

Capitol Correspondent



The Monthly Newsletter of the Lansing Junior Chamber of Commerce • February 2005

Lansing Jaycees
PO Box 16150
Lansing, MI 48901

(517) 853-8620
www.lansingjaycees.org

Region D
Population Division 7
Base Membership: 91

Welcome to our newest members!!

December 2004

Carrie May, Haas TCM
Katrina Saari, General Motors
Denya Shimnoski, Chicago Title

January 2005

John Prush, Michigan State University
Jen Miller, The Rehmann Group
Josh Springer, Auto Owners Insurance
Amy Coletta, Student – Cooley Law School
Melanie Gray, H&H Jewelry Design

2005 Board of Directors

President

Laura Vieth (517) 627-7145

Chair of the Board

Sara Ballard (517) 388-1220

Treasurer

Jill Schumacher (248) 379-9732

Secretary

Lynn Schramm (810) 300-1487

Membership Development VP

Chris Vieth (517) 627-7145

Community Development VP

Tracy Prush (517) 699-8166

Individual Development VP

Matt Wiitala (517) 482-4615

Management Development VP

John Pulice (517) 351-4315

Community Development Director

Jill Klinger (517) 282-3877

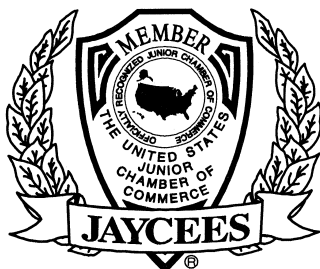
Individual Development Director

Sheryl Soczek (517) 664-1650

Management Development Team

Amy Miller (517) 525-0129

The Lansing Jaycees is an organization of people ages 21-39 which promotes leadership training through community service. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm (dinner between 6:00 and 6:30) at Tripper's Restaurant in Frandor. Visit our website, www.lansingjaycees.org for a map to the meeting location or call us at (517) 853-8620.



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My Goodness, How Things Have Changed.....

It always amazes me how quickly things change. I bought my first computer six years ago for \$2500 and was very pleased because I splurged on a Pentium processor! I thought to myself proudly "This computer will last for a long time". Needless to say, that computer has long since been retired to the scrap heap. My goodness, how things have changed.....

The Lansing Jaycees have changed a lot since I joined three and a half years ago; our chapter size has grown steadily, we have run many successful projects that have benefited our members as well as our community, and we have all made new friends that we will have for a lifetime. My goodness, how things have changed.....

A few months after I joined the Jaycees, I remember telling my (then boyfriend) Chris that I really didn't want to chair any projects and that I just wanted to participate in other people's projects. Well, that certainly didn't seem to last for very long. My goodness, how things have changed!!!

I believe that change is a blessing: while the process itself can be very stressful (sometimes even painful), it can reveal wellsprings of strength that you otherwise might never have known. In 2005, the Lansing Jaycees will be asking you to help bring about change in yourself and in our organization. Our area Vice Presidents and Directors may ask you to leave your comfort zone and run one of our existing projects (or head a project committee), or they may challenge you to come up with and run a totally new project.

By getting involved, you can help bring about changes in yourself and in others. In the future, wouldn't you like to be able to look back and say "My goodness, how **I'VE** changed"?

Laura Vieth
77th President
Lansing Jaycees

February General Membership Meeting "Put On Your Creative Caps!!"

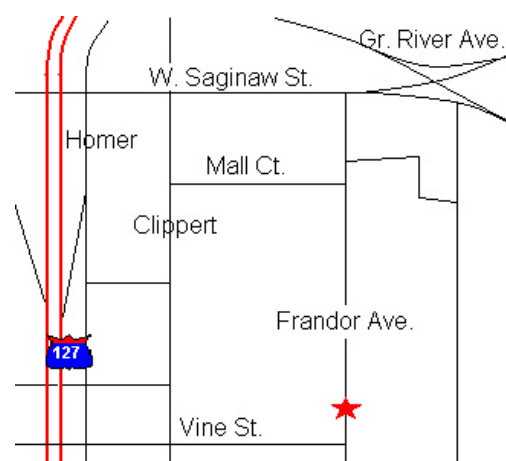
Everyone's heard the expression "Put on Your Thinking Caps". Well, the February GMM will contain some new interactive exercises to allow our members to tap into their creativity to come up with new ideas for projects our chapter can run in 2005!!

Although the Board of Directors conducts a member survey each year, we believe it's a good idea to continue to 'take the pulse' of the chapter periodically to get input from members that join our chapter during the year as well as new ideas from our current members.

If you have any questions about the February General Membership Meeting, please contact Laura Vieth at (517)627-7145, or lavieth@cmsenergy.com.

February GMM

Tuesday, February 1st
Dinner between 6:00-6:30 PM
Meeting at 7:00 PM
Tripper's in Frandor (see map below)



Membership Development

Hello everyone, my name is Chris Vieth and I'll be serving as the Membership Vice President for 2005. Along with **Kim Doughty**, who will be serving as Membership Director this year, we want to continue the success in membership growth that the chapter has experienced over the past few years, as well as develop long-term plans and procedures for continued growth and increased member involvement.

Upcoming Projects

Member Orientation – Feb 1st, 6:00 PM – this is an orientation for members and prospective members who would like to learn more about the Jaycee organization and how to get involved.

Coffee Break- Feb 8th, 6:30 PM – a social at a local coffee shop, Il Bacio Caffe, 6250 South Cedar

Member Orientation/CPG Training – Feb 17th, 7:00 PM - an additional opportunity to attend an orientation, followed by a Chairperson's Planning Guide training session at 8:00 PM.

Happy Hour/B.L.A.A.S.T. – Feb 18th, 6:00 PM – Friday after-work social. This month, we're meeting at The Dispatch, 3004 West Main Street.

Chris Vieth, Membership Development VP
Kim Doughty, Membership Director



Got Socials?



Several Lansing Jaycees shared good drinks and great conversation on Friday, January 21 at the coffee shop inside Barnes and Noble at the Lansing Mall. Snow was in the forecast yet Jaycees **Kim Doughty, Marisa Burian-Fitzgerald, Matt Cannata, Chris Vieth, Amy Miller, Laura Vieth, Russ Venaska, Angela Mills, Amy Coletta**, and guest **Dane Conyers** braved the cold weather to come out and have a chance to spend time with their fellow Jaycees.

In February we will be having another Coffee Break on February 8 at Bacio Caffe, as well as a traditional Happy Hour on February 18 at the Dispatch. Don't miss out on these opportunities to spend some time with the Jaycees.

For more information about these events, please contact Kim Doughty at kdoug5@jcpenny.com, or 980-0989. Hope to see you there!

What is Springboard and Degrees?

Springboard and Degrees are programs to guide members in their involvement in Jaycees. There are 10 degrees in the program. Each degree contains different items corresponding to a greater amount of responsibility and leadership. By completing the tasks associated with each degree, members ascend in the Degrees program from degree 1 to degree 10. Springboard is a program for new members where a new member, having completed a separate list of items, will 'springboard' to degree 3 upon renewing their membership.

Jaycees is a learning environment where members gain leadership and business skills through participation in projects. The Springboard Degrees programs fit into this by providing a 'syllabus', adding structure and guidance for members to acquire these skills during their Jaycee involvement.

For more information on Springboard and Degrees, contact Chris Vieth at ccvieth@viethconsulting.com or 627-7145.

Jaycee Creed

by C. William Brownfield

*We believe that faith in God gives meaning
and purpose to human life;*

*That the brotherhood of man transcends
the sovereignty of nations;*

*That economic justice can best be won
by free men through free enterprise;*

*That government should be of laws
rather than of men;*

*That earth's great treasure
lies in human personality; and that*

**SERVICE TO HUMANITY IS
THE BEST WORK OF LIFE**

Individual Development

Individual Development (ID) got off to a nice start in January by going ice skating at Washington Park on January 23rd. Those who attended got a nice little workout (even for those of us who hadn't been on skates in a while). **Teri Bruning, Marissa Burian-Fitzgerald, Laura Vieth (with her niece Becca), Sheryl Soczek, Matt Wiitala** as well as four guests joined us. And we're happy to report no one was hurt!

Next up is **Movin' Out, February 3rd at 7:00 pm** at the Wharton Center. This Tony-award winning musical chronicles the lives of 5 friends over a 20-year period, which is represented by many of Billy Joel's hits. Choreography is by Twyla Tharp. A small number of tickets is still available for this event and can be purchase online at www.whartoncenter.com or 1-800-WHARTON. We will be attending with Sheryl Soczek heading up our Chapter. *If you cannot make this date, the show continues through February 6th although seating is limited.*

Saturday, February 26th, brings the **Wine and Cheese Evening at Martin Luther Chapel (MLC) starting at 7:00 pm**. This will be a relaxing evening where you can bring wine and cheese (or other favorite beverage and snack) and sit and relax or chat with some very friendly people in a very low-key atmosphere in front of a fireplace. The event will be in the Fireside Lounge at the Chapel, which is located at **444 Abbott Road in East Lansing** (it is north of the East Lansing City Hall and there is a public parking lot that you may use located between the Chapel and City Hall).

Todd Sinclair from the MLC's Social Events Planning Team will be bringing his record player and serving as our disc jockey, spinning some fun tunes from the 50s and 60s. The event was first held last year and was a lot of fun. We look forward to you attending. If you would like more information, please contact Matt Wiitala at 482-4615, mtwiitala@hotmail.com.

In **March** we will be going to the **Maple Syrup Festival** at Fenner Nature Center (the entrance is located southeast of the intersection to Mt Hope and Aurelius Roads). This year, the Festival will be **March 20-21 from 11-4**. The event is free and is a wonderful family event. Demonstrations on turning sap into syrup are done and you can warm up in the Visitor's Center with some hot chocolate and browse the gift shop. We plan to go to IHOP on Grand River in Meridian Township beforehand and enjoy a sumptuous breakfast. Last year, icky weather kept us from the Festival but we will give a try again this year. For more information, contact Sheryl Soczek at 664-1650, ssoczek@mail.grandhotel.com or Matt Wiitala at 896-7423, mtwiitala@hotmail.com.

In April, just before softball gets into high gear, we will be going back to the Baseball Academy of Mid-Michigan (BAMM) to spend an hour or two at the slow-pitch softball batting cage there. If you've had a rough week and want to take it out on some softballs or just need to shake some rust off your swing, this is the place to be! More information will be coming out on this event shortly. And you don't need to be on the softball team to come out! For more information, contact Matt Wiitala at mtwiitala@hotmail.com, 896-7423.

Finally, John Pulice is looking for someone to co-chair a series of fitness activities. Several of us have expressed the desire to get back in shape and lose some pounds. Ideas we have so far is perhaps a revival of the Walk Club or possibly swimming at an open swim night at one of the local Lansing Schools. If you would like to co-chair or have ideas or would like to plan some of these activities, please contact Matt Wiitala or Sheryl Soczek.

Matt Wiitala, ID Vice President
Sheryl Soczek, ID Director

Community Development

Happy Belated New Year! As many of you know, my name is Tracy Prush and I will be your Community Vice President on the 2005 Lansing Jaycees board. This year, I am very lucky to have help in this area from our Community Director, Jill Klinger. Jill and I are very excited about taking on these positions.

Jill and I have many goals for the upcoming year. Most importantly, we would like to focus our community events on projects created and organized by Lansing Jaycee members. This means that although we are willing to help other organizations with their events, our primary focus will be to organize events within our own chapter. We hope that this will make our community service events more personal and meaningful to all our members. So take the time to look around your neighborhood, workplace, and community to see if there is something that needs to be done. Maybe funds need to be raised for something or someone important to you, volunteers are needed for a large project, or you see people in need of something. Whatever project you come up with, please let us know. We have set aside chapter funds for this purpose and will be happy to help you turn your ideas into reality.

We have a number of events already set up in the next few months. Throughout the month of February, we will be collecting pledges and then walking in the "Walk for Warmth" on **February 26th** to raise money to help low-income families pay their utility bills. Then, we will be stuffing Easter Eggs on **March 23rd** in anticipation of the Easter Egg Hunt on **March 26th**. On **April 15th**, we will be taking pledges at the WKAR auction to help support this publicly funded station. Then on **May 14 & 15th**, we will be participating in the Relay for Life to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of the American Cancer Society. **If you are interested in being on a committee, participating in one of these events, or organizing a new project, please let us know by e-mailing to tracy@prush.com or calling (517) 699-8166.** Thank you for all of your help and support. Let's make this a great year of community service for the Lansing Jaycees!

Tracy Prush, Community Development VP
Jill Klinger, Community Development Director

Happy Birthday!

January

Stephanie Steere
Jill Schumacher
John Pulice

February

Jimi Carolan
Tom Barger
Josh Springer
Liz Muilenburg
Dan Harris
Christine Battiste
Rob Dowding
Matt Cannata

Looking For Another Best Friend?



If so, Ranger here would like to be considered for the job. He's an 8 month old Black Lab who is friendly and loves everyone, including people, dogs, and cats. Although he weighs 65 pounds, he's still a puppy, and is very active and playful. His favorite pastimes are walks, fetch, chewing rawhides, and best of all, racing around the yard with his doggie friends. After play time, he's always up for a cuddle with his people friends, he's working on becoming a great (big) lap dog! Ranger is a smart boy, he knows "sit", "down", and "shake", and is completely housebroken, but obedience training might still be a good idea to work on those puppy manners. He's friendly and fun to be around and very handsome, with shiny black fur and chocolate brown eyes. If you have room in your life for an energetic, playful, and affectionate friend, Ranger may be the one for you!

Ranger will be available for adoption through the Capital Area Humane Society around February 7th. If you'd like to meet him, please call 517-980-3759 and talk to his foster mom Angela.

Management Development

Jaycee Business Directory Now Under Construction



Historically speaking, "Jaycees do business with Jaycees".

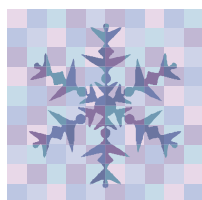
As a service to our members in developing their businesses, we will be creating a 'Jaycee business directory'. This business directory will allow members to create a free 'classified ad' with information on the products/services they offer. We will be adding a link off the main page of the website to get to the business directory, as well as including a business directory listing in each month's newsletter.

If you're a member who wants to let other Jaycees know about the products and services you offer, contact Chris Vieth at ccvieth@viethconsulting.com or log-in to the members area of the chapter website and submit your classified ad.

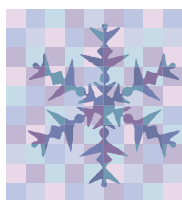
75th Anniversary T-Shirt Clearance Sale "Everything Must Go!!"

We still have a selection of 75th Anniversary T-Shirts available for sale, and we're cutting the price in order to get them to you! Show your Jaycee pride by picking up one of these great casual t-shirts with the 75th anniversary logo for only \$5.00!

There are 3 size Small, 1 size Medium, and 9 size X-Large t-shirts still available. They will be available for sale at the February General Membership Meeting. If you are interested in purchasing one, contact Laura Vieth at (517) 627-7145, or lavieth@cmsenergy.com



THINK
SPRING!!



A PERSONAL AD FROM A LONELY NEWSLETTER

WANTED: a bright, creative Jaycee who knows Microsoft Word and is interested in helping a lonely newsletter achieve it's mission of communicating valuable information to many people. I enjoy long walks on the beach, jazz music, good spelling and grammar, and hanging out with my friends on the Lansing Jaycee website.

If you are interested in getting to know me better, please contact Laura Vieth at (517) 627-7145, or lavieth@cmsenergy.com.

Upcoming Lansing Jaycee Fundraisers



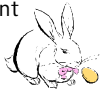
Bowl-A-Thon to Benefit Children's Shopping Spree – On **April 23** (date tentative) the Lansing Jaycees will be holding their annual Bowl-a-thon to fund our Children's Shopping Spree. Lansing Jaycee and community members collect pledges and then have fun bowling for this worthwhile cause. Even if you're not a bowler, you won't want to miss the fun! **As a bonus incentive for this year's event**, all bowlers who collect over \$200.00 in pledges will be treated to a 5 course gourmet dinner prepared by Laura Vieth (a.k.a 2005 President) along with Amy Miller (a.k.a, the actual gourmet).

If you'd like to be on the committee for this event, please contact John Pulice at johnpulice@briarwoodrealty.com.

Check the Jaycee Juice and future GMM's for more details about this fun event!!

Stay Informed About Your Chapter

Check out the file archives in the Member area of the Lansing Jaycees website for information on the management of the chapter. You can view the Board of Directors meeting minutes and financial information. 2005 Budget information will soon be available in the file archives or can be requested by emailing treasurer@lansingjaycees.org.

	February	1 General Member-ship Meeting	2	3 "Movin' Out' at the Wharton	4	5 
6	7	8 Coffee Break Social	9	10 Easter Egg Hunt Committee Meeting	11 Michigan Jaycee Assembly	12
13 →	14 	15	16 Board Meeting	17 Member Orientation /CPG Training	18 Happy Hour	19
20	21 Foodie Club Dinner	22	23	24	25	26 Walk for Warmth Wine and Cheese Evening
27	28	1 March General Member-ship Meeting	2	3	4	5 Foodie Club Wine Making (tentative)
6	7	8 Coffee Break	9	10	11 Euchre Party 	12
13	14	15 Member Orientation /CPG Training	16 Board Meeting	17	18 Happy Hour	19
20 Maple Syrup Festival	21	22	23 Easter Egg Stuffing Party	24	25	26 Easter Egg Hunt 
27	28	29	30	31	1 Happy Hour April	

Member Orientation & CPG Training

February 17 and March 15
MI Jaycees Service Center

Orientation – 7 PM
Learn about the Jaycee organization, its opportunities, and how to get involved.

CPG Training – 8 PM
Learn about the Chairpersons Planning Guide, a project planning tool.

Contact: Chris Vieth
(517) 627-7145

Easter Egg Hunt

What has 300 kids, 3000 eggs, and 1 large bunny?
The Lansing Jaycees Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Important Dates:
Committee Meeting Feb 10
Egg Stuffing Party Mar 23
Easter Egg Hunt Mar 26

Contact: Tracy Prush
(517) 699-8166

Wine and Cheese Evening

Want to enjoy a relaxing evening where you can bring wine and cheese (or other favorite beverage and snack) and sit and chat with others in front of a fire?

Contact: Matt Wiitala
(517)482-4615