

THE Voice

Mayor Bochenski Hosts 2023 GF State of the City



Mayor Bochenski updated the community on its unprecedented growth and progress. From new developments downtown and around the city to record city sales tax collections and new missions at the base things are really humming in Grand Forks. The Mayors can do attitude and positive approach to key issues has Grand Forks moving in the right direction for sure.

The event started with a feature video showcasing Grand Forks. Next the Mayor talked about the community's positive direction. He ended the session with interviews with Altru CEO, Todd Forkel; UND President Andy Armacost; and GFAFB Vice Commander, Col Del Rivera.

You can watch the State of the City in its entirety here: <https://www.grandforksgov.com/#gallery-1>

CHAMBER NEWS



*Barry Wilfahrt,
Chamber President
and CEO*

Ag Committee has new events planned

For over 100 years the Chamber's Ag Committee has offered programs of interest, tours of local Ag businesses and run appreciation events for area ag producers.

This year the committee has added a 9 hole golf outing on June 12th. The Committee will also be doing its annual City to Farm Tour. This year's tour will be at the ND Mill and Elevator on July 18th 7:30 am to 9 am. Contact Tina at the Chamber info@gochamber.org for details.

It's Ribbon Cutting Season.

With so many new businesses and major remodeling's in the Grand Cities, 2023 is shaping up to be a very busy ribbon cutting season. Please let us know if you know of a new business the Chamber Ambassadors should recognize with an Ambassador ribbon cutting. Contact the Chamber office via email at jessicat@gochamber.org

Herald Advisory Committee Provides Vital Link between Business Community and Forum Communications

Quarterly, the Chamber convenes a broad spectrum of community leaders and the publisher of the Grand Forks Herald and the editor of Prairie Business Magazine. The purpose is to help identify news stories, themes and trends worthy of coverage by the two publications. Each quarter 12-15 news stories can trace their origin directly back to this committee's work. The result is better coverage of business stories and trends impacting business and the community in the two publication's. This is a win win relationship according to longtime Chamber Herald Advisory committee chair, Bruce Gjovig.

CHAMBER NEWS

Special Thanks to our Legislators



*Barry Wilfahrt,
Chamber President
and CEO*

Once again Grand Forks did phenomenal during the 2023 legislative session. In fact the Governor made a special trip to Grand Forks just days after the session to talk about the over \$100 million in funding that was approved by the legislature this session for Grand Forks Projects. All 15 Grand Forks County Legislators supported the aggressive agenda and worked together tirelessly throughout the session. What a TEAM!

The Chamber will be publishing a special report on legislative outcomes. Watch for this report from "Team Grand Forks" It will be emailed to you.

Canadian Traffic Picking Up

The final hurdle to Canadian travel was finally removed on May 11th. There are now NO restrictions to travel between Canada and the United States. According to many local businesses we are already seeing a return to more normal for the first time since March of 2020. Let's Welcome those Canadians and give a friendly wave to our friends in vehicles with the Manitoba license plates.

CHAMBER NEWS

UAS Committee Meetings Set



Tom Swoyer,
Grand Sky
CoChair



Michael Fridolfs,
Northrop
Grumman Corp.
CoChair



Looking ahead there are three UAS Committee meetings set for the balance of 2023.

June 7th Postponed by UND - **UND needs to reschedule the UAS Curriculum input meeting set for June 7th to a later date. We will send a notice when they let us know the new date.**

UAS Curriculum Discussion with UND Aerospace and UND UAS program Leadership. UND wants to listen to your input on what is happening in the field of UAS and get input on their UAS program curriculum.

August 29th in conjunction with Autonomous Nation in Fargo and Casselton (time and location TBA)

October 9, 2023; 3 pm at Grand Sky MT1 Building Board Room. This will be held prior to the UAS Summit kickoff social at Grand Sky that starts late afternoon out at Grand Sky that same afternoon.

Program details and location confirmations will be sent separately for each event and meeting to all Chamber UAS Committee members. For more information on the UAS Committee contact Barry at the Chamber at barry@gochamber.org

For those that work in acres and not hours.... **THANK YOU**

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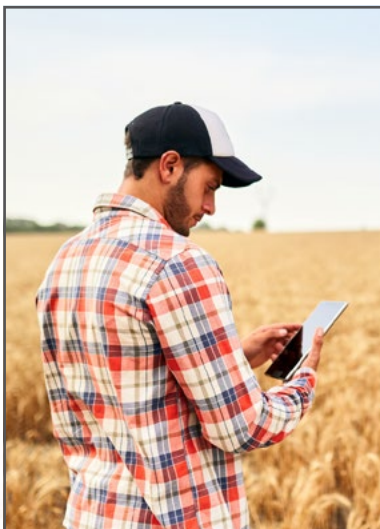
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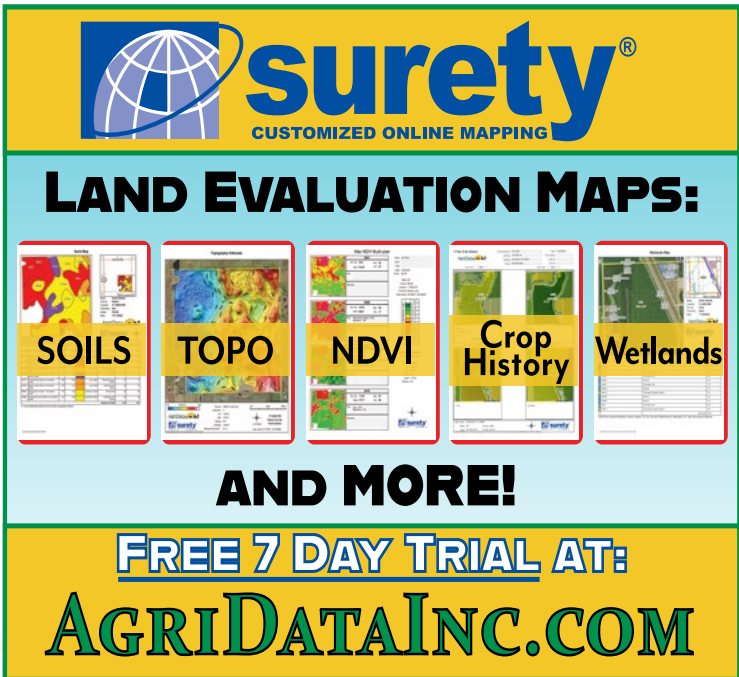
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Employee Retention

Recruiting and Retaining Gen Z and Beyond focuses on strategies to build authentic connections with the incoming workforce. We'll also discuss ideas for enhancing employee engagement and connecting employees to your organization's goals.

Presented by: Kathy Lund

Kathy has worked at UND for over 15 years. Through her role as Director of the Pancratz Career Development Center in the Nistler College of Business and Public Administration, she collaborates with employers to build their recruiting brands on campus and connect with students. She helps students work toward their career goals and find organizations and roles that align with their values and strengths. Kathy is a Gallup-certified CliftonStrengths coach, and she enjoys helping people articulate and develop their talents. She also teaches a professional development course and is the advisor for UND's Women in Business club.

- *Master of Science, Higher Education, University of North Dakota*
- *Bachelor of Arts, English; Minor in Spanish; University of Minnesota-Twin Cities*
- *Gallup-Certified CliftonStrengths Coach*

**Wednesday, June 21, 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](#)



GET THE SCOOP ON THE CHAMBER

2023 Membership Drive NEW MEMBERS!

- GF Bin Cleaners
- Midwest Planning, LLC
- Level Up Mental Health Collaborative
- Proven Ag Solutions, LLC
- Skinner Roofing
- House of Vacuums
- Integrated Steel Inc.
- Red River Tax & Accounting
- El Way Child Care & Learning Center
- DeTect, Inc
- Bert's Truck Equipment, Inc
- Driscoll's Auto Service
- Brandon Cobb Agency-Country Financial
- Taste Hospitality LLC SIN BIN

THANK YOU to our volunteers for making
this a successful drive!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Integrated Steel Inc.

Scott Fournier
2201 N 39th St
Grand Forks, ND 58203
701-757-0555

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

Integrated Steel Solutions, Inc (ISS) is a Cold-Formed Steel (CFS) Framing Manufacturer and Design Company. We have automated roll-forming equipment to precision manufacture CFS studs into prefabricated wall panels, floor trusses, and roof trusses for commercial and residential building construction.

El Way Child Care and Learning Center

Stephen & Dee Decimus Holmes
624 North Washington Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201

email-info@elwaycclc.com

<https://www.facebook.com/elwayCCLC>

El Way is owned by Stephen & Dee Decimus Holmes, El Way Child Care and Learning Center will emphasize hands-on learning, from children growing plants in the garden to dishing out their own food in their classroom to learning colors and building things. Ages are birth to school age. Hours of operation 6:30a-6p, M-F.

enrollment: <https://schools.procureconnect.com/register/6b2dd6d6-b85e-4451-a23c-f090933d6764>

House of Vacuums

Eric Laubach
2800 S. Columbia Road
Suite #447
Grand Forks, ND 58201

House of Vacuums has been in Grand Forks since 1984 and specializes in vacuum and appliance sales and repairs. Come in and test drive a quality vacuum. House of Vacuums offers free estimates on all repairs.

Skinner Roofing

Todd Krueger
3013 27th Ave N
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-772-3636

<https://www.skinnerroofing.com/about>

Skinner Roofing has been providing low slope roofing, sheet metal, and waterproofing solutions in the upper Midwest for 50 years. We believe in investing in our employees as well as rewarding hard work and dedication. Skinner Roofing is locally owned and operated serving Minnesota and North Dakota with offices in Fargo and Grand Forks.

Brandon Cobb Agency- Country Financial

Brandon Cobb
802 Demers Ave
Grand Forks ND 58201
701-620-6040

Brandon.cobb@countryfinancial.com

As you work through life, you may find you need to protect what you value most. Whether that's your home or car or the loved ones in your life, I'd like to help you, just like I help all my clients in and around Grand Forks, ND. Brandon Cobb Agency offers home, auto, life, and commercial insurance with a focus on small businesses. Brandon is licensed in ND, MN, and AZ.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

DeTect, Inc.

Ryan Walsh
701-850-6015

Email-ryan.walsh@detect-inc.com

<http://www.detect-inc.com/>

DeTect specializes in advanced 2D and True3D™ radar and remote sensing technologies. The company is the leader in bird radar technologies for real-time aircraft bird strike avoidance, wind energy bird mortality risk assessment and mitigation, and industrial bird control with over 600 of its systems delivered to the US, Canada, Europe, Africa and Asia since 2003. Our solutions enable safe Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) drone operations.

DeTect's proprietary target classification technology and advanced sensors provide airspace awareness for safety, security and surveillance. "The Right Radar for the Job" is provided to each of our customers across the world in the airspace, defense, environmental protection, and renewable energy industries. DeTect products are designed & manufactured in the USA and comply with the Buy American Act (2018 & 2021 amendment).

Canna Corners

Ronny Reitmeier
910 Central Ave NW Unit D
East Grand Forks, MN 56721
218-220-5516

Ronny@cannacorners.com

Canna Corners, a CBD and THC retailer with stores in Crookston and East Grand Forks, Minnesota, showcases a commitment to local sourcing, quality, and sustainability. Their diverse offerings are all Minnesota grown and processed, bolstering the local economy

while reducing environmental impact.

Additionally, their rigorous Colorado testing process ensures safety and quality, providing customers with products that enhance their quality of life. Through their dedication to local sourcing and high standards, Canna Corners contributes significantly to community wellness and a sustainable local economy.

Taste Hospitality LLC SIN BIN

Nathan Lappegaard
4401 S Washington St
Grand Forks ND 58201
701-757-0658

<http://sinbingf.com/>

SIN BIN Kitchen Bar Casino
Established in 2021, the SIN BIN Kitchen Bar Casino is a neighborhood fixture on the southend of Grand Forks. Friendly faces, cold beer, tasty cocktails, savory snacks, and the 2nd BEST pizza in town await all those who visit the SIN BIN. Charitable gaming courtesy of the Grand Forks Blue Line Club, big screen tv's, a rocking jukebox, a sunny patio, and friendly conversations are what you will find at the BIN. Whether it's the big game, a night out with friends, meeting new people, or trying your luck fun awaits at the BIN. We look forward to seeing you at the BIN!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bert's Truck Equipment

Riley & Ryan Gregoire
2506 Business Hwy 2 East
East Grand Forks MN 56721
218-773-1194

<http://bertstruck.com/>

Riley@bertstruck.com

Bert's Truck Equipment is a truck equipment sales and repair shop. We sell truck equipment for all types of vehicles, such as snow plows, lift gates, service body/flatbeds, lift axles, hoists, hydraulics, dump body's, farm boxes, etc. Bert's has been around since 1939. Ryan and Riley are the 4th generation owners. Bert's currently has 15 full-time employees. We are currently located on business highway two in East Grand Forks

Bolton & Menk

Blue Weber
3168 41st ST Suite 2
Fargo ND 58104
701-960-9107

blue.weber@bolton-menk.com

<http://www.bolton-menk.com/>

Bolton & Menk, Inc. specializes in providing community infrastructure solutions. Since 1949, we have been committed to improving quality of life through engineering excellence and client satisfaction. From advocating for our communities to designing their dreams to finding funding; we take pride in our work because we live in these same communities. Today, Bolton & Menk has more than 800 employees throughout 30 locations in North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, North Carolina, and South Carolina providing services to more than 400 communities and agencies.

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.



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WHISKEY MYERS

2023 TOUR

7.25.23

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GRAND FORKS, ND

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

May 1, To May 31, 2023

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

American Family - Jeremy Fulton
Ameriprise Financial - Ethan Hodnefield
Anchor Marketing
Arvig Media
Azurance Group
Baymont Inn & Suites, Grand Forks
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Family
Realty - Katie Marcotte
Bioscience Association of North Dakota
BNSF Railway Company
Bon Voyage Travel Leaders
Braaten's Quality Auto Service
Bully Brew Coffee - East Grand Forks
Dakota Science Center
Emerson Duty Free Shop
General Atomics Aeronautical Systems,
Inc.
Gereszek Law Office P.L.L.C.

Grand Forks Builders and Traders
Exchange
Greenberg Realty - Roberta Benson
Greenberg Realty - Tammy Howard
Hugo's Wine & Spirits - East Grand Forks
James Dalglish
K & E Construction
Kindle Wellness
Mayo Manufacturing
Odney
Profile Plan
Riverside Christian School
Sage Legal, PLLC
SpotOn
State Farm - Andrew Bergee
Structures, Inc.
Third Street Clinic
Tim D. Lord, CPA



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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.

May Ambassador Meeting, was held at Aaltos at Canad Inn. Speakers were Molly Hane and Gannon Karsky from Fenworks.



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 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 to schedule a ribbon cutting event.



ElWay Child Care & Learning Center
624 North Washington St., Grand Forks, ND



Larimore Food Pantry
109 Terry Ave., Larimore, ND

RIBBON CUTTING



Canna Corners

<https://cannacorners.com/>

910 Central Ave NW, Unit D, East Grand Forks, MN

**AGRIBUSINESS
GOLF EVENT/SOCIAL**
JUNE 12, 2023
VALLEY GOLF COURSE, 2407 RIVER RD NW, EGF
2:00 PM SHOT GUN START - 9 HOLE

LIMITED
TO 9
TEAMS
OF 4

\$25 PER
PERSON
INCLUDES CART
PAY AT EVENT

EMAIL YOUR TEAMS TO TINA
tfetsch@gochamber.org

A large white golf ball is positioned on a white tee, centered in the lower half of the flyer. The background is a vibrant green, suggesting a golf course setting.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Hosted by Hugo's Pure Market

500 Demers Ave., Grand Forks, ND

Thursday, June 22, 2023 - 4:45pm ~ 7:00pm

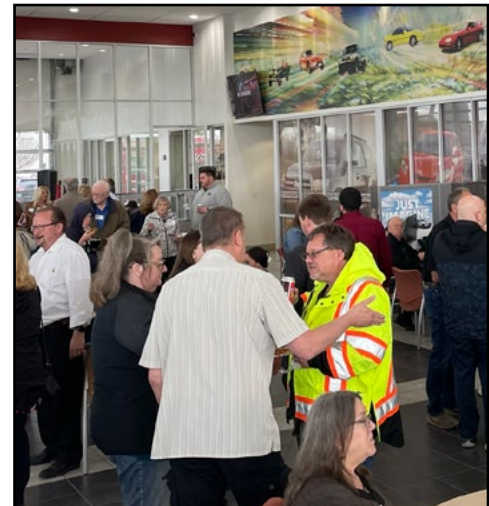
Hugo's invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun Business After Hours event!

Free Admission – Complimentary hors d'oeuvres & beverages
Great door prizes - Progressive cash drawing is at \$1600.

Stop by...Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities.
You might even win **\$1600** 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 22, 2023 at Business After Hours!

Thank you to Rydell Toyota for hosting an eventful May Business After Hours.



MEMBER NEWS

HUGO'S FAMILY MARKETPLACE IN FOSSTON, MN CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING

Hugo's Family Marketplace, along with Hugo's Wine & Spirits and Hugo's Xpress in Fosston, MN will be celebrating their Grand Opening from May 27th – June 16th, 2023.

Hugo's Family Marketplace, along with Hugo's Family Pharmacy, Bistro 300, Hugo's Wine & Spirits, and the Hugo's Xpress Gas Station/Convenience Store, offers something for everyone. The produce, meat, deli and bakery departments offer a wide selection of the freshest product.

During the three week Grand Opening celebration, customers can register in the Fosston store for a chance to win a Samsung Smart TV or a Pit Boss Smoker with an Ultimate Meat Bundle. All customers can register at any Hugo's Family Marketplace for a chance to win more great prizes. Hugo's Wine & Spirits and Hugo's Xpress will also be giving away great prizes. There will be samples in every department, with all Hugo's Family Marketplace locations joining in the celebration.

We also invite you to join us for an Open House event and Ribbon Cutting at Hugo's in Fosston on June 9th from 1pm – 6pm. Ribbon Cuttings with the Mayor's Office and EDC of Fosston will be at 1pm at Hugo's, Hugo's Wine & Spirits and Hugo's Xpress. We'll have sampling in all departments, prize giveaways, twenty five cent root beer floats and cake and ice cream. There will be an outdoor beer garden at the Bistro with beer tasting. You'll even find the Pillsbury Dough Boy meandering through the store...perfect photo opportunity!

"We are beyond excited to join the Fosston community," said Hugo's President/CEO Kristi Magnuson Nelson. "The store, our associates, the community and everyone we have met are outstanding."

"We welcome everyone to check us out and look forward to making new friends as we continue to serve the Fosston community for many years to come."



MEMBER NEWS

The League of American Bicyclists has recognized the Greater Grand Forks community as a Bicycle Friendly Community.

The League of American Bicyclists has recognized the Greater Grand Forks community as a Bicycle Friendly Community.

As part of our commitment to being a great place to live and thrive, residents and agencies from Greater GF submitted an application to the League of American Bicyclists for consideration for a Bicycle Friendly Community award. This award recognizes local efforts to provide a non-motorized transportation system that serves everyone who lives and visits our community. Today, we're proud to be part of the over 500 communities across the United States that are transforming America, one Bicycle Friendly Community at a time.



"When we build an America where bicycling is truly safer and easier for everyone, we strengthen our nation's economic vibrance, environmental welfare, and mental and physical well-being. That's why we're proud to celebrate all of the new and renewing Bicycle Friendly Communities in our movement to build a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone," said Bill Nesper, executive director of the League of American Bicyclists.

More than ever, people across our community are biking for commuting, errands, and recreation. The bronze-level BFC award recognizes our community's commitment to improving conditions for all people who bike. We are pleased to celebrate this award and our achievements in building a better community together.

Learn more about the League's Bicycle Friendly Community program at bikeleague.org/community.

And a special shoutout to everyone who helped make this application possible. Your efforts are appreciated and recognized.

MEMBER NEWS

Library to host grand reopening for children's department, kickoff for summer reading program



The Grand Forks Public Library will host a grand reopening event for the children's department, in connection with the kickoff for the summer reading program, on Saturday, June 3.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m., with speakers Brad Sherwood, library board president; Aaron Stefanich, children's library director; and Emily Montgomery, Myra Foundation trustee. Several children will be ribbon-cutters, according to Wendy Wendt, library director.

The party to celebrate the start of the Summer Reading Program will run from 2 to 4 p.m.

Visitors will be encouraged to "take a spin down the slide," Wendt said, and pick up a summer reading goodie bag, which will include mini LEGO kits, while supplies last.

There will be extra swag for the first 500 guests, she said.

The project to remodel the children's department, which has taken nearly six months, represents an investment of \$785,981, Wendt said.

The main centerpiece of the remodeled space is a multi-level "Myra's Treehouse," funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Myra Foundation, she said.

"The interactive treehouse features an accessible lower level for people of all abilities to enjoy," she said.

The remodeled space will offer interactive learning and exploring opportunities for babies to pre-teens, and flexible seating areas for kids and families.

The renovation of the second-floor children's department, which employs three full-time and 10 part-time staff members, marks the end of the renovation of the entire library. First floor remodeling was completed in 2021 at a cost of \$560,000, with funding from library reserves.

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

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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

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