



Nuda Veritas

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District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2013-14, No. 20, May 17, 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

**University Club
Downtown Grand Rapids
Meetings begin at 12:15 p.m.
unless otherwise noted.**

----- We Serve -----

**Tuesday, May 20, 2014 Area
Agency on Aging, Stephanie
Hecksel**

Monday, May 26, Memorial Day

**Tuesday, May 27, 6:00 pm, Jamark
Labs, Eyeglass Recycling Work
Session & Dinner**

Saturday, May 31, Morning, Wealthy
Elementary, VI Sports Day

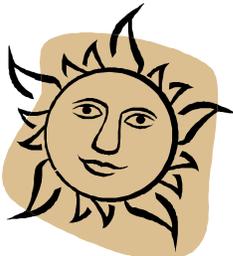
**Tuesday, June 3, Donations from
the Blind Dinner Date**

**Tuesday, June 10, 6:00 pm, Lions
Annual Meeting, Blythefield
Country Club**

Monday, June 16, Drive for Vision

Summer Picnic: Date and Location
TBD

Enjoy your Summer!



Tuesday, May 20

Area Aging on Aging, Stephanie Hecksel

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan has spent the last 40 years helping older adults and persons with disabilities live in their community with independence and dignity. Services include: in-home care options, information and assistance, Medicare/Medicaid assistance, training and employment program, a Kent County RX care, help for family caregivers and information on healthy living.

Established in April 1974, the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan:

- Plans, develops, oversees and advocates for the in-home care of older adults, especially those with the greatest social and economic needs;
- Contracts with providers to deliver services aimed to keep seniors in their own home as they age;
- Provides Care Management services for older adults, in which a nurse and social worker develop in-home care plans utilizing resources available in the community;
- Serves older adults in Allegan, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Newaygo, and Osceola Counties;
- Administers the Kent County Senior Millage;
- Provides the services with funding from federal, state and local sources.

Area Agencies on Aging are a nationwide network of nonprofit agencies created by Congress to be one-stop shops with information about programs, services and housing options. AAAs were created in 1974 by the federal Older Americans Act with the mission of creating home and community-based services to maximize the independence and dignity of older adults.

Stephanie Hecksel will talk to about the AAA of Western Michigan. AAAs work hand-in-hand with a statewide network of over 1,200 service providers, that includes county commissions on aging, senior centers and home health agencies. They also

work hand-in-hand with the state agency that oversees aging programs – the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA). OSA, AAAs and local service providers are called Michigan’s “aging network.” There are 16 AAAs that serve all of Michigan’s 83 counties.

Tuesday, May 27
Eyeglasses Recycling Project & Dinner,
6:00 – 8:00 pm, Jamark Labs
No Meeting at Noon at the University Club!

The Eyeglass Recycling Session/Dinner Meeting will be Tuesday, May 27 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. All Lions, spouses and guests are encouraged to participate. There are still many, many boxes of glasses to process. Let’s have a good showing! If you haven’t been there before or recently, it is a good time and goes fast.

The Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center is at Jamark Labs at 4282 Brockton SE, Suite D, Grand Rapids. It is approximately 1/2 mile east of Broadmore Avenue, about 1 block north of 44th street at the first traffic light and on the east side of Brockton. It is the northern-most suite in a series of connected businesses. Parking and entrances are available in the front of the building. If you have questions or want more information, please contact **Lion Brent Spoelstra** at bespoelstra@yahoo.com or 616-283-0260, or one of the other committee members.

Note: The Recycling Center will be open on every Tuesday from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

Visually Impaired (VI) Sport Day
Saturday, May 31 – Volunteers Needed

The 12th annual Visually Impaired (VI) Sports Day will be held on Saturday, May 31, 2014 at Wealthy Elementary, [1961 Lake Drive, SE Grand Rapids, MI 49506](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1961+Lake+Drive,+SE+Grand+Rapids,+MI+49506). Lions’ members can start arriving at 7:00 – 7:30 to start setting up tables and chairs, the craft tent, registration table, etc. Lions can come later in the morning and some members will need to help to tear things down in order to be completely done by 2:00 pm. Lion Chair Scott Embree says, “You can come and go as you wish, but the more hands on deck, the easier it is.” The event is always fun and relaxed.

Families with children who are visually impaired look forward to this event every year. The event attracts families from beyond Grand Rapids, with the kids and families participating in activities like a bounce room, a climbing wall and VI “softball.”

Lions are in charge of cooking lunch for everyone (as many as 200+). Scott will be bringing food over that morning and will need help setting up the kitchen. He will also need help cooking and making sure that everyone is served. When you arrive, please park on the street and leave the parking lot for participants and their families. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

If you volunteered last year, you can wear the same shirt you got last year. If you need a new one, please contact the Chair, Lion Scott Embree at 616-447-6233 or sembree@financialguide.com with what size you need and he’ll be sure to order one for you. Also, please let Lion Scott know if you are planning to volunteer for this event soon or if you have questions.

VI Field Trip to Chicago

On April 17, 2014, a group of 17 students who are visually impaired (VI) participated in the VI field trip to Chicago. Fifteen adult chaperones, including school staff and parent volunteers, accompanied the students.

The students boarded a Holiday Coach bus at 7:00 in the morning. The first stop was Union Station in downtown Chicago, where they were met by Jim Ferneborg who is Director of Disability Services for METRA. Mr. Ferneborg is blind himself and could speak with experience about the features that make Union Station accessible. For example, the track numbers are announced as you walk near them, and the schedule screens are read aloud on a loop. Mr. Ferneborg guided us to a track with an empty car which the students boarded and explored. He discussed features of the train and the system, and talked about the importance of public transportation for visually impaired travelers.

After Union Station, the students boarded the bus for a 15-minute ride to the Museum of Science and Industry. After check in and greeting, all were taken to a dining area. The Museum served delicious boxed lunches which had been ordered in advance. Students were then divided into 3 groups which were led by Museum staff. For approximately an hour, the groups experienced some of the exhibits with their guides. Students were then free to explore areas of their own interest, paired with a staff member or volunteer, and sometimes with other friends.

The following are just some of the exhibits with activities in which our students participated:

- Fast Forward: The React Table explored sound technology in a hands-on way;
- Whispering Gallery: Experienced how sound waves travel;
- Science Storms: Stood inside the Museum's vortex, learned how Tornadoes form by studying vortex principles;
- You the Experience: Projected the beat of a person's heart throughout the entire exhibit;
- Baby Chick Hatchery: Interacted with and observed live baby chicks

After an hour to explore, students met at the Science Lab Theater where they all enjoyed a program called Taste Buddies, which demonstrated the importance of smell in relation to taste. Then it was time to board the bus for home. Just before 8 pm, the bus arrived at the KISD complex.

Students were fully engaged in learning and also had the chance to interact with other students with visual impairments. **Success!!**

The Grand Rapids Lions Club has funded these field trips for quite a few years, giving VI students from the whole county an opportunity for new experiences. Students and their parents pay for part of the trip, usually an admission fee of a lunch. The field trips alternate between a less expensive field trip locally and a more expensive field trip, like one to Chicago or Lansing. Last year, the coordination of the program moved from the Grand Rapids Public Schools to the Kent ISD. Lion Jana Kim, an educator, currently coordinates the trips, which is a huge task. At a fall luncheon, one of the students will join us to talk about the experience,

Other Lions News

27th Annual Grand Rapids Ophthalmology Drive for Vision – Call for Sponsors: Our event committee is soliciting companies or individuals for a range of sponsorships for our annual golf outing. Please contact Jamie Junod if you know of one who might be willing to sponsor one of the levels. Brochures will be available at the meetings or you can call him at 616-560-2164.

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