Pictured is Dennis Bona from the 2019 Northland Technical College State of the College Luncheon sponsored by the Chamber.
GROW Minnesota Evidences Continues Strong EGF Economy

As announced last May, the Chamber and the East Grand Forks EDA partnered with “Grow Minnesota,” a distinctive business retention and assistance program led by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce.

Barry Wilfaht of the Chamber and Paul Gorte of the East Grand Forks Economic Development Authority, visited 15 EGF businesses during the summer. The businesses reflect a cross-section of employers with a business focus that expands beyond the local area. They are pleased to announce their findings. In general, the findings are highly favorable to East Grand Forks but express reservations about the business climate, tax structure, and regulatory environment in Minnesota on a statewide level.

- East Grand Forks is a stable, locally controlled business environment. In general, there is room to meet the current need and to expand.

- Local companies are diversifying and doing quite well from a profitability perspective.

- Workforce demand continues to grow.

- Workforce development must be a priority for future growth and expansion.

- East Grand Forks companies are in a growth mode and have plans for new investments.

The companies shared their thoughts about the State and local area. They are concerned with the business climate in Minnesota. The companies talked about Minnesota taxes, Workers Comp rates, minimum wage, State mandates, higher taxes resulting from the reassessments in Polk County, and the regulatory climate, specifically MCPA.

In contrast, EGF businesses like the local community support of the city and local customers. The companies talked about the need for another bridge. They praised employee and community loyalty. They noted City Hall is responsive. The companies said East Grand Forks is a solid community to do business in. They also noted the challenges of the weather. In short, they look favorably on East Grand Forks.
Northland Community & Technical College Continues to Provide Local Talent for Area Employers

NCTC continues to be the primary workforce pipeline for area employers with over 80 of their graduates staying here. According to President Bona, NCTC also continues to rank as one of the top 10 colleges in the Wallet Hub rankings. He also mentions he is very pleased with enrollment, which has decreased slightly. Compared to other peer colleges NCTC is doing exceptionally well.

The Annual Northland Community & Technical College State of the College Address was held at the college in East Grand Forks on Thursday, October 17th. Hugo’s catered the luncheon that hosted about 150 people.

2019 Chamber Leadership Training Program Update

Leaders for Life. The Chamber of Commerce held its first Leadership Training Program in 1985. Since then, over 1100 business professionals have graduated from the program. Leadership 2019 is designed to give local and regional participants an opportunity to develop the leadership skills necessary to achieve success in their career, family and community. Fun volunteer and leadership challenge activities help to immerse them in our communities.

Chamber Leaders for Life Class of 2019 had the opportunity to tour the 319th Reconnaissance Wing Grand Forks Air Force Base. Included in their tour was a panel discussion with various Base Leadership. This was a great opportunity for the class to ask questions and learn about the different departments on base. Another highlight of the visit was a rare look at the Global Hawk static display. Thank you to all of the military men and women for their service and commitment to our country.

ND Governor Burgum opens the N.D. Mainstreet Conference in Bismarck

He is challenging us to collaborate more as a state. His themes are empower people improve lives and inspire success. Doug brings so much energy to our State!

Marijo Shide Squadron of the Year Award

The Chamber Military Affairs Committee Co-Chairs Al Palmer and Matt Dunlevy presented the Marijo Shide Squadron of the Year Award to the 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron on behalf of The Chamber Military Affairs Committee.
Chamber Board Set Priorities for 2020 and Beyond.

A professional facilitator led a half-day session with nearly 30 Chamber Board Members and Committee Chairs pertaining. Overall, the membership expressed their satisfaction with the chamber’s performance in a pre-session survey. Better telling the Chamber’s success stories was the biggest concern.

On the horizon look for a business development and relationship development trip to Western ND in 2020. It was a decade ago the Chamber organized the highly successful “East Meets West” business development trip that help build to more than 100 local companies doing business in Western ND. Better communicating the many firsts in the UAS industry will also be addressed. Connecting UND and the Community and exploring a Career Academy will all be in the plan for 2020. Finally continued partnership will continue to be the Chamber’s default was of doing business. It is one of our strengths as a Chamber and community.

For more information on the plan of action for 2020 and beyond plan now to attend the Chamber’s annual meeting on January 23rd. A written 2020 plan will also be mailed to all Chamber members in late January.

Chamber Human Resources Seminar

The Greater Grand Forks Human ResouRce Association partners with the Chamber of Commerce GF/EGF to host a Human Resources Seminar on Wednesday, October 23rd at the Ramada Inn in Grand Forks. We had a great turn out of about 50 people registered for this half day event.

Jeff Franck, Corporate Staff Development Leader at MinnKota kicked off the seminar with, “Leadership Branding.” Next up, was Kate Bischoff from thRive Law & Consulting LLC. She presented ON “Marijuana and the Workplace.” Following her presentation, attendees had the opportunity to choose which breakout session they attended.

Breakout Session I:
“Wage & Hour Law” with John D. Schroeder from Zimney Foster P.C.
“Interview Techniques” with Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent of the Grand Forks School District.

Breakout Session II:
“Employee Handbooks” with Megan Flom from Camrud, Maddock, Olson & Larson, Ltd.

Thank you to everone that made this a successful event. Including GGGHRA, Chamber Small Business Committee and Chairs, along with the presentors and attendees that participated in this event.
Henry Havig Nominations Now Being Accepted

2019 Henry Havig Award For Community Service

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2019 Henry Havig Award for Community Service. This is The Chamber’s most prestigious award and is given annually to those special individuals who stand above the crowd by their dedication to our community through community service in multiple volunteer leadership roles. It is an award that recognizes individuals who have provided exemplary voluntary leadership service to our community over a long period of time and in a broad spectrum of community activities. Nominees must be at least 36 years of age and have proven leadership qualities, commitments to community based organizations and the desire to improve the quality of life in our community. The Havig Award for Community Service is given in memory of a great community leader. Henry Havig was president of the board of the chamber in 1955-1956 and was a long time successful businessman who contributed greatly to our community as a member of the Grand Forks City Council and a life-long contributor to the YMCA.

Please complete and return a nomination by **Monday, November 18th, 2019**

**Mail to:** The Chamber at 202 N. 3rd St., Grand Forks, ND 58203 or

**Email to:** info@gochamber.org

Additional information regarding the nominee may be included when submitting the nomination. The Selection Committee is comprised of the past recipients of the award. This award will be presented at **The Chamber’s Annual Dinner and Banquet on January 23rd, 2019** at The Alerus Center.

**Nominations shall include:**

1. Nominee’s Name

2. Leadership qualities, organization memberships, youth involvement, community service and other pertinent and relevant information

3. Name and signature of person submitting the nomination
Chamber Agriculture Committee
Co-Chairs: Brandon Heider, Frandsen Bank and Carah Hart, Red River Farm Network

October 2019 Meeting Update:
Informative Agribusiness meeting this month about the various Agweek publications. Katie Pinke, Publisher of Agweek, presented her passion for the Ag media industry and her dedication to our region. This media outlet is strong and covers print, online and television markets.

The committee is also preparing for the Annual Chamber Agriculture Banquet
The Chamber Ag Committee invites all of the agriculture community to attend the 19th annual Farmers Appreciation Banquet on Thursday, November 14 at 5:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Ramada Inn. See page 18 for more details.

Tickets are available at:
The Chamber of Commerce GF/EGF Office
202 North 3rd St - Grand Forks, ND
The Chamber Ambassadors Committee held their October meeting with guest speaker Barry Brode of Brode Communications Consulting, LLC. It was a passionate and informative presentation on Optimism 101!

Job Service ND Grand Forks provided a great meeting space and Italian Moon catered a delicious lunch.

Congratulations Valeria Becker for being named Ambassador of the Quarter for volunteering on the committee!

Update Your Directory Listing TODAY!

All Chamber Members Main Contact will be listed online and in the Chamber Community Profile/Membership Directory alphabetically.

CLICK HERE to review your current listing  
CLICK HERE to make changes to your
Thursday, November 21, 2019
4:45pm - 7:00pm

hosted by:

EAPC Architects Engineers invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun Business After Hours event!

Stop in... Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities. You might even WIN $700 in our progressive cash drawing! We’ll draw the name of one Chamber Member business. If someone from that organization is present THEY WIN!!

Because of the business nature of this event no children under 18 may attend.
Leah Gustafson Ista, MD, MSPH Joins Altru Health System

Leah Gustafson Ista, MD, MSPH has joined Altru Health System as an emergency medicine physician. Her special practices and procedures include ultrasound imaging, trauma care, procedural sedation, disaster preparedness and response, laceration repairs and wound care, intubation and airway management.

“Emergency medicine allows me to care for patients of all ages, from all different backgrounds and with all sorts of needs,” explains Dr. Ista. “Most importantly, I can be a calming and helpful presence during what is often a scary and difficult time for patients and their families.”

Dr. Ista earned her Master of Science in Public Health, Doctor of Medicine and completed her Emergency Medicine Residency from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family, listening to music and traveling.

Marcin Szember, MD Joins Altru Health System

Marcin Szember, MD has joined Altru as an inpatient gastroenterologist. He specializes in interventional endoscopy, ERCP, SpyGlass Cholangioscopy and Endoscopic Ultrasound with Fine Needle Aspiration.

“I am motivated by patients in need of endoscopic interventions with a goal of success in diagnosis and treatment. I strive to help others in need with respect for their autonomy. My goals focus on maximizing patient benefits from endoscopic interventions.”

Dr. Szember completed his medical degree, internal medicine residency and gastroenterology fellowship at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark, New Jersey. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his kids and family, traveling and sports/outdoor activities.

Nicholas Bennett, MD Joins Altru as a Hospitalist

Nicholas Bennett, MD has joined Altru Health System as a hospitalist. Dr. Bennett earned his medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, Florida. He went on to complete his international anesthesia externship from Sichuan University in Chengdu, China. Dr. Bennett then completed his internal medicine residency from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida.

Cristina Kruta joins the Chamber

Cristina Kruta began working at The Chamber in September of 2019 as the Administrative Assistant. Her primary responsibilities are managing the weekly E-Publication Member2Member, and is the liaison for the Small Business Committee. Cristina facilitates The Chamber’s monthly Brown Bag Seminar along with other Small Business Committee seminars. In addition, Cristina helps with various events hosted by The Chamber. Cristina and her husband Andy, along with their four children, moved to Grand Forks from Oklahoma City in July of 2019. Cristina enjoys spending time with her family and friends, going to the Lake, enjoying the outdoors, or just taking in a movie. At the top of her list of favorite things to do is playing and cuddling with all her furry “children” which includes three dogs and two cats.

The Chamber leads the biennial “Team Grand Forks” legislative Effort. This has resulted in $450 million in direct project funding for GF region.

CLICK HERE to find out more about this partnership.
RiverView Moves Up the Ranks in Best Places to Work Recognition

On top of the excitement of watching the new clinic and hospital inpatient unit building go up, RiverView is also enjoying a climb in the rankings of Modern Healthcare’s Best Places to Work in Healthcare program.

While RiverView learned a few months back that the organization made the prestigious list for a third consecutive year, it was only last week that it was shared that RiverView placed 16th in the list of 75 recipients in the Healthcare Providers and Insurers category. RiverView has enjoyed a climb each year it has been named an award winner, ranking at 71 in 2017, 35 in 2018, and now 16.

“Participating in the Best Places Survey has been transformational in RiverView’s journey to not just be a Best Places to Work in Northwestern Minnesota, but one of the Best Places to Work in Healthcare nationally,” stated RiverView President and CEO Carrie Michalski. “Our governing board and leadership team is deeply committed to fostering a learning organization. We strive to continuously evaluate using input and feedback from our entire team. Then we adjust, test and improve. That cycle is never ending.”

The nationwide recognition program, now in its 12th year, honors workplaces throughout the healthcare industry that empower employees to provide patients and customers with the best possible care, products and services. Modern Healthcare - a leader in healthcare business news, research and data - partners with the Best Companies Group on the assessment process, which includes an extensive, voluntary, anonymous employee survey to benchmark standings against other health care facilities across the country.

Modern Healthcare
BEST 2019 PLACES TO WORK™

First International Bank & Trust Receives Top Honors at Banky™ Awards

First International Bank & Trust was just named among the top extraordinary banks in the United States by The Institute for Extraordinary Banking™ presented at the 2019 Extraordinary Banking™ Awards. First International Bank & Trust was recognized with the Institute’s highest and most exclusive honor, being inducted into the Hall of Fame, for exemplary commitment to community banking. In addition, the bank was recognized with the Institute’s Banky™ Award; recognition given to top community banks across the country to help people find the best banks in their communities. Awards for company culture, community giving, and extraordinary bank practices were also presented to First International Bank & Trust.

The Extraordinary Banking™ Awards recognize the best of what community banks offer to our cities, towns, and nation: a true commitment to the success of the small businesses and local community they serve.

Our Chamber Agribusiness Committee hosts 3 events each year to promote agriculture in our region and salute our area farmers.

CLICK HERE to out more about this committee.
Jody Thompson receives 2019 CVIC Peacemaker Award

Grand Forks Public Schools Associate Superintendent of Elementary Education Jody Thompson has been named the Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC) 2019 Peacemaker Award recipient, recognized for his partnership in the Safer Tomorrows initiative to end violence in two generations.

Thompson provided instrumental leadership in CVIC’s efforts to develop a community plan to end childhood exposure to violence, serving on the Safer Tomorrows Governance Team from 2011-2016 and on the agency’s board of directors from 2012 - 2019.

CVIC tries to make us a better community whether that’s within the school system or working with local partners, Thompson said. “Anytime the public schools can be involved we want to be front and center. I gladly accept the award on behalf of the Grand Forks Public Schools and all the county schools involved in the Safer Tomorrows Road Map.”

“Jody was influential in CVIC’s successful efforts to implement prevention programs in schools throughout Grand Forks County,” said CVIC President/CEO Coiya Tompkins. He also paved the way for CVIC to begin delivering individual and group therapy to students in the Grand Forks area schools. “More kids are being reached with prevention education and healing services than ever before as a result of Jody’s efforts,” said Tompkins.

The award, which CVIC gives annually to a local citizen who demonstrates outstanding commitment to ending violence in Greater Grand Forks, was announced Thursday, Oct. 10 at CVIC’s Take Back the Night rally, an awareness event held as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Make Your 2020 Directory Listing STAND OUT! Bold Print ONLY...$40

Bold/Red Print ONLY...$60

The FINAL Deadline to Make Changes Wednesday, December 12th!

CLICK HERE TO ORDER BOLD OR BOLD/RED LISTING

Call or e-mail the Chamber with any questions! 701-772-7271 or info@gochamber.org
Tony Gudajtes, EVP & Ag Market President was recently appointed by the USDA to serve on their Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee and attended its first meeting in Washington at the end of October. In addition to his role at Choice Bank, Gudajtes will serve a 2-year term with the USDA until September 17, 2021.

During his appointment, Gudajtes will advise Sonny Perdue, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, on matters, policies, and programs impacting beginning farmers and ranchers. Gudajtes will also work with the committee to enhance opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers, including access to land and capital, farmer and rancher recruitment and retention, relief from labor and taxation challenges, and more.

“It’s a huge honor to be chosen to serve on the USDA’s Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers,” said Gudajtes. “I’ve been working with farmers and ranchers for over 20 years and I’m looking forward to bringing my experience to the table. I am hopeful that my work with the USDA will have a positive reaching impact on beginning farmers and ranchers across our country.”

The committee is made up of 20 members total who were appointed by the USDA based on self-nominations or nominations by others. Members are representative of a variety of industries and organizations involved in agriculture.

DID YOU KNOW?

LESS THAN 10 WEEKS LEFT!

WINDOWS 7 & SERVER 2008 SUPPORT ENDS ON JAN. 14, 2020

Microsoft will end extended support for these two systems on January 14, 2020. In less than 10 weeks, those still using Windows 7 and Server 2008 will no longer receive free technical support, software and security updates putting their computer at risk of viruses and malware.

Immediate action required.

Call our experts today!

ReadiTech
A DRN COMPANY
2600 DeMers Ave., Grand Forks
800.279.4796 | readitech.com

CLIENT FOCUSED—TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN
The Chamber Ambassadors would love to meet you and celebrate your business with a ribbon cutting ceremony. If you are interested, please contact Emberly at 772-7271 or emberlyL@gochamber.org to schedule a ribbon cutting event.

Emberly Lietz, Membership Director
Chamber of Commerce GF/EGF
October 1 - October 31

Membership Renewals

The following businesses know the value of their Chamber Membership and have renewed their membership in The Chamber-GF/EGF.

American Crystal Sugar
Auto Finance Super Center
C & R Cleaners & Laundry
D & M Auto Body
Dak-Minn Blood Bank
Dakota Mailing & Shipping Equipment Inc.
Grand Forks Park District
Halstad Telephone Company
ICS, Inc.
Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota
Northern Plains Financial
Now or Never Nutrition
Stay & Play Pet Resort
The UPS Store
United Valley Bank

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GrandLifestyleMagazine.com

GRAND LIFESTYLE

The Grand Cities Lifestyle Magazine

Dak-Minn Blood Bank
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Grand Forks Park District
Halstad Telephone Company
ICS, Inc.
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Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota
Northern Plains Financial
Now or Never Nutrition
Stay & Play Pet Resort
The UPS Store
United Valley Bank

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GRAND LIFESTYLE

The Grand Cities Lifestyle Magazine
NEW MEMBERS

FOB NoDak
Mr. Gregory Bowen
Northwood, ND 58267
(P) 719-352-6227
gregory.s.bowen1@gmail.com
Independent consultant supporting the Department of Defense and defense contractors. Focused on Space, Ballistic Missile Defense, Cyber, and Nuclear Command and Control.

Lotus Yoga
Mickenzy Hanson
2650 32nd Ave S. STE C
Grand Forks, ND 58201
(P) 701-360-1306
lotusyogagf@gmail.com
www.lotusyogagf.com
Lotus Yoga is a Health and Wellness studio. We provide yoga and fitness classes for all levels. We offer Infrared Heated classes as well as non-heated classes.

Grand Forks Chorales
Susan Caraher
PO Box 12272
Grand Forks, ND 58208
(P) 701-732-0091
info@gfchorales.org
www.gfchorales.org
Entertaining our region for more than 35 years, the Grand Forks Chorales is an auditioned choral organization combining both the Master Chorale and a community choir presenting four concerts each season.

Thryv
Bradley Watnea
213 1st Ave West
Hunter, ND 58048
(P) 701-866-2661
Bradley.watne@thryv.com
www.emp.thryv.com/site/syn1jjxo6kwy2928
Thryv’s local business automation software helps thousands of local business owners automate their most essential business functions so they can get back to doing what they love – running their businesses.
September

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Hosted by: Choice Bank

It’s the talk of the town!

This is one of the many networking opportunities The Chamber offers for its members and their employees

Before

Kitchens • Bathrooms • Flooring

elleinteriorsgf.com | 2001 Gateway Drive | 701-757-0563

After
Creating Video that Stands Out in the Digital Age

Video is one of the most powerful tools when it comes to marketing. However, creating video content is not easy, and standing out among the crowded digital space can feel nearly impossible. Sometimes we don't even know where to begin when creating a video. I’ll go through some tips, tricks and strategies I've found for creating compelling content to help you break through the content jungle.

Presented By:
Peter Monsrud, Videographer
Division of Marketing & Communications
University of North Dakota

Peter Monsrud is a 2017 graduate from the University of North Dakota with degrees in marketing and communication. Peter’s passion for video began as a student where he held multiple video marketing internships with the UND TV Center and Altru Health System in Primary Care. After he graduated, UND hired Peter in a videographer position where he creates content for UND’s social media channels, website, email campaigns, presentations and wherever else video is needed on campus.

Effective Networking Strategies & Meaningful Relationships

Presented by:
Jonathan Holth, Community and Client Development Manager, JLG Architects

Seating is limited to 32 Attendees Sign up soon! If the attendee limit has been reached & you would like to be added to our waiting list please e-mail: info@gochamber.org

Registrations are available online only

To register and add the event automatically to your calendar click the register button below

WAITING LIST

Seating is limited to 32 Attendees Sign up soon! If the attendee limit has been reached & you would like to be added to our waiting list please e-mail: info@gochamber.org

Reservations not cancelled 3 days prior to event will be invoiced
On behalf of the Chamber’s Ag Committee and our sponsors we invite area farmers and a guest to a FREE “Farmer’s Night Out” on us.

2019 Farmers’ Appreciation Banquet

Thursday November 14th
Ramada Inn Grand Forks
5:30pm Social
6:30pm Dinner & Program

Please join us for an evening of food, fun and socializing!

Entertainment

Kenny and the Classics
50’s & 60’s Music at its Best!

Tickets are available at:
The Chamber of Commerce GF/EGF
202 N. 3rd St., Grand Forks, ND

Tickets are limited to 2 per person and must be picked up. (No tickets will be mailed)

Deadline to pick up tickets is November 7th. Limited tickets available.

5:30pm - Social
6:15pm - Welcome
6:25pm - Speaker
6:40pm - Dinner
7:30pm - Kenny & the Classics
Lots of Great Door Prizes!

Thank you Sponsors

- ND Mill & Elevator
- AgCountry Farm Credit Services
- Alerus Bank
- BNSF Railway Company
- Bremer Bank
- Altru Hospital
- American Crystal Sugar
- Simplot
- Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C.
- Lithia Auto Stores
- AgriData, Inc
- GF County Soil Conservation District
- Nodak Electric Cooperative
- True North Equipment
- Farmers National Company
- Frandsen Bank & Trust
- AE2S Construction/EIM
- Choice Financial - S. Washington
- Forks Freightliner
- Zimney Foster P.C.
- American Federal Bank - EGF
- CF Industries Industries Sales, LLC
- First Community Credit Union
- Univeristy of MN Crookston
- Bergstrom Electric, Inc.
- RML Trading, LLC