
Racism in Real Estate

Thurs, Nov 12, 11:30-1 pm • SBM Fire Station #3/Virtual

Your Working with Women Committee is pleased to offer all members a timely and intriguing lunch & learn on Thursday Nov 12: Racism in Real Estate, which explores structural racism and the racial wealth gap as it applies to housing. Together with our instructor, public historian Denise Pike, we will consider the history of racial housing discrimination and learn about tools like racial covenants and redlining. We will discuss how these policies have shaped our cities and neighborhoods today. $20; attend in person at the SBM Fire Station #3 Blaine (lunch included) or virtually (and receive a $10 Panera gift card). RSVP required. Thank you sponsor Edina Realty Title.

Retail Community of the Year Award

The MetroNorth Chamber was honored to be named the 2020 Retail Community of the Year by the MN Retailers Association. “When it comes to raising up a community during the pandemic, the MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce stands out thanks to the work of Lori Higgins and her team, along with a great board of directors,” says Bruce Nustad, Minnesota Retailers Association president. “As a partner to retailers and businesses in the north metro, the Chamber was quick to launch MetroNorth Cares at the onset of the pandemic to help businesses connect with the community, share information, and keep business going. When we say chambers have been at the front line saving mainstreet during the pandemic, MetroNorth Cares is a leading example of just that. We congratulate the MetroNorth Chamber, its members, and each of its communities on being named Retail Community of the Year.” To learn more, visit our website for the full announcement about this distinguished award.

Businesses Tell Us Capacity Increases Are Needed As Winter Hits & The Holidays Approach

Recently the MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce partnered with the Minnesota Retailers Association on surveying members relating to the current COVID customer capacity restrictions in place across the State. Below are some of the key findings.

Overwhelmingly those subject to the current 50 percent capacity restriction indicated a strong desire to move to at least 75 percent before the Thanksgiving holiday, with one in three saying the viability of their business depends on an increase.

Businesses have indicated such an increase is important as they have leveraged their businesses to invest in seasonal and holiday inventory. And after being closed to in-store customers and soft sales...
Section 179 Conformity

Recently the MN Legislature passed a bill to conform to section 179 expensing effective for tax year 2020 providing $208 million in tax relief over the next 3 years. Section 179 of the federal tax code dictates when businesses can deduct the cost of purchasing certain equipment. In 2019, Minnesota conformed to some federal tax reforms, but not many of the expensing provisions. This put small businesses and farmers at a disadvantage and hit many with retroactive bills. Now more than ever, it’s critical to support Minnesota small businesses, as our state continues to deal with the public health and financial impacts of the pandemic. The MetroNorth Chamber has advocated for this change for several years; we are pleased it has been accomplished and thank the legislators who bipartisan-ly ensured its passage.

We are partnering with Spring Lake Park High School to arrange speakers from different industries to virtually present about careers in the following fields: the skilled trades; business; engineering; coding and computer science; healthcare; and health and sports performance. If you would be willing to share some insights with this emerging talent (and maybe your future workforce!), email mitchell@metronorthchamber.org and we’d be happy to provide some additional information.

Capacity continued from page 1

during the pandemic, the final few months of 2020 are a make-it or break-it sales season for many.

The vast majority reported that they feel prepared for more capacity and have the processes and systems in place to do so safely and comfortably for both customer and employees. Also, a capacity increase would result in the addition of seasonal and long term job opportunities for Minnesotans across the state at a critical time.

In addition, the survey showed businesses are proud of the job the industry has done during the pandemic and are aware this is not the year for large crowds, as can be typically seen on holiday traffic days such as the day after Thanksgiving. As such, many businesses are spreading sales out over a longer period and with continued alternative shopping options including curbside, delivery and shipping.

Respondents also confirmed their belief that the State has a role to play in partnership with other stakeholders like chambers and associations to continue to tell the story of how businesses are responding to the pandemic and the precautions taken to protect consumers and employees.

Given the results of this survey and continued feedback from our membership, the MetroNorth Chamber will continue to advocate for capacity increases, in the safest way possible for employees and customers, while protecting businesses of all sizes. Finding the right balance between economic recovery and public health and safety issues is an imperative. Minnesota’s long-term economic future is counting on it.
At your 2020 Annual Meeting last month, we spent a few moments reflecting on 2020. Audience members were asked what word or phrase came to mind if they were to describe the year. People laughed, because let’s face it, 2020 was/is crazy, insane, stressful, dare I say... ‘unprecedented’?

But when the laughter subsided, I asked if anyone immediately thought of the word, “opportunity.” Lots of heads shook no, understandably. And to tell the truth it wouldn’t have entered my mind, either. But when I spent some time reflecting on the past few months, I realized that never, in the 11-plus years I have been with this organization, have we had such an opportunity to support our members and meet our mission of strengthening the business community.

Since early 2020, we have been given the opportunity to connect businesses with all types of resources. From connecting members to financial relief options, holding webinars, providing reopening guidelines, even distributing face masks, we became the go-to place for information and support.

We were given the opportunity to advocate for members, directly on the front lines. MetroNorth was chosen to be on a small roundtable with Commissioner Steve Grove to put together a plan to reopen main street businesses. We had conversations with Governor Walz, and a plethora of state legislators, advocating for relief and reopening measures.

We were given the opportunity to find new ways to assist businesses in connecting with the public.

We created MetroNorth Cares, a dedicated Facebook page to promote businesses and how the community could support them, such as information on restaurants who were offering delivery and takeout while they were forced to be closed.

We were given the opportunity to pivot our events and programs to virtual platforms, already having Zoom in place, so members could continue to make connections and build their business. The speakers and information we have been providing have remained incredibly dynamic.

I could go on, but hopefully you see just how hard your MetroNorth team has been working on your behalf during these ‘opportunities’ provided by 2020. Yet while we have never worked harder, we have done so with much fewer resources. When the pandemic and mandates began, under the advisement of your Board, we instituted several cost-containment measures, faced with as much uncertainty about the future as any business. And while we have continued to offer stellar programs and services, our revenue has decreased throughout the year, and as a 501c6 nonprofit, we have not been included in almost any grant relief program. So from renewing your membership to sponsoring at any level, we could not be more grateful for your financial support, so that we can continue to meet our mission and strengthen the business community during the ‘opportunity’ of 2020. Thank you!

~Lori Higgins, President
The MetroNorth Chamber is pleased to partner with Anoka County in its annual Business Summit. The full agenda contains relevant updates on workforce, financial tools, and real estate needs to help you sustain and grow your business in 2021. Attend in person or virtually. Registration link on our website.

Our last business council of 2020 is in Coon Rapids on 12/1. Details forthcoming on the keynote and featured business. Business councils are a fantastic way to stay connected to area schools, receive timely economic development and city updates, and develop connections with fellow business and community leaders. So mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information.

You DEFINITELY want to mark your calendars for this! We are already excited for this event and it is not even 2021 yet (soon, everyone...soon.). Your golf committee is hard at work ensuring this is another fantastic opportunity to build your business and build relationships. Have 2020 marketing dollars left and want to sign up now? Just give us a call and we'll assist. Otherwise, watch for a more detailed announcement soon!

A big thank you to 2020 Title Sponsor, Financial One Credit Union.
# New Members Welcome!

**Medical Tattoo Centers of America**  
Layla Salim  
11724 Ulysses Lane Suite 120  
Blaine, MN 55434  
layla@medicaltattoocenters.com  
612-770-0000  
Health & Wellness Services

**MinnTrust Mortgage, LLC.**  
Preston Schmidt  
10425 49th Avenue N  
Plymouth, MN 55422  
preston@minntrust.com  
651-319-2000  
Mortgage Lending

**Vertex Nails Blaine**  
Joseph Chu  
11712 Ulysses Lane NE  
Blaine, MN 55434  
Josephchu221@gmail.com  
763-657-7849  
Nail Salon

**Best Taste of Pho Saigon Blaine**  
Joseph Chu  
11712 Ulysses Lane NE  
Blaine, MN 55434  
Josephchu221@gmail.com  
763-208-6811  
Restaurant

**Travel by Liz Jones**  
Liz Jones  
Ramsey, MN  
liz@tvleaders.com  
763-245-4271  
Travel Agent

**Baker Tilly US, LLP**  
Rick Talbot, CPA  
225 S Sixth Street, Ste 2300  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
Rick.talbot@bakertilly.com  
612-876-4738  
Finance & Insurance

**Styelled Stems**  
Leah Schmidt  
4365 Pheasant Ridge Drive NE  
Suite #112  
Blaine, MN 55449  
info@styledstemsMN.com  
763-951-2772  
Florists

**Minnesota Automotive**  
Aaron Strand  
2721 Coon Rapids Blvd  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433  
minnesotaautomotive@gmail.com  
763-757-0607  
Auto Services, Repair

**Pillar Construction**  
Leon Olmschenk  
8455 Center Drive  
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432  
612-280-8355  
leon@pillarconstructionmn.com  
Construction Company/Contractors

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### Renewals: Thanks for Your Continued Support!

- Ace Solid Waste  
- Aggressive Hydraulics  
- All Source Inc  
- All State Insurance - Mary Toske  
- Allegra Design Print Mail  
- Alloy Brewing Company  
- Anita Spading LLC  
- ASAP Vacuum LLC  
- Atlas Staffing, Inc  
- Atomic Data  
- Bertolas & Pekula LLC  
- Bills Gun Shop & Range  
- Blake Drilling Company, Inc / American Pump  
- Bob FM  
- Border Bank  
- Box Financial – Chris Hasling  
- Bryant & Field Real Estate Appraisal  
- Bridal Isle Boutique  
- Bunker Hills Event Center/Kendall’s Smithe Promotional Group  
- Catalyst Chiropractor & Rehab  
- CenterPoint Energy  
- Child & Teen Medical Center Blaine & Fridley  
- City of Fridley  
- Coldwell Banker Burnett - Jodi Cochran  
- Desired Health Chiropractic  
- Gifftech Consulting Inc  
- Hal Pro  
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites Coon Rapids  
- Homestead at Coon Rapids, Inc.  
- Houle Insulation, Inc.  
- House 2 Home Flooring & Design  
- Infinite Campus  
- International Paper  
- Jam Hops  
- Jill C Brown  
- Law Enforcements Targets  
- Mate Precision Technologies  
- Midwest Imaging Solutions  
- Mike Kraft Architects  
- Mingo Realty Inc  
- National Sports Center  
- Northwest Passage High School  
- Panera, LLC  
- People’s Spark Consulting  
- Premier Commercial Properties  
- Primrose School of the Lakes at Blaine  
- Professional Workforce & Train  
- Rapids Honda  
- Rasmussen College  
- Realty One Paul Eckstrom  
- Rise, Inc.  
- RMS  
- Running Aces Casino Hotel & Racetrack  
- Rock Solid Financials  
- Scenic Sign Corp  
- Signs Now  
- Smith Schafer & Associates, Ltd  
- Stepping Stone Emergency Housing  
- Solar Arts  
- Terry Overacker Plumbing  
- The Dwelling Place  
- Top Golf Minneapolis Brooklyn Center  
- Toppers Pizza  
- Turfco  
- Twin Cities Gateway  
- Twin City Heating and Air  
- U-Haul  
- Von Hanson’s Meats  
- Wings Financial Credit Union Blaine, CR  
- Water’s Edge Community Association  
- Walters Recycling & Refuse, Inc.
Ribbon Cuttings

The Goddard School: New Member!
State-of-the-art preschool designed to provide the healthiest and safest environment for your children to become confident learners. We are committed to whole-child development academically, and social-emotionally, for infant, toddler, preschool and pre-kindergarten children.

12612 Central Ave. NE Blaine.

Cars for Neighbors: 20th Anniversary!
Our program helps low income families & individuals in the Anoka County area with their transportation needs and to foster independence by providing car repairs.

12527 Central Ave NE Blaine.
www.CarsForNeighbors.org (763) 717-7755

Medical Tattoo Centers of America: New Member!
We provide compassionate care for hair loss solutions, medical tattoos, skin care treatments, tooth gems, non-laser tattoo removal, and more.

11724 Ulysses St NE #120, Blaine
www.MedicalTattooCenters.com. (612) 770-0000

UpToDate Bookkeeping: New Member!
We take care of your bookkeeping and payroll needs so that you can focus on what you do best – your business! We’re experienced in all the latest bookkeeping and payroll tools and are an Intuit QuickBooks Pro Advisor.

9360 Baltimore St Ste 140 Blaine.
www.UpToDateBookkeeping.com (763) 333-7542
COMMITTEES/GROUPS:

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ambassadors:</th>
<th>Nov 10 &amp; Dec 8, Chamber, 4 pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board:</td>
<td>Nov 19 &amp; Dec 9, Chamber, 7:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecting 101:</td>
<td>Nov 19, Chamber, 8:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive:</td>
<td>Nov 4 &amp; Dec 2 Chamber, 3 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf:</td>
<td>Nov 9 &amp; Dec 14, Chamber, 4 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hops &amp; Vines:</td>
<td>Nov 4, 4:44 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing 201:</td>
<td>Dec 10, Chamber, 8:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunrise 1st Friday:</td>
<td>Nov 6 &amp; Dec 4, The Tavern Grill, 7:30 am</td>
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<td>Sunrise 3rd Friday:</td>
<td>Nov 20 &amp; Dec 18, Route 47, 7:30 am</td>
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<td>Workforce Development:</td>
<td>Nov 23 &amp; Dec 21, Chamber, 12 pm</td>
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<td>Working with Women:</td>
<td>Nov 18 &amp; Dec 16, SMB Fire Station #3, 9:15 am</td>
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<td>Racism in Real Estate:</td>
<td>Nov 12, SMB Fire Station #3, 11:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coon Rapids Business Council</td>
<td>Dec 1, Bunker Hills, 7:30 am</td>
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*Please check MetroNorth website and/or weekly e-newsletter as some of the above meetings may still be conducted virtually.*
Thank you 2020 Signature Sponsors!

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Grow MN:
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