



# Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

## The Voice of Business for January



**When:** January 12, 2026

**Where:** Timberlake Lodge

**Time:** 11:45 am: Buffet  
12:00 pm: Luncheon

**Cost:** \$15.00 members  
\$20.00 non-members

**RSVP required:**  
218-326-6619 or email  
jennifer@grandmn.com  
by January 9, 2026

### Calendar of Events

Be sure to visit our website for a listing of all of our events including NEW learning opportunities!



#### \*Lunch with Legislators

January 8, 2026

\*Chamber members and public officials only

#### Luncheon Beyond the Dues: A Guide to Chamber Membership

January 12, 2026

#### Winter Leadership Workshop Series "What You Expect is What They Become"

February 25, 2026  
Sugar Lake Lodge

#### Lunch-N-Learn: Succession Planning with Northspan

March 4, 2026  
Timberlake Lodge

### Chamber Committee Meetings

**Ambassador** - Third Wednesday/monthly, noon - 1:00pm

**Government Affairs** Last Friday/monthly, 7:30am - 9:00am

**Natural Resources** - Last Friday/monthly, 9:15am - 10:45 am

To be added to the invite list for these committees, email April: april@grandmn.com

### Congratulations to the December Customer Service Award Winner



Pictured from left to right: Kurt Werner, Jeanne Nicklason, Tina Carlson, Jamie Randolph, Sophia Pocrnich, Chris Hennrichsen, and Samantha Wester



Pictured: Jamie Randolph and Chamber Ambassador, Karl Weerts, Thrivent Financial

#### Jamie Randolph from Woodland Bank!

Thank you, Jamie, for your exceptional customer service! You provide friendly, accurate, and attentive service to every customer! Your positive attitude, professionalism and calm demeanor make banking with you a joy.

To nominate someone in our community who demonstrates exemplary customer service, contact Kerry at the Chamber. kerry@grandmn.com, or 218-326-6619.

### Congratulations to the Small Biz Express Award winner

Angie Tanner who was rewarded with \$200 in Chamber Bucks!



Brought to you by:

Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce



### BEYOND THE DUES: A GUIDE TO CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

Join us for a special Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon where we take center stage! Over lunch, we'll walk through the full range of member benefits - from networking and advocacy to marketing opportunities, business resources, and community visibility - so you can make sure you're getting the most value from your investment. Whether you're a long-time member, just getting started, or curious, this is a great chance to learn more, ask questions, discover underused benefits, and connect with fellow businesses.

Luncheon Sponsored in by:

#### SPEAKERS:



**KERRY LARSEN**  
Business Relations Coordinator



**JENNIFER PLACKNER**  
Events & Marketing Coordinator



**APRIL ARNASON**  
President



11:45 Buffet Available  
12:00 Luncheon Begins  
1:00 Adjourn

RSVP DEADLINE: 1/9/26  
218.326.6619

jennifer@grandmn.com  
\$15/ Member  
\$20/Nonmembers

\*Taxes are not included in the price and will be added at checkout. Gratuity is also not included. Thank you for your understanding and support!

**Monday, January 12  
11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Timberlake Lodge**

It's Member Dues season and have you ever wondered "what does my Chamber do for me?" Or maybe you're a long-standing member and want to be sure you're capitalizing on all your Chamber member benefits.

Join us for your chance to ask questions, learn about what goes on behind the scenes, and ensure your membership remains relevant to YOU!

RSVP to Jennifer at:  
jennifer@grandmn.com

THANK YOU AGAIN TO DECEMBER LUNCHEON SPONSOR:



HIGHWAY 35 LLC

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE TO JANUARY LUNCHEON SPONSOR:



## Lunch with Legislators



Rep. - District 3A  
**Roger Skraba**



Rep. - District 6A  
**Ben Davis**



Rep. - District 7A  
**Spencer Igo**



Sen. - District 2B  
**Steve Green**



Sen. - District 3A  
**Grant Hauschild**



Sen. - District 6A  
**Keri Heintzeman**

**Thursday, January 8  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Timberlake Lodge**

Hear directly from your legislators about their priorities for the 2026 session.

This is a member-only event with exceptions to partners and Public Officials.

RSVP to Jennifer by Jan 9:  
jennifer@grandmn.com

\$20 - Members  
\$25 - Other

\*Please note - we are taking cash or check only at the door.

SPONSORED BY:



# Business Spotlight



## Duluth International Airport



The Duluth International Airport (DLH) offers travelers a convenient start to their next adventure.

With a state-of-the-art terminal, friendly service and convenient travel experience, Duluth International Airport offers travelers a smooth start to every journey. Daily flights on Delta and United Airlines provide convenient connections through Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP) and Chicago (ORD), linking travelers to destinations around the world.

Whether you are setting out for a business trip, a long-awaited vacation or a visit with your loved ones, Duluth International Airport provides a close and convenient point of departure.

**Closer. Faster. Easier - Fly DLH.**

# Ribbon Cuttings

## KOOTASCA Community Action

**KOOTASCA Community Action**, a nonprofit dedicated to building community and ending poverty in Itasca and Koochiching Counties, is proud to announce the relocation of its Grand Rapids offices to the former Murphy School. This move brings together essential services under one roof, strengthening KOOTASCA's ability to serve families across Itasca County.

Founded in 1965, KOOTASCA has spent more than 60 years helping individuals and families overcome barriers and move out of poverty.

The new location houses KOOTASCA's Administration, Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Crisis Services, Homeownership, Housing Development, and Head Start programs, alongside two private childcare providers, with rental space available for the community. This collaborative space reflects KOOTASCA's commitment to providing comprehensive support for families and fostering community partnerships.

For more information about KOOTASCA Community Action and its programs, visit [www.kootasca.org](http://www.kootasca.org) or call 218-999-0830.



KOOTASCA staff & board (left to right): Back Row: Nick Hansen, Dennis Barsness, Bob Wilson, Nick Adams, Rozanne Casey. Front Row: Alissia Kendall, Marta Carrigan, Rick Blake, Sarah Lovejoy, Scarlet Bennett, Obed Matus. Chamber Ambassadors & staff (left to right): LeAnn Hardy, Danielle Witherill, Becky Gilbert, and April Arnason



## True North Salon & Spa

**True North Salon & Spa** recently celebrated our ribbon cutting and our move into a warm, welcoming new space inside Old Central School.

We're an Aveda salon offering a full range of hair services, brow shaping, lash lifts and tints, and relaxing enhancements like red-light therapy and mini facials. At the heart of our salon experience are Aveda rituals - soothing scalp massages, aromatic moments of wellness, and a focus on pampering that helps guests feel cared for from the moment they arrive.

Caring for our environment and sustainability are important values at True North, that's why we're thrilled Re-Thrift has found its permanent home in our space. Re-Thrift is our curated thrift and consignment shop featuring clothing and home goods, offering a creative and eco-friendly retail experience alongside our salon services.

**We're grateful to be part of this vibrant downtown community and look forward to connecting with you.** You can follow our journey and see updates on social media at: @truenorthsalon and @re\_thrift!

Pictured from left to right: April Arnason, Chamber President, Chamber Ambassador Jennifer Raushel, Stacey Rother, Emily Virnig, Salon owner Ashley Brubaker, Holly Durfee, Chamber Ambassadors Becky Gilbert & Danielle Witherill

## Northland Med Aesthetics

**Northland Med Aesthetics** has officially opened a new office in Grand Rapids, expanding access to advanced, personalized aesthetic and wellness services in the area.

The nurse practitioner- led practice is known for its approach, emphasis on natural results, and commitment to education and safety. The new space reflects a continued investment in the local community while supporting the growth of small, locally owned businesses in the region.

For more information on the services provided, please visit our website.

**I would love to help you look and feel your best!**

Pictured from left to right: April Arnason, Chamber President; Danielle Witherill - Edward Jones; Derek Gustafson, Natalie Gustafson, owners; and Chamber Ambassadors Becky Gilbert - The Title Team, Laurie Clausen - Edward Jones; and Jennifer Raushel - Members Cooperative Credit Union



# Welcome New Members!

Individual Members:

Lisa Randall

Tracey Hensley

## Waterways Restoration

292 Hallum Curve  
Mahtomedi, MN 55115  
612-607-3755  
[waterwaysrestoration.com](http://waterwaysrestoration.com)



## Smash Tax, LLC

1003 South Pokegama Ave  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-444-3224  
[smashtaxmn.com](http://smashtaxmn.com)



## BRAVENLY GLOBAL™

**Stephanie Berg - Bravenly Global  
Holistic Health & Wellness**

612-817-7370



## Northern Lights Rapid Growth

611 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-999-0736  
[nlrgmn.com](http://nlrgmn.com)

President – CEO: **April Arnason**  
Business Relations Coordinator: **Kerry Larsen**  
Events & Marketing Coordinator: **Jennifer Plackner**



**Grand Rapids Area  
Chamber of Commerce**