

# CHAMBER NEWS

July 2026  
Volume 33 - No. 7



Official Newsletter of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce



No Meeting in July  
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45 minutes of member networking  
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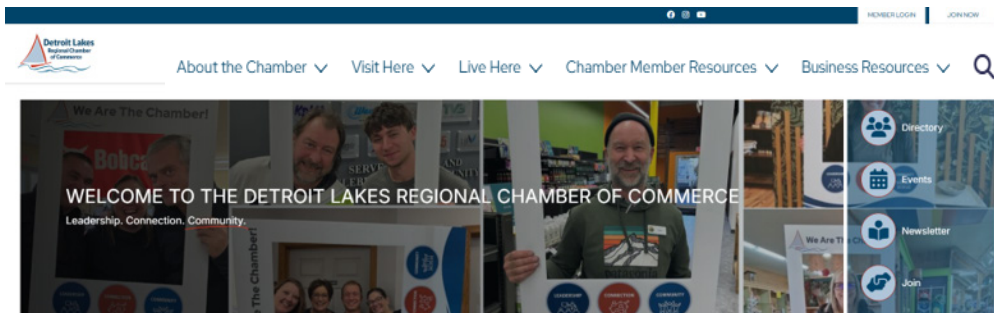


COMPASS YP Upcoming Events  
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## A New Chamber Website is Coming Soon



We're putting the finishing touches on a brand-new Chamber website designed to enhance the member experience while serving as a valuable resource for our community.

The new site, combined with our upgraded member management system, will make it easier to manage your membership, register for events, connect with other businesses, and showcase your business to customers, visitors, and fellow members.

The website will also serve as a hub for local business information, events, visitor resources, workforce opportunities, and community connections. Whether someone is searching for a local service, planning a move, or exploring

what makes our region special, the Chamber website will help connect them to our members and community.

More than a website refresh, this investment reflects our commitment to continuously adding value for our members and ensuring the Chamber remains a relevant, responsive resource for our business community.

Stay tuned for the official launch and a closer look at all the new features.

**The Chamber has always been about connection. Soon, you'll have an even better tool to help make those connections happen.**

## Get Ready for Welcome Back Teachers 2026!

Our annual Welcome Back Teachers event will be here before we know it! This special tradition helps us welcome teachers and staff from Detroit Lakes, Frazee, and Lake Park-Audubon as they prepare for a new school year.

We're inviting businesses to start planning their participation by donating gift bag items, treats, gift certificates, promotional items, notes of encouragement, or door prizes.

Approximate items needed:

- Detroit Lakes Area Schools: 350 items
- Lake Park-Audubon: 75 items
- Frazee: 75 items
- Approximately 500 total items needed to support all three districts

More details will be shared soon. Thank you for helping us show our educators how much they are valued and appreciated!

## GET IN TOUCH

218-847-9202

700 Summit Ave.  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

DLChamber@VisitDetroitLakes.com

VisitDetroitLakes.com/Chamber

**Jackie Buboltz**

President

jackie@visitdetroitlakes.com

**Jean Erickson**

Office Coordinator

jean@visitdetroitlakes.com

**Joanna Thoennes**

Membership & Business

Support Specialist

joanna@visitdetroitlakes.com

**Megan Gilsdorf**

Events Coordinator

events@visitdetroitlakes.com

**Cleone Stewart**

Tourism Director

cleone@visitdetroitlakes.com

FOLLOW US!



#DLCHAMBER

## 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.*



## Our Reach in 2026

May 2026	2026 Totals
<b>Walk-Ins</b> 218	<b>Walk-Ins</b> 615
<b>Phone Calls</b> 140	<b>Phone Calls</b> 628
<b>Website Viewers</b> 35,609	<b>Website Viewers</b> 124,718

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair

**Kim Bettcher - 2029**

DLCCC

Chair-Elect

**Liz Holzer - 2029**

Dynamic Homes

Treasurer

**Jason Kuehn - 2029**

DL School District

Past Chair

**Nate Hunter - 2027**

HomeSmart Adventure Realty

Directors

**Ashley Minard - 2028**

Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites

**Cara Frank - 2029**

Bell Bank

**Emily Haverkamp - 2027**

MState

**Jennifer Hagman - 2029**

Better Every Day Consignment

**Joe Skogmo - 2029**

First Lutheran Church

**Tiffany Voigt - 2028**

DL Tribune/Forum Communications

**Jennifer Winn - 2027**

Arvig

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# 4th of July Fireworks City Beach!

Join us at City Beach at dusk on the 4th of July for an unforgettable evening as we celebrate Independence Day together with the annual Detroit Lakes Fireworks Show!

This community tradition is made possible through the generosity of local businesses, organizations, and individuals. **We're still accepting donations** to help support this year's display, and every contribution –

large or small – helps ensure we can continue providing a spectacular fireworks show for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed. **If you'd still like to support the Detroit Lakes Fireworks Show, reach out the Chamber!**

See you at City Beach at dusk!



*Fireworks donation check from Leon Senn with Lake Detroiters Association*

# Newsletter Insert Update!

Looking for another way to get your message in front of Chamber members?

Starting July 1, our newsletter insert program now provides even more value! In addition to having your flyer included in our printed Chamber newsletter, your insert will also be featured in our online newsletter, expanding your reach to both print and digital audiences.

Newsletter insert pricing is \$200 for Chamber member businesses and \$100 for nonprofits. Whether you're promoting an event, special offer, fundraiser, or new service, this is a great opportunity to increase visibility and connect with our membership.

Space is limited, so contact us to reserve your upcoming newsletter insert!



While you're preparing for your whole world to change, partner with providers who are ready to help shape the best pregnancy and delivery experience for you. At Sanford Health in Detroit Lakes, you can build a relationship with our team of OB/GYN providers to support you at every step of growing your family.

[Learn more at sanfordhealth.org](http://sanfordhealth.org)

Sanford Detroit Lakes Clinic  
1245 Washington Ave.  
(218) 846-2000



Jaimie Deraney, MD



Michael Norgard, MD



Becky Peterson, APRN



Jenny Lessman, PA-C



**HR**  
CONNECT

**1st Thursday of every month!**

If Human Resources is in your job description, this is the group for you!

**NO MEETING IN JULY!**

*Will resume August 7th*

**LOCATION:**  
Chamber Conference Room  
700 Summit Ave.  
Detroit Lakes

*Free for Members  
\$10 for Non-Members*



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## Ambassador Visits



Our Chamber Ambassadors were honored to join **Essentia Health St. Mary's-Detroit Lakes** for a ribbon cutting celebrating the addition of the **ROSA Knee System**, an innovative robotic-assisted technology that expands minimally invasive surgical options for patients. The ROSA system will help improve patient outcomes and recovery times while allowing more people to receive exceptional care right here in our region.



Our Chamber Ambassadors were excited to celebrate Walleye World RV Park on Pelican Lake with a ribbon cutting and 1st Dollar recognizing the park's expansion to 75 RV sites and plans for 75 more! Joann Gilbertson, owner, and her family share a vision for growing the park and creating a welcoming destination for visitors to our region.



Our Chamber Ambassadors were excited to celebrate the ribbon cutting for the Heartland Trailhead, a wonderful new addition for residents and visitors alike! Located at the corner of Hwy 10 East and East Shore Drive in Detroit Lakes, the trailhead has convenient access to the Heartland State Trail. The trailhead offers amenities including parking, an EV charging station, bicycle repair tools, a water filling station, public restrooms, and a shelter.



### 2nd Wednesday of every month!

Join the **:45 Fill Up** for networking and share business and event information! Be sure to bring business cards and flyers to share!

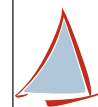
**Wednesday,  
July 8**  
8:15 – 9:30 am

**LOCATION:**

Chamber Conference Room  
700 Summit Ave.  
Detroit Lakes

*Want to host a :45 Fill Up  
at your business?*

**Contact the Chamber!**



### CONTACT US!



218-847-9202



700 Summit Ave.  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501



[DLChamber@VisitDetroitLakes.com](mailto:DLChamber@VisitDetroitLakes.com)

## Welcome New Members

### syncHRony Business Consulting LLC

Kristin Erdmann, HR Consultant  
 Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
 763-443-9000  
 Email: syncHRonybc@gmail.com  
 www.synchronybc.com



HR business or individual consulting services to help you meet and achieve your goals.

### Fourteen Acres Digital

Eric Hauer  
 22546 N. Pearl Lake Road  
 Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
 218-587-6293  
 Email: eric@fourteenacres.com  
 www.fourteenacres.digital



Website development, business automation and digital marketing for all types of small businesses.

## Member News

**Arvig** has been recognized as a Top 200 Workplace in Minnesota by the Minneapolis Star Tribune. As an employee-owned company, their culture is shaped by their people. The award is a direct reflection of their team's dedication, hard work, and commitment to making Arvig a great place to be every day.

**Essentia Health St. Mary's Detroit Lakes** has added the ROSA Knee System, a new robotic surgical option. It allows for minimally invasive robot-assisted surgeries that improve patient outcomes and reduces recovery time. This robot was made possible by the Essentia Health St. Mary's Detroit Lakes Foundation.

**The Boys & Girls Club of Detroit Lakes** received a grant from the Clean Energy Resource Team. The monies will go to updating the Hydroponic Farm Lighting Project to be more energy efficient which will reduce costs and increase sustainability. The project will also educate youth about energy efficiency, the importance of fresh and locally grown and sourced foods, as well as offering the experience of growing their own food.

**Arvig** has been awarded the Silver Award for Best Internet Service Provider in the Twin Cities Business 2026 Best of Business Awards. This recognition is a direct reflection of our team's dedication and hard work.

### West Lake Drive Project Updates

Stay up to date on the latest news, construction progress, and project timelines for the West Lake Drive improvement project.

#### More Information:

218-847-5658  
[cityofdetroitlakes.com/westlakedrive](http://cityofdetroitlakes.com/westlakedrive)



## MEMBER RENEWALS

Thanks to the following members who have renewed their Chamber Membership from May 23, 2026 - June 25, 2026!

Alliance Recycling Group

APEX Engineering Group, Inc.

Baxstar Fishing

Better Every Day Consignments

BOB 94.5 FM

Bristlin Construction, Inc.

Cormorant Pub

Crane Johnson Lumber Company

Dakota Mailing & Shipping Equipment

Detroit Lakes Timeshare Rentals

First Lutheran Church

La Barista

MONO Investments LLC

PRO Custom & Security

Snappy/M & M Manufacturing

State Farm - Nick Christenson

The Dashery

Val Voigt Fine Art LLC

West Central Initiative

Zion Lutheran DL

Chamber Memberships renew throughout the year. For a complete list, visit [business.visitdetroitlakes.com/list](http://business.visitdetroitlakes.com/list)



## COMPASS Young Professionals

is a dynamic network for professionals ages 18–40 who are looking to build connections, develop as leaders, engage in the community, and have fun along the way. Through events, volunteer opportunities, and professional development, members gain valuable experiences that support both personal and career growth.

For employers, encouraging participation in COMPASS helps cultivate future leaders, enhance employee engagement, expand professional networks, and strengthen our community for years to come.

### Upcoming events:

- July 21: Get Outside & Give Back with Project 412 at Ortenstone Gardens!
- August 20: Professional Readiness + Headshot Clinic with Overflow Creative



Scan here to join!

Program Sponsored by:



## Think Local First: Celebrating Independent Retailer Month

July is Independent Retailer Month, a time to recognize the important role locally owned businesses play in the strength and vitality of our community. Each contributes to our local economy, creates jobs, and helps make our community a great place to live, work, and visit.

Choosing to support local businesses has a ripple effect that extends far beyond a single purchase. According to American Express, for every dollar spent at a small business, an average of 67 cents remains in the local community. Other research suggests that a dollar spent at an independent retailer may circulate multiple times through local wages, services, charitable giving, and business-to-business purchases. Those dollars help support local jobs, community organizations, events, and the overall vitality that makes Detroit Lakes a special place to call home.

One way the Chamber is investing in our local retail community is through **Experience DL (XDL)**, a Chamber-sponsored initiative designed to create memorable experiences that encourage residents and visitors to shop, dine, and explore local businesses. Through promotions such as **DL Deer Weekend, Shop. Drop. Win., Find Polar Pete, and Water Carnival Button Days**, participating businesses work together to increase visibility, attract customers, and strengthen local connections.

Experience DL members benefit from collaborative marketing campaigns, coordinated promotions, shared advertising opportunities, and the collective creativity of fellow business owners. The Chamber provides administrative support, marketing and design services, event coordination, public relations, budget management, and promotional resources, allowing participating businesses to accomplish more together than they could individually.

If you are a retailer, restaurant, attraction, or customer-facing business looking for new ways to increase visibility, collaborate with fellow businesses, and be part of creative community-wide promotions, we invite you to explore Experience DL. Together, we can continue creating experiences that encourage residents and visitors to think local first and discover all that Detroit Lakes businesses have to offer. **Scan here to join!**



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# Reimagining Crazy Daze: A Community Discovery Festival

As we begin planning this year's Crazy Daze, we are excited to share a refreshed vision for one of our community's most recognized summer events.

Crazy Daze is a longstanding tradition that brings energy and activity to our area each year. As our community continues to grow, we see an opportunity to expand the event and strengthen connections between local businesses and the people who live here and visit.

**Event Mission:** Crazy Daze is a discovery festival designed to create memorable experiences while connecting residents and visitors with local businesses.

Our goal is a high energy, family friendly event that encourages people to explore, try new things, and experience each business in a fun and memorable way. Think less "sale day" and more "block party meets open house meets interactive festival," featuring *WOW* moments like:

- *WOW*, what a great deal
- *WOW*, I did not know this business was here
- *WOW*, what a fun day

We invite businesses to participate in a way that fits them best. Participation is open to all businesses, not just those located downtown.

As planning continues, we would love to collaborate with businesses interested in hosting a booth, activity, demonstration, or interactive experience. We are also exploring sponsorship opportunities to support entertainment, activities, and marketing.

The goal is not to make participation complicated or expensive. Value comes from visibility, connection, and being part of a shared community experience.

We look forward to shaping this next chapter together. If you are interested in participating or sponsoring, I would love to connect!

Sincerely,  
Megan Gilsdorf | Event Coordinator  
events@visitdetroitlakes.com



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### Detroit Lakes Chamber Bucks Reminder:



For good customer service, please continue to accept ALL Chamber Bucks but let the Chamber know if you receive any \$10 checks from First Security Bank; we will exchange them for **new** 1st National Bank checks.



**Detroit Lakes**  
Regional Chamber  
of Commerce

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## What's Happening - July 2026

Monday	Music Moments in the Gardens, 7pm, Ortenstone Gardens
Tuesday	Tuesdays in the Park, 6pm, City Park Bandshell
Tues/Sat.	Lakes Area Farmer's Market, 10am-2pm, Peoples Park
Wednesday	Wild Wednesdays, 10am, Tamarac NWR
Sat/Sun	Shady Hollow Flea Market, 7am-3pm, Hwy. 59 South
Sat/Sun	Group Scuba Dives, Tri-State Diving

**1..... Ambassadors, 9am**

2,9,23 .... Trucks & Tunes, 5-8pm, DL City Park

3-5..... Gold Star Tribute Wall, Peoples Park (Fri 6-10pm, Sat-8am-10pm, Sun-8am-noon)

**4..... Fireworks, dusk, DL City Beach**

**8..... :45 Fill-up, 8:15-9am, Chamber Office**

**8..... Cruise DL Night, 4-8pm, DL City Park & North Shore Drive**

10 & 24.. Storytelling in the Garden, noon, Ortenstone Gardens

10-19 ..... Water Carnival, see complete schedule at [www.dljaycees.com](http://www.dljaycees.com)

**10-19 ... DL Button Days, participating merchants**

11..... Fly In or Drive In & Pancake Breakfast, 8am-noon, DL Airport

11..... Tour Da Lakes Mark Knutson Memorial Ride, 8:30am, DL High School

11-12 ..... DL City Wide Garage Sales

11-12 ..... Cormorant Art Show, 10am-4pm, Cormorant Community Center

15 ..... Water Fights, 7pm, Peoples Park

15 & 29.. Women's Wednesday, 3-5pm, Forest Edge Gallery

17 ..... Comedy Night with Adam Grabowski, 8pm, Kent Freeman Arena

17-18..... Paddle at the Lakes (Pickleball), Peoples Park

18..... Bash Night, 6pm, Fairgrounds Derby Arena

19 ..... Parade of the Northwest, 1pm

**23..... Chamber Board of Directors, 8am, Chamber Office**

24..... Deep Dive DL, 8am, Bucks Mill Brewing

**26..... Art in the Park, 9am-3pm, DL City Park**

29-8/1... Becker County Fair

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.

### Route Around Your Office

Please route to:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



# Stronger Together. Better Lake. Brighter Future.

Join the Lake Detroiters Association Today!

For more than 75 years, the Lake Detroiters Association (LDA) has been the voice for our lake and our community—protecting Detroit Lake and enhancing our quality of life through advocacy, education, and member engagement.

## NEW in 2025!

Every member who pays their annual dues now has voting rights and can serve on the Board of Directors!

## BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



### Protecting Our Lake

LDA advocates with government agencies and partners to protect water quality, promote responsible use, and ensure a healthy lake for current and future generations.



### Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Action

We raise awareness and support proactive, locally driven initiatives to prevent and manage AIS threats like flowering rush and other invasive species.



### Your Voice. Your Lake.

Members shape the direction of LDA. With your membership, you can vote, run for the Board, and help drive decisions that impact our lake.



### Stay Informed

Receive newsletters, updates, and important lake information. Our updated website and online member portal make it easy to stay connected.



### Stronger Community

Join neighbors and fellow lake lovers at our annual meeting and events. Together, we build a stronger, more vibrant community.



### A Legacy of Leadership

Since 1950, LDA has been a volunteer-driven association documenting issues, solutions, and accomplishments—ensuring a legacy of stewardship.

## ADDRESSING SWIMMER'S ITCH



Swimmer's itch is a concern we take seriously. Here's what we're doing:

- ✓ Working with the DNR, City of Detroit Lakes, PRWD, and other local partners to learn more about why we are seeing an increase.
- ✓ Hosting researchers from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Research Center (MAISRC) to share the latest findings and research.
- ✓ Sharing updates, education, and best practices as new information becomes available.

*While there is no simple solution yet, we remain committed to understanding the issue and advocating for effective actions.*



## YOUR MEMBERSHIP MAKES AN IMPACT

- Supports advocacy for clean, healthy water
- Funds education and community outreach
- Helps protect against invasive species
- Strengthens our ability to represent your interests
- Ensures a better lake experience today and for generations to come

*Your \$25 annual membership is an investment in our lake and our future.*

## JOIN TODAY!

It only takes a minute—and your \$25 membership dues can make a difference that will last a lifetime.



[www.lakedetroiters.com](http://www.lakedetroiters.com)



Scan the QR Code to join online in seconds!

*Protect the lake we love. Build the future we want.*

**JOIN LDA TODAY!**