

# Monthly Newsletter

www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com

January 2017

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

**Upcoming Meetings & Events** 

January 5: **Board Meeting 9:00am** 

Chamber Office & Information Center

30525 Linden Street, Lindstrom

January 12: Chamber Member Luncheon

Time: 11:30am

Speaker: Gail Marek, Organized for Success

Topic: 'Organize Your Office'
Location: Chisago Lakes Library

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

2017 Luncheon Prices:

\$10/Chamber Members, \$15Non-Members



# Thank You to our 2017 Chamber Supporters!

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For more info on becoming a Chamber Supporter please call the Chamber at 651-257-1177.

# Welcome New Member!

Vitalize! Wellness Centre

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

www.EcumenParmlyLifePointes.org 651-257-7957



### What's Happening This Month

January 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 5 Chamber Board Meeting

January 9 Home & Business Expo Early Bird Deadline

January 10 doTERRA Essential Oil Class

January 11-15 Picket Fence Gals Sale

January 12 Regional Housing Planning Session

January 12 Chamber Luncheon

January 13 The Fur Trade – Chisago Co. Historical Society

January 20 February Newsletter Info Deadline

January 20 Old Time Movies-Chisago Co. Historical Society

January 27 Celebration of the Arts Opening

January 27 Puzzles, Pie & Potato Soup - FUMC

January 28 Polka Dance

January 27-29 Celebration of the Lakes

#### **AMERICA'S BEST COMMUNITIES UPDATE**



FINALIST

A wealth of community activities enhances quality of life. As the New Year begins, so do annual New Year's resolutions. For many of us that means resolving to live healthier. The ABC Quality of Life team reminds us that an

essential ingredient to living a longer, healthier life is making social connections. So, when you're tempted to hibernate this winter, remember that connecting with friends who support healthy behaviors is a recipe for living a longer, more satisfying life.

For example, research has shown that belonging to a faith-based community can add four to fourteen years to your life and what a great way to connect with people! The list of activities happening at our local churches is extensive. To see it, go the ChisagoLakes.com, click on resources, scroll down to community connections and then scroll to the section on churches.

#### **2017 Board of Directors**

#### Officers:

President: Josh Soderlund, Soderlund's Wood Mill Past President: John Renaker, Northwoods Roasterie Treasurer: Cory Lindgren, Lindgren & Associates

Secretary: Laura Haseltine

Elevate Builders/Victory Lane Quick Oil Change

#### Directors:

Matt Silver, Chisago County Press

Erin Thorvaldson, Generations Real Estate Group

Greg Paine, Edward Jones

Marlys Dunne, MultiSource Manufacturing

Susan Clayton, Alan Honn Glass & Al's Center Saloon

Missy Glenna, City of Shafer & Franconia Township

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:

Susan Clayton Al's Center Saloon Alan Honn Glass

Happy 2017, Chisago Lakes! We've got a lot of work to do this year, along with lots to celebrate.

<u>JANUARY 27-28-29</u>, please join the Chamber and local businesses for *Celebration of the Lakes* and, new this year, *Celebration of the Arts*. Find the arts schedule below, and more information to come via the Chamber.

Interested? Everyone is invited to

- HELP PREP for art events
- ASSIST at art events
- ATTEND one or all events

Contact: Susan Clayton at <a href="mailto:shclayton@mac.com">shclayton@mac.com</a> OR Kathy George at <a href="mailto:kgeorge@cityoflindstrom.us">kgeorge@cityoflindstrom.us</a>

#### **OPENING SOIREE**

FRIDAY, January 27; 6-8

Gustaf's Up North Galleries, Lindstrom

#### **ARTISTS WORK HERE:**

Selections from Chisago Studios

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, January 27-29 Gustaf Anderson House, Lindstrom

Sculptors, painters and a host of fine artisans live and work in the Chisago Lakes community. This exhibition showcases the ways local artists use history and diverse points of view in their practice.

#### ART WARM UP

SATURDAY, January 28; 10-4

Ojiketa Park, Chisago City

Inside Strom Hall, this local arts expo will feature demos and collaborations from Chisago Lakes artists. Outside, find Celebration of the Lakes winter fun activities in the park.

#### REPURPOSED ART MAKE & TAKE

SUNDAY, January 29, 2017, noon-4

Taylors Falls Community Center (The Depot)

Local artists will guide visitors through a variety of activities inspired by repurposed materials. ALL AGES and abilities are welcome to come and create.

#### CELEBRATION OF THE LAKES KIDS COLORING CONTEST

DESIGN A SWEDISH BARN QUILT TRAIL SQUARE Create and color your great idea on the official entry sheet. Winning entries will be painted as an official square for community display.

MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS at Northwoods Roasterie, Franconia Sculpture Park, Cottage Gifts, WineHaven and Al's Center Saloon. CELEBRATE CHISAGO LAKES! and all we have to offer

#### **CELEBRATION OF THE LAKES**

January 28-29, 2017

The Celebration of the Lakes is a signature event for the Chamber. Many organizations, such as the Lions Club, local park boards, and area Churches/youth groups benefit and add to the selection of activities. Enjoy the radar run, Kids Pro Ice and the Lions ice fishing tournament to name a few. Some new events include snowshoeing, skiing and fat tire biking along with great Celebration of the Arts activities. Schedule of Events!

Frankie's will be hosting the NAIFC Fishing Tournament. See Celebration of the Lakes schedule in this issue and visit the chamber calendar at ChisagoLakesChamber.com for updates as they come forward.

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#### **December 1st Board Meeting Highlights**

#### Secretary's Report:

November minutes reviewed and accepted.

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

Treasurer's report reviewed and accepted.

#### **Committee Reports:**

#### • Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala

December 8 at Winehaven Winery. Eichten's will be serving a buffet dinner. Games include a 50/50 raffle, guy & gal mega raffle baskets and additional raffle items. Plaques are being made for business awards.

#### • Celebration of the Lakes

January 27-29. 2016 NAIFC invoice was discussed and resolved. Generous sponsorships are coming in. Events continue to be confirmed and created.

#### • Home & Garden Expo

March 4-5. 25 businesses are pre-registered, up from 21 this time last year.

#### • Chamber Membership Open House

Thank you to the Lindstrom Office Center for hosting the event.

#### **New Business:**

#### • 2017 Board Member

One board seat is open for 2017. Qualified candidates are being contacted.

#### • Executive Director's Payroll Change

Executive Director's hours will be changed from salary to hourly due to Federal guidelines with an increase to 30 hours/week.

# • Chamber Membership in Community Organizations

Chamber discussed joining community organizations. Decision was that the Chamber is unable to join area organizations, but will continue to support and promote them, encouraging local residents/businesses to join and support these organizations as well.

#### **Old Business:**

#### • Chamber Banking

Brief discussion. Tabled for further discussion.

#### **Executive Director's Report:**

Among chamber activities reported to the board were:

- Chisago County EDA Summit which highlighted solar energy in Chisago County.
- ABC meeting discussing how to continue the great work in the community after the competition is finished.
- Created content for the SCVRTA Tourism book highlighting Chisago Lakes and the St. Croix Valley.
- Tekne Award Banquet with ABC team as a finalist in Community Collaboration category.
- Hosted Chamber Open House.
- Meetings for ACT Team, Lodging Tax and Blandin Broadband Community, COL and Home Show
- 2017 Chamber membership dues are being renewed with some Chamber Supporters on board.



30525 Linden Street • PO Box 283 Lindstrom, MN 55045 ChisagoLakesChamber.com 651-257-1177

Make the most of your Chamber membership. The Chamber is here to help your business grow.

#### Did you know.....

- the Chamber can promote your business to our visitors and residents by sharing cards, brochures and information displayed at the chamber office. Stop by with current items for us to share.
- the Chamber can help get your information out to the community through our newsletter and newsflashes? Email the chamber at clace@frontiernet.net. Deadline for inclusion is:

 $\frac{Newsflash}{Newsletter} - Week \ Prior \ of \ Event/Special$   $\frac{Newsletter}{Newsletter} - 20^{th} \ of \ the \ Month \ Prior$ 

# Happy New Year! Wishing you a Prosperous 2017!



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#### December Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala



We want to thank everyone who joined us to celebrate at WineHaven Winery for the Chisago Lakes Chamber Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala.

A Special Thank You to Lindgren & Associates, WineHaven Winery and Northwoods Roasterie for providing beverages and to Eichten's Market & Café for catering. Special thanks to: Soderlund's Wood Mill for donating a Hand Carved Swing and WineHaven Winery for sharing their beautiful location.

Thank You to all of our local businesses who donated items for the evening: Alan Honn Glass Showroom, Al's Center Saloon, Applewood Nursery, Arby's, Captain Shawn's Charters, Chisago County Press, Chisago GrandStay Hotel & Suites, Chisago Lakes Community Education, Chisago Lakes Rotary, Chisago Lakes Schools, Clark Cupcakes, Dairy Deutschland Meats. Eichten's. Oueen. Elevate Builders. Gammelgarden Museum. GoldStar Printworks, Grandpa Cheesecake, Grand Casino Gustaf's Galleries, Happy Grooming, Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, Holiday Station, Lake State Carpet Cleaning, Lindstrom Liquor Store, Lindstrom Thrifty White, Meredee's Bistro, Mickelson Landscaping, Mueller Jewelers, Nabpco, Northwoods Roasterie, Panola Valley Gardens, Picket Fence Gals, Pizza Pub, Recycled Wardrobes, St. Croix Casinos, Security State Bank, Shaleen Team/Edina Soderlund's Wood Mill, Sven Clogs, Taylors Falls

# Scenic Boat Tours, Victory Lane Oil Change, Wendy Redland, and Wild Mountain.

Each year we honor area businesses for outstanding service and commitment to Chisago Lakes. We honor four area businesses for their commitment to excellence. This year's winners are:

- · Best in Marketing: Wild Mountain
- · Best in Customer Service: Picket Fence Gals
- · Vision Award: Franconia Sculpture Park
- · Renovation of the Year: Bloom Lake Barn

#### Our 2017 Community Ambassador is Tangi Schaapveld

Tangi has given unselfishly of herself for our community. She has a love for Chisago Lakes and knowing how great this area is, she has a vision of just how we can become even better! She is a true leader and our community is very lucky to have her. Congratulations Tangi!



Gals Mega Basket Winner Connie Wokutch

Guys Mega Basket Winner Eric Haseltine



# Puzzles, Pie & Potato Soup! Friday, January 27 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. Register by January 15 to 651-257-4306.

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

30828 Irene Ave, Lindstrom

www.LindstromMethodist.org

651-257-4306

### Need directions to your financial destination?



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Edward Jones



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Bright Ideas ... Saturday 10 AM - 4 PM Sunday 11 AM - 3 PM

The 2017 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 2017 Chamber membership.

The time to register is now! Early bird rates will change after January 9, 2017. To register, call Chisago Lakes Community Education at 651-213-2603. Registration forms are available at www.ChisagoLakesChamber.com.

**Booth Registration Form** 

THE BIG Q RADIO Russ Hanes 763-486-3079 BigQRadio.com



Big Q Radio 95.9FM is looking for businesses to participate in our 'Guest DJ Wednesday' during our 12-1pm All-Request Lunch. Want free publicity for your business? Of course you do! You'll spend an hour in the Big Q studio working with DJ Kirby who will play music and ask you questions about your business and any news/info you have to share. Just email Russ Hanes at russ@biggradio.com and he'll get you in the schedule.

Do you have a restaurant, service or recreational activity business? Did you know that you can trade gift certificates/goods for advertising on Big Q Radio 95.9FM? It sounds simple because it is. Simply trade us gift certificates for food, service or activities and we give you an equal amount of advertising in trade. If you're interested in learning more contact Russ at russ@biggradio.com.

#### 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





### doTERRA Essential Oils

#### 'JUST RELAX!' Tuesday, January 10 6:30pm

Holidays are over and it is time to de-stress. doTERRA Essential Oils can help promote relaxation. Come and receive a free hand massage! For more information call Trudy Lodien at 651-491-0962. This class is free and is held at the Chamber office 30525 Linden St, Lindstrom.



### POLKA DANCE Saturday, January 28 6-9pm



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

#### WILD MOUNTAIN / TF RECREATION 37200 Wild Mountain Rd, Taylors Falls 651-465-6315 www.wildmountain.com



### 2016-2017 SKI & SNOWBOARD SEASON IS NOW OPEN!

Check out the Daily Snow Report

- \* Women's Academy: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays
- \* Home School Days: January 3, 5, 12
- \* Wild Cat Club Begins: January 7
- \* Scout & 4H Days: January 8, 22
- \* Friends & Family Fun Days: January 15, 29 For complete details call 651-465-6365

or visit www.WildMountain.com



#### PICKET FENCE GALS SALE

JANUARY 11-15 Wednesday 3-7pm Thursday-Saturday 9am-6pm Sunday 11am-5pm

A large Victorian 2-story house filled with affordable, everchanging items. Find antiques & vintage items, painted furniture, garden items, home & cabin décor, re-purposed items, textiles and more! Downtown Lindstrom.

www.PicketFenceGals.net

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# 2017 Community Ambassador & Award Winners



#### TANGI SCHAAPVELD 2017 Community Ambassador

The Chisago Lakes Area has many wonderful residents that give back to the community and make significant contributions to the quality of life here. The Chamber likes to honor these special residents with the Community

Ambassador Award. This year's recipient is a face you all know and love who has spent countless hours promoting, advocating for and working in this amazing community. She's the energy behind the America's Best Communities competition, keeping all the project teams on task, encouraging everyone to do just a little bit more and exceed expectations. She was the Chamber director for 7 years, worked with 4-H and many other community organizations on top of that. There is no stopping this wonderful gal when it comes to getting the job done in Chisago Lakes! Congratulations Tangi!



WILD MOUNTAIN 'Best in Marketing'

Wild Mountain This amazing business has been a vital part of the community for many years. This 4<sup>th</sup> generation family owned and operated business shares the beauty of the Croix Valley with residents and visitors year round through skiing and other winter activities and water fun and scenic boat tours in the warmer months. To find out what is happening at this

business you can look to social media, radio stations, television, area and regional newspapers, tourism guides and of course the Chamber emails and website and don't forget word of mouth. If there is a way to market the community and their business, Wild Mountain has it covered!!

#### Franconia Sculpture Park

The Vision Award is given to a business or organization that takes a look at the community, spots a need and finds a way to go forward and fill that need by expanding what they do or who they serve. This organization already fills an amazing need in Chisago Lakes by sharing art through education & experience SCULPTURE PARK with residents and thousands of visitors

working towards bringing that to a reality.



FRANCONIA 'Vision Award' yearly. But, they wanted to share art with more people and offer more hands on art experiences so they have been



PICKET FENCE GALS Rest in Customer Service'

Picket Fence Gals a wonderful business that knows how to draw customers in and keep them coming back for more. Local residents shoppers from and across lines look forward to those 5 days a month when they can shop for that perfect vintage, upcylcled, whimsical item. These gals know how to help customers seek fun finds, check

out with ease and even load up large purchases. Customers leave this business feeling happy, helped and ready to return for more fun next month!



BLOOM LAKE BARN 'Best Business Renovation'

Bloom Lake Barn - It is always exciting to see a new business pop up Chisago Lakes! There buzz around this business long before the building was ready for use. Countless hours, numerous dollars, strong determination and loads of love went into this amazing renovation! Take a huge, old milking barn on a quiet country road in Shafer and a

dream and you can create the most amazing wedding venue imaginable. That is what Bloom Lake Barn has become. We are so excited to recognize Bloom Lake Barn with the 2016 Renovation of the Year award and we wish them continued success in their exciting venture.



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# **GUSTAF'S GALLERIES** 13025 LAKE BLVD, LINDSTROM

651-257-1821

www.GustafsGalleries.com



Gustaf's Galleries extends a big welcome to the community at the Celebration of the Arts opening on Friday, January 27 6-8pm



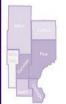
Together we can tackle our region's Housing

Issues.

Thursday, January 12, 2017 {5:30-7 pm}

Hinckley Community Center

102 Dunn Avenue Hinckley, MN



#### REGIONAL HOUSING PLANNING SESSION

Learn how to establish adequate, secure housing in your community.

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# **Chisago County Historical Society**

13112 3rd Ave N, Lindstrom 651-257-5310

www.ChisagoCountyHistory.org



> 'The Fur Trade 1800-1850' Friday, January 13 7pm Jim Buelow, local historian, presents a program featuring many artifacts from the era, discussing the early fur trades in our region. Amador Town Hall, Almelund.

> 'Old-Time Movies' Friday, January 20 7pm Enjoy old movies featuring Laurel and Hardy, Spanky & Our Gang, among others. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the food shelf. Amador Town Hall, Almelund

#### > Become a member:

Membership fees are used for the daily operation of the society and also help support the History Center research library. Yearly memberships are:

- Corporate \$500/year,
- Sponsor \$100/year
- Patron \$40/year
- Family \$30/year
- Individual \$20/year

To become member visit or renew, www.ChisagoCountyHistory.org.

#### FRANCONIA SCULPTURE PARK

29836 St. Croix Trail, Franconia 651-257-6668 Franconia.org

Join Minnesota iron artists for a fire and ice event for 2017! Participate in the process by creating a scratch block, or grab your sweetheart for a unique day out.

#### Valentine Hot Metal Pour

Saturday February 11, 2017, Noon - 5pm, Scratch Block Workshops: January 28, 29 and February 4 and 5, 10am-1pm or 2pm-5pm Mold Prices: \$30/small, \$45/medium \$75/large Pre-Registration required.



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Monday-Thursday Friday

Saturday

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 9am-12pm
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#### **MN Chamber Update**

Let's make Minnesota Ready to Compete By Doug Loon

Minnesota's future success depends on a vital statewide business community. We must build on strengths and minimize weaknesses so all businesses can compete in today's global economy.

We look with optimism to make Minnesota ready for the future—ready for change and ready to grow. The new political landscape presents opportunity to advance initiatives at the 2017 Legislature and work with Governor Dayton to create economic growth for all Minnesotans.

The Minnesota Chamber is your full-time government affairs team—playing "offense" and "defense" on range of issues to help build the bottom lines of all Minnesota businesses no matter the company's size, location or industry. Taxes, transportation, health care, and workplace mandates top our legislative agenda.

Enact tax relief: We will seek to reduce uncompetitive taxes to encourage investment, innovation and growth among all businesses. We will renew our efforts to enact meaningful business property tax relief with primary focus on eliminating the automatic inflator in the statewide business property tax. Also on our radar: Reduce income-tax burdens impeding investment in Minnesota businesses and jobs; enhance the research-and-development tax credit; conform Minnesota's estate tax to the federal threshold.

Pass long-term transportation: Political gridlock has blocked transportation funding in recent years. We will seek to pass strategic and sustained funding of roads, bridges and transit. We support generating new funding through efficiencies in operations, bonding and use of transportation-related revenues from the general fund. Lawmakers should also identify metro funding opportunities for the build-out of Twin Cities transit. Those who benefit directly and distinctively from transportation projects should pay for a share of the costs.

**Expand health care options:** Health insurance costs are skyrocketing for individuals and small businesses. It's critical that we ensure access to affordable, quality health care for employers and their employees. We will seek to make it easier for small employers to self-insure while opposing new mandates and taxes that increase employer and employee

costs. We must reform and stabilize the individual market, which supports the self-employed and those with defined-contribution arrangements. We must strengthen public health care programs. Employers have an interest insuring that public-sector programs are financially sustainable for the state & taxpayers and that they prepare participants for transition to coverage in the private sector.

Minimize workplace mandates: We will seek legislation to make explicit the fact that state law preempts municipal regulation of wages and benefits. Minnesota is best served with consistent, statewide laws rather than letting local governments create a patchwork of employer mandates. We will advance legislation to strengthen the law enacted by the 2016 Legislature that prevents abusive lawsuits under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Minnesota Human Rights Act. Also on our agenda is to remove the automatic inflator in the state's minimum wage. As we oppose one-size-fits-all mandates, we will work to share employers' best practices so all businesses in the state are aware of nonregulatory approaches to workplace rules and employee relations that will help them compete for and retain the best employees in a competitive marketplace.

Minnesota has much to be proud of as underscored in our annual Minnesota Business Benchmarks, key economic indicators that measure Minnesota's competitiveness and the health of the state's economy compared with the rest of the country. The benchmarks show stress signals, too. Produced by the Minnesota Chamber and our local Chamber Federation partners, the Business Benchmarks provides an excellent springboard for our legislative agenda.

Minnesota cannot afford to rest on our past successes. We must continue to adapt to changing competitive pressures. Our work at the Minnesota Chamber is to make Minnesota ready for the future – 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