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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Chamber of Commerce Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Ferrysburg, along with the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival, entrusts the future leadership of the Coast Guard Craft Fair to Merchants and Makers.

Grand Haven, MI – The Chamber of Commerce Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Ferrysburg along with the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival are excited to announce Merchants and Makers as the new host of the beloved Coast Guard Craft Fair beginning in 2025. This annual event is held in conjunction with the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival and takes place the first weekend in August. Approximately 140 crafters from around the state and nation set up their products in Central Park, downtown Grand Haven for the two-day show.

Chamber President Mark Allen says, “It has been an honor for the Chamber to host the craft fair for so many years. As we (the Chamber) continue to increase our focus on the service and support of our member businesses, we knew we were no longer the right organization for leadership of this longtime summer favorite. While the decision was

difficult, selecting Shyle and the Merchants and Makers group as our successor was an easy choice.”

“The Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival is excited to see Shyle Lyons of Merchants and Makers, continuing the decades-long tradition of this popular event being held in Central Park during the final weekend of festival. Shyle’s years of experience and her passion for these events is sure to make the craft fair a must-visit while enjoying Coast Guard Festival” says retired USCG CDR Tracy Riley, Executive Director for the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival.

Shyle Lyons of Merchants and Makers added “I am beyond thrilled to have the opportunity to combine my passion for Grand Haven and the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival with my experience organizing Makers Markets. As a lifelong attendee and proud resident, I’ve dedicated the last eight years to promoting local artisans through Merchants and Makers at various venues across West Michigan. I can’t wait to see everyone out supporting our talented small businesses, makers, artists, and crafters during this beloved festival!”

The three organizations will work together to exchange and share all the necessary lists, timelines and information for a seamless transition of ownership and look forward to a successful event for 2025 and beyond.

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About the Chamber of Commerce Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Ferrysburg - The Chamber of Commerce Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Ferrysburg has been serving businesses for 125 years since 1899. Through their vision of empowering businesses and building communities, the Chamber provides hyper local support, connections, and solutions for economic and business growth within Northwest Ottawa County.

www.grandhavenchamber.org

About the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival – The Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival honors the men & women of the United States Coast Guard during the nationally recognized festival in Grand Haven, Michigan “Coast Guard City, USA”. The festival takes place annually the last week of July through the first weekend in August.

www.coastguardfest.org

About Merchants and Makers – Merchants and Makers is where West Michigan's most talented creatives and small businesses unite for an unforgettable experience! With live music, delicious food, and refreshing drinks, you'll uncover a treasure trove of handmade wonders—from luxurious bath and beauty goodies to one-of-a-kind jewelry, zesty drink mixes, and rustic home decor crafted from reclaimed wood. You'll also find adorable succulent planters, eye-catching screen-printed t-shirts, and gifts that'll delight kids and

adults alike. Join us and discover the perfect something special for yourself, your home, or that perfect gift for someone else!

www.merchantsandmakers.com