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June 2017

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Feature:

Welcome to
the Chamber's
New Home!

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Feature: Welcome to the Chamber's New Home! 4
 Expert Contributor: Edify North 6
 Expert Contributor: Mercy Health 8
 Business Spotlight: GMB Architecture + Engineering 10
 Calendar of Events 12
 Business Spotlight: Lakewood Construction 14
 Congratulations to the 2017 Minority
 Business Award Recipients 16
 New Members 17
 Happenings at the Chamber 18



ADVERTISING INDEX

Accident Fund 7
 Andy Spears Farm Bureau Insurance 7
 Baumann & DeGroot Heating & Cooling 20
 Bosch's Landscape 9
 Buis Mattress & Bedroom Furnishings 7
 Captivation Capital 15
 City Flats Hotel 10
 deVries Photography 12
 Edify North 6
 Floor Gear Unlimited 15
 Fris Office Outfitters 16
 Gordon Water Systems 9
 Guaranteed Rate 7
 Holland Hospital 9
 Holland Litho Printing Services 11
 Hospice of Holland 15
 Lakewood Construction 14
 Lighthouse Insurance Group 13
 Manpower 13
 Mercantile Bank of Michigan 9
 Mercy Health Partners 9
 Muller Design 7
 Navigate 11
 Pembleton HR Consulting 16
 Shoreline Technology Solutions 15
 Suburban Inns 13
 Wendy Ryder Sotheby's Intl. Realty 11
 Yacht Basin Marina 16
 Zeeland Lumber 11

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All content, unless otherwise noted, provided by the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce.

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Letter from Jane Clark

President, Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce



After years of planning, the West Coast Chamber has realized the dream of having a home with inviting spaces for our members to network and learn. Moving into this bright and welcoming building, we see the generosity of our members all around us, and we are grateful. Grateful for the financial sponsorships that enabled us to make this a state of the art facility. Grateful for the contractors who provided skilled craftspeople and services to make sure every feature and finish was just right. We are so fortunate that West Michigan is the home of world class office furniture manufacturers, and we are grateful for their contributions of fixtures and furniture that are not only beautiful to look at, but allow for flexible and innovative work and event spaces throughout the building.

Our partners from the beginning, we are grateful to our dedicated Board of Directors for supporting the project and lending invaluable insight to the process. The vision of our new home came to life through the designs of GMB Architecture + Engineering, and the project management of Lakewood Construction, and we are grateful to them for their careful listening and attention to the details that make this facility so special. From the basement to the fantastic skylight roofline, the parking lot to the beautiful front lawn and patio, this Chamber home is truly a showcase of the generosity, innovation and craftsmanship of our members, and for this we are grateful.

Best Regards,
Jane Clark



Vision:

Building successful businesses that lead to a thriving community.

Mission:

Connecting businesses to each other and the resources they need to grow and succeed.

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Feature:

Welcome to the Chamber's New Home!

By Caroline Monahan

West Coast Chamber: History in Pictures



Chamber building before.



Chamber building after.

Holland chamber plans move to east downtown

By Gary Puffner

HOLLAND — After more than 40 years in its present offices, the Holland Area Chamber of Commerce is moving to more spacious surroundings at the east end of downtown.

Chamber Chairman Joyce Kortman announced today negotiations have been completed and approved by the chamber board of directors for the purchase of offices at 272 E. 8th St. The space was formerly occupied by the law firm of Dalsman, Murphy, Sidel and Roseman.

The new location gives the chamber about 7,000 square feet of space, said chamber president Lou Hallacy, compared to the present 2,100 at 1 E. 8th St. in the Warm Friend building.

"Additional space has been a need of the chamber for some time, as membership services and programs have been expanded," Kortman said.

Hallacy said the East Eighth Street location was important. "We wanted to stay close to the central business district but have easy access to our summer visitors and other people in the community who use our services," he explained.

Hallacy said the chamber has more than 300 members when it purchased the 7 E. 8th St. offices in 1973. Today the chamber has more than 700 member firms.

The chamber move, Hallacy said, reflects the business activity in the Holland community, in both retail and industrial expansion.

Kortman has appointed two committees to oversee the acquisition. A building committee will consider the best use of the site, which will include two adjacent parcels for additional parking.

And a financial advisory committee will develop a plan to raise funds needed to complete the property transaction. Hallacy said purchase prices could not be revealed at this time. And the fate of the present chamber offices is not decided yet, either.

Early this fall, chamber officials were looking at the possibility of buying the old railroad depot at the corner of 8th Street and Lincoln Avenue for chamber use.

At its September annual retreat, the chamber board discussed the possibility but chamber officials said the asking price was high and a decision will be put together.

"We hope to say they hope the 8th Street facility will cover the need for the next summer's annual retreat and membership program," Kortman said.

Holland Area Chamber of Commerce
272 East Eighth Street
Holland, MI 49423



Chamber appeals for building funds

By Gary Puffner

The Holland Area Chamber of Commerce is appealing for funds to help pay for the purchase of a new building at 272 East Eighth Street.

The chamber has been in its present offices at 1 East Eighth Street since 1973. Today the chamber has more than 700 member firms.

The chamber move, Hallacy said, reflects the business activity in the Holland community, in both retail and industrial expansion.

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"We hope to say they hope the 8th Street facility will cover the need for the next summer's annual retreat and membership program," Kortman said.

Your New Chamber Building

Your chamber has experienced tremendous growth over the last 13 years—growth in membership and growth in services. This new headquarters building will allow more efficient operation and improve the quality of service to members. Your financial support for this Chamber Development Program will help improve the "State of the art" service to the members and the community overall for the future.

Chamber benefits & fees

Member fees:

- Regular: \$100.00
- Student: \$50.00
- Life: \$5,000.00
- Corporate: \$1,000.00
- Family: \$150.00
- Child: \$50.00
- Senior: \$100.00
- Young Professional: \$75.00
- Life: \$5,000.00

Other fees:

- Board: \$100.00
- Executive: \$200.00
- Corporate: \$1,000.00
- Family: \$150.00
- Child: \$50.00
- Senior: \$100.00
- Young Professional: \$75.00
- Life: \$5,000.00

Chamber office to relocate

By Gary Puffner

The Holland Area Chamber of Commerce is moving to a new building at 272 East Eighth Street.

The chamber has been in its present offices at 1 East Eighth Street since 1973. Today the chamber has more than 700 member firms.

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Driving into downtown Holland from the east on a crisp spring night, one can't help but notice the building shedding a beacon of light, welcoming all to enjoy our stores, our restaurants, our pubs, our art and architecture, our undeniable historic charm. Steeped in Dutch heritage, Holland is often known for tulips and windmills, but the sleek building bathed in light hints at the underlying current of innovation that keeps this historical community moving forward, and that beckons entrepreneurs and large corporations alike to make West Michigan their home.

This light filled building is the newly renovated home of the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce, an organization that celebrates our business community's rich history while also cultivating new businesses, keeping the West Coast thriving by connecting all sectors of the business community. The renovated West Coast Chamber home was designed with that purpose in mind, to be a place for businesses and the people who propel them to meet and collaborate and network, to grow and succeed.

The grand opening of the renovated West Coast Chamber building in May marked the culmination of a several years' exploratory project to determine the best usage of resources to bring a decades old office building into the next century. Former Chamber President Lou Hallacy explained, "For a long time, the Chamber didn't have a permanent home. It moved around in the community, as the leadership changed." When Hallacy joined the Chamber in 1980, it was housed in the Warm Friend Hotel, and then moved to the current home at 272 E. 8th Street in 1987.

The 7,200-square-foot building, built in 1972, needed numerous repairs and no longer epitomized a welcome that reflects the essence of our vibrant community. "We had an outdated building that didn't serve our needs any more. It didn't reflect the Chamber, and it didn't reflect the community," said Jane Clark, President of the West Coast Chamber.

Before undertaking costly repairs, it was recommended to more closely analyze the short term and longer term facility needs, and in January 2014, a board-level facility committee was

appointed to look at options. The committee reviewed several possibilities, including repairing/remodeling the existing building, relocating to a downtown Holland location, and construction of a new building on the existing site. After thorough review, the Chamber Board unanimously approved a “robust renovation” plan for the existing building, located at the eastern gateway to downtown Holland. “We knew there was an opportunity for something special here, and we started planning our building to be a lantern of light welcoming residents and visitors alike to our community,” said Clark.

GMB Architecture + Engineering was hired to plan the space and Lakewood Construction managed the construction process. Numerous Chamber member businesses joined the project as vendors, and the construction officially began in September of 2016. Over the next seven months, the building was stripped to the studs and then rose from the ground, remaining on schedule and on budget. Said Clark, “Since most of the \$750,000 cost of the project was met by the Chamber’s reserves, keeping to our budget was critical. We carefully budgeted to make this dream happen, and are proud to say that this building is paid for, and finished on schedule.”

Partners in the business community allowed the Chamber to take the building to the next level. Sponsorships of money and in-kind donations enabled the space to come to life as a showcase of the work of many remarkable craftsmen, as well as a showroom for the sleek and modern office fixtures and furniture that originate from West Michigan. Companies such as Haworth, Herman Miller, Trendway, Elzinga & Volkers, and Charter House Innovations put unique stamps on the space with their generosity and creativity. From the basement to the roof, the parking lot to the patio, the building is the product of an amazing collaboration of Chamber members working to make a grand statement about

the community’s vibrancy and the innovation and success of its businesses.

The Chamber staff moved back into the newly renovated building at the end of April 2017, and immediately began plans to welcome members into their home. New features of the building include an adaptable Learning Lab meeting space that can accommodate up to 65 people for in-house events, an additional conference room, state-of-the-art technology for meeting space and staff efficiency, collaborative office space for Chamber staff, and an ample parking lot. The new outdoor patio space is equipped with wi-fi and downtown Holland’s signature snow-melt system.

But perhaps the most striking new feature of the building is the brilliant, light filled atrium, that serves as a gathering space, a quiet workspace, an informal meeting space, and a coffee bar, and features a massive center worktable that feels like a homey kitchen island when members gather around it to fill their plates for breakfast and lunch meetings. The fantastic roof is open to the sky, built completely of skylights that let in natural light even on the rainiest days, and always elicits a “wow” response from visitors as they enter the building. At night, light emanates from the atrium, creating that lantern of light that serves as the symbolic and literal entrance to the bustling city of Holland.

It is with great gratitude that the Chamber now welcomes members into their new home, where they aspire every day to deliver remarkable experiences that go above and beyond members’ expectations. The building is filled with the contagious energy that the Chamber staff brings to work every day, and is now truly a place where members can come together to connect to the people and resources they need to grow and succeed.

The West Coast Chamber is located at 272 E 8th Street in Holland.



Doug Kuiper and Norm Campbell try out the Learning Lab.



Pictured: Jodi Owczarski, Caroline Monahan and Jane Clark.



The Chamber staff already feel at home in their new space.

Photos courtesy of deVries Photography

Chamber Member Vendors

- B & W Woodwork
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- Zeeland Lumber & Supply Co.



In Search of Unicorns

By Mike Hill, Edify North, LLC

There is a common phrase regularly uttered in our office, which is, “There has to be a better way.” Regardless of the task at hand, there usually is, and typically it involves utilizing existing technology more efficiently or leveraging new technology. As a firm that exists to improve the physical and organizational health of employers, we are on a constant search to find the “better way” not only for ourselves, but also for the employers we work with.

Because of this, we have been in search of the elusive HR technology “unicorn”: a technology platform that does everything a business needs from a payroll, human resources, and employee benefits administration standpoint in one. In 2017, considering the fact we can adjust the temperature of our house from a foreign country and order more baby wipes for home delivery simply by yelling at something that looks like a Pringles can, one would think such a system would exist, but alas it remains the unicorn of our industry.

That being said, we have learned a lot over the many years of our search. Here are a few key points for your consideration if you too are in search of this unicorn.

- Establish your budget and priority list of functionalities you are looking for, especially the non-negotiables. While no one system will do everything an employer is looking for, it is possible to check almost



every box on your list of priorities with one, two, or possibly three solutions.

- A good solution does not need to be expensive. While the adage, “You get what you pay for” still applies in this case, we feel a more appropriate saying would be, “You can likely get more for what you are currently paying.”
- Start with payroll. At the end of the day, all the efficiencies and data an employer gets from effective HR and benefits technology can be blown away if it is a nightmare for folks to get paid. In addition, the payroll industry is going through a tech explosion with newer companies challenging the established giants and making a good go of it. If you have not seen what a high-tech payroll platform is capable of recently, do yourself a favor and check one out.
- When reviewing payroll vendors, make sure you hear the three magic letters, API. API stands for application programming

interface, and this is the “language” that modern software uses to speak to other software. As mentioned previously, it is very likely an employer will need to leverage more than one tool to achieve the greatest efficiency. If those systems cannot speak to one another easily, you may quickly find you have replaced one set of frustrations with a new set.


- Consider getting help with the review process. Working with a firm that has experience with multiple systems, has seen what can go wrong, and is impartial can help expedite the search for your unicorn.


The bottom line for us is that we see the number of items demanding time from employers continuing to grow at a rapid rate. Whether it be ACA or the new EEO1 reporting, employee recruiting and training, or simply a more complicated benefit program to meet changing demands, the right technology solution(s) can make all the difference. It is likely that a better way *does* exist; however, it likely does not exist in one solution. Don’t let that stop you from looking! You may be amazed by what you find.

Mike Hill, RHU, REBC, LIC, is a founding partner of Edify North, LLC, an employee benefits consulting firm in Holland that is focused on improving the physical and organizational health of employers.

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Mercy Health: Transforming Health Care for the West Michigan Community

Content Provided by Mercy Health



F. Remington Sprague, MD

When it opens in 2019, the new Mercy Health Muskegon medical center at 1500 Sherman Blvd. in Muskegon will be a regional destination for comprehensive health care in West Michigan. The \$271-million, nine-story center— built on the existing Mercy Campus — will include 267 expansive, private patient rooms, a new emergency department, state-of-the-art surgical and procedural areas, the renovation of the existing Mercy Campus, and a 74-room universal care unit.

A Medical Center with Fewer Inpatient Beds

“Demand for inpatient services is decreasing,” said F. Remington Sprague, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Mercy Health Muskegon. “This is in part due to the way the medical profession is better able to treat and manage chronic diseases, resulting in fewer hospital stays while reducing medical costs.”

The new medical center will bring all medical and surgical hospital services, such as cardiovascular, orthopedics, trauma, labor and delivery, and oncology, to one campus. When construction is completed, the system’s care model will be transformed through a new, 74-bed, patient-centered universal care unit that will provide private rooms for outpatients who do not require inpatient hospitalization but who need care for several hours.

Additionally, the plan allows for greater focus on population health through support for primary- and specialty-care services within the system’s physician network, Mercy Health Physician Partners.

The design of the new medical center is a result of significant input from the community. Many physicians, staff, volunteers and patients were actively involved in the planning for all areas in the new medical center, including the patient-care areas and medical floors. All inpatient services will be consolidated at the Mercy Campus and, once the tower is complete, the Hackley Campus at 1700 Clinton St. in Muskegon will remain open to house provider offices, inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services, an emergency room as well as other ambulatory services

“Mercy Health serves all patients who walk through our doors, regardless of their ability to pay,” said Sprague. “We believe the West Michigan community deserves the best health care and that this new medical center will meet the health care needs of our community for many years to come.”

To see an up-to-date time-lapse video of construction and to learn more about this project, please visit www.buildingmercyhealth.com



Rendering of the exterior of the new tower. Photo credit: HGA Architects and Engineers.



Aerial image of Mercy Health construction in Muskegon. Photo credit: Marge Beaver, Photography Plus, Muskegon, MI.

Since breaking ground on Mercy Health Muskegon’s new medical center in September 2016, the boost for the local economy has been significant. The projected economic impact analysis* of the new medical center construction – the largest building project in the history of Muskegon – is estimated to result in:

- \$265 million in industry output (the total to be spent in the area for all industries)
- \$70 million in earnings (the short-term increase in demand for goods or services)
- 1,447 jobs (additional short-term jobs – construction and other)
- \$144 million in added value to the regional economy (the increase in region’s economic performance)

*Based on the Regional Industrial Multiplier System II (RIMS II) economic input-output model, developed by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).



Nabeel El-amir,
MD, FACS

Now offering a **Cardiac Surgery Clinic** at Mercy Health Saint Mary's.

Our cardiac surgery program now offers patient evaluations, pre-operation and post-operation visits at Mercy Health Saint Mary's. Drs. Richard Downey and Nabeel El-amir will conduct patient visits in the new clinic located in the Wege Building on Saint Mary's Campus. All surgeries will be performed at Mercy Health Muskegon.

Drs. Downey and El-amir are medical staff members at Mercy Health and are on faculty with the Department of Cardiac Surgery at Michigan Medicine, the academic medical center of the University of Michigan.



Richard S. Downey,
MD, FACS

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GMB Architecture + Engineering New Chamber Design Creates a Lantern to Downtown Holland

By Chelsea Hall

Founded in 1968 by Gordon (“Gord”) M. Buitendorp, GMB Architecture + Engineering is a client centric, relationship-driven design firm with a focus on the K-12 education, higher education, industrial manufacturing, food processing, corporate and healthcare markets. GMB’s multifaceted practice includes architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, interior design and graphic design. Their 49-year history, accented by changes in leadership, societal and economic trends and the tools for applying their trade, has shaped who they are. Today the company employs over 100 people and has offices in Holland, Grand Rapids and Indianapolis, Indiana.

“The new office for the West Coast Chamber is a welcoming, light filled space that provides a flexible environment for members and the community. The interior finishes, details and furniture highlight the successful collaboration between the design team and Chamber members.”
– Kacey Morris, Interior Designer

GMB President David Bolt explained what drew him to the industry: “Architecture allows me to combine my love of technical work such as math and science with my love for art and creativity. It’s a wonderful marriage of right brain and left brain thinking.”

Among the many things that made the Chamber project appealing to GMB was the role the building’s location plays in

downtown Holland. “The opportunity for the project to create a ‘lantern’ marking the threshold to downtown, while also bringing the space into alignment with the new, more open and collaborative way the Chamber is working together and with the community was very appealing,” explained GMB Architect Dan Tyrer. “The location plays a key role in the experience of arriving in downtown Holland.”

“Knowing the role that the West Coast Chamber has in the community, it was important to not only design an innovative work environment for the Chamber staff, but also a place that was inviting to the Chamber’s current and future members.”
– David Smoes, Architect

Engaging with a range of stakeholders, Chamber staff and broader community made the project unique. “Synthesizing a wealth of ideas was critical to creating a cohesive design solution, and was a challenging yet enjoyable part of the design process,” said Dan. “Additionally, solving the needs of the Chamber while also achieving the community impact that the project demanded within a modest budget was a challenge. We feel the finished project meets these parameters successfully, which has made the result more gratifying.”

Dan described the finished product as having gone above and beyond what they had envisioned, a building that is more than the sum of its parts. “The impact of creating the ‘lantern’ to downtown from



The new office for the West Coast Chamber is a welcoming, light filled space.
Photo courtesy of deVries Photography.

the east is immediately clear from the glow of light emanating from the large glass areas of the façade and skylight,” he said. “The increased flexibility and collaboration possible in the renovated interior space and the ability to host programs important to the Chamber’s mission in the new learning center has created a value to the project that vastly exceeds its physical scale.”

GMB’s Holland office is located at 85 East 8th Street, Suite 200. Visit them online at www.gmb.com.

GMB Architecture + Engineering Chamber Project Team

- Principal in Charge – David Bolt
- Architecture – David Smoes, Dan Tyrer
- Interior Design – Kacey Morris
- Civil and Landscape Design – Nate Bosch
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June Calendar of Events

Monday, June 5

Legislative Luncheon with Congressman Fred Upton

@Boatwerks Waterfront Restaurant

Join us for our annual signature luncheon to hear an update on the current issues in Washington, D.C., engage in discussion with Congressman Upton, and network with other politically active members. A question and answer session will directly follow the Congressman's presentation.

Time: 11:30am-1pm

Cost: \$30 per Chamber member (\$35 if registered after May 30) / \$50 per non-member

Monday, June 6

EOS Users Group

@West Coast Chamber of Commerce - Learning Lab, 272 E. 8th Street

The West Coast Chamber Traction EOS Users Group is for West Coast Chamber members who follow the Traction Entrepreneurial Operating System (EOS) popularized by Gino Wickman's book, *Traction: Get a Grip on Your Business*. We hold quarterly gatherings to connect, ask questions, and share insights.

Time: 12-1:30pm

Cost: Free (You must be following EOS to attend.)

Tuesday, June 13

Early Bird Breakfast

@Haworth Inn & Conference Center, 225 College Avenue, Holland

Please join us to hear from our local superintendents as they highlight the collective work taking place in our educational community.

Time: 7:30-8:30am

Cost: \$20 per Chamber member (\$25 if registered after June 11) / \$35 per non-member

Wednesday, June 14

Field Trip to NeoCon in Chicago

@The Mart, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago

Join us on our second annual day trip to the windy city to explore North America's most important commercial design trade show, NeoCon. Your registration fee includes coach bus transportation complete with refreshments on the trips to and from the event, entrance into the show, lunch in Chicago, and tours of local vendors' displays.

Time: 7am-7pm

Cost: \$95 per Chamber member

Monday, June 19

Governmental Affairs Breakfast

@Alpenrose Restaurant, 4 E 8th St, Holland

Access to elected officials is a special member benefit for you! Join us for breakfast with our elected state and federal legislators. Arrive at 7:15am for a brief networking session before the breakfast begins.

Time: 7:30-8:30am

Cost: \$20 per Chamber member (\$25 if registered after June 16) / \$35 per non-member

Thursday, June 20

Chamber CONNECT Groups Quarterly Gathering

@West Coast Chamber of Commerce - Learning Lab, 272 E. 8th Street, Holland

At this event, you will have the chance to network with other CONNECT group members, hear an update from the Chamber and have the chance to learn more about networking! This month you'll also learn about building your own PR campaign.

Time: 8-9:30am

Cost: Free (You must be a member of a CONNECT group, and registration is appreciated.)

Wednesday, June 21

Seminar: The Art of Negotiation

@West Coast Chamber of Commerce - Learning Lab, 272 E. 8th Street, Holland

This seminar provides an overview of how to prepare for negotiations, 10 or more tips for negotiating, and how to seal the deal and put it in writing.

Time: 8:30-11am

Cost: \$45 per Chamber member / \$25 for each additional attendee from the same company / \$75 per non-member

Tuesday, June 27

Digital Marketing Seminar

@West Coast Chamber of Commerce - Learning Lab, 272 E. 8th Street, Holland

In this intensive workshop, we'll focus on opportunities for email marketing before and after leads enter your sales funnel. We'll be focusing on MailChimp, but the best practices and strategic discussions will be applicable to any email marketing effort regardless of what tool you're using to get the job done.

Time: 8-11am

Cost: \$55 per member / \$75 per non-member

Tuesday, June 27

Business Matters Networking

@Midtown Event Center, 96 W 15th Street, Holland

Please join us for a Ribbon Cutting and Business Matters Networking event to celebrate the new office location of the Holland Symphony Orchestra and the newly completed renovation of Jubilee Ministries/Midtown Events Center!

Time: Ribbon Cutting at 4:00 pm, Business Matters Open House to follow until 5:30pm

Cost: Free

Wednesday, June 28

Network@Lunch

@On the Border, 1283 James Street, Holland

Get to know other business representatives by spending an hour with them over a relaxing business lunch. You will randomly be assigned with three other dining partners at the event, giving you the opportunity to make new contacts and share about yourself and your business.

Time: 12-1pm

Cost: \$15 per member inclusive of tax and gratuity / \$25 per non-member inclusive of tax and gratuity



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For a full listing of events, visit www.westcoastchamber.org/events.

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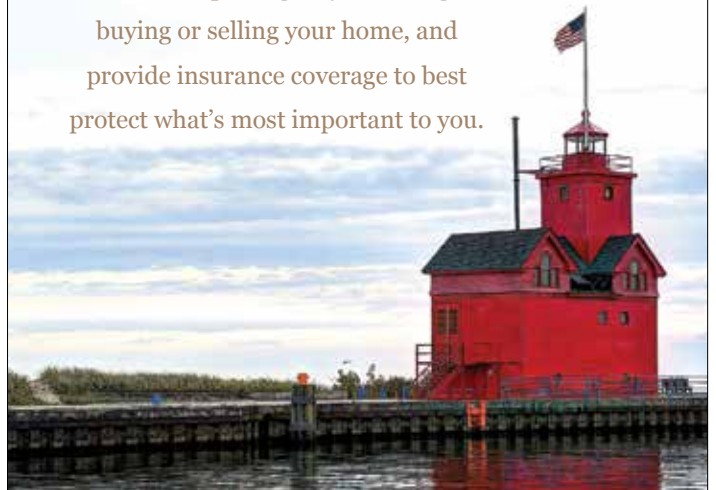
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Lakewood Construction: Working on Chamber Building Renovation a Win-Win

By Chelsea Hall

Lakewood Construction Project Manager and Director of Safety Kyle Engbers reflected on a conversation he had with a contractor at a job a few years ago. “I asked him what he was working on, expecting him to say he was framing the sidewalk or building the entry stairs, but his response was much bigger than that. He said, ‘I’m building a church.’” Just as the contractor saw the bigger picture, so does Lakewood Construction. “Projects that we can be part of and drive past 50 years from now and say, ‘I was a part of that’ is what is appealing to us,” he said. “It’s what energizes us.”

Started in 1971 by Harold “Herk” Branderhorst and Mike Miedema, January marked the beginning of the 46th year in business for Lakewood Construction of Holland, the family oriented company with a world-class staff and old fashioned work ethic. Projects like the Chamber renovation are just the kind they like to sink their teeth into. Said Kyle, “The West Coast Chamber is an integral part of our community that supports and nurtures businesses both large and small. We wanted to give back and support the Chamber in their robust renovation initiative to ensure they had the highest quality finished product to support their initiatives in the community. For us it was a win-win.”

The wish list was long: new atrium and spine (vaulted roofline that splits the existing building) new learning center, bathrooms, mechanical upgrades and office renovation along with exterior improvements. The Chamber management team had goals

and desires as well, which Kyle, along with Steve Weatherwax (Project Superintendent) and Kevin Osbeck (Assistant Project Manager), welcomed. “Working alongside the Chamber and GMB Architecture + Engineering, we worked collaboratively as a group to integrate everyone’s thoughts into a cohesive plan,” Kyle said.

Like all renovations, the Chamber project was not without its challenges. The atrium and spine required new structural supports extending down to the basement slab, the new Learning Lab design meant getting creative with the existing 16 inch on center trusses and spandrel glass windows that had a 12-week lead time meant coordinating the timeline had to be meticulous. The request later in the project for snowmelt integration required a quick response plan. Kyle remarked, “Being able to adapt is a key component in construction. We plan our work and we work our plan but our plans must be adaptable to all kinds of situations and circumstances.”

The result is a bright, modern building that meets the Chamber’s exact needs, with unique finishes, like tulip seats fabricated by an artist in the Netherlands. As the City of Holland looked on, Lakewood Construction didn’t miss a beat. “We set the third week of March as the move in target and Tulip Time as the exterior completion target and while some of the curveballs drove us to reorganize our schedule numerous times, we held to our commitment and delivered the project as planned,” Kyle said. “While

“At Lakewood we build great buildings, great people, and great relationships and the most successful projects are the ones that hit all three of those keys.” – Kyle Engbers



Metal roof installation at south entrance.



What would become the gathering space and café.

the robust renovation of the West Coast Chamber building involved many key components, the entire project team (including subcontractors and design team) never lost sight of the big picture of what we were building. The project certainly has a wow factor both outside and inside.”

Lakewood Construction is located at 11253 James Street in Holland. Reach them via their website at www.lakewoodinc.com or by calling 616-392-6923. Don't forget to follow them on Facebook; just search for Lakewood Construction in the search bar.



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Congratulations to the 2017 Minority Business Award Recipients

The Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce recognized Francé Allen of Ventura Manufacturing, Dawn Garcia Ward of Warner Norcross & Judd, and Juanita Bocanegra of the Ottawa County Prosecutors Office at a luncheon at the Midtown Center on April 19.

The Minority Business of the Year:

Francé Allen of Ventura Manufacturing grew up in Mexico and began her adventure in America as a teenager. She worked in Texas and migrant fields in Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan, which led her to a job at Prince Manufacturing. Her career path took her to Innotec, where she began small cell assembly, and where in 1997 she launched her company, Ventura Manufacturing, now operating in the U.S., Mexico, China, and Hungary. Ventura continues to desire to be a company based on Biblical principles and values that include trust, humility, service, fun, forgiveness, learning, change, hard work, and teamwork.

Francé shared, "I never thought I was going to start a business; I just knew that whatever I did, I wanted it to count for something. I don't have all the answers, but I believe that the only reason that the company has made it for 20 years is because I'm more blessed than good. Not

with the business opportunity as much as with the team members I get to work with."

The Minority Business Champion

award was presented to Dawn Garcia Ward of Warner Norcross & Judd and Juanita Bocanegra of the Ottawa County Prosecutors Office. Both accomplished attorneys, Dawn and Juanita recognized a need in the community to support and mentor other Latinas, and are the founders of the Professional Lakeshore Latinas, an official affinity group of the West Coast Chamber. This group, which has grown to almost 70 women over the course of the last year, meets regularly, uniting business professionals in the local Latina community, who offer mentoring, networking and support to each other.

Dawn remarked, "I don't think that Juanita or I realized that this group would grow from the original five to almost 70 people now. At these meetings, women have been willing to share their personal stories and are willing to support each other during struggles and during times of success. We want to share this award with all the women who have so graciously come to these meetings and supported us and supported each other."



Minority Business Awards 2017

The West Coast Chamber would like to congratulate these recipients for their dedication and commitment to our business community!

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WELCOME!



Happenings at the Chamber



Ribbon Cutting at Potbelly Sandwiches.



All Smiles at the Century 21 Ribbon Cutting!



Pat LeBlanc unveils the new EBWE logo.



Excitement at the Holland Rescue Mission Gateway Center Grand Opening!



Michelle and Harley treated the Chamber staff to a lunch feast in our new Learning Lab!



New members getting acquainted at the first Member Orientation in our new Learning Lab.



< Sharing their Ribbon Cutting on social media gets a laugh.



Jane Clark and the Executive Director of West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Guillermo Cisneros.



Celebrating at the Mobility Worldwide Ribbon Cutting.



Happy faces celebrate the Resthaven Ribbon Cutting.



Welcome to new member, Sleep Number!



West Coast Chamber represents at West Michigan Day at the Capitol.

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