

EGF Economic Development Summit



Pictured are the attendees of the EGF Economic Development Summit

Working with existing EGF businesses, an EGF identity and aligning marketing strategies for EGF, keeping the downtown entertainment district strong, and the sales tax vote in 2024 were some of the key issues talked about at the half day planning session. Over 40 attended the session facilitated by Mark Schill with Praxis Strategy Group, including more than 20 EGF business owners. The most important take away was EGF has some unique assets and advantages and EGF must capitalize on those in order to continue to remain strong and a growing community. The full report and strategy for implementation will come out next year. The EDA board will develop priorities and the Chamber will also include several objectives in its 2024 plan of action.

CHAMBER NEWS

Board Tours Retrax



Pictured are members of The Chamber Board.

The Chamber Board toured Retrax last month. This Grand Forks Startup has grown into major employer producing a variety of models of retractable bed covers. The amount of engineering, material cost savings analysis and efficiencies built into the operation were very impressive.

UAS Committee Forms Task Forces



Tommy Kenville,
ISight Drone Services
CoChair

Michael Fridolfs,
Northrop
Grumman Corp.
CoChair



Five task forces have been identified to each develop a couple objectives for the overall UAS Committee to work on. The five areas are: UAS Workforce, Large Drones, Small Drones, Beyond Visual Line of Sight and ND UAS Ecosystem Branding and Marketing. According to Tommy Kenville, UAS Committee Co-Chair "we have so many opportunities and things to work on to continue growing our UAS ecosystem.

CHAMBER NEWS

CTE Ground Breaking.



The long talked about Career Impact Academy held its ribbon cutting. The business community and local units of government all contributed (68 unique contributors, more than any other center across the state) over \$11,000,000 to more than matched the State of North Dakota's commitment of \$10,000,000. The local school district will fund the remainder of the project.

The academy located near the intersection for Gateway drive and North 43rd St will house classes for instruction and training in high demand occupations such as advanced manufacturing, Unmanned aviation, automotive services, building trades, computer science and information technology, culinary arts, engineering and robotics, health sciences and precision technologies.

Located where the old Holiday Inn once stood the Career Impact Academy will be ready for students to begin taking classes at the start of the 2025-26 school year. High school students from throughout the region will be able to attend.

CHAMBER NEWS

Lt Governor Meets with Community Leaders



*Barry Wilfahrt,
Chamber President
and CEO*

Lt Governor Tammy Miller met with community leaders to talk about the many great things happening in the Grand Forks business community. From downtown housing to the new hospital there is so much enthusiasm going on in the business community. The Lt. Government also talked about various state programs from workforce to angel investment opportunities.

School District Report to the Community a Success



Dr. Terry Brenner
Superintendent Grand
Forks Public Schools



Pictured are the attendees of the School District Report to the Community breakfast.

Dr. Terry Brenner held his first ever Report to the Community Breakfast last month. The district is currently in the middle of three building projects. A new Valley Middle School, A Career and Technical Education Center (Career Impact Academy) and a new school at GFAFB. These are exciting new developments that will position GF Public School for decades to come. The event also highlighted a variety of students and the ND Teacher of the Year. Overall the event made you feel proud of the many great things happening in GF Public Schools. Thanks to the many sponsors and 150 who attended.

CHAMBER NEWS

NCTC Luncheon



Sandy Kiddo,
Northland College President



Pictured are Sandy Kiddo, Northland College President, Mayor Gander, Lisa Johnson, Eric Ripley, Tommy Kenville



Sandy Kiddo, Northland College President talked about the many great things going at the College during her State of the College luncheon. Most notably enrollment has increased over the past year for the first time in a decade. She talked about some of the hard decisions she has had to make to turn the college around to a position of sustainability and growth. Northland is proving the critical workforce pipeline to employers in the region with over 90% of their graduates going to work within an hour's drive of their campuses. Sandy also invited several local employers to share their story of how Northland grads have been the lifeblood of their workforce.

Vote Yes on November 14th.

Residents of Grand Forks will vote in a special election on November 14th to extend the Alerus Center three quarters of a cent sales tax for a variety of quality of life projects in addition to continuing to do capital project in the Alerus Center. This is a continuation of a tax already in place and not a tax increase. Chamber Board Chair Russel Crary spoke at a recent City Council meeting in support of the tax (which the Chamber Board supports) noting how important quality of life initiatives are for the continued growth of the community. We have also seen the data on how much the Alerus Center and youth tournaments contribute to the community's economy. From a community perspective this is critical to helping maintain the great momentum our communities currently have.

CHAMBER NEWS

Chamber Staff makes Significant Changes



Kimberly Strom
Vice President of
Operations
kimberlys@gochamber.org



Janelle Wald
Vice President of
Membership Engagement
and Development
janellew@gochamber.org



Tina Fetsch
Marketing and
Communications
Director
tfetsch@gochamber.org



The Chamber announced the hiring Janelle Wald last month. Janelle brings extensive experience in workforce and nonprofit management as the former Private Industry Council Director for NW MN and the Crookston Chamber CEO in addition to having a master degree in nonprofit management. Janelle will take on a newly defined position at the chamber, one of Vice President of Engagement and Membership Development. Janelle will be able to take over some of the committees and represent the chamber on some of the committees Chamber CEO, Barry Wilfahrt has been on. This will extend the Chamber reach into the community for an engagement perspective. Meanwhile the Chamber's other Vice President, Kim Strom will continue to focus on operations and special events which she has done such a tremendous job of for the membership for almost 15 years now.

The Chamber has also changed Tina Fetsch's position to Marketing and Communications Director to better capitalize on her years of marketing experience. From running all of the creative and social platforms Tina does a great job for the chamber. She will also be moving to her own office instead of manning the front desk. Post COVID the chamber has very few walk-ins so a location in her own space has already helped her stay focused and more productive.

According to Chamber President, Barry Wilfahrt the Chamber has to evolve to meet the ever growing demands of the chamber's 1,000 plus members.

CHAMBER NEWS

Henry Havig Nominations Now Being Accepted 2024 Henry Havig Award For Community Service

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2024 Henry Havig Award for Community Service. This is The Chamber's most prestigious award and is given annually to those special individuals who stand above the crowd by their dedication to our community through community service in multiple volunteer leadership roles. It is an award that recognizes individuals who have provided exemplary voluntary leadership service to our community over a long period of time and in a broad spectrum of community activities. Nominees must be at least 36 years of age and have proven leadership qualities, commitments to community based organizations and the desire to improve the quality of life in our community.



The Havig Award for Community Service is given in memory of a great community leader. Henry Havig was president of the board of the chamber in 1955-1956 and was a long time successful businessman who contributed greatly to our community as a member of the Grand Forks City Council and a life-long contributor to the YMCA.

Please complete and return a nomination by Monday, November 20th, 2023 to: The Chamber 202 N. 3rd St. Grand Forks, ND 58203 or email to: info@gochamber.org. Additional information regarding the nominee may be included when submitting the nomination. The Selection Committee is comprised of the past recipients of the award. This award will be presented at The Chamber's Annual Dinner and Banquet on January 25th, 2024 at The Alerus Center.

Nominations shall include:

1. Nominee's Name
2. Leadership qualities, organization memberships, youth involvement, community service and other pertinent and relevant information
3. Name and signature of person submitting the nomination

Back By Popular Demand!

ChatGPT in Business: Unleashing Conversational AI's Potential

Join us for an interactive session that explores the myriad applications of ChatGPT in the business world. Discover how this cutting-edge conversational AI can revolutionize your operations, customer interactions, and content creation.

Ryan will provide an overview of different use cases that ChatGPT can be used for in business, a demo of different examples, and a list of prompting techniques you can use to get higher quality results. This will be a conversational session where you can ask questions throughout.



Ryan Berg

Presented by: Ryan Berg

Ryan is a SCORE volunteer that focuses on helping local businesses take advantage of new GPT capabilities. With over 15 yrs of technology experience, Ryan is currently also a Lead Solution Engineer at Salesforce, where he works with AI capabilities like GPT, predictions, recommendations, and

Thursday, November 16, 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

Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea

Phili Gisi

2 locations

1850 47th Ave So, Grand Forks

14 N 4th Street (Inside the Olive Ann)

Grand Forks, ND 58201

<https://www.sweetwaterscafe.com/nd-grand-forks-edgewood/>

Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea is an Ann Arbor, MI based franchise that Phili Gisi has brought to Grand Forks! Sweetwaters will be inside of The Olive Ann Hotel on the first floor.

Sweetwaters is a coffeehouse that celebrates classic café fare alongside globally influenced coffees and teas in an environment that is both comfortable and friendly.

The focus for many of our drinks is the use of real, natural ingredients; pure whipping cream, real strawberries, authentic matcha tea. Additionally, our café provides a selection of premium pastries and desserts of the highest quality.

We are proud to offer a selection of unique and globally inspired beverages that you will only see at Sweetwaters; Thai Iced Tea, French Vietnamese Au Lait, and Ginger Lemon Tea to name a few.

Sweetwaters is also known for developing deep ties within the community. From our in-store art and music events, partnering with local schools through our Great Grade program, setting up booths at local events, to helping with fundraisers, we forge lasting and meaningful relationships with local non-profits, schools, and neighboring businesses.

TA Express

1212 N 47th St., Grand Forks

Fuel Bros have expanded their franchise contract with Travel Centers of America Opening another TA Express In grand Forks, ND.

The site is located in the heart of Grand Forks by the intersection of Gateway Dr & highway 29, and only 7 minutes from The University of North Dakota.

TA Express has high hopes to join and be involved in the community and is excited to bring Sbarro Pizza and Charley's cheesesteaks to the city.

The TA Express has many amenities to offer within the Truck stop including:

- Sunoco Branded gasoline with 12 fueling positions.
- Truck diesel with eight fueling positions.
- Approximately 60 truck parking spaces
- Approximately 25 car parking spaces
- 8 showers, driver's lounge, and laundry

Insomnia Cookies

416 Demers Ave, Grand Forks, ND

<https://insomniacookies.com/>

Here to the rescue when that craving for something sweet hits (even at 3 a.m.!), Insomnia Cookies offers in-store, pickup, and delivery options for customers to experience the company's signature warm, delicious cookies. From the Classic Chocolate Chunk cookie to favorites like Snickerdoodle and Confetti Deluxe, delicious Ice Cream flavors, decadent brookies, brownies, and blondies, a full slate of vegan options, and a frequently-rotating limited-edition menu, the brand's offerings satisfy every sweet tooth – warm or cold.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

North Dakota Safety Council

Erika Erb
4141 28th Ave S., Fargo, ND
www.ndsc.org

The NDSC is a private non-profit organization supported through grants, donations, memberships, and training. We are a member organization with over 850 members and a chapter of the National Safety Council.

Our mission: We are dedicated to preventing injuries and saving lives. Our Mission: Making North Dakota the safest state in the nation. We are governed by 15 board members from around the state with diverse backgrounds and industry expertise. We serve the entire state of North Dakota and specifically the industries of construction, oil & gas, utilities, energy, manufacturing, mine, transportation, health care and more.

We specialize in 4 program areas: Community Safety, Driver Safety, First Aid, and Workplace. We reach 50,000 students each year with safety training and education and teach more than 150 courses. We have a staff of 27 full time employees with offices in Bismarck, Minot, Fargo, and Dickinson. We host the largest safety & health conference in the region each February at the Bismarck Event Center with educational sessions related to safety and leadership, keynote speakers, a networking social and an exhibitor show with 150 vendors.

Premier Equipment

Jenny Breidenbach
2904 Gateway Dr
Grand Forks, ND
www.premierequips.com

Premier Equipment is an authorized Wacker Neuson, SnowEx®, Exmark, Arctic Sectional Snow Pusher, Petti Bone, Erskine, Paladin and StarEV dealership serving the Grand Forks and Fargo area. We also carry the Honda Engine and Honda Power Equipment line as well as Kawasaki Motors, Kohler Gas and Diesel Motors, Perkins Motors and Deutz Motors. We are proud to carry a large selection of new and pre-owned inventory. When you are ready to invest in a new loader or other equipment, our friendly and knowledgeable sales, financing, service, and parts departments are prepared to make sure your experience is outstanding, from assisting while you're making your choice to ongoing maintenance and customization.

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HOLIDAY CHEERS

Monday, Dec. 4 | 4:30-6:00 p.m.
 Gorecki Alumni Center

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FIVE ALBUMS. ONE NIGHT.
JONAS BROTHERS
 WITH SPECIAL GUEST *Lawrence*
ALERUS CENTER
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

ALERUS CENTER

LIVE NATION

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

October 1, To October 31 2023

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

Aaron Horak Farmers Insurance Agency
Alluma, Inc.
Alluma, Inc.
Asche Insurance Agency
Bully Brew Coffee - Grand Forks
Columbia Grain
Dell-Comm, Inc.
Drew Molstad
East Grand Forks Dental Care
Elle Interiors
Grand Forks Park District
Halstad Telephone Company
Harry's Steakhouse
HB
HOPE Evangelical Covenant Church
HotSpring Spas & Pool Tables 2
ICS, Inc.
Ideal Power Solutions
iHeart Media
Insight to Solutions, LLC
Kelly Services
La Quinta Inn & Suites
Landa Business Law PLLC

Lighting Gallery, Inc.
Minn-Dak Growers, Ltd.
Newman Outdoor Advertising
North Sky Construction LLC
Northern Air Action Park
Northern Plains Financial
Northland Custom Woodworking Inc.
Orchard Oil
Premium Waters, Inc.
ReMax Grand, LLC
Sertoma Club of Greater Grand Forks
ShareHouse Foundation
St. Michel Furniture
Street Is Neat Custom Bikes and Trikes, Inc.
Sublime Aesthetic Professionals, LLC
Thomsen Homes LLC
United Valley Bank
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1874 and Auxiliary
Wendy's - 32nd Ave
Wintrust Mortgage



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www.sandsteelbuilding.com

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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.

If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador please contact Tina, info@gochamber.org or call 701-772-7271.

The Chamber Ambassadors held their monthly meeting at Blue Moose, EGF.



Pictured are members of The Chamber Ambassadors.

**PLAN YOUR WINTER
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Fly Local, Fly GFK



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visiting our website for
more information

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www.delta.com

Allegiant
www.allegiantair.com

GFK
www.gfkairport.com/

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.



Pictured are employees of Level Up Mental Health, their associates and The Chamber Ambassadors.

Level Up Mental Health

2300 Library Circle, Grand Forks, ND

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS Hosted by **Cloud 9 and Olive Ann**

322 Demers Ave Grand Forks, ND

Thursday, November 15, 2023 - 4:45pm ~ 7:00pm

Cloud 9 and Olive Ann 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 \$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, November 15, 2023 at Business After Hours!

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

Thank you to Advanced Business Methods for hosting an eventful Business After Hours.





JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL EGGSTRAVAGANZA BREAKFAST

December 7, 2023

7:00 - 9:30 am

Blue Moose Bar & Grill
East Grand Forks

THE Chamber
GRAND FORKS • EAST GRAND FORKS

A delicious breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage, hashbrowns, pancakes, juice and coffee will be served by your Board of Directors.

Treat your employees, family, clients & customers to the best breakfast in town at the 35th Annual Chamber of Commerce EGGStravaganza!

- Meet your Board Members & Leadership
- Network with other business people
- Hold your staff or board meetings at the Blue Moose
- Treat your staff and clients to breakfast with The Chamber!

Sponsored by:

- The Blue Moose
- Altru Health System
- JR Simplot
- ND Mill & Elevator
- US Foodservice
- Hugo's

Tickets: \$12/person ~ Get yours today!

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All ticket sales are final.

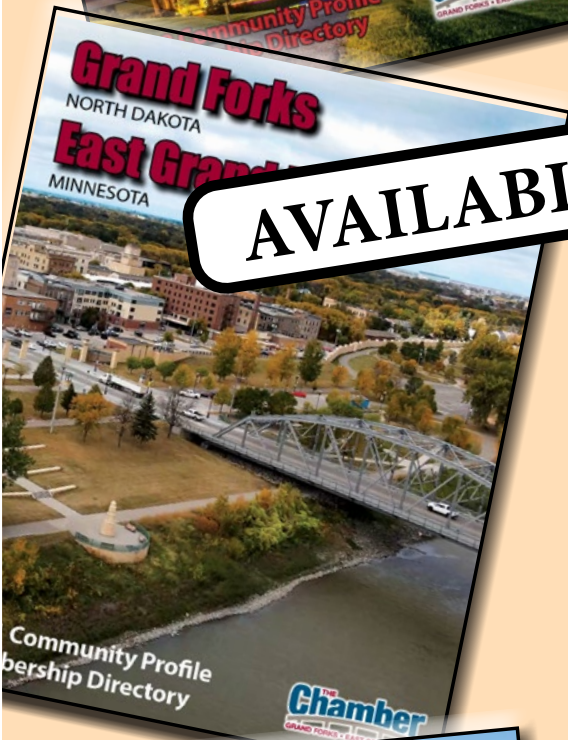
2024 Advertising Community Profile/ Membership Directory **OPPORTUNITY**

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772-7271 or e-mail: tfetsch@gochamber.org

**THE
Chamber**
GRAND FORKS • EAST GRAND FORKS



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

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