



# CHAMBER NEWS

*A publication of the Waconia Chamber of Commerce*

September 2012

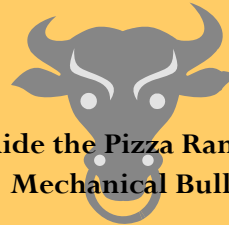
51st Annual

## Nickle Dickle Day September 15, 2012

- **Shopping!**  
Specials all over town Friday & Saturday
- **27th annual Antique and Vintage Car Show 8am-5pm** (City Square Park-1st Street)
- **Arts & Craft Show 8am-5pm** (City Square Park)
- **3 on 3 Basketball Tournament 11:30-5pm** (St Joe's Parking Lot)
- **Book Sale 9am-3pm** (Waconia Public Library)
- **Food 8am-5pm** (City Square Park and Elm Street)
- **Music & Entertainment!**
- **5K, 10K & Tickle Runs** (NEW this year-All races begin & end at Bayview Elementary. **Radio Disney will broadcast from Bayview 8-10am!**)
- **Duck Races & Dunk Tank** (SE corner of 1st & Pine Streets)



### Nickle Dickle Day!



**Ride the Pizza Ranch  
Mechanical Bull!**

10:30am-4:30pm on 1st Street

#### Gazebo-

8-10am Wendinger Polka  
10-2pm Chopper DJ  
12:30 Pie Eating Contest  
1pm Medallion Winner  
1:50-Laketown Gymnastics Demo  
2-5pm Traveled Ground

#### 1st Street Stage

11-4:30pm DJ Big Country plays all of your favorite hits!

*DJ sponsored by Hopper's Bar and Grill*

**Next Coffee Connection**  
**Thursday, September 6**

**7:30-9:00am**

**Statewide Gas Services**  
201 W Main Street, Waconia

**Meet & Greet**

**Special Guests:**

**Congresswoman  
Michelle Bachmann  
and Businessman**

**Jim Graves,**

**Candidates for**

**Congressional District 6**

Can you think of a better way to start your day?

Stop by for coffee, networking!



**Chamber Pak Deadline Sept 26!**

In offices for October-November promotions! Need: 225 pieces

Cost: \$80 952-442-5812

#### **Inside this issue:**

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#### **Sponsors:**

**Mechanical Bull:** Pizza Ranch

**Gold:** City of Waconia, Hopper's Bar & Grill, Koch School Bus Service Inc, Waconia Farm Supply, Kwik Trip, Edina Eye Physicians & Surgeons, Mattamy Homes

**Silver:** Medallion Cabinetry, CD Products, Becky Larsen - RE/MAX Results, Carver County Fair, Mid Country Bank, Waconia Dodge, 1st Street Construction

**Bronze:** In Towne Marina, Willems Cabinetry & Woodworking, AA Segner Insurance Agency, A-1 Electric Services of Waconia, Laketown Chocolates, Ground Round, Waconia Deputy Registrar, Lancer Catering, CenterPoint Energy, Lindemeier Heating & Cooling, Laketown Gymnastics, Midwest Dental, Valley All Brands, Laketown Gymnastics



## Winning!

By Kellie Sites, President

Photo courtesy of Lynn Laumann Photography



If Waconia was in a competition for the most awesome events held in one year, I think we would win!

It was such a privilege to meet the windsurfers that were here from all over the world last weekend. They came from Sweden, Canada, Texas, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri and Mound. Many had never been to Minnesota before! To think that Waconia was their destination. This would not be the case if not for our beautiful Lake Waconia. Same goes for the Governor's Fishing Opener, the Midwest Vintage Snowmobile Show and the Blizzard Blitz!

But people are coming to Waconia for many other reasons.... Like Weddings! Big Congratulations to Willow Winds Garden Center and Sovereign Estate Wine for their new wedding venues welcoming families from all over the country this summer. When the hotels aren't filled with business travelers, they are filled with guests coming to Waconia for family events, the Carver County Fair, see if they want to move here.... This is no surprise to any of you... I'm just thrilled to be here and proud of all of you.... Keep up the good work!





## 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](mailto:awalstien@mnchamber.com).

David C. Olson is president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. For more information, go to [www.mnchamber.com](http://www.mnchamber.com)

## Ambassador Visits



**Nickle Dickle Day!**

# Nickle Dickle Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for someone who loves to be in the heart of the action to be Becky's **Pop Booth co-chair**. This job is rewarding and requires some lifting skills. Help with the running of pop to Elm Street and making sure both booths have everything they need. Great opportunity to hone your leadership skills and have fun! We are looking for someone who is willing to do this for at least 2 years.

Help **chalk the park** for vendor booths on Friday, Sept 14th Noon-3pm. Lots of fun working outdoors!

**Nickle Dickle Pop Stand:** 2 hour shifts. Wear your own "logo-wear" and promote your business! Shifts still available

9am-11am NEED 5 PEOPLE (family members old enough to handle money welcome!)

11am-1pm NEED 11 PEOPLE

1-3pm NEED 7 PEOPLE

3-5pm NEED 1 PERSON

*Please note: NO Political wear allowed in the Chamber booth.  
Call the Chamber at 952-442-5812 or [cgesinger@destinationwaconia.org](mailto:cgesinger@destinationwaconia.org)*

## Welcome New Members!

### **Fantastic Sam's**

*\*Nicole Guennigsmann*

720 Vista Blvd  
Waconia, MN 55387  
952-442-9787  
[www.fantasticsams.com](http://www.fantasticsams.com)

Hair Salon

### **Visiting Angels**

*\*Harrel Perez*

250 Prairie Center Drive #210  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344  
952-233-5600  
[hperez@visitingangels.com](mailto:hperez@visitingangels.com)  
[www.visitingangels.com](http://www.visitingangels.com)

Home Care/Healthcare

## **Save the Dates!**

Things to think about:

**Chamber "Trade mission" to Ireland**

Monday October 1st 5:00pm

Info meeting at Jake O'Connor's

Travel to Ireland with the Waconia, Southwest Metro and  
Eden Prairie Chambers

**Business Home & Family Fair!**

Saturday April 6, 2013

(Held every other year)

Committee Opportunity!



## Member News & Happenings

### Rising Star Dance Academy Open House-



**Victoria Studio-Tues, Sept 4 5:00-7:00pm** (1550 Arboretum Blvd-Hwy 5)

**Waconia Studio-Thurs, Sept 6 5:00-7:00pm** (144 Depot Drive-Hwy 5)

Stop by the studio and register for fall classes. See [rising-star-dance.com](http://rising-star-dance.com) or call 952-443-3014 for schedule & details.

### Business Expansion Downtown Waconia

Yetzer Home Furnishings & Flooring has been serving Waconia & the west metro since 1941.

Continuing their fine tradition of offering the best selections of furniture & flooring, they would like to announce their expansion of their Flooring Store, located at

**125 S. Olive Street, downtown Waconia.** The size of their sales floor has DOUBLED and they have increased their offerings of carpet, wood, laminate, vinyl, luxury vinyl tile, ceramic, and window treatment departments. New displays, new products, more space, with the same quality service & installation on all products!

Please stop in and see for yourselves, the new improved place to buy all your flooring & window treatments from a progressive, local, community minded business. Don't forget to stop in and see what's all new in the furniture store, too!

### Business Space for Rent

Are you a creative or techie type looking for a one-of-a-kind studio or business space? We're looking to share/split our first-floor space. Photographers, editors, writers, illustrators, artists, designers, animators, developers, programmers--this building is special! We're a creative services agency looking to downsize our floorspace and upsize our contact with other creatives. To view space see :

[http://www.creatureworks.com/who we are.php](http://www.creatureworks.com/who_we_are.php)

Rent for half of the space is \$1000 per month + heat and electric (around \$100 per month). The space splits naturally into two sides-you can have complete privacy. Available Sept 1. Reply with questions or to set up a time to see the space. Contact Jesse [jesse@creatureworks.com](mailto:jesse@creatureworks.com)

### D.E.A.R. Hunting in Waconia-already?!



YES! This will be the 5th annual D.E.A.R. Hunting event in Waconia (Divas Enjoy Awesome Retail) All retail, bar & restaurants are encouraged to participate!

D.E.A.R. will be Saturday, November 3, 2012. This event has grown each year and its popularity may rival Sister Saturday. If your business would like to be a part of the co-op advertising and all the fun, contact the Chamber by Friday, September 7. Just \$100 gets you over \$3000 worth of advertising & promotion!

## Scarecrow Contest Oct. 11-14

- **Host a Scarecrow and get your business on the "Touring Map"!**  
**\$50 DEADLINE-September 28**
- **Enter a Scarecrow- team building for your co-workers, friends, family, professional group, etc. FREE! DEADLINE September 30**
- **Tour the Scarecrows. Pick your favorite!**



# Monthly Chamber Luncheon

Thursday, September 27, 2012

11:30AM-1:00PM

Location: Island View Dining

Address: 7795 Laketown Parkway

RSVP to the Chamber Office by September 24!



## Topic: Business, Business, Business!

A member favorite-Join us for this fun, progressive, networking meal!

Come prepared with **business** cards,  
a 2 minute commercial about your **business**,  
and be ready to give and get **business**!

3 different courses, 3 different groups of people! Invite a colleague!

**\$20 per member, \$25 for non-members RSVP Required!**

Walk-ins will not be guaranteed.

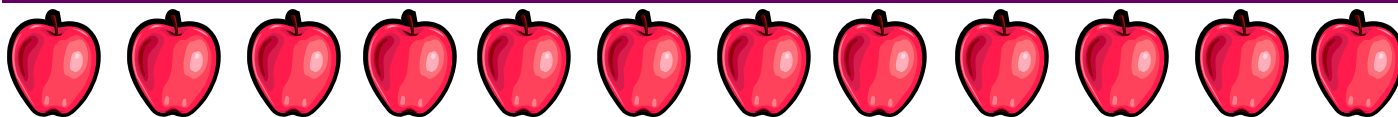


Please RSVP by Monday, September 24

[www.destinationwaconia.org](http://www.destinationwaconia.org) or 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.



### SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 6 Coffee Connection 7:30-9:00am Statewide Gas Services-201 West Main Street, Waconia
- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 11:45 - 1pm Maple Conference Room
- 13 Retail Committee Meeting 8:00-9:30am Maple Conference Room
- 15 **51st Annual Nickle Dickle Day!**
- 20 Ambassador Meeting Chamber Office Time 8:45 am
- 26 Chamber Pak Deadline! Direct mail to all Chamber members-225 pieces only \$80.
- 27 Monthly Chamber Member Luncheon at Island View Dining (3 courses, 3 different groups of people!)  
Progressive Networking! 11:30am-1:00pm **RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 24**