

Business Update

Chamber News

Business After Hours

Ambassador Meeting

Committee Corner

Business Brief

New Members

Membership Renewals

Brown Bag

THE **Vo**ice

www.gochamber.org

Thank you Andy's Harley-Davidson for hosting a fantastic Chamber Business After Hours outdoor event! Congrats on your 45th Anniversary!



BAH IS BACK!

THE Chamber
Business After Hours
2020



**WATCH
YOUR
E-MAIL**

for the September
Brown Bag
Information!



U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND), a member of the Senate Banking and Senate Budget committees, discussed the latest on a COVID-19 relief package and the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) at a roundtable with Grand Forks Mayor Brandon Bochenski and members of the Grand Forks / East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce.

“North Dakota relies heavily on its strong and resilient small business community,” said Senator Cramer. “Congress must do what it can to help these businesses survive and relieve anxiety placed on them by the bureaucracy. Thank you to the Chamber members who participated today for their insight and perspective.”

“We appreciate Senator Cramer’s time today and his ongoing support for small business in our community,” said Chamber President and CEO Barry Wilfahrt. “It is little wonder why he received the ‘Spirit of Enterprise’ Award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.”

Senator Cramer received the Spirit of Enterprise Award in May of 2019. Earlier this year, the U.S. Chamber awarded him the Abraham Lincoln Leadership for America Award, which recognizes members of Congress who demonstrate the leadership needed to advance policies supporting American business.

The roundtable discussion focused on the importance of streamlining forgiveness for borrowers and lenders of smaller PPP loans to address the uncertainty they face. Senator Cramer authored legislation to simplify the forgiveness process for recipients of PPP loans of \$150,000 or less, which make up 85 percent of PPP loans. The bill has the support of 30 senators.

Chamber Pushes for a more Business Friendly GF

More than 50 Chamber members participated in three focus group meetings with new GF Mayor Brandon Bochenski. Chamber Members also responded to a survey conducted in late August asking for input on how the City staff could streamline city services like inspections, etc. The input was compiled by Praxis Strategy Group and provided to the Mayor. A follow-up survey is planned for early 2021 to track progress.

Chamber Board members and project cochairs, Dave Zavoral and Tommy Kenville want to thank everyone who participated in these meetings and took time to fill out the survey. According to Tommy Kenville, “This is a great example where The Chamber working with elected leaders is making a difference for the business community and the community as a whole.”

Executive Committee

Chair: Paula Anderson

Sterling Carpet One

Chair Elect: Dave Zavoral

RJ Zavoral & Son’s, Inc

Past Chair: Josh Brown

Bell Insurance Services, LLC

Tony Telken- Lithia Ford Lincoln

Josh Grinde, Right Choice Electric Inc

Tommy Kenville, ISight RPV Services

Barry Wilfahrt - The Chamber GF/EGF

Board of Directors

Christopher Adams, Adams Family Farms

Jeff Barta, Achieve Therapy

Dennis Bona, NCTC

Mike Dunn, Construction Engineers

Shanna Field, Wintrust Mortgage

Rachel Gornowicz, Countrywide Sanitation

Peter Haga

Tony Hodny, Red River Biorefinery

Curt Kreun, District 42 ND Senator

Brian Leach, Golf Center

Meloney Linder, UND Public Affairs

Keith Lund, GF EDC

Anna Rosburg, Alerus Center

Lisa Swanson, Hugo’s Retail Support Center

Justin Valinski, Columbia Mall

Jill Wilson, Edgewood Healthcare

Sr Military Advisory to the Board

Col Cameron Pringle - GFAFB

Chamber Staff

Barry Wilfahrt

President/CEO

barry@gochamber.org

Kimberly Strom

Vice President of Operations

kimberlys@gochamber.org

Emberly Lietz

Membership Director

emberlyl@gochamber.org

Tina Neil

Communications Director

tina@gochamber.org



Lt Governor Wraps up East Revisits West Session

Lt Governor Mark Sanford provided the closing remarks during the third of three monthly "East Returns West" virtual sessions. The Lt Governor commended Grand Forks and western ND for working together to bring awareness of each others needs and opportunities. According to the Lt Governor, "By working together we can build a better North Dakota."



The third session also featured State Tax Commissioner Ryan Rauschenberger who noted the State faces a structural deficit of \$845 million. State Mineral Resources Director, Lynn Helms pointed to a slow return to production levels ND has become accustomed to. It will likely be late 2021 before prices increase enough to push production to a pre COVID levels.

Finally a legislative panel facilitated by Grand Forks District 17 Legislator and Senate Appropriations Committee Chair talked about the tough budget ND faces for the rest of this biennium and heading into the 2021 legislative session. Joining Senator Holmberg were Senator Larry Robinson from Valley City and Representative Don Vigesaa, Cooperstown, both appropriations committee members as well.

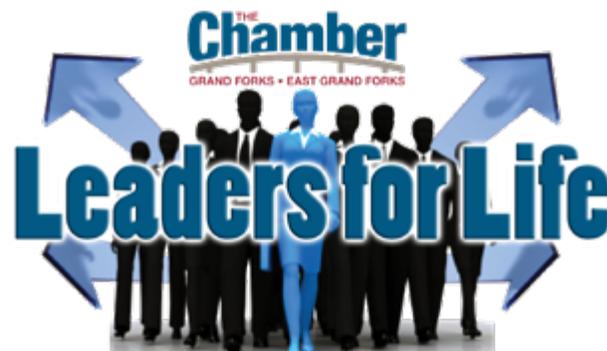
According to Project Chair and Chamber Board member, Mike Dunn; "the East Return West series effectively helped build on the relationships started 10 years ago when a delegation from Grand Forks traveled to the Bakken to build relationships and talk about legislative and business development opportunities. This strong ongoing relationship has paid off for Grand Forks and Western ND."

Next Summer a group of GF/EGF business leaders plan to follow-up with a trip out west to continue to foster these important relationships.

2020 Chamber Leadership Program Is Underway

Leadership Program kicks off its 36th year of developing the leadership skills necessary to achieve success in your career, family and community

Pictured below participants in the 2020 Chamber Leadership program participate in a team building event at the kickoff to the 8 session program.



Wilfahrt Elected to MN Chamber Board of Directors



Barry Wilfahrt,
Chamber President
and CEO

Chamber President, Barry Wilfahrt will serve as the President of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Executives in 2021. Elected by his Minnesota peers back in January an automatic appointment to the MN Chamber Board of Directors for two years accompanies this position. This appointment was effective mid August. Wilfahrt has previously served as president of the North Dakota Chamber Executives and South Dakota Chamber and Economic Development Association.

Military Affairs Committee Serves Pizza to Airmen as Appreciation Event

With the cancelation of the football season the Chamber MAC has changed its approach to appreciation events for our airmen and their families. In September another 150 pizza will be delivered to GFAFB to welcome the next round in incoming airmen. It is vital the community welcome these men and women serving our country to the community in this time when travel and community interaction is limited. A drive Inn movies event is also planned for this fall.

MAC (Military Affairs Committee) Golf Outing 2020

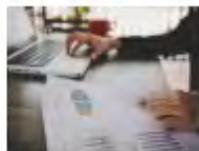
The Military Affairs Committee hosted a golf tournament at the Grand Forks Country Club. At this tournament civilian and military golfers were paired together to form a team. This is a fun way to interact with our military friends, strengthen the bonds between our community and our military members and form lasting friendships.



MARKET CAPTURE DATA TOOLS

Be sure to check out the "Market Capture Tools" on the Chamber web site at www.gochamber.org

If you have any questions feel free to call Barry at the Chamber **701-317-1555**



Click button to access a list of interactive data tools analyzing the local market and visitors. Follow the link under each description to interact with the data.

CLICK HERE

WAKE UP TO UND 2020



New Faces, New Places

Join us for a livestream event on
Tuesday, September 29th at 8:00 am
for the “Wake Up to UND” Program

*The link for the livestream will be made available
closer to the date of the event.*



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FEATURING
UND President,
Andrew Armacost

*Joining President
Armacost is Grand
Forks Mayor Brandon
Bochenski. The two will
talk about the many
ways UND and the
community collaborate.*

For more information
or questions contact:
Kimberly Strom at
[kimberlys@
gochamber.org](mailto:kimberlys@gochamber.org)
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You're invited to this inspirational, virtual luncheon to feel the power of your own philanthropy and how to navigate it during this time of quick and often change.

To ensure the safety of all attendees, staff and speakers, this year's event has gone virtual!

Women for Philanthropy: Your 'Why' Matters

Tuesday, September 22 | 12-1 p.m.

www.UNDalumni.org/WFP

Keynote Speakers: *Kathy Gershman and Angie Freeman, '91*



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AUGUST 1 - AUGUST 30 Membership Renewals

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

All About Moving, Inc.
 All Embracing Home Care, LLC
 Allied Building Products
 Ameriprise Financial - Debbie Albert
 Anchor Marketing
 Beckstead's Auto Repair
 Betaseed
 Business Essentials
 Cirrus Design
 Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch
 Edward Jones - Bret A. Bentow
 Edward Jones - Brian Fedje
 Empire Arts Center
 Five Star Storage
 Grand Forks United Republican Committee
 Grand Sky Development Company, LLC
 ICON Architectural Group
 Insure Forward
 J.R. Simplot

Johnson Controls
 Kelly's Bar
 La Touche' Finale
 Monarch Travel & Tours
 ND Small Business Development Centers
 Oxford Realty - David Blumkin
 Pins & Needles
 Resource Auction
 Ruffing It Doggie Daycare, Overnight Center
 & Grooming
 Ski & Bike Shop
 Small Business Administration-GF Office
 SpringHill Suites by Marriott
 United States Postal Service - Grand Forks,
 ND
 Valley Corn Maize
 VBOC of the Dakotas
 Wells Concrete
 WIDSETH

THANK YOU

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The Dale Carnegie Leadership Course!
 Fall 2020 | October 13, 20 & 27 | 8:00am-5:00pm
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The Chamber.
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chamber members
and businesses with
ribbon cutting
ceremonies We assist
with registration and
greeting at Chamber
functions and we
participate in The
Chamber's annual
Membership Drive.**

Ambassadors Committee

The Chamber Ambassadors enjoyed an in-person meeting and social at the Grand Forks Country Club.

Delicious lunch, golf, swimming and relaxing pool-side with perfectly blue skies made for an incredible afternoon! Thank you to the fantastic GFCC team for being such amazing hosts! We greatly appreciate it!
www.gfcountryclub.com

Thank you to Ambassador Casey Bohn with Connect Interiors, who gave a commercial and update about the business she works for.



SEPTEMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

hosted by:

Alerus Center

1200 South 42nd Street
Grand Forks, ND

THE Chamber
Business After Hours
2020

Thursday, September 17, 2020

4:45pm - 7:00pm

Alerus Center invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun “Trade Show Style” Business After Hours event.

**FREE
ADMISSION**

- Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres, Drink Ticket & Cash Bar
- Great Door Prizes
- Progressive Cash Drawing is at \$600

The following Chamber member businesses are featured:

Ultima Bank Minnesota, Integrity Shipping & More, University of North Dakota, R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., Red River Valley Motorcyclists, Probitas Promotions, Sage Legal PLLC, Northend Dairy Queen, S & S Promotional Group, Inc., Northwestern Mental Health Center | East Grand Forks, The UPS Store, Edward Jones - Brian Fedje, Connect Interiors - Hannaher's Workplace Interiors, Altru Family YMCA, Krampade LLC, WELCORE HEALTH, Alerus Center, United Way of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks & Area, Sanford Health, Anne Carlsen Center Community Services, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota

Only a Few Spots Left! Reserve Your Booth Now!

Stop in...Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities. You might even win \$600 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.

Social distancing and masks are encouraged. Please refer to the Alerus Center's COVID-19 page at <https://www.aleruscenter.com/covid-19-updates> for current event procedures and precautions.

Watch our site for...



Welcome

THE Chamber
GRAND FORKS • EAST GRAND FORKS

NEW MEMBERS

Mobile Recon Systems, LLC

Joined with Volunteer Ali Waind

Tom Nickell

1213 Rylan Rd

Grand Forks, ND 58201

(P) 859-492-1532

julie@mobilereconsystems.com

www.mobilereconsystems.com

Mobile Recon Systems is a manufacturer of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Our UAVs enhance the delivery of services for commercial level applications with higher payloads and greater functional flexibility.

Gereszek Law Office P.L.L.C.

Samuel Gereszek

3001 32nd Ave S., STE 1A

Grand Forks, ND 58201

(P) 701-202-3275

samuel@gereszek.law

www.gereszek.law

Samuel A. Gereszek of Gereszek Law Office P.L.L.C. is a criminal defense lawyer with a local law office in Grand Forks North Dakota specializing in criminal legal defense and appellate practice.

Empire 1

Scott Stauss

2001 Empire Ct.

Grand Forks, ND 58201

(P) 701-775-5544

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www.hamptonmanagement.com

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www.sagelegalpllc.com

Sage Legal, PLLC helps clients in Minnesota and North Dakota gain peace of mind via business and estate planning. Our efficient process, reasonable flat fees and clear communication make planning easy.

New Americans Integration Center

Abdirisak Duale

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(P) 612-458-9074

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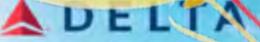
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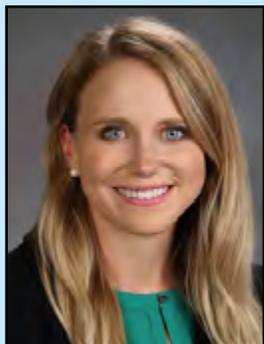
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 allegiant
www.allegiantair.com

 GFK
Grand Forks International Airport
www.gfkairport.com

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stephanie Flyger has joined the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation (EDC) as its marketing and communications manager



Flyger will coordinate strategic marketing and business development direction and manage all internal and external

student-produced television show, Studio One. She has extensive experience with communication and marketing through a variety of mediums, managing teams, and project management. She is also involved in the community in various ways.

Kevin Cooper has been hired as a Developer at Red River Regional Council.



Kevin Cooper

With funding provided by the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Kevin will be leading economic recovery and

resiliency strategic planning in Region 4, which includes Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina Walsh Counties. Kevin comes to RRRC with nearly 30 years' experience in economic development and higher education. He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Mayville State University, and a master's degree in business administration from the University of North Dakota. He earned certifications as an Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP) through the National Development Council (NDC), and Strategic Planning Professional (SPP) from the Association for Strategic Planning (ASP). He is a past president of the Economic Development Association of North Dakota (EDND).

East Grand Forks Hardware Hank to rebrand as Ace Hardware



Brandon Buckalew

Hardware Hank in East Grand Forks is changing suppliers, rebranding and will soon be known as Local Ace.

According to a press release from store owner Brandon Buckalew, changing suppliers from Hardware Hank to Ace Hardware will better allow the store to compete, when it comes to online shopping, and online orders for items not carried in the store should come in faster.

In the press release, Buckalew stated the changes are voluntary and come out of a desire to improve his business.

"We are still the same great people, at the same place. We're just going to be Ace," he said.

Rebranding as "Local Ace" sets the store apart from Burgraff's Ace, located in the Grand Cities Mall. Though the two stores are separate, they will be able to work together to meet customers' needs.

The store will go through a reset beginning in September that will introduce new product lines. The store will remain open during the changeover.

Buckalew owns another Hardware Hank store in Crookston that will not be changed, allowing his business overall to take advantage of both suppliers.

Stephanie Flyger

communications with key stakeholders. She will work to keep EDC members informed of organizational activities and continue to market the Grand Forks region as an exceptional place to grow and establish primary sector business.

"I am excited to join an amazing team and to be part of the EDC's mission to expand economic opportunity for the Grand Forks region. Grand Forks has been my home since I moved here as a college student to attend UND, and I'm thrilled to be able to work with an organization that has such a direct impact on the lives of people who also choose to make this place home." said Flyger.

EDC President & CEO Keith Lund said, "With her strong background in marketing, management, and content creation, we know Stephanie's expertise will be an invaluable asset to the EDC's team."

Prior to joining the EDC, Flyger was a project coordinator for the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences Simulation Center. Previously, she served as the news director and marketing director of the UND Television Center and

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Three Grand Forks business leaders are recipients of this year's Leaders & Legacies award

The magazine created the award last year to recognize executives in their field for achievements either recently, or over a lifetime of work. The three Grand Forks business leaders join a group of 10 individuals from across North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota who have been nominated by their colleagues for their leadership and accomplishments.

"Prairie Business has been doing awards and recognitions for years, but last year was the inaugural class of Leaders and Legacies," said Korrie Wenzel, publisher of Prairie Business magazine and the Grand Forks Herald. "We were a bit surprised at how quickly that first class took shape, but here we are again, looking at a group that perfectly portrays the sheer talent of the top executives in our region."

This year's winners include Tom Erickson, director of the State Energy Research Center and director of Intellectual Property and Technology Commercialization at the Energy and Environmental Research Center at UND, Kristi Magnuson Nelson, president and CEO of Hugo's Family Marketplace, and Randy L. Newman, CEO, president and chairman of the board of Alerus Financial N.A. and Alerus Financial Corp.

Welcome to the Dakota Commercial Team, Charlene Wifall!



Charlene Wifall

Dakota Commercial is excited to welcome Charlene Wifall as their Marketing Director. She has over 15 years in Sales and Marketing

experience. She will be responsible for executing effective marketing strategies, assisting with campaign development, analyzing the effectiveness of each campaign and developing our lead generation programs. Charlene will play an integral role in building and engaging the company's customer base and creating effective strategies that will promote the long-term growth of our firm. She will also help manage promotions, design advertisements, and build strategies for attracting and retaining customers.

Charlene serves as President of the Altru Alliance, Career Services Volunteer, Junior Achievement Volunteer, Ambassador with The Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand Forks.

"We are excited to welcome Charlene to our Dakota Commercial team!" said Kevin Ritterman.

Vokaty and Morrison Earn Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) Certification



Lindsay Vokaty



Tara Morrison

Lindsay Vokaty (Program Operations Manager) and Tara Morrison (Program Design Manager) were recognized by Minnesota Community Action Partnership as part of the 2020 class of Certified Community Action Professionals (CCAP). The CCAP designation is a nationally recognized credential earned from the

Community Action Partnership in Washington, D.C. Both are staff members with Head Start, Child and Family Programs at Tri-Valley.

Earning CCAP certification is a rigorous process. Candidates must complete a candidate data form, develop an executive skills portfolio, and pass a four-hour written exam. Benefits of achieving the CCAP certification include earning recognition for accomplishments in the field, recognition for the standard of professionalism in Community Action, enhancing the credentials of Community Action staff at the agency, and providing an edge in competing for public and private grant funds.

The CCAP certification is designed for current and emerging managers or leaders in the community action profession. To achieve certification, employment in either a community action agency (CAA), a delegate agency or sub-grantee of a CAA, a CSBG eligible entity, a state or regional association office, or a state community services program office is required.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

General Bowen joins the Chamber of Commerce GF/EGF Military Affairs Committee



Gregory S. Bowen, Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Retired)

Gregory S. Bowen will be the new Chair for the Chamber Military Affairs Committee (MAC). General Bowen is an independent consultant specializing

in business development for companies seeking Department of Defense contracts, particularly in Space and Missile Defense.

Greg's 36 year military career culminated as the Deputy Director of Global Operations at U.S. Strategic Command, where he was responsible for Department of Defense space activities, ballistic missile defense, cyber operations, strategic deterrence, and nuclear command and control. He was part of the executive leadership team overseeing the operations of 162,000 people, billions of dollars' worth of equipment, and our nation's nuclear arsenal. He is a skilled planner who thrives in a fast-paced, dynamic environment. In addition to his normal duties, Greg was one of a handful of people certified to brief the President of the United States on nuclear response options. Greg was selected for Major General (2-star), but elected to retire from active duty to pursue other interests.

Over the course of his Army career, Greg had the privilege of leading organizations from 50 to over 1500 military and civilian personnel. In those positions, he was singularly responsible and accountable for the mission, the people, the budget and the equipment. He is highly skilled at building and leading diverse teams, identifying and mentoring young leaders, and achieving outstanding results on time and within budget. Greg was hand-selected twice to lead high-visibility, one-of-a-kind units responsible for missile defense of the Homeland. As the very first commander of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Greg built a 206-person unit in Alaska from the ground up, resulting in a fully manned, equipped and trained team ready to defend America. As a new Brigadier General, Greg was responsible for all of the Army's space and missile defense operations, leading more than 1500 Soldiers and Civilians stationed across eleven time zones executing 24/7 operations. When not in leadership positions, he excelled as a team member, planning and overseeing operations, managing people and resources, and developing risk-informed recommendations for senior leadership.

Greg is a recognized expert in space and missile defense operations, and has been a sought-after speaker on those topics as well as strategic deterrence. He has significant international experience, representing the U.S. in military

to military talks with Canada, Australia, Japan, Germany, France, New Zealand and Italy. He has a current Top Secret security clearance.

Greg graduated from the University of North Dakota with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology, as well as a Master of Science in Space Studies. He also holds a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. Over the course of his career, he completed numerous military training and education courses in leadership, space, missile defense, and nuclear operations. He is happily married and has a daughter in college and a step daughter at home.

The Grand Forks Clinic welcomes Dr. John Miller



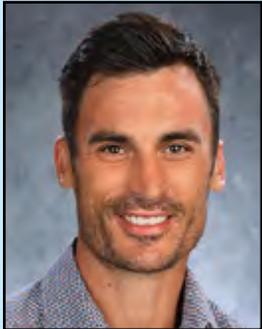
Dr. John Miller

The Grand Forks Clinic is pleased to welcome Dr. John Miller to our team. Dr. Miller has practiced podiatry for 20 years and has extensive experience

in managing patients with foot and ankle problems.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Grand Forks Region EDC Announces New Board Members



Mayor Brandon Bochenski

The Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation (EDC) recently added three new members to its board of directors: Grand Forks Mayor Brandon Bochenski; Meghan Compton, executive vice president and chief clinic operations officer at Altru Health System; and University of North Dakota President Andrew



Andrew Armacost

Armacost. Bochenski and Compton will serve as directors on the board, and Armacost as an ex-officio member. board," said Keith Lund, EDC President & CEO. "They join EDC at a vital time for the Grand Forks economy. Mayor Bochenski's vision for a strong, business-friendly community complements our organization's goals. We are confident our continued partnership with Altru and UND, our region's two largest employers and key institution partners, will also provide valuable perspectives as we grow the Grand Forks region's economy."

Brandon Bochenski, owner of the construction company Barys, LLC and KHL Investments, a development company, was elected mayor Grand Forks in June 2020. The former UND hockey star played 14 seasons of professional hockey before returning to Grand Forks. Bochenski joined the EDC board

in August 2020.

Meghan Compton, a Grand Forks native, earned her Juris Doctorate at the University of North Dakota School of Law. She worked in private practice before joining Altru Health System in 2012. Compton was appointed to the EDC board in June 2020. Andrew Armacost began his tenure as UND's 13th president on June 1, 2020. He most recently was the Dean of the Faculty at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He served as active-duty Air Force for more than 30 years. Armacost was appointed as an ex-officio board member in August 2020.

The EDC's board of directors provides direction for the region's economic development strategy to support the growth and diversity of the region's economy. Priorities identified include business recruitment and retention in primary sector industries including agri-business, autonomous systems, manufacturing, and high-tech services, as well as workforce development and entrepreneurship.



Ribbon Cutting

The Chamber Ambassadors would love to meet you and celebrate your business with a ribbon cutting ceremony. If you are interested, please contact our membership director at **772-7271** or emberlyL@gochamber.org to schedule a ribbon cutting event.



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Stay Connected Through the Chamber

Many amazing connections have been made during our Chamber events. 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.

Stay well and stay connected!

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the directory.

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1811 S. Washington, Grand Forks, ND
www.prairieharvest.net

Hours: Monday - Friday 10AM - 6PM
and Saturday 10AM - 5PM

Please bring donations in bags or boxes that you can leave.

Drop off your cotton or cotton blend stained, torn, old clothes (no jeans or infant clothing) to be used for Prairie Harvest Mental Health's Rag Contract.

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- Grand Forks Public Schools
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SPACE IS LIMITED!

Contact Tina at the Chamber for more information

772-7271 or e-mail: Tina@GoChamber.org

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