



Nuda Veritas

Published for Members by the Grand Rapids Lions Club
District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2015-16, No. 17, May 14, 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Tuesday, May 10, GR Forward,
Tim Kelly

Tuesday, May 10, Eyeglass
Recycling Center Open, 3:00 –
8:00 pm

Tuesday, May 17, Student
Recognition Day, Lion Ryan
Smith & Shelley Irwin, Noon

Tuesday, May 17, Eyeglass
Recycling Center Open, 3:00 – 8:00
pm

Tuesday, May 24, (NOTE: Last
luncheon meeting of the year)
Opportunities Unlimited for the
Blind, Gwen Botting

Tuesday, May 24, Eyeglass
Recycling Center Open, 3:00 –
8:00 pm

Tuesday, May 31, Lions Board
Meeting, Noon, ABVI

Tuesday, May 31, Eyeglass
Recycling Work Session & Dinner,
Jamark Labs, 6:00 pm

Tuesday, May 10 GR Forward, Tim Kelly

When you think of Downtown Grand Rapids and the Grand River, do you think about its history of what was there or about what's there now? Or, do you imagine the potential of what could be?

Downtown and the Grand River are in the midst of a second transition from being a city of sprawl to re-focusing on two of the city's strongest assets: the Grand River and Downtown. The first transition was in the early 1990's with the community planning effort called Voices and Visions. This set the direction for downtown toward a focus on education, entertainment, regional government, health care and housing.

The second transition has begun with a comprehensive planning process that invited the public to join Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. [DGRI], the City of Grand Rapids, and their partners to envision the many ways in which all of us can leverage this momentum to make progress towards a holistic vision for Downtown and the Grand River.

What's Next for Downtown Grand Rapids? In the last 10-20-30 years, people have all watched change happen all over Downtown. Downtown is starting to hit its stride as a destination, as an economic center . . . and . . . increasingly as home to many residents now living downtown. The plan, **Grand Rapids Forward** was created by many people and organizations and describes a vision for the future of Downtown that will seek to maximize opportunities for improvements. Getting to that vision and framework for change will require a comprehensive analysis of economic development, the Grand River, housing, transportation and parking, land use, open space, infrastructure, among other important issues.

How Do You Imagine Grand Rapids Reconnecting to its Riverfront? The River Corridor Plan shows how the City . . . the

people . . . can reconnect with the river from Lamoreaux to Millennium Parks . . . to allow greater interaction with the river itself. The goals are to enhance the city's vitality, improve quality of life and leverage economic activity. Grand Rapids' rapids were removed from the landscape more than a century ago. The river shaped our past, now we are designing it for the future?

How are the Grand Rapids Public Schools Central Campus and Museum School part of Grand Rapids Forward: The old Central High campus in the historic Heritage Hill neighborhood is home to the oldest, still functioning high school facility in the entire state as well as the nation's first PK-12 public Montessori school. It is also home to the *Innovation Central High* campus which is transforming the city's public schools. The former public museum building also is in Heritage Hill.

The new *Grand Rapids Public Museum School* will be part of cutting edge new secondary public school choice where the sights, sounds, exhibits and artifacts of our public museum are literally a part of everyday teaching and learning (fall 2015) as these spaces are transformed for the future. The plans for Central Campus will include the historic preservation and renovation of the Central and Fountain buildings, demolition of the old City/Ed Park building, potential traffic improvements, landscaping and beautification ideas.

Our presenter today is Tim Kelly, Planning Manager with Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., a position he has held since 2015. Among the projects he is leading is GR Forward: an Action Plan for Downtown Grand Rapids and the Grand River Corridor. Prior to working in Grand Rapids, Tim served as a Project Manager for the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency in Long Beach, CA. Tim has an undergraduate degree in Business Management from Hope College, and completed a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Tuesday, May 17 12:00 Noon
Student Recognition Day
(Note early start time at noon)

The annual Grand Rapids Lions Club's Student Recognition Day is a long-standing tradition. At today's meeting, Grand Rapids area senior students will be recognized to show what is positive about our community's youth. We will celebrate their talents and achievements in the 18th year in this current format (previously, it had focused on sports).

Each school's leadership selects two students based on the student's all-round contribution during high school, not just in sports or academic achievement, but also for their leadership, and school & community involvement. The principal or guidance counselor from each school will usually present the students. Parents are Superintendents are invited and may attend.

Nine Grand Rapids schools will be represented:

- ☆ Grand Rapids Public High Schools:
 - Central
 - City
 - Ottawa
 - Union
- ☆ Two Catholic High Schools: Central and West
- ☆ East Grand Rapids High School
- ☆ Christian High School

Students will receive a Certificate of Recognition from the Grand Rapids Lions Club and a \$75.00 gift certificate from Schuler Books, paid for jointly by the bookstore and the Lions Club. **Lion Shelley**

Irwin is typically available to interview students at the meeting, as in past years, for her Morning Show. Pictures will be taken with **Lions President Don Jakel**. **Lion Ryan Smith** organized this event again this year.

Eyeglass Recycling Program Also Meeting Vision Needs Here

The eyeglass recycling program collects used eyeglasses to process and use on vision mission trips. Often, the program finds used hearing aids and new hearing aid batteries in the boxes among the eyeglasses. The hearing aids and batteries are sent to our local Hard of Hearing and Deaf Services to use in serving their clients.

However, every so often, the eyeglass recycling program also collects a mystery box of low vision items that we give to ABVI. **Lion Rick Stevens** wanted to let you know the impact that one of those items made.

“Recently, we saw a client who needed bioptic glasses so he could continue driving and maintain his job. Unfortunately, he doesn't have the \$1500 - \$1800 needed for a new pair of bioptic glasses. Staff checked our stash of donated items and found a great pair of bioptic glasses that will work for him. While the glasses need to be refitted for his prescription, refitting them will save him over a \$1000 and more importantly his job.”

Rick adds, “While most of the beneficiaries of the recycling program live far away, there are local beneficiaries too.” ABVI byline: “We help individuals living with low vision or blindness thrive in a sighted world.”

Coast to Coast Raffle

Remember the time is growing short for you to purchase a 2016 raffle ticket for the Choose Your Coast Raffle is here! With each raffle ticket purchased, you will have a chance for two to travel to New York, San Francisco, Orlando or Seattle for a four day/three night trip.

Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. The proceeds of the raffle benefit ABVI, one of our major charities. The drawing will be held on June 3, 2016. Please contact Lion Rick Stevens at ABVI to order your ticket(s): 616-458-1187 or rstevens@abvimichigan.org.

Other Lion News:

New Lions Member: New Lion Anna Clifford was approved by the Lion Board and will be inducted at our noon luncheon in a brief ceremony on Tuesday, May 10. She is married to Jonathon Clifford. Anna is a fundraiser at Cherry Health, one of our major charities. Her sponsor is Sharon Barton.

Award at the District Annual Convention: Grand Rapids Lion Cheryl Anderson received the Eversight Barr Fellowship from Eversight (formerly called the Michigan Eye Bank) (She also received the Presidential Medal of Service later that evening at a different convention for stepping up to chair the store at the USA/CANADA Forum that was held in Grand Rapids last Septembers. As the District Newsletter noted, she is a “very deserving lady Lion!”

No May Social Event 🙄: Plans for the social event in May recently fell through. So, no social event in May.

2016 Annual Meeting: Mark your calendars, the 2016 Grand Rapids Lions Club Annual Meeting will be on **Thursday, June 9** at 6:00 pm at Blythefield Country Club on Northland Drive NE. You should be receiving your formal invitation around the middle of May.

VI Sports Day: Reserve **Saturday, June 11** in the morning for the annual *Visually Impaired (VI) Sports Day*. More information will come in a later *Nuda Veritas*.

Drive for Vision Charity Golf Outing: Another reminder to mark your calendars, solicit sponsors (new and old) and plan to participate or volunteer on **Monday, June 20, 2016**. It will be at Quail Ridge Golf Club. If you would like to approach a company to ask for a sponsorship, brochures will be available at our meetings, contact Jamie Junod at 616-224-1574 or junodj@stifel.com or go to the website at <https://driveforvision.wordpress.com/2016/03/27/2016-sponsorship-opportunities/>.

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