

Shop Local this Holiday Season

Think local first when seeking goods and services this holiday season and beyond. One way to capitalize on shopping local is by taking part in your communities shop local campaigns. The Little Falls Business Association is hosting a Customer Appreciation Open House, Saturday, November 16, shoppers will be reward by receiving triple stamps on their holiday promotion card, drop the card off at any participating business to be entered in one of the five weekly drawings and the grand prize drawing December 23. Pierz hosts a St. Nick Night, Wednesday, December 4, offering great in store specials, sleigh rides and more. Randall organizes Holly Days, December 5. A wonderful evening of holiday shopping and a multitude of activities through the afternoon and evening. These are only a few examples of the many activities organized in our communities to ensure dollars remain local and keep our local economies thriving.

If you can't find that unique one of a kind item, Chamber Bucks are always a great idea. They are available in \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$50 denominations and spend like cash all over town and are easy to wrap! For large orders please call ahead (320) 632-5155 and we will have your Chamber Bucks waiting for you.

Friday Morning Coffee

Friday, November 15

7:30 - 9:00 am

St. Francis Hall at the St. Francis Convent

116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls

sponsored by:



The Franciscan Sisters are a community of women religious and associates dedicated to a gospel life of prayer, simple living and service to those in need in the spirit of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi. St. Francis Convent is home to two major ministries: St. Francis Music Center and St. Francis Health & Wellness Center.

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 (LOL)

Wednesday, November 20

12:30 pm

Morrison County Food Shelf 912 1 St SW, Little Falls

(note time change to accommodate sponsor schedule and date change due to Thanksgiving holiday)

sponsored by:



Morrison County Food Shelf has been certified as a SuperShelf! The transformation from food shelf to SuperShelf built on existing foundations and results in a welcoming, positive, grocery store-like experience for clients.

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, November 18 to ensure we have enough food for all who wish to attend. Announcements at 1:00 pm.

City of Lights



The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to flip the switch on the City of Lights! The historic downtown will

be lit November 29 - January 1 adding a festive feel to the holiday season.

From the desk of the CEO . . .

Debra K. Boelz



As you are reading this, there may be snow on the pumpkins! Thank you to all the businesses that welcomed Trick or Treaters during the Chamber sponsored Halloween event on October 31st. It is always fun to see the creative costumes and the families out and about with their little ones! The new sidewalks in the downtown are sure nice for the wagons and strollers.

This is the time of year that the Chamber seeks new committee members with 3 year terms running January 2020 – December 2022. If you have an interest in serving on the FALS Steering Committee, Finance Committee, Golf Outing Task Force, Lindy Greeter or Outstanding Service Committees or assisting in the planning of the Sporting Clays events, please contact Gina. Committee meeting dates, times and frequency vary.

The Membership Development Committee is another option for involvement. This committee is in a reorganizational mode and seeking members who are comfortable selling memberships. That means working in conjunction with the Lindy Greeter Committee to follow-up with new businesses in the area or any business that has expressed an interest in joining the chamber. This is a great way to network with new people.

My column this month is the odds and ends (i.e. desk clearing)

~ November is the month that we start working on the Arts & Crafts and Market Place Fairs. A key to the success of these events is attracting great vendors. If you know of someone who has handcrafted items or a commercial product to sell, please send them our way. Booth fees are \$230 for a 10' x 10' space in either Fair.

The other side of a successful Fair is the shoppers. Please include in your holiday greetings the dates for the 2020 event which is September 12 & 13 so family and friends can plan accordingly!

~ November is the month that we work on the 2020 Membership Directory. If any of your contact information or product line has changed, PLEASE let us know ASAP or use your personal login to access the data base. Plus if you do not have a description of your business, please add a few sentences to help potential customers find your goods and services.

~ Here is my annual soap box speech on Chamber Bucks: With the holiday season around the corner, I would be remiss if I did not remind you to remember that Chamber Bucks are a great gift! Chamber Bucks, the local buying program sponsored by your Chamber, ensures that local dollars stay local. Many of our businesses utilize the Chamber Buck program for employee incentives, recognition and appreciation gifts. During any given month, about \$18,000 in Chamber Bucks are circulating through the community.

Chamber Bucks spend just like cash at participating Chamber-member businesses. Please consider Chamber Bucks as you formulate your gift-giving list.

Business owners are encouraged to train their register operators on accepting the Chamber Bucks in a welcoming manner – it is good for business today and in the future! [Bucks are accepted the same as a personal check.](#)

Thank you to the West Side Improvement Association for sponsoring the Santa Parade for Little Falls. The parade is always the evening after Thanksgiving, making this year's event on Friday, November 29th starting at 6 pm on the corner of West Broadway and Lindbergh Drive, proceeding across the bridge to Bank Square, taking a left on 1st Street NE and ending at the Fire Hall. If you would like have a presence in the parade, contact Dave Paul at 630-5216 or Mary at the Chamber at 632-5155.

The Little Falls Lindbergh Lions are again partnering with Minnesota Power for the holiday light display on Minnesota Power lawn at [1201 11th Street NE](#). Thank you to both organizations for doing this for the enjoyment of the community. The display will be lit from November 29 until early in the New Year.

In closing, the Little Falls community, under the leadership of Sprout, Five Wings Arts Council and the City of Little Falls, has obtained grant funding to conduct a community visioning process. I serve on the Steering Committee for this project that started with 30 people in a room and will expand into community listening sessions as we go into 2020. Watch for more information on how you can help shape the future of Little Falls!

Thank you to our October Friday Morning Coffee sponsor Morrison County Historical Society Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum



Pictured above: *Mary Warner*, Morrison County Historical Society Charles A Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum

Thank you to our October Lunchtime on Location (LOL) sponsor Horizon Health



Pictured above from the left: *Kristine Hoheisel* and *Marie Prondzinski*, Horizon Health.

Thank You Participating Businesses

We would like to thank our many Chamber Members who provided a safe trick or treating environment for the youngsters of our community. Over 800 children enjoyed this special event. *Thank you!*

MN Chamber Column written by MN Chamber President, Doug Loon, can be found by visiting www.mnchamber.com

Lunchtime Location (LOL) Punch Cards

If you are attending Lunchtime on Location (LOL) but don't always have ca\$h, no problem! Punch cards are available. A punch card is a convenient way to pre-purchase lunches making attending LOL even easier. Punches don't expire and carry over from year to year until used. You determine the amount of punches you would like on your punch card and we send you an invoice. If you would like a punch card let Gina know by emailing her

at ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com or call the Chamber of Commerce (320) 632-5155.



Pictured above: 2019-2020 **FALS** (*Falls Area Leadership Series*) participants with presenter *Mary Ann Gwost Hennen*.

FALS (*Falls Area Leadership Series*) will kicked off Wednesday, October 9 at the Little Falls Country Club with University of Minnesota Extension Educator, Mary Ann Gwost Hennen, focusing on personal development and team building. Thank you to our October session sponsors: **Domino's** and **Little Falls Country Club**. Our November session will be Wednesday, November 13.

November Employee of the Month, David Ratcliff, Falls Ballroom



The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce our November Employee of the Month, Chef David Ratcliff, Falls Ballroom. Chef David has been the Executive Chef at the Falls Ballroom for the past 2 years.

Will Threlkeld states “Chef David is an amazing young man with an abundance of talent that is just getting started! Watching him build his team and set the Ballroom up for success is exciting and fun. He just completed the Ballroom’s first ever plated wedding dinner and we are excited to see this become a staple here at the Falls Ballroom. With his leadership and dedication all of our guest’s experiences are the very best. Thank you Chef David! We can’t agree more with the amazing words from our community on your selection of the November Chamber Employee of the Month.”

Chef David states “I am humbled to be recognized as the Chamber’s November Employee of the Month. The opportunities provided to me by Will and Tiffany are second to none. I truly enjoy what I do each day, whether it is catering a small lunch or a plated dinner. Creating fantastic, fun food is what I love to do. Thank you for the recognition.”

Thank you to our November Employee of the Month sponsors: **CHI Health at Home, Design Electronics, Domino’s, Fitness Connection, Franciscan Sisters, Fresh Hair Professionals, GoldSmith Jewelers, Johnny C’s Sports Bar, Linden Hill Historic Event Center, Maddie B’s Photography, Perkins Restaurant & Bakery, Pizza Ranch, Subway Little Falls.**

Congratulations David Ratcliff!

Small Business of the Year; Large Business of the Year and Chamber Volunteer of the Year Nominations now being accepted.



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

In an effort to celebrate our members and the numerous individual volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to the Chamber, the Outstanding Service Committee is now accepting nominations for our Chamber Volunteer of the Year, Small Business of the Year and Large Business of the Year awards.

Each award has a specific criteria to assist you in the nomination process. Nominations are due to the Chamber of Commerce by Friday, January 24, 2020. Awards will be bestowed at the Annual Meeting, Thursday February 27. Please consider making a nomination in one or more categories. Recipients will receive the public recognition and a plaque noting the honor. Their names will also be displayed on permanent plaques in the Chamber lobby. Nomination forms are available on our website at www.littlefallsmnchamber.com.

Update Your Chamber Member Listing

This fall we will begin the process of the printing of the 2019-2020 Chamber Membership Directory. We need your help in ensuring all the information included with your listing is accurate prior to the printing of the directory. Please review your member listing via our website at www.littlefallsmnchamber.com and let Mary know of any changes or additions by emailing her at mary@littlefallsmnchamber.com or call the Chamber (320) 632-5155.

Recent Board Action

- Heard a report on the 2019 Fairs
- In accordance with the bylaws, dropped members for nonpayment of dues for membership year 2019-2020
- Elected 9 new members to the Chamber

Welcome to our newest members!

Legacy Granite Carving

Mike & Joyell Bellinger

[225 1 St SE, Little Falls MN 56345](https://www.google.com/maps/place/225+1+St+SE,+Little+Falls+MN+56345)

(320) 414-0649

legacygranitecarving@aol.com

Legacy Granite Carving offer families many options to memorialize their legacy. Including monument sales and service, final date engraving, etching, cleaning and restoration. They also offer ceramic photos, vases, pet markers and urns.

U.S. Bank

Lori Frederick

[1101 2 Ave NE, Little Falls MN 56345](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1101+2+Ave+NE,+Little+Falls+MN+56345)

(320) 632-9214

lori.frederick@usbank.com

<http://www.usbank.com>

US Bank offers checking accounts, credit card services, business loans, mortgages, home equity loans, certificates of deposit, consumer loans and more. Contact them for all your financial needs.

2019 Chamber Board & Staff

2017-2019

Tom Hoggarth, **Golfers 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 Visit

Thank you for your membership! Lindy Greeters Sheila Avenson, The Office Shop, Inc. and Heather Brill, Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union visited the following member to thank them for their continued membership. The businesses were treated to a Chamber mug full of treats.

Thrivent Financial - Alicia Kapus



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter Heather Brill, **Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union;** Alicia Kapus, **Thrivent Financial** and Lindy Greeter Sheila Avenson, **The Office Shop, Inc.**

Alicia opened her Thrivent Financial

office in Little Falls in February 2019. Thrivent Financial is a Christian based, not-for-profit, member-owned organization that thrives on not only helping their members pre-retirement and retirement planning. She truly enjoy providing her clients with a one-of-a-kind experience in retirement planning from the moment they walk in the door. Whether they are just beginning their retirement plan or transiting into retirement. Every aspect of a successful retirement plan or transitioning into retirement is covered throughout the process from secure income into retirement to the what-ifs. She take pride in guiding her clients to the happy and generous retirement they deserve. For more information visit

<https://connect.thrivent.com/alicia-kapus/>

Santa Parade

Friday, November 29

6:00 pm

Historic downtown Little Falls

Parade route: starts at Lindbergh Dr. S proceeds east on Highway 27 to 1 Street turning north onto 1 Street and dis-banning at the Fire Hall (3 Ave NE).

If you would like to have a float in the parade contact Mary Bednarek (320) 632-5155 or mary@littlefallsmnchamber.com

Sponsored by:

West Side Improvement Association

Lindy Greeter Visits

Thank you for your membership! Lindy Greeters Dore Arnold, Schlenner Wenner & Co.; Sheila Avenson, The Office Shop, Inc.; Heather Brill, Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union; Kurt Muesing, Central MN Credit Union; Jenifer Odette, Brandl Motors; Deb Retka, ServiceMaster Clean by Retka and Tom Scherling, Edina Realty visited the following members to thank them for their continued membership. The businesses were treated to a Chamber mug full of treats.

Bank of the West



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter *Deb Retka, ServiceMaster Clean by Retka; Teanna Stadum, Bank of the West and Lindy Greeter Jen Odette, Brandl Motors.*

Bank of the West is a financially

strong, well-capitalized and prudently managed FDIC-insured bank that customers have entrusted with their money for over 135 years. Through holding company BancWest Corporation, the bank is a subsidiary of BNP Paribas, one of the six highest rated banks in the world.

Bank of the West stability and development have been sustained through a strong focus on sound, conservative banking practices and superior level of customer service. Bank of the West employs a business model that lets the bank make service-focused decisions about credit, products and other aspects of its operations-as quickly, consistently and as close to the customer as possible. The bank operates distinct units to provide a range of superior services-Commercial Banking, Regional Banking, National Finance and Wealth Management. For more information visit www.bankofthewest.com

Morrison County United Way



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter *Jen Odette, Brandl Motors; Megan Kurse, Morrison County United Way and Lindy Greeter Deb Retka, ServiceMaster Clean by Retka.*

Morrison County United Way has

been serving the community since 1968. United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community. When you give to your United Way, you can experience the satisfaction of seeing your donation turn into programs and services that create an impact on people's lives. Contact the Morrison County United Way at (320) 632-5102 to volunteer or make a donation. For more information visit www.unitedwayofmc.org

Friends of Pine Grove Zoo



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter *Kurt Muesing, Central MN Credit Union; Marnita VanHoecke, Friends of Pine Grove Zoo and Lindy Greeter Sheila Avenson, The Office Shop, Inc.*

Pine Grove Zoo added an otter exhibit this summer thanks to many local businesses and community members for their support in making this dream come to life. Pine Grove Zoo's mission is to promote environmental educational and conservation while creating a progressive zoological park in central Minnesota. This along with their vision to have families and individuals live their lives with passionate respect for the entire realm of the natural world. Pine Grove Zoo continues to grow and become a premier zoo in the State of Minnesota. For more information visit www.pinegrovezoo.com

Heartland Tire Little Falls



Pictured above from the left: *Mike Dyre, Lance Aderman, Dave Rakow and David Stang, Heartland Tire Little Falls.*

Heartland Tire has spent the last 67 years delivering extensive auto repairs to satisfied customers throughout Central Minnesota. They focus on building strong customer relationships and providing the highest quality of workmanship on each and every automotive repair.

The "We Can Do That" way of doing business began for them as a Minnesota family owned tire business in 1952. Since that time the following generations of the same family have grown the business into what is Heartland Tire today. They are certified by the TIA, North Central Tire Dealers and the National Retreaders Association. For more information visit www.heartlandtireservice.com/

Welcome New Businesses

The following Lindy Greeters **Dore Arnold**, *Schlenner Wenner & Co.*; **Deb Retka**, **ServiceMaster Clean by Retka** and **Tom Scherling**, **Edina Realty** visited the following members to thank them for their continued membership. The businesses were treated to a Chamber mug full of treats welcomed the following businesses to the Little Falls and Morrison County business community. They were presented with their "first dollars of clear profit". Welcome!

Legacy Granite Carving



Pictured left:
Lindy Greeter
Deb Retka,
**ServiceMaster
Clean by Retka**;
*Joyell and Mike
Bellinger*, **Legacy
Granite Carving**;
Lindy Greeters
Dore Arnold,
**Schlenner Wenner
& Co.**

and *Tom Scherling*, **Edina Realty**.

Started our small business in 2015 out of our house and have been slowly growing every since. We are proud to offer customers another option to memorialize their legacy.

Monument (headstone) sales and services, final date engraving, etching, cleaning and restoration. Also offer ceramic photos, vases, pet markers and urns. For more information visit www.facebook.com/legacygranitecarving/

RP & Associates LLC



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter *Deb Retka*, **ServiceMaster Clean by Retka**; *Michael Ripplinger* and *Sara Posterick*, **RP & Associates LLC**; Lindy Greeters *Dore Arnold*, **Schlenner**

Wenner & Co. and *Tom Scherling*, **Edina Realty**.

RP & Associates LLC offers tax preparation, payroll, bookkeeping and consulting services in central Minnesota. Sara worked for Ron Woltjer for eight tax seasons and Michael worked for the past seven tax seasons with Ron Woltjer. Both Sara and Michael have 4 year accounting degrees and are well versed in a wide variety of accounting services. For more information stop by their offices at 113 E Broadway or email Sara at sarap@rpanda.net

Releaf Ology



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter *Deb Retka*, **ServiceMaster Clean by Retka**; *Lisa Lintner*, **Releaf Ology**; Lindy Greeters *Dore Arnold*, **Schlenner Wenner & Co.** and *Tom Scherling*, **Edina Realty**.

Not pictured: *Russ Lintner*, **Releaf Ology**.

Lisa and Russ Lintner are licensed growers for hemp and CBD. Offering 3rd party tested, quality, organically grown CBD/Hemp, CBD tincture oils, pain creams and salves, prerolls, fresh buds for smoking, soaps, bath bombs, infused drinks and gummies and soon Young Living Oils, clothing line and unique gifts.

Both Lisa and Russ have lived in Little Falls their entire lives and have four children, and are excited to pass on the benefits they are finding with CBD. Stop in the store and look around, ask questions and see how CBD may help you as well! Call for custom store hours, order online or stop in when you can, 115 1 St NE, Little Falls! Products offered include. For more information visit www.releafology.com

The Vertin Club



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter *Deb Retka*, **ServiceMaster Clean by Retka**; *Michael Roach*, **The Vertin Club** and Lindy Greeter *Jen Odette*, **Brandl Motors**.

The Vertin Club located at 70 E Broadway in historic downtown Little Falls. The Vertin Club is an event space for a variety of events from wedding and baby showers, birthday parties, anniversary celebrations and more. If you just want a fun, cool place to hang out for a few hours, they can accommodate that too. For more information visit www.thevertin.com

November 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

November

1-3 ~ A Wellness Retreat, Linden Hill Historic Event Center, 608 Highland Ave., Little Falls

1 ~ Justin Ploof & The Throwbacks, 6:30 pm doors, 7:30 pm performance, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls

1 ~ Michael Shynes Concert, 7:00 pm, Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy 27, Little Falls

2 ~ Petite Picasso Art Class, 10:30 am, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls

2 ~ Mini Monet Art Class, noon, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls

5 ~ **Lindy Greeter Committee Meeting**, noon, Perkins Restaurant & Bakery, 201 16 St NE, Little Falls

6 ~ Little Falls Business Association, noon, The Royal, 120 W Broadway, Little Falls

6 ~ Adult Jewelry Workshop with Deb Hess, 6:30 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls

7 ~ Craft & Vendor Fair, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Franciscan & Lindbergh Rooms at CHI St. Gabriel's Health, 815 2 St SE, Little Falls

7 ~ Open Mic Night, 7:00 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls

7 ~ Taize Prayer, 6:00 pm, Gathering Space at St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls

9 ~ Free Art 2nd Saturday, 11:00 am, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls

9 ~ Adult Watercolor Birch Tree Painting Workshop with Duane Barnhart, 2:30 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls

9 ~ Franciscan Sisters Harvest Supper, 4:30 - 7:00 pm, St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls

13 ~ **FALS (Falls Area Leadership Series) Session**, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St. NW., Little Falls.

Session sponsor: **Marshik Insurance Agency**

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, St. Francis Hall at St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls.

Sponsored by: **Franciscan Sisters**

16 ~ LFBA Customer Appreciation Open House, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm, participating businesses

16 ~ Glass Mosaic Workshop with Laura Ruprecht, 12:30 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls

20 ~ **Lunchtime on Location (LOL), 12:30 pm**, Morrison County Food Shelf, 912 1 Ave SW, Little Falls.

Sponsored by: **Morrison County Food Shelf**

21 ~ Centering Prayer, 6:00 pm, Gathering Space at St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls

22 ~ 14 Friday's Series: Buddy Holly: Not Fade Away, 7:30 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls

29 - January 1, 2020 ~ **City of Lights**, historic downtown Little Falls

29-December 8 ~ Christmas Tree Lane, noon - 7:00 pm, MN Fishing Museum, 304 W Broadway, Little Falls

29 - December 8 ~ Christmas at the Mansions, 1 - 7 pm Mon - Sat, noon - 6 pm, Sun, Linden Hill, 608 Highland Ave, Little Falls

29 ~ Santa Parade, 6:00 pm, historic downtown. Parade route: starts at Lindbergh Dr. S proceeds east on Highway 27 to 1 Street turning north onto 1 Street and dis-banning at the Fire Hall (3 Ave NE).

LITTLE FALLS AREA



Proudly Serving Morrison County Since 1888

200 1 St NW

Little Falls MN 56345