Anoka County Economic Development Initiative

This exciting project continues to gain momentum. Our steering team has been working hard to gather support from local stakeholders regarding our 2018 key objectives: namely, to implement a marketing and branding campaign for Anoka County. This will include a brand and logo dedicated to economic development for the region, a dedicated website, and targeted profiles. This is a huge, but critical, component of our ultimate goal to attract and retain business in the north metro.

We also launched a perceptions survey in mid-March. We will share updates from that survey, along with other project-related updates, as available. We are also happy to speak to any local groups such as Rotary’s and economic development groups to provide more specific details of this multi-faceted project.

2017 Excellence in Business Awards

We recently celebrated your 2017 Excellence in Business Awards winners: Micro: Numbers LLC; Small: Synergy HomeCare Northeast Metro; Large: Connexus Energy; Non-Profit: Anoka-Hennepin Educational Foundation. We thank all who were a part of the awards process and celebration, including keynote speaker Steven Schussler, founder of Rainforest Café. Special thanks to event sponsor Wings Financial Credit Union.
Board Bulletin

The 2018 legislative season is in full swing and the MetroNorth Chamber continues to stay active and visible. We kicked off the start of Session by having great representation at the annual MN Chamber Session Priorities dinner.(see photo)

At your Board’s March and April meetings, they discussed several issues including reform of the Met Council and the Minnesota Workforce Development Fund. A resolution was passed supporting a restructured governance model of the Met Council, with the ultimate goal of increased accountability, transparency, and effectiveness of the entity. A resolution was also passed to support legislation to restructure the Workforce Development Fund so that local workforce centers would have more flexibility in using the funds for training needs rather than solely focusing on dislocated workers. If you would like a copy of either resolution, please contact the Chamber office.

Spotlight On…

If you follow the MetroNorth Chamber on social media, you may have noticed that each week we shine spotlights on various volunteers and sponsors. This is just one way in which we want to further recognize the individuals and businesses who go out of their way to support this chamber of commerce. Visit our Facebook page & Instagram account to see who’s spotlighted & who’s next!

Other spotlights are on features & benefits of the MetroNorth Chamber (“MetroNorth Mondays”) and various old photos (“Throwback Thursdays”) to honor our 50th anniversary legacy year. If you have any photos of your business you’d like to share, please send our way.

We also are highlighting more testimonials – positive interactions with the Chamber or with other members. Had a great experience through a MetroNorth connection? Share it with us, we’d love to tell others. One of our recent favorites is the one sent by Beth Whelan of Oxygen Consulting, who managed to wrap several members in one testimonial. It is as follows:

“The Spring Lake Park Lions Club has shown their incredible generosity in the community again this year. With one smart use of funds, they impacted 4 organizations. It works like this: We as a community attend fabulous events from Handbag bingo, meat raffles and pancake breakfasts hosted by the SLP Lions throughout the year. They use the funds raised to support our community. Here is just one example: The SLP Lions purchased Achieve Clean Laundry Detergent and donated 100+ bottles to three local homeless programs: Stepping Stone Emergency Housing, HOPE 4 Youth, and Family Promise of Anoka County. These organizations host families and individuals who face homelessness and economic hardship and provide resources to help them achieve greater independence. The SLP Lions is a community service organization that gives back to Spring Lake Park and surrounding cities through charitable gambling. Last year they gave over $155,000 in charitable donations to schools and nonprofits. In this case, the SLP Lions impacted 4 community organizations (all members at the MetroNorth Chamber) and countless people. This is a testament to both the SLP Lions and the incredible relationships created and supported by the MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce.”

Speaking of the SLP Lions Club & meat raffles...look to the top of the next page to see OUR upcoming event with them!
Upcoming Events

Beef Up Our Scholarship Fund
Tues, April 3, 4:45-6:30 pm
Sticks & Stones, Blaine

Our 1st ever Meat Raffle! MetroNorth members will have the first opportunity to play a traditional meat raffle... but not just for traditional meat... we are raffling extraordinary meat! Donated by Mr. Darcy’s Cows, this premium, pasture-raised and corn finished beef is exceptional. Proceeds from the meat raffle, conducted by the Spring Lake Park Lions, will be donated to the MetroNorth Workforce Foundation, which provides scholarships to local high school students. Included with your $17 admission ticket are appetizers, networking and door prizes. Meat raffle tickets not included. Thank you sponsor All Auto Glass.

30th Annual Golf Tournament
Thursday, May 17, 2018
11:30 Shotgun, Majestic Oaks

Don’t delay in signing up for this much-anticipated tradition. There’s a variety of unique sponsorships like your logo on the carts, the scorecard, the lunch bags, and others.

Since we’re using both courses at Majestic, there’s plenty of room for golfers, who tell us time and time again that we hold one of the most fun tournaments around. You will enjoy a ‘carnival the course’ like atmosphere – no experience necessary, and you can sign up as an individual and we’ll strategically place you with others. Of course, we do have many foursomes who compete for the coveted 1st place trophy!

See the insert for full options or call 763-783-3553 ASAP. We are also in need of raffle donations – great visibility for your business while supporting our organization!

Blaine Business Council
Thurs, April 26, 7:30 am
TPC Twin Cities, Blaine

All Blaine Businesses are invited to attend; no cost, no RSVP. The April theme is “Retail” and the President of the MN Retailers Association, Bruce Nustad, is the featured speaker. The featured business is Harley-Davidson.

Coon Rapids Business Council
Tues, May 22, 7:30 am
Bunker Hills Golf Club, Coon Rapids

All Coon Rapids businesses are invited to attend; no cost, no RSVP. The 2nd Quarter theme is “Education.” Guest speakers include Kent Hanson, President of Anoka Ramsey Community College and Anoka Tech, and Jamie Barthel, Executive Director of their Professional and Workforce Training programs.

MetroNorth May Day Derby Day
Tues, May 1, 4:45-6:30 pm
Tria, North Oaks

If you don’t own a Kentucky Derby-worthy hat or outfit, now is the time! Our annual after-hours with the White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce will celebrate May Day & the Kentucky Derby on Tria’s beautiful patio; prizes awarded for the best-themed guests. Also included with your $28 ‘race ticket’: a glass of wine, a mint julep, butler-passed appetizers, a professional photograph by Pink Parasol, and a $10 Tria gift card. Sponsorship available.

7th Annual Summer Food Fest
Tues, July 24, 4:30 – 7 pm
Aquatore Park, Blaine

By popular demand, the Summer Food Fest is back outside! We’ve returned to Aquatore Park to enjoy that true summer feel, which still includes an abundance of food and activities. You won’t leave hungry and in return you support the MetroNorth Chamber and Toys for Joy, both of whom are committed to ensuring this area is a great place to work, live and play.

We are still accepting restaurants and sponsors; both of which are crucial to this event’s success. Contact us for more details.
Workforce Solutions for Your Business

We know there is no magic silver bullet when it comes to the workforce shortage. But there are some ways in which the MetroNorth Chamber is striving to leverage its relationships with area schools and businesses to connect students to a variety of north metro career options.

Here is a summary of our current initiatives:

**Student to Student Recruiters.** Most teenagers do not have resumes, LinkedIn profiles, or other mediums by which an employer would traditionally find candidates. Teens generally aren’t aware of job openings unless their friends tell them. We are leveraging this by creating a pilot program, Cardinal Connections, whereby two Coon Rapids high school students are contracted to communicate open positions to their networks. If you have entry-level job openings suitable for 15-18-year-olds, contact us.

**Careers in the Classroom.** We have developed a “Careers in the Classroom: Are You (Work) Ready?” short PowerPoint presentation geared towards middle and high school students. It encourages them to think about how much money they will need to live after graduation. To date, we have connected with hundreds of students throughout the north metro. If you would like to speak to a class and/or have a connection to a teacher/school administrator who could facilitate scheduling future opportunities, contact us.

**Career Exploration Days.** How can you reach hundreds of students with information on your industry? One Wednesday a month, we set up tables in the Coon Rapids High School cafeteria. Through hands-on activities, businesses introduce their industry to high school students. If you would like to have a table on April 18 or May 16, contact us.

**Trade Tours.** In Dec 2017, Graco, RMS, and Mate Precision Tooling in Anoka hosted 35 Anoka High School 9th and 10th grade students for the day. The students experienced first-hand what careers in manufacturing look like. We are looking to expand this initiative to other trades. If you would like to host students, contact us.

**Manufacturing Tours.** For the past few Octobers during MN Manufacturing Week, the MetroNorth Chamber has facilitated evening tours of various manufacturers. The intent was to expose families to modern day career options. In October 2018 we will shift gears and focus on day-time tours through school groups to better leverage the quality and quantity of participants. If you would like to host a day-time tour this October at your facility, contact us.
**Conquer Ninja Warrior LLC: New Member**

We are the only facility in the metro area dedicated to individuals seeking ninja warrior and obstacle adventure race training. Our gym is specifically designed for both kids (ages 5 and up) and adults. We have full size and smaller scale obstacle training, and many have competed on the show, American Ninja Warrior! 1468 101st Avenue, Blaine. 952.378.1285, conquermn.com.

**Life Prep Academy: Opening of Dormitory!**

We are a school and residential program designed to meet the needs of homeless and/or high-risk teens. First, we provide a student with their basic needs (shelter, food, clothing, safety). Then we challenge them academically, and prepare them to be self-sufficient, responsible adults. 1628 County Highway 10, Spring Lake Park. 763.203.2015, lifeprepacademymn.com.

**Anytime Fitness Ham Lake: New Location!**

Get to a healthier place at Anytime Fitness Ham Lake. Our friendly, professional staff are trained to help you along your fitness journey, no matter how much support you need. Always open 24/7. 1460 133rd Lane NE Unit B, Ham Lake. 763.413.9348, anytimefitness.com.

---

**Ambassadors Present:**

- Amy Weber-DeRaad, Mary Kay
- Angela Stenglein, Unique Dining Experiences
- Anne Marie Proulx, Church Offset Printing
- Bob Hylland, Financial One Credit Union
- Brenda Jewell, Anytime Fitness Ham Lake
- Kari Vaughn, Healthsource of Blaine
- Kat Smith, Blaine Festival Volunteer Committee
- Nancy Jorgensen, Coldwell Banker Burnet
- Patty Reuter, Border State Bank

---

**North Metro**

**We’ve got you covered!**

Reach over 190,000 eager readers every week.

To begin your marketing program, contact:

- **ABC Newspapers**
  - 763-712-3521
  - sales@ecm-inc.com
  - ABCNewspapers.com

- **Sun Focus**
  - 952-392-6800
  - advertise@ecm-inc.com
  - Focus.mnsun.com

---

**January and February Renewals:**

Thanks for Your Continued Support!

- 3M Championship
- ActionCOACH MN
- Addie Lane Floral & Gifts
- Affirmed Valuation Services
- Aggate Construction Group, Inc.
- AI Auto Glass
- American Independent Remodelers
- Andover Physical Therapy
- Anoka County Commissioner Mike Gammache
- Anoka County TMO Commute Solutions
- Anytime Fitness-Ham Lake
- Aspen Agency LLC
- Barra, Guzy & Steffen, Ltd.
- Bel Pae Senior Living
- Blaine Brothers
- Blaine Orthodontics
- BMO Harris Bank-Blaine
- Bowerlo Blaine
- Buffalo Wild Wings-Blaine
- Buffalo Wild Wings-Coon Rapids
- Call’s Angels Association
- CastlehomesMN
- Cedar Management
- ChiroWay of Blaine
- City Group Auto
- CMDC
- Coldwell Banker Burnet-Nancy Jorgensen
- Crooners Lounge and Supper Club
- Culligan Soft Water Company
- Damsel in Defense
- Dan Erhart
- Decorative & Structural Concrete & Masonry
- Diesel Cast Welding, Inc.
- Edgewood Senior Living
- Essentially Massage
- Family Promise in Anoka County
- FASTSIGNS
- Financial Education Services
- Forever Floral
- Garage Doors Plus LLC
- Hakanson Anderson
- Ham Lake Physical Therapy
- Hamel Development LLC
- Hubbard Radio/Hubbard Interactive
- Isanti Physical Therapy
- Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest
- JW Home Theater Solutions
- Kraus-Anderson Construction Company
- KW Commercial
- Mainstream Boutique
- Majestic Oaks Golf Club
- Mills Fleet Farm-Blaine
- Minnesota Waterjet
- Nelson Cheese & Deli
- North Branch Physical Therapy
- Nothing Bundt Cakes
- Oakwood Insurance Agency
- Pimerica-Becky Guimardson
- ProTect Painters
- Ramsey Physical Therapy
- Sammy Perrella’s Pizza
- Sandy’s Auto Service
- Shamrock Development
- Sharp & Associates
- SPAAR
- St. Francis Physical Therapy
- SYNERGY HomeCare Northeast Metro
- Thirty-One Gifts-Ellie Sheffrey
- TKO Construction Services
- TPC Twin Cities
- Trott Brook Financial
- Twin Cities Harley-Davidson Blaine
- U-Haul Center of Blaine
- Urban Air Adventure Park
- Village Ranch Inc.
- Villas at Sunset Bay Association
- Walgreens-Coon Rapids
- Waste Management
- Zimmerman Physical Therapy

---

**Ambassador Presentations:**

- Columbia Heights / Fridley Sun Focus
- Mounda View / New Brighton Sun Focus
- Anoka County Shopper
- Anoka County Union Herald
- Blaine / Spring Lake Park Life
Christian Brothers Automotive
Dan Anderson, Owner
1716 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW
Andover, MN 55304
763.427.7272
dan.anderson@cbauto.net
ChristianBrothersAuto.com
Auto Service/Repair

Curb Creations
David Meyer, Owner/President
1724 3rd Avenue NE
Buffalo, MN 55313
763.477.4532
dave@curbcreations.net
CurbCreations.net
Lawn Construction

Doyea Insurance Agency
David Doyea, Agent
2740 Main Street NW, Suite 114
Coon Rapids, MN 55448
763.755.6100
david@davidinsuresme.com
DavidInsuresMe.com
Insurance

Dermillusion LLC
Tina Lee, Owner
913 Manor Drive, Suite 201
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
760.799.5295
derma.illusion@gmail.com
DermaInk.net
Cosmetics/Tattoo

Fairy Tails Grooming
Jennifer Renik, Owner
10904 Baltimore Street, Suite 106
Blaine, MN 55449
763.318.7685
fairy.tails.blaine@gmail.com
Facebook.com/FairyTailsBlaine
Pet Grooming

FIRE Fitness Ham Lake
Andy Kretschmar, Owner/Operator
14050 Lincoln Street NE, Suite 400
Ham Lake, MN 55304
763.270.0567
info@ffchamlake.com
FFCHamLake.com
Fitness Centers

Holtz Garden Center and Floral
Tim Holtz, President
15245 Highway 65 NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304
763.434.3322
holzlandscape@aol.com
HoltzLandscpae.com
HoltzGardenCenter.com
Garden Center/Florist

Huntington Learning Center
Sushma Deonauth, Director
10400 Baltimore Street NE
Blaine, MN 55449
763.786.8000
blaine@hlcmn.com
HuntingtonHelps.com
Tutoring

InteGrand Solutions
Mike Harris, President/CEO
1633 County Highway 10
Blaine, MN 55434
763.398.2188
mharris@integrandmn.com
InteGrandMN.com
Office Supplies

Kahuna Window Cleaning
Andrew Misura, Owner
51 Robinson Drive
Lino Lakes, MN 55014
612.888.5248
info@kahunawindowcleaning.com
KahunaWindowCleaning.com
Property Maintenance

Luke Beaverson Agency Inc.
Luke Beaverson, Owner
2345 124th Court NE, Suite 200
Blaine, MN 55449
763.767.7277
lbeavers@amfam.com
LukeBeaversonAgency.com
Insurance

Midwest Secure Retirement
Greg Matson
1000 Shealdar Parkway, Suite 120
St. Louis Park, MN 55426
763.350.2086
greg@midwestsecureretirement.com
MidwestSecureRetirement.com
Retirement Planning

NovaCare Rehabilitation-Blaine
Dana Hause
11855 Ulysses Street NE, Suite 20
Blaine, MN 55449
763.767.3140
dhause@selectmedical.com
NovaCare.com
Physical Therapy

NovaCare Rehabilitation-Coon Rapids
Dana Hause
2104 Northdale Boulevard NW,
Suite 100
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
763.767.7106
dhause@selectmedical.com
NovaCare.com
Physical Therapy

NovaCare Rehabilitation-Fridley
Dana Hause
480 Osborne Road NE, Suite 280
Fridley, MN 55432
763.784.3155
dhause@selectmedical.com
NovaCare.com
Physical Therapy

NovaCare Rehabilitation-North Oaks
Dana Hause
100 Village Center Drive, Suite 220
North Oaks, MN 55127
763.767.7106
dhause@selectmedical.com
NovaCare.com
Physical Therapy

NovaCare Rehabilitation-Spring Lake Park
Dana Hause
8232 Highway 65 NE, Suite 102
Spring Lake Park, MN 55127
763.398.2430
dhause@selectmedical.com
NovaCare.com
Physical Therapy

ProSource Technologies, LLC
Robert Berens, Director of Business Development
9219 East River Road NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
763.786.1445
marketing@prosourcetech.com
ProSourceTech.com
Consulting Firms

Stinson Services
Jim Anderson, Sales Consultant
7391 Bush Lake Road
Edina, MN 55439
952.933.4510
jim@stinsonservices.com
StinsonServices.com
Construction Company/Contractors

Synergy Home Integrations LLC
Jessica Kedrowski, Owner
3027 Aspen Lake Drive
Blaine, MN 55449
651.433.6005
jessica.kedrowski@synergyintegrators.com
SynergyHomeIntegrators.com
Security Solutions/Alarms

Total Health and Healing Center
Sarah Haggblom, Doctor of Chiropractic
11417 Hanson Boulevard NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
763.754.1482
sarah@totalhealthandhealing.com
TotalHealthAndHealing.com
Chiropractic

Valleyfair
Wendy Merila, Group Sales Representative
One Valleyfair Drive
Shakopee, MN 55379
952.496.5335
wmerila@valleyfair.com
Valleyfair.com
Entertainment
### COMMITTEES/GROUPS: APRIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambassadors</td>
<td>Apr 10</td>
<td>Chamber, 4 pm</td>
<td>4 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board</td>
<td>Apr 11</td>
<td>Chamber, 7:30 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Board</td>
<td>Apr 24</td>
<td>Chamber, 12:30 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
<td>Apr 3</td>
<td>Chamber, 3 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gala</td>
<td>Apr 27</td>
<td>Chamber, 9:30 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>Apr 9</td>
<td>Chamber, 4 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hops &amp; Vines</td>
<td>Apr 13</td>
<td>Muddy Cow-Coon Rapids, 4:44 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunrise - 1st Friday</td>
<td>Apr 6</td>
<td>Tavern Grill-Blaine, 7:30 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunrise - 3rd Friday</td>
<td>Apr 20</td>
<td>Sticks &amp; Stones-Blaine, 7:30 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce Development</td>
<td>Apr 23</td>
<td>Chamber, 12 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with Women</td>
<td>Apr 25</td>
<td>Rasmussen College-Blaine, 9:15 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COMMITTEES/GROUPS: MAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambassadors</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Chamber, 4 pm</td>
<td>4 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board</td>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Chamber, 7:30 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Chamber, 3 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gala</td>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>Chamber, 9:30 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Chamber, 4 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hops &amp; Vines</td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>TBD, 4:44 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunrise - 1st Friday</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Tavern Grill-Blaine, 7:30 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunrise - 3rd Friday</td>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Sticks &amp; Stones-Blaine, 7:30 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce Development</td>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>Chamber, 12 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with Women</td>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>Rasmussen College-Blaine, 9:15 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **Meat Raffle**
  - Apr 3, Sticks & Stones – Blaine, 4:45 pm
- **New Member Welcome Reception**
  - Apr 17, Outback Steakhouse-Coon Rapids, 4:30 pm
- **Marketing 201**
  - Apr 19, Rasmussen College-Blaine, 8:15 am
- **Blaine Business Council**
  - Apr 26, TPC Twin Cities-Blaine, 7:30 am
- **May Day Derby Day**
  - May 1, Tria-North Oaks, 4:45 pm
- **Connecting 101**
  - May 10, Chamber, 8:15 am
- **30th Annual Golf Tournament**
  - May 17, Majestic Oaks Ham Lake, 11:30 am
- **Coon Rapids Business Council**
  - May 22, Bunker Hills Club House, 7:30 am

### NEW MEMBER REFERRAL PROGRAM WINNERS

**January**

**Kat Smithe**
Blaine Festival Volunteer Committee

**February**

**Thomas Rodriguez**
Garage Doors Plus

Kat & Thomas won $100 in MetroNorth Money for referring a new member!

### The Ambassador of the Month

**February**

**Nancy Jorgensen**
Coldwell Banker Burnet

**February**

**Karen Andler**
Vision Staffing
Thank you 2018 Signature Sponsors!

Gold:
- Mille Lacs
- Twin Cities Orthopedics

Silver:
- Midwest One Bank
- Walmart

Bronze:
- Mate Precision Tooling

Golf:
- 21st Century Bank
- Twin Cities Orthopedics

Gala:
- OPEN

Grow MN:
- Connexus Energy