

Covid 19 is changing how we do business today and into the future

Laura Bordelon, senior vice president for advocacy with the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce stated "I don't think our need to advocate on behalf of our members has ever been greater."

That advocacy is coming in many forms starting with our local chambers being a resource for government loan and grant programs, providing information on unemployment applications and just being a listening ear as we navigate uncharted waters.

The Chamber's website at www.littlefallsmnchamber.com has a COVID 19 tab that lists the above-mentioned programs. Additional information can be found on the City of Little Falls and the Initiative Foundation's websites as well as the SBA and DEED sites. This information is too important to be listed with only one agency and needs to reach out to the entire Morrison County community.

It is estimated that 80% of Minnesota businesses have been classified as essential. The remaining 20% of businesses that are classified as 'nonessential' are small (really small) businesses. What we do to help these small business weather the COVID 19 will determine if their doors will reopen.

With an orderly reopening of businesses, we will find our new norm. Please help our local businesses be around for this new norm by buying gift certificates now and using them much later (if ever), by tipping the food service workers you come in contact with and maintaining a community of caring people who really want to help their families, neighbors and friends return to living the best life possible.

We are bringing back in person networking with a twist

The one day at a time mindset and not knowing what tomorrow holds, we are all anxious to return to business as usual. While we are planning to move forward with our Friday Morning Coffee and Lunchtime on Location events as planned, we have developed an alternative plan while remaining within the CDC's guideline of in-person gatherings of 10 people or less and remaining at least 6' apart. The Chamber is excited to announce the opportunity for our members to connect in-person once again. In-person networking will be limited to 9 different individuals and will meet every other week. With the first in-person networking event being **Tuesday, May 12** from **8:30 - 9:30 am**.

- Attendees MUST pre-register
- In-person networking will be hosted at the Chamber of Commerce meeting room
- Attendees must remain 6' apart
- Introductions will be made
- There will be time for one to one conversations
- Attendees will have time to highlight their business
- May Friday Morning Coffee and Lunchtime on Location sponsor will have materials available to attendees
- May Friday Morning Coffee and Lunchtime on Location sponsor will be asked to join us via social media or can be one of the 9 in the room
- Masks and elbow bumps are optional
- Room will be sanitized prior to and after each in-person event
- Prior to attending please take your temperature. If you have a body temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher do not attend.
- If you have had a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher in the last 2 weeks please do not attend.

We recognize that online networking events held can be effective, however, it defeats the purpose of true networking by not allowing multiple people to have multiple conversations at once. We understand that some members may not be comfortable with attending an in-person activity at this time. We respect those decisions. To continue the Chamber's work of bringing members together to create and continue to build a stronger community by doing business with each other, we need to forge ahead, just with a new twist.

Register by emailing Gina at ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com by **Friday, May 8**. **If you are not pre-registered you won't be able to attend, there will be no walk-ins.**

From the Desk of the CEO. . . .

Debora K. Boelz



For my column this month, I am sharing signs of encouragement in our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic and making a concentrated effort to remove the following words from my vocabulary for the coming months: new norm, unprecedented times and uncertain times.

My work time is consumed with webinars and conference calls, little of which produce new information as does the endless news programs on television. Mental health experts suggest limiting exposure to the news programming, especially prior to bedtime.

Where does this leave us? Acceptance that our lives are forever changed and that this change is not all bad, just different. This difference is impacting individuals, families and businesses in very different ways.

If you have not read "The Greatest Generation" by Tom Brokaw, it might be time. The book is about the experience of various people who lived in the Roaring 20's, World War II and were instrumental in rebuilding the country after the Great Depression all without the Internet! The book lists the characteristics of this generation being personal responsibility, humility, work ethic, prudent saving and faithful commitment. This book will lead you to some reflective time as you draw a correlation to yourself and your family in the stories.

Back to signs of encouragement in our lives! Governor Tim Walz has eased the restrictions on non-essential businesses, starting the process for reopening of businesses and getting people back to work.

Families have found each other again. The lack of outside distractions and over-scheduling in our lives has brought back family meals, family playtime and parents having the time to teach their children life skill like cooking and cleaning.

We have rediscovered our communities. More people are taking the kids and the dogs for long walks. The outdoor playgrounds are being used. Fishing in the lakes and rivers appears to be at an all time high. On Saturday, April 25th the parking lot for the Soo Line Trail on Highway 10 was packed!

Seeing the grass green up, the trees budding and flowers spiking through earth gives a renewed sense of hope, and for me, joy. Once my allergies kick-in, I will not be so joyful!

In closing, the chamber staff has reduced hours due to reduced programming, to cut down on overhead and to comply with social distancing requirements. The office is covered by phone and email with the door locked to the public. This schedule is set through June and then an assessment will be made going forward. Plans are moving forward for the Golf Outing, Sporting Clays and the Arts & Crafts and Market Place Fairs!

2020 Chamber Board & Staff

2018-2020

Steve Andres, **Design Electronics**

Dr. Allison Girtz, Chair of the Board,

Allison Zak D.C., LLC

Patrick Watercott, Vice Chair of the Board,

Vernon Sales Promotion

2019-2021

Nancy Berg, *Treasurer*,

Berg's Bug Removal

Tim Matros, *Immediate Past Chair of the Board*,

Five Pines Senior Solutions

Pete Mooney, **The Source Computing**

Laurie Whitlow, **PrimeLending**

2020 - 2022

Jana Festler, **Edward Jones Investments**

Paula Kampa, **Kampa Gerbi & Associates**

Tom Hoggarth, *Secretary*,

Golfers Organized for Little Falls - GOLF

Rob Ronning, **Pine Country Bank**

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

Chamber Golf Outing

Monday, July 13, 2020

Little Falls Country Club, 1 Edgewater Dr., Little Falls



Pictured left: 2019 Chamber Golf Outing team from **Anderson Custom Processing**.

This scramble format Golf Outing accommodates golfers of all skill levels. Take advantage of the early bird discount by getting your team or individual registration in by July 2, 2020. Prior to July 2, 2020 cost is \$75 per golfer. After July 2, your registration fee is \$85 per golfer. Included with your registration fee is 18 holes golf, cart, boxed lunch, social, complimentary beverage, games on the course and of course, networking.

Cart Sponsorship

Cart Sponsorship \$700 is limited to 1 sponsor and includes: Business logo on all golf carts for the event, 4-some in the Golf Outing, 4 drink tickets, 4 boxed lunches, 4 dinners, 2 carts, logo inclusion on event materials, listing in Chamber weekly email blasts, logo inclusion on the Chamber website and Annual Report, acknowledgement the day of the event, recognition in the Chamber newsletter, professionally designed banner with your logo included, exposure of your business name and logo to over 300 Chamber members.

Corporate Sponsorship

Corporate sponsors \$500 and includes: 4-some in the Golf Outing, 4 drink tickets, 4 boxed lunches, 4 dinners, 2 carts, logo inclusion on event materials, listing in Chamber weekly email blasts, logo inclusion on the Chamber website and Annual Report, acknowledgement the day of the event, recognition in the Chamber newsletter, professionally designed banner with your logo included, exposure of your business name and logo to over 300 Chamber members.

Dinner Sponsorship

Dinner Sponsorship \$700 is limited to 1 sponsor and includes: Business logo signage at the dinner recognizing the sponsorship, 4-some in the Golf Outing, 4 drink tickets, 4 boxed lunches, 4 dinners, 2 carts, logo inclusion on event materials, listing in Chamber weekly email blasts, logo inclusion on the Chamber website and Annual Report, acknowledgement the day of the event, recognition in the Chamber newsletter, professionally designed banner with your logo included, exposure of your business name and logo to over 300 Chamber members.

Hole-In-One Sponsorship

Hole-In-One sponsorship \$100 + the cost of insurance.

Hole -In-One sponsorship is limited to 4 sponsors. Benefits of sponsorship include: 4-some in the Golf Outing, 4 drink tickets, 4 boxed lunches, 4 dinners, 2 carts, logo inclusion on event materials, listing in Chamber weekly email blasts, logo inclusion on the Chamber website and Annual Report, acknowledgement the day of the event, recognition in the Chamber newsletter, professionally designed banner with your logo included, exposure of your business name and logo to over 300 Chamber members.

Hole Sponsorship

Hole sponsorship \$75 per hole and includes: professional signage at the Golf Outing event, acknowledgement in event materials, listing on the Chamber website, recognition in the Chamber newsletter, name recognition to over 150 potential new customers, recognition in the Chamber Annual Report and much more.

To become a sponsor or to register for golf visit our website at www.littlefallsmnchamber.com. If you would like more information about the Chamber Golf Outing contact either Deb or Gina by calling (320) 632-5155 or email Gina at gina@littlefallsmnchamber.com.

**** Event adjustments may be made to follow CDC Covid-19 guidelines**

Congratulations to our May Employee of the Month, Brad Hircock, Coborn's Pharmacy



The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce our May Employee of the Month, **Brad Hircock, Coborn's Pharmacy**. Brad has been a Pharmacist at

Coborn's Pharmacy for the past 10 years.

Gary Sperl states about Brad, "Brad has a heart for the patient. We are indeed a team but his actions rightly deserve notice and applause. He has been a long-time coworker of mine and friend. He is very deserving of this honor."

Brad states "I've always looked at working at the pharmacy as a way to help people and that is something I enjoy. At Coborn's, we are a team/family, we work together very well. We enjoy serving and helping others as if they are family members. I am very thankful and humbled for this honor, but know that it should really be shared with our whole pharmacy staff here at Coborn's."

Thank you to our May Employee of the Month sponsors: **Berg's Bug Removal, Bursch Travel Agency, Domino's, Fitness Connection, Franciscan Sisters, Melgram Jewelers, Perkins Restaurant & Bakery, Subway, Thrive with Vision, Vacuum Cleaner Outlet & Service Center**

Congratulations Brad Hircock!

**** If we are unable to meet as a large group register for our smaller in-person networking opportunities. Register by emailing Gina at ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com.**

Recent Board Action

The Board of Directors did not meet in April due to the COVID 19 restrictions.

Friday Morning Coffee - tentative

Friday, May 15

7:30 - 9:00 am

Coborn's Marketplace (Deli),
1101 2 Ave NE, Little Falls

Sponsored by:



The Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau (LFCVB) is proud to share the beauty, assets, parks and community events with all of MN. The Mission of the LFCVB is to market and advertise our city as a destination. LFCVB would like to introduce you to one of their board members, Kyle Wensmann while enjoying a continental breakfast at his place of employment, Coborn's Marketplace.

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

Lunchtime on Location - tentative

Wednesday, May 27

noon

Edina Realty, 15594 Hwy 27. Ste. 2, Little Falls

Sponsored by:



a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate

Edina Realty has operated under the core values of honesty, integrity, and commitment. When you do right by people, you find they return the favor.

Join us for Lunchtime on Location, a noon time networking event. The sponsor will provide a light lunch and information about their business. There is a \$5 fee to attend. Make your reservation by Tuesday, May 26 by emailing ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com or call the Chamber (320) 632-5155 or by visiting our website at www.littlefallsmnchamber.com. *It is important to RSVP to allow the host to plan accordingly for food.*

Sporting Clays

Tuesday, August 18

3:00 pm Registration, Annie Oakley, Flurry Shoot

4:00 pm Station Shooting

Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation, 16543 Game Farm Rd., Little Falls



Pictured left: 2019 **GoldSmith Jewelers** team our Competitive Division high score team. Team members include: *Bill Backowski, John LeMeiur, Tim Nelson and Jonathon LeMeiur.*

Join us for an afternoon of fun at our Sporting Clays event. Included is an Annie Oakley shoot, flurry shoot, cowboy quick draw contest, eight different stations shooting a total of 50 targets, wild game hors d oeuvres and beverages. Now is the time to take advantage of Sporting Clays corporate, station, cowboy quick draw contest and social sponsorship opportunities.

Social Sponsor \$500

Exclusive signage indicating sponsorship
 Opportunity to have promotional area at Social
 Opportunity to sit out on the Course during the event
 Team of 4 in event
 Hors d oeuvres for 4
 Acknowledgement on Chamber website
 Acknowledgement on event materials
 Recognition in weekly email blasts
 Recognition in Chamber Newsletter
 Inclusion in post event materials
 Name recognition to over 100 potential new customers
 Acknowledgement in Chamber Annual Report

Corporate Sponsorship \$260

Team of 4 in event
 Hors d oeuvres for 4
 Acknowledgement on Chamber website
 Acknowledgement on event materials
 Recognition in weekly email blasts
 Recognition in Chamber Newsletter
 Inclusion in post event materials
 Name recognition to over 100 potential new customers
 Acknowledgement in Chamber Annual Report

Cowboy Quick Draw Sponsor \$500

Exclusive signage indicating sponsorship
 Opportunity to have promotional area at contest site
 Opportunity to sit out on the Course during the event
 Team of 4 in event
 Hors d oeuvres for 4
 Acknowledgement on Chamber website
 Acknowledgement on event materials
 Recognition in weekly email blasts
 Recognition in Chamber Newsletter
 Inclusion in post event materials
 Name recognition to over 100 potential new customers
 Acknowledgement in Chamber Annual Report

Station Sponsorship \$80

Professional designed signage acknowledging your sponsorship
 Recognition on the Chamber website
 Recognition in Chamber Newsletter
 Inclusion in post event advertising
 Opportunity to sit out on the Course during the event
 Name recognition to over 100 potential new customers
 Acknowledgement in Chamber Annual Report

To become a sponsor visit our website by clicking here. Remitting payment to the Chamber of Commerce, email Gina gnav@littlefallsmnchamber.com or call the Chamber (320) 632-5155.

*** Event adjustments may be made to follow CDC Covid-19 guidelines*

Wednesday's Walkers

Wednesday, May 20

noon - 12:45 pm

North Bluff Business Park, *former Atomic Learning and new Thrive With Vision Parking lot*

Let's get out and enjoy the warmer weather, while getting some exercise and social distancing in. Join us while we walk the loop of the North Bluff Business Park, Wednesday, May 20 from noon - 12:45 pm. Meet us in the former Atomic Learning and the new Thrive With Vision location in the parking lot at noon. There is no fee to take part, hand sanitizer will be available and masks and elbow bumps are optional. If case of inclement weather we will walk Thursday, May 21. We look forward to seeing you.

May Calendar of Events

As always, please check ahead to ensure the below listed events are taking place. With the current COVID-19 Virus and everyone doing their part, events are constantly being postponed or cancelled. We are doing our best stay informed and keeping our calendar updated.

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

May

Wednesday's & Saturdays ~ Farmer's Market, 7:00 am - noon, New 2 You and Coborn's Marketplace parking lots
9 ~ City of Little Falls Clean Up Day, 6:00 am - noon

12 ~ **In-person Networking** – *if needed*, 8:30 - 9:30 am, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls

Sponsored by: **Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau, Edina Realty**
& **Thrivent Financial - Alicia Kapus**

13 ~ **FALS** (*Falls Area Leadership Series*), 9:00 am - noon, Linden Hill, 608 Highland Ave., Little Falls

14 ~ **Chamber Board of Directors**, 11:00 am, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls

15 ~ **Friday Morning Coffee** - *tentative*, 7:30 - 9:00 am, Coborn's Marketplace (deli), 1101 2 Ave NE, Little Falls.

Sponsored by: **Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau**

20 ~ **Wednesday's Walkers**, noon, former Atomic Learning & new Thrive With Vision parking lot

25 ~ Memorial Day - *Chamber Office closed*

25, 27, 30 ~ Zookeeper Presentation, 2:30 pm, Pine Grove Zoo, 1200 W Broadway, Little Falls

27, 28, 29, 30, 31 ~ Animal Encounters, 11:30 am, Pine Grove Zoo, 1200 W Broadway, Little Falls

27 ~ **Lunchtime on Location** - *tentative*, noon - 1:00 pm, Edina Realty, 15594 Hwy 27 Ste. 2, Little Falls.

Sponsored by: **Edina Realty**

28 ~ **In-person Networking** – *if needed*, noon - 1:00 pm, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls.

Sponsored by: **Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau, Edina Realty**
& **Thrivent Financial - Alicia Kapus.**

30 ~ Kid Zoo Camp (ages 4-7), 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, Pine Grove Zoo, 1200 W Broadway, Little Falls

30 ~ Tanks Up Close & Book Sale, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, MN Military Museum at Camp Ripley, 15000 Hwy 115, Little Falls

31 ~ Training Demonstration 2:30 pm, Pine Grove Zoo, 1200 W Broadway, Little Falls

LITTLE FALLS AREA



Proudly Serving Morrison County Since 1888

200 1 St NW
Little Falls MN 56345