



# Nuda Veritas

Published for Members by the Grand Rapids Lions Club  
District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2015-16, No. 10, January 30, 2016

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Monday, February 1, Lions Club  
Bowling League, Northfield  
Lanes, 4:45 pm

**Tuesday, February 2, The  
Current Real Estate Market,  
John Rice**

Monday, February 8, Lions Club  
Bowling League, Northfield  
Lanes, 4:45 pm

**Tuesday, February 9,  
Substance Abuse/Heroin Use,  
Matt Hanlon**

**Sunday, February 14 – Wish  
Your Beloved a Happy  
Valentine's Day!**

Monday, February 15, Lions Club  
Bowling League, Northfield  
Lanes, 4:45 pm

**Tuesday, February 16, TBD**

Sunday, February 21, Lions  
Team Members Leave on  
Mission Trip to Haiti

*Every Tuesday: 3 – 8 pm:  
Recycling Center Open!*

## Tuesday, February 2

### The Current Real Estate Market, John Rice

*On February 2, Lion John Rice substituted for the scheduled speaker and spoke on the current residential real estate market. John said the market is hot nationally and in West Michigan. Here is a portion of what John said.*

Nationally, over 14,600 homes are sold every day. Compared to last year, sales are up 3.9%, prices are up 5.8% and the inventory of homes is down 4.5%. There is only a 3.9 month supply of homes compared to a typical average of 6 or more months.

In West Michigan, 2015 sales prices were up 9.1% over 2014 and the days on the market is down over 20%. The still- historic low interest rates (about 4% for 30 year mortgage) make homes more affordable (compare the mortgage rates over previous 4 decades: 8.86%, 12.7%, 8.12%, 6.29%. People can buy more even with the higher home prices.

This region is great for attracting individuals and families: lower home prices, good job climate and a varied selection of things to do. Many are returning to Michigan to be closer to family, raise their kids, live closer to friends and lower living costs. It is also brings in people from other countries (e.g., medical mile) and from places like Chicago. West Michigan and Grand Rapids have also been rated highly by a number of different organizations.

About 52% of all buyers have been first time home buyers. John noted that there is a cycle of home ownership: starting out with a small beginner home, “graduating” to a larger home to raise a family and then moving into a smaller home or condo.

John’s “Crystal Ball” suggests this will continue:

- ✓ #5 - Even if mortgage rise, they will still be low;
- ✓ #4 - Neighbors downsizing may encourage others on the block to do the same;

- ✓ #3 - Neighbors across the street are selling and preparing to build new;
- ✓ #2 - Children are moving back to Grand Rapids for their dream jobs, and it beats raising a family in Chicago;
- ✓ #1 - Within 3 years, their friends will discover Grand Rapids and move here.

Lions John Rice joined the Grand Rapids Lions Club in 2003, sponsored by Lion Jeff Dodson. He has been our Board President and has been active in many of our activities. He has been a realtor since 2002 and is now the Principal Agent for Berkshire Hathaway Home Services. John has written a real estate book, "Make the Right Move" which is available in a number of local bookstores. John graduated from Aquinas College. He is married to Ashley, and they have 1 daughter age 7.

## **Tuesday, February 9 Substance Abuse/Heroin Use, Matt Hanlon**

Addiction to drugs and other substances is a pervasive and devastating public health concern/crisis among all social and economic groups. Illicit use of prescription drugs and hereditary alcoholism claims new victims. Young addicts and alcoholics may not seek help, but when they seek help and treatment, there are barriers and lack of access. In addition, it is a burden, economically and emotionally, to families and society.

In recent years, inexpensive heroin has often replaced expensive drugs with devastating effect. Often addicts don't know or realize the varying potency of different "batches" of illicit drugs. This can lead to tragedy and progression of drug use.

Matt Hanlon will talk about addiction and drug use, and the programs available through the Guiding Light Mission (GLM). GLM exists to create a healing experience that allows individuals to discover a new life in Christ. GLM expects re-engagement in community. It provides food and shelter to all and resources to men that support their social, physical, spiritual, and intellectual needs. Under the leadership of Stuart Ray, the evolution GLM has taken over two years is what was needed to assist GLM's clients as they move from being homeless and addicted to people to ones who are healthy, viable, and contributing members of society.

## **Rockford Lions Club's "Battle of the ChiliO's"**

Thursday, February 25, 6:00 pm, will be the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook Off. With 10+ chili recipes, it is all-you-can-eat for \$8, plus cash bar. New challengers from other Lions Clubs are invited to compete. If you love chili or have a favorite recipe, mark this date on your calendar.

Please contact PDG Warren Sibilla to RSVP to eat or enter the contest: 616-241-1066 or [www.warrensibilla@gmail.com](mailto:www.warrensibilla@gmail.com).

## **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Michigan Lions Forum**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Michigan Lions Forum will take place on Friday/Saturday, February 26-27, 2016 at the Causeway Bay Hotel located at 6820 S. Cedar Street in Lansing, Michigan (south of I-96). This Forum offers Lions members and spouses the opportunity to learn about Lions and leadership roles.

Most Grand Rapids Lions will meet early on Saturday morning to carpool down to Lansing and then return in the afternoon. Each Lions should register individually or as partners and pay the \$40.00/per person registration fee. The Grand Rapids Lions Club will reimburse your cost. If you want to carpool,

please contact Craig Nobbelin ([c.nobbelin@yahoo.com](mailto:c.nobbelin@yahoo.com) or 616-458-0471) who will coordinate the carpool.

## **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Blind Dinner Date** **Thursday, March 3, 2016, 6:00 – 9:00 pm**

Up to 80% of the information you take in each day is processed through your eyes. Now, imagine your day if you were living with limited or no vision. How would you read this letter, pour yourself a cup of coffee, or get to and from work? These are a few of the many challenges thousands of residents in our community face each day.

The Grand Rapids Lions Club is proud to present the 10th Annual Blind Dinner Date. Please join us and help children and adults meet challenges caused by their vision loss so they can live independently, confidently, and with dignity. 100% of funds raised through the Blind Dinner Date will benefit local residents assisted by the following non-profit service providers: Grand Rapids Lions Club Vision Clinic at Cherry Health, Ken-O-Sha Early Vision Program, Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Grand Rapids Lions Fund at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. The BDD will be at Thousand Oaks Golf Club is located at 4100 Thousand Oakes Drive, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

We invite you to join us for an evening with drinks, dinner and lively conversation. It will be capped off with inspirational thoughts from Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein who is the first blind person elected to the Michigan Supreme Court. We will also be acknowledging the achievements of professionals from the eye care community.

Sponsorships are available: Title (\$10,000), Platinum (\$5000), Gold (\$3,000), Silver (\$1,000) and Bronze (\$500). Tickets are \$75.00 each and can be purchased by emailing Lion Rick Stevens at [rstevens@abvimichigan.org](mailto:rstevens@abvimichigan.org), signing up at a luncheon meeting, or online through EventBrite. The link is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/blind-dinner-date-tickets-5662033294>.

## **Mark Your Calendars – 11C-1 District Convention** **One Day at Krupp Farms in Comstock Park**

The registration deadline for the 11C-1 District Convention is Sunday, February 14, 2016. If you are going and intend to vote at the Business Meeting, you need to register. The Convention is **Saturday, March 19, 2016** – a one-day, one district convention! The Convention is titled “Down of the Farm – Getting back to basics.”

Check-in registration at the Convention will begin at 8:00 am and conclude with a picnic. Families are invited to attend only the pig roast/picnic for additional cost. The morning sessions include Service Projects / Fundraising and a roundtable discussion on Networking/Membership – Growth / Leadership Development. The afternoon sessions will include the Business Meeting / Elections and pie eating, game and line dancing opportunities.

Contact Craig Nobbelin ([c.nobbelin@yahoo.com](mailto:c.nobbelin@yahoo.com) or 616-458-0471) if you want to register.

Grand Rapids Lions Club, Website: [www.grlions.org](http://www.grlions.org)  
Mailing Address: c/o Craig Nobbelin, Secretary, 258 Morris Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Editor & Lions Secretary: Craig Nobbelin, 616-458-0471 or e-mail: [c.nobbelin@yahoo.com](mailto:c.nobbelin@yahoo.com)