The Start of Summer Celebration (SOS) is celebrating its 51st year of supplying plenty of entertainment, food, fun and thrills in noting the start of another school year. The event features a long weekend with a schedule packed full of family entertainment. This year’s event will take place in downtown Rockford, June 13 through 16 with “Community Night” and then follow with three days of summer fun from June 14-16.

The celebration will again feature all the favorites that has made this event a community jewel. The event will be highlighted by a parade, fireworks (Saturday at dusk), carnival rides, Movie on the Rogue (Mary Poppins), beer tents, food vendors, crafters, Merchant Alley, vintage baseball games, Rotary Big Daddy Duck Race, obstacle course by Rock Fit Ninja,” shares Kathy Munger, one of the organizers of the reading festival. “It starts Saturday at downtown Rockford. One of this year’s special guests will be Byron Center middle school teacher and author Erica Emelander. Erica writes the historical fiction series, “The Turner Daughters,” which takes place during the Civil War era. Erica dresses in vintage garb to tell her tale.

A crowd favorite for many years, Paleo Joe which takes place during the Civil War era. Paleo Joe will be back to entertain avid readers. For inspiration for young writers, 10-year-old author Oummu Kabba will be present to share her story of publishing four books. A certain area – you can know if you qualify for the City to thank its residents for a great year. City of Rockford residents are defined by whether or not you pay taxes to the City of Rockford. Those residents who qualify for wristbands can purchase them for $15 Wednesday or Thursday, June 12 and June 13, from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. at the City of Rockford offices, 7 S. Monroe. You must bring proof of where you live to purchase the wristbands. All others who want to attend the carnival on Community Night must go to the carnival itself on Thursday, and can purchase wristbands for regular price. These special wristbands are valid only on Community Night.

Reading Rocks geared for special Saturday

Everyone’s favorite festival for the imagination, Reading Rocks in Rockford is ready for another round of fun. The annual event is slated for Saturday, June 1 from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. in downtown Rockford. This whimsical Rockford event features a sidewalk parade marching to the beat of the talented Rockford High School drum line, children’s activities, Hook-a-Book, Friends of the Library book sale, face painting, Paws with a Cause therapy dogs and wonderful storybook characters. A Street Art Tent, ran by RHS students, is sure to inspire creativity from little ones.

The sidewalk parade kicks off the reading fest and shares Kathy Munger, one of the organizers of the reading festival. “It starts outside Krause Library at 9:45. Anybody and everybody can be in the parade and are invited to come dressed up!”

Children can learn the joy of reading through many activities, including meeting authors, which will be set up on Author’s Row. One of this year’s special guests will be Byron Center middle school teacher and author Erica Emelander. Erica writes the historical fiction series, “The Turner Daughters,” which takes place during the Civil War era. Erica dresses in vintage garb to tell her tale. A crowd favorite for many years, Paleo Joe will be back to entertain avid readers. For inspiration for young writers, 10-year-old author Oummu Kabba will be present to share her story of publishing four books.

Always working to inspire reading, the event will honor 225 Rockin’ Readers. One student is selected by every elementary classroom in Rockford and each will be awarded certificates during special ceremonies. Reading Rocks in Rockford’s focus is setting a foundation for a love of reading that carries through a youngster’s life to make them highly successful as adults. It is all about time spent broadening horizons and learning from the written word. The literary festival is one way the organization helps children discover the love of reading.
Celebrate a traditional Christmas in downtown Rockford will be sure to help you and your family slow down to turn on thousands of twinkling lights. The Lighting Ceremony as the crowd counts down to turn on thousands of twinkling lights. The carriage rides are Thursday, Dec. 7 & 14 and Friday, Dec. 8 & 15 and Saturday, Dec. 2 & 9.<br><br>Footwear Depot and RE/MAX United are a huge favorite for locals and visitors alike. From Rockford Footwear Depot, the bark from Rockford Footwear Depot. They have hosted riders from not only around Rockford, along with Santa visits in the pavilion. Enjoy the variety of quaint shops that make our community different than other thrift stores; the money you appreciate having fresh fruits and vegetables due in part to the success of the North Kent Empowerment Program, a program for women with children that helps different than other thrift stores; the money you appreciate having fresh fruits and vegetables due in part to the success of the North Kent Empowerment Program, a program for women with children that helps. North Kent Connect’s Program Director Chérie Elahl at practice of Brieden-Miller Orthodontics. The Chamber hosted a Ribbon Cutting for Tamarack Run Condominiums, located adjacent to Rum Creek on N. Monroe St. Tamarack Run, with its unique development style and proximity to downtown Rockford, has been anticipated for more than three years. The RCC offers plenty of “perks” when you become a member, including networking, event, volunteer and sponsorship opportunities. The Chamber hosted a New Member Orientation, Wednesday, April 24, and shared plenty of information with its newest family members.

To advertise in the next “Rogue Review,” please call (616) 866-4465.
- Quarterly publication in the Rockford Squire Newspaper
- 12,000 copies distributed
Lidral Orthodontics celebrates second successful year

Lidral Orthodontics is celebrating their second successful year in practice and wants to reach out and thank the Rockford area for their incredible support.

The orthodontics practice is an active member of the Chamber, a proud sponsor of many community programs such as the Rockford Education Foundation, Rockford Kids Cup, Rockford Swim team, Odyssey of the Mind and many Rockford community events.

Their practice mission statement is, “Provide personalized, quality care to improve and serve the lives of others” and our practice slogan is “Brightening life one smile at a time.” They are passionate about building relationships, which takes time and is so essential to achieving trust and understanding each person’s unique goals.

Lidral Orthodontics welcomes open arms people from all walks of life. It’s a place where families and individuals with special needs can turn to for trusted and compassionate orthodontic care.

Respect for patient autonomy is a key principle in providing individualized care,” shares Dr. Lidral. “I love bumping into my patients around town. It gives me a sense of connection. After all relationships are what life is all about. It is an honor to be able to work in and serving such a vibrant, family oriented community.”

The team would also like to welcome Tracie Simons to their office. Like all their team members, she wears multiple hats including Receptionist, Financial Coordinator and HIPAA Officer.

Tracie comes to the team with over 20 years of office administration experience in the health, dental, and higher education fields. She received her diploma for Healthcare and Dental Administrative Assistant from Grand Rapids Educational Center. She grew up in Northview area and enjoys music festivals, traveling, kayaking, hiking, snowshoeing, camping, yoga, crafting, cooking, and reading. She is very passionate about nature conservation, protecting our water sources and planet, science (especially cosmology), diversity, human rights and Secular Humanism. She is also a member of both the Center for Inquiry and the American Humanist Association.

“I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with everyone who visits Lidral Orthodontics,” says Tracie.

Tamarack Run Condominiums under way

Vision has become reality as the long-anticipated Tamarack Run Condominium project is well under way. Located adja- cent to Rum Creek on N. Monroe St., the unique development style and proximity to downtown Rockford has been anticipated for more than three years. Walkable neighborhoods and urban amenities are major trends in real estate development across the nation as homeowners embrace the value of life, work, play communities to fit active lifestyles. Tamarack Run is the first such community in Rockford, and northern Kent County for that matter, to recognize lifestyle as a design/development feature and bring a project to market. Two model units are completed and furnished for display to the public. Featuring quality finishes, well-lit spaces, and accessible designs, the models highlight the trend for flexible spaces, energy efficiency, and open floor plans.

Developer Marcel Burgler, from Prime Development, worked tirelessly with the City of Rockford, community and business groups, to bring the project to life.

“The overarching mission was to bring a pocket community to Rockford that fit not only the current trends for walkable neighborhoods and access to dining and shopping, but also blend in with the existing residential homes and be harmonious with the natural features of the land,” shares Burgler.

The development is located along Rum Creek on the north side of the neighborhood and the Mill Ponds wetland to southeast. The redevelopment of the former Burch Body Works site will include better definition of the wetlands for habitat and a return to native plantings and trees along the Rum Creek watershed. Infrastructure at the street and over the creek will be improved. Rain water management on the site will include plantings in a “rain garden” setting to cool and direct water flow into Rum Creek and improve the habitat for native trout.

Tina Johnson, of RE/MAX United and Marketing Manager for the development, feels the proximity to downtown Rockford will be a big attraction for many.

“We have seen the demand for homes in downtown Rockford rise dramatically over the past few years and we just don’t have enough quality homes available to meet demand,” says Johnson. “Tamarack Run is just a couple minute walk to the nearest restaurants and shops downtown or to the White Pine and Rum Creek Trails. Empty-nesters and Up and comers are really looking for the same setting: walk to dinner, walk to shop, and easy access to nature and trails. We are not aware of any development in Kent County that checks all of the boxes for such a cross section of homeowners.”

The development is currently taking reservations allowing future residents the chance to choose the style and location in the community and the time to plan out their move if they have a current home to sell.

ChoiceOne Bank helps Sparta Area Migrant Resource Council

ChoiceOne Bank committed to donate $2,000 to Sparta Area Migrant Resource Council to help the children of the migrant and farm working families in the area with their school needs.

ChoiceOne Bank specifically donating funds to help purchase tennis shoes for the upcoming school year.

“ChoiceOne Bank is located in the heart of one of the most diverse and abundant agricultural regions in our country,” says President and CEO Kelly Potes. “Because we have become the local choice and have a unique understanding of what it means to work with everyone who visits Lidral Orthodontics, we have decided to support the families of local farm employees.”

ChoiceOne Bank presents $2,000 to the Sparta Area Migrant Resource Council, pictured (l-R) Bonnie Koehn, VP - Client Development, ChoiceOne Bank; Carrie Olson, VP - Client Development, ChoiceOne Bank; Cheryl Gregware, Customer Service Center Assistant Manager, ChoiceOne Bank; Patricia Brown, VP – Commercial Loan Officer, ChoiceOne Bank; Konrad Raciulawski, Branch Manager Officer, ChoiceOne Bank; Adam Greenland, SVP – Chief Operating Officer, ChoiceOne Bank; Mary Rangel, SAMRC Chairperson; Jamie Jasso, SAMRC Secretary; Linda Aguilar, SAMRC Member.

ChoiceOne Bank presents $2,000 to the Sparta Area Migrant Resource Council to help the children of the migrant and farm working families in the area with their school needs.

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Kimberly’s Boutique to celebrate 26 years in June

There is a store in downtown Rockford that has become every woman’s “best friend.” Once a client walks in the door she feels like she has found where she belongs. Not only does music greet you when you enter, so does Kimberly’s expert fashionistas who are ready to help you find the perfect answer in your quest to define “you” - or perhaps that unique gift you are looking for.

Kimberly’s will be celebrating 26 years in business in June, and it’s easy to see why the boutique has been so successful. The store was founded by Kimberly Smith and you can see her personality – and style – throughout the store. She travels plenty in her drive to find the unparalleled merchandise that is featured throughout the store. The store’s landscape changes often, always reflecting the season and celebrating the various holidays with whimsical displays that beg to be explored.

The largest Brighton dealer in northern Kent County, Kimberly’s also features the popular Tribal line, and is a true boutique.

It not only offers the latest clothing fashions in sizes 4-16, but plenty of accessories so clients can capture a truly polished look. The boutique features 700 square feet of jewelry, handbags, sunglasses, premium candles, apparel and plenty of home décor, too.

Once you’ve visited Kimberly’s Boutique you’re sure to visit your “best friend” time and time again. She’s made plenty over her 26 years of existence - and is sure to make plenty more as the years march on.

Kimberly’s Boutique is conveniently located in downtown Rockford at 54 Courtland St. For more information, please call (616) 866-6970. Hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

Herman’s Boy offers pick-up catering

Herman’s Boy is ready to help with all of your Open House, family reunion, Fourth of July and summer picnic or party needs. The company now does pick-up catering for any type of event or number of guests.

New this year, are single-bite cupcakes in a variety of offerings. Also new, Bagel Pups, which are their world-famous bagel dogs in small bite-sized portions! This is in addition to their slow smoked pulled pork and baby back ribs, chicken wings, baked beans, coleslaw, cauliflower salad, cheese and meat trays, bagel chips and cheese spreads and dips. The bagel sandwiches can be made to order and trayed, cut in half if requested, with deluxe toppings on the side.

Whether it be for a breakfast meeting, lunch or even a casual reception, Herman’s Boy is here to help. Please call (616) 866-2900 for details.

Ask us about catering!

Herman’s Boy is ready to provide you with catering solutions. They have sandwich trays, baked treats, meat and cheese trays, coffee to go, pulled pork and sides, and more.

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CHAMBER HAPPENINGS

United Bank hosted the RCC’s After Hours event, Monday, May 6. Plenty of fun and networking went on as the bank team opened their doors and showcased their business.

The Score played host, Monday March 25, for the Chamber’s Bi-Monthly Luncheon. Both members and non-members were able to network, enjoy the surroundings and a delicious food as part of the event.

It was exciting for RCC members to be able to tour and enjoy the Corner Bar after the Rockford icon was rebuilt after a catastrophic fire. One of Rockford’s favorite eateries played host for February’s Bi-Monthly Luncheon.

More than 40 attendees enjoyed a presentation by Dr. Kevin Mays of Mays Leadership recently at the Business Builders Breakfast. Dr. Mays spoke about being “Positively Successful” and gave plenty of insight into how to accomplish goals. The event took place at the Community Cabin, Wednesday, April 17, and Cannonsburg Catering provided the breakfast food for the presentation.
Macatawa Bank celebrates community in delicious ways

There’s so much to love about Macatawa Bank! Whether you’re looking for a new checking account, a great loan rate, or simply want to learn more about God, our team is here to help.

Learn more about God.

Songs together as kids gather as a group to favorite times are attending chapel or singing our beautiful woods and lakes. Some of our all-camp games get campers outside into canoeing, nature crafts, archery, and epic counter God and encounter nature. Each camp session intentionally creates space for kids to encounter God and encounter nature.

Also, the community is invited to join them, Monday June 24, for their Community Appreciation Day from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. with their MacShack Wagon. They will be serving FREE hotdogs, chips, and ice cream.

Action Tax: Tax Service throughout the year

April 15 may signal the end of tax season for many people, but for the staff at Action Tax Service the work continues year ’round! Appointments are available to assist clients with tax related questions and to help plan for the 2019 tax season.

Their current office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you need assistance, please call (616) 866-4704 and they will be happy to help!

Get outside this summer at Camp Roger

Wondering how to keep your child active and outdoors this summer? Camp Roger (Rockford) and Camp Scottie (Howard City) have terrific options for every age group.

They are excited about the new pricing model which expands support to help families pay for camp. Camps choose the fee that matches their annual household income. This flexible pricing can be used for up to four sessions of day camp and two sessions of overnight camp per camper. There’s even a sibling discount for overnight camp.

Each camp session intentionally creates space for kids to encounter God and encounter nature. Classic camping activities such as swimming, canoeing, nature crafts, archery, and epic all-camp games get campers outside into our beautiful woods and lakes. Some of our favorite times are attending chapel or singing songs together as kids gather as a group to learn more about God.

Day Camp at Camp Scottie in Howard City: For kids entering K -5, these five-day sessions are all the fun of camp without staying overnight. Our bus service (additional fee) is a helpful option for busy parents with pick-ups along US 131. Each session has a theme, providing kids with a fun variety of activities throughout the summer. Choose one session or more to fit your child.

4-Day Overnight Camp at Camp Roger in Rockford: For kids entering grades 1 - 5, this session is a great option for first time campers and younger campers. Many classic camp activities and age-appropriate programming help campers adjust to being away from home, engaging them and encouraging new friendships.

4-Day Overnight Camp at Camp Roger in Rockford: For kids entering grades 3 - 9, these longer sessions are full of creative programing. Campers can choose from activities such as canoeing, fishing, jumping off the rope swing above Little Bostwick Lake, snorkeling, leather crafts, brailing gimp, archery, etc. A special part of this session is our campout, a night of tent camping and cooking over a campfire.

iChiro Clinics is proud to announce that CEO Dr. Michael Kwast, DC, CSCS was selected to be the 2019 Arthritis Foundation’s Medical Honoree for the walk at Millenium Park that took place in Grand Rapids, May 5. They are excited to be a part of the solution to end arthritis pain and suffering, and helping patients achieve a higher quality of life. iChiro Clinics is celebrating its 20th year helping patients, and has four locations in the Grand Rapids area.

For over 26 years, northern Kent County has been home to Alpha Family Center, an organization that has supported over 6,000 families making life decisions. Chrysal New- man, long-time resident of Rockford, has taken on the role of Development Director. She will work to increase Alpha’s presence within the community by building relationships with individuals, churches and businesses.

“I have been a supporter of Alpha Famil- iy Center for years and know the tremendous reputation it has within the community,” says Chrysal. “I am humbled to be part of such a dedicated organization.”

When asked how the community could help, Chrysal stated that the Board of Directors is seeking two items in the immediate future. First, a “generally used” passenger van is needed for transporting clients. “We have seen too many women over the years unable to take advantage of community services because of lack of trans- portation.” The second way the community can help is by making a monetary donation to assist in paying off the existing mortgage balance of approximately $23,000.

Alpha Family Center is known for providing an array of services to the community, including parenting education, material support with clothing, formula and dia- pers, etc., self-administered pregnancy tests, options education, as well as an onsite GED and high school diploma program. The Center’s board members are: Chuck Smith, Michael Kornoely, Tom Kastra, Janice MacFarlane and Laurie Russo.

Anyone wishing to volunteer or make donations can contact Alpha Family Center at (616) 169-2616.

Alpha Family Center welcomes Development Director

The team at Macatawa Bank is inviting you to join them again this year for their popular “Thirsty Thursdays” featuring their famous root beer floats! Their whole Rockford Macatawa Bank branch team looks forward to seeing you.

Each camp session intentionally creates space for kids to encounter God and encounter nature. Wondering how to keep your child active and outdoors this summer? Camp Roger (Rockford) and Camp Scottie (Howard City) have terrific options for every age group.

Rockford: For kids entering grades 3 – 9, these five-day sessions are all the fun of camp without staying overnight. Our bus service (additional fee) is a helpful option for busy parents with pick-ups along US 131. Each session has a theme, providing kids with a fun variety of activities throughout the summer. Choose one session or more to fit your child.

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Twila Bennett, Communications Director at Camp Roger. “We are available to answer any questions you may have on the type of session that is right for your child.” For more information call (616) 874-7286, or go to www.CampRoger.org/summer-camp.
Local painting co. celebrates two-year milestone

Druckenmiller Painting is closing in on their second anniversary and wants to thank everyone who has been a part of the journey. The company paints the interiors and exteriors of homes and commercial buildings.

Druckenmiller Painting is based here in Rockford where owner Chad Druckenmiller graduated from Rockford High School 20 years ago.

Gordon Water delivers peace of mind

“We are a part of the Rockford Chamber, and love to serve our community,” shares Chad.

The company has grown to include an expert team of five, who loves to take on new builds and remodels.

To find out more about this growing painting company, check them out on Facebook or contact them to set up an appointment by calling (616) 632-4866 or email druckenmiller.painting@gmail.com.

Goushaw and Carroll form new insurance group

Farm Bureau Insurance agents, Justin Goushaw and George Carroll, are pleased to announce the formation of G&G Insurance Group. Offering home, auto, commercial and life insurance, their team approach aims to deliver personal service to our clients.

“We believe in supporting the community we serve by donating our time and resources to the Rockford Education Foundation, SCOR soccer, Rockford Public Schools, and youth sports,” shares Goushaw.

Their office is located at 10 Mile and Northland Dr. Stop on by and say hello. They would love to meet with you and talk about your insurance needs.

You can call (616) 784-1093 for more information.

Epic Neon is filling a lost art in our area

The Epic Neon shop opened a little over a year ago in February. Owner George Hanson has always been interested in neon signs and art and explains that “Neon glows in a way that puts a smile on most everyone’s face, like feeling the sun shine on you after a long winter.”

Being a fan of neon and the art behind it has always fascinated George and so his wife challenged him why not to learn it and make it? And so, George stepped up to the challenge and went to train under a 25 year veteran of the art, Aric. Now a fully trained neon artist, George was a one-on-one training that lasted for six weeks.

As George puts it, “Had I known how much work it was to learn this, I probably never would have started but I was in it to quickly and just did not want to stop.” George learned from his mentor, Howie Cohen, that if it was easy, everyone would be doing it! After some frustrating weeks of doing 200 glass tube bends a day for weeks, it all started to begin to work for George so he committed to opening his own shop.

“This is the most frustratingly rewarding job I have ever done,” shares George. “Some days the glass cooperates and bends as I want it to while other days I may have well stayed out of the shop.”

From time to time, George has to remember what his mentor taught him. Another saying learned on those tough days of bending is, “Well... the next one you bend will be better.” However, when it does all come together and George completes a neon work, it is very gratifying.

Located on White Creek Drive near 21 Mile Road, George built his neon shop getting his equipment from a shop that closed in North Carolina. That closing shop is like the story of many shops that used to be everywhere when neon was so popular. Back then, getting into neon was tough and a closely guarded art. Shops kept their skills and procedures a secret in competition with other shops and so very little was ever written in books on the subject.

Learning on your own was not an option and you had to apprentice at it and existing shop which expected you to succeed or face the consequences.

Neon once dominated the sign market but has slowly changed with the introduction of LED light sources. LED are less expensive and do not require a skill to make. George is quick to point out that LED will just never have that same warmth and glow that neon offers. Many agree and there seems to be a resurgence of people trying to get into the art. The start of Epic Neon is one of them.

“Someone needs to be around to repair and make new neon,” shares George. “I am fighting against this becoming a dying art.”

George’s focus is on unique one-of-a-kind neon signs and art. He especially likes to incorporate something special into a sign. For instance, he made a neon sign that says “1955 FORD” that incorporates the hood ornament from an actual 1955 Ford. That hood ornament looks like a jet plane. George just could not resist in adding some neon tubes simulating jet streaks coming out from under the wings. Another is adding neon to an old truck tailgate from a junk yard.

“Now I have repurposed a disposed of item that is now a fantastic wall hanger for that perfect man cave, she shed, barn or garage,” says George. “I look for a connection between the neon sign/art and the person or family that reminds them of past good times. Although it was not my first thought, but I quickly realized that I was also making and restoring family heirlooms.”

Epic Neon also makes signs for businesses and does repairs to non-working signs. George stated that “Neon tubes can last for decades and through that time often carry a personal connection like having a sign that used to be in a grandfathers store, a clock that adorned the wall of a car dealership in the ‘50s, etc., that is no longer working. Getting it back to working to its original glow and warmth is very rewarding and the person who has this connection with it sees it as priceless.”

In closing George states, “I am always pleased when I can help with restoring that connection with the past or creating a new sign that will undoubtedly end up with connections to future generations. Neon is timeless.”

For more information, please call (616) 292-5637 or email george@epicneon.com.
Cedar Springs Brewing Company honored with Neighbor Award

The Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association (MRLA) awarded dedicated industry professionals from Bay City, Grand Rapids and Byron Center the Michigan Restaurant Industry Champion Awards in Grand Rapids April 22, at the Dinner with the Champions event.

The Michigan Restaurant Industry Champion Awards recognize outstanding employees of the hospitality industry who have demonstrated professionalism in performing their jobs and have contributed to the positive image of Michigan’s restaurant industry. Awards are presented in categories recognizing the Heart of the House and Restaurant Manager of the Year.

Karen’ s story:

“I am director of communications for the week ahead. I love to cook, and usually do my grocery shopping based on what sounds good, plus what coupons I carry. On this particular day, however, I paused in front of the cooler, filled a cart, and thought, ‘Would anyone recognize me? Aren’t food pantries for the truly needy?’”

Karen is a devoted mother of three, whose husband has been between jobs for well over a year. Luke so many people that become visible to keep her family—and herself—together, she knew in her heart that God had a plan for her family, and that they would eventually bounce back.

Still, she knew in her heart that God had a plan for her family, and that they would eventually bounce back. Karen still vividly recalls her first trip to the pantry.

“This was a very generous gift from Meijer for our community. We are here for everyone with open arms. We meet people where they are and resources to help them get back on their feet. Including Karen. A devoted mother of three, whose husband has been between jobs for well over a year. Luke so many people that become visible to keep her family—and herself—together, she knew in her heart that God had a plan for her family, and that they would eventually bounce back. Karen still vividly recalls her first trip to the pantry.

“It took me at least 10 minutes to get out of my car. Sure enough, everyone was helpful from the moment I walked in and made me feel comfortable.”

Karen, we would love for our clients to feel this way every time they visit.

United Bank was recently recognized for its commitment to employees by West Michigan’s 2019 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For and Good for Michigan.

United Bank was awarded with the Michigan Restaurant Industry Champion Award for their dedication to their community.

Karen’s story:

“This was a very generous gift from Meijer for our community. We are here for everyone with open arms. We meet people where they are and resources to help them get back on their feet. Including Karen. A devoted mother of three, whose husband has been between jobs for well over a year. Luke so many people that become visible to keep her family—and herself—together, she knew in her heart that God had a plan for her family, and that they would eventually bounce back. Karen still vividly recalls her first trip to the pantry.

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United Bank was recently recognized for its commitment to employees by West Michigan’s 2019 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For and Good for Michigan.

United Bank was named one of West Michigan’s Best and Brightest Companies to Work For in 2019. Recipients of the award are recognized for their dedication to employee enrichment and innovative human resources approaches. Businesses that receive the award are assessed on employee education, communication, work-life balance, diversity, retention and more.

Karen’s story:

“This was a very generous gift from Meijer for our community. We are here for everyone with open arms. We meet people where they are and resources to help them get back on their feet. Including Karen. A devoted mother of three, whose husband has been between jobs for well over a year. Luke so many people that become visible to keep her family—and herself—together, she knew in her heart that God had a plan for her family, and that they would eventually bounce back. Karen still vividly recalls her first trip to the pantry.

“It took me at least 10 minutes to get out of my car. Sure enough, everyone was helpful from the moment I walked in and made me feel comfortable.”

Karen, we would love for our clients to feel this way every time they visit.

United Bank was also recently honored as a recipient at the 2019 Good for Michigan Awards. United Bank was recognized with the Good for Employees Award for offering above living wage compensation and a comprehensive employee review process and career development guidance, which has led to a high rate of employee satisfaction and low turnover.

“We’re proud to be recognized for our dedication to our employees,” said United Bank Chairman Art Johnson. “Our team makes this an amazing place to work and we’re committed to providing them with the support they need to thrive and be successful.”

United Bank welcomes new board member

Karen’s story:

“This was a very generous gift from Meijer for our community. We are here for everyone with open arms. We meet people where they are and resources to help them get back on their feet. Including Karen. A devoted mother of three, whose husband has been between jobs for well over a year. Luke so many people that become visible to keep her family—and herself—together, she knew in her heart that God had a plan for her family, and that they would eventually bounce back. Karen still vividly recalls her first trip to the pantry.

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United Bank was recently recognized for its commitment to employees by West Michigan’s 2019 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For and Good for Michigan.

United Bank was named one of West Michigan’s Best and Brightest Companies to Work For in 2019. Recipients of the award are recognized for their dedication to employee enrichment and innovative human resources approaches. Businesses that receive the award are assessed on employee education, communication, work-life balance, diversity, retention and more.

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Aunt Candy’s Toy Company: Supplying love, education, and entertainment

There’s a store in downtown Rockford that has been supplying love, education and plenty of entertainment through the quality merchandise it has sold over the past 26 years.

Candy Lancioni, who co-owns Aunt Candy’s Toy Company with husband David, understands the items she offers are not just about the products themselves, but about the memories and creativity they inspire. Nothing is better than encounters with educational items for impressionable youngsters and studies show children need plenty of “hands on” experiences for brain development. Aunt Candy’s offers a wide variety of board games, educational activities, books and puzzles to set up a positive outlook for your child’s future.

The bright yellow store with the dancing white polka dots has also provided plenty of love through the years. The store displays storybooks with fuzzy baby slippers, along with storybooks of love through the years. The store displays the white polka dots has also provided plenty of love, education, and entertainment downtown, and the visits with trick-or-treating can be a lot of fun for the family and the downtown area. Aunt Candy’s Toy Company also sponsors the Children’s Activity Tent at the Rockford throughout the year, including her known for the fun she brings to downtown activities, books and puzzles to set up a positive outlook for your child’s future.

For more information, or to join CNC, please call Sarah Johnson at (616) 799-1156.

Aunt Candy’s Toy Company is located at 830 S. Towne St., downtown Rockford and is open seven days a week. For more information, call (616) 866-8783.

The best age to visit our office for a complimentary exam is any age 7 and up.

For complete listing visit www.rockfordmichamber.com

EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE

Farm Market, Saturdays, June–October

This open-air market, sponsored by the City of Rockford, features fresh grown produce from only Michigan farms. A variety of delicious fruits and vegetables are on display each week and the selection changes as the season progresses. Also available are flowers, homemade bread and honey, fresh from the hives.

Saturday, June 1

Rockford Fencing Festival, 10 A.M.-1 P.M.

The Rockford Rotary Club, K.I.L., and RPS join forces to bring the community this wonderful Read- ing Festival. RRR is entering its 8th year to bring the joy of reading to Rockford. Enjoy Author’s Row, storybook characters, a parade, kid’s activities, book-a-boost, Paws with a Cause, reading and more! The event takes place this year at the Kauze Memorial Library and the City Hall Parking Lot.

Monday, June 3

Bi-Monthly Luncheon, 11:30 A.M.

The RCC Bi-Monthly Luncheon is a networking opportunity. Cost is $15 for members and $20 for non-members. Call Karen at (616) 866-2000 for more information. June’s event is scheduled at Bosworth Lake Inn.

Tuesday, June 4

United Bank Rogue River Blues Series, 7-9 P.M.

This free outdoor concert series is a huge hit among visitors and locals, alike.

Thursday, June 6

Chamber Network Circle, 8:30 A.M.

For more information, or to join CNC, please call Sarah Johnson at (616) 799-1156.

Thursday, June 13

Start of Summer–Community Night

This opening night of Start of Summer is a way for the City of Rockford to thank its residents for their support throughout the year. Rockford residents only are allowed to purchase wristbands for the carnival rides for $15 each. YOU MUST be a city resident to enjoy this special price – with proof of address, purchase the band at the City offices on Wednesday and Thursday. You are a City resident if you pay City taxes. All others may purchase wristbands for regular price at the carnival.

Friday-Sunday, June 14-16

Start of Summer Celebration

This special celebration closes the school year and honors the start of another wonderful summer. Start of Summer features live entertainment, carnival rides, fireworks, a parade, kids’ activities, food, crafts, duck race and plenty of fun. The parade is at 11 a.m. and the fireworks at dusk on Saturday.

Tuesday, June 18

United Bank Rogue River Blues Series, 7-9 P.M.

This free outdoor concert series is a huge hit among visitors and locals, alike.

Tuesday, June 25

United Bank Rogue River Blues Series, 7-9 P.M.

This free outdoor concert series is a huge hit among visitors and locals, alike.

Wednesday, June 26

Chamber Network Circle, 8:30 A.M.

For more information, or to join CNC, please call Sarah Johnson at (616) 799-1156.

JULY

Tuesday, July 2

United Bank Rogue River Blues Series, 7-9 P.M.

Monday, July 8

Chamber Business After Hours, 5:30-7:30 P.M.

July’s event takes place at Meijer.

Tuesday, July 9

United Bank Rogue River Blues Series, 7-9 P.M.

This free outdoor concert series is a huge hit among visitors and locals, alike.

Wednesday, July 10

Chamber Network Circle, 8:30 A.M.

For more information, or to join CNC, please call Sarah Johnson at (616) 799-1156.

Tuesday, July 16

United Bank Rogue River Blues Series, 7-9 P.M.

This free outdoor concert series is a huge hit among visitors and locals, alike.

Thursday, July 18

Third Thursday Thursday Chamber Happy Hour 4-6 p.m.

The July location is the Corner Bar.

Tuesday, July 23

United Bank Rogue River Blues Series, 7-9 P.M.

This free outdoor concert series is a huge hit among visitors and locals, alike.

Wednesday, July 24

Chamber Network Circle, 8:30 A.M.

For more information, or to join CNC, please call Sarah Johnson at (616) 799-1156.

Thursday, July 25

Chamber Scholarship Golf Outing

The Annual Chamber Scholarship Golf Outing is always a great time. The competition is fierce in this annual fundraiser. This year’s event will take place at Candlestone Golf Club with registration starting at 11 a.m. and a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. Call the Chamber office, or go to www.rockfordmichamber.com for more info.

Tuesday, July 30

United Bank Rogue River After the Blues Series, 7-9 P.M.

AUGUST

Saturday-Sunday, August 1, 2, & 3

Sidewalk Sales – HEART of Rockford

The HEART of Rockford Business Association hosts this popular event that features many downtown businesses – and their merchandise. Participating members offer a wonderful weekend of placing their summer goods out on the sidewalk and taking drastic markdowns!

Monday, August 5

Bi-Monthly Luncheon, 11:30 A.M.

The RCC Bi-Monthly Luncheon is a networking opportunity. This August event takes place at Honey Creek Inn.

Tuesday, August 6

National Night Out

Join the City of Rockford as they celebrate National Night Out, a community event that brings the Department of Public Safety and the community together for a night of celebration, food, fun, and discovery. Children can meet police officers and fire fighters, and explore firetrucks, ambulances, cruisers, and motorcycles. They can also learn valuable lessons about safety, including the use of bike helmets. This is a national event that happens the first Tuesday in August every year.

Tuesday, August 6

United Bank Rogue River After the Blues Series, 7-9 P.M.

Tuesday, August 13

United Bank Rogue River After the Blues Series, 7-9 P.M.

Wednesday, August 14

Chamber Network Circle, 8:30 A.M.

For more information, or to join CNC, please call Sarah Johnson at (616) 799-1156.

Thursday, August 15

Third Thursday Thursday Chamber Happy Hour 4-6 p.m.

The August location is Third Nature.

Saturday, August 17

Mitchell’s Run thru Rockford

This is one of the premiere 5K runs in Michigan. More than a thousand runners toe the line in this event that snakes through the streets of downtown Rockford. Mitchell’s Run is a fundraising event for Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy and helps fund research to find a cure for Duchenne’s Muscular Dystrophy.

Wednesday, August 28

Chamber Network Circle, 8:30 A.M.

For more information, or to join CNC, please call Sarah Johnson at (616) 799-1156.