

## Monthly Newsletter

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com

May 2015

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

**Upcoming Meetings & Events** 

May 13: **Board Meeting 9:00am** 

Chamber Office & Information Center 30525 Linden Street, Lindstrom

May 14: Chamber Member Luncheon

Time: 11:30am

Speaker: Tom Stober, True North-Compass

Topic: 'Leverage What You Have for Greater Success'

Caterer: Brink's Market & Deli Location: Chisago Lakes Library

11754 302<sup>nd</sup> St, Chisago City

## Welcome New Member!

#### **IetPack Midwest**

12565 Lake Blvd, Lindstrom

www.JetpackMidwest.com.com 651538-0012

# Congratulations Chisago Lakes Area!



May

May

May

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May

16

19

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23-24

Entrepreneurship is alive and strong in rural America! We are thrilled and honored to be one of 50 Quarter-Finalists in the America's Best Communities Prize! A panel of economic development experts has selected us to receive \$50,000 from the ABC prize and an Adopt-A-Community mentor for a more vibrant future. Join us in celebrating the #ABC50 <a href="https://bit.ly/1bRFZX7">https://bit.ly/1bRFZX7</a>.

50 Communities Advance in America's Best Communities \$10 Million Prize Competition; Each Receives \$50,000 for Implementing Economic Revitalization Plans. The 50 quarterfinalist communities have six months to complete their comprehensive Community Revitalization Plans and compete for additional investment. In early 2016, 15 semifinalists will be selected to attend the America's Best Communities summit to present their strategies and eight finalists will be awarded another \$100,000 to continue implementation of their plans.



#### What's Happening This Month

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May	1-3	Gammelgarden Museum Open
May	2	Up North Fine Art 'Celebrate Spring'
May	3	Festival Theatre 'Woody Guthrie'
May	5	Cinco deMayo
May	6-10	Picket Fence Gals Sale
May	7	Edward Jones 'Coffee Club'
May	8-10	St. Croix Valley Pottery Tour
May	9	Festival Theatre 'Colleen Raye'
May	10	Happy Mother's Day
May	10	Scenic Boats 'Mother's Day Cruise'
May	11-21	Recycled Wardrobes 'BOGO Sale'
May	12 & 26	Forever Young Club
May	12	doTERRA 'Essential Oil Class'
May	13	MN Workforce Center 'HR Seminar'
May	13	LAYSB 'James Trudeau Award'
May	13-15	Parmly LifePointes 'Art Class'
May	13-15	Trinity Lutheran Church 'Garage Sale'
May	15	Fairview Lakes 'Spring Salad Luncheon
May	16	Allemansratt 'Silent Sit'

Spring Clean-Up Days

Elevate Builders 'Cookies & Canvas'

Allemansratt Wilderness Park Meeting

Festival Theatre 'The Spirit of the Drum'

WineHaven 'Tap the Barrel Weekend'

Trio Wolf Creek School 'Art Fair'

#### 2015 Board of Directors

#### Officers:

President: John Renaker, Northwoods Roasterie Treasurer: Cory Lindgren, Lindgren & Associates

Secretary: Erin Thorvaldson, Generations Real Estate Group

#### 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

Web: www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com



A Note from the Chamber Board:

**Erin Thorvaldson** 

#### **GET INVOLVED**

Celebration of the Lakes, Home Show, Golf Tournament, Triathlon, Gala and so many more. The opportunities to volunteer and participate are endless. We live in a community that is truly AMAZING and offers some spectacular and unique events. Two of the big things that make this community so amazing are; the events we have and the people that live here. Without the dedicated volunteers that put countless hours into these events we would have a pretty boring community. But that's not what we have; we have a thriving and growing community. One that is a place people come to visit, vacation and live.

We all have special talents and interests that we excel at. Think about ways you can take these talents and give back to the community that gives you so much each day. Be active and volunteer to be part of one or more of these events. The end result is so amazing, you get to see the residents that shop at our stores and use our services, smiling and enjoying themselves; which is truly priceless.

Many of you have multiple employees at your business; if you can't take part send your employees. They too will enjoy the satisfaction of seeing smiles on people's faces.

The opportunities are endless; use your amazing talents you have and be part of one of the wonderful events this community has!

## May Refreshment Host

#### SHIPP DENTAL CARE, LTD

11721 Stinson Ave, Chisago City 651-257-2921 www.ShippDental.com



#### CHISAGO GRANDSTAY HOTEL & SUITES

29579 Sportsman Drive, Chisago City www.facebook.com/chisagograndstay

As we enter the busy season for tourists, keep Chisago GrandStay in mind as an option to host your visiting guests. With the arrival of warmer weather, our occupancy level has soared. Weddings, events and tourism have us forecasted to be busy all summer long. Be sure to have your guests make their reservations as soon as possible. Watch for upcoming fun package deals! We are looking forward to another beautiful summer in the Chisago Lakes Area.

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

#### **UP NORTH FINE ART GALLERY**

13025 Lake Blvd, Lindstrom www.GustafsGalleries.com 651-257-1821

### Celebrating Spring!



## Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5-9pm

We invite you to the unveiling of our new Scandinavian Modern Gallery. New Painters, Potters & Woodworkers Served with friends, food and wine

#### **April 8<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Highlights**

#### Secretary's Report:

March minutes reviewed and accepted as written.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer's report reviewed and accepted.

#### **Committee Reports:**

#### • Home & Garden Expo

Tentative date of March 5-6 with back up date of February 19-20. Date depends on the school calendar which is not out yet.

#### • FutureWalk

We are at 350 listeners. There has been great success with reaching out to various groups and organizations.

#### • Golf Tournament

First meeting will be May 13 at 8am. Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to attend.

#### **New Business:**

#### Marketing Grant

A joint effort with Gammelgarden Museum. Tangi is working with Julie Erickson with the Swedish History Tour. We will target those that visit on the bus tours.

#### • Chamber Board Member

Katie Johnson has stepped down from the Chamber board.

#### **Old Business:**

• ABC Grant -America's Best Community Grant We should know by April 29 if we become one of the quarter semi-finalist in this competition.

#### **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. Deadline for inclusion is:

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



"If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at will change." ~Unknown~

#### RECYCLED WARDROBES

30365 Neal Ave, Lindstrom 651-257-8133 6419 Main, North Branch

651-674-7700



## **BOGO Sale!**

#### May 11-21

MAY we invite you to our Annual BOGO sale? Buy one and get one FREE on clothing & stuff! Visit us at www.facebook.com/RecycledWardrobes & Instigram.

#### 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

## LAYSB News!

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

#### JAMES TRUDEAU LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD CEREMONY

Wednesday, May 13 5pm

Cory Spencer, Lakes Area Police Officer, will receive his award at Lindstrom City Hall during the Police Commission Meeting. A reception will follow immediately after. The public is invited & encouraged to attend.

#### **ELEVATE BUILDERS**

31108 Algonquin Trail, Chisago City 651-245-4809 www.ElevateBuildersMN.com



## COOKIES & CANVAS EVENT

Tuesday, May 19 5:30-7:30pm

Kids 5-12 are invited to come enjoy a fun evening of painting at Elevate Builders Sales Center! Cookies & Milk will be provided. Space is limited so sign up soon to reserve your spot and canvas! Cost is only \$20. Register Here Sponsored by Elevate Builders and Victory Lane Quick Oil Change.

#### **April Luncheon Meeting**



Pat Eichten – 'Eichten's Solar Farm'

April's Chamber luncheon was held at Chisago Lakes Library. Thank you Meredee's Bistro for catering lunch and Northwoods Roasterie for fresh brewed coffee. Thank you Grand Casino Hinckley who donated prize drawings.

Chamber Announcements: The **FutureWalk** has continued to host listening sessions and has now listened to close to 350 residents. If you have not attended a listening session we encourage you to join one soon. The Chamber has available the 2015 calendar of event bookmark brochure and the **St. Croix Valley Tourism Alliance Yearly Travel Guide** that is distributed statewide in MN and WI visitor centers. The magazine shares listings for area events, travel ideas and a little about each community. There will be a human resources seminar for businesses, held in North Branch at Lake Region EMS on May 13 from 8:30-noon.

Member Announcements: Gary Gerke promoted the upcoming Cadillac Dinner on April 25 and tickets are still available. Rick Olseen talked about the 95 coalitionthere is a meeting tonight. Darlene Shafer announced the Dine & Dash event at Parmly LifePointes. Elevate Builders-Laura Haseltine shared that they have added a remodeling service to their business. Loretta Anderson said they had a great turnout for their Women's Expo at Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation. She also told of an upcoming Job Fair at Trio Wolf Creek School May 14. Eileen Carlson announced Eichten's upcoming Cheese & Wine Reception on April 25 and their soon to open west side patio. Susan Taylor of Family Pathways told of their upcoming Health & Wellness Expo for Seniors. Jackie Briggs-All Is Wellness has an event coming up April 14 & 16 which will present complete wellness. Pete Lawrence-Landscape Direction passed Silent Sit Fundraiser information the Allemansratt Wilderness Park on May 16. Nancy Hoffman-Chisago County HRA/EDA advised of the Job Fair on April 21 which includes 50 vendors. **Bill Mack-Mack Landscaping** revealed the first Paddle of the Riverways. This will happen on Memorial Day and will include paddling and portaging.

Guest speaker was Ed Eichten who gave a very informative presentation on Eichten's Solar Farm. They retired 4 acres of farmland for Chisago County's first Solar Garden. This allows residents to share in the benefit of solar energy. This option is ideal for home or business owners who want to go solar but lack the ideal site conditions to do so. The environmental impact will be significant. The 1-megawatt system is expected to produce 1.25 gigawatt-hours of clean, renewable energy. Panels have a 20-25 year lifespan and care is easy. Hand outs were given along with an invitation to stop by to information For more visit visit. www.EichtensSolar.com



### doTERRA Essential Oils

'ESSENTIAL OIL CLASS' Tuesday, May 12 6:30pm

A class to learn about doTERRA Essential Oils! The purpose of this class is to empower each of you to take care of your family's healthcare in ways you never thought possible. For more information call Trudy at 651-491-0962. Class is free! Class is held at the Chamber office 30525 Linden St, Lindstrom.



Chikos Cocina Mexicana 11506 Brink Ave, Chisago City 651-213-3144 www.ChikosScandia.com

Come celebrate Cinco De Mayo at Chikos! We will have Short Tap beers 2/\$3, Margaritas for \$3.20-blended or on the rocks along with food specials! Check out our facebook page for a list of all our upcoming specials.

#### NATURE RICH/FUEL DIRECT

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



#### Nature Rich/Fuel Direct Informational Briefing

Every Monday in May 7-8pm

World class health products and fuel additive. Come hear about our products and their benefits. Held at the Chamber office 30525 Linden Street, Lindstrom.

#### Featured Business - May 2015



#### JETPACK MIDWEST

12565 Lake Blvd, Lindstrom 651-538-0012 www.JetPackMidwest.com

Jetpack Midwest is new to Lindstrom and the Chisago Lakes Chamber. You may have noticed our new Jetpack sign at Meredees on Hwy 8 where we will be operating on South Lindstrom Lake. Jetpack Midwest will be offering the experience of flying a water propelled jetpack. We encourage people of all age, size, and ability to come try a flight as most people catch on in the first 5 minutes. Flying the jetpack is easy, fun, safe and very low impact. A flight package consists of a short training video then some 1 on 1 training with your instructor. After that we bring you out on our pontoon to go for your flight. During your instructor will vour be in constant flight communication with you through our walkie-talkie helmets. We also offer professionally edited video packages to share your experience with friends and family.

Not interested in trying a flight? Please feel free to come introduce yourself and watch some of the action. Our goal at Jetpack Midwest is to bring groups of customers to Lindstrom from other areas, so please help spread the word as it will generate new business for all local businesses! Come fly with us!

MARK WACHTER info@jetpackmidwest.com 651-538-0012





#### PICKET FENCE GALS SALE

MAY 6-10

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

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

www.PicketFenceGals.net

651-334-1444

#### TRIO WOLF CREEK SCHOOL

10363 Liberty Lane, Chisago City www.wolfcreek.chisagolakes.k12.mn.us/ 651-213-2095



#### STUDENT ART FAIR - MAY 21 3-6PM

Visitors will get a chance to tour the Wolf Creek campus and also vote for their favorite art piece of the night. Refreshments will be served and professional artist pieces will also be on display.

#### **Parmly LifePointes**

10720 282<sup>nd</sup> St, Chisago City www.Parmly.org 651-257-0575



#### PROFESSIONAL ART CLASSES

May 13-15 9am-1:30pm

Ecumen Parmly LifePointes was recently awarded a Minnesota State Arts Grant enabling us to offer free classes to our residents, clients, tenants, wellness centre members and the community.

Artist Teresa Cox will be teaching a Mural Class where we will create a large 8x4 foot mural using the theme of '110 years of Parmly'. No art experience is needed, just a willingness to create and have fun and be a part of this historic project. Class will be held at *Vitalize!* Wellness Centre. Please bring a sack lunch. RSVP to Mara Krinke at 651-257-7956 or marakrinke@ecumen.org.



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

Opening Weekend! Friday-Sunday, May 1-3

2015 Exhibit Focus: 'Swedish Hand Work - Needle, Hook & Shuttle'

#### Scandia Butik Opens - Friday, May 1

Monday- Saturday 10:00 am- 4:00 pm Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 pm

#### **Historic Buildings Guided Tours:**

Friday, Saturday & Sunday 1pm & 2:30pm Beginning May 2

\$7/adult; Elementary age children and younger/Free



10020 Deer Garden Lane, Chisago City www.WineHaven.com 651-257-1017\_

#### Tap the Barrel Weekend!

Saturday, May 23rd 10am-5:00pm Sunday, May 24th 11am- 5:00pm

To mark the beginning of another growing season, and to remember the fruits of last year's labor, join us for a winemaker's barrel tasting weekend. Don't miss the unique opportunity to taste wine directly from the cask!

At 12:00 and 2:00 pm both days, winemakers Kevin and Kyle Peterson will lead a springtime tour of the vineyard. Stroll the vineyard and watch the new grape clusters emerge as we anticipate the 2015 harvest!



To register for a session Call 651-257-1177 or www.FutureWalkChisago.com

The Future Walk, an initiative of the Chisago Lakes Chamber and the Chisago Lakes Area Community Foundation. The Initiative's goal is to create the Chisago Lakes Area Future together, by listening to 1,000 residents of our communities, gathering stories, to build on our strengths and assets and plan for the next generation.



#### **SCENIC BOAT TOURS**

**Taylors Falls** 

651-465-6365 www.WildMountain.com

#### **DAILY EXCURSIONS** May 2-October 11

Daily excursions are either 30 or 80 minutes and include a narrated scenic tour of the St. Croix River on one of our authentic paddlewheel river boats. Your boat pilot and tour guide will point out unique rock formations that were left behind as the glaciers retreated thousands of years ago.

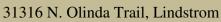
#### MOTHER'S DAY CRUISES Sunday, May 10



Special Mother's Day Cruises will include a narrated scenic tour through The Dalles of the St Croix, cash bar and live entertainment.

Mother's Day Brunch - 11am or 2pm: freshly carved ham & roasted turkey, cheesy scrambled eggs, hash brown potatoes, pasta salad, fresh fruit, muffins, juice and coffee. Mother's Day Dinner Cruise - 5pm: prime rib & baked potato or chicken breast served on wild rice. Both entrees include breads, Caesar salad, vegetable & dessert. Reservations required. Reservations here or 651-465-6315

#### ALLEMANSRATT WILDERNESS PARK



#### 'SILENT SIT CHALLENGE' SATURDAY, MAY 16 8AM-NOON

Sit in silence and experience the natural wonders of Allemansrätt Wilderness Park to raise money for the park. Silent Sit 8-11am, Picnic Lunch 11-12 Door Prizes 11:30. Participants earn one ticket for each hour of silent sit plus every additional \$10 in sponsorship over \$30. Must be present to win. Pre-register by May 1 for \$25 to Lindstrom City Hall 13292 Sylvan Ave, Lindstrom or friendsofallemansratt@gmail.com.

Friends of Allemansrätt Wilderness Park Meeting, Tuesday, May 19 at 7pm Chamber Office 30525 Linden St, Lindstrom Questions call Rich at 651-257-9380.



Chisago Lakes 7<sup>th</sup> graders are creating projects in a campaign against tobacco, drugs, alcohol and distracted driving. We are looking for donation of prizes. If you can contribute, please phone Judy at 651-257-5454.



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

- ♦ 'Woody Guthrie Reflected' Sunday, May 3 2pm
  An evening of warm reminiscences, humor, and authentic vocal harmonies, accompanied by performances on harmonica, fiddle, and guitars. \$21/advance, \$26/door
- ♦ 'Colleen Raye-Patsy Cline Tribute'
  Saturday, May 9 7:30pm
  With the help of a 4-piece country music band, Colleen sings song after song recorded by Patsy Cline while interspersing tidbits about Patsy's life and music. \$21/advance, \$26/door
- ♦ 'Don Karsky-The Spirit of the Drum' Saturday, May 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. \$10/person

# Forever Young

### **Chisago Lakes Community Ed Family Center**

13289 St. Croix Ave, Lindstrom

Tuesdays, May 12 & 26 1-2:30pm

Meet new people, attend community events, learn new skills and have fun! Group meets every other Tuesday. Ouestions call 651-213-2600.

## Run Wild for 4-H





#### SATURDAY, JUNE 6

9am/Kids Race & 9:15am 5K 8am Check-in

Join friends, families and runners across the region in this 5K run at the beautiful Wild River State Park to promote healthy living and raise funds for Chisago County 4-H. This event will feature a beautiful 5K (3.1 miles) and Kids Race for family members and friends to get out and enjoy some of the best trails around.

5K Run (13 & up)	\$35
Kids Fun Run (12 & under)	\$25
Family Deal (immediate household)	\$100

Registrations received before May 15 save \$5/person. Registrations received after May 15 may not be eligible for a t-shirt. Chisago County 4-H has sponsorship and prize donation opportunities. For more info contact Jeremy Freeman at 651-277-0150 or jeremyf@umn.edu.

Registration Form Sponsorship Form

#### CHISAGO LAKES ROTARY CLUB 18-Hole Golf Scramble Tuesday, June 9 10:30am



#### **Schedule of Events**

10:30am - Team Registration and Range Open

- Lunch Buffet 11am NOON - Shotgun Start

4:30-6pm - Appetizers, Drawing, Prizes Awarded

Registration \$500/team, location is Chisago Lakes Golf Course. Proceeds benefit 'The Baby Blanket' program and other community projects in the Chisago Lakes Area. Sponsorships are available. For more information or to register call Frank Johnson 715-483-0355 or Jason Gamble 651-257-7504. Golf Brochure Sponsorship

www.ChisagoLakesRotary.org

## **FAIRVIEW**

#### FAIRVIEW LAKES MEDICAL CENTER

5200 Fairview Blvd, Wyoming 800-571-7344 www.fairview.org/lakes

#### 'SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON & BOUTIOUE' Friday, May 15 11am-1pm

Fairview Lakes Auxiliary hosting their annual Spring Salad Luncheon and Boutique. Tickets are \$8 and available at Fairview Clinic, Fairview Lakes Medical Center Gift Shop and at the door. Boutique opens at 10:30. Held at St. Bridgets Catholic Church, Lindstrom.



#### MINNESOTA WORKFORCE CENTER **SEMINAR FOR BUSINESSES** 'Human Resources in 2015'

Wednesday, May 13 Date:

Time: 8:30am-12pm Registration: 8-8:30am

Free Registration Required Cost:

Lakes Region EMS Location:

39840 Grand Ave, North Branch

This seminar is geared toward employers, big and small, on HR related topics including demographic and employment trends, required paperwork, process for background checks, creative ways to find and retain employees and more. **Registration Form** 

#### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

13025 Newell Avenue, Lindstrom 651-257-5129 www.TLCLindstrom.org

#### **GARAGE SALE**

Wednesday-Friday, May 13-15

Wed, Noon-7pm Thurs, 8am-5pm Fri, 8am-4pm Something for everyone. Find that great bargain in the clothing, housewares, books, kids or tool department. Proceeds benefit Trinity's parking lot maintenance, new paraments and outreach initiatives.



Friday-Saturday, May 8th – 9th 10am-6pm Sunday, May 10th 10am-5pm Visit all Seven Studios!



#### **EDWARD JONES, GREG PAINE**

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



#### 'Coffee Club'

Thursday, May 7 9:30am

Discussing current events, the economy and investing in an informal setting. Greg Paine with Guest Speaker, Elliott Maybach-Regional Vice President of Natixis. 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.

## Compost Site



The community compost site, located by the Chisago Lakes Joint Wastewater Treatment Site off of County Road 24 is open through Saturday, November 21, weather permitting.

- ★ Wednesdays 2-7pm
- ★ Saturdays 9am-4pm (until dusk in fall)
- ★ Residents within city limits of Chisago City, Lindstrom , Wyoming and Stacy
- ★ Leaves, grass clippings and brush (up to 3" diameter)
- ★ Must show identification showing your street address and name
- ★ No commercial lawn service, tree services, landscaping services or commercial business
- ★ Closed during inclement weather

## SciTechsperience

#### 58 Grants Remaining for 2015

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 percent of the intern's wages up to \$2,500. Click here for more information and to apply. For more details contact Program Director Becky Siekmeier at 952-230-4241 or beckys@mhta.org

#### SPRING CLEAN-UP/RECYCLED DAYS 2015

Proof of residency required and most Items require a payment at drop off

<u>Chisago City/Lindstrom</u> – Saturday, May 16, 8-11am Liberty Lane in Chisago City's Industrial Park. No hazardous waste accepted. Chisago Lakes Rotary, working with BRIDGING will be on hand to accept household items in good condition. Limited curb-side pick-up by appointment, call 651-402-5429. Recycled Wardrobes will also be on hand to recycle things like clothing, shoes, belts, purses, bedding.

<u>Shafer</u> – Saturday, May 16, 9am-Noon City Hall Parking Lot at 17656 303rd Street. Accepting appliances, tires, electronics, mattresses, fluorescent bulbs and car batteries. No hazardous waste accepted.

## Karl Oskar Days Button Winners

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Karl Oskar Day button contest. There are amazing artists in our community that have truly captured the Swedish Heritage of Lindstrom and surrounding areas. Congratulations to this year's winners: Ava Deprez, Erin Sandell and Barb Ellingson. Buttons go on sale starting May 22.

#### CHISAGO LAKES GOLF COURSE

12975 292<sup>nd</sup> Street, Lindstrom www.ChisagoLakesGolf.com 651-257-1484

## Loyalty Rwards Program

Have you joined the new Chisago Lakes Golf Course Loyalty Rewards Program, powered by Boomerang, yet?

Join today, and we'll award you 20% in Boomerangs on your next purchase, which you can use on future purchases. Plus you'll earn even more rewards every time you shop in the future.

The Chisago Lakes Golf Course Loyalty Rewards Program is so much more than just another punch card loyalty program. With the Boomerang mobile app — available for both Apple and Android devices — it's quick and easy to earn and redeem rewards. Check out the video to see Boomerang in action!

Join today to get your voucher for a 20% reward on your next purchase with Chisago Lakes Golf Course.

#### LANDSCAPE ALTERNATIVES

25316 St. Croix Trail (Hwy 95), Shafer 651-257-4460 www.landscapealternatives.com Monday-Saturday 9-6 & Sunday 12-6

Landscape Alternatives' St. Croix Native Plant Nursery is now open for the 2015 season. Find us on Facebook. Retail and Wholesale. Public is welcome. Happy gardening!

#### **MN** Chamber Update

A Practical Approach to Strategic, Sustained Transportation Funding

Minnesota businesses have a keen interest in the transportation investment debate at the Capitol. We depend on a solid system of roads, bridges and transit to move people and goods safely and efficiently.

Three transportation proposals are before lawmakers. Gov. Mark Dayton and the Senate DFL have proposed spending roughly \$11 billion over 10 years, relying heavily on new and higher taxes and fees. The House GOP has recommended \$7 billion; its proposal does not raise taxes and recommends using some permanent funding from the general fund. All three proposals call for a portion of additional dollars to be achieved through increased efficiencies in the Department of Transportation.

The Minnesota Chamber and our local chamber partners appreciate the House GOP's efforts to identify sustained and strategic transportation funding without raising taxes. Our state already ranks in the top 10 for taxes in multiple categories for individuals and employers. The projected state surplus of nearly \$2 billion makes another tax increase unnecessary.

The current debate presents a perfect opportunity to broaden the source of funding. That's essential if Minnesota is to keep pace with transportation needs. Constitutionally dedicated revenues will remain the backbone of funding, but the buying power of the gas tax is diminishing as cars become more efficient. It's logical to ask: If it's appropriate to use the general fund for other essential government services such as health care, then why not consider transportation, too? Most Minnesotans see transportation infrastructure every bit as basic as education, public safety and health care. The idea may be new to Minnesota, but 33 other states use the general fund to supplement financing for state roads and bridges. At present, Minnesota's general fund does not contribute one dollar to our state roads and bridges. Virginia, with a budget the size of Minnesota's, supplements its transportation funding with \$315 million annually from the general fund. The impact would be minimal both in terms of the projected \$2 billion budget surplus and against the backdrop of a \$41 billion general fund – yet meaningful for our roads and bridges.

For those who worry about subjecting transportation funding to economic downturns, remember that dedicated receipts are not immune from the economy – or from policy-makers, for that matter. Witness 1999 when Gov. Jesse Ventura recommended and the Legislature lowered vehicle registration fees. The detractors instead are pushing for a new "gross receipts" tax on fuel, which would start with a 16-cent pergallon increase and increase as the price of fuel rises. Let's not forget that whatever money the Legislature allocates this year is on top of the approximately \$2.5 billion per year that's already dedicated to transportation through the fuel tax, motor vehicle sales tax and tab fees.

We must invest in a way that does not make our cost of doing business any less competitive than it is today. Minnesota last increased its gas tax in July 2012. We also raised significant sales, income and corporate taxes to the tune of \$2.1 billion less than two years ago. Our goal is a transportation system that facilitates a changing and growing economy. Minnesota needs an investment and funding strategy that's up to this task and forward-looking.

Bill Blazar is interim president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. For more information visit www.mnChamber.com.



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce The Voice of Business



#### TOM KIEFFER AGENCY

Insurance & Financial Services Hwy. 8 - Chisago City 651-257-6600 tkieffer@farmersagent.com

#### LINDGREN & ASSOCIATES

"Guiding You in the Right Direction"



Income Tax
Accounting
Payroll Services

651-257-2152 www.lindgrenandassociates.com



Lic. #BC630338 Jason Hempel President

Roofing Additions Remodels Garage Builds Windows Doors Decks Siding Concrete

**651-329-4562** www.jhempelservices.com

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