

Official Newsletter of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce



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.



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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





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

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







@ DLCHAMBER

Our Reach in 2025

May 2025

2025 Totals

Walk-Ins

350

910

Phone Calls

281

1047

Website Viewers

92,633

263,835



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SANFORD

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 Ziemska Exhibition at **Ortenstone Gardens**. Ziemska is an internationally recognized sculptor and environmental artist installed three temporary sculptures and there will be one permanent work, "Of the Earth".







Welcome New Members

Lakeview Window Cleaning LLC

Terry Eiter, Owner 1056 South Shore Drive Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 218-850-9573

Email: terryeiter@gmail.com

We provide residential and commercial window cleaning services. We turn your sad, dirty windows into sparkling clean, happy windows!

Calibrated Auto Glass

Travis & Becca Gray, Owners 1311 Richwood Road Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 218-844-2022

Email: calibratedautoglass@gmail.com 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.



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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?

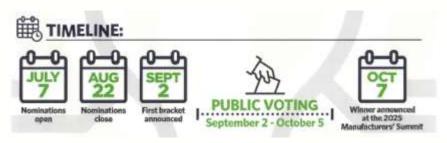
The Minnesota Chamber is launching a competition to highlight the long history of innovation in Minnesota.

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





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/





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

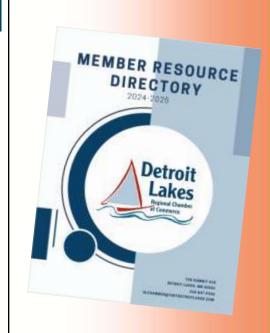
employer", changed from the previous language, "as soon as practicable". This provides more flexibility to define what notice is required for ESST. It will be important to revise ESST policy with clear definition of notice and communicate the notice expectations.

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.



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.



PO Box 348 Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-0348



Route Ground Your Office

Please route to:

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
Lakes Area Farmer's Market, 10am-1pm, Peoples Park
Sat/Sun
Sat/Sun
Group Scuba Dives Tri State Diving

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
- 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
- 24 Chamber Board of Directors, 8am, Chamber office
- 24-27 Frazee Turkey Days, 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

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