

# THE *Voice*

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

Vol 7 Issue 9

September 2011

# INSIDE

## UND VOLLEYBALL IS FAST BECOMING ONE OF THE HOTTEST TICKETS IN TOWN!



Join The Chamber on Friday, September 23 as we cheer on the UND Fighting Sioux Volleyball team in their match against Nebraska Omaha during Potato Bowl Week.

**Chamber Members can attend the game at a group discount price of \$3/ticket.**

The UND Volleyball Team is the two-time defending Great West Champions and boasts a 51-13 record over the last 3 seasons including a home record of 26-1 and a recent win over NDSU!

**Come mingle with other Chamber Members during a social located in the lounge at The Betty from 6-7pm.** A cash bar will be available and UND Volleyball Coach Ashley Hardee will be stopping by to give us a pre-game chalk talk.

The game begins at 7pm and during the intermission between games 2 and 3, four lucky chamber member contestants will be chosen to play serve and catch! One person will serve a volleyball over the net. Their teammate will then try to catch the serve using only a volleyball basket. Each team gets 30 seconds and the team to catch the most volleyballs into the basket wins!

## RESERVE YOUR TICKET

To attend the game with The Chamber discount price you must

**RSVP to The Chamber at 772-7271 or [info@gochamber.org](mailto:info@gochamber.org) by 12 noon on Friday, September 23.**

Your tickets will be available to pick up and pay for at the ticket office at The Betty prior to the game. Doors will open at 6 pm.

### Mission Statement

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

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Grand Forks, ND 58203  
PO Box 315  
East Grand Forks, MN 56721  
(701)772-7271  
(701)772-9238 Fax  
[info@gochamber.org](mailto:info@gochamber.org)  
[www.gochamber.org](http://www.gochamber.org)

**Officers**

**Chair: Jim Galloway**  
JLG Architects

**Chair-Elect: Chris Semrau**  
Ralph Engelstad Arena

**Past Chair: Barb Schultz**  
Ideal Aerosmith

**Secretary: Bryan Lee**  
Gateway Storage

**Jeff Westrem**  
Hugo's Family Marketplace  
**Jeff Wilson**

Vilandre Heating & Air Conditioning  
**Barry Wilfahrt**  
The Chamber - GF/EGF

**Directors**

**Craig Amiot** - 5 Star Collision

**Torrie Enget** - Best Buy

**Ron Galstad** - Galstad, Jensen, Olson PA

**Scott Huizenga** - City of EGF

**Brian Johnson** - Choice Financial

**Phyllis Johnson** - UND

**Jay Kleven** - EAPC Architects

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**Linda Pierce** - Crary Homes & Real Estate

**Jim Richter** - EGF EDHA

**Jim Satrom** - PS Doors

**Klaus Thiessen** - GF Regional EDC

**Coleen Tweten** - Midcontinent Comm.

**Matt Winjum** - Rhombus Guys

**Chris Wolf** - Alerus Financial

**Sr. Military Advisor to the Board**  
**Colonel Tim Bush** - GFAFB

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info@gochamber.org

**Audrey Lind**

Project Assistant

**Economy is Top Topic at Hoeven Visit**

US Senator John Hoeven met with approximately 25 local business people at the Chamber office to talk about the economy and local business issues. Business confidence in the economy and government in general is slowing growth. Locally the economy is much stronger than it was 12 months ago, but the Northern Valley was not unaffected by the recent recession.

According to Chamber President Barry Wilfahrt, "The Chamber keeps in close touch with local, state and national elected officials to make sure business concerns are considered. Maintaining our free enterprise system is more difficult each year as government continues to encroach on every aspect of business operations."

**Nominations Being Accepted for Chamber Board**

Nominations for 5 open 3-year Chamber Board positions will come open January 1st. A nominating committee headed by Board Member, Klaus Thiesen will develop a slate of nominees to be approved by the Chamber's 940 members.

Contact any of the nominating committee members to suggest a potential nominee for a board position.

Members of the nominating committee include: Klaus Thiesen, Jim Galloway, Chris Semrau, Barb Schultz, and Judi Paukert.

**Chamber Remodel Begins**

The Chamber conference room will have a total makeover including, removal of the center wall structure, new lights, paint, carpet, etc. The bathrooms will receive new tile, fixtures and countertops. The rest of the chamber offices will also be carpeted and painted. ICS was awarded the construction project and work began Monday, August 29th.

The office was put back together after the flood of 1997, but has not been updated since the chamber acquired the building in 1982. The new design

will allow the chamber to accommodate more people in the conference room and better serve the needs of the membership.

This is the third phase in the effort to spruce up the chamber office building. In 2010 the North end of the building was completely remodeled and is rented to two tenants. Last fall and earlier this year the exterior of the building was completely redone and landscaping was completed.

The cost of the remodeling project is \$60,000. It will be funded by a generous donation of \$25,000 from Hugos/Hugos Wine and Spirits; \$17,500 from the chamber's reserve fund and \$17,500 from contributions from chamber members. Any member who would like to contribute to the remodeling project should contact Barry at the chamber office.

Also special thanks to JLG Architects who did the design work on the project



**Visioning Committee Receives \$17,000 in Knight Foundation Funding**

The Chamber, in partnership with the Community Foundation, received word they will receive \$17,000 to help fund an extensive community visioning process. The last process was conducted by the BGEA committee of the Chamber in 2006 and that will serve as a jumping off point for this new process. The new process has been coined NV360 which stands for a 360 degree view of a "new vision" or the "northern valley."

The visioning committee is co chaired by Judi Paukert, Excel Energy and

*Continued on pg. 5*

## Thank You For Renewing Your Membership

*The following businesses know the value of their Chamber Membership and have renewed their membership in The Chamber - GF/EGF. Please visit them for your purchasing needs.*

Advance Chiropractic Clinic  
Alerus Center  
Altru Clinic Pharmacy  
Anne Carlsen Center Community Services  
Beckstead's Auto Repair  
Bert's Truck Equipment, Inc.  
Cabela's  
Canad Inns  
Century 21 - Cheryl Tupa  
Century 21/Red River Realty  
Clear Channel  
Fairfield Inn  
Fancy's Choice Pet Boutique  
FedEx Office  
GF Blue Line Club  
GF Country Club  
Johnstown Bean Company

Korsmo Commercial Refrigeration  
Litha Ford Lincoln Mercury of Grand Forks  
Lithia Chrysler Jeep Dodge of Grand Forks  
Lithia Toyota of Grand Forks  
Medicap Pharmacy  
Nate's Canopy & Tent Rental  
Norby's Work Perks  
Northwest Tire  
Performance Chiropractic, PLLC  
Pins & Needles  
Qdoba Mexican Grill  
Small Business Administration - GF Office  
Sprague Alliance Consulting, LLC  
Stray Media

Super Cuts - 32nd Ave  
Super Cuts - University Village  
Thrivent Financial-Chad Erickson  
TrainND Northeast  
Tubs of Fun



Find all Chamber Members in our Mobi Directory using your smart phone's QR Reader.

# BRIDGING THE FINANCING GAP

Sometimes projects need a boost when trying to cross over from concept to reality. AE2S Nexus helps bridge that gap. We focus on creating solid plans, aggressively pursuing funding options, and assisting you with implementation to make sure your project is on solid ground.

## SERVICES

- Utility Rate Analysis
- Funding/Financing
- Project Development and Administration
- Economic Development
- Asset Management



A Division of AE2S (Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.)  
Registered Financial Advisor

[www.AE2SNexus.com](http://www.AE2SNexus.com)



# Welcome New Members

### Blue Stone Photography

Dan Dybwad

2376 Keystone Court

Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-795-0310

bluestone@gra.midco.net

www.bluestonend.com

*Blue Stone Photography is your one-stop business for commercial and wedding photography. "We come to you" with our professional studio equipment and cameras.*

### Cornerstone Ag Services Inc.

Jen Otteson

PO Box 128

Buxton, ND 58218

218-791-9113

jen@cstoneag.com

www.cornerstoneagservices.com

*Cornerstone Ag Services, Inc. is an insurance agency specializing in crop insurance. Cornerstone's focus is working together with each insured to put together a crop insurance package that best fits their needs. Cornerstone is also committed to educating their producers on policy details, provide farm maps to each of their producers, present educational update meetings and personalized on-farm visits.*

### Remer Accounting PC

Donna Remer

311 South 4th Street Suite 113

Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-738-8034

dremer@integra.net

*Remer Accounting provides accounting, tax, book-keeping and payroll services to individuals and small businesses. My firm specializes in providing the attention small businesses need. I am a certified QuickBooks Proadvisor.*

## Ambassador Ribbon Cuttings



### Alerus Center Escalator

The Ambassadors helped celebrate the new escalator in the Alerus Center with a ribbon cutting.



### Pampered Chef - Julie Haakenson

The Ambassadors helped welcome new business/chamber member Pampered Chef - Julie Haakenson.

# 2011 WAKE UP TO UND

EXCEPTIONAL  
**Vision**

The Chamber-GF/EGF and The University of North Dakota invite you to attend the "Wake Up To UND" breakfast program featuring UND President, Dr. Robert Kelley.

EXCEPTIONAL  
**Priorities**

Join us as Dr. Kelley talks about the strategic priorities for an "Exceptional UND".

EXCEPTIONAL  
**Conversations**

EXCEPTIONAL  
**Future**



**Wake Up to UND Breakfast ~ Wednesday October 12, 2011 ~ UND Memorial Union Ballroom**

(FREE, easy parking in ramp)

**7:30am - 9:00am ~ \$15/person ~ Includes a delicious breakfast**

RSVP's required by October 7th. Contact The Chamber at 772-7271 or info@gochamber.org



Construction Engineers ~ EAPC Architects & Engineers ~ Frandsen Bank & Trust ~ Gate City Bank

**Home  
Place  
Thrift  
Store**

701-795-9704  
1811 S. Washington  
[www.prairieharvest.net](http://www.prairieharvest.net)

**Call us to pick up  
your donations!**

- Furniture
- Household Items
- Clothing
- Appliances
- Electronics
- Books

All Proceeds Benefit:



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Rick Duquette, GF City Administrator. They also serve as Co Chairs of the Chamber BGEA Committee (Business Government Education Alliance)

The community visioning/goal setting process is one of the chamber's top priorities this year and this funding will go a long way towards helping funding creative ways to engage as many people as possible in the process.

Watch for ways to add your input in the direction of the northern valley in coming weeks.

# A Month in Pictures



**Alerus Center Escalator**



**Military Appreciaton Day**



**MAC Golf at Country Club**



**Canad Inns Business After Hours**



**Canad Inns Business After Hours**



**Military Appreciaton Day**

# A Month in Pictures



**Canad Inns Business After Hours**



**Military Appreciation Day**



**Canad Inns Business After Hours**



**Military Appreciation Day**



**Military Appreciation Day**



**MAC Golf at Country Club**

### Stacey Heggen to Lead YP Organization

The Greater Grand Forks Young Professionals organization has hired **Stacey Heggen** as its Executive Director. Heggen will begin her duties leading the YPs on September 6th.

The hiring of an Executive Director for the YP organization is the number one recommendation given by Next Generation Consulting during the YP Launch Grand Forks Project. This new Executive Director will work to strategically move forward organization forward with initiatives that attract and retain young talented adults to the region.



Heggen, a UND graduate, will be moving back to Grand Forks to assume this role as Executive Director. Heggen previously lead the Devils Lake Young Professionals Organization as the chapter's first chairperson and was also instrumental in founding the Devils Lake YP organization. Prior to this role, Heggen served the Benson County area as an NDSU Extension Agent.

"There's no doubt that people will catch Stacey's contagious positivity," said Amanda Bentow, GGFYP President. "We are excited to bring her back to Grand Forks and have her representing our organization."

The new Executive Director will have an office at The Chamber. The Grand Forks Region EDC is providing employment services for the position. The YPs thank The Chamber and EDC as well as our YP Corporate Sponsors and the Bremer Foundation for their continued support of our organization and its goals.

Visit [www.ggfyp.com](http://www.ggfyp.com) for more details on Stacey Heggen, the Executive Director position and other recommendations from the Launch Grand Forks Project, and current initiatives of the YP

### If We Build It, They Will Come....

SHERLOCK FOREST PLAYGROUND needs your time, talents, and tools! Got

some tools? (Hammers, outdoor extension cords, shovels, wheel barrel, tarps and etc.) Tool drop off at Sherlock Park Saturday, September 17 - Noon to 5:00 pm and Sunday, September 18 - 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Contact Steve Larson at 218-791-0227. Always wanted to know what it's like to be a waiter or waitress? We need help serving the volunteers, contact Diane Mero @ 218-773-0261. Not really into the physical stuff but you are really organized? We need help registering volunteers.

September 19 – 25 is construction week and is fast approaching! Over 350 volunteers are needed each day. Whatever your skill level or area of expertise, we have a job for you... A preconstruction volunteer form can be found at [www.egf.mn](http://www.egf.mn) – select departments, public services, parks and recreation, Sherlock Forest Playground, click on volunteer form or email [sherlockplayground@gmail.com](mailto:sherlockplayground@gmail.com). Volunteer Coordinator – Terri Horpedahl at 218-779-0428. Coordinators – Katie Nelson (218) 791-7487 and Penny Pape (218) 791-5843.

### Mrozek Named One of Top 10 Women in Finance

Finance & Commerce recently named **Jennifer Mrozek**, CFO at Marco, Inc. as one of the Top Women in Finance for 2011. The award recognizes the efforts of women who are making notable contributions to their professions and communities.

Mrozek has been with Marco since 1998 and became CFO in 2003. She has served as a Board Member, Community Investment Team Chair and Audit Committee Member for the Central Minnesota United Way. She is a board member of



the St. Cloud Area YMCA and the St. Cloud Junior Achievement Chapter. Mrozek also belongs to the Minnesota ESOP Association Program Committee and the local Forum of Executive Women.

Honorees will be recognized at the November 10th dinner and awards presentation at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis.

### AE2S Expands Williston Office

AE2S (Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.) has expanded its Williston, North Dakota office as the firm works on a growing number of projects, including the Western Area Water Supply Project. AE2S has hired David Bauer as Senior Project Manager, Chris Myers as a Civil Engineering Technician, and Eric Larson as a Land Surveying Technician.



**David Bauer** has 35 years of experience in water, wastewater, stormwater, rural water, and civil projects. He comes to AE2S from J-U-B Engineers, Inc. in Nampa, Idaho, where he managed sanitary sewer rehabilitations, pressure irrigation pipeline designs, and water distribution pipeline extensions. David is originally from Avoca, Iowa, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from South Dakota State University.



**Chris Myers** will work on a variety of assignments at AE2S, including infrastructure expansion and rehabilitation projects in Watford City and Williston, and new private development projects. The Kenosha, Wisconsin, native has experience in drafting, surveying, inspection, and Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Chris' experience includes utilities assessment, rehabilitation and installation; pavement assessment and rehabilitation; and site development drafting and standards.

Under his previous employer, Clark Dietz, Incorporated, Chris designed, drafted and inspected a sanitary sewer plan for the City of New Berlin, Wisconsin. "The client was so happy with my work, it led to him requesting me to work on the next project," he says.

**Eric Larson** will assist with water, wastewater, rural water, and geomatics

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projects. Some of his first assignments will include working on the Williston West Water and Sewer Extension, Watford City East Sewer Extension, and Western Area Water Supply Project.



Prior to joining AE2S, Eric was employed at Polk County Land Surveying Inc., where he primarily worked in boundary surveying. He was also involved with CAD drafting and legal research.

Eric is from Milltown, WI, and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Land Surveying and Mapping Science from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN. He is also Land Surveyor-in-Training (LSIT) certified.

## Rothermel Joins AE2S

AE2S has hired Hope Rothermel as a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Specialist. She will work out of AE2S' Grand Forks office as part of the firm's geomatics group.



Rothermel has enjoyed her new assignments. "I am excited to be a part of the AE2S team," she says. "I look forward to bringing my passion for my work to the community through AE2S."

Rothermel graduated from West Chester University of Pennsylvania with a Masters degree in Geography. There, she spent two years studying and performing research within the community, in addition to managing a Geographic Information Systems Lab. She also has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Geography from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude.

"Hope is not only a published researcher, but is also someone who brings a wealth of real-world experience to AE2S," says Roger Grimsley, AE2S' Geomatics Group Leader. "We're glad to have her on board."

## Military Affairs Committee Has a Busy Summer

The Military Affairs Committee has been busy! In August, the committee helped with Summer Bash and hosted the MAC Golf tournament.

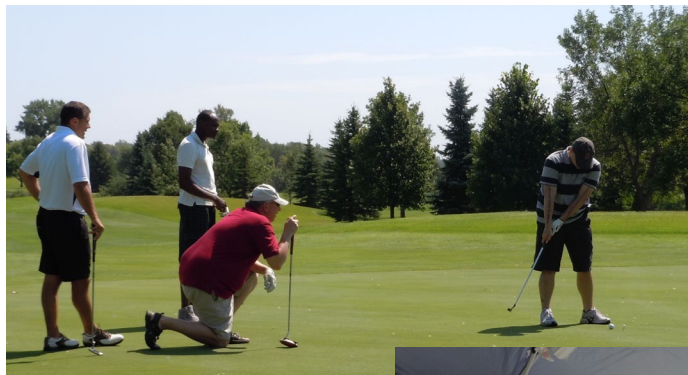
Summer Bash was held out at the GF Air Base on August 18 and members of the MAC Committee were on hand to serve lunch to the air force men & women and their families.

The MAC Golf tournament which pairs military men and women of the Air Force and National Guard with local civilians was held at the GF Country Club on August 22.

Military Appreciation Day was held on Thursday, Sept 1 at the Alerus Center. Members of the MAC Committee were on hand to serve a meal to our military men & women and their families prior to the UND Football game that night.

Tickets to the football game, donated by UND, were distributed at the supper.

Looking ahead: Coming up in September is a tour of the Mickelson Research Complex. The MAC Committee along with BRIC and CBEI has been invited to tour the Mickelsen Research Complex by Nekoma ND on Tuesday, September 27.



# Chamber Kicks Off 26th Year of Leadership Training

The Chamber's Leadership Committee spent the past year organizing another great program for area business people. In it's 26th year, The Leadership Training program has 36 students who will spend every other Wednesday together for the next 2 1/2 months learning about our community, communications skills, leadership skills and business expertise.

Gwen Klawon, a graduate of the program, is the facilitator again this year as well as one of the presenters. Other presenters include Sheila Gerszewski with Bremer Bank,

Kim Jordahl from Dale Carnegie, Gretchen Schatz and Galen Cariveau from UND Professional Services, NDARNG personell, GFAFB personell, Robin Turner of Global Safety Network, Lonnie Laffen with JLG Architects, Noreen Keesey (Meyers-Briggs), Jennifer Schulz and Michelle Thiel with ND Area Human Resources Group, and BG Al Palmer (Ret).

The class has met for their orientation and recently kicked off their first day of class.

## 2011 Leadership Class Participants:

**Daniel Abeln** - EAPC Architects Engineers

**Lexie Bakken** - Alerus Financial

**Alyssa Barclay** - Grand Forks Public Health

**Javin Bedard** - Grand Forks Public Health

**Linda Bedard** - Prairie Harvest Mental Health

**Fawn Behrens-Smith** - UND Office of VP for Finance & Operations

**DeeAnn Boushee** - Frandsen Bank & Trust

**Victor Correa** - GFAFB

**Shannon Ehlers** - Development Homes

**Chad Erickson** - Thrivent Financial

**John Goetz** - City of GF – Water Utility

**Connie Hodgson** - OLLI@UND

**Penny Johnson** - Grand Forks Police Dept.

**Brisson King** - GFAFB

**Jennifer Kingsley** - GFAFB

**Chelsea Larson** - UND Office of VP for Finance & Op

**Dawn Scott-Larson** - Anne Carlson Center

**Angie Laxdal** - Simmons Flint

**Cassandra Lazur** - Bremer Bank

**Randy Lieberg** - JLG Architects

**Jeanie McHugo** - UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences

**Sean Reiling** - GFAFB

**Kimberley Rivera** - GFAFB

**Stephanie Rosenberg** - GFAFB

**Jeffery Rueben** - GFAFB

**Karen Salwey** - Ecolab

**Richard Sandwick** - UND Office of VP for Finance & Operations

**Terrence Sando** - UND Office of VP for Finance & Operations

**Ryan Schuster** - GF Herald

**Aaron Stefanich** - GF Public Library

**Susanne Straus** - City of GF

**Kevin Waller** - Black Gold Potato Sales

**Andre Williams** - GFAFB

**Kari Vien** - Alerus Financial

**Ian Watson** - Altru Health System

**Carla Younce** - The Chamber – GF/EGF



Hosted by:



Grand Forks International Airport

# Hosted by Grand Forks Airport Authority

In the upper level of the Byron L. Dorgan Terminal

Please park in the Short Term Parking Lot and bring your parking ticket in to the registration table to be stamped. You will need to present the stamped ticket to the attendant at the exit booth.

Thursday, September 15, 2011

4:45pm - 7:00pm

### **Free Admission**

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres & drinks tickets/cash bar ~ Great Door Prizes ~ Progressive cash drawing is at \$700! ~ NO RSVP Needed

GF Airport Authority invites all Chamber Members and employees to their Business After Hours. Stop by and check out the new terminal & take advantage of great networking opportunities while you are there. You might even win \$700 in our progressive cash drawing! We'll draw the name of one Chamber Member business. If someone from that business 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 next Business After Hours.

## A Chamber & SCORE Brown Bag Seminar

# 20 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR ACCOUNTANT

In meeting with your accountant it is important you are confident you are doing what is best for your company. In this brown bag seminar we will be discussing "Twenty Questions You Should Ask Your Accountant". Below are topics that will be discussed at this seminar:

- ~Types of Services Offered ~Business Structure ~Tax Return Preparation
- ~Tax Planning Opportunities ~General Management

Wednesday September 28, 2011  
 11:30am – 1:00pm  
**Job Service ND - Great Plains Room**  
 1501 28th Ave. South

\$20/Person (Includes Lunch)  
 \$30/Non-Member

Seating is limited. Sign up soon! Reservations can be made at 772-7271 or email [info@gochamber.org](mailto:info@gochamber.org) with the names of those attending. RSVP deadline is September 27, 2011.

Note  
 location  
 change for  
 this Brown  
 Bag



Presented by: **Joe Kovar, CPA**  
**Drees, Risky & Vallager, Ltd**

*Reservations not cancelled 3 business days prior to event will be billed.*

Member Referrals Made By  
The Chamber In 2011:

**1526**

Total for August: 201

Certificates of Origin Signed  
By The Chamber In 2011:

**14**

Total for August: 1

New Resident Packets  
Distributed By The Chamber  
In 2011:

**131**

Total for August: 8

**Check Out The Chamber Calendar of Events Here  
[www.gochamber.org](http://www.gochamber.org)**

Number of Member Exposures for August (statistic includes internet search engine visits): 692,590

### Top Member Directory Views/TCS Page Views for August

	<u>Dir.</u>	<u>TCS</u>		<u>Dir.</u>	<u>TCS</u>
Lisa's Soy Scents	887	133	GF County Farm Srv. Agency	807	16
Sanford Health	830	85	Bremer Bank	806	37
Stennes Dahl Funeral Home	826	108	Northern Bag & Box Co.	804	22
AdFarm	810	N/A	Rhino Contracting	803	42
1st Liberty Fed. Credit Union	810	47	Agri Data	801	25
Aaltos - Canad Inn	807	34	Jump For Joy Bounce Houses	795	53
First State Bank	807	21	AE <sub>2</sub> S	795	29

## Canad Inns Business After Hours

*Don't Miss GFK Airports BAH on September 15th!*

