



# THE Voice

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

## 42nd Underpass at Demers one step closer to reality



Mayor Bochenski introduces US Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to Grand Forks for 42nd and Demers Federal funding announcement. Pictured are US Department of Transportation Secretary, Pete Buttigieg; North Dakota US Senator Kevin Cramer and Grand Forks Mayor, Brandon Bochenski.

This is one of the five key infrastructure projects the Chamber has targeted. 47th and Merrifield Road interchanges on I-29 and two bridges are the other 4 projects the Chamber feels will position our communities and region well for future growth.

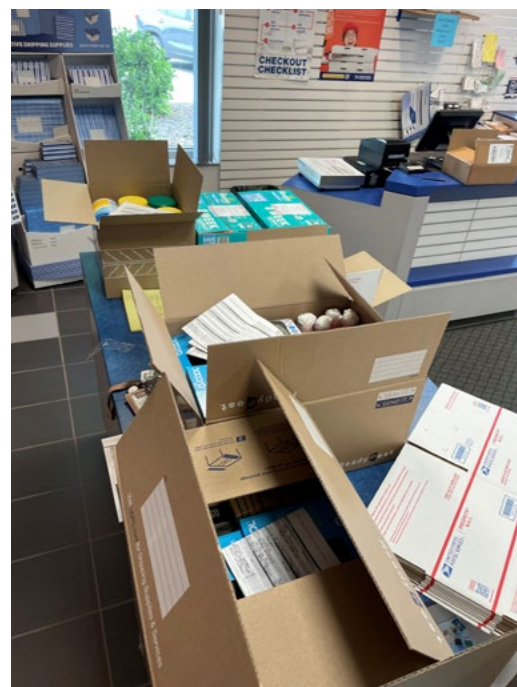
# CHAMBER NEWS

## Chamber Military Affairs Committee Sends Care Package to Guam



Pictured above are: MAC Committee members with some of the supplies that were sent. List L to R K.C. Inman, Bruce Gjovig, Scott Meyer, Barry Wilfahrt, Linda Inman, Jessica Tennison. Also pictured are packages that were sent.

The Chamber Military Affairs Committee collected contributions and sent a care package to the GFAFB Forward deployed unit on Guam. Super typhoon Mawar hit Guam as a Category 4 storm May 24th. 140 mph winds and over 2 feet of rain fell on the central and northern parts of the island, which cut power to most of the island. Many residents, including hundreds of military members and their families, are still without power, water and cell phone service. People are living without the ability to shower, wash clothes, clean their damaged homes, or refrigerate food. Critical military base services are running on generator power.



# CHAMBER NEWS

## Chamber supports plan for aquatic center and turf facility.



*Barry Wilfahrt,  
Chamber President  
and CEO*

According to Chamber Board Chair, Russel Crary, “few things impact workforce recruitments more than quality of life amenities. People of all ages want things to do, nice facilities and the park district’s plan has something for just about everyone included in it.” “That is why the Chamber is supporting the extension of the current  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cent sales tax originally put on the books for the construction of the Alerus Center.”

The facility includes a new aquatics center and multipurpose turf facility. “Final location and exact plans are still a work in progress. But according to Chamber President, Barry Wilfahrt “a facility like this will certainly help Grand Forks compete for regional tournaments that will help fill hotel rooms and restaurants. When we did the geo fencing research in 2019 we learned just how much events, concerts and tournaments positively impact the local economy. This is a win for everyone!”

Watch for more details on this exciting project in coming weeks.





# CHAMBER NEWS

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



# CHAMBER NEWS

## Ag Committee Hosts Golf Outing for Producers and Ag Businesses



The Agribusiness Golf Outing at Valley Golf Course was a fantastic event. The outing provided the perfect platform for professionals and enthusiasts from the agribusiness industry to network, exchange ideas, and forge new partnerships while enjoying a day on the course. Huge Thank You to all participants and Valley Golf Course.

## UAS Committee offers input on UND UAS Curriculum



Over 30 attended this months meeting on UND UAS Curriculum. The group provided valuable industry input to the staff and leaders of the UND UAS program!

# CHAMBER NEWS

## Chamber to Host Grand Forks School District Breakfast on October 25th



Grand Forks Supt of Public School, Terry Brenner points out "a superintendent of schools might get to be part of building one new facility in their career. "Right now there are three new facilities on the drawing board for the School District. First, funding was approved

for a new Valley Middle School by the voters in May. Last year, nearly 70 local businesses and organizations contributed over \$11 million to match the State of North Dakota's contribution to build a Career and Technical Education facility. Finally, the US Government announced recently that Grand Forks AFB would receive the majority of the funding needed to build a new school on the base.

With so much going on Dr. Brenner would like to give the community a report card of sorts on the district. He will present to local business leaders and the general public at a 7:30 am breakfast on October 25th at the Alerus Center. The event is ideally timed right before the Career Tech Expo kicks off later that morning also at the Alerus Center. Participants will be able to get a sneak preview of that event directly following the breakfast. Details on Sponsorship and how to make reservations will go out in August. Watch for details.





# CHAMBER NEWS

## Chamber Ambassadors - Equal Fun



Chamber Ambassadors do over 50 ribbon cuttings annually. Pictured (left to right) are Stephen Holmes-El Way, Dee Decimus Holmes-El Way, Jessica Tennison-The Chamber, Kathy Reiser-Valley Petroleum (Ambassador Chair Elec), Amanda Rengstorf-Grand Forks Senior Center (Ambassador Chair) delivering a photo of El Way Child Care & Learning Center's ribbon cutting for display in their business.

The Ambassadors deliver this display worthy photo plaque of each ribbon cutting a week or two after the member's big event as an additional thank you and to help them commemorate their Chamber ribbon cutting.

Schedule a Ribbon Cutting. New businesses and businesses with extensive remodeling are encouraged to contact Jessica at [JessicaT@Gochamber.org](mailto:JessicaT@Gochamber.org) to schedule a ribbon cutting.

New Ambassadors are also welcome to join this high energy and fun group anytime. Contact Jessica for details and become part of the chamber's most fun committee.

## Operation Thank You – August 2nd and 3rd



Volunteer to go out and visit a few Chamber members during operation Thank you. Ambassadors, Board and Committee members along with any chamber volunteer who want to join in the fun will visit about half of the Chamber's 1,000 plus members on August 2nd and 3rd to thank them for being a Chamber Member and find out what is going on in their business.

Join the fun by contacting Jessica at [JessicaT@Gochamber.org](mailto:JessicaT@Gochamber.org)

# 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.



## Business Succession

As small business owners start considering retirement one of the biggest issues that they will face is will the business continue on, and who is the right person to take over. We will look at strategies on how to pass a business to either a family member or non-family member so the business owner knows that their wishes are followed when they are gone.

Presented by: John Oelke

*John Oelke is an Associate Attorney and joined German Law in March 2022. He concentrates his practice on Estate Planning. He graduated from the University of North Dakota with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance specializing in Investments in December 2017. John earned his J.D. from the Creighton University School of Law in Omaha Nebraska in 2021. He is admitted to practice in both Minnesota and North Dakota.*

*John grew up on a small livestock farm in west central Minnesota. He now lives in Grand Forks with his wife Maggie and their two daughters. In his free time John enjoys reading, taking his family to North Dakota and Minnesota state parks and rooting for all UND and Minnesota professional sports.*

**Wednesday, July 19, 2023  
11:30am-1:00pm**

**The Chamber Board Room  
\$20/person - Member  
(Includes Lunch)  
\$30/person - Non-Member  
(Includes Lunch)**

*Registration Information*

**Limited seats available.  
Sign up today!**

Registrations for this seminar are available online only.

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



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## **GF Bin Cleaners**

George Scott  
Grand Forks, ND 58203  
218-693-1079

[email-gfbincleaners@gmail.com](mailto:email-gfbincleaners@gmail.com)

<http://gfbinwash.com/>

GF Bin Cleaners is a mobile pressure washing company, specialized in cleaning heavy equipment, homes, offices, concrete! Our specialty trailer can also wash your home trash can.

## **Hellraiser's Off-Road**

Daniel Casavan  
1000 North 3rd St Suite B  
Grand Forks, ND 58203  
218-207-1821

[email-hellraisers.off-road@outlook.com](mailto:email-hellraisers.off-road@outlook.com)

<http://www.hellraisersoff-road.com/>

Hellraiser's Off-Road is a new powersports dealership that opened up a year and a half ago here in Grand Forks. Hellraiser's Off-Road is BBB accredited. We sell new and used utvs, atvs, buggys, snow blowers, youth atvs, youth dirt bikes, adult size scooters and adult size Enduro dirt bikes. We also offer consignment options to customers. We offer financing for our customers through Synchrony Bank, Roadrunner Financial and Affirm. We are also a fully equipped service and repair shop with a trained powersports technician. We work on all makes and models of powersports but we don't work on motorcycles being we share the same building as throttle addiction! We are proud to be authorized dealers for Oreion Motors out of New Mexico, Massimo Motors out of Texas, Aodes USA out of Texas, BMS Motorsports out of California and Roketta USA out of California for all of our youth products. We are also a dealer for western power sports, Mattracks, Parts Unlimited, we are also an authorized Amsoil dealer. Hellraiser's Off-Road

offer's extended service plans through Torque Group and ASC Warranty. Our products are cheaper, available and still have the same one-year warranty that the name brands do. Business owners include Daniel Casavan, Rachel Doughman, Mark Doughman and Ruchard Doughman.

## **Centerspace**

Tracy Skjerven  
2151 36th Ave S #101  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
701-775-8535

[email-tskjerven@centerspacehomes.com](mailto:email-tskjerven@centerspacehomes.com)

At Centerspace, our mission is to provide a great home-for our residents, our team, and our investors. We take pride in the high level of service we provide. Currently, our portfolio includes homes in Colorado, Montana, South Dakota, Minnesota, and North Dakota. Centerspace continues to grow throughout the Midwest extending our vision to be the premier provider of apartment homes to help make better every days.

## **Med Park Credit Union**

Veronica Holweger  
1200 S Columbia Rd  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
701-780-5733

[email-veronica@medparkcu.com](mailto:email-veronica@medparkcu.com)

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

Med Park Credit Union is a financial cooperative open to individuals who work in the medical field in Grand Forks and Polk Counties. The credit union maintains financial services that encourages its members to accumulate savings, provide them a source of credit, and help educate them to attain their optimal level of financial security and independence.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## **Level Up Mental Health Collaborative**

Lacy Suby  
2300 Library Circle  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
701-757-0477

[email-lacysuby@levelupmhc.com](mailto:email-lacysuby@levelupmhc.com)  
[www.LevelUpMHC.com](http://www.LevelUpMHC.com)

Level Up Mental Health Collaborative is a local agency providing individual mental health therapy services to children (ages 8+), adolescents and adults. They strive to empower their clients to attain healing of their past through cultivating greater awareness in the present. Level Up Mental Health Collaborative's providers treat a variety of mental health conditions including but not limited to depression, anxiety, PTSD, and bipolar disorder. Their sincere passion lies within helping clients explore and understand how past experiences may be contributing to current struggles. Therapy sessions (or services) are approached in a trauma-informed manner, putting the client's needs and goals above all.

## **The HIVE**

Johnny Ryan  
375 2nd Ae N  
Grand Forks, ND 58203  
701-792-2883

[email-info@grandforksgov.com](mailto:email-info@grandforksgov.com)  
<https://www.hivegf.com/>

The HIVE is a one-of-a-kind hybrid business accelerator & incubator focused on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and Autonomous systems. The facility features over 32,000 sq ft of flexible meeting space, collaboration nooks, maker's space, and prime office space with high levels of security with access to Midco high speed internet. HIVE members have access to on-site mentorship, programming, and are immersed in the tightly networked Grand Forks UAS/ Autonomous ecosystem.

## **Nystrom & Associates**

Erin Saladin  
203 14th St NE  
East Grand Forks, MN 56721  
701-501-8014

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

Founded more than 30 years ago, Nystrom & Associates is one of the largest behavioral health organizations in the country. We are on a mission to empower people to be the best version of themselves by providing therapy, psychiatry, and substance use services for adults, children, couples, and families.



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**NORTH DAKOTA  
CHAMPIONS GOLF TOUR**

Grand Forks, ND  
Thursday, July 27 | Kings Walk

Register today at  
[ndchampionsclub.com/golfgf](https://ndchampionsclub.com/golfgf)



# WHISKEY MYERS

2023 TOUR

**7.25.23**

**ALERUS CENTER**

**GRAND FORKS, ND**



# MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

June 1, To June 30, 2023

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

ACCESSND	Jeff's Landscaping
American Federal Bank	Morgan Stanley
American Federal Bank	Novum Business Services
AnyTime Fitness	Ramada Inn
Business Specialties, CPAs	River Cities Speedway
Cambridge Property Mgmt	Robin Hood Business Services
Crary Real Estate-Mary Adams	Ruffing It Doggie Daycare, Overnight Center & Grooming
Dairy Queen	Sanford Health 625 Demers Ave Clinic
Dan's Pest Control	The Office Pub & Grub
Deek's Pizza	The Vertebrae Clinic
Doherty Staffing Solutions	Thermography & Health Solutions LLC
Edward Jones - Financial Advisor: Matt Odenbach	Tidbits of Grand Forks/EGF
Expressway Suites	Tim Shea's Nursery, Inc.
German Law	True North Equipment
GF Air Force Base	Walmart-Gateway #5806
Greater Grand Forks Young Professionals	White Drug Pharmacy
Holistic Hub LLC	WiDSETH - EGF
Impressions Gifts & Creative Services	



# SAND STEEL BUILDING CO.

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

Metal Building Construction  
Steel Fabrication  
Millwright Services



## Say Yes to Your Local Lending Experts



We process small loans for local businesses and multi-million dollar loans for large corporations with the same quality of service and expertise. Our status as a large community bank helps us offer the best of both worlds - the knowledge and expertise of a big financial institution and the customer service and attention to detail of a small community bank. With First International Bank & Trust, you'll be able to Say Yes to Living First with banking solutions tailored to your needs, from business loans to direct deposits. No matter what stage your business is currently in, we can help you grow into your future.

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Do you have a project or challenge that requires innovative solutions?

- New product design
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- Logo/slogan design
- Recruitment tactics
- New marketing strategy
- Need to find new clients

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**I AM LIGNITE**

**Member 2 Member**  
*The Chamber E-Promotion*

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# AMBASSADORS 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.*

Ambassadors started the summer off with a Summertime Social at Buffalo Wild Wings



## Time to plan your summer vacation!

Book your flight on Delta or Allegiant this summer and get away! Take the family and loved ones on those trips you have always wanted to go on. Take summer vacations and make memories to last a lifetime! Fly from GFK today!

Visit [www.gfkairport.com/airlines](http://www.gfkairport.com/airlines) to book flights.



# 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 Jessica at **772-7271** or [jessicat@gochamber.org](mailto:jessicat@gochamber.org) to schedule a ribbon cutting event.



Relate Care Clinic "formerly Women's Pregnancy Center"  
2810 17th Ave S., Grand Forks, ND 58201



Buff City Soap  
3811 32nd Ave ., Grand Forks, ND 58201

# BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

## Hosted by The Lighting Gallery & Something Sweet

3622 So. Washington, Grand Forks, ND

**Thursday, July 20, 2023 - 4:45pm ~ 7:00pm**

**The Lighting Gallery & Something Sweet** invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun Business After Hours event!

**Free Admission – Complimentary hors d'oeuvres & beverages**  
**Great door prizes - Progressive cash drawing is at \$1700.**

Stop by...Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities.  
You might even win **\$1700** 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, July 20th, 2023 at Business After Hours!

**Thank you to Hugo's Pure Market for hosting an eventful June Business After Hours.**





# MEMBER NEWS

## Financial Advisor Brian Fedje Receives Edward Jones Award for Outstanding Performance



*Brian Fedje,  
Edward Jones*

Brian Fedje, an Edward Jones financial advisor in the Red River Valley recently received the firm's exclusive Century Award for outstanding performance during his first five years as a financial advisor with the firm. He was one of only 700 financial advisors firmwide to receive this award.

"It's an incredible honor to be recognized for the work I do, work I truly enjoy," Fedje said. "Partnering with individual investors to help them set the stage financially to live their best lives is personally and professionally rewarding. I'm motivated to make a positive impact for my clients and in this community."

Fedje was presented with the award at his Edward Jones regional meeting in Brainerd, MN.

The Edward Jones branch-office business model, with more than 15,000 branches throughout North America, allows the firm's nearly 19,000 financial advisors to identify what matters most to each individual client and create personalized strategies, with the goal of developing long-lasting relationships to help keep them on track toward their goals.



# MEMBER NEWS

UMN Crookston formally dedicated its library to Roger D. Moe on June 2, 2023



Pictured above are: Roger with current and former legislators

With hundreds of people in attendance, including dozens of legislators, both former and current, the University of Minnesota Crookston formally dedicated its library to longtime senator and campus supporter Roger D. Moe on June 2, 2023. The ceremony and reception involved remarks from several regional and national leaders, a ribbon cutting on stage in Kiehle Auditorium, champagne toast and birthday cake at an outdoor garden party, and tours of the library with a trip through history, including information on the current building's groundbreaking in the late 1970s where Moe was present with shovel in hand.

Speakers at the event included UMN Crookston Chancellor Mary Holz-Clause, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-Minnesota), Executive Director of National Indian Impacted Schools Association Brent Gish, University of Minnesota President Emeritus Robert Bruininks, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Chancellor Devinder M. Malhotra, UMN Crookston Chancellor Emeritus Don Sargeant, UMN Crookston Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Rosemary Erickson Johnsen, UMN Crookston Interim Director of Advancement and Alumni Relations Kevin Thompson, Senator Emeritus Rod Skoe, and Senator Emeritus LeRoy Stumpf, plus video greetings from Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and UMN President Joan T.A. Gabel.

"It is in recognition of Roger's great service to the region and to the university that we honor him today," said UMN Crookston Chancellor Holz-Clause at the ceremony. "A library is a fitting location as it's the seat of knowledge, but it's also an archive of those that preceded us and left legacies such as Roger has on this campus."

# MEMBER NEWS

## UND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES ANNOUNCES SARAH NIELSEN AS CHAIR OF DEPARTMENT



*Sarah Nielsen*

The UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences (SMHS) is pleased to announce that Sarah Nielsen, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, associate professor of occupational therapy, will be the School's new Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy (OT). Nielsen replaces retiring chair Janet Jedlicka, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, who has held the position since 2006.

A graduate of the SMHS occupational therapy program who earned a doctoral degree in institutional analysis and adult education from the North Dakota State University School of Education & Human Development, Nielsen joined UND's OT team in 2007, when she began as an adjunct faculty. Having been promoted to Assistant Professor in 2011, Associate Professor in 2016, and Professor effective July 1, she comes into the Chair position with a wealth of experience in both occupational therapy and higher education.

"Janet's tenure helped foster significant growth in academic scholarships for students and transitioned our educational programs at both the master and doctoral levels," said Nielsen of her predecessor, who helped UND move, over the course of a decade, to a Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) degree and then to an Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD). "Most of all, she has been an outstanding mentor and advocate for our faculty, staff, and students. She will be greatly missed."

# THE CHAMBER

## **Executive Committee**

**Chair: Russel Crary**, Crary Real Estate

**Chair Elect: Tony Hodny**, H & S Electrical Services LLC

**Past Chair: Tommy Kenville**, iSight Drone Services

**Matt Fisher**, Probitas Promotions

**Kay Derry**, Northern Roots Boutique

**Pat Boppre**, Blue Moose Bar & Grill

**Barry Wilfahrt**, Chamber GF/EGF

## **Board of Directors**

**Meghan Compton**, Altru Health System

**Mike Dunn**, Construction Engineers

**Torrie Enget**, Hugo's Family Marketplace

**Mike Fridolfs**, Northrop Grumman Corp.

**Annie Gorder**, Three Farm Daughters

**Tarek Howard**, Auto Finance Super Center

**Meloney Linder**, University of North Dakota

**Keith Lund**, GF EDC

**Mike McLean**, JLG Architects

**Matt Norby**, Norby's Work Perks

**Emily O'Brien**, Bioscience Association of ND

**Scott Reck**, Northdale Oil

**Andy Schneider**, Dakota Concealed/GF County Sheriff

**John Schumacher**, American Federal

**Penny Stai**, River Cinema

**Tyler Wilson**, Vilandre Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing

## **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

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**Tina Fetsch**

Executive Assistant

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

**Jessica Tennison**

Membership Director

**[jessicat@gochamber.org](mailto:jessicat@gochamber.org)**

