

Chamber Annual Meeting Thursday, February 28

The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting was held Thursday, February 28 at the Falls Ballroom with over 220 members in attendance. The Annual Meeting provides the opportunity for both the Chamber membership and the community at large to hear first-hand the accomplishments from the past year.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the 2018 award winners by the Chamber's Outstanding Service Committee. We would like to thank the Morrison County Record for their in-depth coverage of these awards in the February 24 issue. Photo's courtesy of *Terry Lehrke, Morrison County Record*.

2018 Chamber Large Business of the Year – Anderson Custom Processing



Pictured left: David Anderson, Denice Anderson, Anderson Custom Processing; Chamber President/CEO Debora K. Boelz and Brian Anderson, Anderson Custom Processing.

Anderson Custom Processing provides custom spray drying services to the food & beverage industries including infant formulas; pharmaceutical, hair care, cosmetics and paper product industries and they have been doing so for more than 47 years. Company founder Glen Anderson started the company in 1972 in Sleepy Eye and in 1974, opened the Little Falls plant on South Lindbergh Drive to meet the growing needs of the company. In 2014 the corporate headquarters relocated to Little Falls with the construction of an office building across the street from the production plant. ***Congratulations Anderson Custom Processing!***

2018 Chamber Small Business of the Year – Froggy's Signs, Inc.



Pictured left: Karla & William "Frog" Nornberg, Froggy's Signs, Inc. and Chamber President/CEO Debora K. Boelz.

Froggy's Signs started in 1992 and has grown into a full service sign company, working from design to installation plus repair and replacement throughout central Minnesota. Froggy's Signs has evolved with the advances in technology and has grown into a larger location with ample work space for his five employees. We are so grateful for all Froggy does for our community and truly feel he is an unsung hero! ***Congratulations Froggy's Signs, Inc.***

2018 Chamber Volunteer of the Year – Kristine Hoheisel



Pictured left: 2018 Chamber Volunteer of the Year, Kristine Hoheisel, Horizon Health and Chamber President/CEO Debora K. Boelz.

For over 20 years, Kristine Hoheisel has been sharing her time and talents with an ulterior motive – to get involved and to meet people. Kristine is the Senior Resource Director at Horizon Health in Pierz. She believes that if you want to live in a great community, you have to help to make it great. Kristine finds the volunteers she works with to be kind people and are always happy and upbeat, gaining satisfaction from helping the next person. ***Congratulations Kristine Hoheisel***

From the desk of the CEO . . .

Debra K. Boelz



My March column historically starts with a nudge to Mother Nature that we are ready for an early spring. This year that goes without saying.

Another Annual Meeting is in the history books! Thanks to all who attended, sponsored and enjoyed the evening. With the change to hors d'oeuvres rather than the sit down dinner, the evening truly was a member networking event. The Board of Directors will evaluate the changes made to the event this year, so if you have any comment, please let us know.

As the conversation continues on the shortage of childcare options and the impact on workforce, a new word has entered my vocabulary: workshed. In this situation, think of a watershed for our lakes and rivers where surface water makes it way to a bigger system. The same holds true for jobs. People commute to work, drawing from the surrounding area, known as a workshed. The Initiative Foundation is working with First Children's Finance on grants for the expansion of existing childcare facilities or the development of new options. If you would like more information, I can provide the PowerPoint presentation, or contact Don Hickman at the Initiative Foundation at 320-632-9255.

I had previewed the Relay of Voices last month; here is an update: Relay of Voices is 6 runners/performance artists who are following the Mississippi River from Itasca State Park to the Gulf of Mexico starting in July. Little Falls will be hosting the group from noon on Tuesday, July 23 through Thursday, July 25 at 8 am. The public is invited to spend time with the delegation for group activities as well as one-to-one interviews.

We are looking for 6 people to participate in one-to-one interviews with the performance artists on Tuesday, July 23 from 3:30 – 6:30 pm. The interviews will be before our guest to get to know about Little Falls from a personal perspective. Why do you live here? Were you born here? What made you move to Little Falls, or what made you stay. What are the things that you treasure about our community? What impact has the Mississippi River had on you and your family? What stories do you have to tell about the River?

The one-to-one interviews time spent with our guests can be done at Linden Hill where they will be staying, at your home or place of work, or anyplace in the area. If you have access to a pontoon boat, a spin on the water would be great! The group will be touring our attractions and weather permitting, enjoying some time on the water on Wednesday afternoon. Please contact me if you are interested in being interviewed.

The community is invited to the evening meals; details will be provided as plans are finalized. The opportunity to run with the group into Little Falls or escort them down the Great River Road towards Rice on Thursday morning is also option. You, too, can be part of history!

In closing, thank you to First Impression Printing for featuring the Little Falls Arts & Crafts Fair on their 2019 desk blotter calendar for the month of March!

March Employee of the Month

Karen Johnson, Little Falls Care Center



The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce our March Employee of the Month, *Karen Johnson*, Little Falls Care Center. Karen has been a Certified Nursing Assistant and Trained Medication

Aid at Little Falls Care Center for the past 2 years.

Laura Stumpf states about Karen: "Karen cares deeply about our residents at Little Falls Care Center. She takes on tasks with a smile. She performs many different roles, such as Certified Nursing Assistant and Trained Medication Aid. She is currently working on her Licensed Practical Nursing License and we are so thankful as part of our team.

Karen states: "This is a great honor for me. Working in healthcare and for Little Falls Care Center is rewarding each day. I try to make each day special for my residents. My job is about them and their care and I want their care to be second to none. I do my best each and every day and at the end of the day, I never regret what I do."

Thank you to our March Employee of the Month sponsors: **Berg's Bug Removal, Bursch Travel Agency, Coborn's Floral, CHI Health at Home, Domino's, Fresh Hair Professionals, Friends of Pine Grove Zoo, GoldSmith Jewelers, Johnny C's Sports Bar, Linden Hill Historic Event Center, Maddie B's Photography, Perkins Restaurant & Bakery, Pizza Ranch, Subway Little Falls, Vacuum Cleaner Outlet & Service Center.**

Congratulations Karen Johnson!

2020 Morrison County Plat Books

Morrison County has contracted with *Mapping Solutions* to create a new Plat Book for 2020. The ad representative is Kelly Dorsey. If you are interested in purchasing ad space, she can be reached at 952-451-7802 or kelly@mappingsolutionsGIS.com This is a legit project as confirmed by Brad Bolton in Land Services.

Friday Morning Coffee

Friday, March 15

7:30 - 9:00 am

Pine Grove Zoo,

1200 W Broadway, Little Falls

sponsored by:



Pine Grove Zoo has been proudly welcoming visitors throughout Minnesota as well as the United States since 1913. They are dedicated to

promoting educational, environmental and conservation messages, while creating life-long memories for families and visitors of all ages. They are excited to debut their new premier North American River Otter Exhibit in 2019! With this unique glass tunnel for kids and adults alike to crawl through, each guest will have an opportunity to get an up close and personal experience with these busy, rambunctious River Otters.

Networking is a powerful tool. After announcements, at 8:00 am, attendees will have the opportunities for 30 second testimonials for another Chamber Member business.

Thank you to our February Friday Morning Coffee sponsor Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau



Pictured left: *Kris VonBerge*, Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau, Executive Director; *Raquel Lundberg*, President of the Convention & Visitors Board of Directors and *Sabrina Koelsch*, Marketing Manager, Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Lunchtime on Location (LOL)

Wednesday, March 27

noon

Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy. 27, Little Falls

sponsored by:

... The ...
FALLS BALLROOM
 — BANQUET & CATERING SERVICES —

The Falls Ballroom is one of the premier venues for receptions, celebrations and events of all kind. Family-owned and operated, this Little Falls landmark is a gem in the community, rich with charm and history. You and your guests will be lavished with personal attention and will have your every need cared for. With our classic to gourmet menus and customer service, our staff's singular focus will be to ensure a first-class experience.

There is a \$5.00 fee to attend. Make your reservation by emailing Gina at ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com or call the Chamber (320) 632-5155 by Monday, March 25, to ensure we have enough food for all who wish to attend. Announcements at 12:25 pm.

Thank you to our February Lunchtime on Location (LOL) sponsor Hands of Hope Resource Center



Pictured above from the left: *Deanna Thompson; Amanda Kaping; Todd Chantry, Board Chair; Stephanie Och, Executive Director; Steve Meyer; Julie Kapsch; Jeff Jelinski, Board Member and Tina Scherping, Board Member Hands of Hope Resource Center.*

Welcome to our newest member!

Maddie B's Photography

Madison Berg

18998 Grouse Rd., Little Falls MN 56345

(320) 232-8198

madison.berg33@gmail.com

<http://www.facebook.com/MaddieBsPhotography>

Maddie B's Photography can capture a memory in one photo. Specializing in Senior pictures, weddings and family photos.

Recent Board Action

- Heard a report from representatives from **Schlenner Wenner & Co.** on the findings of the 2018 financial review
- Approved the 2018 financial review
- Finalized details of the Annual Meeting
- Approved new member, **Maddie B's Photography**

2019 Chamber Board & Staff

2017-2019

Tom Hoggarth, Gofers Organized for Little Falls - GOLF
Tim Matros, Chair of the Board, Five Pines Senior Solutions
Rosi Przybilla, Treasurer, Marshik Insurance Agency
Rob Ronning, Pine Country Bank

2018-2020

Steve Andres, Design Electronics
Dr. Allison Girtz, Secretary, Allison Zak D.C., LLC
Patrick Watercott, Vice Chair of the Board, Vernon Sales
 Promotion

2019-2021

Nancy Berg, Berg's Bug Removal
Brian Gapinski, Rural MN CEP
Pete Mooney, The Source Computing
Laurie Whitlow, PrimeLending

Non Voting Ex-Officio

John Thielen, Immediate Past Chair of the Board, Thielen Meats

Chamber Staff

Debora K. Boelz, President/CEO
dboelz@littlefallsmnchamber.com

Mary Bednarek, Office, Arts & Crafts Fair and Financial Coordinator
mary@littlefallsmnchamber.com

Gina Vetter, Project & Volunteer Coordinator
ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com

Lindy Greeter Visits

Thank you for your membership! Lindy Greeters *Sheila Avenson, The Office Shop, Inc., Angie Petersen, Keller Williams Realty Professionals* and *Shelly Stoner, ReMax Central MN* and *Kyle Wensmann, Coborn's Marketplace* visited the following members to thank them for their continued membership. The businesses were treated to a Chamber mug full of treats.

Central MN Renewables



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter, Shelly Stoner, ReMax Central MN; Jonathan Olmschied, Angie Magee, Eric Lee, Central MN Renewables

and Lindy Greeter *Angie Petersen, Keller Williams Realty Professionals.*

Central MN Renewables produces Acetone and Butanol using corn from local farmers. Their products are being used in products such as charcoal lighter fluid (Ecolight by Kingsford) and plant based acetone available at Sally Beauty stores. They can also be used in cosmetics, coatings and food extractions and that's just to name a few. Their products are sold all over the world in countries like China, Germany, Belgium, UK and of course the United States. They are plant #1 of its kind and continue to make adjustments to their process, sometimes daily. It is their goal to run 24/7/365 days a year. They are currently operating with a staff of nearly 60 employees which is double the amount needed when they operated as an ethanol facility. For more information visit www.centralmnrenewables.com/

GoldSmith Jewelers



Pictured left: Jeff Stumpf, GoldSmith Jewelers; Lindy Greeters *Angie Petersen, Keller Williams Realty Professionals* and *Shelly Stoner, ReMax Central MN* with *Kelly Laubach* and *Nancy*

Przybilla, GoldSmith Jewelers. Not pictured *Peter Maus* and *Autumn Stumpf, GoldSmith Jewelers.*

GoldSmith Jewelers are your jewelry repair experts with quality jewelry for every budget. Stop down to find that one of a kind piece of jewelry while enjoying exceptional customer service. For more information visit www.goldsmithlf.com/

City of Little Falls



Pictured left: Lindy Greeters *Shelly Stoner, ReMax Central MN* and *Angie Petersen, Keller Williams Realty Professionals* with *Lori Kasella* and *Jon Radermacher, City of Little Falls.*

The City of Little Falls has a mission to provide a safe, positive environment through the responsive, efficient and cost-effective delivery of City services while celebrating and building upon our treasured history. This statement is adopted with the following core beliefs:

- Excellence and quality in the delivery of municipal services;
- Fiscal responsibility with ethics and integrity;
- Respectful treatment of each other;
- Dedication and commitment toward making our City an ideal community;
- Visionary leadership and planning for the future.

If you have any questions or if you need more information in regards to City services visit <http://www.cityoflittlefalls.com> or call (320) 616-5500.

Save the date



Monday, July 15

Chamber Golf Outing
Pine Ridge Golf Club, Motley



Tuesday, August 20

Chamber Sporting Clays
LeBlanc's Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation, Little Falls

Lindy Greeter Visits

Thank you for your membership! Lindy Greeters *Sheila Avenson, The Office Shop, Inc., Angie Petersen, Keller Williams Realty Professionals* and *Shelly Stoner, ReMax Central MN* and *Kyle Wensmann, Coborn's Marketplace* visited the following members to thank them for their continued membership. The businesses were treated to a Chamber mug full of treats.

Little Falls Lions



Pictured left: Lindy Greeters *Kyle Wensmann, Coborn's Marketplace; Jerry Lochner, Mark Verkuilen, Dave Nygaard, Dean Schmidt, Karleen Schmidt,*

Little Falls Lions and Lindy Greeter *Sheila Avenson, The Office Shop, Inc.*

The Little Falls Lions work to continue to maintain and operate Lions Park, by replacing equipment, siding, retro-fitting the ballfield lights with LED bulbs. In addition to their park and shelter they give back to the community by continuing to work on vision screening, delivering meals on wheels, Christmas caroling, assist with Walmart diabetes/health screenings, provision of eye glass assistance, used eye glass collection for re-use and Day of Caring are just a few examples of projects they continually work on to improve Little Falls. For more information visit

www.lionsclubs.org/en



Lindbergh Lions



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter *Kyle Wensmann, Coborn's Marketplace; Jeff Stumpf, Doug Bednarek, Deb Retka, Jeff Tschida, Lindbergh Lions* and Lindy Greeter *Sheila Avenson, The Office Shop, Inc.*

The Lindbergh Lions are proud to be part of the Little Falls Community and the Chamber of Commerce. Some of their many projects include the purchasing of personal eye equipment to meet the visual needs for individuals and the purchasing of eye screening equipment with the Little Falls Lions and the Little falls Dandelions for the Little Falls School District. In addition to erecting the holiday light display on the Minnesota Power property

for the communities enjoyment. They work to continually improve the Lindbergh Lions Recreation complex with the addition of new buildings and playground equipment. They have also replaced the bleachers, hockey boards and of the reconstruction the ballfield dugouts. Join them for their Fish Fry, March 8 at the Little Falls VFW from 4:00 - 7:30 pm. For more information email

deb@servicemasterretka.com

West Side Improvement Association



Pictured left: Lindy Greeters *Sheila Avenson, The Office Shop, Inc.* and *Kyle Wensmann, Coborn's Marketplace; Jeff Tschida, Doug Bednarek and Deb Retka,*

West Side Improvement Association.

The mission of the West Side Improvement Association (WSIA) is to promote commercial, cultural, recreational and industrial developments and improvements on the west side of Little Falls. The WSIA is the proud sponsor of the West Little Falls Antiques and Collectibles Show and the annual Santa Parade for the community. The organization has invested funds in LeBourget Park for lighting, picnic tables and the fishing wharf, funded the granite "Welcome to Little Falls" sign on west Highway 27 and purchased the playground equipment at Pine Grove Park and Mary of Lourdes School. For more information visit <http://www.facebook.com/West-Side-Improvement-Association-Little-Falls-MN-289232647873572/>

Business bears the brunt of governor's budget

By Doug Loon

Gov. Tim Walz has unveiled his expansive and expensive budget proposal. The impact is crystal clear: Minnesota businesses are being asked to pay billions of dollars in additional taxes to support his budget that approaches \$50 billion for the next two years, up more than 8 percent over the existing biennium.

We share his goal of investing in the state's future for workforce, infrastructure and quality of life for Minnesota families. But, simply put, the governor's budget is an overreach and unaffordable.

The governor says Minnesota businesses benefited from the 2017 federal tax reform, justifying his proposal to disproportionately raise business taxes to grow state government. We've heard this repeated from a number of sources, but the facts are that individual taxpayers received a majority of the federal tax relief, and Minnesota already imposes a high cost of doing business. The federal tax changes will make Minnesota's higher tax rates more pronounced due to the cap on the state and local tax deduction for individuals and businesses that report business income on their personal income-tax returns.

What the governor did not mention is that the increased costs on businesses, if enacted, will be felt in the pocketbooks of all Minnesotans. We will all be on the hook for more than \$7 billion in tax increases for the four-year budget cycle beginning in July 2019.

The governor's gas tax proposal generated the most attention. We agree we need to invest more in the state's infrastructure, but a 20-cent, or 70-percent, increase would make Minnesota's gas tax the fourth highest in the nation. His proposal would automatically increase the gas tax each year, and would increase the motor vehicle sales tax, metro area sales tax and tab fees now. The cost will be felt especially by businesses that pay 50 percent of the gas and sales taxes. Rather than doubling down on the gas tax – an increasingly unreliable revenue source – we recommend diversifying our revenue sources through existing transportation-related sales taxes.

The governor recommends raising other costs of doing business in Minnesota. Over the next four years, these tax increases are part of his overall \$3 billion tax increase proposal:

A 23-percent increase in the corporate income tax, totaling nearly \$1 billion.

An increase in income taxes for businesses that report business income on their personal income-tax returns, totaling \$763 million.

Continuing the health care provider tax, totaling nearly \$1.7 billion.

Reinstating automatic increases in the state tax levy on business properties, totaling \$218 million.

A new state mandate for paid family leave with initial IT costs of \$68 million. Total costs are unknown, but it's proposed to be financed by a new payroll tax paid by all employees and employers including independent contractors.

These bills may be considered individually in the legislative process, but their impact is cumulative. Policymakers must remember that business costs cannot be analyzed in a vacuum. Each new cost, each new regulation hinders their ability to grow their business and fuel the state's economy.

In the end, consumers and employees will pay the price. Don't just take my word for it. That's a recurring conclusion of the Minnesota Department of Revenue's biannual Tax Incidence Study. Businesses cannot simply absorb higher taxes and higher costs of regulations year after year. Costs are passed along to consumers in three ways: lower salary and benefit packages for employees; higher costs for products and services; lower returns to shareholders.

The Minnesota Chamber Federation is prepared to fight for the economic interests of all Minnesotans. The pathway toward economic prosperity isn't through increased spending and higher taxes. Instead of growing government, we should be handing private-sector innovators the tools to fuel growth and not make it more costly to do business in Minnesota.

Doug Loon is president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce – www.mnchamber.com.

March Calendar of Events

The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce event and meetings are in bold. For an expanded list of community events, visit our website at www.littlefallsmnchamber.com

March

- 1 ~ Horizon Health Designer Handbag Bingo, 5:00 - 9:00 pm, Little Falls VFW, 1210 3 Ave NE, Little Falls
- 2 ~ MN Fishing Museum Antique Sporting Collectibles & Fish Decoy Show, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy 27, Little Falls
- 2 ~ Petite Picasso Art Class, 10:30 - 11:30 am, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 2 ~ Mini Monet Art Class, noon - 1:30 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 2 ~ Just Jason . . . and Friends! A Night of Comedy, 7:30 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 5 ~ **Lindy Greeter Committee Meeting**, noon, The Royal, 120 W Broadway, Little Falls
- 5 ~ **FALS Committee Meeting**, noon, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls
- 5 ~ A la cARTe Design Party, 6:00 pm, Sprout Marketplace, 609 13 Ave NE #8, Little Falls
- 6 ~ Little Falls Business Association, noon, Pine Country Bank, 1201 1 Ave NE, Little Falls
- 7 ~ Taize Prayer, 6:00 pm, Gathering Space at the St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls
- 7 ~ Open Mic Night, 7:00 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 8 ~ Lindbergh Lions Fish Fry, 4:30 - 7:30 pm, Little Falls VFW, 1210 3 Ave NE, Little Falls
- 8 ~ Zoo Gone Wild Fundraiser, 6:00 pm doors open, 7:00 - 8:00 pm social, 8:00 - 10:30 pm show, Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy 27, Little Falls
- 9 ~ Girls' Night at the Mansion, Linden Hill Historic Event Center, 608 Highland Ave., Little Falls
- 9 ~ Lenten Day of Reflection, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, St. Francis Halls at St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls
- 9 ~ 2nd Saturday Free Art, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 9 ~ The OK Factor presents free concert, 7:00 pm, Sacred Heart Chapel, St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls
- 14 ~ **Chamber Board of Directors**, 11:00 am, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls
- 15 ~ **Friday Morning Coffee**, 7:30 - 9:00 am, Pine Grove Zoo, 1200 W Broadway, Little Falls. *Sponsored by: Friends of Pine Grove Zoo*
- 15 ~ Kiwanis Fish Fry, 4:30 - 7:00 pm, Little Falls VFW, 1210 3 Ave NE, Little Falls
- 15 ~ Battle Legs, 7:30 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 16 ~ Basic Calligraphy, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 21 ~ Centering Prayer, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, Gathering Space at St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls
- 23 ~ Plaster Class with Preservation Alliance of MN, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Linden Hill Historic Event Center, 608 Highland Ave., Little Falls
- 23 ~ Sprout Marketplace, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, Sprout Food Hub, 609 13 Ave NE - door #8, Little Falls
- 23 ~ Painting with Wine, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 23 ~ Hope Rocks Fundraising Concert, 6:30 - 11:00 pm, Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy 27, Little Falls
- 26 ~ Kinship Soup & Chili Cook-Off, 5:00 - 7:00 pm, Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy 27, Little Falls
- 27 ~ **Lunchtime on Location (LOL)**, noon, Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy 27, Little Falls. *Sponsored by: Falls Ballroom*
- 30 ~ Habitat Ladies Day Tea, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, St. Francis Hall, St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls

LITTLE FALLS AREA



200 1 St NW
Little Falls MN 56345