

## Business Update

Chamber News

Business After Hours

Ambassador Meeting

Business Brief

New Members

Membership Renewals

Brown Bag

# THE Voice

[www.gochamber.org](http://www.gochamber.org)

## Business After Hours Back in a Big Way



During the pandemic business after hours were a hit and miss and we even held some virtually. The past two at Rhombus Brewing and Rydells both were back to our pre-pandemic attendance.

Next month will be no different so you don't want to miss it. Hugos Pure Market & An Elegant Affair will be hosting outside in the parking lot of the new Hugo's Pure Market downtown location. They are going all out for this one:

- Smoked meats on catering Traeger, Scotty's Tips & Creamy Reds, lot's of great food from all departments
- Bar provided by The 506 Pub, Drink Tickets, Cash Bar
- Great Door Prizes

Be sure to park in the parking ramp on North 5th St or on the street, not in the store's parking lot.

**We also have a great line-up for the remainder of 2022. This is a great way to network, meet and see other business people.**

**Be sure to vote in  
the ND Primary  
June 14th.**

Candidates for Ward 2 and ward 4 City Council seats answered questions from the audience. Ward 6 City Councilman Dana Sande is running unopposed



and shared his thanks and vision for the future of Grand Forks. Each commented on infrastructure, mental health, Fufeng and bridges. There are very clear differences between the candidates. Check out the video on the City facebook page or use this link <https://www.facebook.com/CityofGrandForks/videos/1015910972391123>

### 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

### Chamber Staff

**Barry Wilfahrt**

President/CEO

[barry@gochamber.org](mailto:barry@gochamber.org)

**Kimberly Strom**

Vice President of Operations

[kimberlys@gochamber.org](mailto:kimberlys@gochamber.org)

**Tina Fetsch**

Executive Assistant

[info@gochamber.org](mailto:info@gochamber.org)



## See GF School Board Candidate Videos on the Chamber You Tube Channel

With 23 candidates for 5 positions on the Grand Forks School Board each candidate was asked to submit a short video introduction with comments on school district finances and building solutions. More than half of the candidates submitted videos. Please take time to learn more about the good people running for school Board. Videos are on the Chamber You Tube Channel at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhWASD5d5ZbFh8M4tKlbhm-9le8MkEPlu>

## Team GF preparing for 2023

The 2023 legislative session is only 7 months away and Team Grand Forks (Chamber, EDC, UND, City and County) has begun its preparations. Additional funding for Grand Sky, UND research and major infrastructure projects like I-29 interchange are moving to the top of the list. With so many seats changing building new relationships and strengthening current relationship with legislators is current top priority.

Over the past 6 sessions Grand Forks has benefited from nearly \$1.5 billion in state funding on the Team Grand Forks list. This critical advocacy work is one of the key components of Chamber work.

## Chamber Policy Committee Preparing for 2023

Your local chamber partners with the ND chamber on its policy agenda. We need your input to help prioritize what the business community should pursue in 2023. Please take a few minutes to share your business climate priorities.

Average completion time is eight minutes.

[The survey can be found here.](#)



*Barry Wilfahrt,  
Chamber President  
and CEO*

## Joint City Council meeting July 11th

The Grand Forks and East Grand Forks City Council will meet in joint session on July 11th to talk about bridges. The Chamber will be there in support. 1965 is the last time our community built a bridge over the Red River.

## Attention ND Residents Vote on June 14th

Be sure to vote in the ND Primary Election. City Council, School Board, County Commission and other offices are up for election. City of Grand Forks election information and polling places can be found at this web site: <https://www.grandforksgov.com/government/city-departments/public-information-center/election>

## GFAFB Hosts China Expert

Last month GFAFB hosted a meeting with extensive information on Communist China, the Chinese government and how China approaches government, military and business. Check out this fascinating you tube video at: <https://youtu.be/mjevoYkRwbs>

**REACH OVER 3000 MEMBERS MONTHLY**

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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.



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A consistent issue in hypersonics development has been limited flight-test infrastructure and ranges, with not enough room or spots available for the various programs seeking to test their technologies.

One of several proposed remedies to that problem is SkyRange, which uses unmanned aircraft to clear the test space and relay telemetry in an effort to do more with the range space already available. The program addresses a “critical throughput shortfall for supporting the number of hypersonic flight tests required, as a sufficient number of existing assets does not exist,” budget documents state. “SkyRange augments existing air, sea, and land test support assets referred to as the ‘string of pearls,’ reducing the high costs associated with traditional flight test support.

In October 2021, the Air Force transferred four retired RQ-4 Global Hawks to Northrop Grumman to repurpose for SkyRange.

Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.) represents both Grand Forks Air Force Base, where the RQ-4s came from, and Northrop Grumman’s Grand Sky facility, where the modifications are taking place. And in the May 3 hearing, he took the opportunity to ask both Austin and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Mark A. Milley if the Joint Chiefs support SkyRange’s continued development.

“Yes, I do support it. And again, the Air Force will continue to work to make sure that the right capabilities are in place to support that effort,” Austin said, with Milley agreeing.

SkyRange was included in the Office of the Secretary of Defense’s research, development, test, and evaluation budget documents for 2023 as part of the request for the High Speed Systems Test project. The Pentagon is asking for \$111 million for the entire project, building off \$191 million appropriated in 2022.

In addition to RQ-4s, the program is also using MQ-9s, the budget documents state, and will “demonstrate initial capability” in 2023 and provide support using “telemetry, multispectral imaging, and atmospheric sensing sensor packages.”



# NEW MEMBERS

## **Firefly Medical Group PLLC**

Nicole Lovat  
2860 10th Ave N, Suite 350  
Grand Forks, ND 58203

[drlovat@fireflymedical.net](mailto:drlovat@fireflymedical.net)

<https://fireflymedical.net/>

*At Firefly Medical Group PLLC, we offer a boutique Primary Care and Esthetics experience. We offer a full menu of spa services, neuromodulators for pain and esthetics, dermal filler, microneedling as well as a comprehensive primary care services on a membership-only basis.*

## **Impressions Gifts & Creative Services**

Chris McEntee  
2600 Demers Ave., Suite 110  
Grand Forks, ND 58201-3702

[info@impressionsgf.com](mailto:info@impressionsgf.com)

<https://www.impressionsgf.com/>

*Our shop is filled with the creativity and technology to take your ideas and bring them to life. Whether you're looking to add a new look to your business or create an unforgettable gift for someone, we have you covered from engraving to promotional products for all your business needs*

## **Farmers Insurance**

Don Zerr Agency LLC  
311 S 4th St., Suite 116  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
701-757-0763

[Dzerr1@farmersagent.com](mailto:Dzerr1@farmersagent.com)

[https://agents.farmers.com/nd/grand-forks/donald-zerr?Agent\\_Code=152057&Source\\_Indicator=AP](https://agents.farmers.com/nd/grand-forks/donald-zerr?Agent_Code=152057&Source_Indicator=AP)

*I'm proud to serve as your local Farmers® Agent in Grand Forks, ND, serving the Grand Forks, ND and E Grand Forks, MN area. Contact my local agency today regarding your coverage options for auto insurance, home insurance, renters insurance, and business insurance. I have over 16 years of experience as a Farms Insurance agent.*

*I offer the following products: Auto insurance, Home insurance, Business insurance, Motorcycle insurance, Recreational insurance, Renters insurance, Umbrella insurance, Farmers Financial Solutions, Term Life insurance, and Whole Life insurance.*

## **Creative Outlet ND**

Jolene Schmitz  
2524 S Washington St Ste @  
Grand Forks, ND 58201

<http://www.creativeoutletnd.com/>

[creativeoutletnd@gmail.com](mailto:creativeoutletnd@gmail.com)

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## **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.



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Register for the ND Champions  
Golf Tour in Grand Forks

Grand Forks | Thursday, July 21



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

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A & L Siding & Home Improvement Center	Gowan Construction, Inc.	Scouts of America
Absolute Refrigeration, LLC.	Grand Forks Area Youth For Christ	Northridge (Hospitality & Construction)
Adams Family Farms, Partnership	Grand Forks Growth and Support Center	Northrop Grumman Corporation
Agassiz Associates, PLLC	Grand Forks Subaru Kia	Obernel Engineering
American Family - Jeremy Fulton	Grape Mill Vineyard and Winery	Odney
Amundson, Roger D.D.S.	Greater Grand Forks Fair & Exhibition Inc.	Opp Construction
Anchor Marketing	Greenberg Realty-Lil Livingood	Pace Painting & Drywall
Arvig Media	H & R Block - DeMers Ave	Park University
Assurity Finance & Development, LLC	H & R Block - S. Washington	Pearson Christensen, PLLP
Baymont Inn & Suites, Grand Forks	Hebron Brick Supply	Petcetera Animal Clinic
Bon Voyage Travel Leaders	Heyer Engineering Inc.	Philadelphia Macaroni Company
Bruce Gjovig	Hugo's Wine & Spirits - East Grand Forks	Prairie Harvest Mental Health
Burggraf's Ace Hardware	IMM	Praxis Strategy Group
C & H Insurance	Ink, Inc.	Reliance Telephone Systems Inc.
Cancer Center of North Dakota	J & G Landscaping	Revelation Ale Works
Columbia Mall	Joe Black's	River Cities Speedway
Continental Covenant, LLC	Leisureland RV	Sage Legal, PLLC
Dacotah Paper Company	MAK Construction LLC	Sand Steel Building Co.
Dakota Commercial & Development, Inc	Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Dakota	Scheels All Sports
Daydreams Specialities	Mangata Medical Spa	SimplyMaid
Deek's Pizza	Manke Family Dentistry	Steamatic Total Cleaning & Restoration
Docu-Shred, Inc.	Mexican Village	Steve Erlandson, D.D.S.
Drees Farming Association	Mike's Pizza & Pub	Strive Life Grand Forks
Dusterhoft Family Stores	Mo's Cafe	Structures, Inc.
Eagle Electric, Inc.	Monarch Travel & Tours	Subway - 2400 S Washington
East Grand Inn	My Grand Cities	Sunrooms Plus, Inc.
Forum Communications Printing	North Dakota Ballet Company	Terry Sando
Freedom Church	North Dakota Vision Services/ School For the Blind	Thunder Ray's Auto Repair
General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.	Northdale Oil	Tim Shea's Nursery, Inc.
GOLDMARK Property Management, Inc.	Northern Bag and Box Company	Treat Play Love
GoodInsurance	Northern Lights Council, Boy	Valley Vision Clinic
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		Waterfront Kitchen & Bath
		Wendy's
		Women's Pregnancy Center

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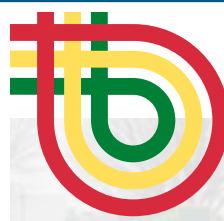
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# Ambassador Meeting

Hosted by...  
**Pizza Ranch**

**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.

April's Chamber Ambassador meeting was held at the The Pizza Ranch. Our commercial presenters were Brenda Kovar, Pampered Chief and Carly Tate, United Way. It was great to listen to what these two women had to say about the businesses they represent. Thank you to both Brenda and Carly for what they do for the community. Your services are so essential to our community.

# Thank You



**Over 30 volunteers participated**  
**The Chamber's Annual Membership Draft**  
**New Members & Volunteers that recruited them**

Forks Frame Up, Emberly Lietz  
Red Wing Shoes, Emberly Lietz  
Play It Again Sports, Emberly Lietz  
Sweet Three Boutique, Amanda Rengstorf

In-Prints Screening, Brice Welch  
Triangle Bus Services, Brice Welch  
Thermal Air, Jen Sertich  
Affairs by Brittany, Kaylee Cusack



**The Home Place Thrift Store**  
**701-795-9704**  
1811 S. Washington, Grand Forks, ND  
[www.prairieharvest.net](http://www.prairieharvest.net)  
Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10AM - 6PM  
and Saturday 10AM - 5PM  
**Unfortunately, the store is closing June 30th**  
**This is your last chance to save!!**  
Check out our Facebook page  
for our current discount!

# THE Chamber

## Business After Hours



..... Hosted by .....

## Hugo's Pure Market & An Elegant Affair

500 Demers Ave, Grand Forks, ND 58201

Thursday, June 23 - 4:45pm ~ 7:00pm

**Hugo's Pure Market & An Elegant Affair** invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun Business After Hours event! The event will be held outside in the parking lot next to Hugo's Pure Market. Please park in the parking ramp on N 5th St or on the street (not in the store's parking lot).

**Free Admission – Complimentary hors d'oeuvres including smoked meats from the catering Traeger- Drink ticket & cash bar provided by 506 Pub - Great door prizes - Progressive cash drawing is at \$600.**

**Stop by...** 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!!

Forward this message on to your friends and colleagues.

See you Thursday, June 23rd at Business After Hours!

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

.....  
Thank you to Rydell Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac for hosting an eventful May Business After Hours.



# BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Minnesota Crookston Announces Tu Lynn Sommerfeld's Return as Director of ECDC



Tu Lynn Sommerfeld

The University of Minnesota Crookston announced that Tu Lynn Sommerfeld has returned as director of the Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC). Sommerfeld previously served as the director for 11 years, before leaving last fall to take

a position at Sacred Heart School in East Grand Forks, Minn.

"We welcome Tu Lynn Sommerfeld back to the Early Childhood Development Center -- her expertise and experience are invaluable to the ECDC students, community, and institution," said Interim Division Head Mark Huglen.

Katlyn Janssen was the interim director of the ECDC for the 2021-22 academic year.

**New staff? Business accomplishments?**



**SHARE YOUR NEWS IN Business Briefs FREE!**  
**[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT](#)**

## 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.



Thank you to all that participated in this years Chamber Golf Event!

# GOLF



# 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 [info@gochamber.org](mailto:info@gochamber.org) to schedule a ribbon cutting event.



Bank Forward



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# COMMUNICATION

## the Key to Success

Our ability to communicate with others is key to improving our relationships in life, work, and at home. It builds thriving relationships and gives people the information they need to contribute to the success of the business.

We will be discussing saying no when our plate is too full, saying I don't know when we don't have an answer, and learning how to effectively discuss situations.

**Brown Bag Seminar**  **Chamber**  
GRAND FORKS - EAST GRAND FORKS

**Wednesday, June 15, 2022**

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



Presented by:

**McKenzy Braaten**

Vice President of Communications  
EPIC Companies

Originally from Mohall, ND, McKenzie moved back to Fargo in 2017 to pursue her career with EPIC Management and Zerr Berg Architects and Gehrtz Construction Services as the Marketing Director. She went full-time with EPIC in 2018 as the VP of Marketing and Public Relations. She has a masters in communications from Purdue University and received her undergraduate from NDSU.

She recently has taken on a new role as VP of Communications at EPIC Companies and transitioned from overseeing the marketing team to putting her efforts more towards strategic communications, media relations, internal communications, and community relations. Primarily Mac (as she is known as in the office) handles most speaking engagements, media interviews, open houses/groundbreakings, building signage, works with the development and capital team and more. She can be found at many different events throughout our community!

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR SEMINAR](#)**

**\$20/Member & \$30/Non Member (Includes Lunch)**

If you have questions, please contact the Chamber. [info@gochamber.org](mailto:info@gochamber.org) or 701-772-7271



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