

CHAMBER CHAT



www.pinecitychamber.com

(320) 322-4040 • info@pinecitychamber.com

www.facebook.com/pinecitychamber

OFFICE HOURS: Tues–Fri 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
315 Main Street South, Suite 155, Pine City, MN 55063

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Sara Helseth, President (MINPACK, Inc.)	Chad Hughes (Wings North)
Erin Skalicky, Vice President (4staffing, Inc.)	Jeana Milyska (Coldwell Banker Results)
Casey Anderson Director Emeritus (Individual)	Bonnie Menigo (Old Oak Inn)
Mike Anderson (Pine Insurance Agency)	Erica Nelson (Fairview Lakes Pine City)
Corey Berube (Frandsen Bank & Trust)	Dawn Plestad (First Light Health System)
Frank Christopherson (US Bank)	Lara Smetana (Voyageur Bottle Shop)
Todd Cummings (Todd's Custom Services)	Stephanie Kozisek (Student Director, PCHS)
Chad Faur (Cason Home Loans)	Joe Wolf (Student Director, PCHS)
	Heather Hansen-Mead (Student Director, PTC)

MARCH BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Guest Presenter: Dick Day, Racino Now

Dick has been traveling across the state of Minn. to present information on Racino Now to local residents, chambers and other organizations in order to raise awareness of their goals as legislation is introduced in Minn.

Racino Now is focusing efforts on changing current legislation to allow for a racino to be added at Canterbury Park in Shakopee. A racino is a location where horse racing and casino slot machines are located in the same place. With casino funds, purse winnings on the horse races are often higher. This would possibly encourage more thoroughbred horse farms to locate in our area and provide additional jobs in a variety of areas in the state.

Currently, the state of Minn. is the only state that received no money from the 18 casinos that are in operation here. Racino Now is not focusing efforts on changing this, but rather they are seeking the ability to compete in the market. Opening a racino could generate \$100-\$125 million per year in revenues that would be paid to the state of Minn.

A question was asked about the Running Aces located just south of Forest Lake and whether or not it was in the plan to become a racino as well. Dick indicated that the group is currently in negotiations with them to have them included in the plans. However, Dick also noted that the group generally has a lot of supporters for these efforts south of the Twin Cities because of the lack of competition there. North of the Twin Cities there are a lot more casinos to compete with.

Pine County Fair Booth:

Becky was recently contacted by the *Pine City Pioneer* to consider sharing the cost and staff hours for manning a booth at the Pine County Fair. From the Chamber standpoint, staffing volunteers at any time during the day on Saturday would be a challenge with the number of volunteers that are being tapped for the parade. Pioneer staff has offered to cover the shifts on Saturday if the Chamber would be able to assist with the Thursday and Friday shifts.

Frank commented that he would be more inclined to support this effort if there was a board member that was willing to take on the task of organizing and coordinating with the *Pioneer*. No one volunteered for the task and the discussion was ended. No action was taken on this issue.

Executive Director Report: (Becky Schueller)

2011 Membership Update: At the end of February our current membership count was 109. This includes 105 renewals and five new members for 2011. The executive board has asked for a comparison of our renewal rates each month to previous years and copies were available for all to review. Our rate of renewal this year is behind by about 10 members when comparing to 2009 and 2010 numbers. A suggestion was made by Menigo to consider offering a \$10 incentive to members that pay their dues in the month of January when they are due. This idea should be moved forward for consideration by the board in our 2012 dues renewals.

Financial Resource Summit: The East Central Regional Development Commission and GPS 45:93 will be co-sponsoring the Financial Resource Summit on Wednesday, March 30 at Pine Technical College. The event will be held from 7:00am – 9:30am and is a free event. Reservations are being taken by ECRDC.

Chamber Showcase at Black Bear Casino: On May 19 the Pine City Chamber will take part in the Chamber Showcase at the Black Bear Casino. The booth space is being offered at no charge to the Chamber. We have been marketing this opportunity to our members to consider participating in as well. Erin Skalicky noted that 4staffing is looking at participating as well. Becky invited any board members interested in attending as well to staff the booth to please let her know.

PANEL: The next PANEL seminar will be held on Wednesday, March 16 and the topic featured will be Customer Service. We have secured a high quality speaker for this event, Kit Welch. He has presented to large companies like American Express, Best Buy and Cargill and we have an opportunity to have him come to Pine City for a very minimal cost.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report was given. Expenses incurred by the general fund included payroll, Chamber Bucks reimbursements, Information Guide ad, and a speaker fee for the March PANEL as well as other regularly budgeted items. These general fund expenses total \$3,043.91. Additionally, expenses were incurred for the Freedom Fest totaling \$56.64. These expenses are transferred from their savings accounts.

A motion was made by Nelson to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted, second by Menigo. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Freedom Fest: A Freedom Fest Partner meeting was held on Feb. 24. A new idea was put forth by Michael Willert with House of Help. Mike is interested in coordinating a horseshoe tournament at the beach, and a bean bag tournament at the fairgrounds. Becky has designed a poster and table tent cards to begin promoting the Freedom Fest Fireworks Fundraiser. The event has also been put out on facebook.

Becky pulled a quote for the wristbands from the same company that we purchased them from last year. A question was raised on whether or not there was a local company that could provide the wristbands as well. Mike offered to check with Lee's Pro Shop on that possibility. In order to get wristbands ordered before the fundraising event, a motion was made by Menigo to approve an expense of \$270 for purchase of wristbands. There was a brief discussion about how much to charge for the bracelets now that they won't be a requirement for entry into the street dance. It was determined that wristbands would be \$3 each or 2/\$5.

Pine County Parade: Donation letters were mailed out the first part of February and there are a few commitment cards that have come in. The committee has already started sending out a few paid invites as well and two new units have been secured. Crunch – the Timberwolves mascot has been confirmed, and we are in negotiations with 'Shadows of the Old West' for a partial group to come in 2011 with the potential for the full group in 2012.

Business & Community Development

The Entrepreneur Advisory Board met in February and reviewed class offerings from Anoka Ramsey Community College. The classes are all online-based courses designed for entrepreneurs to gain skills that will assist them in starting up a business. Some of the classes offered include: writing a business plan, marketing 101, cash flow projections, etc. The advisory board may be having a member register for one of these courses to evaluate their effectiveness.

The Planning Commission reviewed a site plan for the Rural American Bank property at its most recent meeting. The site plan shows the removal of the entire building in which the drive-thru is located. With the building removed, a new addition will be added directly to the existing main building. In addition, the site plan will include resurfacing of the entire block to include better parking structure as well as green spaces in downtown.

An RFP for the construction management of the new fire hall has been made available. Many proposals have already been submitted and will continue to be accepted through the deadline.

Downtown Leadership Group (Nathan Johnson)

The DLG continues to meet each month on the second Wednesday of the month at 5pm. The group has put together a survey for downtown residents and businesses to gather some input on where the focus of the DLG efforts needs to be placed. The survey was mailed out to about 75 people in the immediate downtown vicinity, and an e-mail with the same survey will be sent today to all Chamber members.

Miss Pine City (Steph Kozisek)

February is one of the quiet months for the Pine City Ambassadors, but the girls attended a new parade this year. Grantsburg added a winter parade to their schedule of events and invited us to participate. It was a very small parade, and in Steph's opinion, their float was the best decorated. The senior ambassadors also volunteered as ushers on Feb. 27 at the Heritage Players production of "Faith County." Steph commented that it was really a funny show and if anyone hadn't seen it, they should really make time to do so!

Pine City Schools (Joe Wolf)

Becky shared with the group that our director, Joe Wolf, has been selected to be a page with the House of Representatives at the end of the month of March. Congratulations, Joe!

Joe shared that March is "Music in our Schools" month and that there will be a junior and senior high concert coming up this month. Spring Break is also scheduled for March 30, 31 & April 1.

Other

Mike Anderson noted that the 2011 Golf Tournament date has officially been confirmed with the Pine City Country Club. We will have the tournament on Friday, June 3.

Frank Christopherson noted that there is still a need for a co-chair for the Dairy Days event. Anyone interested should contact Becky or Frank.

Rick Herzog asked if the Chamber was doing anything to promote the 'Project 3/50' information that was presented at the Annual Meeting last year. It was suggested that we have details about this project added to our website.

For the complete Board Meeting Minutes, visit our website at www.pinecitychamber.com. If you would like to receive a printed copy of our minutes each month, contact the Chamber office for details.

Current Chamber members are encouraged to attend our monthly meetings. All interested and potential Chamber members also are invited to join us as well! The next Chamber meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at 12:00 pm in the Council Chamber at the Pine Government Center.

Chamber Welcomes New Members

As the Pine City Area Chamber of Commerce strives to make a difference in our business community through seminars, fundraisers and support of our area businesses, we must remember to thank all of the Chamber members for their continued support. We would like to welcome the following Chamber businesses and individual members as they join us for 2011!

Candy's Cut Loose Salon

Todd's Tax Service

Rapid Press Printing

Interested in getting more information on one of our newest Chamber members? Check out our website at www.pinecitychamber.com and visit the Member Directory.

Applications Available March 21

The Miss Pine City Ambassador Program has announced that applications will be available on March 21 for any student interested in participating in the program. Applications can be picked up at Pine City High School from Mrs. Sauser and will also be available to download from the Chamber of Commerce website.

For more information on the Miss Pine City Ambassador Program, please contact Program Director, Betsy Carpenter at 320-420-5191.

P.A.N.E.L.

Pine Area Networking & Entrepreneurship Luncheon

Join Us!

All Sessions are 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch)

Location: Pine Technical College, Room 250

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Customer Service

Chamber Ambassador Program

Coordinated by Cindy Bostrom-Dahlin, the Chamber Ambassadors welcome new businesses with a visit on the second Wednesday of each month. To learn more about the benefits of Chamber membership, please check out our website or call our office at 320-322-4040. We look forward to visiting with you! The following businesses received visits on February 9.

Goldenrod Web Design

Pine City, MN • SandiB@goldenrodwebdesign.com
Sandi Bombard, Owner • www.goldenrodwebdesign.com

Creating cost effective, professional and user friendly websites that use texture and color to reflect the customer's business needs. Services include researching availability and registering of your domain name as well as finding a hosting plan that best fits your needs. Sites are personally tailored to fit your needs whether you desire a blog, photo gallery or e-commerce site. Choose to have Goldenrod Web Design handle all your updates and maintenance, or learn how to do all the updating yourself.



L-R: Frank Christopherson, Sandi Bombard, Nathan Johnson

KBEK 95.5

PO Box 136, Mora, MN • Webster@KBEK.com or 320-679-6955
Colleen McKinney, Owner • www.kbek.com

KBEK 95.5 is a live local radio station serving East Central Minn. and Western Wis. On the air since 1995, KBEK provides local news, sports, weather, and a variety of community information pieces. Local news is written and produced on-site using details from local law enforcement agencies, the Minn. State Patrol, and community members. Local account representative, Webster Ford will be serving Pine City businesses and organizations to assist with your marketing needs.



L-R: Frank Christopherson, Webster Ford, Nathan Johnson

Figure 8 Tackle and Bait

150 Main Street N, Pine City, MN • 763-291-6070 or 763-898-8287
David Perrault & Stacy Bolduce, Owners

"Born to Fish, Forced to Work" is the motto for Figure 8 Tackle and Bait. David & Stacy recently relocated their successful bait shop from Braham to Pine City and opened a shop across from Voyageur Bottle Shop. They welcome customers to stop in and check out the new location and the bait, tackle and guide services available.



L-R: Dave Perrault, Stacy Bolduce, Becky Schueller, Nathan Johnson

Wynn Law Firm, LLC

705 Hillside Ave SW, Pine City, MN • 320-629-7312
Heather Wynn, Owner

Pine City welcomes Heather Wynn as the newest attorney, ready to serve clients in East Central Minn. Heather specializes in family law, estate planning, probate and civil litigation.



L-R: Nathan Johnson, Heather Wynn, Frank Christopherson

Arrowhead Transit

Virginia, MN • Pam.Smith@aeoa.org or 218-741-0724
Management Team: Joe Gentile, Assistant Director; Pam Smith, Marketing Director; Voni Smolke, Pine County Supervisor
www.arrowheadtransit.com

Arrowhead Transit began in 1974 in four counties of Northeastern Minn. Since then they have grown to cover eight counties with public transportation services. Pine County was officially added on Jan. 3, 2011 with Dial-a-Ride services being offered in Pine City, Hinckley and Sandstone as well as other services including trips to Mora.



L-R: Voni Smolke, Joe Gentile, Nathan Johnson, Frank Christopherson, Glen Westing

Usborne Books & More

Pine City, MN • 612-390-5998

Angie Kemen, Independent Educational Consultant, Owner
Making educational literacy a priority in new and creative ways! Providing access to over 1500 titles through a combination of direct sales, home shows, book fairs, fundraisers, grants, and school or library sales to increase the education literacy and make a difference in the lives of children and families.



L-R: Frank Christopherson, Angie Kemen, Nathan Johnson