One of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce’s events, the Start of Summer Celebration (SOS), has been an important milestone this year. Rockford’s favorite family event will celebrate its 50th anniversary with plenty of thrills, entertainment, food and fun. The event will celebrate by adding even more excitement to a schedule already full of entertainment. This year’s event will take place June 8-10.

SOS fans shouldn’t worry about missing their favorites, though. The celebration still features its parade (with more than 100 entries this year), fireworks (Saturday at dusk), carnival rides, Movie on the Rogue (Trolls), beer tents, food vendors, crafters, vintage baseball games, Rotary Big Daddy Duck Race, Ninja Warrior obstacles, children’s activity tent, frog and turtle races at Chase Bank, and plenty of live entertainment.

New events to celebrate the huge milestone are a Summer Vintage Market by Resale Restored, a cornhole tournament, a firetruck showcase, a comet tournament, a fireworks pull to benefit Torch Run, laser tag and archery tag by BattleGR, and a Kids-for-Kids Run to benefit Team Orphan. To find out dates, times and more information about these events - and the traditional favorites - go to www.rockfordmichamber.com to download the schedule, or to find direct links to the events.

“The Chamber is thrilled to be celebrating its 50th year of our annual Start of Summer Celebration,” says Rockford Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Linda Southwick. “The SOS committee has been hard at work to mark this important milestone with even more fun for the entire family. There are a lot of new events that will add plenty of excitement and entertainment to the downtown area for those four days. The great thing is there will be plenty of attendees who enjoyed Start of Summer when they were children and are now bringing their children - or grandchildren - to the event. Rockford has many great traditions for the community, and this is a special one.”

The City of Rockford will offer a Community Night that will take place on Thursday, June 7. The Community Night is a special night for Rockford residents, with the carnival opening a day early just for them. It is a way for the City to thank its residents for a great year. City of Rockford residents are defined by a certain area – you can know if you qualify for the lower City rate for the carnival by whether or not you pay taxes to the City of Rockford. Those residents who qualify for wristbands for $15 each can purchase them Wednesday or Thursday, June 7 and June 8, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the City of Rockford offices, at 7 S. Monroe. You must bring proof of where you live to purchase the wrist bands for the reduced rate. All others who want to attend the carnival on Community Night must go to the carnival and purchase at the carnival Thursday from 5-9:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon-9:30 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. A very special day is planned for Sunday, June 10. It has been named “Chamber Sunday” and chamber members, along with all their employees and their families, will get a special rate for carnival rides. On Sunday chamber members will be allowed to ride unlimited times when they purchase a bracelet for just $15 each. Chamber members only are allowed to purchase these special wristbands for their families and employees. Chamber wristbands will be sold at the Chamber office (17 S Monroe) during office hours the week of the event on Wednesday and Thursday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. -4 p.m., or call the Chamber office (616) 866-2000 to arrange a time.

One of the City’s landmarks, the Rockford Dam, is a backdrop that has been in countless special events photos, including weddings, proms and family reunions. Young passed away in January of 2016 at just 51 years of age, but his legacy has continued with Rockford’s boardwalks, flower pots, lamp-post banners, clocks, landscaped entryways, and beautiful downtown district. The organizations of Rockford Chamber of Commerce (RCC), Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Rockford Area Community Endowment (RACE), have joined their considerable talent and vision to fashion an apt tribute to Young – the Michael F. Young Riverfront.

“The memorial will be along the eastern bank of the Rogue River at the north end of Garden Club Park, and feature annual flowers, shrubs and trees - including Weeping Japanese Maple, knockout roses, and a three-foot tall semi-circular pondless waterfall, built out of ledgestone. The cost of the memorial is estimated to be $75,000 to complete. The start and completion dates of the project are dependent upon the money raised for the tribute. Anyone who would like to carry on the memory of Michael Young and his dedication to the city, is invited to contribute to the fund. Donations are to be made to Rockford Area Community Endowment and can be mailed to Rockford City Hall, 7 S. Monroe St., Rockford, MI 49341.

Rockford Chamber of Commerce continues to grow as we welcome new members to our business family. See who to welcome to the neighborhood by looking at our list of those joining our membership in the past three months. The Rockford Chamber of Commerce is a valued partner with the City of Rockford.

One of the most important milestones this year was that it had involved with this great celebration”. We have a great partnership with Rockford High School, Melissa Burkholder. To make the 50th Annual Celebration more interesting will be held June 8th, 9th and 10th in Down-town Rockford. For the last 49 celebrations there has never been an official Start of Summer logo. To make the 50th Annual Celebration more special, the Rockford Chamber of Commerce reached out to the Multi-Media Director at Rockford High School, Melissa Burkholder. Chamber Executive Director Linda Southwick says, “We have a great partnership with the Rockford Schools and we wanted to give the design students a chance to be creative and be involved with the great celebration.”

Grace Pola, a junior in Burkholder’s class, designed the logo that was selected by the Start of Summer Steering committee. Grace explained how she came up with the design by saying, “My first thought when the idea was presented to design a new Start of Summer logo was that it had to really incorporate Rockford itself right in it. SORS is something that everyone looks forward to and is so personal to our town, which is why I chose the dam as the main background. Pixelating the picture gave it that cartoon feel that ties the whole logo together. I really hope everyone enjoys it.”

Grace has been going to Start of Summer for as long as she can remember and says she loves seeing all of Rockford come together during the celebration. She says learned more about the design process by making this logo and plans to get some type of design degree and continue working with different businesses in the future.
NEW MEMBERS

Brook’s Auto Repair
10305 Northland Dr
Rockford, MI 49341
Contact: Tim Brokens
Phone: 616-866-1123
Email: timbrokens@yahoo.com
Date joined: 2/6/18
CRAB

Mark & Meghan Hunt
EvedyGuy Rockford
PO BOX 399
Rockford, MI 49341
Contact: Mark & Meghan Hunt
Email: meny@roforkdn.com
Date joined: 2/9/18
HEART

Renewal by Andersen
7329 N. Main Rd.
Rockford, MI 49341
Contact: Matt Leistens
Phone: 616-213-2224
Email: materialsrenewals@gmail.com
Date joined: 12/21/2018
REBA

BattleCR
4735 Lake Michigan Dr
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Contact: Jerry Lathrop
Phone: 616-345-6696
Email: party@baddog.com
Date joined: 12/21/2018
AIBA

Cooper’s Auto & Rental
6100 Westnedge Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Contact: Matt Cooper
Phone: 616-980-5095
Email: cooper@coopersauto.com
Date joined: 1/19/18
HEART

Top Notch Studio
8400 Algoma Ave
Rockford, MI 49341
Contact: Briana Edinger
Phone: 616-492-1047
topnotch.studio@gmail.com
Date joined: 2/19/2018
AIBA

Druckermiller Painting
7940 Jereho Ave
Rockford, MI 49341
Contact: Chad Druckermiller
Phone: 616-326-4686
druckermillerpainting@gmail.com
Date joined: 2/28/2018
HEART

Wilden Design LLC
7293 Peninsular Dr
Rockford, MI 49341
Contact: Jane Kibble
Phone: 616-697-6952
Email: julie@jeweldesign.com
Date joined: 2/22/2018
REBA

Rogue Valley Veterinary Hospital
4112 14 Mile Rd
Rockford, MI 49341
Contact: Karly Christopoulos
Phone: 616-263-5550
christopouloskarly@gmail.com
Date joined: 3/15/2018
CRAB

Miove
65 S Main Street, Suite C
Rockford, MI 49341
Contact: Whitney Rodriguez
Phone: 616-666-9654
Email: Rockford@imovedaily.com
Date joined: 3/7/2018
HEART

Title Boxing Club Grand Rapids
5250 Northland Dr, Suite H
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
Contact: David Jimenez
Phone: N/A
GrandRapids@titleboxingclub.com
Date joined: 3/8/2018
CRAB

Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church
4865 Eleven Mile Rd
Rockford, MI 49341
Contact: Fr. Tony Russo
Phone: 616-699-6351
 Email: skoparsh@skopars.com
Date joined: 3/12/18
REBA

The Rockford Wedding Studio
15 N. Main Street
Rockford, MI 49341
Contact: Lisa Hammond
Phone: 616-350-7072
Email: Lisa@lakoboschphotography.com
Date joined: 3/12/18
MHCAFT

ComfortCare Kent County
4811 Bella Vista Dr NE Suite 1
Rockford, MI 49341
Contact: Bill McIntyre
Phone: 616-305-1000
Email: b.mcintyre@comfortcareinc.com
Date joined: 3/12/18
REBA

Charles “Chip” Stevens
5234 Canyon River Drive
Ada, MI 49301
Contact: Chip Chelser
Phone: 734-365-0255
Email: chip@skeins.com
Date joined: 3/16/2018
AIBA

Educators International
50 Congress St. Suite 730
Bedford, MA 01730
Contact: Sara Moore
Phone: 734-395-0025
Email: saramoore.educatius@gmail.com
Date joined: 4/16/2018
CRAB

Steve Dykstra Properties
106 Courtyard Street
Rockford, MI 49341
Contact: Steve Dykstra
Phone: 616-226-4387
Steve@stayrockford.com
Date joined: 5/4/18
HEART

Watson Rockford
4701 14 Mile Rd NE
Rockford, MI 49341
Contact: Cody Watson
Phone: 616-894-5999
cody@watsonsmanistee.com
Date joined: 5/9/18
CRAB

The Mason Jar, LLC
5607 Northland Dr NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49526
Contact: Christy Schmals
Phone: 616-279-6322
Email: usd@ymca.net
Date joined: 4/30/18
AIBA

Jason Decker Group
3252 Platinum St NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Contact: Jason Decker
Phone: 616-638-9576
Jason@jasondeckerrealestate.com
Date joined: 4/4/18
CRAB

Superior Dive Services, LLC
906 Roddot Dr
Cooperville, MI 49624
Contact: Jason Rockliff
Phone: 231-675-4994
Email: superiorrockfordemail.com
Date joined: 4/24/18
AIBA

Higher Health Chiropractic NE
Address: TBD
Contact: Dr. Kent Daavettila
Phone: 616-632-3344
Email: drkent@gethigherhealth.com
Date joined: 4/20/18
AIBA

The Rockford Chamber of Commerce celebrated a groundbreaking with ChoiceOne Bank at 590 E. Division, Tuesday, May 1, 2018. Representatives of NapTags breaking ground at 7777 Chilidale Ave. NE, Friday, April 20, 2018.

RIBBON CUTTING

Dickey’s Barbecue Pit celebrated a ribbon cutting with Rockford Chamber representatives, Monday, February 12. The Rockford eatery, which features delicious barbecued fare, is located at 380 East Division St.

Top Notch Studio, located at 8450 Algoma Ave., NE, is the newest, hottest group exercise option in the Rockford area. They celebrated their ribbon cutting, Sunday, March 11.

The Rockford Wedding Studio, a one-stop wedding planning resource center, celebrated their ribbon cutting with Chamber representatives, Saturday, April 14. The studio is located at 15 N. Main St.
North Kent Connect offering free classes to the community

North Kent Connect, a nonprofit organization committed to improving the lives of all people in northern Kent County, is partnering with local businesses and organizations this year to bring its community a series of free, educational, and hands-on classes. The classes are held at North Kent Connect and focus on a variety of different topics.

Each Thursday, the YMCA hosts an hour-long yoga class where stretching and breathing techniques are encouraged. “We are proud to offer a fitness class and inspire our clients and others to live an active lifestyle,” said Claire Guisfredi, Executive Director of North Kent Connect. “It is a pleasure to work directly with the YMCA and we are excited to continue this partnership for months to come.”

Past classes have included job preparation and resume building with West Michigan Works!, and entrepreneurial coaching from GROW (Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women), an organization empowering and helping women take the next step in business ownership.

When clients participate in classes, they can earn a gift card to the North Kent Connect Store, as a part of the VIP Plan. The VIP Plan encourages clients to Volunteer in the community, Invest in themselves by taking a class, or Purchase the items they need at affordable prices.

Spectrum Health Healthier Communities has also been a community partner in providing healthy living classes at North Kent Connect.

Rachel started just two weeks before the Chamber’s summer intern. Morgan Maggini, her intern, finished her junior year at Central Michigan University - and the winter season with the Chamber. Morgan just finished her junior year at Central Michigan University - and the winter season with the Chamber. Morgan just finished her junior year at Central Michigan University - and the winter season with the Chamber.

The Rockford Chamber of Commerce loves to make connections, and has done so through education by utilizing the talents of two interns – one for the winter season, and one for the summer season.

Morgan Maggini just finished her junior year at Central Michigan University - and the winter season with the Chamber. Morgan just finished her junior year at Central Michigan University - and the winter season with the Chamber.

Rachel Henry is the Chamber’s summer intern. Rachel started just two weeks after she turned 21, and attends Grand Valley State University and just finished her junior year. Rachel is focusing on a hospitality & tourism management major with an emphasis on meeting and events. She will be focusing on Start of Summer, Golf Outing, Welcome Bags, Sidewalk Sales, and part of Harvest Fest during her internship with the Chamber.

Watson Rockford opens on 14 Mile

The Watson Family of Auto Dealerships, also known as “Watson County” has added Rockford as another destination for car and truck buyers to shop. Watson County is already known for excellent customer service and community service on the west side of Michigan with four other Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram and Fiat dealerships. They are excited to bring the Watson Country way of doing business to not only Rockford, but also the greater Grand Rapids area.

Watson Rockford is currently operating out of their temporary location at 4700 14 Mile Rd. Their new 23,800-square-foot Watson Rockford location, 4395 14 Mile Rd., is expected to be open July 2018, and employ over 20 people. Watson Rockford offers a large selection of new and previously owned cars and trucks.

Watson Rockford operates under one basic premise, “We put your family into a vehicle that we would put our own family in.” The Watson County expansion to the Rockford area also means good things for the communities that they serve, because it is all about giving back. They put people first in their slogan: people, selection, price.

Local chiropractic practice celebrates business anniversary and active year in community

Vibrant Life Chiropractic, located on Knapp’s Corner just south of Meijer, recently celebrated their one-year anniversary in business and couldn’t be more excited to be part of this community.

The practice serves everyone in the family, especially pediatrics and pregnant moms. As a neurologically-based chiropractic office, their focus is to locate and remove the root cause of health concerns, therefore allowing the body to heal naturally.

Vibrant Life Chiropractic is deeply invested in the community. In their first year, the chiropractic business has grown their team to serve the community even more! They provided several Lunch and Learns at local businesses looking to learn more, and hosted events with all proceeds going to local charities such as Women at Risk, International. Most recently, they hosted a Trivia Night where over $350 was raised for Relay for Life, Rockford 2018. “We look forward to serving this community for years to come,” said Dr Kurt Lang.
Morris Builders earns prestigious award, welcomes new consultant

Morris Builders’ excellent work has earned them the Guildmaster Award for 2018. The award celebrates exemplary quality and superior customer service as measured by GuildQuality’s customer satisfaction surveying. All award winners are recommended by over 90 percent of their clients and have verified that they’ve surveyed all of their customers.

“We can’t achieve awards such as this one without the help of our exceptional team, amazing clients, and the community,” said co-owner Kirk Morris.

The local builder has also added another expert to their team. Morris Builders welcomed Daniel Bailo as a sales consultant. Originally from South Lyon, Mich., Daniel has been around the construction industry his entire life. His father was a real estate developer and commercial real estate investor when Daniel was growing up, so he knows the industry. Daniel started his first contracting business at the age of 18 in Michigan. At 21 he moved to Portland, Oregon and operated a contracting company there for 10 years. After meeting his fiancée in Oregon, they decided to sell everything and move back to Michigan to be closer to their families and start a family of their own.

Daniel prides himself on his professional ethics and clear communication. Customer service and attention to detail are key foundations to his entrepreneurial success and values he brings with him to Morris Builders.

In his free time, Daniel enjoys working outdoors, golfing, boating and snowboarding.

Camp Roger offers plenty of fun and activities for the summer

Camp Roger is West Michigan’s summer camp for kids. You’re invited to have your kids join the fun at Camp Roger’s overnight camp in Rockford, or Camp Scottie’s Day Camp, located in Howard City!

Camp Scottie features eight sessions, so there are plenty of opportunities to find a week that fits into your family’s summer schedule. The camp is open to children in grades k-5th, in the fall of 2018. Camp Roger is filling up fast, and features four or eight-day sessions. The first session starts June 11, and the final session begins August 13, with plenty of fun planned for the summer season.

Summer camp develops a child’s independence, builds faith, and grows friendships while sharing the wonderful experiences of beautiful woods and lakes. To find out more information, go to www.camproger.org. Financial assistance is available.

Precision Chiropractic offers solution for chronic pain

Dr. Steve Mikulak DC and Dr. Christopher Kent DC, of Precision Chiropractic, are now offering a non-surgical spinal decompression treatment. It is a safe, drug-free treatment that works by gently lengthening and releasing the spine, creating negative pressures within the spinal discs.

This reversal of pressure creates a vacuum within the disc space, and helps to pull the bulging disc material back into place, taking pressure off the pinched nerves and surrounding soft tissue. Nutrients, oxygen, and fluids are also pulled back into the disc, which helps stimulate the bodies healing process. Lasting results for chronic back and neck pain have been achieved with this innovative technology.

Please call (616) 866-0150 to find out more information and to set up an appointment.

Stites Eye Care offers new solution to contact lens wearers looking for comfort

Most contact lens wearers suffer from dry eye discomfort or dry eye symptoms at some point during the day. CooperVision has designed a new contact lens that has revolutionized comfort for dry eye patients.

These new daily disposable contact lenses are made of silicone. Silicone lenses are a healthier alternative to the traditional contact lens materials. They allow more oxygen to pass through to your corneas than the older generation of soft lenses. Silicone creates a highly “breathable” lens that promotes whiter, brighter eyes and decreases the severity of end of day dryness and discomfort. Cooper’s patented silicone material naturally attracts and binds water molecules to the lens surface, so your eyes can stay moist and comfortable throughout your day.

“In the 25 years that I have been fitting contact lenses, this is easily the most universally liked lens that I have worked with,” said Dr. Carl Stites. Over 40 percent of all contact lens wearers in the United States currently wear daily disposable contact lenses. All of the contact lens manufacturers have multiple types of daily lenses to choose from which has driven the prices down considerably over the last five years. Daily disposable Wearers also don’t have to buy solutions which saves $125 over the course of 12 months. Allergy sufferers also benefit by being able to wear fresh, clean lenses every day and the risk of infection is the lowest of all types of contact lenses.

If you would like a free trial of this fantastic new lens, call (616) 863-2020, and set up an appointment – and discover the difference these new lenses can make.
Dr. Andrew Lidral is proud to introduce new staff to continue providing individualized patient care in an expanding practice. These new team members were hired because they are the best of the best. Here is a full summary of the team, which includes previous members.

Diane Clare, Receptionist and Financial/Insurance Coordinator

Diane brings to the office an education in Business Administration, and also Insurance billing and coding. She brings 15 years of experience in the health care field, including 7 years in orthodontics. She also serves as the office HIPAA compliance officer.

“My husband and I relocated to Grand Rapids in 2012. After visiting the area often, we decided we would like to be part of the great downtown area and proximity Lake Michigan activities. We have two adult daughters. The oldest one and family (our only grandchild) live in Florida and the other daughter joined us in Grand Rapids. I relish the privilege of joining this team in July 2017, as the accounts receivable/insurance coordinator and receptionist. I believe that

and children along with friends. I love being outdoors and attending horse shows. My native state is Ohio, but I’m happy to call beautiful West Michigan my home. Two of my children attend Rockford High School.”

Sam Fifield, Orthodontic Assistant

Sam brings nine years of Dental Assisting experience, obtaining her certificate through Everest Institute. Subsequently, she worked in general dentistry before returning back to school at Washburn Community College and successfully passing the state examination to earn her Registered Dental Assistant certificate.

She provides hands on clinical care and assists Dr. Lidral with four-handed orthodontic techniques. In addition, she is the practice OSHA compliance and radiation safety officer, positions she held in her previous job. Sam loves most is getting to know our patients and helping them enhance their smiles.

“I enjoy spending time with my two kids and amazing husband. We love to camp and spend time on our beautiful farm where we raise cattle that sometimes get loose. We also grow corn and beans, plus we have an odd duck or two. I love to be outdoors, walking and enjoying what Michigan has to offer.”

Ruthann Bonney, Receptionist

Of course, everyone knows Ruthann. She’s the friendly, helpful staff of Lidral Orthodontics is ready to assist you in all your orthodontic needs. Lidral Orthodontics is located at 158 Marcell, Rockford.

The staff of Macatawa Bank invites you to come with a picture of the family and why you’d like to nominate them.

Historia Collective Photo + Video loves... Historia Collective is excited to announce the launch of the Rockford Wedding Studio, located at 15 N. Main St., in downtown Rockford. They’re ramping up their new business and planning for a fall Beer Hop Bridal Show. Engaged couples purchase a ticket to ride a bus between different breweries for beer samples and to meet wedding vendors who can serve them on their big day.

Historia Collective Photo + Video loves the Rockford community and wants to give back! They’re looking for submissions for a family who is in need of updated portraits and aren’t able to afford a session due to a life situation. They’re looking for a family that is battling a life-threatening sickness, an accident, or some other family trauma. Historia Collective wants to make a difference in that family’s difficult journey. Nominate a family by emailing lisa@historiacollective.com with a picture of the family and why you’d like to nominate them.

For more information, call (616) 360-7972.

Dr. Lidral has built a strong team and this practice brings growth opportunity, professional service and great asset to the Rockford area.”

Deb Kaser, Treatment Coordinator, Receptionist and Orthodontic Assistant

Deb brings a diverse set of skills, including 20 years of orthodontic assisting experience. She is a both a licensed Registered Dental Assistant and an Expanded Function Dental Assistant. Furthermore, she has taught dental assisting at the College level, most recently as an adjunct professor at Grand Rapids Community College. Moreover, she has a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration/Marketing from Grand Canyon University, in Phoenix.

As both the treatment coordinator and an assistant, she strives to understand patient needs and guide them through the transition into treatment. In addition, she is our infection control compliance officer, a position she held at GRCC.

“I find most rewarding are building relationships with patients, family and the community. In my free time, I enjoy time with my husband and amazing husband. We love to camp and spend time on our beautiful farm where we raise cattle that sometimes get loose. We also grow corn and beans, plus we have an odd duck or two. I love to be outdoors, walking and enjoying what Michigan has to offer.”

Ruthann Bonney, Receptionist

Of course, everyone knows Ruthann. She’s been with the practice for over 20 years and has lived in Rockford for even longer. In her own words, “I love to greet our patients with a welcoming smile as they arrive at our office. I help schedule patient appointments and coordinating patient care. I enjoy helping and serving our patients and their families in any way I can. I love connecting with people! It is so rewarding to celebrate with our patients and families the beautiful smiles we create together! I am blessed with a wonderful husband of 40 years, three awesome daughters and two amazing grandchildren! My greatest desire is to love a life that honors God and blesses and encourages others. I enjoy the outdoors and love camping and hiking in the mountains. I also love spending quality time with family and friends.”

Renae Urho, Orthodontic Assistant

Renae brings 15 years of dental experience including 6 years of orthodontic experience. She obtained her Dental assistant training at the Olympia Career Training Institute in Grand Rapids. Most recently she worked as a receptionist for our neighbors, the Center for Oral Surgery and Dental Implants where she gained invaluable knowledge about the front office aspects of a dental clinic. Thus she knows all aspects of a clinical practice. She loved her job, but dearly missed hands on care.

Quite literally opportunity knocked at our door and we’re blessed to have her caring for our family of patients. She also manages our clinical inventory and is compliance officer for medical and hazardous waste. She’s our Eveready bunny that gets things done behind the scenes.

“I’m a Rockford native and love that I’ve been able to return to work in my hometown. I have two wonderful boys that play hockey, baseball and golf, so I’m a bit of a sports mom. I love the outdoors, spending time with family and walks with my lovable labradoodle, Rocky. My faith and family are what pull me through life.”

In summary, Dr. Lidral is delighted to have such a talented and warm-hearted staff to fulfill the practice mission statement, which is, “Lidral Orthodontics Provides Personalized, Quality Care to Improve and Serve the Lives of Others” and the slogan of “Brightening Life One Smile at a Time.”

Lidral Orthodontics is open Monday-Thursday and accepting new patients. Please call (616) 866-3010, to set up an appointment or for more information.

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Macatawa Bank brings back Thirsty Thursdays for the summer.

Macatawa Bank is pleased to announce the return of their popular “Thirsty Thursdays,” featuring delicious ice cream floats. The staff at the bank serve up the floats from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Thursday, from June through August. These events are free to anyone.

“We hold this fun celebration each year to celebrate our wonderful community,” said Kim Neveau, AVP, Rockford Branch Manager.

“What better way than with ice cream? Our whole Rockford Macatawa Bank branch team looks forward to seeing you.”

Macatawa Bank is located at 2820 10 Mile Rd., Rockford.

Wedding studio making mark in Rockford

Historia Collective is excited to announce the launch of the Rockford Wedding Studio, located at 15 N. Main St., in downtown Rockford. They’re ramping up their new business and planning for a fall Beer Hop Bridal Show. Engaged couples purchase a ticket to ride a bus between different breweries for beer samples and to meet wedding vendors who can serve them on their big day.

Historia Collective Photo + Video loves the Rockford community and wants to give back! They’re looking for submissions for a family who is in need of updated portraits and aren’t able to afford a session due to a life situation. They’re looking for a family that is battling a life-threatening sickness, an accident, or some other family trauma. Historia Collective wants to make a difference in that family’s difficult journey. Nominate a family by emailing lisa@historiacollective.com with a picture of the family and why you’d like to nominate them.

For more information, call (616) 360-7972.

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For more information, call (616) 360-7972.
Women At Risk offers unique ways to honor the women in your life

Spring is in full swing, and summer is just around the corner! As your church, community organizations, and social groups plan activities, let Women At Risk (WAR, Int’l) lighten your load by providing a “pop-up boutique” for your events and get-togethers. We make it easy for you, and we even pay the shipping. You just enjoy!

Yet a WAR, Int’l pop-up boutique is so much more than just a unique and easy-to-plan activity. It’s also a great way to encourage your group to “be love in action.” Nearly all the jewelry, accessories, spa products, and other items we sell are created by survivors or those at risk of being trafficked, exploited or abused. Purchasing the work of their hands helps restore their dignity and empowers them to live in safety and freedom.

Here are three ideas for hosting a WAR, Int’l pop-up boutique this spring and summer. Which one works for your group?

1. A “pop-up boutique” for your events and get-togethers. We make it easy for a spring retreat, day out, or other event, tell them you have them covered! A pop-up boutique with WAR, Int’l product is a great opportunity for women to get together for fellowship during the long days of summer. Let the busy moms in your church or group spend time with other women, relax, and enjoy some needed “space” while helping create safe, nurturing spaces for those at risk.

2. If you’re ready to set a date for your WAR, Int’l pop-up boutique, or if you’re interested and want more information, call (616) 855-0796 to get started.

3. A WAR, Int’l product party is a great opportunity for a spring retreat, day out, or other activity for a spring retreat, day out, or other event.

Rockford Brewing Company announces news and events

Rockford Brewing Company (RBC) is proud to have won multiple World Expo of Beer awards at the competition in Frankenmuth, Mich. Their awards include: Bronze - American Blonde - Carriage House; Silver - Scotch - Creammoos; Silver - European Sour - Liliana Maria; and Bronze - Spiced Beer - Rhubarb Radler. Liliana Maria was released in 2018 and is RBC’s first sour beer. More than 80 breweries competed this year.

RBC is also excited to announce a new spring menu and a new brunch menu. RBC’s spring 2018 menu includes delicious additions such as a shrimp po’ boy sandwich, a Korean beef burrito, fried chicken, oysters (every day) and much more. The 2018 brunch menu features a huge French toast platter, savory biscuits and gravy, a hearty breweyer’s breakfast sandwich and much more. Brunch is served each Sunday from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

RBC will also be releasing the second sour in their four-part sour series this month. Sour beer lovers can enjoy the Maya Amelia, wild sour ale. Each bottle in the series will represent the daughters of RBC owners, Seth & Jeff.

On Sunday, June 10, RBC and CityBuilt Brewing Company (CBBC) will be hosting Built So Fly, a group bike event. Cyclists will arrive at CBBC at 11 a.m. where a breakfast buffet will be provided then they will depart on their 13-mile ride to RBC via Monroe Street and the White Pine Trail. Riders will then enjoy free live music, tacos and $1 off beers in the Start of Summer beer tent. This is a free event.

Gordon Water celebrates 45 years in business, Lomonaco earns award

Gordon Water Systems is excited to be celebrating 45 years of helping families and businesses have clean, safe water via water treatment solutions and bottled water service.

Water softening has been their backbone for all 45 years, but over the years they added drinking water systems, rain and odor systems, and specialty equipment, as well as high purity, bottled water service. Non-Electric Kinetico equipment has been helping to address the concerns of families and businesses regarding the reduction of the most recent contamination of PFOS in groundwater.

Gordon Dauerhof started the business in 1973 and worked out of his home. Since then, Gordon Water Systems has grown to three locations in West Michigan with a fourth location at 4680 14 Mile Rd., opening soon. The fourth location is due to customers requesting a more convenient location in northern Kent County, and Gordon Water answered.

Gordon Water Systems is happy to announce that their Water Specialist Chad Lomonaco, who covers the northern Kent County area, won the Golden Award from Kinetico Incorporated. Lomonaco exhibited excellence in professionalism and customer service that was in the top 10 percent of all Water Specialists across the country.

Chad enjoyed a trip to Punta Cana with his wife this past April and he earned an extra day in paradise.
Coldwell Banker hosts special event, finds loving homes for dogs

On Saturday, May 5, Coldwell Banker AJS-Schmidt’s Rockford office partnered with Cober’s Canine Rescue for their second dog adoption event. The event started at 10 a.m., with nine adoptable dogs present, as well as many volunteers from both Coldwell Banker and the rescue.

By the end of the event, six dogs had been adopted to new loving homes. Among them was Hansel, who was adopted by one of Coldwell Banker’s own Realtors, Jim Shafer and his wife Leah. (Jim, Leah and Hansel are in the included photo.)

Finding homes for a mission is dear to Coldwell Banker.

Unique shop offers plenty for your decorating needs, flair for talent

The Mason Jar opened its doors March 24, at 5167 Northland Dr. in Grand Rapids, and has already delighted plenty of customers. The shop features plenty of unique merchandise sure to capture your personality and flair for decorating.

Jenny Carmichael, Christy Shimaitis, and Teresa Krokow have joined forces – and talents – to offer an impressive array of merchandise, including furniture, paint, candles, custom pieces, adorable gifts, and custom signs.

One of the unique offerings The Mason Jar has is it allows customers to bring in their old furniture and they will add their talent to paint and refurbish your piece to make it one of your most treasured decorative pieces.

Also on the roster are fun “crafter” classes sure to capture visitor’s talent. Some of the classes for adults continue to see growth

Druckenmiller Painting LLC. has been in business one year and has earned an excellent reputation in Rockford and the surrounding area. And, within that year the painting company has experienced impressive growth, adding employees to handle the work load.

Chad Druckenmiller, owner and operator, graduated from Rockford High School in 1999 and still resides in the community with his wife and two sons. He enjoys the fact that he stayed in his hometown and is able to do something he loves for a living.

“We cover the spectrum when it comes to residential and commercial painting,” explained Druckenmiller. “We like to do new construction as well as remodels. We can spray stain, latex, oil and lacquer. Whether it’s interior or exterior, small or large, we are the team that can complete your dream. Our great customer service and quality of work is why our reputation continues to spread through Rockford and beyond.”

You’re invited to call (616) 632-4866 for a free, no-pressure estimate. Also, for more information, you can find Druckenmiller Painting on Facebook.

“We’d like to thank our customers, vendors and community for being so supportive and putting your trust in Druckenmiller Painting,” said Druckenmiller.

That is why they founded the Homes for Dogs Project, a partnership with Adopt-a-Pet.com aimed at helping adoptable dogs find loving homes. Together, this pairing has helped more than 20,000 dogs find homes and they are poised to continue this effort. Coldwell Banker’s Rockford office is planning a third Dog Adoption Day this fall. You’re invited to contact their office for more information at (616) 866-4434.

If you are interested in adopting or fostering a dog, please contact Lisa Cober of Cober’s Canines at cobercaninerescue@gmail.com or by visiting caninesrescue.com.

Local business offers new service to home buyers

1st Call Home Inspection is pleased to annonuce it now offers sewer pipe video inspections to local home buyers. Often overlooked by home buyers, the connecting pipes between a home and its municipal sewer connection becomes their financial responsibility upon purchase. A sewer scoping is a wise investment in many cases.

The integrity of a sewer “lateral” can deteriorate as it ages. Tree and shrubbery roots can infiltrate older pipes, and even separate or break sections at the joints. Roots and settling soils can also place, offset, or distort pipes enough to cause conditions conducive to clogging. Sewer pipes over 20 years of age are good candidates for remote video inspections.

The sewer pipe inspection can either identify such problems or confirm sewer laterals to be in good service condition. Once inspected, the home owner can review the results with their Realtor to determine their best course of action. Of course, all identified problems must be resolved by a licensed plumber. 1st Call Home Inspection only provides this neutral, third-party inspection service for sewer pipes with no known issues.

Since sewer scoping exceeds the scope of a general home inspection, most home inspectors do not offer the service. 1st Call is proud to be among the few who do. The additional service fee is far less than scheduling a separate service call from a plumber while giving home buyers more knowledge about their home purchase.

For more information, or to schedule an inspection, call Grant at (616) 520-1052.
The Corner Bar: A look at the past with an eye on the future

The Corner Bar has had a lot of histories about special events. According to owner Jeff Lewis, "The new event space is going to be awesome. We will be able to host small parties or accommodate larger gatherings."

The team is still working on logistics and with the unpredictable nature of indoor events they aren’t committing to events until later in the fall and winter. However, Wolfe says that he welcomes inquiries. Those interested in discussing a future event can reach out to the Corner Bar via their Facebook page or at info@rockfordcornerbar.com.

Wolfe also reports a very cool addition to the history of the historic Corner Bar and the building. During construction, workers found a time capsule in the building’s foundation. The capsule is a 1989 capsule in the building’s foundation. The capsule was delivered to the history museum where local historians are studying and cataloging the find.

The capsule is an important and interesting reminder of the long history the Corner Bar and the building have in Rockford. And, as the new space is being developed, it is a sign of things to come for the Corner Bar. The Corner Bar will continue to play a vital (and very tasty) role in the future of the city.

Movers for Moms program makes difference in communities

On the second Sunday in May, moms across the county are deservedly showed with attention on Mother’s Day. Unfortunately, while most moms are being treated to breakfast in bed or flower deliveries, tens of thousands of women spend their Mother’s Day in shelters due to homelessness or domestic violence.

Heartbreaking statistics from the Domestic Violence Resource Center state that one in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime, and an estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year. According to a national study from the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, approximately 25 percent of homeless women or those homeless because of violence in the home.

As a way to show love and appreciation to mothers this Mother’s Day, TWO MEN AND A TRUCK® Grand Rapids recently hosted Movers for Moms® collection drive to provide critical gifts to local women staying in community shelters this spring.

The Corner Bar via their Facebook page or at info@rockfordcornerbar.com.

Postcard GR welcomes new employee

Postcard GR/Easy Mail welcomes new employee Sarah grew up in Reed City, Mich., and later attended West Shore Community College where she earned her degree in Marketing and Management. After living in Mason County for six years, she returned to West Michigan and the Rockford area. She is excited to be a part of the Postcard GR family and to play a role in community. Sarah comes to this position with a background in sales, marketing, and management. Her experience spans the manufactoring/healthcare, online publishing, and fitness industries. She loves meeting new people and growing community and is working to develop and create the new programs for Postcard GR/Easy Mail. You can reach Sarah at (616) 262-5880 or email her at sarah@postcardgr.com.

Find your fun adventure at Battle GR

In the summer of 2018, Battle Grand Rapids is adding Archery Tag to their mobile set up. In the summer of 2018, we are adding Archery Tag to our mobile set up. Our mobile laser tag and archery tag set up will always have a special place in our heart, but we are loving our arena laser tag set up just as much. We are continuing to grow and provide fun memories to those in the community.

Their arena is open Fridays and Saturdays and groups may reserve the arena during the week. Battle GR has seven different objective-based games. They feature tactical play, which means dimmed warehouse lighting and their taggers have red/green safety lights to help identify who you are. To add extra excitement to loyal customers, they change their arena around every so often to keep their taggers a different playing field.

If you’d rather not travel, Battle GR offers the unique ability to come to you! They bring their army replica guns and mobile bar-tenders to your party. They’ll come to your home, church, business, park, or other place for a memorable event.

Big or small events, we got you covered for fun, says Lashuay. “We service the surrounding communities,” adds Lashuay.

Battle GR is located at 4735 Lake Michigan Dr, NW, Suite E Grand Rapids. For more information, call (616) 345-0698, or go to battlegri.com.