

Business Update

Chamber News

Business After Hours

Ambassador Meeting

Business Brief

New Members

Membership Renewals

Brown Bag

THE Voice

www.gochamber.org



MAC Immersion Day at Grand Forks Air Force Base

Members of The Chamber Military Affairs Committee (MAC) participated in an Immersion Day at Grand Forks Air Force Base. The day included a briefing at Wing Headquarters, breakfast with the Airmen in the Dining Facility, A tour of the dorms and a briefing on what dorm life is like for the young Airmen, RAPCON/Tower tour and mission brief, 3 Bay Hanger for Global Hawk viewing and briefing, Lunch at the Northern Lights Club with Wing Leadership, Tour and briefing at the fire station, Deployment briefing from the Logistics Readiness Squadron, High Frequency Global Communications Systems Briefing, Medical Ambulance Services tour and briefing, Gym & Ground Zero tour and briefing, and Security Forces K-9 briefing and demonstration. It was a full day of being immersed in what our Airmen at GFAFB do each and every day.

Thank you to our military men & women for your service, sacrifice and dedication!



Watch your email for details on East Grand Forks State of the City 2022

Chamber hosts City Leader and North End Businesses to talk Corn Plant

Recognizing there would be significant impacts from the proposed annexation of land for the proposed FuFeng corn milling plant, the Chamber convened a meeting between city leaders and North End business people. The group shared concerns and expected impacts from the proposed plant and talked

"Thank you for putting together yesterday's meeting on annexation. I know it didn't start very positive but I thought many items got discussed that were really important."

- North End Property owner, Larry Rivard, President of Rivards Turf and Forage

about what can be done. The meeting resulted in agreement there needs to be better communication and a sharing of data and ideas for a smooth annexation of this land. To that end The chamber will be putting out a bimonthly newsletter with

project updates, key dates and opportunities for input for North End business owners affected by the proposed annexation.

The Chamber Board discussed the FuFeng Corn plant and the Chamber supports the Phase

I develop agreement process, which allows for further

fact finding and study. The Chamber also supports local businesses impacted by the project/annexation and commits to supporting further discussions on the project to ensure our community has factual information.



Chamber continues to push for major infrastructure projects



*Barry Wilfahrt,
Chamber President
and CEO*

Mayor Gander and the Chamber convened a meeting with the acting Commissioner of the MN Department of Transportation. Business people and representatives from local units of government and the MPO were on the call. The point of the conversations was to talk about corridors for bridges, funding availability and next steps. The next step is for the local units of government to formally agree on the bridge corridors, select on unit of government to lead each project and then get to work on the environmental study and design work needed before construction. Legislation is moving through the MN legislature to fund the MN portion of the study and construction of an in town bridge.

According to the MPO study 12,000 miles a day are being driven unnecessarily in in the GF/EGF metro without a south end bridge. The corridors with the best return on investment are 32nd and Merrifield Road.

A similar meeting is planned with the ND DOT.

Executive Committee

Chair: Tommy Kenville,
iSight Drone Services

Chair Elect: Russel Crary,
Crary Real Estate

Past Chair: Dave Zavoral,
RJ Zavoral & Son's Inc.

Matt Fisher, Probitas Promotions

Tony Hodny, H & S Electrical Services LLC

Pat Boppre, Blue Moose Bar & Grill

Barry Wilfahrt, Chamber GF/EGF

Board of Directors

Brandon Bochenski, Barys Const./City of GF

Meghan Compton, Altru Health System

Kay Derry, Northern Roots Boutique

Mike Dunn, Construction Engineers

Torrie Enget, Hugo's Family Marketplace

Mike Fridolfs, Northrop Grumman Corp.

Tarek Howard, Auto Finance Super Center

Curt Kreun, District 42 ND Senator

Brian Leach, Golf Center

Meloney Linder, University of North Dakota

Keith Lund, GF EDC

Mike McLean, JLG Architects

Anna Rosburg, Alerus Center

Andy Schneider, Dakota Concealed/

GF County Sheriff

John Schumacher, American Federal

Penny Stai, River Cinema

Sr. Military Advisor to the Board

Col. Timothy Curry, GFAFB

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Vice President of Operations

kimberlys@gochamber.org

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Executive Assistant

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Tina Neil

Membership & Communications Vice

President

tina@gochamber.org



Pentagon Visit goes well

Mayor Bochenski, City Administrator, Todd Feland, Chamber President, GFAFB Commander, Col. Timothy Curry and Grand Sky Development President, Tom Swoyer spent a day at the Pentagon visiting key players in GFAFB future missions and the development of Grand Sky. Everyone we met with started the conversation with "things are going so well why are you even visiting?" According to the Chamber President Barry Wilfahrt who has been on more than a dozen such trips "maintaining these strong relationships, bringing solutions to the air force and telling the GFAFB story is part of why GFAFB and Grand Sky continue to get new missions and are thriving."



The group met with Dr. Dereck Tournear, Director of the Space Development Agency to talk about the planned Satellite Operations Center at GFAFB. One of the new missions at the space GFAFB will be the primary operations center. Secondary, will be in Huntsville AL. It is anticipated the Center will be operation in June of 2024.

Next the group meet with George Rumford, Department of Defence (DOD) Program Manager for the Test Resource Management Center. Mr. Rumford heads the hypersonic missile testing for DOD. As the current Global Hawks "graduate" they are being converted by Northrop Grumman to have "range hawk" capability so they can serve as a mobile test range for various US missile testing systems. Operated out of Grand Sky this system will be much more cost efficient and nimble in terms of where mobile test ranges can be set up using the retired Global Hawk (RQ4) platform.

The artic is also an emerging concern with the gradual melting of the polar cap. The group met with General Kilgore to talk about the emerging artic threat and Air Force strategy and how GFAFB can play a role.

The group also met with Lt. General Mary O'Brien, AF Deputy Chief of Staff, ISR, Cyber Operations to talk about related missions at GFAFB. Lt General Guestella, AF Deputy Chief of Staff of Air Force Operation joined the group for an overview of everything going on at GFAFB and Grand Sky.

Finally, the group concluded the day with a meeting with Vice Chief of the Air Force, General Alvin who was assigned the GFAFB early in his career and is now the number two person in the AF. The group thanked General Alvin for sharing his GFAFB, perspective during key decision making processes that impact the future of GFAFB and Grand Sky.

More Details Come out on Federal Infrastructure Funding

This week the Biden Administration released more details on the massive federal infrastructure Bill. Details are at [Build.gov](https://www.build.gov)

Chamber Seeking Accreditation Committee Members

We are currently looking for members to serve on our Accreditation Subcommittees. The Chamber will have three subcommittees who will review the accreditation packages in the three areas for submission to the US Chamber late summer.

- 1. Governance, Finance and Human Resources** - Ron Galstad, Chair
- 2. Government Affairs, Program Dev. & Communication** - Josh Brown, Chair
- 3. Technology, Facilities and Benchmarking** - Matt Walkowiak, Chair

We anticipate one 2 hour meeting for each subcommittee this summer.

If you are interested, please send an email to:

Tina Fetsch at TFetsch@Gochamber.org before May 1st and indicate which group you would be interested in being part of.

The Chamber is Five Star Accredited by the US Chamber of Commerce, which is the highest rating that can be achieved by a Chamber. There are only 145 Chambers out of 7,000 Chamber's nationally who have achieved this rating.



Be part of the Shark Tank



We have all seen the popular TV Show "Shark Tank". The Chamber will feature its own version of **Shark Tank on May 3rd at 6:30 p.m.** at the **Empire Arts Center**. New businesses (less than 2 years old) and individuals with a business idea are encouraged to **"GO INTO THE TANK"** and share their business opportunity with the **"SHARKS"**. Presenters will compete for cash prizes.

Chamber Members are encouraged to attend the event and learn from the presenter and the sharks who will offer business advice to each of the participants and select the winners.

If you have any questions, please contact info@gochamber.org.

REACH OVER 3000 MEMBERS MONTHLY

WE OFFER AFFORDABLE ADVERTISING

Each month The Chamber produces an E-Newsletter that includes **FREE LOCAL INFORMATION** submitted from our members, along with monthly Chamber news, activities and events.



**CLICK HERE TO
ADVERTISE!!**



YOU'RE INVITED!

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

4:00 - 7:00 PM | EAST GRAND FORKS CAMPUS

We are opening our doors to the business community! We want to show you how Northland is a critical partner for education, workforce development, and regional growth.

This relaxed, social atmosphere allows you to meet with Northland leaders, faculty, and staff and mingle among community friends.

Explore our beautiful campus, classrooms, and lab spaces as we continue to update for modern learning and growth.

See how we are educating the next generation of community & workforce leaders.

Snack on good eats provided by the Blue Moose and enjoy a cocktail from the cash bar.

We'll be giving away awesome door prizes, including a \$100 gift card for Harry's Steakhouse and tickets to Chris Stapleton!

Every pre-registration RSVP includes appetizers, drink ticket, fun Northland gift bag, and you will automatically be entered to win the grand prize.



NORTHLAND
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

RSVP TODAY!

Visit northlandcollege.edu/openhouse
or scan the QR code to RSVP today.





NEW MEMBERS

KROX Radio
Chris Fee
208 South Main Street
Crookston MN 56716
218-281-1140
krox@rrv.net
<http://www.kroxam.com>

The Voice of the Valley. You're award winning source for news, sports and information for Crookston and the area. We serve Crookston, northwest Minnesota and eastern North Dakota with news, sports, weather and more. Listen to 1260 AM, 105.7 FM, online, the free KROX app, or on Alexa (listen to KROX in Crookston). Visit our website at www.kroxam.com!

Bluepeak Broadband
Lucas Peterson
5001 S Broadband Lane
Sioux Falls, SD 57108
lucas.peterson@mybluepeak.com
<http://www.mybluepeak.com>

We're not only providing the best fiber connection—we're also meeting the growing needs for how you live. The size of the city shouldn't determine the quality of the technology. That's why we're building Bluepeak for you: Faster and more reliable. From internet to powering every device in your home, we're not only providing the best fiber connection in our community—we're meeting the growing needs for how we live.

As part of your community, we understand the importance of staying connected, transparency, and quality service—whether you're running a local business or watching a movie

with the family at home. That's why we're building Bluepeak for you: Faster, more reliable, and without the things that get in the way of great service—like red tape, hidden fees, and slow response times. With up to 5 gigabits of speed for residences and 10 gigabits of speed for businesses, you'll never have to worry about service disruptions keeping you from what you love most. We're committed to supporting the community and each other.

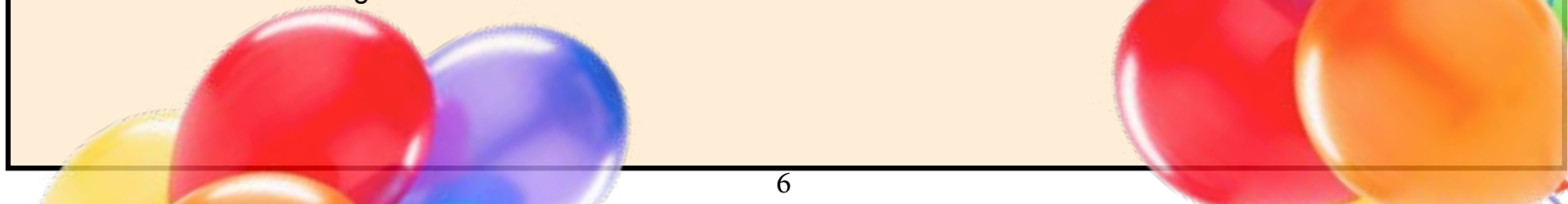
Tiffany Knauf, Mary Kay
Independent Beauty Consultant
2449 44th Avenue South
Grand Forks ND 58201
608-445-1902
tiffany.knauf09@gmail.com
<http://www.marykay.com/tiffanyk>

Need a new look? Tiffany has the latest beauty tips and tricks to help you turn heads! I can put together the perfect event for any occasion - a birthday, bridal shower or some pampering "me" time. As my customer, you can create your ideal beauty experience. I offer personalized service that fits you. Just tell me if you'd like a one-on-one consultation, a party with friends, a virtual party, makeup tips, or skin care recommendations. You can always try before you buy. If you prefer to shop online only or order by e-mail or phone, the choice is yours. I'd love to help you with any or all of your beauty needs. Let's talk! I am available, as you need me! Don't hesitate to email, text or call whenever you have a question or need a product!

Up North Window Cleaning
Nick Yutrzenka
323 Demers Ave #305
Grand Forks ND 58201-4774
218-303-6488
upnorthwindowcleaning@gmail.com
<http://upnorthwindowcleaning.com/>

There are very few people who enjoy washing their windows. Unluckily, it's one of those duties that comes with owning a home or running an office building. Window cleaning requires a professional touch, and Up North Window Cleaning is your partner of choice. From start to finish, we handle all aspects of the job, so you don't have to worry about anything.

We specialize in residential exterior and interior window cleaning and gutter cleaning. Need an extra hand to install your Christmas lighting this season? Let our experts help you by doing this tedious task safely. We also provide excellent and regular window cleaning service to businesses in and around Grand Forks, ND.



Welcome

THE Chamber
GRAND FORKS • EAST GRAND FORKS

NEW MEMBERS

Labradorly Marketing Cassidy Will

Grand Forks ND 58203
701-321-2919

cassidywill@hotmail.com
<http://www.labradorly.com/>

Labradorly Marketing was created to give small businesses the perfect resource to grow their business on a budget. Founded by North Dakota native, Cassidy Will, Labradorly has grown on the core values of family, passion, and value. Since graduating from college, it has been Cassidy's mission to help small businesses grow to meet their maximum potential. Every customer is treated like family, and every service is recommended with YOUR business in mind, not ours.

We are your business's best friend. We are an affordable and results driven digital media company located in Grand Forks, ND. Our mission is to help small businesses boost their online presence without breaking the bank in the process.

The first step in our process is to take a deeper look at your brand and see what steps we can take to improve your digital presence. Contact us today to get your FREE company analysis today!

Thermal Air Terra & Daryl Wockenfuss

4216 Gateway Drive
Grand Forks ND 58203
701-740-8161

daryl@tahvac.net or terra@tahvac.net
<https://www.facebook.com/Thermal-Air-247164569311089>

Terra and Daryl Wockenfuss are the owners of Thermal Air in Grand Forks.

With over 20 years' experience we can handle all your plumbing, heating and air conditioning needs! We are a licensed mechanical contractor in ND and MN!

Have that project that you've wanted done but the pocketbook doesn't allow? Well we have great news... Thermal Air also offers financing!! Give us a call today for all of your heating, cooling and plumbing needs.

Thermal Air was brought in by our Membership Drive Volunteer Jen Sertich of Absolute Refrigeration.

RaptureRigs.com

Daniel Otto Schott
Grand Forks ND 58201
218.693.9399

doschott@gmail.com
<http://www.raptureRigs.com>

Daniel Otto Schott is the owner of RaptureRigs.com. His mission is to provide every citizen of the state of North Dakota the opportunity to host server processing with state of the art technology, that sustains and enhances decentralized technology. The servers will become available outside of the state of North Dakota after the prototype is successful.

With more than 25 combined years of experience in the field, we know our industry like the back of our hands. There's no challenge too big or too small, and we dedicate our utmost energy to every customer, large or small. Every customer is unique. Your product will be handled by professionals who care. We make sure you have a dedicated team working for you. Our mining management software will make sure you are stress free and max up time! Keep more of your cryptocurrency and drop all that troubleshooting time.

Affairs by Brittany Klaudia Holkup

10 S 3rd Street - Grand Forks ND
58201

701-561-1766
fargo@affairsbybrittany.com
<http://affairsbybrittany.com>

Affairs by Brittany offers affordable designer bridal gowns and accessories. In Grand Forks, we also offer flower girl gowns and social occasion dresses off the rack.

Online, we offer flower girl dresses, bridal party shirts, and all the necessities for the bride and her party.

In our store, you will be able to browse gorgeous bridal gowns and accessories. If you are shopping for flower girl dresses we highly recommend browsing our website and letting us know what styles you would like to see and we will make sure they are ready for your appointment.

We can't wait to meet you! Set up your appointment to visit our ever-changing inventory of off the rack wedding gowns and accessories.

**Our Membership Drive Volunteer
Kaylee Cusack of Minnkota
brought in Affairs by Brittany.**





NEW MEMBERS

**Chapter Aesthetic Studio
Danielle Nelson**

300 32nd Ave South
Grand Forks ND 58201
701-765-3590

danielle.nelson@mychapter.com
<http://www.mychapter.com>

Here to make your beautiful happen. Rejuv founder Melissa Rogne is a pioneer in the industry of aesthetics. Skilled in the clinical practice of face, body and skin treatments, her team are also visionaries, artists and caring confidantes, who listen to your goals and help you bring your personal beauty story to life. Following her passion for quality skin care and helping people look and feel their best, she attracted the most experienced and skilled nurses and aesthetic specialists, and personally trained a team of advisors who not only know aesthetics, they know how to listen, how to set goals and how to be accountable to them.

FAST- FORWARD TO 2022, REJUV AND ALIVANA ARE NOW CHAPTER, and as president, Melissa is leading and inspiring every detail of your experience — every treatment, every product, every team member — in our refreshed studios in Fargo, ND, Grand Forks, ND and New Hartford, NY, to new locations in cities across the country. No matter which studio you visit, you can be confident, it lives up to the standards of excellence that make Chapter legendary.

Chapter is a leading aesthetic studio providing evidence-based, non-surgical and cosmetic treatments for people who want to live in the “wow.” You want to express the best version

of yourself every day, and our team makes that possible.

**Northern Plains Rail Services
Kyla Schultz**

600 Demers Ave
Grand Forks ND 58203
701-229-3330

kyla_schultz@nprail.com
<https://www.nprail.com/>

Your complete railroad resource. At Northern Plains Rail Companies, we are your primary source for all things railroad. Through our expert rail services and our own regional railroad, we provide exceptional service focused on safety and the success of our customers.

Providing railroad excellence since 1997. Our team has decades of experience working for and with the largest North American railroads, as well as short-line and industrial operators. This experience allows us to provide operational and safety excellence together with long-term value for our customers.

**USO Midwest Region
Mona Lyn Hammill**

Grand Forks, ND
904-472-4584

mhammill@uso.org
<http://midwest.uso.org/>

The USO strengthens America’s military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country, throughout their service to the nation.

Since 1941, the USO has been

the nation’s leading organization to serve the men and women in the U.S. military, and their families, throughout their time in uniform. From the moment they join, through their assignments and deployments, and as they transition back to their communities, the USO is always by their side.

Today’s USO continuously adapts to the needs of our men and women in uniform and their families, so they can focus on their very important mission. We operate USO centers at or near military installations across the United States and throughout the world, including in combat zones, and even un-staffed USO service sites in places too dangerous for anyone but combat troops to occupy.

The USO is not part of the federal government. A congressionally chartered, private organization, the USO relies on the generosity of individuals, organizations and corporations to support its activities, and is powered by a family of volunteers to accomplish our mission of connection.





We're Here for You

With comprehensive home, auto, commercial, and life and health policies for protection and peace of mind, Bell Insurance stands out from the crowd with coverage options in *your* best interest – always.



bell.insurance

4303 S. Columbia Rd. Suite 103
Grand Forks, N.D.

Bell Insurance Services, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bell Bank. Products and services offered through Bell Insurance are: Not FDIC Insured | No Bank Guarantee | May Lose Value | Not A Deposit | Not Insured by Any Federal Government Agency



AMBASSADOR Special

Become a member by April 1st & you'll receive 10% off at the Pro Shop & Eagle's Crest Grill all season, plus a free gift!



WOMEN *for* PHILANTHROPY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

UND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION
LEADERS IN ACTION



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.

A & L Potato Co. Inc.	HELIX wine & bites	SkySkopes
AgriData, Inc	Heritage Highland II	St. Michael's Catholic School
Berkshire Hathaway	Heritage Highland II	Steve Christian Insurance
HomeServices Family Realty	Heritage Highland II	Professional
Bonzer's Sandwich Pub	Joe Black's	Strive Life Grand Forks
Border States Trophy & Awards	KVRR-TV	Sunshine Memorial Foundation
Connecting Point	Love In Action	Terry Sando
Delta Dental of Minnesota	Marco	Texas Roadhouse
Edward Jones - Bryan Brenden	McDonald's - 32nd Ave	The Hub Pub
Erickson Financial Advisors	McDonald's - EGF	TIAA-Scott Roche
Fergus Falls Granite Inc.	Moore Engineering Inc	Tom Rosendahl
Ferguson Books & More!	NAV Innovators	U.S. Bank - Demers
Fighting Hawk Sports	Network Center	US Foods
Properties	Northern Valley Federal Credit	Vogel Law Firm
FIREHOUSE SUBS	Union	Xcel Energy
Forks Freightliner	Northern Valley Youth	Yorhom Medical Essentials
Forks Landscaping LLC	Orchestras	
Forx Builders Association	Pampered Chef - Brenda Kovar	
Frandsen Bank & Trust - S.	Plains Chiropractic &	
Wash	Acupuncture	
Garon Corporation	R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc.	
Grand Cities Painting and	ReadiTech IT Solutions	
Drywall	River Towne Properties, Inc.	
Grand Forks Clinic	RiverView Clinic	
Grape Mill Vineyard and Winery	Rollin on the River Marathon	
Greenberg Realty-Lil Livingood	Rydell Honda Nissan of Grand	
Gregory J. Norman Funeral	Forks	
Chapel	Salon 222	

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Your Continued
Support!*

DCN

Keep your **data safe**
and your business
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Life is enjoying what you love



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The City of East Grand Forks and The Chamber present

EGF State of the City 2022



April 21, 2022 • 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

East Grand Forks Civic Arena

\$20/person open seating • \$160/ reserved table of eight

*Lunch catered by Blue Moose Bar & Grill and served
by members of the East Grand Forks City Council*



Dr. Steven Gandeer
Mayor of the City of East Grand Forks, MN

REGISTER

Reservations are required by
Wednesday, April 13, 2022
Please include the names of
all attending.

Elite Steering Driving School

Services:

- Behind-the-Wheel Training
- Driver Education Classroom
- Permit Study Course

Immediate Lesson Feedback



Road Test Waiver APPROVED!

There are great savings and nice selections at
The Home Place Thrift Store
 701-795-9704

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

Temporarily closed on Mondays
 Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10AM - 6PM
 and Saturday 10AM - 5PM

Please bring donations in boxes that you can leave during business hours in the truck parked in front of the store.
 We are also in need of furniture donations!

All Proceeds Benefit:



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Emerado, ND
 701-594-4435
www.sandsteelbuilding.com

Metal Building Construction
 Steel Fabrication
 Millwright Services



MEET THE PEOPLE WHO ARE LIGNITE

I AM LIGNITE

Top TEN Chamber Membership Benefits

1. New Business Contacts – Networking and new business contacts will help your business grow. With more than 100 chamber programs and events, you'll have no problem adding to your contact base.

2. Credibility – Make a statement that you are committed to the future of the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks region.

3. Leadership Development – The Chamber offers learning and professional development opportunities to help you run a smarter, more profitable business.

4. Community Commitment – Community involvement benefits you and the community and shows your commitment to helping our region grow.

5. Referrals – The Chamber's referrals of our members are a great return on your investment.

6. Publicity and Exposure – Publicity and heightened name recognition as a Chamber Member shows your customers and potential customers who you are.

7. Marketing & Advertising – Targeted and affordable advertising offered by The Chamber help you promote your business effectively on a small budget.

8. A Healthy Local Economy – Be a part of a group that is committed to creating a strong local economy to keep our business momentum moving forward.

9. Gain a Voice in Government – The Chamber is your representative on a local, regional, state and national level. With over 1100 members representing thousands of area employees, The Chamber speaks with a strong voice for our business community on issues affecting your business.

10. Partnership - You will be a part of an organization whose mission is to create an environment that encourages business success while enhancing the quality of life in our region.

Ambassador Meeting

We are the "welcoming arm" of The Chamber
We welcome new 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.

Hosted by Speedway Bar & Grill

The Awesome Ambassadors met in March at the Speedway Bar & Grill in Grand Forks. We had great attendance and a fun, welcoming icebreaker introduction. Aaron Horak from Farmers Insurance Agency in East Grand Forks was our presenter. He gave a very informative presentation on car insurance and how to read your policy.



We would like to thank our volunteers for the month of March!

Business After Hours Greeters

- Dee Skjold
- Mike Sojka
- Valeria Becker

Membership Drive Participants

- Dee Skjold
- Amanda Rengstorf
- Valeria Becker
- Caleb Schoonover
- Stacey Brorson
- Nicole Kringstad
- Kathy Reiser
- Aaron Horak
- Craig Ventzke
- Dee Decimus
- Emberly Lietz
- Scott Reinhart
- Mike Sojka
- Kathy Snider
- Maggie Brockling
- Adrian Cummings
- Linda Bedard
- Jenny Kuhns
- Shaun Havis
- Angie Belbas



Over 40 volunteers are warmed up to tackle The Chamber's Annual Spring Membership Draft March 21th-April 8th!



Each team had a great time “drafting” 15 prospects at our Kick-Off Party. Our teams are reaching out to these non-chamber member businesses during the Chamber’s Annual Spring Membership Draft. During this time, our volunteers will be contacting businesses about joining The Chamber.

Introducing the 2022 Chamber Draft Teams...



Thank you to our volunteers & sponsors!

Probitas Promotions
 Black Widow Cafe
 Bremer Bank
 S & S Promotional Group, Inc.
 Ground Round Grill & Bar
 Hugo's Retail Support Center
 Joe Black's

Tesoro
 Dairy Queen-Northend
 PlayIt!
 Power Plate Meals
 Ramada Inn
 SCORE - Grand Forks
 Merry Maids

Speedway Grill & Bar
 True Healing Massage
 UND Athletics Department
 Widman's Candy
 Northern Roots
 Opticare

THE Chamber

Business After Hours



..... Hosted by

Rhombus Guys Brewing Company

116 S 3rd St, Grand Forks, ND 58201

Thursday, April 21 - 4:45pm ~ 7:00pm

Rhombus Guys Brewing Company invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun Business After Hours event!

Free Admission – Complimentary hors d’oeuvres- Drink ticket & cash bar

Great door prizes - Progressive cash drawing is at \$800.

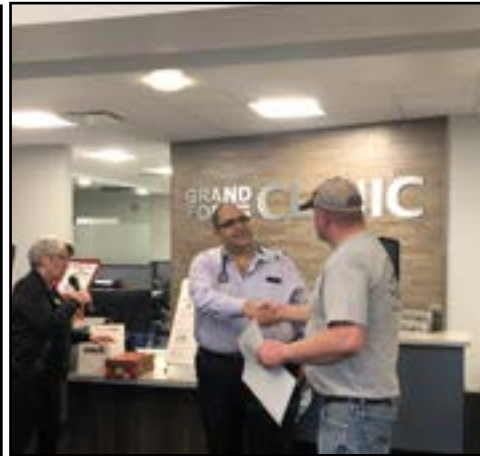
Stop by... *Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities. You might even win **\$800** in our Progressive Cash drawing! We’ll draw the name of one Chamber Member business. If someone from that organization is present, they win!!*

Forward this message on to your friends and colleagues.

See you Thursday, April 21 at Business After Hours!

**Because of the nature of this event, no children under 18 may attend.*

.....
Thank you to The Grand Forks Clinic for hosting an eventful March Business After Hours.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cruger Promoted to Director of Workforce Development



Becca Cruger has been promoted to director of workforce development at the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation (EDC). This move reinforces the critical nature of the EDC workforce development strategy and Cruger's expanding role at the EDC and throughout the region.

Cruger, who joined the EDC in 2017, has taken on increasing responsibility since she was first hired as the strategic initiatives coordinator. Many of the EDC's workforce initiatives did not exist even 10 years ago, and Cruger has played an integral role in expanding workforce retention and recruitment efforts in the community including Greater Grand Forks: Way Cooler Than You Think!, The Northern Valley Career Expo, and InternGF, as well as partnering with other agencies for programs like Accelerate to Industry (A2i) and Career Conversations.

Cruger's impact is being noticed within the region, throughout North Dakota

and nationally. In 2021 alone, Governor Burgum appointed Cruger to the North Dakota Workforce Development Council, she was named to the International Economic Development Council's Young Professionals Advisory Committee, and she was recognized in Prairie Business's 40 under 40 list. In the fall of 2021, Cruger and other contributing team members won the 21st Century Workforce Award for the Governor's 2021 Main Street Awards for the Greater Grand Forks Relocation Guide, the "What's Cooler Today?" blog, and InternGF.

"The Grand Forks Region EDC's role in regional workforce development has expanded over the past five years, which is a direct result of Becca's ongoing and increasing leadership," said EDC President & CEO Keith Lund. "She is an outstanding team member who is passionate about the region and connecting companies to resources to help them drive success."

The Grand Forks Region EDC works collaboratively to foster an environment that attracts innovative people and business investment to Grand Forks County and the surrounding region, enhancing economic vitality for long-term prosperity and growth.

KATIE LORENSON NAMED AMONG TOP 25 WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Alerus is pleased to announce President and CEO Katie Lorenson has been named among the region's Top 25 Women in Business by Prairie Business magazine. The annual award recognizes women from throughout North Dakota, South Dakota and western Minnesota for their exceptional professional contributions and community involvement.



Katie Lorenson

Lorenson joined Alerus as chief financial officer in 2017. In addition to leading Alerus' four product divisions — banking, mortgage, wealth management, and retirement and benefits — she spearheaded the company's initial public offering in 2019 and led the company's COVID-19 response. She transitioned from chief financial officer to president and chief executive officer at Alerus on Jan. 1, 2022. As president and CEO, she continues to lead Alerus' long-term growth strategy while remaining committed to its mission of improving clients' financial potential through holistic guidance, unparalleled service, and engaging technology.

**New staff?
Business
accomplishments?**



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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Northland PTA Program Director Justin Berry Awarded Feitelberg Journal Founders' Award

This Academy of Physical Therapy Education honor to be presented at Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX

Justin Berry, PT, DPT, Ph.D., Director of Northland Community & Technical College's Physical Therapist Assistant Program (PTA), will be recognized by the Academy of Physical Therapy (APTE) with the 2021 Feitelberg Journal Founders' Award. This honor will be presented at the Academy of Physical Therapy Education Annual Meeting on February 4 in San Antonio, TX.

The Feitelberg Journal Founders' Award was created by Samuel B. Feitelberg, PT, MA, FAPTA in honor of the efforts of the over 100 colleagues whose contributions of time and money created the Journal of Physical Therapy

Education, to acknowledge excellence in publication by a first-time author in the Journal of PT Education for the calendar year.

"It was a surprise and a nice honor to receive recognition for this research article," shares Berry.

Dr. Berry was chosen for this award for his article A National Survey of Student Loan Debt Accrued by Doctor of Physical Therapy Students, which the Journal of Physical Therapy Education published in March of 2021. The award-winning article discusses the increasing levels of student loan debt that are a concern within many health professions, including physical therapy. This article is just one in a lengthy anthology for Dr. Berry.

NORTHLAND
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Waxing the City Welcomes Casin!



Casin

Casin recently joined Waxing the City in Grand Forks. He is a Studio Coordinator and is doing a great job. When you walk through our doors, you know you're somewhere special. From the fun and inviting interior to the welcoming staff ready to greet you, it's clear that we're all about one thing: making you feel special.

When Casin is not at work, he enjoys traveling, taking photos, snowboarding in the mountains and spending time with friends at the lake.

Waxing the City has the best service providers and the best wax. Our highly trained Cerologists® are the ultimate pros at their craft. They use our custom-formulated wax, which offers gentle hair removal while soothing, exfoliating and softening your skin.

Call today and set up your next appointment. Casin and the rest of the gang are eager to meet you.

German Law and German Wealth

Formerly referred to as German Law Group, PC and Invest Wise, respectively. We are helping families discover their purpose and pass on values, beliefs, and finances that can be shared for generations to come.

We want to continue to inspire people to live their purpose. With a vision of a world where people leave a legacy of prosperity and harmony.

Rg
GERMAN
LAW | WEALTH

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Grand Forks SCORE Wins Midwest Region Chapter of the Year



SCORE Contact
Sheila Bruhn

Grand Forks SCORE is honored to receive the SCORE Midwest Region Chapter of the Year Award for outstanding performance in 2021. The award recognizes Grand Forks SCORE for a 35% increase in client services on top of a 62% increase the prior year. Unique clients mentored totaled 159. The finalists for the region included Minneapolis and Kansas

City, so the Grand Forks chapter was pleased to be chosen among formidable options.

Grand Forks SCORE has been a part of the local small business community for over forty years. In 2021, the chapter's volunteers provided over 840 free face-to-face mentoring and 33 no-cost workshops for aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners.

"We are honored to receive recognition from the seven state Midwest Region SCORE," says Grand Forks SCORE Chapter Co-Chair Sheila Bruhn. "Our twenty-seven volunteers have a passion for business. They are committed to the success

of NE North Dakota and NW Minnesota small businesses."

The chapter had earlier been recognized as the highest rated chapter in the nation based on PricewaterhouseCooper's annual Client Engagement survey of client satisfaction from over 250 chapters. They were also recognized by the national SCORE organization as North Dakota District Chapter of the Year.

lead Alerus' long-term growth strategy while remaining committed to its mission of improving clients' financial potential through holistic guidance, unparalleled service, and engaging technology.

CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS WINS BEST TASTING WATER IN MINNESOTA TASTE TEST AT MINNESOTA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION'S 38TH ANNUAL WATER AND WASTEWATER TECHNICAL CONFERENCE!

On March 2, 2022 at the 38th Annual MRWA Water and Wastewater Technical Conference, the winner of a statewide competition was announced in an effort to identify the best tasting wa-



East Grand Forks
Water & Light Department

Life Connected Since 1909

ter in Minnesota and participants hope, in the nation. Small and rural water utilities from around the state submitted samples of their water, straight from the tap. The winner of the event was the city of East Grand Forks, whose water sample was chosen by judges as the

most appealing. "It tasted clean, pure and refreshing", stated the judges. Jeff Holbeck, operations specialist, represented the city of East Grand Forks at the conference. The cities of Battle Lake and Frazee were runners up.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chapter Aesthetic Studio Opening in Grand Forks on April 7th, Bringing Customized Self-Care Options for All

On Thursday, April 7, Chapter Aesthetic Studio will open its doors to a newly designed studio located at 3300 32nd Avenue South in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Chapter provides evidence-based, non-surgical cosmetic treatments for people who want to live in the "wow."

The new studio will welcome its guests with an inviting space for gathering and relaxation in comfortable, yet elegant treatment rooms.

This will be the second Chapter studio location in North Dakota, with the original location in Fargo - formerly known as Rejuv.

Melissa Rogne, president and founder for Chapter Aesthetic Studio is a North Dakota native.

The trained providers at Chapter work every day to make self-care services a celebrated part of everyone's daily routine.

Valley Petroleum Equipment Inc is pleased to announce the hiring of Angie Belbas.



She has joined our team as our new Office Manager. Angie brings over 20 years of office experience

They help guests define their goals, customize their plans, start their self-care journey, and love their results.

"We want women and men to have access to quality aesthetic treatments and to feel empowered to look and feel their best, no matter where they live," Rogne said. "Bringing another Chapter Aesthetic Studio - and world class medical aesthetics - to my home state of North Dakota, means the world to me."

Chapter Aesthetic Studio was founded in Fargo, ND, has additional locations in New Hartford, NY and Rochester, MN, and is now in Grand Forks. Additional locations will be opening soon in Eagan, MN, St. Cloud, MN, Sioux City, IA and Tonawanda, NY, among others.

Chapter Aesthetic Studio locations are independently opened and supported by TAG - The Aspen Group - both which share a common vision, for a future where better health and wellness are more accessible for all.

rience and has already proven to be a real asset to our company.

Angie has joined The Chamber Ambassador group already and is excited to be active in the community.

Angie and her husband Jim live in East Grand Forks, MN with their children Carson and Brooklyn.

Joan Bengs Joins Hospice of the Red River Valley as Community Relations Specialist



Joan Bengs

Hospice of the Red River Valley welcomes Joan Bengs as a community relations specialist.

In this role, Joan builds relationships with healthcare professionals and facilities. She provides education and advocacy for hospice care and Hospice of the Red River Valley's benefits and services. Joan is based out of Grand Forks and serves multiple communities in northern North Dakota and Minnesota.

Joan previously worked in recruiting and insurance which helped her learn the importance of fostering relationships and advocating for healthcare education. Joan joined Hospice of the Red River Valley in late 2021. Joan received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Mayville State





Tina Neil,
Chamber Membership
& Communications
Vice President

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 Tina at **772-7271** or **Tina@gochamber.org** to schedule a ribbon cutting event.

INFORM **PROMOTE** **ADVOCATE** **CONNECT** **EDUCATE**

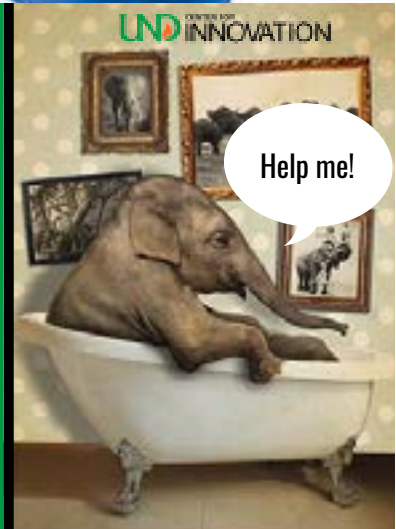
Your Chamber Working For You

While you are hard at work, your Chamber of Commerce is working for you. The Chamber GF/EGF is a 5-star accredited chamber. We inform, promote, advocate, connect and educate our members and community.

How can you get the elephant out of the bathtub?

Jump Start's unique challenges get you thinking outside the box to help you create effective solutions for your business!

Sign up to learn more about Jump Start!



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Get 3 months FREE advertising! Sign up before April 30th!

Display your message to the hundreds of thousands who travel through the Grand Forks International Airport each year!

Choose 1, 2 or all 3 groups of our terminal's digital screens:
4 in Baggage Claim · 4 in Gate Area · 5 Lobbies

Sign up before April 30th and receive 15 months advertising for the price of 12:
\$365 for one group, \$700 for two, or \$1,000 for all 3 groups.

Visit www.gfkairport.com/advertising or email kolson@gfkairport.com

Grow Your Small Business

Live Your Dream...

What a better time to mention SCORE and the SBA now, right before Small Business Week (May 1-7, 2022). We believe that anyone can start a small business with the right support. SCORE is the bridge that makes the journey to success more direct and sure-footed for entrepreneurs. And SCORE assists startups as well as existing businesses.

Diverse backgrounds, different voices and unique needs may call for specialized resources or a personalized approach in mentoring. We listen, recognize and fulfill these diverse needs in a wholly inclusive platform.



Brown Bag Seminar

Wednesday, April 20 2022

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Chamber of Commerce Board Room

Presented by...



Sheila Bruhn

Co-Chair of the Grand Forks Chapter of SCORE

SCORE Volunteers are experienced entrepreneurs, corporate managers, and executives with a diverse set of industries and specialties who volunteer their experience and knowledge to help small business professionals start, develop, and grow businesses.



&



Ben Deetz

Outreach & Marketing Specialist
U.S. Small Business Admin.

Deetz is responsible for delivering SBA services across the state of North Dakota. Located in the SBA Office in the Fargo federal building, he will work with a network of SBA counseling and training providers including SCORE, Small Business Development Centers, the Women's Business Center and the Veteran Business Outreach Center.



CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR SEMINAR

\$20/Member & \$30/Non Member (Includes Lunch) - HYBRID OPTION!

If you have questions, please contact the Chamber. info@gochamber.org or 701-772-7271