Join us for Mayor Steve Gander’s East Grand Forks “Virtual” State of the City Address.

Wednesday, May 20, 2020
12:00-1:00pm

This event will be shown via live stream and can be viewed here: https://www.hbsound.com/egf2020.

Technology will be run by:

Dr. Steve Gander
Mayor of East Grand Forks

COVID GF/EGF Business Survey

The Chamber, EDC and EDA are teaming up to conduct a detailed business condition survey. The information will be shared with participants and used by Community and State Leaders to better understand what the next actions should be. When the link is sent next week please take 7 minutes to complete it.
Chamber President Visits with MN Governor Walz

Chamber President, Barry Wilfahrt was part of a small group who met via Zoom today at 11:30 a.m. to talk about the importance of reopening MN. From the ND reopening on May 1st we have learned that businesses and customers self-regulate and open only when they feel their employees and customers are safe. Likewise customers are also much more safety conscious than two months ago and also self regulate. The Governor noted “bars and restaurants will open in days and not weeks” which is an encouraging sign.

ND Leads the Nation in PPP Loans

North Dakota is number one in terms of the PPP loan participation. See this chart from this weekend’s Wall Street Journal.

This is the benefit of living in a low population state where relationships still matter. Local banks know their customers and worked very hard for them to help them qualify for PPP and emergency loans. Congratulations and Thank you to the many local bankers and accountants who worked long hours to help so many of our businesses qualify.
Join Us for a Virtual Candidates Forum

The Government Affairs Committee of the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Chamber will conduct a Virtual Candidate’s Forum on **Wednesday, May 20th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** Candidates for School Board will start at 4 p.m. p.m. and Mayor of Grand Forks candidates will start at 5:00 p.m.

Chamber Government Affairs Co-Chair, Stacey Dahl from Minkota Power will moderate the forum. Join us for this Zoom Meeting on Wednesday, May 20th at 4:00-6:00pm.

[https://zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join)
Meeting ID: 850 3746 6093
Password: 352576

Pizza for Airmen

The Chamber’s Military Affairs Committee (MAC) will be providing pizza for airmen in the dorms in May. Most of the active military personnel at GFAFB have been basically quarantined on the base. According to MAC CoChair and Retired General Al Palmer, “this is a small way for us to give the airmen serving our country at GFAFB a small taste of Grand Froks during this difficult time.”

The Golden Eagle membership many local business people pay in addition to their Chamber dues funds special events like these.

Join us for A Virtual Happy Hour!

Are you missing connecting with other Chamber members at Business After Hours?

The Chamber is hosting our next Virtual Happy Hour on **Thursday, May 21st from 4:00-5:00 pm via Zoom.**

There will be plenty of conversation and a chance to win a $25 gift card if you participate in “I Spy” during the Happy Hour!

To attend you must register in advance. Registration is limited to 100 people.

[CLICK HERE](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

So get comfortable, grab a beverage and a snack and join us for a virtual happy hour!
Majority Supports Protecting Employers from Coronavirus Lawsuits

The US Chamber’s Institute for Legal Reform released a poll Tuesday showing that Americans across the political spectrum believe that employers must have protections from COVID-related lawsuits as they make decisions about how to safely and sustainably reopen their businesses.

More than six-in-ten Americans say Congress should extend liability protections to employers. Specific protections show even higher support:

- 84% of Americans agree that essential businesses, like grocery stores and pharmacies, should be protected from coronavirus-related lawsuits.
- 82% agree that, aside from cases of gross negligence, employers who follow public health guidelines to protect their customers should be shielded from lawsuits.

Chamber Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer Neil Bradley discussed liability protections on NPR this morning.

“We’re not asking for some type of immunity, we’re asking for a safe harbor,” Bradley said. “No one wants to protect bad actors here, but businesses that are trying to do the right things shouldn’t be second-guessed a year later in a court of law.”

ACC Commander General Holmes to do a Virtual Visit to GFAFB

On Friday, May 8, 2020, General James M. “Mike” Holmes conducted a virtual tour of Grand Forks Air Force Base.

General James M. “Mike” Holmes is the Commander, Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. He “toured the base” virtually in a series of briefing. ACC Civic Leaders Barry Wilfahrt and Jim Bradshaw were part of the tour. This is part of an ongoing effort to keep Air Force Leadership apprised of everything happening at Grand Forks Air Force Base. Local Base Commander Col Cameron Pringle guided the tour.

Stay Connected Through the Chamber’s Website Directory

We know you may be missing networking in person... so are we!

Many amazing connections have been made during our Chamber events like Business After Hours. We encourage you to keep those relationships going! The Chamber’s website directory is a great resource to help you stay connected, and has over 1,000 business contact’s phone numbers, emails and website links. Check in with one another, collaborate creatively and support one another. We look forward to the next time we can gather in person again.

Until then, stay well and stay connected!

CLICK HERE to view the directory.
APRIL 1 - APRIL 30
Membership Renewals

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

5-Star Collision & Glass Center  GF Blue Line Club  R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc.
AAA Quality Cleaners  GF Motor Vehicle Branch Office  RDO Equipment Company
AE2S  Grand Cities Mall  Readitech IT Solutions
All Reasons Self Storage, LLC.  Grand Forks Public Library  Rhombus Guys
Anderson Brothers Auto Body Shop  Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation  Rhombus Guys Brewing Company
Area Community Credit Union  Greenberg Realty - Lynn Kvidt  Rivard's Turf & Forage Inc
Aurora Dialysis  Handy Law Group PLLC  Rogers Construction, Inc.
Avant Hair and Skin Care Studio, Inc.  Heritage Highland I  S-Y Commodities
Bergstrom Electric, Inc.  Heritage Highland II  Sanford Health
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Family Realty  Holy Family Church  Sanford Healthcare Accessories
Bonzer's  Hugo's Wine & Spirits - 32nd  Service Credit Union
Braaten's Quality Auto Service  Hugo's Wine & Spirits - Columbia Rd  State Farm Insurance - Randy Fenley
Brockmeyer Tile & Stone, Inc.  Ironhide Equipment  Stennes Granite Company
Brode Communications Consulting, LLC  Johnson & Autrey Law Firm  Stone's Security Systems Inc
Budget RV  K & E Construction  The Ember
Buffalo Wild Wings  Kenny's Music  The Golf Center
Caulfield Studio  Kobetsky Property Management  TIAA-Scott Roche
Century Electric, Inc.  Marco  True Healing Massage, Yoga & Wellness
Coldwell Banker - Laurie Tweten  Maximum Impact Promotions & Specialties LLC
Crary Real Estate  Michael S. Johnson DDS  Unique Auto Body & Sales, Inc.
Dakota Fire Protection  Mutch Oil Co. of Grand Forks, Inc.  United Valley Bank - Downtown
Dance, Etc!  NAV Innovators  Valley Dairy/Valley Car Wash
Dusek Law  North Dakota CPA Society  Valley Golf
Erickson Financial Advisors  Pat McLean  Valley Petroleum Equipment Inc.
Fert-L-Lawn  Pifer's Auction & Realty  Vogel Law Firm
Forks Freightliner  Precision Construction Solutions  Walmart-Gateway
Forx Builders Association  Pro Transport & Leasing, Inc.  Wells Fargo Bank
Garon Corporation  Yorhom Medical Essentials

CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2020!

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!
PURCHASE YOUR 2020 MEMBERSHIP AT KINGSWALK.ORG
May Chamber Committee Meetings

May 12 – Ag Committee Meeting
May 12 – MAC Exec Committee Meeting
May 12 – Team Grand Forks Committee Meeting
May 12 – Leadership Committee Meeting
May 13 – BGEA Committee Meeting
May 18 – Ambassador Committee Meeting
May 20 – MAC Committee Meeting
May 21 – Chamber Exec Board Committee Meeting
May 28 – Chamber Board of Directors Meeting
Chamber Community Profile Membership Directories
AVAILABLE NOW!

A limited number of additional copies of the 2020 Chamber Community Profile Membership Directory are available for waiting rooms and workforce recruitment purposes.

Contact us at info@gochamber.org for additional copies.

CAN YOUR BUSINESS AFFORD TO BE DOWN FOR 24 HOURS?

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Researchers at Altru Health System and the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences have partnered on the production of a laboratory medium useful for testing COVID-19.

Marijo Roiko, Ph.D., microbiology program director in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Services for Altru, and UND Department of Biomedical Sciences Associate Professors Catherine Brissette, Ph.D., and Matthew Nilles, Ph.D., have produced a viral transport media (VTM) solution used to maintain the stability of a clinical specimen from the point of collection to laboratory testing.

In laboratory science, VTM is a liquid medium used for collection, transport, maintenance and long-term freezer storage of clinical specimens containing viruses, including COVID-19. The UND-Altru team has produced enough VTM for more than 1,600 COVID-19 tests.

“Across the country, VTM has been in short supply since the COVID-19 outbreak began,” noted Nilles. “However, this partnership between lab scientists at Altru and UND is helping alleviate the shortage in a significant way.”

According to the researchers, the locally produced medium was developed from reagents available in laboratories at the two institutions. The compound was vetted by quality assurance testing at Altru and the North Dakota Public Health Laboratory.

KLJ Ranked Among ENR Top 500 Design Firms

Jumping two Spots from 2019 ranking!

Engineering New-Record (ENR) announced this week that KLJ has been named among the 2020 Top 500 Design Firms. The firm ranked 160, moving two numbers from the 2019 ranking. KLJ was evaluated based on revenue for design services performed in 2019. Design services assessed included general building, power, water supply, sewer/waste, industrial/petroleum, transportation, and telecommunications.

ENR, reports on the top design firms, both architects and engineers, and the top construction companies as well as project in the United States and around the world. The Top 500 Design Firms list, published annually in April, ranks the 500 largest U.S. based designs firms, both publicly and privately held, based on design-specific revenue. Companies engaged in general contracting specialty contracting, engineering, architecture, planning and studies are ranked through an annual survey. The rankings are then divided into specific market categories.

Your Chamber Working For You

In these uncertain times, your Chamber of Commerce is working for you. We will continue to inform, promote, advocate, connect and educate our members and community.
Mr. Lennon has been named the 2019-2020 GFPS Teacher of the Year!

Administrators from Grand Forks Public Schools’ district office and Grand Forks Central High School surprised Trevor Lennon last week with a BIG announcement. Mr. Lennon has been named the 2019-2020 GFPS Teacher of the Year!

Since joining Grand Forks Public Schools in 2014, Lennon has quickly made his mark at Grand Forks Central High School.

Lennon currently teaches video production I and II, web design, multimedia (Adobe Photoshop), and Microsoft Office. He also serves as chair of the business education department.

Lennon is an advisor for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) chapters Grand Forks Central.

In a nomination, student Gabriel Randall wrote, “Mr. Lennon holds workshops after school for students to come in and work on FBLA projects or school assignments. He always brings a funny and whimsical attitude to his classes which brightens up everyone’s day.”

In his many accomplishments, Lennon has guided scores of students in becoming Microsoft Office Certified through Certiport. He also increased membership of the FBLA chapter and participation in the state and national conferences.

The Grand Forks Central FBLA chapter was recently recognized with a number of awards, including the Dorothy L. Travis Outstanding Chapter award, as well as earning second place at the state leadership conference.

Lennon is also a varsity assistant coach, junior varsity head coach, conditioning coordinator, and assistant summer strength coach for Knight football. He was the C squad basketball coach for several years, a site supervisor for the Junior Grand Am basketball tournament, and a youth coach for Grand Forks Fastbreak Camp.

Lennon volunteers his time in a number of roles, including Grand Forks Central graduation ceremonies, Through the Decades project (Grand Forks Central’s centennial celebration), and videographer for school plays and Hall of Fame.

Lennon holds a bachelor’s degree in business education, business administration, with a concentration in entrepreneurship, from the University of Mary (Bismarck, N.D.), and will graduate with a master’s degree in educational leadership from the University of North Dakota this month. He also holds a secondary principal credential.

New staff? Business accomplishments? SHARE YOUR NEWS IN Business Briefs FREE! CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT.
Thinking of Offering a Virtual Internship?

AN EMPLOYER TO-DO LIST

UND Career Services and the UND Pancratz Career Development Center encourage you to consider offering a virtual internship this summer. There are so many tasks that can be completed remotely that you already do or perhaps you can develop new tasks that can work outside the four walls of an office. Here are some helpful tips to consider:

- What does your organization need that can be accomplished remotely?
  - Research on industry trends, consumer trends, etc?
  - Customer contacts through email or phone?
  - Social media advertising, blogs, website design?
- Create a job description from that list, including requirements, i.e., degree(s), skills, hours, duties, is anything preferred as well as required.
- Post on Handshake, UND.joinhandshake.com, connecting UND students and employers across the nation.
- Review applications and set up interviews via Zoom or telephone.
- Select your candidate and schedule onboarding via Zoom or telephone.
- Assign a supervisor and/or mentor to your new employee. Provide regular feedback and contact.
- Follow these best practices:
  - Determine a reasonable set schedule, but provide flexibility as much as can be allowed.
  - Include your intern on conference calls and/or Zoom meetings, and provide regular contact to help build and strengthen communication skills.
  - Make sure your intern has adequate technology and security options.
  - Set clear expectations (when will they check in, require a productivity report or a way to track hours and what they are working on).
  - Set up performance reviews as you would for any other employee.
  - Make your new hire feel part of the team!

Embracing the opportunity to hire a student to work from home sounds like a dream, but it has become our new reality and we are here to help. Please reach out to either of the Centers below with questions at any point in the process.
In Need of Cotton Material
Torn or stained clothing, towels or linen accepted
(please no jeans or infant clothing).
Please support our consumer work program!
Donations are tax deductible.
Drop off when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted at:
The Home Place Thrift Store - 1811 S Washington Street or Prairie Harvest Mental Health Office - 930 N 3rd Street
For more information contact:
Email: info@prairieharvest.net
Phone: 701-795-9143

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