

Monthly Newsletter

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com

March 2016

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

Upcoming Meetings & Events

March 3: **Board Meeting 9:00am**

Chamber Office & Information Center

30525 Linden Street, Lindstrom

March 10: Chamber Member Luncheon

Time: 11:30am

Topics: 'Habits of Highly Effective Communicators'

Speaker: ActionCoach

Caterer: Al's Saloon - featuring Al's Ruebens

Location: Chisago Lakes Library

11754 302nd Street, Chisago City

\$9/members at the door \$10/non-members at the door





Bright Ideas ... Saturday 10 AM - 4 PM

March

April

April

31

Bright Ideas for Home, Garden & Family! March 5-6. 2016

Be sure to come and enjoy the Home & Business Expo! More vendors, Anna & Elsa, Entertainment and a chance to visit with friends.

Exhibit space is still available. <u>Booth Registration Form</u> Non-Profit/ Volunteer Based

Volunteers needed for set-up, traffic control, take down, greeters and Chamber booth. Call the Chamber 651-257-1177.



What's Happening This Month

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March	4	St. Bridget's Fish Fry
March	5-6	Home & Garden Expo
March	5-6	Cabin Fever Days – WineHaven
March	7-12	Go Green/Save Green – Recycled Wardrobes
March	8	Family Law Clinic - Refuge Network
March	8	doTERRA Essential Oil Class
March	8-10	Easter Minis - Renee Lynn Photography
March	9-13	Picket Fence Gals
March	10	CHAMBER LUNCHEON
March	11	Treasure Island Opens – Festival Theatre
March	13	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March	14	Parent University - CL High School
March	18	Free Technology Training
March	18	Ham Bingo – Center City Fire Dpt
March	18	St. Bridget's Fish Fry
March	19	Garden Expo – UofM Extension
March	19	Easter Carnival – Methodist Church
March	19	Easter Egg Hunt – Chisago City
March	19	Family Spring Bingo - Chisago City
March	24	Movie His Neighbor Phil' - Parmly
March	26	Spirit of the Drum – Festival Theatre

Women's Health Conference

Women's Health Conference

26 East Central MN Job Fair

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:

John Renaker **Northwoods Roasterie**

Looks like winter is almost over – We haven't had much of a harsh winter, we canceled Celebration of the Lakes although some fun time was had at the polka dance. Ice houses are coming off the lake early and ice is a little sketchy going forward. The Home & Business Expo is March 5-6 and it should be nice out so we should have a great turnout. Come on out and see everyone and what the builders and business are doing new. There will be plenty of great entertainment too.

We could talk about the presidential race but let not, except to say get out to caucus on March 9th. Spring is coming and newness and renewal of the land and our energies and hope for the future is bright.

The team from the ABC group will be going out to Durham, North Carolina in April to present our plan to a panel of judges. Can't tell you how excited I am about how we are doing as a community. Keep them in your prayers as they prepare for and deliver our community projects. There has been a lot of work done and we are well on our way to keeping this community vibrant and friendly. Thanks to all who have participated and will continue to make and keep Chisago Lakes one of Americas Best Communities.

Working together with you to keep us one of Americas Best Communities.

John Renaker

Welcome New Members!

Webduck Designs

WebduckDesigns.com 651-674-3834

Franconia Sculpture Park

Franconia.org 651-257-6668

Rich-Wood Overhead Doors

RichWoodOverheadDoors@gmail.com 218-255-5287

Homespun Treasures II

facebook.com/homespun2013 651-307-2243

Clark Cupcakes

ClarkCupcakes.com 651-252-8286

Norwex – Deannah Muha

Deannahmuha.norwex.biz 651-274-9298

Bloom Lake Barn

BloomLakeBarn.com 651-703-1555

Simply Staging by Sheila

SimplyStagingbySheila.com 715-222-9200

Lindstrom Sweet Shoppe & Lindstrom Tea Co.

facebook.com/lindstromsweetshoppe 651-257-6199

Almelund Mercantile

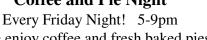
facebook.com 651-583-3696

NORTHWOODS ROASTERIE



12710 N. First Ave, Lindstrom

Coffee and Pie Night



Come enjoy coffee and fresh baked pies!

www.NorthwoodsRoasterie.com

651-257-5240

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 newsflash. 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

February 4th Board Meeting Highlights

Secretary's Report:

January minutes reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report reviewed and accepted.

Committee Reports:

• Celebration of the Lakes

A few events were held in the community. Polka dance had a better turn out than last year with 200+ people. Hotels were full and 5K was held in Center City along with Kid's fishing clinics.

Home & Garden Expo

Booth registration is up from last year. Anna and Elsa will be making an appearance. The Clubhouse Grill will be having drink and appetizer specials to promote networking among the vendors. Volunteers needed.

New Business:

• New Member Visits

Looking to start new member visits. Visit and welcome the new chamber business to learn what they do and get a photo for the paper.

Old Business:

• Chamber Open House

First evening event had a good turnout. Many liked being able to visit a business after hours. Planning is underway for next event.

• 2016 Budget

Will update next month, as there needs to be revisions made due to no Celebration of the Lakes.

• ABC Update

Next phase is a 10 minute presentation with 5 minutes Q/A to judges in North Carolina. Lots of great things coming from the ABC Competition...solar energy hub, bike trails received money to get repaved. Working on community website to promote the area and businesses.

Newsletter/Newsflash

Current system is Mail Chimp, there are some issues viewed from mobile devices. Looking to adjust format.

Executive Director's Report:

- **Membership:** In January we had 8 new members with 4-5 planning on joining in February.
- **Membership Invoices:** Sent out and dues are being received.
- Regional Speed Networking Event: February 18 with North Branch and Forest Lake Chamber.
- Overtime Hours: Will take a week over Spring Break.

• What is the Chamber

Looking to come up with a unified message as we share our mission statement in the community. What the Chamber does, why and how.



ANNUAL GARDEN EXPO!

Saturday, March 19 8am-3:30pm

Class sizes are limited and fill up fast. Pre-registration encouraged cost is \$10 for the entire day. Same day registration is \$15. Schedule for the Day:

\mathcal{C}	·			
8-9	am	Check-in		
Walk-in registration for remaining class spaces				
Garden Marketplace Opens				
9-1	0:10am	Session A		
10:	30-12:00am	Keynote		
		Speaker		
12	00am-12:50pm	Lunch break		
(Lunch can be pre-purchased for \$6)				
12:	50-2pm	Session B		
2:2	0-3:30	Session C		
More information at Chisago County Extension Office				
651-277-0151 <u>Brochure/Registration</u>				

LAYSB News!

244 N. Lake Street, Forest Lake www.YSBLakesArea.org 651-464-3685

'ON BEHALF OF YOUTH' & "JAMES TRUDEAU LAW ENFORCEMENT'

Do you know someone who is a great role model for youth? Someone who demonstrates a passion for the well-being of youth? Or do you know a youth who is making a difference in their community? Or do you know a law enforcement officer that has gone above and beyond his or her job duties to connect with and make a difference in the lives of youth?

'On Behalf of Youth Award' honors individuals who demonstrate a passion for the well being of youth. This award is given to one adult *and* one youth.

'James Trudeau Law Enforcement Award' honors a licensed police officer for service or activities related to youth. This award will be given to one adult.

Awards for both categories are given for service in 2015.

Nomination deadline is Monday, March 14, 2016.

On Behalf of Youth Award
James Trudeau Law Enforcement Award

February Membership Meeting



Chiko's Cocina Mexicana

Cory Lindgren

February Chamber luncheon was catered by **Chiko's** where entrées are made fresh and now have a new and expanded menu along with Taco Tuesday. Thank you **Northwoods Roasterie** for delicious coffee and thank you to **Recycled Wardrobes** and **Gavia Inc** for prize drawings.

Chamber announcements: Thank you to all who attended the Chamber Open House in January. We are welcoming new members from that event and plan on having more evening networking events. Remember to bring fliers, business cards to luncheons and Chamber office. Email information for newsflashes and newsletters. The Clean Energy Hub, the ABC Committee and other partners will be launching a community-wide Energy Efficiency effort for improvements like upgrades to LED lighting, heating and cooling systems and solar options. If interested in an assessment call Eutectics and ask for Ian or Jacob at 612-353-5760. Regional Speed Networking event will be February 18th with North Branch and Forest Lake Chambers. The Home & Business Expo is March 5-6, booths are still available. Looking for volunteers to help at the Chamber booth and with setup/tear down. Technology Training will continue through the Blandin Broadband Community. This is free. A Social Media Breakfast is scheduled for March 1st. Shop local for your Valentine and there is lots going on this weekend. The March luncheon will feature Action Coach speaking on 'Habits of Highly Effective Communicators.'

New Chamber board members were introduced: **Peterson** Companies, Rebecca-Webduck Designs, Marie-Homespun Treasures, Sheila-Simply Staging, Franconia Sculpture Park, Leilani Freeman, Grandpa Cheesecake, AmericanMade Remodeling, Rich-Wood Overhead Doors.

Member announcements: **Jeff Vitali** reported on both the **Lion's Cadillac Dinner** coming up on April 23 and gave an update on **Trio Wolf Creek High School**. The school now has 200+ enrollments and for the first time has a waiting list. **Laura Haseltine-Elevate Builders** announced that they were featured in Modern Magazine. They were recognized because of their extensive use of Social Media to promote their business. She also gave out free car wash coupons for **Victory Lane Quick Oil Change/Car Wash**.

Raechel-Family Pathways promoted the March Food Drive at both Lindstrom Foods the 18-19th and Brinks on 25th. Also coming up is the **Refuge Network Benefit** on May 19. Looking for sponsorships and prize donations.

Our guest speaker and fellow Chamber member, Cory Lindgren-Lindgren and Associates gave a presentation on *Tax Sense and Business Structure*. He explained differences in setting up a business and the pros and cons about each. He also went through tax credits and deductions. Cory has his office in Lindstrom.



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

Festival Theatre on the Road

With the city of St Croix Falls renovating the Civic Auditorium in 2016, Festival has moved to the Franklin Square Black Box, 125 North Washington St, St Croix Falls and other venues throughout the St. Croix Valley.

♦ 'Treasure Island' Opens March 11

When this rousing adventure story premiered Off-Broadway, it received unanimous critical acclaim; The New York Times called it an 'inventive classic.' Treasure Island is certainly one of the most durable adventure stories of all time, with the villainous Long John Silver following young Jim across the ocean to search out a buried fortune on Treasure Island. Tickets: \$13.50/adults, \$8.50/students Franklin Square Black Box, 125 North Washington St, St Croix Falls

♦ 'The Spirit of the Drum' March 26 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. \$10/person Franklin Square Black Box, 125 North Washington St, St Croix Falls



First United Methodist Church

30828 Irene Ave, Lindstrom 651.257.4306 www.LindstromMethodist.org



EASTER CARNIVAL

Saturday, March 19 10-11:30am



Children will enjoy Games, Arts & Crafts, Face Painting, Cake Walk, Prizes and Entertainment with *Magic Norm!* Bring your camera for great photo ops! Event is free to the public. A free will offering will be taken.





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

CABIN FEVER DAYS! SATURDAY, MARCH 5 - 10AM-5PM SUNDAY, MARCH 6 - 11AM-5PM

Got cabin fever? We have the cure! Come and taste some of our vintage selections that we will bring out of hibernation for this special event. This is the only event of the year where visitors can taste Winehaven's classics that have been aging in the cellar for years.



doTERRA Essential Oils

'ESSENTIAL OIL CLASS' Tuesday, March 8 6:30pm

If you have, or know someone who has seasonal allergies, don't miss this class. Discover how lemon, lavender and peppermint can help with your allergy symptoms! Essential oils can play an important role in your life and health today. For more information call Trudy at 651-491-0962.



BACHMAN'S PHOTOGRAPHY

13000 Sylvan Ave, Lindstrom 651-257-9380

www.BachmansPhotography.com

Guess the 'Official Ice Out Date'

Guess the correct "Official Ice Out" date for the Chisago Chain of Lakes and win a \$25.00 Gift Certificate. To enter your guess, call 651-257-9380, Facebook us or email rich@bachmansphotography.com by March 10. If more than one person guesses the correct date we will draw for the winner, if no one guesses the correct date the closest without going past will be the winner. Good Luck!



PICKET FENCE GALS SALE

MARCH 9-13 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 CITY ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

'Baseball Caps & Bonnets' Saturday, March 19th 2pm at Paradise Park

Decorate your Easter bonnets and baseball caps for Chisago City's 9th Annual Easter Egg Hunt! The hunt held rain, shine or even snow so dress appropriately. Each of three different age group areas will have its own 'golden egg' for a basket filled with goodies. A prize will be awarded for the best decorated Easter Bonnet and Baseball Cap so design your best at home and wear it on Saturday. There will also be games, face painting and the Easter Bunny will be present for a great photo opportunity! Please bring a



donation for the local food shelf. Also collecting items for 'Birthday Boxes'-cake mix, frosting, 24 cupcake liners, sprinkles, candles, birthday napkins, birthday plates and a \$5-\$10 small gift for a child.



RAISING LIFE-READY KIDS

Raising kids in ways that reduces shame, fosters maturity and helps them to become "life ready" adults is the subject of the book, GIST - The Essence of Raising Life-Ready Kids. Authors, Dr. Timothy Johanson and licensed psychologist Michael Anderson share this approach to parents who are looking for



fresh, healthy ideas to the parent/child dynamic. Free. Child-care will be provided. Books available to buy at Community Building or Taylors Falls Elementary for \$12. Pre-registration is recommended at 651-213-2600.



Family Spring Bingo!

Saturday, March 19 7pm Chisago City Community Center

First Game is free then one bingo $\operatorname{card}/25\psi$ or $3/50\psi$. \$1 Meat raffles, snacks and refreshments available from the scouts. Enjoy an evening with family and friends.

Sponsored by Chisago City American Legion Post 272

Featured Business - March 2016



STATE FARM INSURANCE

State Farm, Michael O'Malley has recently moved his office. They didn't move far, in fact, right next door. The vacant Many Voices building was remodeled to fit the needs for Michael O'Malley's fast growing insurance agency. The interior is beautifully done with ample space for expansion.

Michael's previous office has a strong history in the area.

Vernon Morrison 2/20/42 – 1/31/78 Clyde Van Oort 2/1/78 – 3/31/02 Michael O'Malley 7/1/02 - Present

Vernon Morrison opened the first State Farm agency in the area in 1942. Vernon worked out of his home in Scandia. Then sometime in the 1950's wanted to move his business into Lindstrom. Allen (Al) and Odell had a home right on Hwy 8 in downtown Lindstrom. Vernon asked Al if he could rent office space in the front portion of the home...they agreed. Allen Bune, now 93 years old, has rented to all three agents. Al is a great guy and long term Lindstrom resident.

Mike said it is difficult to move to the new location given the long history. With business growth, it was necessary to find a larger space and he is glad the location is right next door!

The Agency serves mainly the Chisago County area, but has clients throughout the state of Minnesota and now serves clients in WI. Although mostly known for Auto/Home/Life insurance, they also provide financial services to clients including investments and banking.

With more office space, they are in the process of hiring 2 more employees to the team.

Mike, wife Johanna and children Luke, Leo and Eve reside in Lindstrom and enjoy being a part of Chisago Lakes.

State Farm Insurance Michael O'Malley 12805 Lake Blvd, Lindstrom 651-257-4372



Open House



Thursday, March 3 5-7pm

Mike O'Malley and his office would like to formally invite the public to their open house. Food and beverages will be provided. Come see their new office.

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.

COMPUTER MAINTENANCE TIPS & TRICKS: Learn 10 simple tips to keep your computer in tip-top-shape! Presented by Daree Selby, Gavia Inc.

Friday, March 18

- 8-9am Rush City Public Library 240 W. Fourth St
- 12-1pm Chisago Lakes Library 11754 302 St

EAST CENTRAL MINNESOTA JOB FAIR

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, April 26, 2016 12:30pm – 4:30pm Armed Forces Reserve Center, Cambridge For registration information call Kim at 763-279-4472





FAMILY PATHWAYS FOOD SHELF

10586 Liberty Lane, PO Box 45 Chisago City 651-257-1308

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 9am-6pm

March is Minnesota Food Share Month. This statewide drive does a prorated match to the local food shelves based on the amount of food and dollars collected. The prorated match comes from large corporate and /or foundation gifts of food and money. This means your donations go even further to help families in need in our community!

Last year in March we collected over 15,000 pounds of food! Thank you to everyone who participated. Let's get together and try to beat last year!

Our numbers continue to increase each year. Last year we had over 2,400 family visits distributing over 257,000 pounds of food to those in the Chisago Lakes area.



innesota Please spread the word! If you hare need a food bin or monetary collection iar, please call 651-257-1308. Dates



Where Feeling Glamorous is just a few eyelashes away!

GLAMOR LASHES

Glamor Lashes is now offering any cancer patient going through chemo, Lashes FREE of charge! You All Deserve It! Call Cassy at 763-732-3044. Facebook.com/Glamorlashz

WILD MOUNTAIN / TF RECREATION

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



* Home School Days: March 3, 8, 10

* Friends & Family Fun Days: March 12, 13

* 1st Annual Wild Cup Race: March 12

* Night Moves: March 19

* Slush Fest: March 19

* Anticipated Last Snow Tubing Season: March 20

* Anticipated Last Day of the Season: March 26



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

THE REFUGE NETWORK

800-338-7233

www.TheRefugeNetwork.org



FAMILY LAW CLINIC

Tuesday, March 8 6-8pm

Custody • Paternity • Divorce • Parenting Time • Child Support

This event is free and open to the public. An attorney will present information on family law and there may be opportunity to meet individually, following presentation. Clinic will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch

CENTER CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

335 Burns Ave, Center City

65-257-3864



HAM BINGO

Friday, March 18 7pm

Play to win an Easter Ham! Bingo cards \$.50/each or 3/\$1. Snacks will be available for purchase.

Two FREE Programs

Thursday, March 31 & Thursday April 7 Hazelden CORK Center, Center City (Hwy 8 to 15245 Pleasant Valley Road, follow signs)

March 31st **Spring into Wellness** 5:30-7:00 pm Free Interactive Health Fair 7:00-8:00 pm 'Lose It with Lisa' - Lisa Rambo Former contestant on *The Biggest Loser*

April 7th **Eating Simple to Live Better** 5:30-6:30 pm Free Interactive Health Fair

6:30-7:30 pm Prevent or Reverse Chronic Disease

Panel Discussion

7:45-8:45 pm Healthy Cooking Demonstration

Manny Krug, of Chefs of Crocus Hill

Sponsored by: Chisago County Public Health



Fairview Lakes Medical Center

Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation

St. Croix Regional Medical Center

Polk County Public Health

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 13TH



SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR

St. Bridget of Sweden

All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry

Fridays during Lent March 4, 18 5-7pm

Enjoy delicious pub battered cod and baked fish!

French fries, coleslaw, dinner roll, beverage & dessert!

(Meatless spaghetti also available)

Adults/\$10, Seniors/\$8, Children/\$5,

Kids 5 & under/free

www.StBridgetofSweden.org

651-257-2474



HARMONY IN THE PARK WEDNESDAYS 7PM

Summer is just around the corner and the Lindstrom Park Commission is making plans for the fun-filled 2016 Harmony in the Park concert series! These FREE concerts run June 8 - August 10 at Lions Park. Festivities begin at 6:30pm with the food and community events with concerts following at 7pm.

This community harmony is very important to our small town and depends on local businesses for support. Please take a moment to consider your level of Sponsorship:

Corporate \$500.00 Business \$200.00 Supporting \$100.00 Family/Individual \$25.00

Sponsors will be acknowledged on banners, press releases, posters, flyers, concert schedule cards and with a verbal announcement at each concert.

Sponsorships can be dropped off at City Hall Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm or mailed to 13292 Sylvan Ave, Lindstrom ATTN: Rusty Johnson. Questions call Rusty at 651-257-8974 during evening hours.



PARMLY LIFEPOINTES

28210 Old Towne Road, Chisago City

Join us for an exclusive movie showing of 'His Neighbor Phil'. This Minnesota based film provides realistic caregiver insights through a wonderful love story of a family and community's journey with the challenges of Alzheimer's.

Light dinner and refreshments will be provided and an opportunity to have discussion and questions answered with a Dementia Specialist: Valerie Richards-Alzheimer's Educator and Family Coach. RSVP to Glenda Schmidt, glendaschmidt@ecumen.org 651-829-0084

Thursday, March 24 at 5:30pm

At Ecumen Parmly LifePointes - Chapel Entrance



20880 Olinda Trail, Scandia www.GammelGardenMuseum.org 651-433-5053

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

We have the opportunity to create a win/win situation with the addition of an intern position at Gammelgarden Museum. This two part internship is an incredible experience for college senior studying Tourism, History, Communications, event Management. Swedish speaking candidates would be advantageous to our museum because of the large number of Swedish Tours and visitors. This two part internship will provide the student a full range of Museum Site Management experience!

Part I takes place while our museum is closed and will consist of advance planning of the season. It is meant to be a 'for credit' final internship for a senior with much of the work happening off of the museum property. February/March to April 30, 2016.

Part II takes place during our open season and will consist of all aspects of Site Management. General requirement of about 30 hours/week spent at the museum during open hours. A stipend will be paid and desk space provided. May1-October 15, 2016.

Click here for full Internship information



30365 Neal Ave, Lindstrom 6419 Main Street, North Branch facebook.com/RecycledWardrobes

'GO GREEN - SAVE GREEN!' March 7-12

Recycled Wardrobes offers a fashionable selection of gently used clothing, home furnishings, toys, collectibles and more! Visit facebook.com/RecycledWardrobes for details on how to save during our Go Green & Save Green Sales Event.



Bright Ideas for Home, Garden & Family!

March 5-6, 2016 Come visit us at the Chamber Booth!



Chisago Lakes - ABC Competition Semifinalist

Chisago Lakes has made it into the top 15 in the ABC Competition! The next phase is a 10 minute presentation with 5 minutes question/answer time in front of a panel of judges. Tangi Schaapveld, Amy Frischmon and Bill Coleman will be presenting and representing Chisago Lakes on April 26-27 in Durham, North Carolina. At that time we will find out if we are chosen to move on in the competition as one of the top 8 America's Best Communities.

MN Chamber Update

Join us for Business DayS at the Capitol By Doug Loon

The start of the legislative session is around the corner, and the activity promises to be fast paced. It's more important than ever to make your voices heard.

Join your peers for two Business DayS at the Capitol this year – double the opportunity to advance your priorities face-to-face with legislators. We've streamlined the agenda to fit busy schedules and have narrowed the focus to two topics very important to the statewide business community.

Please mark your calendars: March 30 – transportation investment; April 20 – tax relief.

Our No. 1 priority overall is to reduce the statewide business property tax – the extra tax paid by businesses above and beyond what they send to local governments. Most onerous about this assessment is that it is a fixed cost and it is growing on auto pilot, increasing each year with an inflator index. All businesses pay this tax, whether they own or lease property, profitable or not. Reducing this tax will not affect what businesses pay to cities, schools and counties, and it will not shift any taxes to homeowners.

It's also time that Minnesota passes a 10-year plan that provides strategic and sustained investment in our roads, bridges and transit. The package must be comprehensive; needs must be addressed in metro and rural areas. We need a dependable transportation system that moves people and products efficiently and safely throughout the state. That

requires regular investment in maintenance and strategic improvements. 2016 is the year to invest.

Both Business DayS at the Capitol start with a luncheon and a moderated program to hear firsthand from key legislators on the status of these two priorities. Business leaders will then be bused to the Capitol for prearranged legislative appointments. The events will wind down with an informal reception to network and share information.

The projected state surplus is an excellent opportunity to invest in our economic and physical infrastructure. There is ample money to pass strategic business property tax relief and sustained transportation funding. Both investments are critical if we want to make Minnesota ready for the future.

Nothing makes a greater impact on legislators than hearing firsthand from their constituents. Register today for both Business Day(S) March 30 to push for transportation funding & April 20 to advance business property tax relief.

I look forward to seeing you. Together, we will make Minnesota ready for change and ready to grow.

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



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
The Voice of Business



NORTHWOODS ROASTERIE

An adventure in every cup!



12710 First Ave N Lindstrom, MN 651-257-5240

NorthwoodsRoasterie.com



800-257-7800

Center City | Chaska | Maple Grove | Plymouth | St. Paul



www.BillsAutoBodyMN.com

President

24408 Greenway Ave Forest Lake, MN 55025 Phone: (651) 464-6477 Fax: (651) 464-7241 bill@BillsAutoBodyMN.com



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www.plasticproductsco.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

Member SIPC



TOM KIEFFER AGENCY

Insurance & Financial Services Hwy. 8 – Chisago City 651-257-6600

tkieffer@farmersagent.com



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11151Lake Blvd • Chisago City 651-257-6561

www.CentralBnk.com



St. Croix Regional Medical Center

M-F 8 AM-5 PM

First Choice for Care

Celebrating 95 years of healthcare

651-400-2240



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