

Press Release

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Contact Person: Joy Gaasch, President
Chamber of Commerce Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Ferrysburg
Telephone: 616-402-1772
Email: jgaasch@grandhavenchamber.org

Jess Garrison honored as the 2023 Recipient of the Dr. Elizabeth Curtis Young Professional Award

Grand Haven, Michigan – Stephanie Herder, Spring Lake Downtown Development Authority Director presented Jess Garrison with the 2023 Young Professional Award at The Chamber of Commerce Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Ferrysburg Annual Celebration at Spring Lake Country Club. The award recognizes a young professional between the ages of 21 and 40 who embodies the business, community and volunteer philosophy of the late Dr. Curtis, one who had an unwavering responsibility to community through the philosophy of always “paying it forward” through involvement with local organizations that elevate the overall quality of life in Northwest Ottawa County.

Jess Garrison is a third generation Spring Laker who not only has developed a passion and expertise in his profession but has excelled at volunteerism and finding ways to support community development. He serves on the Board of Directors for Reach and Recovery (a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program), He works with Blue Bird Cancer Retreat and is on the North Bank Community Fund. He is a member of Spring Lake Rotary Club and served as its past chair.

Jess serves on the Spring Lake Village Planning Commission and was not only involved in the planning of the new Tanglefoot Park transformation but co-chaired the capital campaign alongside his wife Skyler. The vision for Tanglefoot Park was to create a family friendly gathering place that would provide multigeneration indoor and outdoor gathering spaces connecting the Village of Spring Lake’s downtown to the Grand River. Jess and the other members of the committee certainly accomplished that and much more. The dynamic duo of husband and wife have joined together again to lead the capital campaign for the Spring Lake District Library Refresh Project.

A 2005 graduate of Spring Lake High School, Jess participated in football, basketball and ran track. He went on to Michigan State University, but rumor has it he is an avid U of M fan. He began his real estate career 13 years ago and now manages the Coldwell Banker Woodland Schmidt office in Grand Haven.

Growing a business, building relationships through volunteering and engagement are all important, but as all young entrepreneurs know, balancing work, family, and friends create challenges. Whether it is a real estate transaction, an event for one of the many boards he sits on, helping a friend in need, or simply being a father, he steps up to the plate with no complaints. He cares deeply about this community and has thoroughly enjoyed being a part of its progress over the years.

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