

Come get involved to make a difference. Call The Forum at 337-7002 for more details on any of these events.

THE FORUM

June 27, 1998

Forum Community
FunFest

EVENTS

Youth Fishing Tournament
7:00 a.m.
Merrill Park in Comstock
Free to all youth

Youth Events
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Annen Sports Complex
Free to all youth

Trailway Trek
10k Run/Walk/Stroll
8:30 a.m.
Celery Flats to Annen
Sports Complex

River Canoe Flotilla &
Nature Tours
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Annen Sports Complex
Short & Long trips available
\$10 & \$25

River Do-Dah Parade
3:00 p.m.
Mills St. Bridge
Annen Sports Complex
to Verberg Park
\$10 entry fee

River Dance
9:30 p.m.
Featuring the Jah Kings
following the Quest soccer
game (7:30 p.m.)

Alcoholic & non-alcoholic
beverages available
Tickets \$5
Tickets available at The
Forum for Kalamazoo Co.
& the State Theatre

July 10, 1998
Forum Board of Directors
7:30 - 9:00 a.m.
The Stryker Center

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Join the Fun at the 2nd Annual Forum Community FunFest!

Following the success of the 1st FunFest in August 1997, The Forum, along with numerous community sponsors, will be bringing the FunFest and its unique family oriented events and "celebration of the positive" back to our community on June 27, 1998. Here's details you'll need to know for this year's event, along with the successes from last year. Pre-register by June 24 is preferred or on the day of the event.

The 2nd Annual Community FunFest

When: Saturday, June 27, 1998

Where: Annen Sports Complex in Kalamazoo, Bicentennial Park in Portage, Merrill Park in Comstock and other locations along the Kalamazoo River and streams

What:

- *Trailway Trek* 10k run/walk/stroll from Portage to Kalamazoo River, Celery Flats (8:30 - 11:30 a.m.)
- *Youth Fishing Catch & Release Tournament* prizes for all, Merrill Park (7:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon)
- *Canoe Flotilla & Nature Tour*, down the Kalamazoo River, Annen Sports Complex (11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- *River Do-Dah Parade*, Annen Sports Complex (3:00 p.m.)
- *Youth Events* face painting, bike parade, clowns, games, button making and more. (1:00 - 3:00 p.m.)
- *River Dance*, (9:30 p.m.) featuring the Jah Kings, Kalamazoo's own celebrated band along with Kalamazoo Quest professional women's soccer match, (7:30 p.m.)

Why: FunFest's Purposes: To educate community residents about the Kalamazoo River and its streams, celebrate areas and bring together families of all kinds, ages, races and economic backgrounds.

Who: This event is for You!

Sponsors: The Forum for Kalamazoo County

To Register: Call The Forum at 337-7002. Pre-registration is recommended for most events.



- To focus on our community linkages and bridge communities
- To celebrate and educate about the Kalamazoo River watershed
- To have fun with families of all kinds

Building on Last Year's Success

Last year's FunFest produced significant results.

- Intergovernmental cooperation among five units (Kalamazoo, Portage, Kalamazoo Township, Parchment and Comstock).
- Joint leadership by the Kalamazoo City Commission and the Portage City Council of the first ever Trailway Trek from Portage Celery Flats to Kalamazoo's Annen Sports Complex. These discussions led to more opportunities for these communities to work together.
- Increased awareness of the Kalamazoo River's revitalization through its use as a recreational resource in the first ever River Do-Dah Parade.
- Portage submitted a grant to extend the Portage Bicentennial Park to connect across Kilgore Road into Kalamazoo Milham Park. This route was first discussed and utilized at last year's Trailway Trek. This extension creates an opportunity for joint programming between Portage and Kalamazoo and greatly increases recreational, economic and environmental benefits for both communities.

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With Your Help, We Can Expect More Results This Year

The FunFest is a creative, recreational and educational way to act on the call for communities to cooperate. Last

year's results demonstrate that positive results can be achieved in cooperation while having fun. While the FunFest tries to bring together communities such as Kalamazoo and Portage, the variety of FunFest events also bring together people of all ages and families of all kinds to participate this year, we can expect more

dialogue and results towards engaging in new ways to build our community as well as more opportunities to bring families together for a day of fun.

Call The Forum to register, (616) 337-7002. Volunteers are needed for all events. Call now!

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Did You Know? And Are You Willing to Spread the Word About Cooperation in Kalamazoo County

Last year's FunFest sparked The Forum's initiative to "*Improve Countywide Cooperation and Relationships.*" As a result of The Forum's efforts, numerous organizations and agencies have offered their examples of cooperation and collaboration to help educate and remove barriers to genuine cooperation. Here is a list of not widely known cooperative efforts in Kalamazoo County. If we are willing to promote these valuable examples of cooperation right here in Kalamazoo County, we can excite and motivate more community partners to see the value of working together in new ways. Congratulations to all those involved in the brave effort to move our County forward through these cooperative efforts and the many more that go unnoticed.

Cooperative Efforts Between Governments of the City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, City of Portage, Kalamazoo & Comstock Townships

- \$80 million water sewer financing agreements with 15 units for over 25 years
- Fire/Police dispatch for 20+ units (County); Mutual Aid for police/fire protection between cities of Kalamazoo/Portage
- Markin Glen Park transfer from City of Kalamazoo to County
- District Court consolidation
- Major tax appeal accord with Comstock Township and Comstock Public Schools
- KL Landfill remediation partnership with City of Kalamazoo & Oshtemo Township
- Joint auction of excess personal property with Portage, Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo/Comstock Townships, WMU, Michigan State Police & others
- Joint planning and action projects: solid waste, transportation, child care, groundwater protection, and more
- Joint retirement asset management
- County Headstart cooperation with Kalamazoo Public and other schools
- Working with all units of criminal justice system, including courts, prosecution, Sheriff, medical examiner
- Care-A-Van services and coordination with Metro Transit, WMU and countywide community centers
- Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway efforts with two counties and numerous units
- Four County partnership for operation and planning of substance abuse and HIV services
- County Parks cooperation with Cooper, Pavilion, Charleston, Comstock, Schoolcraft Townships
- Animal Control Services coordination with other units and veterinarians
- Equalization, assessing, tax limitations, apportionment issues with all other local units
- Infrastructure planning and funding with the 24 units in the County
- Mutual Aid for police and fire protection between cities of Kalamazoo and Portage
- Cable negotiation for Cable Vision
- Community Access Center
- Joint transportation planning for metro area through KATS
- Joint street striping and some repairs purchasing by cities of Kalamazoo and Portage

A Special Welcome to The Forum's Newest Organizational Members

by Margaret von Steinen

Several new business memberships for the Forum for Kalamazoo County were spurred by the Forums "Community Vitality Series" in March and a day-long business membership drive facilitated by Forum Board members April 22, aptly titled "Spring for the Forum."

An interest in the work of the Forum and concerns about the economic future of the Kalamazoo community were incentives for Physicians Health Plan of Southwest Michigan and Company to recently come members of the Forum. chief Executive Officer of 8338 Shaver Road in Port- the Forum's "Community Vitality Series" in March ing up his business as a

Photo Not Available

"The series was an Weber, whose business was Jack, in 1943. "The Forum providing a community fo- They brought in very dy- highlighted strategies and been lacking in Kalamazoo. located in Kalamazoo County, I have been concerned that ninety percent of our new business is coming out of the Battle Creek Industrial Park and the Grand Rapids/ Holland corridor where there is a lot of manufacturing development," he said.

"Kalamazoo has not been manufacturing base. Perhaps this initiative started in are going as a community." Board of the Kalamazoo Commerce and the YMCA. contract manufacturer with a stamping for the automotive

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Lucian Leone, di- planning and marketing for in downtown Kalamazoo, Forum as the outcome of Brent Larsen, chair of The Kivikko, Forum Board during the "Spring for the membership drive. "It was clear (from the meeting) the Forum provides real beneficial services for the community and would be something great for PHP to join," Leone said. "As an employer located in downtown Kalamazoo, the vitality of the downtown district is a real concern on our behalf. We want to do what we can to assure our downtown stays vital and vibrant." PHPof Southwest Michigan is owned by the Bronson Healthcare Group and provides health insurance to more than 100,000 individuals in southwest Michigan. Our business is very much interwoven into the community because of the kind of work we do," Leone said. Forum business memberships include the opportunity for employees of the company to also be named as members of the Forum. Leone said about 10 of PHP's employees have signed up to fill the membership slots allotted to PHP. "Of those employees that have signed up, there is a high level of interest to participate and attend Forum events," Leone said.

Welcome and thank you to PHP of Southwest Michigan and Weber Specialties.

Weber Specialties on board as business Jim Weber, President and Weber Specialties Co., tage, said his attendance at Vitality Series" in March ing up his business as a outstanding program," said founded by his father, did an excellent job of rum for that discussion. namic speakers that really positions that I think have As a regional manufacturer

proactive in developing a the timing is right to get Kalamazoo on where we Weber serves on the County Chamber of Weber Specialties is a heavy emphasis on metal and furniture industries. rector of strategic PHP, 106 Farmers Alley said PHP joined the meeting he had with Forum and Renee member, on April 22 Forum" business

Thank You to All 1998 Members

Organizations

Ahrens Construction
Amerikal, Inc.
A.M. Todd Company
Business Direct
City of Kalamazoo
City of Portage
Comstock Public Schools
Comstock Township
Connable Associates, Inc.
Consumers Energy
Council of Governments
Davenport College
Diekema/Hamann Architects
Downtown Kalamazoo Inc.
Stuart Eddy, P.E., P.C.
Educational Comm. Credit Union
Envirologic Technologies, Inc.
Fabri-Kal
John E. Fetzer Institute
Gove Associates, Inc.
Greater Kalamazoo United Way
Healthy Futures
Hispanic American Council
K-Lift Corporation
Kalamazoo Co. Chamber of Commerce
Kalamazoo College
Kalamazoo County Road Commission
Kalamazoo Education Association
Kalamazoo Foundation
Kalamazoo Nature Center
Kalamazoo Public Library
Kalamazoo Public Schools
Kalamazoo Township
Kalamazoo Valley Community College
KALSEC, Inc.
KARL Laboratories
Kushner & Company, Inc.
Michigan National Bank
MRC Industries, Inc.
Mulders Glass & Glazing, Inc.
The Owen Group
PHP of SW Michigan
Plante & Moran
Portage Commerce Bank
Reed Stover & O'Connor
Schupan & Sons, Inc.
STS Consultants Ltd.
Upjohn National Leasing Co.
Vamum Riddering Schmidt & Howlett
Visiting Nurse & Hospice Services
Weber Specialties
Wenke Greenhouses
Western Michigan University
W.E. Upjohn Institute

Churches
First Baptist Church
Kalamazoo Deacons Conference

Families
James & Susan Baldwin
Charles & Diane Bell
Don & Mary Brown
Robert & Mary Doud
Robert & Louise Dunbar
Marc Elliott & Laurie Russell
Steve & Connie Ferguson
Ward & Mary Greiner
John & Ginny Hartline
Thomas & Brigitte Huff
Allan Hunt & Rochelle Habeck
Louis & Nancy Jean
Bill & Jeannette Maxey
Gary & Joan Melvin
Preston & Barbara Parish
Dave & Pat Reeves
Bill & Marjorie Thacker
Charles VanZoeren & Family
Melvin Visser & Family

Individuals
Pat Adams
Bob/Maria Anderson
Hugh Anderson
Jeff Appeldoorn
Jared Arnold
Gale Arent
Paul Ballard
A.W. Betts
Robert Borsos
Norman Bristol
Sue Clark Moore
Martha Dahlinger
Marguerite Day
Phillip/Allene Dietrich
Bill Dimond
Pat Dolan
Frank Eichelberg
Alice Foote
Beverly Gallagher
Suprotik Ghosh
Ed Gordon
Sandra Gower
Audrey Gray
William Hamilton
Curtis Hanson
Bob/June Heasley
Jim/ Jacquie Heidamos
Martha Hilboldt
Ron/Sunny Hill
James Houston
Shawn Hulsebos
Robert Hume
Jo Jacobs
James Kalleward
Jack Kehoe
Mark Kieser
Frances Kimball
Renee Kivikko
Patricia Klein
Leon Koopsen
Patrick Krause
Ed/Anne LaForge
Blaine Lam
Orlin Loen
R.S. Longnecker
Nancy Mack
Dora Mann
Mary Jane Mapes
Elizabeth Margolis
Bruce/Donna Martin
Judy Mayo
Sean McCann
Mel/Cecilia McCue
Helen McCartney
James McIntyre
David Moe
Sue Moore
Beverly Moore
Melody Nedrud
Audrey Nesbitt-Gray
Michael O'Connor
Lucille Patrick
Ken Peregon
Ann Perry
Dianne Price
Marian Putney
Sally Putney
Bill Reed
Joe Riedy
James Ridders
Jerry/ Elaine Roberts
Keith Roe
Judy Salada
Babette Schmitt
Joe Schmitt
Robert Seely
Suzanne Shepherd
Larry Schimmel
Catheryn Sirk
Ann Smith
Glen Smith
Roland Springgate
Mabel Stenesh
Margaret Strome
Jean Talanda
Michael Tenenbaum
John Thingstad
Ed Thompson
Jon/Toni Thompson
Jim/Mary Thorne
Richard Tomlinson
Stephen Trivers
Helen Truss
James Turek
Roger Ulrich
Tom/Lisa VanDis
Mary Vinton
Margaret von Steinen
Carl Walker
Jeff Weisman
Richard Wilde
Rober/ Sue Wilson
Carolyn Williams
Thell Woods
Jacqueline Wylie

1998 Forum Annual Members Meeting Celebrates Results

On May 11, The Forum held its Annual Members Meeting at The Stryker Center. The broad scope of The Forum's involvement in improving our quality of life over the past year includes: development of a Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway Master Plan, Emotional Intelligence programming, Community Vitality Series discussing economic development and How We Grow, 1st Forum Community FunFest, Profiles in Courage celebrating cooperative efforts in Kalamazoo County, Healing Racism sponsorship, Davis Creek Watershed remediation, Water Quality Trading, YWCA Week Without Violence sponsorship, National Issues Forum discussions, Healthy Futures support, and numerous partnerships developed to help build our community. A few of the next steps for The Forum include: increasing membership, continuing programming for the theme of "Improving Countywide Cooperation and Relationships," and a Board Strategic planning Retreat in June.

Elections also took place at the Annual Meeting. We are pleased to announce our newest Board Officers:

Brent Larson, President, VNA Hospice Services
Jim Heidamos, Vice-President, J&J Heidamos & Associates
Helen Truss, Secretary, WMU School of Nursing
Larry Schimmel, Treasurer, Portage Zoning Board of Appeals

We also welcome our new Board members:

Frank Eichelberg, Remaxx Advantage
Judy Todd Johnson, Kalamazoo County Commissioner
Reuben Pettiford, Director, Family Health Center
Karen Eaton, Key Marketing Company
Rick Larrick, Georgia-Pacific Corporation
Edgar Gordon, Kalamazoo City Commissioner

The Annual Meeting hosted the 1998 Watershed Steward Award recipients. The Watershed Steward Award is designed to recognize those people, organizations and groups making significant strides to improve our waterways. Congratulations to all candidates. The Award winners:

Business: Dan Cummins, Georgia Pacific Corporation
Individual: George Heffner, NRCS
Community Group: Four-Township Water Resources Council

Honoring The Forum's Outgoing Board Members

Thank You to our outgoing Board members for their services to fulfill The Forum's mission *to improve the quality of life for all the residents of our community*. We appreciate your leadership, dedication and civic responsibility exercised through The Forum.

Beverly Moore, past President and Board members since 1994

"It has been a great pleasure to be President of The Forum because The Forum is everything that I believe in—bringing people from all ages and backgrounds together to define a problem and take action."

Aaron Cantrell, Board member since 1993, successes involving diversity and FunFest

Rebecca Harvey, Board member since 1996

Pat Reeves, past President, Treasurer 1995 and Board member since 1991, many direction setting successes

Keith Roe, Board member since 1994, many successful efforts in Forum programming

Sustaining Members

Borgess Health Alliance
Bronson Healthcare Group
Eaton Corporation
Flowserve, Inc.
National City Bank
GM Kalamazoo Metal Center
Georgia-Pacific
Kalamazoo Gazette
Old Kent Bank, Southwest
Pharmacia & Upjohn, Inc.
Stryker Corporation

Board Members

Susan Baldwin, Economic Development Forum
Jerry Blaisdell, National City Bank
Don Brown, Nonpoint Source Committee
Gary Cramer, Kalamazoo Township
Karen Eaton, Key Marketing Company
Frank Eichelberg, Remaxx Advantage
Ed Gordon, City of Kalamazoo
Art Hoekstra, Kalamazoo Deacons Conference
Nancy Jean, Quality Printing Machinery Service
Judy Todd Johnson, Kalamazoo County
Mark Kieser, Kieser & Associates
Renee Kivikko, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
Rick Larrick, Georgia-Pacific Corporation
Timothy Light, Western Michigan University
Richard Olivanti, Kalamazoo Valley Community College
Reuben Pettiford, Family Health Center, Inc.
Bill Reed, Reed Realtors
Iris Salters, Kalamazoo Education Association
Robert Straits, W. E. Upjohn Institute
Margaret von Steinen, Student
Barbara Young, Kalamazoo County Human Services Department

Officers

Chair

Brent Larson, Visiting Nurse Association

Vice Chair

Jim Heidamos, J & J Heidamos & Associates

Secretary

Helen Truss, WMU School of Nursing

Treasurer

Larry Schimmel, Portage Zoning Board of Appeals



THE FORUM newsletter

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