



Detroit Lakes

CHAMBER NEWS

December 2011
Volume 18 No. 12

Official Newsletter of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce

The Lakes Are All Lit Up!

The Light Up the Lakes Sponsors are working hard to make Detroit Lakes a destination for shopping, eating and family fun. For a full list of activities go to www.VisitDetroitLakes.com

- Dec 2-4th Holiday Hoopla Part II at participating DL businesses
- Dec 3rd FREE Kid's Movie-benefits the BC Food Pantry, 10am
- Dec 3rd FREE Sleigh Rides-downtown, noon-3pm
- Dec 10th FREE Kid's Movie-benefits the BC Food Pantry, 10am
- Dec 10th FREE Sleigh Rides-downtown, noon-3pm
- Dec 14th Canadian Pacific Holiday Train—Holmes St Crossing, 4:15pm
- Dec 17th FREE Sleigh Rides-downtown, noon-3pm



Detroit Lakes Chamber Bucks

Membership in the DL Chamber has its privileges, one of which is that as a member you get to accept Chamber Bucks. With nearly \$40,000 worth of Chamber Bucks used in our community for goods and services each year, that adds up! We want to make the Chamber Bucks program easy for businesses and their clients to use. Here are seven tips you should pass on to your employees. (post this by your time clock or cash register)

1. CHAMBER BUCKS are actual checks to you from the DL Chamber.
2. Anyone can purchase CHAMBER BUCKS.
3. Any DL Chamber member can accept CHAMBER BUCKS.
4. Put CHAMBER BUCKS in your cash register and treat it like other checks in your bank deposit.
5. CHAMBER BUCKS are not meant to be redeemed for cash, however, practice good customer relations and give change as your business would for other checks.
6. CHAMBER BUCKS are being used by businesses and individuals in the community for gifts, incentives, bonuses, promotional prizes, special event drawings and more.
7. Contact the Chamber to purchase CHAMBER BUCKS or with questions 847-9202.



The Mission of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce is to advance a vibrant business and tourism economy through service, advocacy, networking and innovation.

We're Working for You:

| October 2011 | YTD |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| • Walk-Ins 216 | 2,926 |
| • Phone Calls 448 | 6,258 |
| • Visitor Guides Mailed 291 | 9,646 |
| • Website Visits 3896* | 115,813 |

*incomplete stats for October

Online newsletter at:
www.VisitDetroitLakes.com/chamber/about/newsletter

Have you checked out the updated Google-integrated area and city maps? <http://www.visitdetroitlakes.com/lodging/map/>

Carrie's Curios



What has changed in your company in the last 12 months? You will soon be seeing a letter from the Chamber asking you to update your company information. Please take a moment to fill this out so that we can have accurate information on your business. The Chamber staff uses this information on our website, in the Member Resource Directory and when handling referrals. Help us to help you.

Carrie Johnston, Your Chamber President

Agriculture Issues Forum on 12/15

The Agri-Business Committee of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce invites you to attend an Agricultural Issues Forum on Thursday, December 15, 2011, at the Callaway Community Center.

Topics for the forum include:

- Energy Update - Wild Rice Electric
- Fuels & Lubricants - Cenex Representative
- Weed & Drainage reports- Becker Co. Soil & Water Conservation
- Tax Change for Ag. Land - Steve Skoog, Becker County Assessor
- Becker County Budget - Ryan Tangen, Auditor/Treasurer
- Updates from Collin Peterson's Office and Becker County Reps

Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. for coffee. The forum begins at 9:00 a.m.; lunch will be served at noon. Admission is \$5.00 for the conference which includes lunch **Please RSVP** to the Chamber of Commerce by **Monday, December 11**, at 218-847-9202, or to jean@visitdetroitlakes.com

This forum is sponsored in part by Bekkerus Schott DeConcini Johnson Ltd., Cenex Community Cooperative of Lake Park, Wild Rice Electric Cooperative of Mahnomen, Harvest States Cooperative of Callaway and Triangle Ag. of Ulen.

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November was a busy month!



The Chamber Business Showcase on Nov 10th was a great success. Thanks to our sponsors: **MMCDC, Multiple Technologies** and the **Holiday Inn**. Pictured are members having fun at the **La Barista** booth.



The Chamber Ambassadors assisted with the Ribbon Cutting and Dedication ceremony for the Veteran's Memorial Park on 11/11/11. Paver order forms are still available at the Chamber Office.

Cenex Convenience Store of DL surprised the Chamber staff with a **Hot Stuff** breakfast pizza delivered right to the office. Each week a **Hot Stuff** is delivered to one lucky business. Thanks!



Member Renewals

Thanks to the following members who renewed their Chamber membership Oct 26-Nov. 25. DL Chamber memberships renew throughout the entire year; for a complete list of members see www.visitdetroitlakes.com/chamber/

- American Cancer Society
- Brushmarks
- Essentia Health—St. Mary's
- Hein Farms
- Kinetico
- Marlo Motors
- Nor-Am Cold Storage
- Pens & Needles Lakeside
- Rainbow Resort
- St. Mary's EMS
- Taco John's
- White Earth Transit (The Depot)

The DL Young Professionals meet the 3rd Thursday of every month, 5:30pm at the Holiday Inn,



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Chamber Ambassador Visits



Ambassadors making calls in October were: (back) Tom Winters, Brian Haire, Denise Eggebraaten, Sandy Lia, Harland Thompson, (front) Kristen Kohler, Caroll Clark, Mari Radke, Michelle Baker, and (not pictured) Melissa Hiemenz.



Michele Baker presented a First Dollar of Profit to Dillon, Jim & Catie Herman of **Do-Right Construction of the Lakes**. They do remodeling, additions, new construction, painting, staining, drywall work, siding, roofing, windows, decks, flooring, home maintenance, and cabin care and security.



Jay Gunwall of **PAYmasters Inc.** receives a First Dollar of Profit from Denise Eggebraaten. Located at 105 Graystone Plaza, they provide payroll, human resources, benefits and claims management and government compliance. The company is owned by Jim Piche.



Harland Thompson presents Ben Grimsley, **Anchor Financial Services**, with a First Dollar of Profit. An independent service that assists clients with financial, tax, investment & insurance planning; IRA's, Roths, mutual funds, health ins. & Medicare supplements. Located at 901 Washington Ave.

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Member News

Congratulations to the **Washington Square Mall** on celebrating their 25th Anniversary!

JCPenney Co. welcomes Wes Hamilton as the new Store Manager in Detroit Lakes.

The **Boys & Girls Club of Detroit Lakes** received a \$10,000 Family PLUS grant from Kimberly-Clark and the Boys & Girls Club of America.

Kristen Kohler and Michele Baker of **Bremer Bank and Bremer Insurance** are once again heading up the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign.

Sanford Health Detroit Lakes Clinic welcomes Jane Leno, OTR/Occupational Therapist.

Best Western Plus Holland House was named a Best Western Rewards Champion at the Best Western International North American Convention in Orlando, Florida. They are one of 14 hotels to receive this designation out of 2,400.

The Detroit Lakes **JCPenney Co.** store collected \$532.74 in its "Pennies from Heaven" campaign for the **Boys & Girls Club of Detroit Lakes**.

Central Market is the first store to host a Nash Finch Coffee Shop! It opened in November 2011.

Dr. Khaled Samih Zreik, surgeon at **Essentia Health St. Mary's**, is the first surgeon in Becker County to be initiated as a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Thank You to sponsors of Light Up the Lakes

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Member Testimonial

"The Chamber has helped my business in numerous ways. The main reason being that I take advantage of what they have to offer, including networking with other members at Sunrise Socials and Business Expos, using the newsletter and weekly e-blasts for my upcoming events, and building relationships throughout all of it. Thank you Chamber for all you do!"

~ Laura Wagoner, Owner of Wagoner Portrait Studio

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Tourism Director Update



The first snowfall the week of November 14 brought lots of excitement for fun in the outdoors. Talk is already centered around getting fish houses ready to put on the ice (when safe) and looking at new snowmobiles.

The Chamber will again have the Winter Wonderland snowmobile maps printed and available free in the area and at the Chamber office.

The 2011-2012 season brings a new venture for many of the area snowmobile club members. This season the grooming responsibilities moved from Becker County to clubs such as ULTRA, Northwoods Trail Reapers and Midnight Riders. The club members have purchased grooming machines, secured operators and made plans for where the machines will be housed and maintained. They continue to work on trail signage and visit with property owners who connect the trail by allowing use of their land.

Each week the Chamber posts a trail condition update on Visit DetroitLakes.com, updates the message on the toll-free hotline (218-847-5743 or 800-433-1888) and sends the report to exploreminnesota.com, the state tourism agency. This year, the clubs will appoint someone to provide those trail updates to the Chamber. A comprehensive report is necessary since snowfall can vary significantly within the 250 miles of trails in Becker County.

Thank you to all the business owners who support the snowmobile map with your advertising message. A big round of thanks to the snowmobile club members for all the effort put in this season to make Becker County a destination for winter snowmobiling!

Cleone Stewart, Tourism Director



Public Works Director Brad Green provided a look at improvements at the Kent Freeman Sports Arena, including improved lighting, "new" boards, paint, updated restrooms and handicapped accessible seating. Tourism Committee members making the visit included (l-r) Dave Larson, Dan Berg, Green, Justin Wegleitner, Beth Schupp, Gary Thompson (not pictured) Cleone Stewart.

Sanford Detroit Lakes Clinic

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The "Gift" of Networking

We may not send "jelly of the month" but the Chamber does offer you a monthly opportunity... give your employees the Gift of Networking. Make new contacts and connect with fellow businesses at the DL Chamber's Sunrise Social. This month we will be at **Midwest Bank** on Friday, Dec. 16th, 7:30-8:30AM.



November Sunrise Social at Becker County Museum



Board Profile: Chris Holland-Mehlhoff

Chris Holland-Mehlhoff joined the Chamber Board this past July. She and her husband Scott are owner/operators of the Best Western Plus Holland House, Best Western Premier The Lodge on Lake Detroit, The Spa Within and Best Western Plus Superior Inn & Suites in Grand Marais. They have two children ages 12 and 3. With over 20 years of experience, she is proud to continue the hotel management tradition into the third generation of her family.



Her favorite parts about managing Holland House properties are interacting with and listening to customers and finding ways to delight guests in unexpected ways so they have an experience, not just a hotel stay or spa service. She believes in training and empowering her team members to have an "I-Care" spirit when serving guests and lives by the motto "service isn't a big thing, it's a million little things."

Chris is a Music Manager for Concordia College in Moorhead and has been a substitute music teacher in area schools. She plays the French Horn with the FM Symphony & FM Opera and plays in brass and woodwind quintets. She enjoys reading, rose malling, downhill skiing, fishing, wine tastings, art galleries and attending concerts.

Chris is also involved with Noon Rotary, pianist and in the Hand bell Choir at Holy Rosary Church, Minn. Lodging Assoc. Board Member, and a Best Western Governor.

Contact your local legislators

Senator Amy Klobuchar (DFL)
202.224.3244
senator.klobuchar@senate.gov

Senator Al Franken (DFL)
D.C.: (202) 224-5641
St. Paul: (651) 221-1016
St. Peter: (507) 931-5813

Seventh District Collin Peterson (DFL)
218.847.5056

Rod Skoe (DFL)
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651.296.4196
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- Chris Holland-Mehlhaff 2014
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- Sam Rufer.....2012

Contact Us

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 dlchamber@VisitDetroitLakes.com
 www.VisitDetroitLakes.com

What's Happening!

December 1 - December 31 Light Up The Lakes Holiday Events

- 3,10 Free Kids Movie, 10am, Cinema 5
- 3,10,17 Sleigh Rides, 12-3pm, Downtown, pick up at Washington Sq. Mall
- 3,4,10,11,17,18 Photos & Wishes with Santa, 12-4pm Washington Square Mall

December 2011

- Saturdays thru Christmas - Peoples Market, 11am-3pm, Washington Sq. Mall
- 2 Humane Society Tuxes & Tails, 6pm, Holiday Inn
- 2 "The Nutcracker" Ballet, 7:30pm, Holmes Theatre
- 2 Eric Burdon & The Animals, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino
- 2-3 Holiday Goodies & Grab Bags, 10am, Washington Square Mall**
- 2-4 Holiday Hoopla II Promotion, participating DL Chamber Businesses**
- 2-4 Boys Bantam B Hockey Tournament, Kent Freeman Arena
- 3 Christmas at Emmanuel, 10am-2pm, Emmanuel Community
- 3 Lakes Area Wood Carvers Show, 10am-4pm, Washington Sq. Mall
- 3 Kids Christmas Party, 12-2pm, Washington Square Mall
- 3-4 Holiday Open House, 11am-5pm, Forest Edge Gallery
- 4 Breakfast w/Santa for Lakes Crisis Center, 9:30am-1pm, M State
- 4 Holiday Open House, 12-4pm, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge
- 4 Holiday Magic at the Mall, 5-7pm, Washington Square Mall
- 5 Holiday Customer Appreciation Night, 5-9pm, Norby's Dept. Store
- 7 Tourism Committee, 8am, Chamber**
- 7 Ambassadors, 9:30am, Chamber**
- 8 Compassion House Fundraiser, 5:30pm, Holiday Inn
- 9 Billy McLaughlin's "Simple Gifts", 7:30pm, Holmes Theatre
- 10-11 Holiday Open House, 11am-5pm, Forest Edge Gallery
- 11 Lakes Area Community Concert Band, 4pm, Holmes Theatre
- 13 Promotions & Events Committee, 8:30am, Chamber**
- 14 Executive Committee, 7am, Chamber**
- 14 Canadian Pacific Holiday Train, 4:15pm, Holmes Street RR Crossing
- 15 Agricultural Issues Forum, 9-12Noon, Callaway Comm. Center**
- 15 DLYP Social, 5:30pm, Holiday Inn on the Lake**
- 15,19,22 DLHS Madrigal Dinner, 7:30pm, DLHS
- 16 Sunrise Social, 7:30am, Midwest Bank**
- 16 Rock 'N Roll Christmas Spectacular, 7:30pm, Holmes Theatre
- 16 Tanya Tucker, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino
- 16-18 Boys PeeWee A Hockey Tournament, Kent Freeman Ice Arena
- 17-18 Holiday Open House, 11am-5pm, Forest Edge Gallery
- 31 Check out our website to make your New Year's Eve plans

www.VisitDetroitLakes.com/calendar