

# Detroit Lakes CHAMBER NEWS

Naturally, your resource

July 2025 | Volume 32 | No. 7

Official Newsletter of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce



WOMEN'S  
EDGE  
CONNECTION

3:00 - 5:00 PM | Wed. July 30th, 2025  
At Meadows on Lind



Karli Moch | Owner: The Dream Project

## SUCCESS FADES, IMPACT LASTS: ALIGNING YOUR WORK, YOUR WHY, AND YOUR WELL-BEING

In a world that glorifies hustle and achievements, it's easy to find ourselves chasing success while feeling unfulfilled and disconnected from what truly matters. The truth? Titles, promotions, and packed calendars might look impressive, but they don't always lead to lasting impact or personal fulfillment.

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Early Registration \$45 | Day Of  
Chamber Members \$40 | Registration \$50  
Register at <https://business.visitdetroitlakes.com/events>



## Chamber Annual Meeting Speaker Posts about his Visit to Detroit Lakes

Jeff Siegler, Civic Consultant, visited Detroit Lakes through a partnership with the Chamber, Project 412, City of Detroit Lake and Becker County and shared his thoughts and perspective in his May 21st blog on his Facebook, Revitalize or Die. While in Detroit Lakes, Jeff met with City, County, School District and others. He also spoke at the Chamber annual meeting on May 15th at the Detroit County Club.

He opens his blog with the following: *I am fortunate to get to visit a lot of places, it's the best part of the job. Some are struggling to hold on to what they've got. Some are building too much and losing their soul in the process. Then there are rare places like Detroit Lakes where the natural and built environments don't compete, they compliment.* He goes on to say what he learned about some of our area's challenge with housing and childcare, as an example.

And he ends with this challenge: *I learned a lot during my visit. Detroit Lakes is doing so much right, but it will need to protect its character while it grows...And it means holding onto the thing that makes this place special, the delicate harmony between what we've built, and what was already here.*

Check out the full post on Facebook at Revitalize or Die.

DLChamber@VisitDetroitLakes.com | 218.847.9202



## Get in Touch

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Location Change

:45  
FILL-UP



Fuel your morning at the :45 Fill Up! Chamber members are invited to connect, share updates, and promote their business. Bring your cards and flyers—these mornings are all about building relationships and growing your network.

Wednesday, July 9th | 8:15 – 9:00 am  
Boys and Girls Club, 150 Richwood Road  
Want to host a :45 Fill Up at your business?  
Contact the Chamber!

## HR CONNECT

HR Connect will not be meeting in July and August.  
Watch for meeting information in September.



Wednesday, July 11th  
4:00—8:30 PM  
West Lake Drive



**C@Zy dAZe SALE**  
"The Biggest One-Day Sale of the Year!"  
Downtown Detroit Lakes

Tuesday, August 5th  
7:00 AM—6:00 PM

Interested in saving a retail space on Washington Ave for Crazy Daze? No fee for DL Chamber members. Contact Megan at the Chamber for information.

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# Meet the New Chamber Staff

## Megan Gilsdorf, Events Coordinator

Responsible for Chamber events, partner and community events, as well as marketing and social media.



Being a born and raised DL girl, I chose to escape winter after high school and studied at Arizona State University for Fashion Design. I moved back to DL after graduating and worked as an Apparel Designer at Lakeshirts for a couple of years before taking a full-time role at Bucks Mill Brewery.

Working as the Manager of BMB, I discovered my passion for organizing collaborative events and working with small businesses. With that new passion along with a lifetime of understanding the importance of giving back to your community and working hard to make it a better place— something I learned from my parents — I have found an amazing job with the Chamber as their Events Coordinator.

I am so excited to work with local businesses, engage with the community, and do my part to make DL an even better place to live, work, and play!

## Joanna Thoennes, Membership & Business Support Specialist

Responsible for front desk hospitality, Chamber publications project management and assisting with member relations.

My hometown is Brandon, MN where I grew up with nine brothers and five sisters on a dairy farm. We were taught at a young age to work hard and volunteer. I received my post secondary degree in Business Management from Rasmussen College.

My experience includes customer service, branch office administration and accounts payable. I have always enjoyed meeting new people and taking on projects that would help me grow. I moved to Detroit Lakes in April 2024 and fell in love with the area. My boyfriend is originally from DL and graduated from Frazee High School. Since arriving, I've found the community to be incredibly friendly and welcoming.

I feel fortunate to work alongside such a talented group of women— Jackie, Jean, Cleone and Megan. I'm truly grateful to be part of the Chamber team.



## Our Mission

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The Mission of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce is to promote and enhance a vibrant business community while contributing to the quality of life through leadership, connection and community.

## Get Social



## Our Reach in 2025

<u>May 2025</u>	<u>2025 Totals</u>
Walk-Ins	
350	910
Phone Calls	
281	1047
Website Viewers	
92,633	263,835



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Jaime Deraney, MD



Michael Horgard, MD



Becky Peterson, APRN



Jenny Lessman, PA-C

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# 4 Ambassador Visits



Chamber Ambassadors presented a First Dollar of Profit to Maisie Lund, Owner of **A Court of Manes**. Located in the Washington Square Mall, her experienced team provide women, men and kids haircuts, coloring services, lash services and more! Call or go online to schedule.



A First Dollar of Profit was presented to Aaron Tait, Certified Financial Planner, and his team at **49 North Advisors**. They provide financial strategies tailored to **their clients' specific needs and goals**. The office is located at 818 Washington Avenue.



A Ribbon Cutting was held on June 20, to celebrate **Esser Plumbing & Heating/Green's/Modern** at their new location—24724 Co. Hwy. 6. Joe Esser is General Manager.



Ambassadors participated in a Ribbon Cutting celebrating the Olga Ziemka Exhibition at **Ortenstone Gardens**. Ziemka is an internationally recognized sculptor and environmental artist installed three temporary sculptures and there will be one permanent work, "Of the Earth".

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# Welcome New Members

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## Lakeview Window Cleaning LLC

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## Calibrated Auto Glass

Travis & Becca Gray, Owners  
1311 Richwood Road  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
218-844-2022  
Email: [calibratedautoglass@gmail.com](mailto:calibratedautoglass@gmail.com)  
[www.calibratedautoglass.com](http://www.calibratedautoglass.com)

A family-owned automotive glass repair business specializing in windshield repair and replacement, side and back glass replacement, and Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) recalibration services.

## Member Renewals

Thanks to the following members who have renewed their DL Chamber Membership from May 28—June 23, 2025. Chamber Memberships renew throughout the year. For a complete list of members, see <https://business.visitdetroitlakes.com/list/>

Alliance Recycling Group  
Allstar Construction  
BOB 94-5  
Crane Johnson Lumber  
First Lutheran Church  
**Lakes Area Farmer's Market**

NRG Auto Repair, Inc.  
S & G Distributions  
Snappy/M & M Manufacturing  
State Farm—Nick Christenson  
Zion Lutheran Church

## Member News

“As we announce our retirement, we want to say Thank You to the Detroit Lakes community for helping make our business such a success over the last 27 years. We appreciate your patronage!”

~ Steve & DeLora Stoa, Novus Auto Glass

After more than four decades of vision, growth and leadership, **Lakeshirts** co-founders Mark Fritz and Mike Hutchinson have announced the transition of their co-CEO roles. Effective July 7, 2025, David Best will officially join **Lakeshirts** as the company's new Chief Executive Officer.

**Midwest Bank** has partnered with Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines in presenting Member Impact Fund donations totaling \$1,000,000 to a number of local organizations. The program provides \$3 for every \$1 in matching donations to support the needs of local communities and have a positive impact.

The Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce & Area Businesses Present

## 4th of July Fireworks

Detroit Lakes City Beach  
At Dusk

## Your Local Legislators

Senator Amy Klobuchar (DFL)  
202.224.3244

Senator.Klobuchar@Senate.Gov

Senator Tina Smith (DFL)  
202.224.5641

Scheduling@Smith.Senate.Gov

Michelle Fischbach (R)  
7th District US House  
202-225-2165 or 218-616-2802

Pete Stauber (R)  
8th District US House  
<https://Stauber.House.Gov/>

Paul Utke (R)  
Senate 5  
218-255-1131  
Sen.Paul.Utke@Senate.mn

Rob Kupec (DFL)  
Senate 4  
651-296-3205  
Sen.Rob.Kupec@Senate.mn

Jim Joy (R)  
House 4B  
651-296-6829  
Rep.Jim.Joy@House.mn.gov

Krista Knudsen (R)  
House 5A  
651-296-9918  
Rep.Krista.Knudsen@House.mn.gov

To find your local representative, go  
to <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>

## Did you Know?

The Minnesota Chamber is launching a competition to highlight the long history of innovation in Minnesota.

Did you know:

- Manufacturing represents the single largest private-sector component of MN's GDP
- 325, 000 Minnesotans work in manufacturing
- Minnesota companies exported 1,057 different types of products to 200 countries worldwide (2015)



Check out last year's winner (something you use for gift giving and 100's of other uses. Can you guess?) and submissions and get ready to submit your innovative Minnesota product!

Go to: [Mnchamber.com/coolest-thing-made-Minnesota](http://Mnchamber.com/coolest-thing-made-Minnesota)



## EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DEED has training grants available to help Minnesota businesses train workers in communities located outside the Twin Cities seven-county metro area.

- Automation Training Incentive Program (ATIP) Grant up to \$35,000 for small businesses under 150 full-time employees to train current workers on new automation technology.
- Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) Grants up to \$200,000 for eligible businesses to provide training for at least three new jobs.

For more information and application, go to [mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/training-grant/](http://mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/training-grant/)

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# Legislative News

The Minnesota legislature ended its special session with changes to the Earned Safe and Sick Time as well as the Paid Family and Medical Leave tax.

Employers may now require employees to give notice of the **need for earned safe and sick time (ESST)** “as reasonably required by the employer”, changed from the previous language, “as soon as practicable”. This provides more flexibility to define what notice is required for ESST. It will be important to revise ESST policy with clear definition of notice and communicate the notice expectations.

Another amended provision includes the ability for employers to request documentation when an employee uses ESST for more than two consecutive days vs three consecutive days as originally adopted.

There is new language that “an employer is permitted to advance earned sick and safe time to an employee based on the number of hours they employee is anticipated to work for the remaining **portion of the accrual year**”. This allows employees to **prorate ESST** for first year employees who are frontloaded with leave based on anticipated hours worked. It will be important to track actual hours throughout the year to ensure employees receive the minimum amount of leave required by ESST.

The final budget deal included a 0.1% reduction to the payroll tax for paid family and medical leave. As of January 1, 2026, the premium rate will be .88% of taxable wages for most employers and .44% for small employer (30 or less employees and an average age less than 150% of the statewide average weekly wage).

*\*\*\*This information is meant to be general information and you should always contact your employment attorney to confirm and clarify how these changes may affect your employee handbook, policies and procedures.*



The Member Resource Directory update is coming!! The Directory is your source for Chamber members information to keep it local!

Members have the opportunity to advertise in the Member Resource Directory. Members who previously placed an ad will be contacted.

Watch for a mailing to review and update your membership information and advertising options.

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## DL Chamber Bucks Reminder:

For good customer service, please continue to accept ALL Chamber Bucks but let the Chamber office know if you take any \$10.00 checks from First Security Bank; we will exchange them for **new** 1st National Bank checks.





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### **Route Around Your Office**

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### **Board of Directors**

#### Chairman of the Board

**Nate Hunter**

HomeSmart Adventure Realty  
2026

#### Chair-elect

**Kim Bettcher**

DLCCC  
2026

#### Treasurer

**Jason Kuehn**

DL School District  
2026

#### Directors

**Cara Frank**

Bell Bank  
2026

**Emily Haverkamp**

MState  
2026

**Liz Holzer**

Dynamic Homes  
2026

**Jennifer Morton**

Better Every Day Consignment  
2026

**Stacey Omberg**

Leighton Media  
2025

**Joe Skogmo**

First Lutheran Church  
2026

**Scott Wenner**

Laney's  
2026

### **What's Happening!**

July 2025

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Tuesdays | Tuesdays in the Park, 7pm, DL City Park Bandshell         |
| Tues/Sat | <b>Lakes Area Farmer's Market, 10am-1pm, Peoples Park</b> |
| Sat/Sun  | Shady Hollow Flea Market, 7am-3pm, Hwy. 59 South          |
| Sat/Sun  | Group Scuba Dives, Tri-State Diving                       |
| Sun      | Free Movies, 2pm, Tamarac NWR                             |
- 
- 3,10,31 Trucks & Tunes, 5-8pm, DL City Park  
4 Fireworks, dusk, DL City Beach  
5 Free Movie, "Spongebob: Sponge Out of Water", 10am, Odyssey Thtr.  
9 :45 Fill-up, 8:15-9am, Boys & Girls Club  
9 Cruise DL Night, 4-8:30pm, West Lake Drive  
10 DAC Beanbag Tourney, 5-8pm, DL City Park  
11 Warrant Concert, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino  
11-20 Northwest Water Carnival, [www.dlwatercarnival.com](http://www.dlwatercarnival.com)  
12 Mark Knutson Memorial Tour Da Lakes, 8:30am, DLHS  
13 MAD Summer Party, 5pm, Soo Pass Ranch  
14 PAD Annul Golf Tournament, 3pm, Lakeview Golf Course  
16 & 30 **Women's Wednesdays, 3-5pm, Forest Edge Gallery**  
16 Water Fights, 7pm, DL City Park  
18 Teen Bash on the Beach, 5pm, DL City Beach  
19 Bash on the Beach, 6pm, DL City Beach  
20 Parade of the Northwest, 1pm  
23-26 Becker County Fair, [www.beckercountyfair.com](http://www.beckercountyfair.com)  
24 **Chamber Board of Directors, 8am, Chamber office**  
24-27 Frazee Turkey Days, [www.frazeecommunityclub.com](http://www.frazeecommunityclub.com)  
25 Maddie & Tae Concert, 8pm, Shooting Star Casino  
27 Art in the Park, 9am-3pm, DL City Park  
30 **Women's EDGE Connection, 3-5pm, Meadows on Lind**  
31 B & G Club Pollinator Garden Celebration, 6pm, B & G Club

See full calendar of events and local information at

[VisitDetroitLakes.com](http://VisitDetroitLakes.com)

Please let us know if you have events for our calendar.