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Restaurant Michoacan - Burton Heights

(Re)STOREing Grand Rapids NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICTS



Quick Links

G-Wrap sandwich from Bobarino's wins Grandwiche competition
MLive

GR Neighborhood Business Districts

Alger Heights
Boston Square
Burton Heights

Cheshire Village
Creston
Eastown
East Fulton
East Hills
Division South

Franklin/Eastern
Grandville Ave
Heartside

Get uncomfortable.

Though most of my waking days are spent in a defined geographic area of Grand Rapids neighborhoods, I have had the privilege at times to visit other parts around the globe for travel. Spending so much time in the four corners and downtown of our city has offered a real sense of familiarity in our twenty neighborhood business districts. The opposite can be said of my world travels. Not knowing for certain what will happen next is part of the game. However that sense of trepidation, followed by amazing discovery (and even a sense of "survival") is what makes the journey memorable.

But what about discovery in our own backyard?

Our work here at Neighborhood Ventures in neighborhood economic development brings us to all parts of the city. With that there are times when we are working with a business owner with a background much different than our own upbringing. Beyond communication, cultural differences define our project. There may even be times that

Madison Square
 Monroe North
 Seymore Square
 Stockbridge
 Wealthy Street
 West Fulton
 West Grand Downtown
 District

Partner Trainings

Start Smart 1 & 2

August 17 and 22, 6-8:30pm
GROW

Blast! Business Accelerator Pitch Party

Thursday, August 18, 5:30 - 7pm
 Thursday, August 25, 5:30 - 7pm
GROW

QuickBooks 1 for New Users

Thursday, August 18, 6-9pm
GROW

QuickBooks 2 for Familiar Users

Thursday, August 25, 6 - 9pm
GROW

Fundamentals of Financial Management

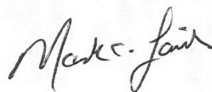
Wednesday, August 31, 1-4pm
MISBTDC

both parties feel out of our element. But when all is said and done the work we do with those most unfamiliar with what we normally know seems most satisfying. It's a wonderful feeling to "discover" something or someone new, yet so close to home.

Let's face it - we are all creatures of habit. We shop, dine out, worship and work in many of the same places week after week. But those very habits prevent us from experiencing a vibrant city full of culture. What can we learn about ourselves - our community - by venturing out more?

I challenge you to get uncomfortable. Visit a store or a restaurant in our Grand Rapids neighborhoods where English is a second language. Experience the sights and smells of a culture different than your own. Be in the minority of the commerce going on around you.

If you take up my challenge I'd wager that whatever feeling you have going in will be rewarded with a sense of discovery you could not possibly imagine in our city. And you may even find that which you found most unfamiliar to you becomes your new favorite neighborhood. No passport required.



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 Executive Director



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Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women- Blast! Pitch Party, August 18

Calling all Women Business Owners!

Count Me In for Women's Economic Independence & GROW are providing select women business owners in Greater Grand Rapids a ground breaking year-long program offering keys and support for growing business.

Join GROW (Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women) and Neighborhood Ventures as we host a Blast! Pitch Party for all women business owners. Come to this free event where you can practice your pitch and get expert feedback on presentation, using effective power and action words, timing and more, all in an intimate, supportive setting.

You'll also have the chance to connect with motivated women like you interested in growing their businesses and taking control of their potential for success. The pitch party will be held Thursday, August 18 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at the GROW offices (25 Sheldon Blvd SE). Please register in advance.

Register today by emailing pvalykeo@growbusiness.org!

22nd Annual Neighborhood Business Awards

Thursday, November 3rd

5:00pm - 8:00pm

WEALTHY THEATRE, 1130 Wealthy Street SE

Nomination forms are available and we've already been getting in some great nominations from our 20 amazing neighborhood business districts! Click [HERE](#) to download the form and fill it out. Then just email it, fax it or send it via mail (instructions on bottom of nomination form). Nominations close on September 30, so get them in while you can!

Interested in sponsoring the 22nd annual Neighborhood Business Awards? Download the [Sponsorship Letter](#) and the [Sponsorship Level](#) information and send it back to us! Thank you in advance for your commitment to the vitality of Grand Rapids' 20 neighborhood business districts!

Now the really fun part! Interested in participating on the selection committee to determine this year's winners, or help out with other event planning? Just give us a call at 301-3929 or [send a note](#). We'd love to have you join us in honoring these amazing neighborhood businesses and programs!

Please remember to save the date for November 3 and as always, because of great community sponsors, this event is free and open to the public.

The Neighborhood Business Alliance is proud host of this community celebration of our neighborhoods for over two decades.



Neighborhood Business Alliance Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, October 19

7:30am - 9:00am

Grand Rapids Parking Services

50 Ottawa Ave. NW

The Neighborhood Business Alliance (NBA) is an information and advocacy organization, and is made up of representatives from all 20 neighborhood associations. The NBA meets quarterly to share

best practices and advocate on issues effecting neighborhood businesses and districts. The next meeting is on Wednesday, October 19. Please consider attending this meeting as this is your chance to share with one another and to advocate for your business district - you never know who might show up!

Minutes from the last two meetings are available below:

NBA Meeting Minutes - April 20, 2011 (Hon. Mayor George Heartwell, Commissioner Dave Shaffer, City Manager Greg Sundstrom and Assistant to the City Manager Tom Almonte in attendance)

NBA Meeting Minutes - July 20, 2011

Kara Wood from the City of Grand Rapids Economic Development Department introduces the Economic Gardening Initiative.

The NBA and Neighborhood Ventures partner to serve and advocate for neighborhood business districts and the neighborhood businesses located within them. **Contact Neighborhood Ventures** if you would like help with your neighborhood business district.

Economic Gardening with Pure Michigan Business Connect

Interesting in free assistance for your business?

Through new economic gardening initiatives, Michigan's businesses have new ways to buy and sell, raise capital, and connect with each other. Pure Michigan Business Connect is providing a solid foundation for economic growth to take place. The new \$3 billion public-private initiative strengthens Michigan's economic gardening philosophy through an alliance of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan companies and other Michigan organizations.

This economic gardening project is a \$3 billion, multi-year initiative that includes:

- Business Funding Assistance (including debt financing through Huntington Bank, funding from Export Import Bank, MEDC economic development incentives and start up funds)
- Business Support Service (including customized market research, professional talent search assistance and training support)
- New Michigan Private Spending and State Support (including business tax reduction, entrepreneur support services, State contract connect programs and free legal services)

To learn more and sign up visit their website [HERE!](#)

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