



CHAMBER NEWS

A publication of the Waconia Chamber of Commerce



October, 2012



Tour the Scarecrows of Waconia!

October 11-14

We have many great scarecrows again this year-we can't wait to see **WacROWNia**, **Reading with Rapunzel**, **Pumpkin King** and so many more!

- Pickup a ballot at any of the participating businesses or download from our website www.DestinationWaconia.org (Available after October 5)
- Grab your family & friends and enjoy a walk/drive/ride around Waconia!
- Vote for your favorite scarecrow (People's Choice Award) and enter to win a night at the AmericInn of Waconia or \$100 Waconia Bucks!



Ballots must be turned into Chamber office by October 15th

There will be almost 30 scarecrows all over town at these fine Chamber members:

American Family Insurance, AmericInn, Auburn Home, Bayview Elementary, BIG Athletics, Clearwater Clothing, Cool Breeze Cottage, Curly Willow, Dojo Karate, Faith Lutheran Church, Fantastic Sam's, Good Samaritan Society-Waconia, Good Samaritan Society-Westview Acres, Jim Gilbert's Wild Bird, KleinBank, Lady Bug Childcare Center, Laketown Chocolates, Lighthouse of Waconia, MidCountry Bank, Real Deals, Safari Island, The Jeff Schulz Team-RE/MAX, The Stash, Waconia Farm Supply, Waconia Moravian Church, Waconia Patriot, Willow Winds, Yetzer's Home Furnishings and Floor Covering

Coffee Connection:

Waconia Public Library

Thur, 10/4 7:30-9:00am

217 South Vine Street, Waconia

Stop down and see what is new at the Waconia Library...Plus coffee & networking!



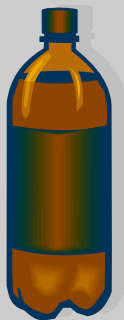
Waconia Area Business Gives

is an excellent way for businesses to receive recognition from their peers and their community for the many contributions they make to their local community.

Businesses are recognized for giving cash and/or in-kind contributions to charitable organizations amounting to 2% or more of their pretax earnings. The program is based on the Minnesota Keystone ProgramSM Standard, criteria established in 1976 by the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce. For more information, please contact Kellie at the Chamber. **952-442-5812**

Pop For Sale! \$15/case

Hey y'all-we have just a few cases of pop left over from Nickle Dickle Day to sell. All Pepsi products-mostly Pepsi, Diet Mountain Dew and Wild Cherry Pepsi. Full case or assorted flavors-first come, first served. Get it in time for Homecoming festivities!



952-442-5812

Shop Waconia

Inside this issue:

- Page 1 Member news & events
- Page 2 Guest Contributor-Susan Arntz
- Page 3 Minnesota Chamber news
- Page 4 Ambassador Visits
- Page 5 Member Updates & Happenings
- Page 6 Luncheon News & Calendar



Guest Contributor Susan Arntz, City Administrator, City of Waconia

Updates on the City Revolving Loan Program

Thinking about a remodeling project? Looking to acquire equipment? Know of someone who is? The City has funds that may be able to assist with your project. Since 1994, the City's Revolving Loan Program has issued approximately 70 loans for various projects around town.

The program provides for up to a ten year loan for construction projects, five years for equipment purchases. All loans must be secured. We recently made changes to the program, including increasing loan maximum from \$75,000 to \$149,999. Other changes to the program include:

- Loans can now be provided to businesses in any commercial or industrial zoning district.
- Interest percentage rate is 5%.
- For loans up to \$15,000, the security may be a mortgage, letter of credit, or UCC filing. For loans over \$15,000, the borrower must supply a mortgage. The loan to value of the total mortgages on the property may not exceed 80%.
- Applicants must have an interest in the property in which the City would place a mortgage.
- The Revolving Loan can only comprise 80% of a project.
- The list of documents to be executed at closing and the default section were updated to provide more clarity of what happens at each event.
- Applicants are required to pay the mortgage registration tax at closing and other fees that may arise, depending on the project (appraisals, etc.).

Applicants are required to provide documentation after a project to confirm that the funds borrowed were used as planned, provide copies of receipts, and provide an update as to the number of jobs created by the project, if that was stated as a goal of the project.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, or how the program could assist in a project, please contact:

Nicole Lueck, Finance Director

nlueck@waconia.org

952-442-3108

Susan Arntz, City Administrator

sarntz@waconia.org

952-442-3100



Invigorating the workforce pipeline

By David C. Olson

MINNESOTA
CHAMBER of
COMMERCE

Teamwork is essential if Minnesota is to distinguish itself as the “skilled workforce state.” The Minnesota Chamber and our statewide network of local partners are leading the way. Mark your calendars for Oct. 9 as we showcase our initiatives and launch our 2013 legislative agenda at the summit, “How to Make Minnesota the Skilled Workforce State.”

Two years ago, we convened business and education leaders as U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan advocated measures to ensure every student will have effective teachers in their classrooms. His address was a springboard for passage of the alternative teacher licensure law. We’ve spearheaded additional efforts the past two legislative sessions to improve K-12 classroom instruction and will tee up higher ed reforms for 2013.

The event will feature keynote speaker Jamie Merisotis, president and chief executive officer of the Lumina Foundation, a national organization dedicated to increasing the proportion of Americans with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by 2025. Panel presentations will address ways to engage all stakeholders and include specific attention to the role of the business community.

The good news is that local chambers of commerce across the state are stepping up to the plate. Consider these examples:

The Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce and River Heights Chamber of Commerce recently partnered to host a Principals Bus Tour. Thirty principals and superintendents attended this tour of four of the largest employers in Dakota County. The goal is to connect businesses and educators in meaningful discussion about how to fill the gaps between job skills and skills training.

The Brainerd Lakes Chamber, through its Bridges Workplace Connection, helps high school students explore local career options. The program brings together businesses, colleges and 24 high schools to introduce various career paths through hands-on work-based learning.

The Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce connects schools with local businesses through “CEOs in the Classroom.” The initiative has two goals: Encourage educational offerings relevant to future workforce opportunities by engaging business owners and managers with educators; engage in frank conversations with eighth-graders about the realities of graduating and being financially independent.

The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce seeks to transform the community’s educational systems by offering a range of programs that champion both excellent educational standards and flexible, dynamic workplaces that effectively connect with the skills taught in the region’s K-12 schools. The program particularly focuses on K-12 education in the STEM courses – science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

A grant from the Institute for a Competitive Workforce, a nonprofit, nonpartisan affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, will help support this event and ongoing efforts to advance postsecondary reform. At the summit, Domenic Giandomenico, director of education and workforce programs for ICW, will present the U.S. Chamber’s recent “Leaders and Laggards” report and discuss how Minnesota stacks up against other states.

Minnesota has made some significant strides in postsecondary education reform, and it’s time to take the next steps. In particular, we must strengthen and smooth the transition from education into the workforce.

For more information, contact Amy Walstien at (651) 292-4661 or awalstien@mnchamber.com.

David C. Olson is president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. For more information, go to www.mnchamber.com.

Ambassadors



LAKETOWN CHOCOLATES, INC

Larry Wilhelm, Owner

lwilhelm@customchocolate.net

www.laketownchocolates.com

141 West 1st Street 952-442-1063

Hours: M-F 8 - 5, Saturday 9 - 4pm

Sunday - closed



FREE SAMPLES DAILY!

Larry Wilhelm with the Ambassadors and rows of chocolate for sale behind them. Laketown Chocolates specializes in private branding in chocolates for businesses: special shapes, embossing, etc. They can do 1,200+ different shapes in stock and 500+ custom designs. They also have smaller quantities for sale in their retail section picture above. Ready for personal consumption or to give as gifts.... !

LOCHER BROS, INC

Tim "Jonesy" Hukriede VP/General Manager

Jonesy@locherbros.com www.locherbros.com

507-326-5931 Click on the link below for a video!

<http://beerguystv.com/2010/07/we-visit-locher-bros-distributing-in-green-isle-mn/>

Starting in 1939, the Locher brothers began what is still a family run business that now distributes to 21 counties in Minnesota. Employing more than 60 people and operating 21 hours a day, the headquarters in Green Isle carries a 30 day supply of beer and other beverages. With about 65,000 sq feet of space, this is such an impressive business! They distribute to liquor stores, bars, restaurants, convenience stores, etc. 1.6 million cases are distributed annually, with additional sales of kegs. WOW!



"Jonesy" accepts the Chamber Dollar with the Ambassadors.



KEGS IN THE COOLER



Exploring Ireland March 18 - 26, 2013

Per Person Rates: Double \$2,849



Included in the price: Round trip air from Minneapolis St Paul International, and much more!

The Waconia Chamber of Commerce along with Travel Easy & Chamber Excursions is sponsoring this community excursion to the Emerald Isle. The trip is open to the community-family, friends and colleagues are welcome. Also promoting this tour are the Eden Prairie Chamber and the SouthWest Metro Chamber, who will be joining us on this adventure. For more information, contact Sandy at Travel Easy 952-442-4443.

Member News & Happenings

Happy 18th Birthday Clearwater Clothing!

Anniversary Sale! Now-October 6 Buy 2 Get 1 FREE!

Clearwater Clothing-132 South Olive Street, Waconia



Pancake, French Toast, & Sausage Breakfast-Sunday, 10/7

8:30am-12:30pm

Waconia Fire Department invites the community to their annual fall fundraiser. Free firetruck rides!

Tickets-\$6 in advance or \$7 at the door, 5 and under FREE Waconia Fire Department-26 South Maple St, Waconia



All-you-can-eat Shrimp Fundraiser-Friday, October 12 5:00-7:00pm

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) invites you to celebrate at its headquarters in Jordan. This dinner is in support of their charitable work in Pignon, Haiti.

Menu includes shrimp, salad, potatoes, garlic toast, dessert and beverages. The price is \$25 for adults, \$10 for children 5-11 and children under 5 free. **Reservations are recommended, but you can pay at the door.** Reserve tickets by calling 952.492.8210 or register online at www.mvec.net.



Progressive Wine Dinner-Friday, October 12 6:00-9:00pm

2nd Annual Progressive Dinner- Guests will begin the evening at Parley Lake Winery for appetizers and salad and then progress to Sovereign Estate Wine for dinner and dessert. Each course will be paired with specially selected wines from Parley Lake and Sovereign Estate.



\$60 per person. Limited Seating available. Reservations Required. 952-442-2290 or 952-446-9957

Upcoming Events at Ridgeview Medical Center...

Grief Support Group-Rebuilding Hope, sponsored by Ridgeview Medical Center will meet Monday, Oct. 8, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Ridgeview Medical Center. This support group is for those experiencing grief or anticipating a loss of someone they care about. Call Social Services with questions. (952)442-2191, Ext. 6190 Free Event.

Bariatric Information Session-Interested in weight loss surgery? Attend a free seminar to learn more about surgery and get answers to your questions without any cost or obligation. Next information session is Wednesday, Oct. 10, 6:30-8 p.m., Registration requested to aid in planning. 952-442-7820

Achieving a Healthy Balance-Ridgeview Foundation invites you to celebrate the 10th Annual Achieving a Healthy Balance seminar—"A Day for You," designed by women for women. Saturday, November 3 8:30-3:00 Oak Ridge Conference Center, Chaska \$75 Registration Required 952-442-6010 for more information see www.ridgeviewmedical.org



Harvest Wine Tasting @ Legacy Wine & Spirits-Saturday, October 27 2:00-5:00pm

Over 30 bottles available to sample and **ALL STORE WINES ON SALE!**

We've been selecting many new wines for the store. This is a great opportunity to taste them and **SAVE \$\$\$!**

Legacy Wine & Spirits-724 Vista Blvd, Waconia



Papa Murphy's Halloween Special October 20-31

Order your Jack O'Lantern Pizza for only \$8! **952-442-9919** Call ahead & use the **DRIVE THRU WINDOW!**

Papa Murphy's 1309 Oak Avenue, Waconia



October Chamber Member Luncheon



Thursday, October 25th

11:30 - 1:00PM

Island View Dining

7795 Laketown Parkway, Waconia, MN

Topic: *Growing a Business*

Guest Speaker: *to be announced*

\$20 Members, \$25 Non-Members
includes program, meal, beverage, tax & gratuity

Please RSVP by **Monday, October 22nd**
cgesinger@destinationwaconia.org 952-442-5812



**Payment will be accepted in advance or at the door.
Please note that you will be billed for all meals reserved
and walk-ins not guaranteed.*



- 4 Coffee Connection at Waconia Public Library 7:30-9:00 am-217 South Vine Street, Waconia
- 10 Board of Directors Annual Retreat 9:00am - 4:00pm Cool Breeze Cottage
- 11-14 4th Annual Scarecrow Contest-Tour the Scarecrows of Waconia & vote for your favorite!
- 11 Retail Committee Meeting 8:00-9:30am Maple Conference Room
- 18 Chamber Ambassadors 8:30-10:00am Chamber Office
- 27 Monthly Chamber Member Luncheon 11:30am-1:00pm Lake Waconia Event Center