



www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com

Monthly Newsletter

January 2016

Serving the communities of Chisago City, Lindstrom, Center City, Shafer and Taylors Falls

Upcoming Meetings & Events

January 7: **Board Meeting 9:00am**
Chamber Office & Information Center
30525 Linden Street, Lindstrom

January 14: **Chamber Member Luncheon**
Time: 11:30am
Topics: **'Put Your Business on Google Maps'**
This is a working luncheon. Bring a laptop.
Caterer: **Clubhouse Grill**
Location: **Chisago Lakes Library**
11754 302nd Street, Chisago City

Note change to 2016 Luncheon prices:
\$9/members at the door or prepay the year for \$80 (save \$19!)
\$10/non-members at the door

Welcome New Member!

JS Nutrition & Wellness

Jill Schreier, Lindstrom

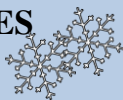
www.jsnutritionmn.com 651-231-5159

4Point O School Services of Chisago Lakes

www.4pointo.com 507-381-2880

CELEBRATION OF THE LAKES

2016



As of this newsletter, we do not have the snow and ice that Minnesota winters normally give us. Because of the lack of ice at this point in time we need to cancel the Celebration of the Lakes for 2016. We are hoping that next year's weather will be more cooperative so we can once again enjoy all the activities on the ice.

Frankies will still be hosting the NAIFC Fishing Tournament and area groups and organizations will be holding activities throughout the community for families to enjoy. Visit the chamber calendar at ChisagoLakesChamber.com for updates as they come forward.



What's Happening This Month

January 5-6, 8 Women's Academy – Wild Mountain
January 5 Home School Days – Wild Mountain
January 6-10 Picket Fence Gals Sale
January 7 Home School Days – Wild Mountain
January 8 Race Training/Anna Levins – Wild Mtn
January 8 Ski Challenge Begins – Wild Mountain
January 8-9 Relax & Refresh – Al Honn Glass
January 9 Yoga Classes Resume - WineHaven
January 10 Friends & Family Day – Wild Mountain
January 12 Home School Days – Wild Mountain
January 12 New Year-New You – doTERRA Oil
January 13 ABC Competition Announcement!
January 14 Coffee Club – Edward Jones
January 19 Chamber Open House
January 22 Race Training/Anna Levins – Wild Mtn
January 23 Pie, Puzzles & Potato Soup – FUMC
January 23 Spirit of the Drum – Festival Theatre
January 25-30 Recycled Wardrobes Sale
January 28-30 Winter Snowflake Used Book Sale - Library
January 30 Polka Dance
February 18 Regional Speed Networking Event

Please note change to luncheon prices:



**\$9/members at the door or
prepay the year for \$80
(save \$19!)**

\$10/non-members at the door

2016 Board of Directors

Officers:

President: John Renaker, Northwoods Roasterie
President Elect: Josh Soderlund, Soderlund's Wood Mill
Treasurer: Cory Lindgren, Lindgren & Associates
Secretary: Erin Thorvaldson, Generations Real Estate Group

Directors:

Bob Gustafson, Farmers Insurance Group
Matt Silver, Chisago County Press
Laura Haseltine, Elevate Builders/Victory Lane Quick Oil Change
Greg Paine, Edward Jones
Marlys Dunne, MultiSource Manufacturing
Susan Clayton, Alan Honn Glass & Al's Saloon

Executive Director: Wendy Redland
Office Manager: Laurie Doughty

How to contact us:

Chisago Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 283 – 30525 Linden St.
Lindstrom, MN 55045
Phone: 651-257-1177
Email: clacc@frontiernet.net
Web: www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com



A Note from the
Chamber Board:

Matt Silver
Chisago County Press

Can you believe it is 2016 already? How does the old saying go? "When you get older time really flies" if that's the case then I must be ancient. It was just yesterday when I accepted a spot on the board with Brenda Palmquist as our director. Since then, we have had Tangi for years and now we have Wendy. Each one of our directors has been very different than the prior. But each one has something very special about them. We have been blessed to have such caring, community minded individuals running the Chamber over the years. If you ask Laurie Doughty the reason for such a successful chamber, she will tell you the members. But Laurie, who has been with us for a long time now is crucial to the Chamber. She is our glue. She is our face to the public. We are so lucky to have Wendy and Laurie as we move into the future.

We have some rather large events in the near future. The Celebration of the Lakes is just around the corner (as I write this there are sailboats on the lakes). Hopefully Mother Nature will cooperate with us by making ice and making it quickly. Kind of a double edged sword, I kind of like the lower heating bills, but miss the ice fishing. The Celebration of the Lakes is set for the end of January. If

you remember we have had it off-site a few times in the past. While we made it work, it just wasn't the same. Businesses, we will be calling soon for the Celebration of the Lakes tab, but if you do not hear from us, please call the Press to be included.

The other event I am referring to is the 2016 Home and Business Expo. Not until the first week of March, the show is filling quickly. If you would like a spot in the show it is not too late. Please call the Chamber at 651-257-1177 to reserve booth space. Speaking of the Home Show, we are constantly looking for new entertainment for the show. If you or someone you know would like to perform at the show, we would love to speak with you. I know we have some super talented people out there, what better way to showcase your talents than at the Home Show? Please call the Chamber at 651-257-1177 to signup.



With the New Year upon us, we look at making our chamber even stronger. As a member driven organization, we encourage you to share the invitation below with non-members and bring them as a guest to our Chamber Open House. Enjoy an evening of networking with current and new members. [New Member Brochure](#)

Chamber Open House

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 5-8pm

Gustaf's Galleries

13025 Lake Blvd, Lindstrom

*You are invited to join the Chamber Board of Directors,
Current Members and Staff for an evening
of information and exploration around chamber membership.*

*Our mission is to;
create and promote a healthy business environment
to enhance our communities for opportunity and growth;
and we are excited to invite you to partner with us.*

Light appetizers will be served.

NORTHWOODS ROASTERIE



12710 N. First Ave, Lindstrom

Coffee and Pie Night

Every Friday Night! 5-9pm

Come enjoy coffee and fresh baked pies!



www.NorthwoodsRoasterie.com

651-257-5240

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com

December 8th Board Meeting Highlights

Secretary's Report:

November minutes reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report reviewed and accepted.

Committee Reports:

- **Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala**

Gala will be at WineHaven with Eichten's catering. Fundraising activities will be mega basket raffles, gift card tree, 50/50 raffle, silent auction and heavy appetizers. Swing and a Miss will provide the music.

- **Celebration of the Lakes**

Sponsorship letters have gone out and a meeting will be scheduled.

- **Home & Garden Expo**

Planning is on track. Anna and Elsa from Frozen are scheduled to be part of the entertainment. Booths registered to date are 27 vendors/30 booths which are comparable to last year.

New Business:

- **Board Meeting Date/Time Change**

Board meetings will be scheduled the 1st Thursday of each month at 9am.

- **2016 Budget**

Budget was presented and will be reviewed and approved at the January meeting.

- **Community Website**

The Chamber is looking into hosting a community website based on feedback from the ABC initiative. Some funding has been applied for with more needed to be sought out. Matt suggested looking into having college students create the site.

Old Business:

- **Chamber Membership**

Membership dues for multiple businesses were addressed. It was decided that people with multiple businesses would pay full membership for the main business and ½ price for any additional business.

Luncheon prices will remain at \$8 if paid for the year at \$80; receiving one month free. The price for paying at the door will be \$9 for members and \$10 for non-members.

- **ABC Update**

An ABC update meeting was held on November 24th. Our community will find out where we stand in the competition on January 13th.

Executive Director's Report:

Wendy attended the following excellent meetings and presentations:

- The ABC Strategic Economic Plan was submitted. Grant dollars from other sources are being applied for in an effort to continue working on the selected projects regardless of our status in the competition.
- The Technology Summit Breakfast and Technology Trainings are going well. Trainings are made possible through a grant from the Blandin Foundation.
- I attended and represented our Chamber at the Grand Casino-Hinckley business after-hours event.
- A joint networking luncheon is being planned with the Forest Lake and North Branch Chambers and will be held in February.
- The North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix National Heritage Area is seeking continued partnership with the Chamber in an effort to promote the area for tourism.
- Promotional materials were distributed to businesses for Shop Small Saturday.
- Planning and preparing for the Annual Meeting and Holiday Gala is going well.



RECYCLED WARDROBES

30365 Neal Ave, Lindstrom
6419 Main Street, North Branch

651-257-8133 facebook.com/RecycledWardrobes

SALE! JANUARY 25-30

CELEBRATE YOUR BUDGET

SAVE 40% ON CLOTHING & STUFF!



210 Washington St, St. Croix Falls, WI
715-483-3387 www.FestivalTheatre.org

'THE SPIRIT OF THE DRUM'

Saturday, January 23 10-11:30am

Don Karsky facilitates this workshop with a passion for playing, as well as teaching. Don's experience with drumming, sharing stories and techniques puts you at ease and helps to provide a comfortable and supportive environment for learning. From beginner to advanced, this workshop will have something for everyone! \$10 per person. Don will also have drums available to use for the class as well as available for purchase. His unique creations are Drum Artwork in itself.

December Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala



Prizes & Awards!

We want to thank each and every one of you who joined us to celebrate at **WineHaven Winery** for the **Chisago Lakes Chamber Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala**.

A *Special Thank You* to **Lindgren & Associates** for sponsoring the social hour, **Eichten's Market & Café** for delicious food and **Northwoods Roasterie** for great coffee. Music provided by **Swing and a Miss** was sponsored by **Xcel Energy** and added to the mood of the evening. The evening included a lot of socializing and 'fun'raising. New this year was a Men's & Women's Mega Basket, Gift Card Tree, 50/50 Raffle and a Silent Auction. Proceeds raised benefit the Family Pathways Food Shelf and the Chamber.

Thank You to all of our local businesses who donated items for the evening: **Alan Honn Glass Showroom**, **Al's Saloon**, **Applewood Nursery**, **Arby's**, **Bill's Auto Body**, **Brink's Market**, **Casterton Title and Closing**, **Chisago County Press**, **Chiko's**, **Clubhouse Grill**, **Chisago Hardware Just Ask Rental**, **CL Achievement Center**, **CLA Community Foundation Chisago Lakes Golf Course**, **Chisago Lakes Schools**, **Deutschland Meats**, **DuTriRun doTERRA Oils/Laurie Doughty**, **Edward Jones /Jim Green**, **Eichten's**, **Fisk Tire**, **Kwik Trip**, **Elevate Builders**, **Erickson Bros Tree Farm**, **Generations Real Estate Group**, **Grand Casino Hinckley**, **GrandStay Hotel & Suites**, **Gustaf's Galleries**, **Holiday Station**, **In the Moment Boutique**, **Jackie Brigg's Therapeutic Massage**, **Lindstrom Hardware**, **Lindstrom Chocolate Shoppe**, **Lindstrom Liquor Store**, **Lindstrom Thrifty White**, **Mack Landscaping**, **Meredee's Bistro**, **Mickelson Landscaping**, **Mueller's Jewelers**, **Northern Tavern and Grill**, **Northwoods Roasterie**, **Picket Fence Gals**, **Silver Shears Security State Bank**, **Soderlund's Wood Mill**, **Swenson's Lake House**, **Sven**, **TradeWins Sports Timberhaze Retreat Center**, **Victory Lane Oil Change**, **Wagon Wheel Café and Pizza**, **Wild Mountain**, **WineHaven**, **Wood Pallet Treasures**.

Each year we honor area businesses for outstanding service and commitment to the Chisago Lakes Area. This year we honored five area businesses for their commitment to excellence:

- Renovation of the Year: **Lindstrom Family Dentistry**
- Best in Marketing: **Recycled Wardrobes**
- Best in Customer Service: **Brinks Market**
- Vision Award: **MultiSource-Chisago City**
- 2016 Community Ambassador: **ABC TEAM**



2016 Community Ambassador - ABC Team



Bright Ideas for Home, Garden & Family!

March 5-6, 2016

The 2016 Home & Business Expo is sponsored by Chisago Lakes Community Education, Chisago County Press and Chisago Lakes Chamber. Chamber members receive \$80 off the booth fee with a paid 2016 Chamber membership.

The time to register is now! Early bird rates will change after January 11, 2016. To register, call Chisago Lakes Community Education at 651-213-2603. Registration forms are available at www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com.

[Booth Registration Form](#) [Non-Profit/ Volunteer Based](#)



10020 Deer Garden Lane, Chisago City
www.Winehaven.com 651-257-1017

YOGA AT THE WINERY!

Saturdays 10:15 – 11:15am - Classes resume January 9

Join us for an hour of yoga with spectacular vineyard and lake views from our second floor ballroom. The class is lead by Deb Houle who has over 30 years of experience teaching yoga and is suited to both beginner yogis and veterans alike. Just bring your own mat and a towel!

After toning your body and clearing your mind, head downstairs to focus on communal health while sampling the unique selection of Winehaven wines! The class fee is \$10. If you'd like to stay for wine afterwards, there is an additional \$5 tasting fee.

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com

Featured Business – January 2016



MULTISOURCE MANUFACTURING

MultiSource Manufacturing LLC acquired recently-minted Chisago Lakes Chamber member, Haus Specialty Manufacturing, on October 31, 2015. The company continues to operate at 10489 Liberty Lane in Chisago City, and all of the nearly 40 Haus employees have become employees of MultiSource. The location, now called MultiSource Chisago City, will be led by general manager and Chamber board member, Marlys Dunne.

MultiSource is a Minnesota-based company with seven locations in Minnesota and one location just outside of Boulder, Colorado. Our primary business is precision machining, although we continue to grow in the areas of electrical and mechanical assembly, as well as building equipment. MultiSource provides stable, living wage jobs and excellent benefits for our team members.

To program and operate CNC machining equipment, MultiSource machinists need mechanical aptitude and training to achieve tolerances so small as to be undetectable by the naked eye. MultiSource uses inspection equipment able to measure dimensions less than 1/10,000 of an inch. Often times, our expert machinists are unable to “see” that their parts are properly manufactured, so they rely on sophisticated equipment to verify what is already known: they make top-notch parts!

MultiSource has a societal role in keeping patients healthy, airplanes flying, and nozzles spraying accurately, in addition to other aerospace, medical, industrial, and food-related purposes. We’re proud of our work, and the systems we employ satisfy the demanding requirements of our customers. Most of our locations are ISO-certified to insure consistency of process, and our employees are service-oriented, insuring we deliver a terrific customer experience, in addition to properly-manufactured items.

We’re excited to extend our reach to the Chisago Lakes Chamber area. We look forward to continued growth of MultiSource Chisago City with the excellent team already in place.

Mike Schuffenhauer

President, MultiSource Manufacturing LLC

MultiSource

MULTISOURCE MANUFACTURING

10489 Liberty Lane, Chisago City

651-257-9463 www.MultiSourcemfg.com



Puzzles, Pie & Potato Soup! Friday, January 22 6-9pm

The weather is cold and we have a perfect way to stay warm! Enter a team of 4 in a jigsaw puzzle contest. Entry fee is \$20/team which includes a chance for fabulous prizes for the winners, a bowl of homemade potato soup and a slice of pie.

To register call the church office at 651-257-4306. Registration deadline is Sunday January 10.

If you aren’t a puzzle person, please come enjoy the soup, pie, other puzzling puzzles and cheer on the contestants. Entry fee: \$2 at the door.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

30828 Irene Ave, Lindstrom

www.LindstromMethodist.org

651-257-4306

EDWARD JONES – GREG PAINE

10681 Railroad Ave, Chisago City

651-257-6397 www.EdwardJones.com



‘FINANCIAL SECURITY AND FINANCE’

Educational Workshop

Thursday, January 14 9:30-10:30am or 6-7pm
Chamber Office, 30525 Linden Street, Lindstrom

We believe financial education is an important part of achieving your goals. We also realize there is more to life than just financial goals. That’s why we’re excited to invite you to our Financial Security and Finance program featuring our special guests.

- ‘Preplanning Eases the Burden’ Paul Hutchison
Licensed Funeral Director-Mattson Funeral Home
- ‘Estate Planning’ Steve Varsdeen,
Vice President-Prudential

Refreshments will be served. Reserve your space by calling 651-257-6397 no later than Tuesday, January 12.

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com



CHISAGO LAKES LIBRARY
11754 302nd St, Chisago City
651-257-2817 www.ecrl.lib.mn.us

WINTER SNOWFLAKE USED BOOK SALE January 28 -30 during regular hours

Incredible prices on great reading materials to take to the cabin or share on a snow bound day. The book sale is organized by the Friends of the Library group. Proceeds are used for enhancing the library collection and children and teen enrichment activities.



doTERRA Essential Oils

'NEW YEAR – NEW YOU'
Tuesday, January 12 6:30pm

Being healthy is a priority –Naturally! Become empowered with knowledge and tools to take care of yourself and your family in a natural way. Learn the basics of doTERRA oils and how to use them. For more information call Trudy Lodien at 651-491-0962. This class is free and is held at the Chamber office 30525 Linden St, Lindstrom.

ALAN HONN GLASS SHOWROOM

AL'S CENTER SALOON

321 Summit Avenue, Center City

AL'S GLASS SHOWROOM JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE

Friday 3-8pm & Saturdays 10am-3pm through January

We're organizing, archiving, discounting and liquidating Al's work from past and present. Find great deals all month as we conclude the Showroom project.

• Friday, January 8 & Saturday, January 9
Recharge & Refresh with Bodylish. Our Minneapolis friend, Nora, will bring her luscious body care concoctions to soothe holiday frazzle and promote calm for the new year. Salvation Bomb with Lavender and CowGirl Rub? Yes, Please.

Stop in to the showroom on your way to Live Music Fridays next door at Al's Saloon. Visit AlsCenterSaloon.com for music schedule.



Happy New Year!
Wishing you a Prosperous 2016!

designers
salonspa

11495 Brink Ave, Chisago City
DesignersSalonSpa.net 651-257-9477

SPECIALS WITH STEPHANIE!

We welcome Stephanie as our newest designer. She is very happy to be here to learn and to grow with us.

Purchase an *Ultimate Manicure* and get your shellac free. A \$40 value now only \$30. Purchase 3 massages get one free. Specials valid through 1-31-16 with Stephanie only.



Chisago County Technology Training Opportunities for Businesses

Through a grant provided by the Blandin Foundation and the energy of a team of advocates for Chisago County businesses, these monthly technology trainings are FREE for businesses & residents in the county.

Get Your Business on the Map

We are partnering with Google to help put every business in Chisago County on the map – including yours. If you are already on the map, learn how to improve your presence. Free trainings are scheduled during area chambers' monthly luncheons. Attend any session option below.



North Branch Chamber

Tuesday, January 12 12pm

North Branch American Legion
Lunch \$8 RSVP by Jan. 8 to 651-674-4077 or
kris@northbranchchamber.com



Chisago Lakes Chamber

Thursday, January 14 11:30pm

Chisago Lakes Library
Lunch \$9 members/\$10 non-members
RSVP by Jan. 8 to 651-257-1177 or
clacc@frontiernet.net



Wyoming Area Business Association

Tuesday, January 19 11:45am

Splitrocks Entertainment Center
RSVP by Jan. 14 to info@wabamn.com



Rush City Chamber

Thursday, January 28 12pm

Chuckers Bowl & Lounge
RSVP by Jan. 26 to 320-358-4743 or
director@rushcitychamber.com

Coming Soon...

- Credit Card Processing / PCI Compliance
- Computer Maintenance
- Email Security
- Identity Theft
- Social Media Breakfast
- Web Site Design

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com

ALL IS WELLNESS STUDIO

12710 Lake Blvd, Lindstrom 651-247-6919
www.AllisWellnessCenter.com

POLAR PLUNGE

Win 5 Sixty (60) minute massages from Jackie Briggs Therapeutic Massage! Jackie Briggs will be polar plunging again this year, January 30th in Owatonna to raise money for the Minnesota Special Olympics. The person that pledges the most online will be the winner, you can pledge as often as you'd like and that will add to your total. Please go to <https://reg.plungemn.org/participant/jacquelinebriggs> Thank you & Good Luck!



POLKA DANCE Saturday, January 30 6-8pm



Featuring the Chmielewski Funtime Band. Admission is free. Purchase food and German beer, pop and water from Deutschland Meats. See attached flyer for details. Lindstrom Community Center 13292 Sylvan Ave.

WILD MOUNTAIN / TF RECREATION

37200 Wild Mountain Rd, Taylors Falls
651-465-6315 www.wildmountain.com



2015-2016 SKI & SNOWBOARD SEASON IS NOW OPEN!

Check out the *Daily Snow Report*

- * Women's Academy: January 5, 6, 8
- * Home School Days: January 5, 7, 14
- * Race Training with Anna Levins: January 8 & 22
- * Ski Challenge Begins: January 8
- * Friends & Family Fun Days: January 10

For complete details call 651-465-6365
or visit www.WildMountain.com



PICKET FENCE GALS SALE

JANUARY 6-10
Wednesday 3-7pm
Thursday-Saturday 9am-6pm
Sunday 11am-5pm

A large Victorian 2-story house filled with affordable, ever-changing items. You are sure to find antiques & vintage items, painted furniture, garden items, home & cabin décor, re-purposed items, textiles and more! Downtown Lindstrom.

www.PicketFenceGals.net

651-334-1444

CHISAGO GRANDSTAY HOTEL & SUITES

29579 Sportsman Drive, Chisago City
www.facebook.com/chisagograndstay
651-213-3400



We are happy to announce a new, low Pool Party rate! For \$99, guests will have our party room and pool access for 3 hours along with 2 large Pizza Man pizzas, 2-2 liters of pop and a DQ ice cream cake!

2016 will be the unveiling of a NEW pool party room! Please call our front desk with questions or to make reservations.



Chisago GrandStay is adding to our team. We are currently seeking the following part-time positions:

- ◆ Housekeeper/Inspector. Must be available weekends.
- ◆ Maintenance Person/Shuttle Driver. Minimal hours right now but will grow in the summer months.

Apply in person or call 651-213-3400 with any questions. 29579 Sportsman Drive, Chisago City

Quote for the Month

"Do not wait until the conditions are perfect to begin. Beginning makes the conditions perfect."
~ Alan Cohen ~

REGIONAL SPEED NETWORKING EVENT

Thursday, February 18 11:30am-1pm

Join us for an exciting opportunity to grow your business contacts across the region by networking with business people from the Forest Lake Area, North Branch Area and Chisago Lakes Chambers of Commerce.

Dine with and meet three different groups of eight people during a three course lunch. Bring plenty of business cards and/or brochures to pass out. Promotional items are welcome too!

Space is limited so register early. Chamber Members: \$18/ Non-Members: \$25. [Registration Form](#)

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com



ABC PROJECT UPDATES

Create a Community Website – Chisago County HRA/EDA has approved \$2000 and the Chamber has applied for a grant of \$5500 through the Blandin Foundation towards the creation of a community website.

Clean Energy Financing Hub – The Chamber and Eutectics will develop a Clean Energy Financing Hub for the Chisago Lakes area. \$4000 has been received through a seed grant from Metro CERT.

Technology Training – Google Mapping for all of Chisago County is scheduled for the January Chamber luncheons, with free technology training sessions happening throughout the county due to a grant through the Blandin Foundation.

Co-Working Space – one of the projects on the ABC list was a co-working/business incubator site. A private group has purchased a building in Lindstrom for just that purpose and may connect with the ABC team to coordinate efforts.

Regional Trails – Three regional trails have been tagged for funding priority, to be presented to the MN Legislature for approval in January.

Community Ambassador Award – The ABC Team was presented the Community Ambassador Award through Chisago Lakes Chamber for exceptional community service.

On **January 13** we will hear the winners that move on to the next step of the competition. Stay Tuned!

Good Luck Chisago Lakes Area!

We can help get your information out to the community! Please share your events/happenings with us so we can include in the monthly newsletter or weekly newflash. Please allow us time to receive the information to include. Email the Chamber at clacc@frontiernet.net. Deadline for inclusion is:

**Newsflash – Week Prior of Event/Special
Newsletter – 20th of the Month Prior**

MN Chamber Update

We are United for Minnesota Jobs

By Doug Loon

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce network works every day to strengthen our state's business environment. We have the opportunity to take a significant step forward with the state's general fund surplus that has grown to nearly \$2 billion.

Our goal is to help all businesses be competitive no matter their size, type or location. The Minnesota Chamber, as leader of the United for Jobs Coalition, encourages policymakers to use the surplus to best position Minnesota for a strong economic future. Our No. 1 priority for the 2016 Legislature is to reduce the statewide business property tax levy. The surplus also offers

opportunity to provide strategic investments in our state's aging transportation infrastructure system.

Minnesota businesses face a variety of challenges in today's global economy. There is no single fix. But year in and year out, employers identify taxes as a key barrier to creating and retaining jobs in Minnesota.

The statewide business property tax is especially onerous. Unlike homeowners and most other properties that pay only local property taxes, businesses also pay the state levy that goes into the general fund. This levy is about 1/3 of a business property tax bill.

"Business" taxes are a misnomer. Few businesses can continually absorb higher costs and remain competitive. Higher taxes are ultimately paid by consumers in higher prices for goods/services. Higher taxes limit what's available for employee raises, business reinvestment, expansion and potential job growth. Higher taxes limit contributions to worthwhile community projects.

Reducing the regressive statewide business property tax will help all businesses – large and small, rural and metro – whether they own property or are a tenant. All companies must pay this fixed cost, regardless of whether they post a profit or loss.

Most troubling: the assessment is on autopilot, increasing each year by the rate of inflation. The original levy in 2002 generated \$585 million and is now more than \$860 million annually.

Minnesota business property taxes are higher than most states – a lot higher. They rank second highest in the nation for rural properties and sixth highest for metro properties. Some Minnesota business property taxes are 90 percent above the national average and exceed some of our neighboring states by more than 200%.

We hear the pushback that reducing the business property tax will help only the corp. giants. That's simply false and uninformed. All employers pay the tax whether their balance sheet is positive or negative. The cost hits especially hard on newer and start-up businesses that are trying to establish their product or service. That's worrisome. The more expensive we make it to do business, the greater the risk to MN where we rely on a homegrown economy. Our statewide property tax screams to entrepreneurs: "Innovate or start somewhere else." Minnesota's "top 10" ranking in property taxes is the wrong signal to send to our entrepreneurs.

Our drive to reduce this tax is bolstered by the statewide coalition. United for Jobs represents 75 local chambers and businesses, and we are growing. You can support our efforts, too, by contacting Jennifer Byers at jbyers@mnchamber.com.

Let's not miss this opportunity to strengthen Minnesota businesses.

Doug Loon is president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce: www.mnchamber.com.



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
The Voice of Business

NORTHWOODS ROASTERIE

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Lindstrom, MN
651-257-5240

NorthwoodsRoasterie.com



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Part of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation

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BILL WADDELL
President

24408 Greenway Ave
Forest Lake, MN 55025
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Fax: (651) 464-7241
bill@BillsAutoBodyMN.com

www.BillsAutoBodyMN.com



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PHONE: 651-257-5980

FAX: 651-257-9774

Need directions to your financial destination?



James M Green
Financial Advisor

11492 Brink Ave
Chisago City, MN 55013
651-257-7407

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC



FARMERS

TOM KIEFFER AGENCY
Insurance & Financial Services

Hwy. 8 - Chisago City

651-257-6600

tkieffer@farmersagent.com



CENTRAL BANK AND YOU.
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www.CentralBnk.com



LINDSTRÖM CLINIC

St. Croix Regional Medical Center

M-F 8 AM-5 PM

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