



Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

The Voice of Business for February

February 12, 2024 Luncheon



Where:
Timberlake Lodge Hotel

Time:
11:45 a.m.
Buffet lunch,
12:00 pm
Luncheon begins.

Cost:
\$15.00 members
\$20.00 nonmem

RSVP required:
218-326-6619
or email
kerry@grandmn.com
no later than
Feb. 6, 2024



Save the Date

Annual Dinner
May 2, 2024

Swap Meet & Car Show
July 26-28, 2024

Golf Outing & Fun Day
Sept. 19, 2024

Taking Care of Business
Dec. 4, 2024

For more information please visit our website: grandmn.com

You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram!

TECHNOLOGY IN RURAL PLACES. TECH, TALENT & THREATS

As a small business owner, your time and attention are in demand and you may not be a tech expert. What are the key points of technology that you should keep your eye on?

Traci and Dale will discuss technology, talent and threats.

Technology is constantly changing, how do I stay on top of it?
I'm not a technology expert, how do I make technology work for my business?
What about security? I'm a small business in a rural location, is my business really a target?

Luncheon Speakers:



TRACI GANGL
Director of Information Systems & Technology

A self-proclaimed techie, Traci reports: I can't live without my smartphone! It holds the schedules for me and my family, my shopping lists, my music, and is my most frequently used line of communication.

As the Director of Information Systems, Traci is responsible for the oversight, planning, development, and staff engagement of the Foundation's information systems.

Traci earned a master's degree in information systems management, with a concentration in IS governance and strategy, from Walden University. She is an active member of the Technology Affinity Group (TAG) that serves the nonprofit and foundation communities nationally, and has been a speaker at the TAG Conference and the Salesforce Dreamforce conference.



DALE SCHNEIDER
Network & Security Administrator

Dale's pursuit of a career in computer animation led to opportunities overseas in Germany, Texas, and California. I worked for government, county, and nonprofit organizations supporting cutting edge systems. My role at the Foundation is the security of all systems, networks, and ever-changing technologies. While information technology is where my path ultimately led me to support our family, I thrive on creativity. I enjoy 3Dprinting, working on remodeling my home, and sketching as time allows.

Luncheon Sponsored by: Blandin Foundation stands with rural Minnesota communities as they design and claim ambitious, vibrant futures.



Blandin Foundation™ As communities work together to imagine a shared future to move their rural places forward, Blandin Foundation is retooling its approach to best support this work, and align with the unique needs of rural Minnesota today.
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

Our mission is to connect, fund and advocate for ideas and people to inspire resourcefulness and move rural places forward. Our vision is for rural Minnesota places that welcome diversity, address injustice, and embrace change to create a sustainable and equitable future.

2024

Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce Scholarship

This year the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce will be giving out a total of TWO \$500.00 scholarships. All qualified area high school seniors are encouraged to apply

Who may apply?

Applicants who have applied and have been accepted in a four-year college or university with plans to attain a B.S. or B.A. degree/ inclusive of virtual opportunities.
OR
Applicants pursuing a two-year degree or certification in a vocational/technical industry needed locally/ inclusive of virtual opportunities.

If you need another copy of this scholarship for any reason

Please contact Kerry Larsen at kerry@grandmn.com / call 218-326-6619 or stop by the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce - ONE NW THIRD STREET, Grand Rapids MN 55744

To download the application, click on: www.grandmn.com
Click on "GRACC Scholarship" Under the drop-down box that says "Chamber" at the top



This Month's Business Spotlight Recipient:



For all your real estate needs
218.326.8200

Twelve times per year, a Chamber Members Business in good standing, will be randomly drawn from the Chamber Members database at the monthly luncheon, and spotlighted for the upcoming month.

This randomly drawn business will have the opportunity to showcase themselves through the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce network and newsletter with added exposure, and marketing.

This program is intended to provide a special way to thank all of the businesses and individuals who support the chamber organization's mission of advocacy for business.

When Wendy Uzelac opened RE/MAX Thousand Lakes in Grand Rapids 23 years ago, all kinds of doors opened for sellers and buyers locally and from out of the area.

For starters, the instantly recognizable RE/MAX brand maximizes exposure of properties and has always been associated with results. Buyers and sellers also benefit from working with local real estate professionals.

Home Team Advantage for Buyers & Sellers

Uzelac, who holds leadership posts at state and national real estate associations in addition to her realtor/business owner responsibilities, credits the agents in her office for the guidance and just plain good advice they give clients every day.

"We have a great team of realtors who live, work and play in the area, all eager to share firsthand knowledge of the real estate market, property values and the area they love," Uzelac said. "This local perspective really shines through in many important ways for our valued clients."

"Utilizing a local agent is invaluable – the advantages of local knowledge in real estate transactions cannot be overstated."

Get in Touch or Stop By

Local RE/MAX Thousand Lakes agents are uniquely qualified to help you get the results you want. If you are looking to buy or sell any type of property, count on any of our local RE/MAX agents to guide you every step of the way:

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Wendy Uzelac
218.259.7653 | Bob Ellies
218.259.3403 | Karyn Davidson
218.244.6143 | Tina Marie Ladner
218.244.5663 |
| Kaila Juntunen Wass
218.259.6421 | Kim Olson
218.259.9110 | Jillian Buck
218.671.3084 | |

RE/MAX Thousand Lakes is located at 1001 Pokegama Ave., S. in Grand Rapids, just down the boardwalk from Boulder Tap House. Find more information, including property listings, at onethousandlakes.com.

Join the Chamber for your chance to be premiered. The Chamber of Commerce works to help you create jobs, and helps to solve business problems. Make sure you support your Chamber, because they are supporting you.

Call Kerry Larsen at 218-326-6619 or email kerry@grandmn.com



Ribbon Cuttings



Justice North, formerly known as Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota, is a non-profit civil law firm dedicated to providing equal access to justice to everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances. Our mission is to help the most vulnerable in our communities by providing critical legal assistance to preserve their safety, security, and stability.

We offer limited services, advice, or information to individuals who are facing civil legal challenges. Many people who are at risk of losing their homes, safety, health care, income, or even their families, find it difficult to navigate the justice system without the help of a lawyer. That's where Justice North comes in.

If you need free civil legal help, you can contact Justice North's new Grand Rapids office at 111 Golf Course Road, Suite 5, Grand Rapids, MN 55744. You can also call 877-MY-MN-LAW or visit justicenorth.org to apply for services.

In the picture, you can see Justice North staff members and their titles from left to right: Anna Koller- Paralegal, Jim Vollstaedt - Supervising Attorney, Ali Hanson – Data and Intake Manager, Jeanette Pangburn – Paralegal, Laurie Bauerly – Attorney, Kelly Kerr – Legal Assistant, Dori Rapaport – Executive Director, along with Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors: Stacia Rom – IEDC & Greg Bounds – Century 21 Land of Lakes, The Bounds Team.



Another monumental milestone! The FORGE has had a few grand openings to showcase this awesome facility to local stakeholders and interested parties, but we did an official ribbon cutting and another celebration on Dec. 5, 2023.

We had Gary Charwood, a member of the Leech Lake tribe, do a traditional native American blessing commencing our allegiance to working better on strengthening our native neighbors with upskilling and training. The band has a program called TERO, to upskill local folks. These folks usually must go to the greater twin cities area for training, The FORGE is committed to hosting training a little closer to home for our native neighbors so that this upskilling becomes a little less tenuous for them.

The nature of The FORGE's workspace lends perfectly to pepper in these industrial types of training. The FORGE will be hosting classes through MN North, working with local growing companies like Yanmar, to offer our space for training, developing classes through community ED, and working with upskilling our native neighbors! We are so thrilled with how the space is being embraced to be able to be nimble and useful for our community!

Left to Right:

Hannah Madden, JET. Dale Christy, Former GR Mayor. Bailey Olson, Northspan. Stacia Rom, IEDC. Shaun Hainey, Northspan, Chamber Ambassador: Becky Gilbert- The Title Team, Chamber Ambassador: Lori Flint-Midland Title. Kayla Swanson, IEDC. Spencer Igo, State of MN Representative. Rob Sjostrand, IEDC. Nichole Arbour, IEDC. Rachel Loeffler-Kemp, Senator Klobuchar's Office. Brad Dolinski, NIEC. Gary Charwood, S.Lake LIC. Tamara Lowney, IEDC. Ben Moe, Leech Lake TERO. Chamber Ambassador - LeAnn Hardy - City Limit Storage, Scott Patrow, NEXT Career Pathways, Chamber Ambassador - Greg Bounds- Century 21 Land of Lakes, The Bounds Team, Missy Bowstring, Inger LIC. Ashley Harrison, Leech Lake TERO. Amanda Lamppa, IEDC.

122nd Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner

● ● ● Thursday, May 2, 2024 ● ● ●
Timberlake Lodge

Thank You Paul Bunyan Communications for being our Main Sponsor for 2024!

If you are a Chamber Business and would like to attend please contact Kerry at 218-326-6619 or kerry@grandmn.com to sign up.



President & CEO: Malissa Bahr

Business Relations Coordinator: Kerry Larsen

