

THE Voice

Official Publication of Grand Forks - East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce

Vol 4 Issue 7

July 2008

INSIDE



Check out the great pictures in this month's newsletter.....Pgs. 6 & 7

21st Annual

Chamber of Commerce

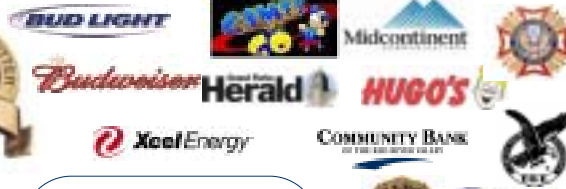
August 1, 2, 3

LaFave Park next to the Red River
Downtown East Grand Forks

FREE ADMISSION

Friday - Gates open 5pm - 8:00pm
Saturday - Gates open 11am - 9pm
Sunday - Gates open 12pm - 8pm

Food Vendors & Beer Garden



Friday

7pm

Tournament Meeting
How to handle fish - Aquatic Nuisances
Tournament Updates

Sunday

Noon - 6pm

Games to Go Inflatables
Games
1pm - 4pm
Strolling Magician & Balloon
Sculpting
1pm
Farmer's Market
2pm
Red River Valley Gymnastics
ACRO Team
6pm
Tournament Results
Announced
Beer Garden and Food
Vendors All Day!

Saturday

8am

Altru & YMCA 1/2 Marathon & 5k Cats
Incredible Walk/Run - Contact YMCA
for Info - 775-2586

11am - 6pm

Games to Go Inflatables Games

1pm - 4pm

Young Professionals Chili Cook Off

2pm

Silver Mine Treasure Hunt - From

Leighton Broadcasting

4pm

KJ 108's Rockin the Red Boat Giveaway

7pm

EGF Police Officers Assoc. Raffle Drawing

6:00pm - 8:00pm

J. Bobby Hamilton

Beer Garden and Food
Vendors All Day!



SATURDAY

1:00pm - Judging &
Sampling - \$5.00
3:00pm - Awards

Sponsored by Hugo's & Bush's Baked Beans



GW & Sons
In-Prints Screen Printing

J. BOBBY HAMILTON

Sat., August 2nd
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Behind Cabela's on
Riverbank in EGF
FREE ADMISSION



This popular band has played in our area for years and has opened for numerous big acts! and today!

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Officers

Chair: Jerry Youngberg
First Realty of GFF

Chair-Elect: Rick Duquette
City of Grand Forks

Past Chair: Kristi Hall-Jiran
CVIC

Secretary: Barb Schultz
Ideal Aerosmith, Inc.

Curt Kreun

GF City Council

Scott Roche

Great Plains Financial Group

Barry Wilfahrt

The Chamber - GF/EGF

Directors

Rich Becker - BacTee Systems/Becker
Marketing

Dave Beehler - Ecolab

Pat Berger - United Way of GF/EGF

Thane Bergh - American Federal Bank

Andy Byron - United Valley Bank

Kent Hanson - NCTC

Jeff Jaspersen - Canad Inns

Steve Johnson - GF Regional Airport

Monica Musich - Valley Dairy Stores

Linda Pierce - Crary Homes & Real Estate

Jim Richter - EGF EDHA

Chris Semrau - Ralph Engelstad Arena

Steve Swanson - AE2S

Vance Taylor - ND Mill & Elevator

Klaus Thiessen - GF Regional EDC

Greg Weisenstein - UND

Sr. Military Advisor to the Board
Colonel Diane Hull - GFAFB

From Your Chair



Summer Time in the Grand Cities

The celebration of our country's independence on the 4th of July is an annual reminder of the freedom we enjoy in this country as well as the beacon of hope for many people around the world.

Let's appreciate what we have and understand the sacrifices that were made and risks that were taken to establish this country. Also, let's understand that we continue to have the freedom we enjoy because of the commitment and sacrifices we as a country and specifically our military personnel continue to make for us.

As business people we often chafe under the laws, rules and regulations of local, state and national governments as well as the company and corporate requirements.

The Chamber is your most effective organization for making sure that what governments do is not going to interfere with your business any more than necessary. Your communication with The Chamber of any concerns is essential in the process of making sure the business community is aware and involved at every level of government.

The framework of business law as it has evolved provides the freedom for each of us to have the opportunity to succeed as well as the risk to fail. And let me emphasize that without the risk to fail there would not be the opportunity to achieve great success.

As we enjoy the summer in the Grand Cities and hopefully enjoy some relaxing times we reflect on and appreciate the risk takers, the people and businesses that tried and are trying right now but did not succeed the first time but continue to strive to achieve their goal.

-Jerry Youngberg



Join The Golden Eagles Club Now!

Join the Golden Eagles Club today and receive a 50% discount for your first year's GE membership. For more information, please call The Chamber, 772-7271.

Featured Ambassador - Missy Stanisz

Missy Stanisz joined *Prairie Business* as an account executive in May 2008. Prior to this, she worked in marketing research for Alerus Financial, and has experience working for marketing companies. She is currently pursuing a bachelors in



business administration with an emphasis in marketing.

Missy lives in Arvilla, North Dakota with her husband Kenny and their three mutts – Buddy, Pinky and Koby.

From Your Chamber President



Chamber Update

Serving as president of a chamber is both simple and complex. The GF/EGF Chamber's mission is to "create an environment that encourages business success while enhancing the quality of life in our region". To make this happen the Chamber's work can be boiled down to three overarching goals.

Take a leadership role in key community projects and issues. This is an ever evolving list. The new downtown plan, future plans for highway 220 in East Grand Forks, improved air service and a new terminal, workforce development and local tax rates are on the list right now. The Chamber is involved and will be more involved in these key issues than it has been in the past.

Be the premier networking organization and business information resource on the GF/EGF region. For years this has been the strongest aspect of chamber membership. From Business After Hours to Brown Bag seminars the chamber offers great education and networking opportunities for its member several times every month.

Meet the needs of the 900+ Chamber members through the work of the chamber's committees. Committees are the backbone of the chamber and is the grass roots way members can be more involved in making a positive difference for their business and the business community as a whole. From Agriculture, Ambassadors, and Military Affairs to CATs, Leadership and Government Affairs there is something of interest for every business person who wants to see their community thrive.

Involving the chamber membership in each of these three goals is the complex part but is the key to the long term success of the chamber and more importantly the business community as a whole.

-Barry Wilfahrt

Staff

Barry Wilfahrt
President/CEO
barry@gochamber.org

Lisa Swanson
Vice President of Operations
lisas@gochamber.org

Carrie Strouth
Membership Relations Director
carries@gochamber.org

Corrina Sachno
Program Coordinator
corrinas@gochamber.org

Teri Holt
Finance Director
terih@gochamber.org

Jennifer Walsh
Administrative Assistant
info@gochamber.org

202 N. 3rd Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203
PO Box 315
East Grand Forks, MN 56721
(701)772-7271
(701)772-9238 Fax
info@gochamber.org
www.gochamber.org

Mission Statement

"The Chamber of Commerce creates an environment that encourages business success while enhancing the quality of life in our region."

The Chamber Salutes You!

The Chamber Salutes you and thanks you for your continued support. Chamber membership is a wise investment and as valued chamber members we want to recognize your place of business and say we are proud to be "The Voice of Business" within the Grand Cities. For this reason, July 21st-25th will be spent saluting you, our members, for helping us grow our business community.

Step 1 in saluting your business is sending you a window cling identifying your business as a Chamber member for either your front door or window. We want consumers and

visitors to our Grand Cities to know you are a valued chamber member.

Step 2 in saluting your business is through our Chamber Prize Patrol. Be on the look out as if we visit chamber members throughout the week. If we stop at your business and your chamber window cling is visible, YOU WIN!

Step 3 in saluting your business is continuing to create an environment that encourages your businesses success and enhances the quality of life in our region.

We salute you and everything you do to help make our cities grand! Thank you for partnering with us and the

continued support your business shows.

Remember to display your window cling identifying your business as a Chamber Member on your front door or window!



Welcome New Members

Choice Financial – S. Washington

Brian Johnson
4501 S. Washington Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-738-4300
www.choicefinancialgroup.com
Choice Financial continues the tradition of putting the customer first in all interactions. They offer all the services of major regional banks, but your money stays home because they're locally owned. Choice Financial offers a complete array of products and friendly, reliable service at all their locations. From checking and savings products to IRA's and Online Banking, they offer the latest in financial solutions, along with competitive rates on all products. Whatever stage of life you are in, from child to adult, they are here to assist with your needs.

C & H Insurance, LLC

Terry Hecht
1427 Central Avenue NE
East Grand Forks, MN 56721
218-773-0287
Ken Coquette and Terry Hecht started C & H Insurance, LLC. in June of 1993. Justin Hecht is on staff as a producer and Jodi Schumacher handles the customer service. The agency writes all lines of insurance and is open 8:00-5:00 Monday thru Friday.

Avon Products, Inc.

Janna Swanson – District Sales Manager
1320 21st Street NW
East Grand Forks, MN 56721
701-741-5614
www.youravon.com
Welcome to the world of Avon. As the company for women, they deeply believe that the single most effective way to improve society and change the world is by helping to improve the lives of women everywhere. Their mission is to empower women from all walks of life and help them create better lives for themselves and their families.

Deliteful Things

Christian Short
P.O. Box 1591
Fargo, North Dakota 58107
701-232-1855
www.delitefulthings.com
Deliteful Things is an online shopping destination for ALL of your gift-giving and decorating needs! Specializing in indoor and outdoor home accents you will discover a rich assortment of traditional home décor and unique gifts sure to satisfy ALL the important people and events in your life.

Country Inn & Suites

Eric Kendall
3101 South 42nd Street
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201
701-757-2200 or 800-456-4000
www.countryinn.com/grandforksnd/
A newly constructed; 100 unit hotel featuring a newly launched look and layout for the Country Inn & Suites brand. They feature a wide variety of guest rooms, 2 pools and top of line guest amenities. 42" plasma TV's featuring eight HBO channels, wired and wireless internet all free, deluxe hot breakfast, fitness and business centers, meeting space and the Read It and Return program. The Country Inn & Suites is sure to meet your business and leisure needs.

PDC Pages

Brian Fjosne
301 27th Street South
Fargo, North Dakota 58103
701-232-2926 or 800-443-0801
www.pdcpages.com
At PDC their motto is Great People, Great Books, Great Results! PDC has been in the telephone book publishing business for over 35 years. They currently publish over 120 directories across the United States. It is their goal to become the standard of excellence in the publishing industry by providing quality telephone directories uniquely

tailored to the customer's needs. Community Guides, Dining Guides, Wedding Guides, Area Guides, Cross Reference Sections and accurate listings are just some of the features they offer their users.

Positive Changes Made to Highway 220 Plan in EGF

Chamber staff has been meeting over the past two months with EGF planning officials, planning commission members and City Council members on the Hwy 220 (Central Corridor) study and plan. At the April public hearing approximately 25 business people along with Chamber President, Barry Wilfahrt attended to express their concerns

The original plan called for narrowing of the service roads on both sides of Hwy 220 from their current 40' width to just 26", eliminating parking on the service roads and several other costly improvements that would fall to the adjacent property owners to pay for.

In meetings since the April public meeting the planning commission, MPO and City Council have all been very open to further discussion and have responded favorably to the business community's concerns with the original plan. The revised plan leaves the service road at 40' and permits parking on the service road and moves the multi use path to the blvd between the service road and Hwy 220. These changes make the plan much more acceptable for the property owners and businesses along highway 220. Chamber President Wilfahrt will be out along highway 220 visiting with business people about the new plan before the final approval process gets underway.

The Chamber will be keeping highway 220 businesses informed as the revised



Country Inn and Suites invites you to attend their Grand Opening July 8th from 11am to 7pm. Hors d'oeuvres from 4pm - 7pm. 3101 S. 42nd St. Grand Forks

Committee Updates

CATS Incredible. Special thanks to Clear Channel Radio who is doing a boat giveaway during Cats. The 200 winners will all come to the CATS festival to see if they are the winner of the new boat. The CATS committee is very interested in partnering with other groups on activities like this to help build interest and a crowd at the CATS fishing tournament. Call Lisa at the Chamber if you have an idea that may work well to partner with the CATS tournament.

Ambassadors. The ambassadors group has just over 60 active members. Chair Tracy Boone along with chamber staff contacted every ambassador on the list to see if they want to remain active. (Active = participating in at least 6 ambassador events annually) We would also like to welcome several new ambassadors to our group: Amber Nelson, Citizens Comm. Credit Union, Kathryn Stanziano, Citizens Comm. Credit Union, Tom Ford, Gate City Bank, Missy Stanisz, Prairie Business Magazine

Agribusiness. The Ag banquet will have a new approach this year. In an effort to make the event more valuable for sponsors, tickets will be given out by sponsoring businesses directly to their customers instead of by the chamber office. Business is about relationships and this approach should provide businesses with more of an opportunity to build relationships with their farm customers. Please say yes when an Ag Committee member asks your business to be a sponsor and invite a customer or two to join you at the event. You will be glad you did.

Facilities. Welcome new committee members Kevin Ritterman, Dakota Commercial and Kent Hanson, Northland Technical College.

Herald Advisory Committee. The committee met last months to talk about key issues facing Grand Forks and the newspapers coverage of those issues. The community has a vital interest in seeing the newspaper cover local issues of importance in a fair and positive manner. In an era where negative news seems to dominate these periodic meetings help reinforce a positive approach.

Government Affairs. Special thanks to committee Chair, Greg Hanson, for emceeing the three Candidate Forums hosted by The Chamber at City Hall.

Military Affairs Committee. The MAC golf events are set for August 18th at the Country Club and September 26th at the Base Golf Course. Contact the chamber office to participate and get to know some of the many military personnel in the area. Special thanks to long time MAC committee member, Paul Stenseth who is working hard to line up sponsors and golfers for both events. MAC military appreciate day is set for August 28th at the Alerus Center. Watch for detail next month.

Past Board Chairs. Working with the Past Chairs, Rich Becker has started a process of identifying key issues facing GF/EGF and the Past Chairs are discussing ways to improve the two communities. The result of their work will be forwarded to the BGEA committee which has been working for some time on a community visioning process.

The Voice - A Great Chamber Benefit!

Receiving *The Voice* newsletter is a benefit available to all your employees and can be emailed directly to anyone

Send us contact info for any employees that you would like to receive the newsletter. Please indicate if you would like to receive the NEWSLETTER ONLY or ALL CHAMBER COMMUNICATIONS. Send the name, mailing address, phone number and email address to: info@gochamber.org or call 772-7271.

Ambassador Visits

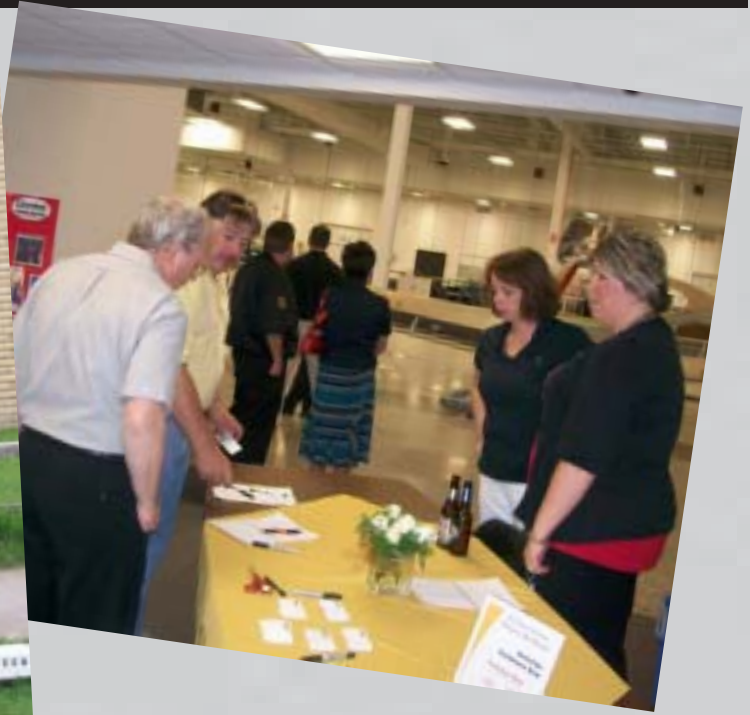


The Chamber took part in the Northland Community and Technical Colleges East Grand Forks campus ground breaking ceremony announcing a \$10.5 million dollar project which will include 8,700 square foot nursing addition and 35,000 square feet of remodeled space.



The Ambassadors helped celebrate the grand opening of the Current Apartments in downtown Grand Forks.

A Month In Pictures



Top Right: The crowd arrives to the Cirrus Business After Hours as one of the many tours begins.

Top Left: Insure Forward and Bank Forward, corporate sponsors of the golf tournament, had a great day golfing at Valley Golf.

Left: Tom Haggy welcomed the crowd to their Cirrus Business After Hours in June.

Bottom Left: Susan Mickelson presents a Brown Bag Seminar at The Chamber in June.

Bottom Right: Everyone enjoyed great food and drinks at the EGF Barnyard display picnic....until it rained!



A Month in Pictures



Top Left: The AE2S Team of Shawn Gaddie, John Eickhoff and Fawn Smith has to get up high to find their golf ball.



Top Right: Cirrus Design hosted a great Business After Hours for chamber members in June.

Bottom Right: Mayor Stauss visits with one of the members of the St. Bernard Parrish who were touring the Grand Cities.

Bottom Left: Canad Inns brought a golf pro from Canada to help out their team in the Insure Forward/Bank Forward golf classic.



Business Briefs

AE2S Wins Engineering Excellence Award

Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) and Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S) recently received the "Engineering Excellence" award in the Surveying and Mapping Technology category from the North Dakota Council of Engineering Companies for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project Survey Control. The RRVWSP was established to supply water to the Red River Valley in the event of a drought. The project will deliver water from the central part of North Dakota via the McClusky Canal and 123 miles of pipeline in a drought event. The survey control supported both aerial photography and Laser Imaging Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) mapping and control. LIDAR mapping is a relatively new technology, where an airborne laser guided by GPS, scans the ground to be mapped and collects topographic data. Surveying and mapping of the project help to optimize placement of the pipeline, in advance of the design and construction of the project.

"The project allowed us to pave the way for one of the most significant projects in the history of the state. We are proud to be a part of the sustainable future of the Red River Valley," says AE2S Project Manager Roger Grimsley.

Alerus Financial Hires and Promotes

Laura Cronin recently joined Alerus Financial as a teller at the Express location, 516 DeMers Avenue.



Cronin currently attends the University of North Dakota where she is majoring in finance and investments. She lives in Grand Forks.



Alerus Financial is proud to hire **Jessica Sansaver** as Lead Property Manager.

Prior to joining Alerus, Sansaver worked for 9 years at Columbia 4 Movie Theatre, where she worked her way up

to Theatre Manager. In 2005, she graduated from the University of North Dakota with a double major in marketing and management. Sansaver and her fiancé, Titus, live in Grand Forks with their son, Aidan.

Alerus Financial is proud to announce **Jodi Soderberg** has accepted a new position as a Help Desk Specialist for the IT department.



Previously the Graphic Designer, Soderberg has been employed with Alerus for 10 years. She received an Associate's of Art degree in graphic design from North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, North Dakota. She lives in Buxton, North Dakota.

Alerus Financial is proud to announce the addition of **Alisha Motl** to their Hugo's location as a Customer Service Representative.



Prior to joining Alerus, Motl worked in customer service for Hugo's and as a teller at U.S. Bank. She is currently pursuing an associate's degree at Northland Community and Technical College.

Nicholas Nelson recently joined Alerus Financial as an on-call teller. Nelson will rotate between the four Alerus locations in Grand Forks.



Nelson graduated from Red River High School in 2007 and is currently attending the University of North Dakota. He is a member of the UND Honors Program, National Honor Society, Phi Eta Sigma, and the President's List for academic achievement. Nelson lives in Grand Forks.

Alerus Financial is proud to announce the promotion of **Jeff Nieuwsma** to Loan Operations Specialist at their Banksouth location, 2300 South Columbia Road.

Nieuwsma has been employed with Alerus for the past year as a teller. He graduated



from the University of North Dakota with a finance degree and also was Vice President of Operations for the Student Managed Investment Fund. Nieuwsma lives in Grand Forks.

Alerus Financial is proud to announce the addition of **Brett Wysocki** as a Graphic Design Intern for 2008.

Prior to joining Alerus, Wysocki was a Webmaster for Minot State University-Bottineau for 7 years. He recently received a Bachelor of Science degree in Graphic Design Technology with a minor in Computer Science and Entrepreneurship from the University of North Dakota. Wysocki was a member of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity and received the Outstanding Student Leader award in 2006. He currently lives in Grand Forks.



Alerus Financial is proud to welcome **Aleasha Omlid** as an Assistant Property Manager at its Banksouth location, 2300 South Columbia Road.



Prior to joining Alerus, Omlid worked as a Leasing Specialist for a local apartment company. She received a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and minor in Criminal Justice from the University of North Dakota. Omlid currently lives in Grand Forks.

Lexie St. George recently joined Alerus Financial as the Marketing Analyst at its Corporate Center location in downtown Grand Forks.



St. George graduated summa cum laude from the University of North Dakota this past spring with a Bachelor's of Business Administration degree in both Marketing and Management. She lives in Grand Forks.

AE2S Promotes Gaddie

AE2S (Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.) has promoted **Shawn Gaddie**, PE to Operations Manager of the AE2S Grand Forks office.



Shawn is an East Grand Forks native. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from North Dakota State University, and is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of North Dakota.

Prior to joining AE2S, Shawn worked in the Minneapolis metro area as a civil and environmental engineer with a specialization in stormwater management and land development engineering. At AE2S, he has worked on stormwater systems for high profile projects such as the University of North Dakota Campus Apartments in Grand Forks and the Urban Plains development in Fargo. Most recently, Shawn has been assisting the City of Sioux Falls with the Financial Analysis and Planning of their Storm Drainage Utility. As Operations Manager, Shawn will be responsible for the performance of the Grand Forks office, including strategic and business planning, oversight of client management and business development, and supervision of technical and administrative personnel.



R. Nathan Weisenburger, who served as Operations Manager of the Grand Forks office for the past five years, transferred to Great Falls, MT to serve as Operations Manager of AE2S's newest office.

Walsh Joins Chamber Staff

The Chamber is pleased to welcome **Jennifer Walsh** as the new Administrative Assistant. Jennifer has an A.A.S degree in Sales and Marketing as well as Human Resources. She comes to The Chamber with over 15 years of customer service experience that includes retail, restaurant, and most recently banking.



Jennifer is looking forward to working at The Chamber and with the community.

Jennifer's education and experience will be a great asset to The Chamber team.

Jennifer is married and has one daughter who will be 2 years old in August.

Dr. Sode to Join Altru Health System

Dr. Abimbola Sode, pediatrics, will join Altru in July after completing her residency with New York Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, NY. She received her medical degree from the University of Ibadan's University College Hospital in Ibadan, Nigeria. She is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Sode will be located at Altru Clinic – Main, 1000 South Columbia Road.

A pediatrician cares for the physical, emotional and social health of children from birth to young adulthood. Care encompasses a broad spectrum of health services ranging from preventive health care to the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic diseases.

JLG Welcomes New Employees

JLG Architects is pleased to announce the addition of 4 new employees to our Grand Forks office.



Kara Braaten, Student Intern: Kara comes to JLG as a Student Intern while pursuing her Bachelor and Master of Architecture at North Dakota State University, where she has been on the Dean's List

for six consecutive semesters. Outside of JLG, Kara is a Teaching Assistant and Tour Guide at NDSU.



Naomi Echternach; Project Designer: Naomi joins JLG after receiving her Master of Architecture and Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design from North Dakota State University. Prior to JLG, Naomi worked

as a Guest Service Representative for Hampton Inn.

Kendra Halling; Student Intern: Kendra has joined JLG as a Student Intern while pursuing her Bachelor and Master of



Architecture, a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design, and Minors in Sociology and Art at North Dakota State University. Prior to JLG, Kendra has worked for Krech, O'Brien, Mueller & Associates and the City of Cohasset.



John Holten; Student Intern: John has joined JLG as a Student Intern while pursuing his Bachelor and Master of Architecture at North Dakota State University. When he is not at JLG or NDSU, John drives a school bus for Valley Bus.

Leiberg Becomes Registered Architect

JLG Architects is pleased to announce that **Randy Lieberg** recently became a Registered Architect. The architectural registration process includes several years of work experience and education, and requires the passage of nine portions of the Architecture Registration Examination (ARE).



Randy joined JLG Architects in 1997, where he has designed such projects as the Thief River Falls Joint Operations Facility and several projects for ACME Tools, including the brand new store in Bemidji, Minnesota and

an award-winning store in Duluth, Minnesota. Randy was also the designer and project manager for the new Visitor Center at Turtle River State Park near Arville, ND. His current focus is hockey and ice areas, which includes a new arena in Wausau, WI for the United States Hockey League. An active member of the community, Randy has been involved with leadership in the Boy Scouts of America, a volunteer member of the Friends of Turtle River State Park, and a member of the Friends of the Greenway.

A Chamber & SCORE Brown Bag Seminar

The Clear Vision

Do you see it?

At one time did you get excited about what you did for a living?

Do you want to learn how to get that feeling back?

Has your endorphin level ever been at 300%?
Do you have action words to make "life" happen for you?



Join us as Missy Ohe from The Ohepen Mind shares ways to be energized once again!
Learn how to embrace the pace you set!

This brown bag is presented by:
Missy Ohe
The Ohepen Mind

July 16th, 2008
11:30am – 1pm
The Chamber
Lunch is provided
\$15/members ... \$25/ non-members

To register, contact The Chamber at 772-7271
or info@gochamber.org.
Reservation deadline is July 15th.
Seating is limited, sign up soon.
Reservations not cancelled 3 business days prior to the event will be billed.

40,500+ Webpage Views in One Month!

www.gochamber.org lists all our Chamber members and people are finding you there!
Some of the categories visited and number of views received from June 2nd to July 2nd were:

Abstractor/Architects/Engineers	2456
Contractors & Construction	1148
Non Profit Organizations	1029
Hotels & Motels	1018
Restaurants	1009
Realtors	928
Financial Institutions	912
Agriculture/agribusiness	991
Attorneys	839
Advertising Services	796
Individuals	745

More Ways Your Chamber Is Working For You:

Member Referrals Made By The Chamber In 2008:

460

Total for June: 45

Certificates of Origin Signed By The Chamber In 2008:

9

Total for June: 3

New Resident Packets Distributed By The Chamber In 2008:

176

Total for June: 28



Hosted by:

Furniture Row
Home to a different kind of shopping experience™

Complimentary Chicken and Ribs BBQ and beverages ~
Great Door Prizes ~ Progressive cash drawing is at \$700! ~
~ NO RSVP Needed

Thursday July 17, 2008
4:45pm - 7:00pm
Hosted by Furniture Row

Free Admission

Furniture Row invites all Chamber Members and employees to their exciting Business After Hours. Stop in...enjoy the fun, check out all the Furniture Row businesses. Take advantage of great networking opportunities You might even win \$700 in our progressive cash drawing! We'll draw the name of one Chamber Member business. If someone from that organization is present, they win!!

Business After Hours is a great time to network, catch up with friends, coworkers and clients in a fun and casual way. Spread the word and plan to attend the Furniture Row Business After Hours.

Workforce Issues Dominate BGEA Agenda

The Chamber's Business Government Education Alliance committee continues to focus on workforce development issues.

First, an application for a grant from the Knight Foundation to do a workforce assessment and needs and resource analysis has been made in partnership with the EDC and we expect to hear back in July on funding.

Second, as a follow-up to the very successful Rebecca Ryan Event a sub committee of BGEA members and young professionals is meeting to talk about specific action steps our communities can take to make GF/EGF more attractive for young people to locate in and pursue their careers.

Chamber Monitors Downtown Groups Future

The Downtown Leadership Group (DLG) has made the decision to turn the highly successful annual Art Fest over to NOVAC (Northern Valley Arts Council). Chamber staff met with Downtown Leadership Group Vice Chairman, Ben Klipfel to learn more about the future of the DLG as the GF/EGF downtown organization. The DLG is still undecided as to its future without Art Fest. The Chamber is very interested in making sure a group is specifically engaged in downtown issues and will consider a Chamber Task Force to take over these responsibilities if needed.

Also through the MPO a consulting group (SHE) has been retained and is currently updating the GF/EGF Downtown Plan.

Several business people recommended by the chamber to the MPO have accepted positions on the Downtown Plan Steering Committee: Dave Homstead, Blue Moose; Paul Holje, Dakota Harvest Bakery; and Bob Moore, River City Cinema. There will be opportunities for business input throughout the process and we encourage business people to participate since this plan will affect downtown businesses for many years to come once adopted.

IRS Increases Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service announced an increase in the optional standard mileage rates for the final six months of 2008. Taxpayers may use the optional standard rates to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

The rate will increase to 58.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven from July 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2008. This is an increase of eight (8) cents from the 50.5 cent rate in effect for the first six months of 2008, as set forth in [Rev. Proc. 2007-70](#).

In recognition of recent gasoline price increases, the IRS made this special adjustment for the final months of 2008. The IRS normally updates the mileage rates once a year in the fall for the next calendar year.

The optional business standard mileage rate is used to compute the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business use in lieu of tracking actual costs. This rate is also used as a benchmark by the federal government and many businesses to reimburse their employees for mileage.

Close ~ Quick ~ Easy



- # Jet Service
- # Long Term Parking
- # Hotel/Motel Shuttle
- # Crosswinds Restaurant
- # Gift Shop
- # Car Rental
- # Charter Air Service
- # Air Cargo

July 2008 Chamber Calendar

July 4th

Chamber closed

July 8th

7:30am Agribusiness Meeting (Ramada)
12:00pm Leadership Meeting (COC)
4:30pm CATS Incredible Meeting (COC)
4:30pm Ribbon Cutting (Country Inn & Suites)

July 10th

7:30am MAC Executive Meeting (COC)

July 11th

7:30am Past Board Chairs Meeting (COC)

July 16th

11:30am Brown Bag Seminar (COC)
12:00pm Finance Committee Meeting (TBD)

July 17th

4:45pm Business After Hours (Sofa Mart/ Denver Mattress)

July 28th

8:00am Executive Committee Meeting (COC)

July 21st

11:30am Ambassadors Meeting (TBD)

July 22nd

4:30pm CATS Incredible Meeting (COC)

July 23rd

Ribbon Cutting (Marco) (Time TBD)

Community Maps Available

The Chamber has a large supply of FREE 2008 Grand Forks/East Grand Forks maps available for our members to have on display and available to your employees, customers and guests.

The maps are large, fold-out, full color maps. Stop by our offices and pick up a supply for your business, 202 N. 3rd St., downtown Grand Forks.

