing Company, Detroit

Free Run Cellars, Berrien Springs

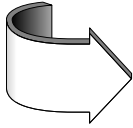
A DETAILED HISTORY FOR EACH OF THESE BUSINESSES IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

Another way to support Michigan and to get some free advertising/publicity for your business, check out the link below for Buy Michigan Now.

<http://www.buymichigannow.com/index.php>

Governor Rick Snyder unveiled this [25-page document](#) intended to provide all Michigan citizens with an assessment of our state's financial health.

www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/2011_Guide_to_MI_Financial_Health_01312011_344193_7.pdf



Member News!

Moonlight Productions

February begins the 19th year of Moonlight Productions! We have been providing professional, personal service at a reasonable price since 1993.

We have performed at hundreds of events in the last 18 years, and look forward to another 19 years or more of making your special occasion "The Best And Most Memorable That it Can Be!"

con't on next page

ENTRY FORM – THE 3RD ANNUAL TOM BROUGHTON MEMORIAL 5K FUN RUN/WALK
MAY 7, 2011 • START TIME: 8:30AM
\$15.00 until April 7th, \$25.00 thereafter
PRESENTED BY: WEST BRANCH VETERINARY SERVICES
WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO THE ARK WILDLIFE REHAB FACILITY
Registration 7:15am to 8:15am on the day of the race (May 7, 2011) • Start time: 8:30am

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A FUN RUN/WALK FOR PEOPLE ONLY.
WE ASK YOU TO LEAVE YOUR PETS AT HOME FOR THIS FUNDRAISING EVENT.

This 5K fun run/walk will start and end at: West Branch Veterinary Services located at 1938 Dam Rd. West Branch, MI 48661
The race will start promptly at 8:30am from the parking lot of West Branch Veterinary Services.
Please note this is a fun run/walk and all proceeds are being donated to The Ark Wildlife Rehab Facility.

PLEASE FILL OUT AND SEND TO: TOM BROUGHTON FUN RUN P.O. BOX 100, WEST BRANCH, MI 48661

Name: _____ Address: _____
Telephone: _____ Emergency phone: _____
Age: _____ Sex: _____ Emergency contact: _____

Please read and sign before sending in form.

I understand that this is a fundraising event for The Ark Wildlife Facility. I understand this is a run/walk event, and I take responsibility for my abilities to participate and any injury I may incur. I understand that any and all injuries I may incur are my responsibility. By signing below I am stating I understand these statements.

If under 18 years of age parent's signature _____

Cost of the event is \$15.00 if registration is received post-marked by April 7th, 2011. On-site registrations or registrations post marked after April 7th will be \$25.00. Entry forms received post-marked by April 15th guarantee your T-shirt!

Checks are to be written to: THE ARK

T-shirts are only guaranteed to entry forms received post-marked by April 15th. T-shirts will be given out thereafter until gone.

Please circle the size of T-shirt you would like. Small Medium Large X-Large XX-Large (2.00 EXTRA)



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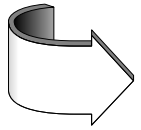
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Member News! cont'd

On-The-Job Training Program

Connects the employer with pre-screened candidates. We reimburse the employer up to 50 percent of wages for a specific training period if candidate is hired.

Incumbent Worker Training Program

The program reimburses the Employer for some of the cost for training current employees when they need new skills to help the employer stay competitive.

Guy Alderton, Business Solutions Professional Manager

2389 S M-76, West Branch, MI 48661

galderton@michworks4u.org

Office: 989-345-1090 ext. 304 • Mobile: 989-965-2306

West Branch Community Blood Drive to Change Venue

Longtime Chairperson Elsie Jacobs Honored for her Work

Lansing, MI, January 5, 2011 – When the American Red Cross community blood drive in West Branch moved from the Lutheran church to Calvary Baptist, Elsie Jacobs was asked to be the chairperson of the drive. Seven years and more than a thousand units of blood later, Elsie is ready to pass the torch, as the blood drive venue changes to West Branch Church of God. Jacobs has helped coordinate a blood drive every 56 days for seven years, missing only one blood drive during that time. She has coordinated volunteers for each drive, ensured canteen items were at the drive for donors and made sure each drive ran as smooth as possible. According to Jacobs, it was hard work, but it was definitely worth it.

"I was new in the community and it got me acquainted with people in the surrounding areas," Jacobs said. "We had a really good relationship, between the donors and myself, and that part of it I'll miss." Jacobs wishes to thank all the volunteers who helped with the drive over the years. Because of their collaboration, the blood drives have Calvary Baptist have collected 1,105 units of blood in five years. Those units have the power to positively impact up to 3,315 lives. Kelly Remer, Donor Recruitment Representative for the American Red Cross in West Branch, is grateful to Elsie for the role she has played in helping thousands of people. "Elsie always made sure this blood drive was successful in every way. I would like to thank her for all her hard work," Remer said. "I also want to thank Calvary Baptist for hosting the drive the past five years and West Branch Church of God for taking over the

community blood drives in 2011."

About the American Red Cross

The Great Lakes Region serves 65 counties, and needs to collect about 700 units of blood a day to meet patient needs in hospitals across the state. In addition to providing blood to our community, the American Red Cross also provides relief to victims of disaster, trains millions in lifesaving skills, serves as a communication link between U.S. military members and their families, and assists victims of international disasters or conflicts.

Showcased Event:

The 9th annual Nor-east'r Music & Art Festival will be Friday, June 10 to Sunday, June 12, in the middle of northeast Michigan at the Oscoda County Fairgrounds on Caldwell Road in Mio. The event features three stages with performances of varying traditional styles of music. You will hear blues, gypsy, zydeco, jazz, percussive dance, klezmer, folk, celtic, and too many styles to list from high quality musicians that have been carefully selected. The Artist village is always readily visible when you first pull onto the grounds. A jury selects quality traditional artists, most of whom demonstrate their craft as well as displaying it and offering it for sale. Classes are available in art, music, and dance. Most of the classes are free, but a few have minimal costs to cover materials. Take your children over to the VW microbus and have them interview for a free guitar and instruction pack! To date, Nor-east'r has given 103 guitars to children! A first lesson follows the Saturday evening Guitar Giveaway and often a second lesson is offered on Sunday. Nor-east'r performers help winners get their guitar tuned, fitted, and ready to play. The TriTown Firefighters offer a bonfire Friday and Saturday night in the Drum Kiva. Sunday morning Church Services are available, and this year will feature enthusiastic young TJ Witherell. Contact us in advance and prove yourself a worthy volunteer to earn free admission. Many of the attendees take advantage of free rustic camping that comes with their weekend ticket. Those start at \$37. Electrical camp sites are available on a first come/first served basis at \$30 on-site. Day tickets begin as low as \$10. Kids under 13 are free, & 13 - 17 year olds are just \$5 at the gate with an adult for the same type of admission. Ticket sales begin March 1st, and pricing is graduated based on purchase date. The Chamber is one of many ticket outlets. See www.noreast.net for more details.

The Price of Gas vs. Printer Ink

All these examples do NOT imply that gasoline is cheap; it just illustrates how outrageous some prices are ... You will be really shocked by the last one! (At least, I was) Compared with Gasoline ...

Think a gallon of gas is expensive? This makes one think, and also puts things in perspective.

Diet Snapple 16 oz	\$1.29 ... \$10.32 per gallon
Lipton Ice Tea 16 oz	\$1.19 ... \$9.52 per gallon
Gatorade 20 oz	\$1.59 ... \$10.17 per gallon
Ocean Spray 16 oz	\$1.25 ... \$10.00 per gallon
Brake Fluid 12 oz	\$3.15 ... \$33.60 per gallon
Vick's Nyquil 6 oz	\$8.35 ... \$178.13 per gallon
Pepto Bismol 4 oz	\$3.85 ... \$123.20 per gallon
Whiteout 7 oz	\$1.39 ... \$25.42 per gallon
Scope 1.5 oz	\$0.99 ... \$84.48 per gallon

And this is the REAL KICKER...

Evian water 9 oz \$1.49 \$21.19 per gallon!
\$21.19 for WATER and the buyers don't even know the source

(Evian spelled backwards is Naive.)

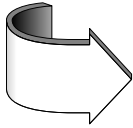
Ever wonder why printers are so cheap?

So they have you hooked for the ink.

Someone calculated the cost of the ink at ... (you won't believe it ... but it is true) \$5,200 a gal. (five thousand two hundred dollars).

So, the next time you're at the pump, be glad your car doesn't run on water, Scope, Whiteout, Pepto Bismol, Nyquil or God forbid, Printer Ink!

Just a little humor to help ease the pain of your next trip to the pump...



Main Street Four-Point Approach®

The Main Street Four-Point Approach® is a community-driven, comprehensive strategy that encourages economic development through historic preservation in ways that are appropriate for today's marketplace. The four points include:

Design

Enhancing the downtown's physical environment by capitalizing on its best assets including historic buildings, and creating an inviting atmosphere through attractive window displays, parking areas, building improvements, streetscapes and landscaping. The Main Street Program also focuses on instilling good maintenance practices in the commercial district, enhancing the physical appearance of the district by rehabilitating historic buildings, encouraging appropriate new construction, developing sensitive design management systems and integrating long-term planning.

Economic Restructuring

Strengthening a community's existing economic base while also expanding and diversifying it. By helping existing businesses expand and recruiting new businesses to respond to today's market, the Main Street program helps convert unused spaces into productive properties and sharpens the competitiveness of business enterprises.

Promotion

Marketing a downtown's unique characteristics to residents, visitors, investors and business owners. The Main Street program develops a positive, promotional strategy through advertising, retail activities, special events and marketing campaigns to encourage commercial activity and investment in the area.

Organization

Involving all of the community's stakeholders, getting everyone working toward a common goal and driving the volunteer-based Main Street Program. The fundamental organizational structure consists of a governing board and four standing committees. Volunteers are coordinated and supported by a paid program director or Main Street manager. This structure not only divides the workload and clearly delineates responsibilities, it builds consensus and cooperation among the various stakeholders.

Attention: All Chamber Members

Do you have a new email address? Did you start a website? Did you hire a new manager?

The Chamber needs to know!!!!

Call or email us today!!

989-345-2821 • chamber@westbranch.com

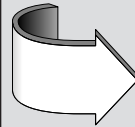
Benefits of the Michigan Main Street Program

When a community participates in a comprehensive revitalization effort, its downtown or traditional neighborhood commercial district can experience a return of economic vitality.

Benefits of the Michigan Main Street (MMS) Program include:

- Protecting and strengthening the existing tax base
- Creating a positive community image
- Enhancing economically viable buildings
- Supporting business recruitment and retention
- Fostering the development of new jobs
- Attracting new residents to the Main Street area
- Increasing investment in the Main Street area
- Preserving historic architectural resources
- Providing services tailored to specific community needs

For more information about the Main Street Program, visit their website at www.michiganmainstreetcenter.com



Current Members!

Thank You for Continuing to be a member of the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce!

Tolfree Foundation

Harlin Assisted Living

Waste Management

Towne Club

Rifkin Steel

Tanger Outlets of West Branch

May & Associates

Button Hole

H & R Block

Lake George Resort

Firstbank



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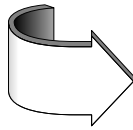
morseclark.com



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Business



Calendar of Events!

March

- 4 **Peter Pan Trivia Night.** Doors open at 6:30 pm, games start at 7:00 pm. A fun night for Teams of 8. 18 years and older. Liz Miarose 345-0446
- 10 **Little League Banquet Fundraiser.** A night of fun with silent auctions help support the area Little League Program. Howie Hanft 312-0973
- 12 Kirtland Center for the Performing Arts Presents **Irish Rovers** 275-6777
- 14 **100th Anniversary of West Branch Greenhouse.** Help us Celebrate 100 years, enjoy history, see memorabilia, Bring your own Greenhouse story. West Branch Greenhouse 345-1133
- 19 **Noreast'r Guitars for Kids Fundraiser** Many different bands performing all day at Callahan's in Auburn Hills Proceeds all go to giveaway guitars in Northeast Michigan in June. Nor-east'r Festival Craig Carrick 810-845-7344

April

- 7 **Ogemaw County Business and Community Expo** at Ogemaw Heights High School Kathy Adair 345-0692
- 9 **Ogemaw County Humane Society's Pet Pictures** 11-4 at the Ogemaw County Humane Society located on M-33 with Easter Bunny. Laura Dean 343-7387

- 9 Kirtland Center for the Performing Arts Presents **Papa Doo Run Run** 275-6777
- 16 **Spring Art and Wine Walk** Downtown West Branch. Enjoy an evening of art and wine while strolling the streets. Downtown Merchants Association Tom Damoth 345-5100
- 16 **Ogemaw County Humane Society's Pet Pictures** 11-4 at the Ogemaw County Humane Society located on M-33 with Easter Bunny. Laura Dean 343-7387
- 17 **Easter Egg Hunt** 1pm Rose City Park. Rose City – Lupton Area Chamber 685-2936
- 19-30 **Youth Art Show** West Branch Creative Arts Association Jeanne Oram 836-2932
- 19 Kirtland Center for the Performing Arts Presents **Yellowstone – Travel Adventure** 275-6777
- 21 **Blast the Blues.** Enjoy a Night of great food, talented local artists, and wonderful entertainment at Dean Arbour Ford of West Branch. Tolfree Foundation Beverly Bernard 343-3690
- 21-23 **Pioneer Power Antique Tractor Club Swap Meet** Open to the public to swap on a first come first serve basis. Sandra Bortle 473-4702
- 23 **Easter Egg Hunt** in Newman Park at Noon. Skidway Lake Chamber of Commerce 873-4150

Letter from David Walby, OHHS Principal

Dear Sirs:

On March 1, 2011, our senior students will be participating in a leadership workshop to send them off into the "real world." As it is their last year of high school, Ogemaw Heights would like to assist them in preparing for the rest of their lives. Many are going off to college, military, trade school or careers. As a send off, Ogemaw Heights would like to ask you to participate in this event.

As a community partner, we feel that you have a great investment in the future of these young adults. Many students are currently a member of your organization through employment, interest, fellowship or other means. Other students may become a member in the future. We would like you to take this opportunity to talk with students as they begin their journey.

On March 1, 2011, students will report to Rose City Elementary School in Rose City to attend a conference on community leadership. The conference will last from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students will be able to attend various breakout sessions and lunch to listen to presentations from community members.

We would like to see many of you there to showcase your organization. Be it through a speaker at a breakout session, a promotion booth, recruitment stand or to help with lunch or organization, we would like to see you there.

Students will begin their day in a large group format with registration and information on the workshop being provided to them. Students will then rotate to different areas of Rose City Elementary School to work with individuals in breakout sessions. We are looking for good speakers to share their knowledge of life after high school. Topics in the past have included work ethic, financial planning, choices for careers, life stories, college choices, leadership and many more. The subject matter is up to the speaker. The length of the presentation depends on the amount of people signing up. It has never been over 30 minutes.

As students take breaks during the day, your organization along with other community partners may be available through booths, tables or displays to inform, promote or recruit students.

If you have any further questions regarding the Senior Sendoff, please feel free to contact me at 343-2027 or email at walbyd@wbrc.k12.mi.us.

Sincerely,
David Walby
Principal,

Ogemaw Heights High School



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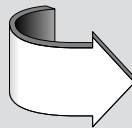
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