



THE Voice

www.gochamber.org

2026 Chamber Golf Event



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Chamber Golf Tournament at Valley Golf Course! It was a hot, sunny day on the course, but that didn't stop our golfers, volunteers, and supporters from making it a fantastic event.

We are especially grateful to our generous sponsors, whose support helped make the tournament possible. Thank you as well to all who participated, attended, and helped throughout the day. Your involvement makes events like this such a success, and we appreciate your continued support of the Chamber.



CHAMBER NEWS

The Chamber Hosts Candidate Forums Ahead of June Primary Election

The Chamber recently hosted two candidate forums featuring individuals seeking public office in the upcoming primary election. The forums provided community members and business leaders an opportunity to hear directly from candidates on issues impacting Grand Forks and Grand Forks County.

Candidates participating in the forums included those running for the North Dakota Legislature representing Grand Forks districts and candidates for the Grand Forks County Commission who face primary opponents. In addition, candidates for the Grand Forks City Council and Grand Forks School Board also participated in the discussions.

The forums were moderated by Garth Rydland of Valley Memorial Homes, who serves as Co-Chair of The Chamber's Government Affairs Committee. Moderated discussions focused on topics important to the local business community, economic growth, workforce development, public infrastructure, and community priorities.

The Chamber appreciates the candidates for their willingness to participate and engage with voters, as well as community members who attended the events and took part in the civic process.

Early voting for the primary election begins June 2, with Election Day scheduled for Tuesday, June 9. Residents are encouraged to learn more about the candidates and participate in the election process.



Pictured are those running for City Council.



Pictured are those running for School Board.

CHAMBER NEWS

Housing Study Highlights Growing Pressure on Grand Forks Housing Market

A recently completed housing study conducted by Praxis Strategy Group is highlighting significant challenges facing the Grand Forks area housing market. The study was funded through a partnership between The Chamber and the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation (EDC) as part of ongoing efforts to better understand housing trends and workforce needs in the region.



Among the study's key findings was the continued strain on the rental housing market. Rental housing vacancy rates have remained exceptionally low over the past five quarters, signaling limited availability for residents seeking housing options throughout the community.

The study also found that housing stats are currently at some of the lowest levels seen in decades. The slowdown in new housing development comes at a time when demand for workforce and family housing continues to grow across the region.

In addition, rental rates have increased at double-digit percentages during each of the past several years, placing additional pressure on residents and employers alike. Rising housing costs and limited inventory continue to impact workforce attraction and retention efforts for area businesses.

The findings from the Praxis Strategy Group study will help guide future discussions with the recently appointed Grand Forks Housing Committee and with the State of ND as the Governor and Legislature develop strategies to be brought before the Legislature during the 2027 Legislative session.

From a chamber perspective this data also provided valuable information to private sector developers, builders and investors as they consider building additional housing units and single-family homes. This baseline data will be important for entrepreneurs to make informed decisions.

[CLICK HERE for more information on the Grand Forks City Rental Housing Assessment](#)

[CLICK HERE for more information on the Housing Trends, City of Grand Forks](#)

CHAMBER NEWS

Legislative Luncheon Highlights Strength of “Team Grand Forks”

A total of 42 legislators, legislative candidates, and community and business leaders gathered for The Chamber’s May Legislative Luncheon to discuss priorities and opportunities ahead of North Dakota’s 2027 legislative session. The event focused on the continued importance of collaboration and maintaining the strong “Team Grand Forks” approach that has delivered major results for the region over the past decade.

Attendees heard insights from Levi Andrist on the changing political landscape in Bismarck driven by legislative term limits and how those changes will impact future policymaking and relationships at the Capitol. Leaders from the City of Grand Forks, Grand Forks County, The Chamber, Grand Forks Region EDC, Grand Forks Public Schools, and the University of North Dakota each outlined priorities and infrastructure needs expected to be part of the 2027 legislative agenda.

Legislators and candidates also shared observations and perspectives following the presentations, reinforcing the importance of maintaining a united regional voice. The luncheon highlighted how the culture of cooperation among Grand Forks-area legislators has helped secure more than \$1 billion in direct state investment for major infrastructure, aerospace, flood protection, higher education, and economic development projects tied to the long-standing “Team Grand Forks” priority list.

The message from the event was clear: no other community in North Dakota works together more effectively than Grand Forks, and that collaborative approach continues to position the region for long-term success.

Visit with Barry

Share your business challenges and success with Barry.

Drop me an email. I would love to stop by your business for a visit.

Barry@gochamber.org

Barry Wilfahrt, Chamber
President and CEO



CHAMBER NEWS

Global Hawk Program Continues Expanding at Grand Sky

The Global Hawk program at Northrop Grumman's Grand Sky facility continues to position the Grand Forks region at the forefront of national defense innovation. Recent reports highlighted the ongoing work to modify former U.S. Air Force Global Hawk aircraft into advanced "Range Hawks" that will support hypersonic missile testing missions for the Department of Defense, with a total of 24 aircraft being transitioned and modernized at the Grand Sky campus near Grand Forks. The overall Sky Range project and associated facilities represent more than a \$500 million investment in the region.

The momentum continued to grow in recent weeks with Senator Kevin Cramer's office announcing a major U.S. Army decision to utilize the Range Hawk platform to support future testing and defense operations.

The Chamber played a vital role in helping secure the effort to bring these aircraft to Grand Forks for modification work, working directly with Air Combat Command and North Dakota's congressional delegation to ensure the airframes were transferred to Grand Sky and the Test Resource Management Center (TRMC).

The project represents another major milestone for Grand Sky, Northrop Grumman, and the Grand Forks aerospace sector as the region continues to strengthen its national leadership in UAS innovation, military partnerships, and advanced aerospace development.



Pictured Mike Fridolfs,
Northrop Grumman

A giant thank you to all of our Chamber volunteers who helped make this year's Membership Drive a success!

From April 3 through May 12, our volunteers made connections, shared the value of Chamber membership, and helped bring 25 new members into our organization. That is a great number, and it happened because of the work our volunteers put in.

To every volunteer who participated, thank you for representing The Chamber, supporting our business community, and helping us continue to grow. The Chamber is stronger because of you!

Par-Tee Time



Val Becker (C), Shaun Havis, Meghanne Widmer, Brook Burggraf, Emberly Lietz, Hunter Bradley, Nancy O'Har

Holes In One



Heidi Krogstad (C), Kayla Schlueter, Kaylee Cusack, Amanda Rengstorf, John Friend, Stacey Brorson

Reckless Drivers



Jacob Johnson (C), Brian Fedje, Nicole Zeman, Toni Troftgruben, Matt Eggl, Chris Woodard, Leecia Hjelmstad, Amanda Reiersen

Shanks A Lot



Jacob Marine (C), Chris Schauer, Shana Field, Diana Hoverson, Chris McEntee

The Gilmore Girls



Chelse Kippley (C), Jordin Innes, Whitney Weisenberger, Carli Jordan, Angie Belbas

The Tee-rific Team



McKenzie Ratelle (C), Mike Bubeck, Anna Duchscherer, Taylor Restad, Jamie Zuniga

Weapons of Grass Destruction



Barry Wilfahrt (C), Derek Holt, Anna Rosburg, Chris Jordheim, Daren Muscha, Tarek Howard, Dean Gorder, Jon Fargo, Mylo Einarson, Mike McLean



GROW YOUR BUSINESS WITH MINNESOTA PROGRAMS

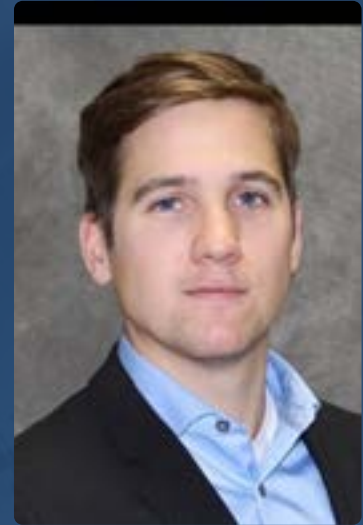
Explore state resources designed to support your growth



Chet Bodin
Sr. Business
Development
Manager
(DEED)



Maggie Brocking
East Grand Forks
Economic
Development
Authority Director



Sam Jenson
Workforce
Development
Representative
(DEED)

June 16, 2026

11:30 am - 1:00 pm



(701)772-7271



www.gochamber.org



doug@gochamber.org

Register Here!

SAND STEEL BUILDING CO.

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

Metal Building Construction
Steel Fabrication
Millwright Services



NORTH DAKOTA CHAMPIONS GOLF TOUR

FARGO | 6.24.26
ROSE CREEK GOLF COURSE

BISMARCK | 7.7.26
HAWKTREE GOLF CLUB

DETROIT LAKES | 7.16.26
DETROIT COUNTRY CLUB



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Register a team of 5 or become a sponsor at pd.UNDalumni.org/golf



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allways REWARDS

NEW FLIGHTS ADDED!

NONSTOP TO THE US HOCKEY HALL OF FAME GAME IN AUSTIN



We've added special nonstop flights to Austin from GFK to help you get to the US Hockey Hall of Fame Game, October 31st, Limited seats available. Book now and don't miss the puck drop!

BOOKING NOW
NONSTOP GFK TO AUSTIN

LEARN MORE



ALERUS CENTER

RIVER CINEMA

GRAND FORKS COMIC CON

AUGUST 8-9

River Cinema Grand Forks Comic Con is BACK! ☐
Join us August 8 & 9 for two days of cosplay, gaming, guests, vendors, and fandom fun.

Single day tickets and weekend passes are available at the Alerus Center Box Office or online at <https://bit.ly/3RN7ZnG>

Women's Leagues

JOIN A LEAGUE
AT KING'S WALK

VISIT KINGSWALK.ORG
FOR DETAILS & MORE



The Chamber
GRAND FORKS • EAST GRAND FORKS

The Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand Forks

JOB BOARD

gochamber.org/community-job-board

Attitudes and Behaviors for Excellence: A High-Performance Leadership & Communication

In today's business environment, skill alone is not enough.

The organizations and leaders that grow consistently are the ones that develop the right attitudes, behaviors, communication, and culture.

In this interactive workshop, www.cornerstonespeaking.com, founder Ryan Botner helps professionals, business owners, and teams identify the attitudes and behaviors that drive excellence in leadership, communication, sales, teamwork, and personal growth.

Participants will walk through a practical DISC communication mini-workshop to better understand:

- How they naturally communicate
- How others receive communication differently
- Common workplace frustrations and misunderstandings
- How to improve leadership, teamwork, accountability, and client relationships

This workshop is designed to create clarity, ownership, and intentional growth — both personally and professionally.

Key Outcomes:

- Develop stronger self-awareness and emotional intelligence
- Improve communication using DISC personality insights
- Identify attitudes that elevate or sabotage performance
- Strengthen leadership, culture, accountability, and teamwork
- Build confidence in communication and decision-making
- Create a personal 90-day action plan for growth and execution
- Leave with practical tools to level up mindset, habits, and skillset

Workshop Focus Areas:

- Attitude vs. aptitude in performance
- High-performance behaviors and habits
- DISC communication and relational intelligence
- Leadership and accountability
- Growth mindset and resilience
- Intentional culture building
- Clarity around goals, expectations, and execution



Wednesday, June 17, 2026

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

Brown Bag Seminar 
GRAND FORKS - EAST GRAND FORKS

Presented by...



Ryan Botner, Cornerstone Speaking and Coaching

Ryan Botner is a professional speaker and mindset coach who helps individuals and organizations build resilience, clarity, and intentional habits for lasting success. As the founder of Cornerstone Speaking and Coaching, he has worked with hundreds of clients to develop stronger focus, improve productivity, and create meaningful personal and professional growth. With more than a decade of experience, Ryan combines practical strategies with engaging delivery to help audiences navigate challenges and perform at a higher level.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR SEMINAR

\$25/Member & \$35/Non Member (Includes Lunch)

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Red Level Improvements

830 S 48th St, Grand Forks, ND 58201

Red Level Improvements is a locally owned improvement company serving North Dakota and Minnesota. They specialize in both residential and commercial projects, including exterior upgrades, renovations, and custom improvements that enhance property value and curb appeal. Known for reliable service and strong attention to detail, Red Level Improvements is committed to delivering results clients can trust.



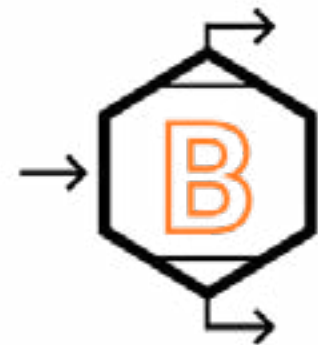
Barclays Lab LLC

701-314-7781

barclayslab.com

Barclays Lab develops practical chemical processes for small-scale manufacturing.

We design modular production systems for botanical extraction, food processing, material development and specialty products, with a focus on simplicity, efficiency, and scalability.



Blazin Fadez Barber Shop

1013 N Washington St, Grand Forks, ND 58203

701-610-0780

blazinfadez.gf@gmail.com

BLAZIN Fadez Barbershop opened on February 13, 2023, and is owned by Branden Guzman, a Master Barber with 20 years of experience. The barbershop specializes in fades, tapers, flat tops, traditional haircuts, kids' cuts, razor lineups, custom designs, and beard services.

Known for quality cuts, a welcoming atmosphere, and strong dedication to the community, BLAZIN Fadez has quickly become a recognized name in Grand Forks. The barbershop was voted a Grand Forks CommunityVotes winner in 2023, 2024, and 2025, and was also named Best Barbershop in the 2024 Grand Forks Herald Best of the Best Awards.

BLAZIN Fadez is open seven days a week and welcomes both appointments and walk-ins daily.

Remember: IF IT'S NOT BLAZIN ITS NOT AMAZIN!!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alpha Omega LLC

814-218-2350
alphaomegallc.org

Alpha Omega LLC is a premier strategic consulting and intelligence firm based in Grand Forks, specializing in risk mitigation, crisis management, and platform architecture. They provide comprehensive operational frameworks for businesses, political campaigns, and executives. Their core services encompass threat mapping, regulatory compliance auditing, and opposition research designed to insulate your assets and brand from liability.

Additionally, AO offers full-spectrum platform development, integrating data-driven communication strategies, AI/LLM deployment, and professional audio-visual content creation to ensure your message achieves its objective from the beginning to the end.



Batzer Garage LLC

2649 N 44th St, Grand Forks, ND 58203
701-610-9944
batzergarage@gmail.com

Batzer Garage LLC is a locally owned auto repair shop in Grand Forks, providing dependable mechanical service for cars, trucks, and SUVs. The shop offers a wide range of repair and maintenance services, including vehicle inspections, diagnostics, brake repair, electrical system work, transmission and drivetrain service, engine repair and replacement, and other mechanical needs.

Focused on honest recommendations, quality workmanship, and reliable service, Batzer Garage helps customers keep their vehicles safe, dependable, and running smoothly. From routine maintenance to more complex repairs, the team works to provide straightforward communication and trusted automotive care for drivers throughout Grand Forks and the surrounding area.



The Ember Coffeehouse

8 N 3rd St, Grand Forks, ND 58203
701-757-0136
hello@theembercoffeehouse.com

The Ember Coffeehouse is a non-profit coffee shop in the heart of downtown Grand Forks. Our mission is to provide a community gathering space that serves excellent coffee, inspires creativity, and fosters authentic relationships. We accomplish this by serving some of the best coffee in town, using our event space next to the coffee shop to host community events, and through our Ember Giveback Program, where 100% of tips received each month supports a different featured non-profit organization in our community.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Zerr Berg Architects

510 4th Ave N, Fargo, ND 58102

701-280-0187

zerrbergarchitects.com

Zerr Berg Architects is a full-service architectural design firm located in the Red River Valley. With over 25 years of experience in the region, we are inspired by our clients and the vibrant communities we serve. As a people first, community-minded firm we focus on listening and learning as we develop comprehensive plans that will help your dreams become reality.

"Creating Community through Inspired Design"



Gehrtz Construction Services

510 4th Ave N, Fargo, ND 58102

701-297-0704

gehrtzconstructionservices.com

"Building the Future Together"



With a commitment to honesty, transparency, and dedication to our clients, Gehrtz Construction Services is a full-service construction management firm located in the Red River Valley.

helseM Architects, LLC

404 4th St NW, Suite 3B, East Grand Forks, MN 56721

701-213-6900

info@helsemstudios.com

helseM Architects was founded in 2025 and is based in East Grand Forks, MN. Although it is a new business, it was founded with a clear purpose: to positively impact communities, collaborate closely to solve complex challenges, and proudly represent the architectural profession. We encourage our clients to dream big, explore possibilities, and create spaces that truly support their vision for the future. Our 20+ years of experience extends across many project typologies, including Public and Private Development, K-12 schools, Higher Education, Commercial, Department of Defense Contractors, and Athletics. As we continue to grow, helseM Architects is committed to delivering thoughtful, innovative design solutions that create lasting value for our clients and the communities they serve.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

North Dakota Cheer Tech

623 S 48th St, Unit D, Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-866-3695

office@ndcheertech.com



CHEER TECH

North Dakota Cheer Tech, located in Grand Forks, is the region's premier program dedicated to building confidence and discipline in athletes through competitive cheerleading and tumbling. The gym currently supports a diverse range of talent across its competitive divisions, including two novice teams, three prep teams, and three All-Star Elite teams. This season marks a historic milestone for the program, as all three All-Star Elite teams earned prestigious bids in their respective divisions to compete at the Summit Championships in Florida. By combining quality coaching with a supportive, family-like environment, Cheer Tech continues to empower its athletes to reach their highest potential on the national stage.

If you are interested in trying a tumbling class or joining a team, please reach out to office@ndcheertech.com to get started.

Abigail's Book & Gift Shop

3750 32nd Ave S, Suite 105, Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-314-6576

info@discoverabigails.com



Abigail's Book & Gift Shop is an independently operated, woman-owned bookstore located in Grand Forks, ND. Founded in 2022 by Abby Berg (owner), Abigail's has steadily grown from a what-if dream operating out of a guest bedroom into a full-size brick and mortar bookstore. Abigail's strives to provide the Greater Grand Forks region with the latest reads and popular books, alongside a hand curated selection of gift items and other beloved titles. Abigail's is also proud to support community readership through donations and other collaborative projects - such as donating to the Imagination Library funding drive.

Abigail's will be celebrating their grand opening on Saturday, May 30th from 10 am - 6 pm and invites the community to come and share in the joy that bookstores bring!

Revive Nutrition & Wellness

2424 32nd Ave S, Suite 100, Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-885-1878

revivewellnessgf@gmail.com



At Revive Nutrition & Wellness, customers are welcomed into a positive, community-focused environment offering nutritious protein shakes, clean energy teas, wellness products, and convenient grab-and-go options designed to support healthy, active lifestyles. Revive Nutrition & Wellness is dedicated to helping people feel their best through energy, nutrition, and uplifting customer experiences. With both indoor and outdoor seating available, Revive also provides a comfortable space to gather with friends, enjoy great conversation, study, or simply recharge throughout the day.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Plain Cents Bookkeeping

Grand Forks, ND

hello@plaincentsbookkeeping.com



Plain Cents Bookkeeping helps business owners save time, reduce stress, and gain financial clarity. By outsourcing the bookkeeping to a trusted professional, business owners free up time to focus on what they do best—running and growing their business—while Plain Cents Bookkeeping makes sure their numbers stay clean, current, and tax-ready.

FirePot Korean BBQ & Hot Pot

1930 S Columbia Rd, Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-757-0939

firepotgrandforks@gmail.com



FirePot is Grand Forks' first AYCE Korean BBQ & Hot Pot restaurant, offering a fun, interactive dining experience where guests grill premium meats and cook fresh ingredients in flavorful broths right at their table. With customizable sauces, a great variety of items on the menu, and a lively atmosphere, it's the perfect spot for family dinners, group outings, and unforgettable meals with friends.



**Nominations
are open
June 15-July 3**

Support the local people
& businesses you love!

Only the top 5 nominated businesses in each category will move to the voting ballot so be sure to nominate your favorites each day of the contest.

Mark your calendar to begin nominations on June 15!

grandforksherald.news/best

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Vasek Construction, Inc.

37486 US Hwy 2 SW, Fisher, MN 56723

218-891-2430

mike@vasekconstructioninc.com



Vasek Construction, Inc. is a locally owned general contracting company based in Fisher, Minnesota, serving the surrounding region with a wide range of commercial and residential services. With decades of industry experience, the company specializes in apartment renovations—including roofing, siding, windows, cabinets, and flooring—as well as comprehensive repairs and remodeling for both homeowners and businesses.

Led by owner Michael Vasek and his son Jory Vasek, both proud alumni of the University of North Dakota, the company has built a reputation for quality craftsmanship and reliable service. Vasek Construction, Inc. offers comprehensive solutions that contribute to the continued growth and development of the Greater Grand Forks region

Field Force

Grand Forks, ND

701-425-9597

contact@fieldforcend.com



Field Force, based in Grand Forks, specializes in H-2A processing and administrative support for agricultural employers across the United States. The H-2A program allows agricultural employers to hire seasonal foreign workers when domestic labor is not available.

With firsthand experience utilizing H-2A labor on their own family farm, they understand the challenges agricultural employers face and the importance of reliable support throughout the process.

Field Force assists farms with the paperwork, coordination, compliance support, and communication involved in the H-2A program so employers can stay focused on their operations.

If your operation is looking for guidance with H-2A processing, connect with Field Force to see how they can help.

THE CHAMBER AGRIBUSINESS COMMITTEE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**INVEST IN AGRICULTURE.
INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

The Chamber Agribusiness Committee invites you to partner with us in celebrating and supporting the people who feed, fuel, and strengthen our region.

**CLICK HERE TO
SPONSOR**

To have your logo included on Area Producers Appreciation materials event at The GF Fair, please submit sponsorship by June 8th.

The Chamber Agribusiness Committee invites you to partner with us in celebrating and supporting the people who feed, fuel, and strengthen our region.



BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Connect with community leaders, businesses, and residents who value and support agriculture.



SUPPORT LOCAL AGRICULTURE

Help strengthen our local ag community and promote the importance of agriculture in our economy and way of life.



GROW OUR COMMUNITY

Invest in programs and events that educate, engage, and build a thriving agricultural future for our region.



THE Chamber
GRAND FORKS • EAST GRAND FORKS
Agribusiness Committee

*Strong Farms. Strong Businesses.
Strong Community.*

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Hosted by Nelson Auto (Ford Store)

2273 32nd Ave S, Grand Forks, ND

Thursday, June 18, 2026

4:45pm ~ 7:00pm

Nelson Auto invites all Chamber members and their employees to join them for a great Business After Hours event at their Nelson Ford location just off of 32nd Ave S! This will be a fun indoor/outdoor event (weather permitting) and the door prizes are just one incentive to come out and support a family-owned business.

**Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, 2 Drink Tickets & Cash Bar, Great door prizes.
Progressive cash drawing is at \$700 (winner must be in attendance).**

Stop by...Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities.
You might even win **\$700** in our Progressive Cash drawing!

Remember, BAH is FREE for all Chamber members! Is your employer a Chamber member?
That means YOU ARE TOO! Guests are welcome.

See you Thursday, June 18, 2026 at Business After Hours!

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

Thank you to Canad Inns Destination Centre for hosting an eventful Business After Hours.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

May 2026 Renewals

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

American Family - Jeremy Fulton
Arvig Media
Assurity Finance &
Development, LLC
Aurora Dialysis
Azurance Group
Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices Family Realty -
Katie Marcotte
Blue Line Custom Detailing
Bolton & Menk
Choice Bank - 42nd Street
DakMinn Technologies
Dakota Concealed
Grand Cities Painting and Drywall
Greenberg Realty - Roberta
Benson
Hebron Brick Supply
Hugo's Wine & Spirits - East
Grand Forks

James Dalglish
Kindle Wellness
Les Schwab Tire Center
Mayo Manufacturing
Mike's Pizza & Pub
Northern Lights Council, Scouting
America (Boy Scouts of
America)
Northrop Grumman Corporation
RediTech IT Solutions
Red Ray Lanes
Shooting Star Casino
Skinner Roofing
Subway - 2400 S Washington
Tim D. Lord, CPA
Tim Shea's Nursery, Inc.
Town Square Farmers Market
Valley Oral & Facial Surgery
Wendy's



of U.S. adults agree that their local chamber of commerce is a **trusted resource and partner** for businesses.



feel that their local chamber has an impact on **growing businesses locally**.

90%

A horizontal bar chart with a teal bar representing 90% of the total length. The percentage '90%' is written above the bar.

believe that their local chamber has an impact on **growing the local economy**.




say that their local chamber has an impact on **addressing challenges** within their community.

Infrastructure that works. *Every time.*

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.



You shouldn't have to think about your connectivity. DCN's broadband solutions run seamlessly, leaving you free to focus on innovation, growth, and serving your customers.

Let's talk about effortless connectivity.



DCN

800-814-3333

Big life changes? Be sure you're covered



Certain life events can qualify you to change your health insurance for a limited time outside of open enrollment. Welcoming a new baby, changing jobs, getting married and turning 26 all count.

Visit nd.blue/sep to see coverage options.



Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

AMBASSADORS

The Chamber Ambassadors extend a warm welcome to new businesses, actively participate in celebrating grand openings and special events, and engage in various Chamber activities.



The Chamber Ambassadors play a crucial role in fostering a vibrant business community by actively encouraging and supporting new and fellow members. Their mission is centered around creating opportunities for businesses to thrive while simultaneously contributing to the community's well-being.

Their dedication involves promoting The Chamber to potential members, highlighting the benefits of membership, and showcasing the community as an excellent place to live and do business. Ambassadors commit to attending monthly meetings and participating in diverse events throughout the year, such as Ribbon Cuttings, Business After Hours, and Chamber activities. Through their commitment and positive representation, Ambassadors actively contribute to the success and growth of The Chamber and its members.

The Ambassadors meet on the 3rd Monday of the month.

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

Cornerstone Caregiving

1375 S Columbia Road, Suite E, Grand Forks, ND



Pictured are Cornerstone Caregiving employees, guests and The Chamber Ambassadors.

Hotworx

2650 32nd Ave S, Suite 12, Grand Forks



Pictured are Hotworx employees, guests and The Chamber Ambassadors.

RIBBON CUTTING

MORGAIN Physical Therapy

4575 32nd Ave S, Suite 1 & 2, Grand Forks, ND



Pictured are MORGAIN Physical Therapy employees, guests and The Chamber Ambassadors.

WE'RE INVESTED HERE, TOO

BUSINESS BANKING | LENDING | TREASURY MANAGEMENT



FIBT.com



MEMBER NEWS

BBI International Welcomes Three Customer Outreach Specialists

BBI International has hired three new customer outreach specialists to support the company's magazine, event and marketing operations. Lawson Lotysz, Ethan Crawford and Kaleb Martin have joined the company and will assist with advertiser outreach, sponsorship development and customer engagement initiatives across BBI International's portfolio of events and publications.

In their roles, the new customer outreach specialists will connect with prospective advertisers and exhibitors, identify new business opportunities, maintain customer databases and support outreach efforts for BBI International's industry-leading conferences and publications.

"We are excited to welcome Lawson, Ethan and Kaleb to the BBI International team," said Marla DeFoe, senior marketing and advertising manager at BBI International. "Each brings strong communication skills, leadership experience and a customer-focused mindset that will help strengthen our outreach efforts and continue delivering value to our clients and partners."



Lawson Lotysz

Lawson Lotysz is pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing at the University of North Dakota, where he maintains a 4.0 GPA. A former UND football player, Lotysz has experience in customer service, operations and leadership through roles with Revolutions Power Sports and Marine, the Grand Forks Park District and University of North Dakota Football's Unity Council. He has also participated in DECA competitions focused on marketing strategy and business presentations.

Ethan Crawford is studying business economics and professional sales at the University of North Dakota. Crawford has built extensive customer service and leadership experience through positions with Olive Garden, Which Wich and the American Legion, and currently works as a bartender at Short or Tall Eatery & Drink Hall. He has also held leadership positions within Sigma Chi and contributed to the UND Sales Team, focusing on client engagement and sales strategy.



Ethan Crawford



Kaleb Martin

Kaleb Martin is pursuing degrees in finance and political science at the University of North Dakota. Martin brings experience in investor relations, business development and operations through internships with Alluvium Equity, the office of U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer and City Air Mechanical. He currently serves as managing director of investor relations for Dakota Venture Group and is the current UND student body vice president. Martin has also held several additional student leadership positions at

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MEMBER NEWS

Catholic Charities North Dakota Unveils New Brand Identity and Website to Reflect Statewide Growth

Catholic Charities North Dakota (CCND) is proud to announce the launch of a comprehensive rebranding initiative in collaboration with Spotlight Media, marking an exciting new chapter for the organization as it continues to expand its impact across the state of North Dakota.

While CCND's mission and core services remain unchanged, the organization's refreshed visual identity, messaging, and digital presence reflect its tremendous growth and evolving role in communities throughout North Dakota. With four physical office locations in Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, and Bismarck, and services reaching individuals and families statewide, the rebrand better represents the scope and strength of CCND's work today.

"At its heart, Catholic Charities North Dakota remains deeply committed to serving individuals and families with compassion, dignity, and hope, rooted in the teachings and tradition of our Catholic faith" said Kari Dew, Executive Director of Catholic Charities North Dakota. "This new brand identity allows us to better tell our story, connect with communities across the state, and reflect the incredible growth our organization has experienced in recent years."

Rooted in Mission

For decades, Catholic Charities North Dakota has worked to strengthen individuals, families, and communities through compassionate services and meaningful support. CCND's mission is to serve individuals and families with compassion, integrity, and respect by providing meaningful support, fostering hope, and strengthening the well-being of the communities they serve.

As the organization has grown, leadership recognized the need for a brand identity that more accurately reflects both the statewide reach of CCND and the life-changing impact of its work. The rebrand reinforces the organization's dedication to meeting communities where they are while continuing to evolve to serve emerging needs across North Dakota.

One of the most visible aspects of the rebrand is the launch of CCND's newly redesigned website. The updated digital platform serves as a modern, accessible hub for community members seeking information, resources, support, and opportunities to engage with the organization's mission.

The new website highlights CCND's programs and statewide impact while making it easier for North Dakotans to access services, learn about community needs, and share stories of hope and transformation. Community members are encouraged to explore and share the new site as a way to help spread awareness of CCND's mission and services.

As part of the rebranding effort, CCND is also announcing a new name for one of its longstanding programs. Pregnancy, Parenting, and Adoption Services (PPAS) will now be known as Strong Roots Bright Futures, a name that reflects the program's commitment to fostering resilience, stability, and hope for generations to come.

For more information about the rebrand and to explore the new website, visit catholiccharitiesnd.org.



MEMBER NEWS

Megan Bell, Ph.D., named Associate Vice Chancellor for the Business, Arts, and Education Division



Megan Bell

The University of Minnesota Crookston has officially named Megan Bell, Ph.D., as the Associate Vice Chancellor (AVC) for the Business, Arts, and Education (BAE) division. Bell, who has served in the role in an interim capacity since August 2025, will begin her permanent appointment on June 15, 2026.

The BAE division at UMN Crookston comprises the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education Department, the Business Department, and the Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC).

“Congratulations to Dr. Megan Bell on her selection as the division’s associate vice chancellor,” said Rosemary Erickson Johnsen, Ph.D., Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. “I am delighted that she will continue in her leadership role. I look forward to Megan’s ongoing contributions to the campus academic affairs team, and to seeing BAE continue to flourish under her leadership in the years ahead.”

In her role as AVC, Bell provides leadership to the division’s faculty, academic programs, and staff. Reporting directly to the senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, she collaborates with the Academic Affairs Council and serves as a member of the Chancellor’s senior leadership team. Her responsibilities include leading unit-level strategic planning, oversight of faculty hiring and evaluation, and creating faculty development programs to support teaching and research.

Bell’s connection to the Crookston campus spans generations going back to her grandfather, Russell Tollefson, who was a graduate of the Northwest School of Agriculture, the residential high school located on the Crookston campus from 1905 through 1968. Bell herself is an alumna of UMN Crookston, graduating in 2002 with a bachelor’s degree in scientific and technical communication. She went on to earn her master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of North Dakota in communication and public discourse.

A member of the faculty since 2004, Bell served as the communication program lead for several years before moving into administration. Her teaching expertise includes News and Social Media Communication, Intercultural Communication, Visual Communication, and Publication Design and Management.



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