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Lakeshore Art Festival registration open

(Submitted by the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce)

The application process for the Lakeshore Art Festival, formerly Muskegon Art in the Park, is now open. This year's festival will feature a regional network of 300 to 400 artists who offer a diverse variety of quality artwork. Event categories include: Fine Art, Art in the Park, local entertainment, and a craft fair featuring children's lane and a Michigan food market.

New this year is an entirely web-based registration process called Zapplications. Interested vendors are encouraged to apply for their spot at the 2013 festival, as space will be filling quickly. The application deadline is April 1. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by April 20. There is a \$30 non-refundable registration fee for both the Art in the Park and craft fair; however, members of the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce and the Muskegon Museum of Art will only pay a \$15 non-refundable registration fee.

The event that was formerly produced by Muskegon Summer Celebration is now being produced by the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce and is being renamed the "Lakeshore Art Festival." This festival offers a unique mix of arts, crafts, food, and family fun in historic downtown Muskegon. Guests will enjoy a juried fine art fair located in beautiful Hackley Park as well as a vibrant street fair atmosphere with crafts, unique Michigan food products, children's activities, entertainment and more. The event will be held July 5 and 6, 2013 in downtown Muskegon and will be coinciding with the new Coast West Music Festival taking place at Heritage Landing.

"We are very excited about the new Lakeshore

Arts Festival and the opportunity it will give to a new generation of artists," said Judith Hayner, executive director of the Muskegon Museum of Art. "Muskegon's art fair has long been a community favorite, but we think that the new organization is really going to breathe some fresh air and new quality into the offerings in Hackley Park this summer. Our regional artists welcome the emphasis on the fine arts," said Hayner.

The Chamber has hired an experienced professional event coordinator to manage the art festival. Carla Flanders, owner of CMF Marketing, LLC in Norton Shores has been selected to manage the event. "Carla is the perfect person to pull this off," said Larsen. Flanders has already contacted the loyal volunteers who originally built the event and will make them a part of her planning team.

"It is important that we attract the best artists and crafters to participate," said Larsen.

More details related to the Lakeshore Art Festival will be released throughout the spring. Look for more information as it becomes available on the Art Festival website: www.lakeshoreartfestival.org and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LakeshoreArtFestival. For Art Fair inquiries, email: artfest@muskegon.org. Sponsorships are currently being sold. If you are interested in being involved or sponsoring, please contact Carla Flanders at artfest@muskegon.org or (231) 724-3176. Those interested in volunteering can fill out a volunteer interest form at www.lakeshoreartfestival.org. Mark your calendars for July 5 and 6 and get ready for this exciting event!

Bowl for Kids' Sake

(Submitted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore is appealing to the community to support Bowl for Kids' Sake, the mentoring organization's biggest annual fundraiser, which raises money needed to carefully pair volunteer mentors with children who face adversity in staff-supported, long-term mentoring friendships.

After more than 40 years, Bowl for Kids' Sake has become Big Brothers Big Sisters' largest national fundraiser, engaging more than a half million people across the country. Participants solicit pledges from friends and family to raise funds to support the mentoring network's nearly 360 local affiliates, including Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore. The organization raised more than \$21 million nationally last year and hopes to top that in 2013. After raising \$35,000 last year, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore Bowl for Kids' Sake committee members are working to raise \$70,000 this season.

"Bowl for Kids' Sake brings the entire community together in support of a positive future for our kids," said Cindy Timmerman, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore. "No matter how someone chooses to be involved — bowler, team captain, sponsor, or as a virtual bowler — each person has a hand in helping to start a child on the right path. Every dollar raised through Bowl for Kids' Sake directly funds our mentoring programs in Mason, Oceana, Muskegon and Ottawa counties and helps to maintain and sustain our mentoring relationships, increasing kids' chances for becoming caring, confident, competent and contributing adults within their community."

Donor funds, such as those raised through Bowl for Kids' Sake, enable Big Brothers Big Sisters to provide

caring adults to mentor vulnerable children in need, and ongoing staff support, keeping one-to-one relationships going strong long-term to help youth overcome adversity to achieve lifelong success. As the nation's largest and most effective mentoring network, the organization holds itself accountable for helping children achieve positive measurable outcomes including educational success, avoidance of risky and delinquent behaviors, improved relationships, higher aspirations and greater confidence.

Interested bowlers can register and solicit donations for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore bowling events at ww.bbbslakeshore.org/bowl.

Event dates and times:

- March 1 – Ravenna Bowling Center, Ravenna – 7 p.m.
- March 2 – Sherman Bowling Center, Muskegon – 7 p.m.
- March 3 – Starlight Lanes, Grand Haven – 7 p.m.
- March 9 – Sherman Bowling Center, Muskegon – noon - Kids' Bowl
- March 9 – Sherman Bowling Center, Muskegon – 7 p.m.
- March 15 – Northland Lanes, Holland – 7 p.m.
- March 16 – FOE Bowling Center, Hart – 7 p.m.
- March 22 – Northway Lanes, North Muskegon – 7 p.m.
- March 23 – Country Lanes, Ludington – 7 p.m.
- April 13 – Northway Lanes, North Muskegon – 5 p.m. Wrap Up Party!

For more information contact Cindy Timmerman at (231) 798-1391 or email cindy@bbbslake.org.

Fraudulent jury duty notices for failure to appear

(Submitted by Muskegon county Clerk's Office)

Some Muskegon County citizens have been hit with a jury scam. Citizens and potential jurors have received phone calls and emails stating that they have missed jury duty. Some have been told that their name is on a list at the courthouse; some have been told that they have a bench warrant out for their arrest. Some have been told that they have the option to pay a \$500 fine or serve a 30-day jail sentence.

This is a scam! The entire thing is a scam and it tells you to pass it on to trick your friends. It is part of something called "The Humor Hotline."

If you receive any information concerning missed jury duty please make sure that the person is identified as a Muskegon County Jury Clerk. They will always properly identify themselves to the public.

Sheriff Roseler commented: "This 'humor' hotline is anything but humorous. It creates disruption within the courts and creates unnecessary concerns for innocent citizens. Even though this phone call suggests to 'pay it forward,' I would remind citizens that it is a misdemeanor crime to use the telephone to 'harass, annoy, threaten, intimidate, or otherwise intentionally disrupt a person's peace.'"

Prosecutor D.J. Hilson said, "Our system of justice relies on the citizens of this community to serve as impartial jurors. This attempt at humor has the potential to deter people from fulfilling their civic duty, which limits our ability to provide a fair cross section of the community in the jury pool." •

Consumers Energy issues 'safety first' message

(Submitted by Consumers Energy)

Consumers Energy is advising the public to practice extreme caution when visiting areas near its 13 hydroelectric generating plants in the winter months, located on the Manistee, Muskegon, Au Sable, Kalamazoo and Grand rivers.

In particular, the utility is warning people about the likelihood of thin ice up and downstream of the dams.

"Ice conditions on the reservoirs next to these hydro plants can change rapidly due to unpredictable weather. In particular, we want the public to be aware of the possibility of thin ice and dangers associated with the ice immediately upstream of the dam itself," said Donald Baker, river hydro superintendent for Consumers Energy.

Water currents at a hydroelectric plant can be hazardous in winter, when a reservoir may or may not be covered with ice. Ice near a dam is not reliable and should be avoided by snowmobilers, anglers and others enjoying recreation.

Ice-covered water down river from a hydroelectric facility should also be considered very dangerous and is never a safe place to walk.

Consumers Energy, the principal subsidiary of CMS Energy (NYSE:CMS) provides natural gas and electricity to 6.8 million of Michigan's 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties. •