



www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com

January 2015

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 8: Chamber Member Luncheon**  
Time: 11:30am  
Topic: **Chisago GrandStay** Updates and Tour  
Caterer: **Chikos Cocina Mexicana**  
Location: **GrandStay Hotel & Suites**  
29579 Sportsman Drive, Chisago City

## Celebration of the Lakes!

Jan 30, 31 & Feb 1



Celebration of the Lakes will have the Radar Run back this year! The NAIFC (North American Ice Fishing Circuit) Tournament Series National Qualifying Tournament is taking place on Sunday & a free Kids Ice Camp on Saturday. All kids in attendance receive free fishing rod and lunch.

Most events will be happening on North Center Lake, including Wild River Snowmobile Club Radar Run, Kids Pro Ice, Sled Dogs, Kids Games, 5K Walk/Run, Medallion hunt, and more!

Volunteers are needed for set up, tear down and with other activities on Saturday. If you are interested in helping, please call the Chamber Office at 651-257-1177.

See full Celebration of the Lakes schedule attached.

## Quote for the Month

“Change is not a threat, it’s an opportunity.”  
~Seth Godin~

# Monthly Newsletter

## What's Happening This Month

- |                   |       |                                      |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| January           | 5     | Nature Rich/Fuel Direct Meeting      |
| January           | 5     | Library - Hot Reads for Cold Nights  |
| January           | 7     | Library – Storytime Begins           |
| January           | 7-11  | Picket Fence Gals Sale               |
| January           | 8     | Edward Jones – Coffee Club           |
| January           | 8     | Wild Mountain – Home School Day      |
| January           | 10    | doTERRA Essential Oils Class         |
| January           | 10-11 | Wild Mountain – ThrasherCamp         |
| January           | 12    | Library – Craft & Story Hour         |
| January           | 13    | FutureWalk Listening Session         |
| January           | 15    | Wild Mountain – Home School Day      |
| January           | 17    | Your Photo Helper – Digi Crop        |
| January           | 17    | Wild Mountain – Night Moves/Music    |
| January           | 19    | Nature Rich/Fuel Direct Meeting      |
| January           | 19    | Wild Mountain – Scout & 4H Day       |
| January           | 21-31 | Recycled Wardrobes Sale              |
| January           | 22    | Coffee with Superintendent Joe Thimm |
| January           | 23    | Wild Mountain – Tell a Friend Tour   |
| January           | 24    | FutureWalk Listening Session         |
| January           | 24    | Wild Mountain – Music in the Nest    |
| January 30- Feb 1 |       | CELEBRATION OF THE LAKES             |
| January           | 31    | Library – ‘Paws to Read’ Program     |
| January           | 31    | Wild Mountain – Scout & 4H Day       |
| February          | 21-22 | Home & Garden Expo                   |

## 2015 Board of Directors

### Officers:

President: John Renaker, Northwoods Roasterie  
President-Elect: John Unruh, MN College Funding Strategies  
Treasurer: Cory Lindgren, Lindgren & Associates  
Secretary: Erin Thorvaldson, Edina Realty

### Directors:

Bob Gustafson, Farmers Insurance Group  
Renee Dabill, Renee Lynn Photography  
Matt Silver, Chisago County Press  
Josh Soderlund, Soderlund's Wood Mill  
Laura Haseltine, Victory Lane Oil Change

Executive Director: Tangi Schaapveld  
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](mailto:clacc@frontiernet.net)  
Web: [www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com](http://www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com)



A Note from the  
Chamber Board:

**Cory Lindgren**

Happy New Year! We hope 2014 was a great year for you and that you are looking forward to what lies ahead for 2015. We have seen several new businesses come into our community in 2014 and it looks like this trend will be continuing in 2015. We hope you will continue to support our current businesses and well as the new ones entering Chisago Lakes. Our community will only continue to become stronger through these businesses as they continue to bring new jobs and opportunities to bring people outside of Chisago Lakes to our community.

Mark your calendars for January 30 – February 1. Celebration of the Lakes is returning to North Center Lake. We are excited to announce that this year we have been able to help bring the Radar Run back to the event. There will also be two ice fishing contests and several other events taking place throughout the Chisago Lakes community. Our goal this year is to create a

“Minnesota Winter Experience” by trying to bringing all the great things we enjoy to this event about Minnesota Winters. We are hoping this year will bring a little warmer weather (but cold enough to make lots of ice) as compared to last winter.

Also, in February we will have our Home and Business Expo on February 21 and 22 at the Chisago Lakes High School. This is a great way to learn about our local businesses and what they can do for you. If you are interested in having a booth at the Expo please contact the Chamber for more information.

If you haven't been following along what is happening with the FutureWalk initiative we are doing this in conjunction with the Chisago Lakes Community Foundation. I strongly recommend you become part of it. FutureWalk is an effort to find out what things our community can do to make it better than it already is so people want to stay and come here for tourism, dining, shopping, education, living or any other reason that would bring them to Chisago Lakes. One of the easiest ways you can get involved is to attend one of our upcoming listening sessions. Please contact the Chamber for more information on how you can get involved. Clay Shirky is quoted as saying. “People want to do something to make the world a better place. They will help when they are invited to.” I invite you to make Chisago Lakes a better place!



## **Smooshers Get Ready!**

### **CELBRATION OF THE LAKES 4<sup>th</sup> Annual SMOOSH! RACE**

You are challenged to participate in the SMOOSH! Race. Get your team of 4 together and your pair of 2x4 pieces of wood then come out and test your agility, coordination and stamina to outwit and outrace your competitors. A traveling trophy will be awarded along with cash prizes for the first and second places. Sign up today!

[SMOOSH! RACE Registration Form](#)

[SMOOSH! Race Waiver Form](#)

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

## December 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Highlights

### Secretary's Report:

November minutes reviewed and accepted as written.

### Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report reviewed and accepted.

### Committee Reports:

#### • **FutureWalk**

Two Listening Sessions scheduled at Parmly LifePointes and Christian Men's Breakfast. Plans are to keep sessions on the second Tuesday of the month, one in the morning and one in the evening.

#### • **Celebration of the Lakes**

Wild River Snowmobile Club has agreed to organize and run the Radar Run. Events will include Kids Pro Ice, NAIFC Ice Fishing Contest, free kids ice fishing clinic, sled dogs and more. There will be food vendor trucks instead of the concession tent.

#### • **Home & Garden Expo**

Currently 30 booths signed up compared to 28 last year at this time. Last day for discount is January 5.

#### • **Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala**

Plans are set for a great evening.

### New Business:

#### • **2015 Executive Board**

- John Renaker, President
- John Unruh, President Elect
- Cory Lindgren, Treasurer
- Erin Thorvaldson, Secretary

#### • **Accounting Proposal**

Lindgren & Associates proposed flat rate for bookkeeping, payroll/check writing for the Chamber.

### Old Business:

#### • **2015 Board Slate**

- Josh Soderlund, Soderlund's Wood Mill
- Laura Haseltine, Victory Lane Oil change
- Pete Grundhoefer, Honorary Member for 2015

### Executive Director's Report:

Among items reported to the board were:

- Membership update
- Website hits

If you have information you would like in the monthly newsletter or weekly newsflash email us at [clacc@frontiernet.net](mailto:clacc@frontiernet.net). Deadline for inclusion is:

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



### CHISAGO GRANDSTAY HOTEL & SUITES

29579 Sportsman Drive, Chisago City

[www.facebook.com/chisagograndstay](http://www.facebook.com/chisagograndstay)

### **Get Wild! Ski, Tube & Stay Packages Now Available:**

Plan your day and your night at the same time! Hotel guests now have the opportunity to purchase Wild Mountain lift tickets and/or tubing passes at the GrandStay Hotel & Suites. Skip the ticket lines and arrive at Wild Mountain ready for fun!

After a day of play, relax in the evening in one of our luxurious guest rooms. Have a cup of hot chocolate by the fire and thaw out with a soak in our hot tub. Enjoy our complimentary Grand Start Breakfast before you head out for another day on the slopes.

Call 651-213-3400 for pricing, availability and reservations.



### **PICKET FENCE GALS SALE**

**JANUARY 7-11**

**Wednesday 3-7pm**

**Thursday-Saturday 9am-6pm**

**Sunday 11am-5pm**

Every room in this historic house is packed with unique and interesting treasures. Downtown Lindstrom

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

651-334-1444

### **Parmly LifePointes**

10720 282<sup>nd</sup> St, Chisago City

[www.Parmly.org](http://www.Parmly.org) 651-257-0575



Vitalize! Wellness Centre at Ecumen Parmly LifePointes is the place to be for all your fitness New Year's resolutions! Open 365 days a year, from 5am-10pm so come and work out on your terms. We offer an 88° warm water pool with group classes, a Land Classroom for Zumba, Yoga, and more, a fitness room with treadmills, elliptical, weight machines and more! Complete locker room facilities with showers available. Our only restriction is you must be age 45 or older. We cater to adults so there won't be any kiddos running around here! We accept most insurance so ask about those benefits too! Call 651-257-7957 for more information.

### **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](http://www.NorthwoodsRoasterie.com)

651-257-5240



## Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala



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

A *Special Thank You* to **Lindgren & Associates** for sponsoring the social hour and **Eichten's Market & Café** for delicious food. **Theresa Colbeth Photography** was there to take wonderful pictures of the event and our guests. Music provided by **Swing and a Miss** was enjoyed by all. We would also like to thank **LeeAnn VandeKamp** from **Twin Pines Auction** for the entertaining live 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 auction: **Bachman's Photography**, **Bill's Auto Body**, **Brink's Market**, **Chisago County Press**, **Chisago Lakes Golf Course**, **Chisago Lakes Rotary**, **Chisago GrandStay Hotel & Suites**, **Deutschland Meats**, **DuTriRun**, **Erin Thorvaldson/ Edina Realty**, **Edward Jones Investments/Jim Green**, **Eichten's**, **Festival Theatre**, **Floral Creations by Tanika**, **FrontRunner Sports**, **Grand Casino Hinckley**, **Greg Shaleen/Edina Realty**, **Gustaf's Gallery**, **Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation**, **In the Moment Boutique**, **Jackie Brigg's Therapeutic Massage**, **Muellers Jewelers**, **Northwoods Roasterie**, **Picket Fence Gals**, **Printing Express**, **Rod Stickney**, **Soderlund's Wood Mill**, **Sven's**, **The Sweet Swede**, **Theresa Colbeth Photography**, **Vitalize Wellness Centre**, **Wild Mountain and WineHaven**.

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: **Edward Jones-Greg Paine**
- Best in Marketing: **Sven's**
- Best in Customer Service: **GrandStay Hotel & Suites**
- Vision Award: **SCRMC Lindstrom Clinic**
- Community Ambassador: **The Eichten Family**

Thank you and best wishes for a prosperous new year!



30365 Neal Ave, Lindstrom  
6419 Main Street, North Branch  
[www.facebook.com/RecycledWardrobes](http://www.facebook.com/RecycledWardrobes)

## CELEBRATION OF THE LAKES SALE JANUARY 21-31

Receive 20% off Stuff!  
Show your COL Button and  
Double your Discount!



## DESIGN THE 2015 KOD BUTTON CONTEST

The 2nd Annual Karl Oskar Days button design contest kicked off in the Chisago Lakes School District on December 15th. Entry forms will go out to the public on January 1st in the Chisago County Press. The contest will run until February 27th, so there is plenty of time to get your entries in. Again, the community will be voting for the winners. Look for updates in upcoming newsletters on running promotions and selling buttons at your business. It's a great way to get residents shopping locally. Questions can be emailed to [kodbuttons@gmail.com](mailto:kodbuttons@gmail.com).



*Bright Ideas for Home, Garden & Family!*

February 21-22, 2015

The 2015 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 2015 Chamber membership.

The time to register is now! Early bird rates will change after January 5, 2015. To register, call Chisago Lakes Community Education at 651-213-2603. Registration forms are available at [www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com](http://www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com).

[Home Show Registration Form](#)

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



The Chisago Lakes Area FutureWalk Initiative has scheduled a series of Listening Sessions for January and February. A listening session is where FutureWalk volunteers meet with area residents to find out what you think the strengths are in the community, what your story of community is and where you see us in the future. The goal is to listen to 1000 people in our communities from many different groups and interests.

**Tuesday, January 13 1pm & 7pm**

Two listening sessions at the **Chisago Lakes Library**.

**Saturday, January 24**

Two Listening Sessions at the High School classroom by the new gym during LARA basketball practices. Times to be determined.

**Tuesday, February 3 8am**

Christian Men's Group, Swedish Restaurant, Center City.

**Tuesday, February 17 1pm & 7pm**

Two listening sessions at the **Chisago Lakes Library**.

The Future Walk is an initiative of the Chisago Lakes Chamber of Commerce and the Chisago Lakes Area Community Foundation. The Initiative's goal is to create the Chisago Lakes Area Future together, by listening to residents of our communities, gathering stories, to build on our strengths and assets and plan for the next generation.

To register for a session or for more information about the Initiative, check out the website at [www.futurewalkchisago.com](http://www.futurewalkchisago.com), on Facebook under FutureWalk or call the Chamber office at 651-257-1177.



210 Washington St, St. Croix Falls, WI  
715-483-3387 [www.FestivalTheatre.org](http://www.FestivalTheatre.org)

Thank you to everyone who attended a show this year and made our 2014 season a success. The theatre would not be here without you. Make plans now to enjoy our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season of producing professional theatre in 2015! In the works are *Little Shop of Horrors*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and more.

Visit the website often for updates, [www.festivaltheatre.org](http://www.festivaltheatre.org). Order your Flex Pass online, by calling 715-483-3387 or emailing [festivaltheatreboxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:festivaltheatreboxoffice@gmail.com).



LINDGREN & ASSOCIATES

12855 Lake Blvd, Lindstrom 651-257-2152

### LOOKING FOR A NEW AND/OR LOCAL PAYROLL PROCESSER/BOOKKEEPER?

Lindgren & Associates offer many accounting services to help your business. Chisago Lakes Chamber members are eligible for a 25% discount in 2015!



## Puzzles, Pie & Potato Soup! Saturday, January 25 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 11.

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](http://www.LindstromMethodist.org) 651-257-4306



### Use Your Creativity to Celebrate Life's Stories!

Stop in or stay for the day! Offering monthly classes at the Chamber office. Saturday, January 17 10am-2pm.

We are here to help and answer your questions. Bring a laptop if you have one. Call Debbie Schott 651-503-8840 for more information or visit [www.DigiStoryBooking.com](http://www.DigiStoryBooking.com)



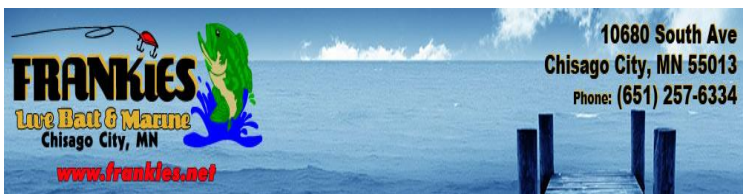
## doTERRA Essential Oils

**'FAMILY PHYSICIAN KIT'**

**Saturday, January 10 10:00 am**

doTERRA's Family Physician Kit contains 10 essential oils and blends—that families need on a daily basis. Join us to learn of the infinite ways that doTERRA's CPTG Certified Pure Therapeutic Grade essential oils can help you help your family. For more information call Trudy Lodien at 651-491-0962. Class is free and is held at the Chamber office 30525 Linden St, Lindstrom.

## Featured Business – January 2015



### FRANKIES LIVE BAIT & MARINE

In 1968 it all began at Frankie's live bait and marine. It started with a small bait store and eventually turning into one of the largest Ranger boat dealers in the world. In the bait tanks there is a wide selection of freshly trapped live bait by Frankie himself and his boys Bud & Joe. Not only do they have the bait they also have a great selection of tackle and equipment to rival the biggest of stores. If it's an up to the date fishing report that you need, just check in with the staff, because more than likely they were just on the lake chasing down the fish. When it comes to marine parts and accessories, let the family staff with generations of knowledge get you on the water faster. If it is a boat issue all you have to do is stop by and one of the many certified mechanics will solve your boat or motor issues.

Last but not least if it is a new or used boat that you are looking for, go no further than Frankie's marine we stock the newest Ranger boats with latest equipment down to the smaller of used boats. We can match your boat choice to your fishing style and come within budget. Our goal is to get you out fishing and having fun! Frankie's live bait & Marine is very involved in the community. We put on several fishing events and clinics for the public to enjoy. They range for the veteran pro to the youngest at heart. Come check us out at the celebration of the lakes Jan 30<sup>th</sup> – Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. for a free ice fishing seminar a kids ice fishing camp and a ice fishing tournament. From the whole staff at Frankie's live bait and marine we would like to wish you the best New Year and please stop by and check us out.

TAKE CARE & GOOD LUCK FISHING!

Frankie's

### FRANKIE'S MARINE & LIVE BAIT

10680 South Ave, Chisago City  
www.FrankiesBoats.com 651-257-6334

## 2014 Community Award Winners

The following businesses were honored at the Chamber Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala for outstanding community commitment.



### The Eichten Family

*2015 Community Ambassador*



### St. Croix Regional Medical Center

*Vision Award*



### Greg Paine

**Edward Jones**

*Renovation of the Year*



### GrandStay Hotel & Suites

*Best in Customer Service*



### Sven Clogs

*Best in Marketing*

*\*Pictures by Theresa Colbeth Photography*

**Happy New Year!**  
**Wishing you a Prosperous 2015!**

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com





Is your company interested in looking for a STEM intern? Did you know you can receive a 50% cash match on intern's wages up to \$2500? Check out SciTechsperience.

SciTechsperience is an exciting internship program that creates the opportunity for Minnesota businesses to work with talented college STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) students to develop solutions for real world challenges. SciTechsperience provides a low-cost solution for small and medium-sized companies that otherwise may not have access to qualified interns. Participating companies receive matching funds of 50% of the intern's wages up to \$2,500.

#### Benefits:

- ♦ Dollar for dollar cash match up to 50 percent of the intern's wages (\$2,500 maximum)
- ♦ Get help finding qualified interns – SciTechsperience does the recruiting for you
- ♦ The hiring decision is yours
- ♦ Find future employees, increase productivity and revitalize your organization with fresh perspectives
- ♦ Develop Minnesota's STEM workforce by providing hands-on experience to talented college students in dynamic industries like yours
- ♦ Keep talented STEM students in MN after they graduate to strengthen/advance MN's knowledge based economy

#### Eligibility requirements:

- ♦ Must be for-profit company eligible to conduct business in Minnesota
- ♦ Seven-county metro area companies must have fewer than 150 employees worldwide; companies outside the Seven-county metro area must have fewer than 250 employees worldwide
- ♦ The internship must provide hands-on experience in the company's industry
- ♦ The company is doing business in one of the following industries:
  - Aerospace and Defense
  - Agriculture, Food, Forestry
  - Biotechnology, Life Sciences and Health IT
  - Engineering Services
  - Fuels, Energy, Energy Management
  - IT/Computer Technology
  - Mining, Materials, Manufacturing and Processing

For more information or to apply [Click Here](#), contact Becky Siekmeier at [beckys@mhta.org](mailto:beckys@mhta.org) or 952-230-4241.

#### NATURE RICH/FUEL DIRECT

Gus Gulbranson 651-246-9027  
www.655077.NatureRich.net



#### Nature Rich/Fuel Direct Informational Briefing

Mondays, January 5 & 19 7-8pm

World class health products and fuel additive. Come hear how we can make your body and car run at its best. Held at the Chamber office 30525 Linden Street, Lindstrom.

#### EDWARD JONES, GREG PAINE

10681 Railroad Ave, Chisago City  
651-257-6397 www.EdwardJones.com



#### 'Coffee Club' Thursday, January 8 9:30am

Greg Paine will discuss current market information and answer questions. Meeting at Northwoods Roasterie 12710 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Lindstrom. Coffee & pastries on us. Feel free to bring a friend. RSVP to 651-257-6397.

#### WILD MOUNTAIN / TF RECREATION

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



#### 2014-2015 SKI & SNOWBOARD SEASON IS NOW OPEN!

Check out the *Daily Snow Report*

- ✧ Home School Days: Thursdays, January 8 & 15
- ✧ Snowboard ThrasherCamp: Sat-Sun, January 10-11
- ✧ Scout and 4H Days: Sunday, January 11
- ✧ Night Moves/Late Night Session: Sat., January 17
- ✧ Music in the 'Nest': Saturday, January 17 & 24
- ✧ Friends & Family Fun Days: January 19 & 31
- ✧ Tell a Friend Tour: Friday, January 23

For complete details call 651-465-6365  
or visit [www.WildMountain.com](http://www.WildMountain.com)

#### KIDS PRO ICE RACING

#### Racing at Celebration of the Lakes

A non-profit youth ice racing association based in the Twin Cities region. We have over 30 active families who teach kids safe driving and racing practices as well as good sportsmanship and friendship.



We offer 12 racing classes from Amateur Kitty Cat and 120 to the 'Big Guns Formula 1, Champ 120 and Junior Novice. Our racers range from 4 to 14 years of age and we are well known for producing some of the finest racers in ORA (Oval Racers Alliance, the Bug Guys).

## CHISAGO LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

ISD#2144

13750 LAKE BLVD, LINDSTROM 651-213-2000

### COFFEE AND CONVERSATION





Join school Superintendent Joe Thimm and a board representative for Coffee and Conversation on the dates and locations below, from 8:00-8:45 am. This is an opportunity to ask questions and chat about the school district.

- Thursday, January 22 - Swedish Village Restaurant
- Thursday, February 19 - Wagon Wheel Restaurant
- Thursday, March 26 - Wagon Wheel Restaurant
- Thursday, April 23 - Location to be determined

### CHISAGO LAKES LIBRARY

11754 302nd St, Chisago City  
651-257-2817 [www.ecrl.lib.mn.us](http://www.ecrl.lib.mn.us)

### WINTER EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

-  **Hot Reads for Cold Nights** – Kicks off January 5th  
The program is geared towards adults, but anyone 16+ can participate. To participate: read a book, find the Hot Reads entry form at the library, rate and review your book. Each week we will draw names for a Hot Reads mug and at the end of the program, a grand prize winner will be drawn. Program ends February 28.
-  **Storytime** – Begins January 7<sup>th</sup> 10:30am  
The programs for Storytime are geared towards children preschool and under.
-  **Craft & Story Hour** – January 12 4:15pm.  
We will read stories about owls and make our own owls out of paper plates.
-  **Paws to Read Event** - January 31 11am-1pm  
Kids sign up in 15 minute slots to read to Scout.

## MN Chamber Update

### Tax relief leads Minnesota Chamber agenda

Good things are happening on the Minnesota economic front. Unemployment is dropping. The state treasury has a projected sizable surplus. Our state is outperforming the national economy in many regards.

We want to make sure the momentum continues. The MN Chamber and local chamber partners are ready to advance another aggressive agenda at the 2015 Legislature.

Tax relief headlines our priorities. Minnesota is a great place to live and work, but our taxes on all businesses – small, medium and large – rank among the highest in the nation. And businesses do take notice. In the 2014 Minnesota Business Barometer Survey, 62 percent of the respondents said high taxes in Minnesota were one of the top barriers for job creation.

The concerns are not surprising, given the record tax increases and spending enacted by the 2013 Legislature including a new 4<sup>th</sup>-

tier rate in personal income tax. Though many characterize this as a “tax on the rich,” it really is a tax on businesses that pay their taxes through the individual income tax. Ninety-two percent of Minnesota businesses, including our smallest and newest, do so.

We propose that business owners who report income from their business on their personal income tax return be allowed to deduct a certain portion of this income from their taxes. This will encourage businesses to reinvest in their companies and employees and improve their competitiveness.

Rounding out our top five priorities:

**Workforce:** Accelerate our workforce development efforts to help employers struggling to find skilled workers. The urgency for skilled workers is greater than ever and spans all industries and all parts of our state. We must especially ensure that our K-12 graduates are ready for higher education and work when they get their diploma. Many jobs are available to them after high school if they have mastered our state’s K-12 curriculum.

**Health care:** Ensure small employers are able to provide affordable and quality health care coverage for their workers. More than half of those surveyed in our Business Barometer who provide health insurance for employees said costs are increasing. We will seek policy changes that reduce those increases. We also will advance common-sense reforms to improve the operations of MNsure, the state health insurance exchange.

**Transportation:** Maintain a solid transportation system by passing a 10-year funding plan that provides for sustained and strategic investment in roads, bridges and transit. Minnesota businesses believe that today’s system meets their most pressing needs. However, without additional funding, investment in our roads and bridges is projected to drop significantly, beginning in 2016. We support a three-pronged approach to broaden and increase permanent funding: identify efficiencies; use a portion of the general fund; and use value-capture mechanisms, similar to tax-increment financing, to assign a portion of a project’s cost to those who most directly benefit.

**Labor/management:** Eliminate the automatic inflation index in the state’s minimum wage rate, and reduce employer costs by advancing workers’ compensation reforms in the hospital fee schedule for treatment of injured workers as we continue our efforts on regulatory reform. Seventy-two percent of the respondents in the Business Barometer said government doesn’t do a good job of balancing the proper amount of regulation with the need of businesses to keep growing.

Minnesota returns to divided government following the November elections, but our goals remains the same. We look forward to working with Governor Dayton, the Senate, and the new pro-business majority in the House to deliver policies that will keep our state’s economy changing and growing.

*Bill Blazar is interim president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. For more information visit [www.mnChamber.com](http://www.mnChamber.com).*



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce  
The Voice of Business





## **2015 CELEBRATION OF THE LAKES SCHEDULE**

*All Events will take place **January 30, 31 & February 1***

*on North Center Lake & Chisago Lakes, unless otherwise noted.*

*\*Weather Permitting*

### **FRIDAY JANUARY 30, 2015**

**6:00 PM PUZZLES, PIE & POTATO SOUP** 6-8pm  
Jigsaw puzzle contest! \$20/team of 4, Register by Jan 12  
Cheer on the contestants, enjoy a bowl of homemade  
potato soup and pie (\$2)  
Methodist Church, Lindstrom 651-257-4306

**7:00 PM NIGHT WITH THE PROS** 7-9pm Open to all!  
Meet the ICE FISHING Pro's at area Restaurants

### **SATURDAY JANUARY 31, 2015**

**10:00 AM SNOWMOBILE RADAR RUN\***  
North Center Lake, Center City  
Test YOUR SPEED!  
Registration opens 9:30am Racing 10am-4pm  
Info at [www.wildriversnowmobile.com](http://www.wildriversnowmobile.com)  
Hosted by Wild River Snowmobile Club

**VINTAGE SNOWMOBILE SHOW\*** 10-4pm  
North Center Lake, Center City  
View Sleds of yester year!  
Hosted by Wild River Snowmobile Club

**10:00 AM KIDS PRO ICE SNOWMOBILE RACING\*** (weather permitting)  
North Center Lake, Center City  
Ice Oval Kitty Kat snowmobile racing with LeMans  
Course for 120's. Hot Laps 8-9:30am  
Mandatory drivers meeting 9:30am  
Racing starts at 10am Ages 4-14  
Info at [www.KidsProIce.org](http://www.KidsProIce.org)

**Free KIDS ICE FISHING CAMP** 10-12pm  
Center City Fire Hall  
Kids Indoor Clinic 10am -11am  
On the Ice (North Center Lake)\* 11am-12pm  
*Kids receive free rod, promo items and a snack*

**10:00 AM 5K RUN/WALK** starts 10am  
**KIDS RACE** starts 11am  
Starts in Center City  
Registration and packet pick-up 9am  
Register online at [www.FrontRunnerUSA.com](http://www.FrontRunnerUSA.com)

**FOOD VENDORS** 10am-4pm  
Hot & Cold Drinks and a variety of food vendors!

**ICE SKATING & SLIDING** 10am-4pm  
Hosted by Center City Fire Dept

**11:00 AM MEDALLION HUNT \$100 Prize!** 11am-3pm  
Clues posted hourly on North Center Lake starting at 11am  
Must have Celebration of the Lakes button to claim \$100 prize  
Sponsored by Holmquist Chiropractic

**12:00 PM SMOOSH! RACE\***  
Teams of 4 attached to homemade ski's (2 x 4's) racing 50 yards.  
Laughs guaranteed! Register at the Chamber Office or on Race Day.

**SLED DOG RIDES\*** 12pm-4pm  
North Center Lake, Center City  
\$5 Tickets sold on site

**HOCKEY GOLF** 12 pm - 3pm  
North Center Lake, Center City  
Hosted by SCRMC Lindstrom Clinic



### **SATURDAY JANUARY 31, 2015 (continued)**

**1:00 PM LIONS ICE FISHING CONTEST\*** 1-3pm  
North Center Lake, Center City  
Bring bait & fishing gear, pre-drilled holes  
Adults \$10/line, Kids \$5/line. Great Prizes!  
Hosted by Chisago Lakes Lions Club  
Contact Bob 651-442-1589

**1:00 PM GOLF TOURNAMENT\***  
North Center Lake, Center City  
Hosted by Center City Parks Committee  
4 man teams. 9 Holes \$50  
Limited to 9 teams. Contact Jill 651-257-1483

**3:00 PM AWARDS PRESENTATION**  
North Center Lake  
Medallion Hunt & Kids Coloring Contest

**4:30 PM SPAGHETTI DINNER** 4:30-7pm  
Chisago Lake Lutheran Church, Center City  
Hosted by Youth Group.  
Suggested donation \$5/person or \$20/family

**5:00 PM NAIFC FISHING TOURNAMENT Rules Meeting**  
Late Registration 5-6pm  
Mandatory Rules Meeting 7pm  
Registration and details at [www.NAIFC.com](http://www.NAIFC.com)  
Hosted by Frankie's Bait & Marine, Chisago City

**6:00 PM POLKA DANCE** 6:00-8pm  
Lindstrom Community Center  
Enjoy the 'Chmielewski Polka Band'  
Beer, Brats and Pretzels for sale  
Hosted by Lindstrom Park Commission  
Security Victor Agency & Deutschland Meats



### **SUNDAY February 1st**

**8:00 AM NAIFC FISHING TOURNAMENT Begins**  
Chisago Lake, Chisago City  
Launch from Shoquist Landing  
8am-1:00pm Hosted by NAIFC  
Details at [www.NAIFC.com](http://www.NAIFC.com)

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST** 8am-12:30pm  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Lindstrom  
Hosted by Trinity Youth Group

**2:00 PM NAIFC FISHING TOURNAMENT  
Weigh In & Awards**  
At Frankie's Bait & Marine, Chisago City

**BINGO** 2-5pm  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Lindstrom  
Hosted by Trinity Youth Group



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