



For Immediate Release

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TEN FACTS THAT ADD UP TO ONE COOL GRAND

(Grand Rapids, MI - - March 14, 2007) Mathematically it may take a thousand to equal one cool grand. But these ten facts easily add up to one cool grand city – Grand Rapids, Michigan.

1. The JW Marriott, the Marriott family's luxury brand, will be the only JW Marriott in the Midwest when it opens in Grand Rapids this fall.
2. Grand Rapids is the gateway city to Michigan's West Coast and Lake Michigan, a region named one of the world's top 25 shorelines by Condé Nast Traveler Magazine.
3. Downtown's San Chez restaurant is one of the top 50 Hispanic restaurants in the nation.
4. Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park boasts the Midwest's most comprehensive collection of outdoor sculpture.
5. Grand Rapids was named one of the Ten Most Livable Communities in the U.S. by Partners for Livable Communities, a national non-profit organization. St. Paul, MN is the only other Midwestern city included in this category.
6. The new Grand Rapids Art Museum, opening in September, is the first LEED certified art museum in the world!
7. Beginning late in the afternoon on January 2, 2007, approximately 57,000 mourners waited up to eight hours to pay final respects to Grand Rapids' favorite son, President Gerald R. Ford, as he lay in repose at the Gerald R. Ford Museum.
8. The Fifth Third River Bank Run, now in its 30th year, features the largest 25K road race in the country and the only 25K wheelchair racing division in the world!
9. Home to Zondervan, Eerdmans, Baker Books and Kregel, Grand Rapids is considered the Christian Publishing Capital in the United States.
10. USA Today reported that Grand Rapids is enjoying a "growth and development frenzy" as the progress of "Health Hill", which will include Michigan State University's medical school, leads to suburban housing growth and luxury downtown lofts and restaurants.

Please visit the media page at www.visitgrandrapids.org for regularly updated facts that add up to one cool grand city.

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