



Nuda Veritas

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District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2014-15, No. 16, April 11, 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

----- **We Serve** -----

Monday, April 13, Last Night of
Bowling, Northfield Lanes, 4:45
pm

**Tuesday, April 14, Wheel Chair
& Adaptive Sports Program,
Maria Besta**

Tuesday, April 21, State of the
City, Mayor George Heartwell

**Tuesday, April 28, 6:00 pm,
Jamark Labs, Eyeglass
Recycling Work Session &
Dinner**

Friday & Saturday, May 1 & 2,
White Cane Drive

**Tuesday, May 5, High School
Recognition,**

*Every Tuesday, Eyeglasses
Recycling Work Session, 6:00-
8:00 pm (Every Tuesday!)*



Tuesday, April 14

Wheel Chair & Adaptive Sports Program Mary Besta

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital (MFB) dates back to 1891, focusing on children with birth defects and injuries. It evolved over the years, opening a convalescent home in 1930, treating patients who had polio in the 1940s and eventually serving adults. By 1953, MFB had become a regional center. Services expanded to treat spinal cord injuries and stroke patient. The hospital moved from Cherry Street to the current site adjacent to Mercy Health Saint Mary's. A large addition was added this year to continue expanding its role in offering specialized rehabilitation health care services.

One of these services is its [Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports Program](#) that offers a variety of athletic programs for patients and community members with impaired mobility. Patients with traumatic brain injury can reap the same benefits of athletic activity and competition enjoyed by able-bodied people. In addition to competitive and recreational teams for wheelchair tennis, basketball, rugby, goal ball, softball and other sports, MFB offers clinics so patients and others can check out other activities, such as archery, canoeing/kayaking, downhill skiing, golf, rock climbing, sailing, scuba diving and water skiing.

MFB's Wheelchair & Adaptive Sports program offers a variety of co-ed, competitive teams and clinics for people with limited mobility and other physical impairments. Not only is participation in sports and other recreation programs good for an individual's physical healing, there are also social and psychological advantages to incorporating athletic and leisure activities.

Maria L. Besta, Manager of the Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports program at MFB Rehabilitation Hospital will join us today to talk about the program.

Tuesday, April 21 State of the City, Mayor George Heartwell

Today, the Honorable Mayor George Heartwell joins us again to share an update of his final State of the City address. Mayor Heartwell took office on January 1, 2004 and was reelected to his third term that lasts through this year. Term limits prevents him from seeking another term.

During his tenure, City government has begun transforming City government operations and managing its assets which are more nimble, leaner, entrepreneurial and sustainable over the long haul. The city has become a more resilient community with better transit, more efficient building, more bicycle-friendly and a greener infrastructure.

At his State of the City address on January 17, 2015, Mayor Heartwell said that “No commissioners with whom I’ve served have worked harder or taken their responsibilities any more seriously than these commissioners . . . a careful and considerate custodian of the tax resources available to us . . . an unprecedented transformation of the city we love.” He will update us on developments since that speech and likely focus on 3 issues: environmental initiatives (renewable energy, fracking, etc.), diversity and racial equity, and attracting and retaining talent.

- Environmental Initiatives - Renewable Energy - the launch of two efforts that would outlive his tenure in City Hall:
 - For the first, he asked the commission to approve funding this year for 2 new renewable energy projects on city buildings, for example rooftop solar panels, and proposed a resolution urging future city commissions to do 2 more such projects per year into the future.
 - For the second, he issued a climate challenge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Grand Rapids to 20 percent below 2009 levels by 2030. He said, “There remains much to do to mitigate the impacts of climate change” . . . and urged Grand Rapids to remain a leader.
 - Mayor Heartwell called on fellow city commissioners to put a moratorium on hydraulic fracking and urged Gov. Snyder to do the same thing statewide “until such time as the science catches up with the practice.” He said that “We should do everything we can to advance the technology of renewable electric power and hasten the installation of renewable energy generation facilities – large and small – all around the world.”
- Champions of Diversity and Racial Equity: Mayor Heartwell detailed steps for improving relations between Grand Rapids Police and the public, noting City Manager Sundstrom’s announcement of a \$1.5 million, 12-point plan that includes deployment of body cameras, a new racial profiling study, hiring more community-policing officers and cultural training.

The Mayor said, “Citizens can be confident that these proactive policies will root out bias, intended or unintended and added that our great city is driven by a vision, a vision in which the contribution of every member of society, irrespective of race, age, disability, gender or sexual orientation is respected...and not just because the law says so, but, more importantly, because a diverse community is a healthier and more prosperous community.”

- Attracting and Retaining Talent: Mayor Heartwell cited the results from a Grand Valley State University project that studied how the city could attract and retain young college graduates. In response to student recommendations, he said he's doubling the size of his Mayor’s 50 internship program, establishing a Millennials Advisory Board and working with GVSU on creating an "YGR" smartphone app of Grand Rapids events and destinations of interest to young professionals.

Mayor Heartwell is married to Susan who directs the Student Advancement Foundation. George and Susan are proud parents of three adult children and six extraordinary grandchildren.

Urgent Request - White Cane Drive – May 1 & 2

Every spring, club and family members (even colleague and friends!) have the opportunity to help in the Lions White Cane Drive to raise funds to pay for eye glasses for visually impaired children in special programs at Ken-O-Sha. There is no cost to the families who are eligible and may have many other challenges in developing these students' full potentials.



The White Cane Drive is set for **Friday & Saturday, May 1 and 2**. The White Cane Drive committee is calling for Lions and other volunteers to staff downtown locations on Friday noontime (12:00 – 1:30 pm) and for one or more 1-hour shifts at two Walmart locations on 28th Street and Alpine Avenue on both Friday (3:30 – 7:00 pm) and Saturday (9:00 am – 1:00 pm). On Friday in downtown following the drive, participants will have lunch at Sundance Grill.

We extend a special invitation to our Branch Internet Lions members to join in this worthy fundraising event. It is fairly easy for members to participate. All you do is ask people if they would like to help needy visually impaired kids get glasses or something like that. It can be an interesting study on who gives and who doesn't give. As Lions, we don't know which of the people walking by may have been helped by the Lions, or know someone that was – friend, parent or child.

More members need to sign up, but many openings still exist. Sign-up sheets are being passed around at Lions meetings. If you miss signing up at the luncheons, please contact Bill Fleetham at 204-2421 or grpadopt@gmail.com to sign up.

Whether or not you are able to volunteer, you can also make a donation as part of the White Cane Drive. (Send donations to Treasurer Jeff Kraai, Grand Rapids Lions Club, 2276 Old Domain Ct. SE, Kentwood, MI 49333) Letters will also be sent to companies asking for contributions.

The White Cane Drive will take place at these locations:

Location	Day	Times (1 or more 1-hour shifts)
Downtown	Friday (only)	12:00 – 1:30 pm (see note below)
Walmart – Alpine NW	Friday	3:30 – 7:30 pm
	Saturday	9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Walmart – 28 th St. SE	Friday	3:30 – 7:30 pm
	Saturday	9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Walgreens – Forest Hills	Friday	3:00 – 6:00 pm
& Cascade Road	Saturday	9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Note: Lunch at Sundance Grill after

Election of Directors – Don't Forget to Vote!

You still have time to vote for the directors who will help guide our Lions Club. The following candidates are running:

- Membership Director (2 year term): Scott Embree (vote for one)
- Directors (3 year term - 2015-2018): Gary Anderson & Richard Boland (vote for two)

Ballots were sent out, but you can still vote by the deadline of 8:00 pm, April 13 by contacting our Secretary, Craig Nobbelin, at c.nobbelin@yahoo.com or 616-458-0471.

Other Lion's News:

Urgent - Ride to Ann Arbor Needed: Our Club was asked by Charis Austin, ABVI, if we could solicit members to see if anyone would be able to provide transportation to Ann Arbor for a client of hers on Thursday, April 23rd. The appointment is at the University of Michigan Medical Center and they need to be there by 9:30 am. It will probably be a 6 hour appointment or at least most of the day.

If you know of anyone who may be able to do this or any agency that could be contacted, please have them contact her on her cell phone at 616-706-3433 or ABVI at 616-458-1187. She would be helpful for any help Lions could provide.

Eyeglass Recycling Meeting & Dinner: The meeting and dinner at the Eyeglass Recycling Center on Tuesday, April 28 will include dinner. It was stated at the recent luncheon meeting that the lunch after the White Cane Drive downtown on May 1 would replace the dinner at our work session that week. That is not the case.

Mark These Corrections on Your Calendars:

- **May 7:** VI Students Field Trip
- **VI Sports Day:** May 30, Saturday morning
- **Annual Meeting:** June 9, 6:00 pm
- **Drive for Vision:** June 15, Monday