

The VOICE OF BUSINESS

GRAND RAPIDS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

August 2009 Chamber Events

RESERVATIONS ARE NOW REQUIRED!

August 3rd 2009 luncheon speaker:
Better Business Bureau

"Guess what?"

"It's great time to run a business!"

Lisa Jemtrud is the Director of Outreach and Industry Services for the Better Business Bureau.

She works primarily with business leaders to promote ethical advertising and selling practices and to describe the benefits of self-regulation.

With a Master's degree in Administration of Justice (emphasis: alternative dispute resolution and white collar crime) and over nine years at the BBB, she serves as liaison to law enforcement, the media, and business associations across Minnesota and North Dakota.

She regularly speaks to businesses on marketplace trends and best practices.

Lisa will be talking about positive business trends, best practices, little ideas that make a big difference, and other good news for business.



Lisa Jemtrud

Please join us at 11:45 a.m. at the Sawmill Inn. The cost is \$11.00 at the door and RESERVATIONS are required. Please call Renee at 218-326-6619 or renee@grandmn.com no later than July 31, 2009 at 12:00 noon.

August 26th 2009 Breakfast
 Connection sponsor:

The Myles Reif Performing Arts Center

720 Conifer Dr.

Grand Rapids, MN 55744

8 - 9 a.m.

The Myles Reif Performing Arts Center opened its doors in 1981 on the north end of Grand Rapids, surrounded by pines and maples, three lakes, a cross-country ski trail. You'll see whitetail deer in the parking lot. But inside, seated in the Gildemeister Theatre, the forest around you becomes part of the larger illusion. The Reif Center would not look out of place in the most urban, and most urbane, of the world's cities. This is a 640-seat, award-winning, state-of-the-art facility, and performers from New York and Paris and Moscow regularly cross the Reif stage.

The Reif Dance Program boasts three fully equipped dance studios, with staff and contract instructors in both classical and contemporary forms. By way of main-stage programming, students enjoy firsthand encounters with professional artists; for example, recent master

classes and residencies with Chicago's Gus Giordano Jazz Dance and New York City's American Ballet Theatre. On the 2009-10 calendar: Judy Collins, The Lettermen, Romeo and Juliet, The Wedding Singer, Cabaret, six outstanding productions in the Family & Children's Performing Arts Series, a Van Cliburn finalist, Canada's Tanglefoot in their final tour, Pam Tillis, Blind Boys of Alabama, the sensational

Native American music-drum-and-dance troupe Brule, the tribute performance One Night of Queen, Gaelic Storm, Passing Zone, the Grand Rapids Players' Plaid Tidings, the Johannes String Quartet, plus comedy and dance and the Beatles tribute Revolution, and much more.

The Reif Center: Stimulating Arts in Northern Minnesota: www.reifcenter.org



Stimulating Arts in Northern Minnesota

August 3rd 2009 luncheon sponsor:
United Way of 1000 Lakes

The mission of United Way of 1000 Lakes is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our communities in the Itasca Area.

We work directly with businesses, community leaders, and the general public to assess community needs and then identify solutions.

We conduct an annual fund raising campaign throughout Itasca County and then allocate those funds to programs addressing critical needs.



Every eight minutes, someone in Itasca County uses a United Way funded service. United Way of 1000 Lakes is the link between the recognized need and the available resource.

BRING TWO DOLLARS AND A BUSINESS CARD if you want to participate in "Split the pot".
 If not just bring yourself and your business cards!

August 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
3 Chamber Luncheon 11:45 a.m. Sawmill Inn Hosted by: United Way Speaker: Better Business Bureau (see front page)	4 Membership Committee Meeting 12:00 noon Chamber Conference Room	5	6 Program Committee Meeting 8:30 a.m. Chamber of Commerce Conference Room	7
10	11 Walleye Classic Meeting 12:00 noon Chamber Conference Room	12 Ambassador meeting 8:00 Bixby's Cafe	13 Young Professionals Meeting 12:00 noon Chamber Conference Room	14
17	18	19 7:30 a.m. Past Leaders Forest Lake Restaurant Workforce Development meeting 12:00 noon Chamber Conference Room	20	21
24 Board of Directors Meeting 11:30 a.m. Rivers Italian	25	26	27 No Area Business Committee Meeting Cancelled for July	28 7:30 a.m. Government Affairs 9:00 a.m. Forestry Affairs Both meetings held in the Chamber Conference Room
31				

New Chamber Member



Avenue of Pines Civic Association
 Contact: Julia Hemphill & Toni Wilcox
 PO Box 382
 Squaw Lake, MN 56681
 Phone: 218-659-4254

2009 - Board of Directors

- Chair of the Board**
 Margie Ritter SMR Software, Inc.
- Vice Chair**
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- Past Chair**
 Sherry Frick Minuteman Press
- Visit Grand Rapids**
 David Marty Reif Arts Center
- One Year Term**
 June Johnson Northern Business Products
 Brandon Sharp Wal-Mart
 Mike Iazzo KOZY/KMFY
 Sholom Blake Sholom Blake, CPA
 Peggy Schagh US Bank
- Two Year Term**
 Gary McInerney RE/MAX
 Cheryl Lemler Up North Kettle Corn
 Jane Bymark Itasca Economic Development Corp.
 Greg Chandler UPM/Blandin
- Three Year Term**
 Megan Christiansen Northern MN Builders
 Lisa Randall Northway Group
 Dave Leveille Minnesota Power
 Kim Jantgaard Wildwood Resort
 Chad Simons Rutgers Sugar Lake Lodge

Staff

- Bud Stone**
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- Renee Thompson**
 Administrative Assistant & Finance Coordinator
- Kerry Larsen**
 Membership & Tourism Coordinator
- Ruth Gildersleeve**
 Chamber Information Center Coordinator
- Nira Beddoe**
 Chamber Information Center Coordinator

OFFER A CHAMBER MEMBER TO MEMBER SPECIAL This is a opportunity for Chamber Members to offer a special deal to other Chamber Members. You can use the Chamber e-mail system to reach over 600 potential customers. Only one MEMBER TO MEMBER special is available each week. That's only 52 a year! Now that is special! It's a perfect way to put your business in front of your most wanted customers and it offers special treatment to members of your own organization. Renee Thompson or Kerry Larsen at 218-326-6619 or renee@grandmn.com or kerry@grandmn.com.

Ribbon Cuttings



The Otter Creek Event Center at the Black Bear Casino Resort is the perfect location to host your next event. There is space available to accommodate a function of almost any size - from six to 1600! With state-of-the-art gaming, three food venues, entertainment lounge and 18-hole championship golf course, Black Bear Casino Resort has created an expectation of excellence as a meeting and conference destination. Please allow one of our Event Coordinators the opportunity discuss your next successful event at the Otter Creek Event Center. Call 888-771-0777 or 218-878-2327. Pictured: Kandice Gulbranson, Event Center Sales Representative, Black Bear Casino Resort.



A ribbon cutting was held for MN Direct Properties, Inc. in their new location 823 NE 4th St. in Grand Rapids. MN Direct, locally owned by Todd Stone and Mary Roy. MN Direct Properties, Inc. has been a chamber member since their inception in 2005 and has consistently been one of the higher producing companies in the area. "The chamber gives us added exposure we need in a market that has defiantly been a challenge," noted Stone. "Our internet marketing continues to be a strong avenue for growth as well." Stop in and see the crew at MN Direct Properties at the new location 823 North East 4th Street , Grand Rapids MN if you need more information regarding today's real estate market or call 218-326-5800. Pictured: Andy Mundt - Chamber Ambassador, Duke Dotlich, Frankie Stoltz and Todd Stone and Peggy Schagh - Chamber Ambassador



Chamber members and employees celebrate the relocation of Verizon Wireless' Communications Store in Grand Rapids at 1200 South Pokegama Ave. Suite 10 at the stores grand opening weekend June 26-28. Pictured left to right are: Clair Skelly - Chamber Ambassador, store employees: Sara Jarrett, Kara Carey, Sara Alzen, Holding sign, store manager Gene Stokoe, store employees: Jackie Stuntebeck-Lokken, Vicky Virkus, Jennifer Jinks, Jane O'Leary - Chamber Ambassador. The new 2,773-square-foot store will better serve the company's growing customer base and enhance the overall customer experience by providing more display areas, including a new multimedia wall. Customers can browse the latest devices and services, including wireless options such as USB modems or netbooks for Internet access on Verizon Wireless' high-speed 3G network, launched in northern Minnesota in February of 2009. Store hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-8 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information about the store, call (218) 327-1155. For more information on Verizon Wireless, visit www.verizonwireless.com



August 2009 Business Spotlight Recipient:



Many Roads Lead to the Wilderness Pub, How you Get Here is up to you.

The Wilderness Pub, located 11 miles north on Hwy 38, has become a local favorite, specializing in casual dining and fun unlike anywhere else. Don't settle for a typical bar, our staff of friendly servers and bartenders, will make your evening memorable. Not only do we have great-tasting food and an amazing selection of drinks, we also have a large selection of party games, Wii® favorites and Guitar Hero®, along with numerous sporting events from hockey to baseball to NASCAR® on one of our many televisions for everyone to enjoy.

We invite you to join us for lunch, dinner, drinks and entertainment. The Wilderness Pub offers a wide variety of menu items such as: fish, chicken, steak and Prime Rib. Our signature item is our unique Char-Pit wings. We offer delicious burgers, chicken sandwiches, salads, quesadillas, and many other items. Don't forget the Kids Menu. Kids under 10 eat free on Thursday's.

Food specials include All You Can Eat Ribs every Wednesday, Friday All You Can Eat Fish Fry and Saturday Prime Rib. Every entrée includes all you can eat French fries! Our kitchen is open for your latest catch of the day - You catch 'em, we'll cook 'em!

Regularly scheduled events include: Tuesday night Bike Nights (June thru October), the area's only Saturday night Ladies Night from 9-11, Happy Hour from 3-7 p.m. weekdays, karaoke every third Saturday, and cash drawing every Monday and Wednesday night. Be sure to check the website for current events and specials - www.wildernesspub.com.



Remember for every \$100 you spend locally, \$68 returns to the community through payroll, taxes and other expenditures.

The Wilderness Pub offers the only food, drink and limo ride package in the area. For \$35 per person we will pick you up at your doorstep, bring you to the Wilderness Pub, a give you a \$20 per person dining credit. When your evening is done, we'll drive you back to your doorstep.

Don't forget to join our Royalty Rewards Program for a guaranteed return with every purchase. You'll receive a free Birthday and Anniversary dinner and a \$10 reward certificate for every \$200 spent.

We are open at noon, 7 days a week to serve YOU! Our number one priority is to provide you with a fun and relaxing night out with your friends, family and co-workers. Whether you are new to The Wilderness Pub or a long standing guest, we look forward to seeing you soon.

The Wilderness Pub ~ 11 miles north on Hwy 38, Grand Rapids ~ (218) 326-8940 ~ www.wildernesspub.com

MONTHLY Every 3rd Saturday
Starts at 6 PM
Drink & Food Specials!
Ride in on your bike, be eligible for event drawings!

The Grand Rapids area's ONLY **SATURDAY NIGHT BIKE NIGHT**

Every Saturday 9 - 11 PM
THE AREA'S ONLY SATURDAY **LADIES NITE!**

All Ladies - Drinks 2 for 1 (domestic beer & rail pours)

Summer Night Out!

\$2.00 OFF

Dine in Only

Your next food & beverage purchase. EXPIRES September 31, 2009. Not valid with any other offer. Does not qualify for Off Sale. Cannot be used with any other promotion. Liquor sales excluded.

A ribbon cutting took place for ServiceMaster Cleaning Services of Grand Rapids during their open house on June 23, 2009. Pictured are Mike O'Brien, Ann Killian (chamber ambassador), Lauri Gomez (chamber ambassador), Steve Olson, Janice Lee (Dennis' mother), Fred Anderson, Dennis Lougee (owner) Jodi Frazier, Puppy Lougee (owner), Sam Metzgar, Drew Swihart, Bobbi McInerney (chamber ambassador), Tom Berg, Dick Cowan. We are very grateful to have become chamber members as our relationship has been very beneficial. We have gained many new acquaintances, friends and customer contacts, through our membership, and have enjoyed the opportunity to network and learn about the many business members in our community. It was exciting to invite all of our new friends into our new facility and share with them all of the aspects of our business. You want to more about ServiceMaster Clean please contact the office at 218-326-3948 or stop by and visit. ServiceMaster Clean is located at 510 Se 11th St. in Grand Rapids.



Wheelchairs Plus has been a family-owned business in the community for almost 35 years, and is proud to join our Grand Rapids neighbors at the Chamber. Our friendly staff includes Insurance and Mobility Experts that are able to consult and help you determine how to meet your mobility needs. We strive to make things easy for our customers, and provide in-home or in-facility Service Technicians when customers are unable to come in for repairs! In addition to wheelchairs and scooters, we offer a variety of products from disposable medical supplies to therapy products, and even vehicle lifts. Check with Wheelchairs Plus before you decide to buy out of town, or on the internet. We want to help keep our community strong and moving, and will do our best to help meet your needs locally! Stop by and check out our Large Showroom, and let us introduce ourselves to you personally." Dan Dotlich, Peggy Schagh - Chamber Ambassador, Deb Sakrison, Rose Lorenz, Laura Bigo, Chris Schedin(owner), John Huju, Teresa Neary, Katy Hafar, Christina Van Heldorf, Heidi Tinquist, Dick Schedin(owner), Pam Hemphill, Jon Hoskins, Cindy Ridley, Lisa Warmuth, Shane Skelly & Andy Mundt - Chamber Ambassadors

Want to make an investment with a sure return NOW?

During the current economic downturn, one thing we have all learned is that when it comes to investing, there is no sure thing-OR is there? Art Rolnick of the Federal Reserve presents evidence of a \$12 return for each dollar invested in Early Childhood programming. Project READ, an initiative of the Chamber's Workforce Development committee, believes that if the community makes an investment NOW by helping our kids become better readers today, it will be felt instantly-and every day in the future.

When our kids start school ready to read and ready to learn, it costs less for our schools to educate them, saving our community's valuable resources... NOW! When our kids start school ready to read and ready to learn, their parents (our current workforce) are less distracted at work by the needs of their children...NOW! We ALL benefit when kids are prepared to learn.

So it's time we all think about making an investment in making better readers. And it's not just about



money. When it comes to human capital, actions are a form of investment. There are many things business and community members can do. To learn more about what you can do to make sure we ALL get that sure return on our investment, join us for "Better Readers, Better Workforce...NOW!",

the first annual Project READ Community Summit, September 29 from 4-6 p.m. at the Blandin Foundation Auditorium.

Call Jaci David at 327-5153 to learn more, to become an event sponsor or to RSVP.

The Golf outing is made possible by the following sponsors:

Hole Sponsors:

- Minnesota Discovery Center
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- Northern MN Builders Association
- Arrow Embroidery & Photo Express
- Meridian Healthcare Center
- UPM/Blandin Paper

WATCH THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFORMATION

Forestry Affairs Progressive Legislation

By Senator Tom Saxhaug

One of our goals in the Legislature this year was to make sure our forests and all the activities related to them were strengthened for now and in the future.

We made some great progress in regard to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Working with a bipartisan group of colleagues and stakeholders, we secured \$36 million for the Upper Mississippi Forest Project, and saw 190,000 acres of Blandin forest land placed into an easement under Minnesota Forests for the Future. This will prevent development, ensure preservation of the forest and will guarantee access to a working forest for all outdoor activities.

Forestry language was

included in the Omnibus Environment & Natural Resources legislation and signed into law by the governor. It included two provisions that were designed to help our state. The first requires that any fees collected by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for navigable water permits be placed in the School Trust Fund, increasing funding for education. It also allows the DNR to exchange riparian school trust land for non-riparian school trust land, generating more revenue for the Trust Fund. This second provision increases the amount of wood the DNR will put up for sale using the appraisal process instead of scaling process. The statute creates a pilot program where the DNR will be able to lease up to 10,000 acres of

land to other entities for management. No one entity can lease more than 3000 acres and all lessees must manage the land following DNR standards.

We passed language in the Omnibus tax bill that would continue existing funding for the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act. Unfortunately, the Governor capped the payments at \$100,000 per entity which adversely affects most of the large private industrial forest owners in Northern Minnesota.

Our work this year laid a solid foundation for Minnesota Forests for the Future. We will continue in our efforts to make Minnesota forests healthy, accessible and sustainable.

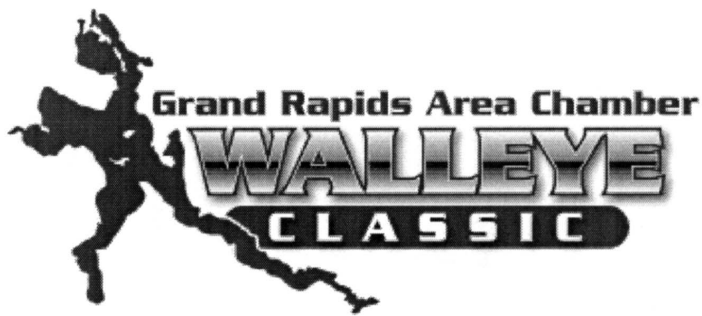


In 2008 legislation sponsored by Minnesota State Senator Saxhaug and Minnesota State Representative Solberg, was passed to allow UPM Blandin Paper Company to increase truck weights on a special section of Hiway 2 between Grand Rapids and the Duluth Port Authority. This special legislation will result in a substantial saving in transportation cost for the local paper mill.

The trucks being used are specially built for this operation and are equipped with extra axles to better distribute the weight and reduce wear and tear on the highway and they also have increased braking capacity. The drivers are also specially permitted and the trucks are equipped with GPS units which will track their daily progress.



A ribbon cutting was conducted for C. S. Handyman Service on June 17, 2009. Pictured left to right Rudy Lundquist, Jim Allen, Ian McGuire, Chamber Ambassador - Diane Skelly, Owners Lisa and Chad St. Aubin, Terry Lyman, Chamber Ambassador - Diana Mattfield, Alex Lundquist and Josh Blade. CHS Handyman Service does all types of jobs including snow plowing, lawn care, painting, staining, street sweeping and carpentry. Call 256-0350. Located at 34487 County Road 177 in Grand Rapids.



The Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce thanks
all our sponsors!
Please support these businesses that make
our event possible!

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• **Location Host - Zorbaz Pokegama Lake**

• **Prize Sponsors - Rays Sport & Marine,
Sugar Lake Lodge & Sammy's Pizza &
Restaurant**

Leader Board

Place	Team Number	Team	City	State	# of Fish	Weight	Big Fish
1	16	Gordon Fothergill Brad Rassmussen	Grand Rapids Buffalo	MN MN	4	17.09	0.00
2	4	Sean Colter David Hernesman	Grand Rapids Cohasset	MN MN	2	17.03	9.34
3	9	Anthony Jerulle Dale Anderson	Grand Rapids Grand Rapids	MN MN	2	15.63	7.32
4	18	Randy Topper Brock Anderson	Cohasset Hill City	MN MN	2	15.18	7.67
5	17	Bruce Berglund Andy Fisher	Tenstrike Tenstrike	MN MN	2	14.28	8.54
6	6	Dan Boedigheimer Bill Braun	Grand Rapids Grand Rapids	MN MN	2	13.84	0.00
7	19	Tim Bymark Shane Jaeger	Grand Rapids Grand Rapids	MN MN	2	12.68	0.00
8	28	Jimmer Hernesman Jeff Lind	Bemidji Bemidji	MN MN	3	12.59	3.00
9	26	Mark Utecht Sam Utecht	Grand Rapids Grand Rapids	MN MN	2	12.25	8.60
10	29	Mark Sullivan Mike Sullivan	Ulen Ulen	MN MN	2	11.17	8.12
11	27	Dan R. Olson Jake D. Olson	Grand Rapids Grand Rapids	MN MN	2	10.93	6.25
12	11	Dr. Tim Graupmann Dr. Dean Roll	Grand Rapids Champlin	MN MN	2	10.24	0.00
13	2	Jeff Eichorn Mark Eichorn	Bovey Grand Rapids	MN MN	2	9.57	0.00
14	8	Jeff DeMars Mike Rademacher	Cohasset Princeton	MN MN	1	9.12	9.12
15	21	Wayne Holtz Terry Roe	Marcell Kokomo	MN ID	1	9.06	9.06
16	3	Peter Miskovich Aaron Murphy	Grand Rapids Cohasset	MN MN	3	8.58	0.00
17	13	Chris Hay Rick Gruebele	Brooklyn Center Cambridge	MN MN	1	8.44	8.44
18	20	Ryan Davis David Olson	Coleraine Grand Rapids	MN MN	2	8.25	0.00
19	5	Dave Clukey Gale Grife	Nevis Deer River	MN MN	1	7.69	7.69
20	15	Robb Ritter Zach State	Grand Rapids Shoreview	MN MN	1	7.36	7.36
21	12	Joe Roger Harrison Daniel Harrison	Grand Rapids Bovey	MN MN	2	6.58	0.00
22	23	Eric Sjodin Jeff Johnson	Grand Rapids Grand Rapids	MN MN	1	3.77	3.77
23	1	David German Greg German	Grand Rapids Fargo	MN ND	0	0.00	0.00
24	7	Justin Lamppa Erik Anderson	Grand Rapids Grand Rapids	MN MN	0	0.00	0.00
25	10	Greg Shaffer David Nikkel	Grand Rapids Grand Rapids	MN MN	0	0.00	0.00
26	14	Jeff Dick Bobby Namchek	Cohasset Grand Rapids	MN MN	0	0.00	0.00
27	22	Erik Odden Robert Maher	Grand Rapids Grand Rapids	MN MN	0	0.00	0.00
28	24	Paul Hawkinson Jason Grell	Grand Rapids Grand Rapids	MN MN	0	0.00	0.00
29	25	Dusty Snyder Rodney Wilke	Deer River Grand Rapids	MN MN	0	0.00	0.00
30	30	Dan Arola Mike Mitchell	Grand Rapids Baudette	MN MN	0	0.00	0.00
Totals					42	241.33	



Biggest Fish caught by Sean Colter 9.34 pounds



1st Place: Gordon Fothergill & Brad Rassmussen

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TINA KANE
Multi Million Dollar Producer