

Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

The Voice of Business for October



When: October 5, 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
grandmn.com/events/ by
October 2, 2026

Calendar of Events

Visit our website for a listing of our events including learning opportunities!



October 5, 2026
Monthly Luncheon presentation by Itasca Life Options at Timberlake Lodge

October 8, 2026
Women's UN-Conference
Sugar Lake Lodge

October 21, 2026
Work Smarter, Not Harder - Session 3 at Rapids Brewing Co. 8:30 am - 10:00 am

October 21, 2026
Lunch-N-Learn
Minnesota Secure Choice: What Employers Need to Know at Rapids Brewing Co. 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

To Learn More:
grandmn.com/events/

Committee Meetings

Ambassador:
3rd Wednesday/Month
Noon - 1:00pm

Government Affairs
Last Friday/Month
7:30am - 9:00am

Natural Resources:
Last Friday/Month
9:15am - 10:45 am

Healthcare Committee:
Quarterly, over lunch

To be added to any invite, email April:
april@grandmn.com

Grand Rapids Area
Chamber of Commerce

OCTOBER 5TH
ONE WEEK EARLY
TIMBERLAKE LODGE
11:45 AM

TALENT WITHOUT LIMITS: THE VALUE OF INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT

Join Sonia Lindgaard of Itasca Life Options, a nonprofit serving adults with disabilities since 1965, as she shares the organization's history, highlights local employment success stories, and discusses ways businesses can support inclusive employment opportunities in our community. In celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, discover how inclusive hiring benefits individuals, businesses, and our community, and learn how your organization can make a difference.

Luncheon Sponsored by:



SPEAKER:



SONIA LINDGAARD
Associate Director
Itasca Life Options

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

RSVP Deadline: 10/02/26
218-326-6619
grandmn.com/events/



\$15/Members
\$20/Non-members

Taxes are not included in the price and will be added at event check-in. Gratuity is also not included. Thank you for your understanding and support!

Thank you to:



Fairview
Grand Itasca
for your sponsorship of
this luncheon!

Join us in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, where Sonia Lindgaard will share local employment success stories and discuss how inclusive hiring can benefit individuals, businesses, and our community.

RSVP: grandmn.com/events/

Minnesota Secure Choice: What Employers Need to Know

Join us for a Lunch & Learn on Minnesota's new retirement savings requirements and what they mean for employers.

There will be information about the requirements for Minnesota employers under state statute, including compliance and rollout timelines, and employer responsibilities.

Attendees will also learn about retirement plan options available to employers through the State, as well as alternatives that may help businesses meet their retirement plan needs.

Understand the requirement. Explore your options. Be prepared.

Wednesday, October 21
11:30a - 1:00p
Rapids Brewing Co.

Registration required

Scan the QR code or visit:
grandmn.com/events/



*September Customer Service
Award Winner*

Shannon Weston

Sammy's Pizza



Pictured:
Shannon
and her son, Patrick



Pictured:
Shannon
and Chamber Ambassador,
Kari Weerts-Thrivent Financial

Shannon has been an employee with Sammy's Pizza for 23 yrs! She is extremely professional, has a positive attitude, and always a delight to interact with!

September Business Spotlight



Established 2017
Locally crafted beer, seltzers, & N/A options
Community-oriented events & atmosphere

Klockow Brewing Company is about to celebrate its 9th birthday at the end of October! As a small, family-run business, we are more dedicated than ever to providing a warm and welcoming community space to the greater Grand Rapids area! We hope folks see us as more than beermakers but as investors in the region's future. The Klockow Brewing crew contributes as much as possible to the rich diversity in creativity, inclusion, and collaboration through events, gatherings, and general atmosphere.

We enjoy hosting various arts and cultural events in our taproom and welcome other ideas we are approached with which has made us eclectic and agile in our offerings for things to do in the area. On regular taproom days, we enjoy everything from quiet table conversations to boisterous bar discussions, complete with plenty of laughter, commiseration, or whatever the topic elicits in the moment. We are proud of the community we have built and nurture in our business.

We are also busy bringing our Grand Rapids made goodies all over the state, and even a bit into Wisconsin! We self-distribute our beer every single week to different regions as well as local liquor stores, bars, and restaurants! We have a small but mighty team working hard to provide quality beer and NA options, proudly featuring Grand Rapids on our logo in places ranging from International Falls to the Twin Cities and Perham to Superior. We get to call this beautiful place home, contribute to its culture, and give others a taste of what the clean waters of the Mississippi will offer them when they visit! Happy Fall! Prost!



Pictured: Production Crew: Andy, Jay & Zach

Ribbon Cuttings

HFL Bookkeeping, LLC

HFL Bookkeeping, LLC is a professional bookkeeping firm dedicated to helping businesses stay organized, compliant, and confident in their financials.

Because we are a virtual business, we can also save you time and money. With over 25 years of experience in the financial industry, HFL Bookkeeping brings a wealth of knowledge and a personal touch to every client relationship.

Our staff are QuickBooks ProAdvisors and offer full-service bookkeeping, financial reporting, payroll processing, custom reporting, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and more.

HFL Bookkeeping handles everything so that you can focus on what you do best: running your business.

Contact HFL Bookkeeping for all your bookkeeping needs!

E: info@hfl-bookkeeping.com O: 888-528-9166 W: www.hfl-bookkeeping.com



Pictured from left to right: Chamber President, April Arnason, HFL Bookkeeping Co-Owners Annie-Hill Fox and Dave Lutz, and Chamber Ambassador Kari Weerts-Thrivent Financial

Target Stores



Pictured from left to right: Chamber President April Arnason, Chamber Ambassadors Lori Flint-Midland Title LLC, and Leah Geisler- Wildwood Design Company, members of the Target team, Chamber Ambassadors Rebecca Gilbert - The Title Team, and Laurie Clausen - Edward Jones.

Target completed a seven-month remodel of its Grand Rapids store, unveiling a redesigned shopping experience highlighted by an expanded fresh grocery department with produce, meat and refrigerated items previously unavailable at the location. The project, which began in January, transformed nearly every area of the store while remaining open to customers throughout construction.

"We're really excited to be able to provide fresh grocery for our guests," Store Director Abbey Laine said. "It's something the community has been wanting for a long time, and so far we've seen a lot of excitement from our guests."

Employees worked through months of construction, shifting work areas and constant changes before celebrating the remodel's completion with a ribbon-cutting ceremony alongside the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

Story written by Ben Karkela – compliments of the Grand Rapids Herald Review

2026 Golf Outing & Fun Day



Main Event Sponsor:

THANK YOU SPONSORS!



Essentia Health

Premier Prize Sponsor:



Prize Sponsors:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Abstract Service Company | Lakewood Lodge |
| Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union | Les Schwab Tire Centers |
| Benders | Pinnacle Marketing Group |
| Edge of the Wilderness Realty | Super One Foods |
| Klockow Brewing Company | DECC - Duluth Entertainment Convention Center |
| Kraus-Anderson | The Emeralds at Grand Rapids |

Hole Sponsors:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bolton & Menk, Inc. | Members Cooperative Credit Union |
| Capsugel Lonza | Northland Counseling Center |
| Deerwood Bank | Northview Bank |
| Fairview Grand Itasca | Park State Bank |
| Grand Rapids State Bank | Paul Bunyan Communications |
| IEDC | Rapids Brewing Co. |
| Les Schwab Tire Centers | SERVPRO |
| IUOE Local 49 | The Title Team |
| Magnetic North | |
| Mediacom Business | |

Prize Donors:

- Blueberry Hills Golf & RV Park
Les Schwab Tire Centers
MyPlace Hotel



New Members

112 E 3rd Ave, Keewatin, 55753
651-215-3540
blazecu.com



318 Central Ave, Nashwauk, 55769
218-215-5335
centralavedesignco.com



58761 Eagle Nest Road, Deer River 56636
218-246-8701
eaglenestlodge.net

17645 N Highbanks Rd,
Deer River, 56636
218-246-2560
highbanks.com



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

**Grand Rapids Area
Chamber of Commerce**