



### **Officers**

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Chair-Elect: Matt Walkowiak -Ground Round

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Hugo's/Hugo's Wine & Spirits
Secretary: Ron Galstad

Galstad, Jensen, McCann PA Jason Heintz - Scheels

Cheryl Swanson- Alerus Center Barry Wilfahrt

The Chamber - GF/EGF

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Josh Brown - Thompson Insurance
Dan Dahl - Dahl Funeral Home
Tom DiLorenzo - UND
Kellee Fisk - Altru
Pete Haga - City of Grand Forks
Brady Hansen- Verizon Wireless, BeMobile, Inc.
Kenny Holweger - Kenny's Music
Brian Huschle - Northland College
Curt Kreun - Independant Consultant
Pat McLean - Independant Consultant

Bob Moore - River Cinema
Tom Rosendahl - Dakota Supply Group
Scott Telle - Ad Monkeys

**Klaus Thiessen** - GF Regional EDC **Laurie Tweten** - Coldwell Banker

#### Sr. Military Advisor to the Board

Colonel Rodney Lewis - GFAFB

### <u>Staff</u>

#### **Barry Wilfahrt**

President/CEO barry@gochamber.org

#### **Kimberly Strom**

Program/Event Director kimberlys@gochamber.org

### Julie Eidenschenk

Finance Director julie@gochamber.org

### **Emberly Lietz**

Membership Director emberlyl@gochamber.org

### **Gina Freitag**

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### **Rena DeSautel**

Administrative Coordinator info@gochamber.org

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# **Chamber Urges Membership to Support Sales Tax Increase**

The Chamber Board voted unanimously to support the ¾% sales tax increase being proposed on the November Ballot by the GF City Council. The money generated from the tax increase will fund a well thought out 50-year capital improvement plan that includes sewer, water and road projects. The projects will maintain and improve the basic infrastructure necessary for our community to continue to grow and meet current and future needs of the business community and community at large.

The Chamber Board was very pleased the City Council matched the Fargo sales tax rate and did not go with a 1% increase that was discussed. That would have put Grand Forks ¼% higher than Fargo. We were also pleased the City excluded the Library from the list of projects that can be funded since there is no consensus on what a library should look like or where it should potentially be located.

The Chamber will be assisting with an education campaign on how this infrastructure supports the future growth of Grand Forks and is critical to the future of our community.

# **Chamber Board Supports Housing Policy Changes**

EDC Vice President, Keith Lund presented the findings from a housing study the EDC commissioned. It is clear we have a need for additional single family housing in the lower price range. This group visited with local developers to talk about options to encourage additional development of this type of housing. A variety of strategies and approaches were discussed and the Chamber Board provided input. Look for several proposals to be considered by the City Council in upcoming weeks and the Chamber to support those changes in city policy.

# **President Kennedy Visits Local Businesses**

New UND President, Mark Kennedy has been out to about 20 local businesses as part of a local economy tour organized by the Chamber. Chamber President, Barry Wilfahrt and EDC, President, Klaus Thiessen accompanied President Kennedy on the tour of local businesses. According to Wilfahrt and Thiessen our goal was to "acquaint Mark with some of the Agriculture, Manufacturing, Retail and Service Sector Companies that support the economic diversity of our local economy. With Mark's strong background in business, he immediately connected with the local business leaders. We appreciate the new President's time as he begins to understand what drives the Northern Valley Economy and how



UND can best connect to and support the economic growth of our region.



### **EGF/GF Interconnect Breaks Ground**

After years of discussion the Cities of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks were able to put a package together to share waste water treatment services. The Chamber has long been a proponent of this partnership since it will save literally millions of dollars in user fees over the life of the interconnect. Chamber Board Chairman John Onken noted at the first ever GF/EGF joint City Council meeting held last summer "our two cities must come together whenever possible to share services in the name of efficiency and cost savings". It's great to see the two city governments working more closely together than ever before. The Chamber will continue to support this cooperation.

## **Entrepreneurship**

The Chamber hosted a meeting of groups and organizations involved in shaping Grand Forks as a start-up community to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of GF/EGF as an entrepreneurship friendly community. The main take-a-ways from the meeting were:

- Build excitement around being an entrepreneur and the entrepreneur culture in GF/EGF
- •Communicate what each of our organizations, events and programs are doing to the community and potential entrepreneurs
- •Develop "how do I start a business" or "I want to be an entrepreneur" what do I do guide
- •Promote the whole entrepreneur ecosystem instead of our individual programs. Group approach versus solo approach
- •Financing for start-up we need a finance program for start-ups
- •Improve access to capital, mentorship and create a start-up grand forks stop
- •Support Evolve ND colocation space and Center for Innovation Incubator Space

Finally, the group talked about looking at the top 10 cities for entrepreneurs and what GF could do to emulate their success. The Entrepreneur group will meet quarterly to share ideas on how to strengthen the local entrepreneurship culture and support system.

## **Chamber Office Undergoes Repairs**

The building the Chamber owns on North 3rd Street continues to undergo significant ongoing maintence. This year the entire original depot building is being tuck pointed in areas that need repair. Next spring the chamber park on the SW side of the building is slated for improvements. Pictured is part of the tuck pointing process on the NE corner of the Chamber Building on N 3rd St.



# **UAS Summit and Grand Sky**

Grand Forks played host to the leading UAS Summit and Expo last month. Leaders from throughout the world attended the three-day event. Grand Forks is now home to 23 UAS businesses. We are not sure if this leads the nation but it certainly puts us in the top tier in this emerging high tech industry. Kudos to UAS Magazine and Red River Valley Research for organizing this highly successful event.

Grand Sky continues to develop – check out the link to the Northrop Grumman recruitment video. It put Grand Forks and our region in a very positive light:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7nKtyKxSAU



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK TO KEEP UP WITH OUR EVENTS, MEMBER NEWS, NEW MEMBERS, PICTURES AND LOTS MORE! SUPER EASY, JUST CLICK THE FB LOGO \$ GO.

# July 15-August 31 Membership Renewals

The following businesses know the value of their Chamber Membership and have renewed their membership in The Chamber - GF/EGF. Please visit them for your purchasing needs.

1st Realty of GGF, Inc - David Blumkin **ACE Security Services** 

Adley Anne's Aflac - Maxine Bachmeier

**Altispeed** 

Anytime Fitness

Ashley Furniture HomeStore

**BBI International** 

Beckstead's Auto Repair

Biolife Plasma Services

Century 21, Red River Realty - Jodi

Danzl

Cirrus Design

Citizens Community Credit Union-EGF

Cost Cutters - Grand Cities Mall

Curious

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

Dakota Venture Group

Dale Carnegie Training

Dan's Pest Control East Grand Forks Heritage Village

Edward Jones - Bret A. Bentow

Fairfield Inn & Suites East Grand Forks

G F Truss, Inc.

Greenberg Realty-Rita Schuster

Happy Joe's Pizza & Ice Cream Parlor IRET Properties
J.R. Simplot

Johnstown Bean Company

KapStone Container Corporation

Keİly's Bar

Lafarge Dakota, Inc.

Northwest Tire

Olson Auto Repair

Overmoe & Nelson, Ltd.

Performance Chiropractic PLLC

Ralph Engelstad Arena

Small Business Administration-GF Of-

Surface Solutions

The Ohepen Mind

TrainND Northeast

UND Energy & Environmental Research University Station, LLC

# BeMobile Loves Company!

Free Meeting Space | Seats 12-14

Chamber Members | Local Non-Profits | Start-Ups



To Schedule Contact Lance via Phone or Email 701-775-9696 | lance.nelson@bemobile.com

Located at 2100 South Columbia Road Grand Forks, ND "Subject to availability, call to reserve at least 48 hours in advance.

# **North Dakota:**

Can we afford to lose **14,000** jobs?

Tell the **EPA** you oppose the costly power plan!





# **Hosted by**

# **Alerus Center**

1200 S 42nd St

# Thursday September 15 4:45pm - 7pm

- FREE ADMISSION
- Complimentary hors d'oeuvres & beverages with drink ticket & cash bar
- Great Door Prizes
- Progressive cash drawing is at \$700!

Alerus Center invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun Business After Hours. Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities.



# REW

This month you will get to check out what other Chamber Members have to offer!

26 booths

hosted by Chamber Businesses!

Anne Carlsen Center

Arvig

Biolife Plasma Services

Center for Innovation

Community Options

Docu Shred

**EERC** 

Exit Realty Heartland

GFK Airport Authority

Grand Forks Public Library Grand Forks Senior Center

Hannaher's

HB Sound & Light

Health Quest Family Chiropractic

Integrity Shipping & More

Invisimax

Maximum Impact

Nine<sub>18</sub> Photography

**Prairie Business** 

**Probitas Promotions** 

Rodan + Fields

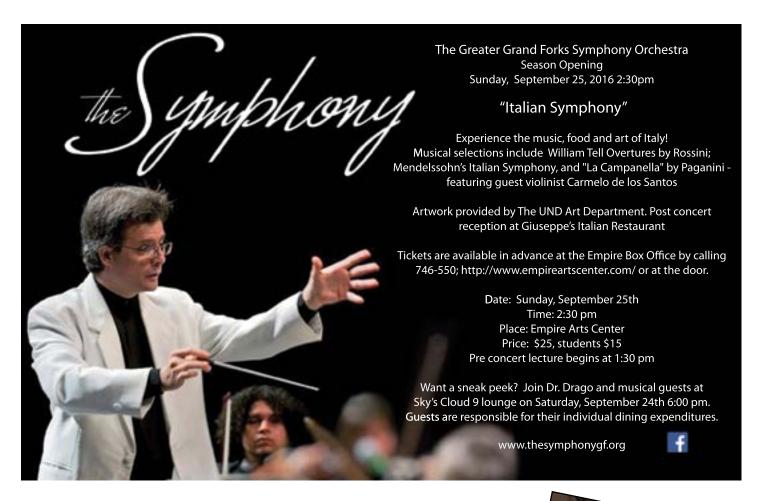
S & S Promotional Group

Sanford Health

The Village Family Services

**United Way** 

Verizon BeMobile.



# Advertising Opportunity!

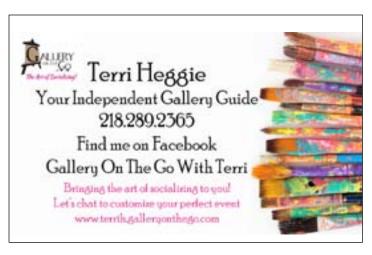
We have an advertising opportunity in The Chamber's award winning Community Profile/Membership Directory!

The full color publication is more popular than ever as a recruiting tool for new professionals, businesses, area developers and new residents to our area. It is truly the Northern Valley's leading image piece. An online version of the book can be found at

http://www.chamberorganizer.com/thechamber/docs/2016 ProfileDirectory web kp.pdf

The Profile/Directory book was revamped in 2015. The book took on a more magazine style format and the content was re-written by Pulitzer Prize winner and former GF Herald Editor and Publisher Mike Jacobs. It now reads more like a story about our region. We also include a variety of pictures to highlight our communities. Many of the pictures were submitted by members of the community and chamber.

Contact Emberly at The Chamber 701-772-7271 or email EmberlyL@ gochamber.org





2016 Community Profile

Membership Directory







Ribbon Cutting at Valley Corn Maize

There are great savings and nice selections at the

# Home Place Thrift Store 701-795-9704

1811 S. Washington, Grand Forks, ND www.prairieharvest.net

### Call us to pick up your donations!

(Available Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, schedule permitting)

\* Furniture \* Appliances \* Electronics \* Household Items \*Clothing \* Books

Drop off your cotton or cotton blend stained, torn, old clothes to be used for Prairie Harvest Mental Health's Rag Contract.

All Proceeds Benefit:

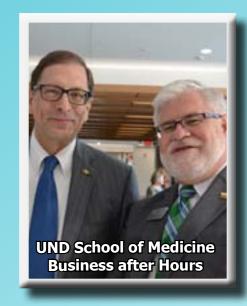
































### **EAPC Receives Multiple Awards**

EAPC Architects Engineers has received four awards from Zweig Group for 2016 including a Hot Firm (Top 100) award, a Best Place to Work For award, a Marketing Excellence award, and a Trifecta award.

The Hot Firm Award recognizes the 100 fastest growing architecture, engineering, planning and environmental consulting firms in the United States and Canada. These firms have outperformed the economy and competitors to become leaders in their chosen fields.

The EAPC Marketing Team placed in two out of their three submissions including Integrated Marketing category and External Newsletter category. EAPC Marketing Director Lori Bakken said she is particularly excited about the Marketing Excellence award. "It recognizes the great collaborative efforts and creativity of the team and certainly validates how this team stacks up against national competition.'

EAPC is also one of the elite group of companies that received the coveted Trifecta Award. This award recognizes companies that receive the Zweig Group Hot Firm, Zweig Group Best Place to Work For, and a Marketing Excellence Award in the same year. "The partners of EAPC are humbled to receive these awards, especially knowing that our employees, through a survey, have expressed their personal level of satisfaction of where they work and contribute on a daily basis,' said Alan Dostert, President and CEO of EAPC.

About EAPC: EAPC is an award winning, multi-disciplinary A/E firm with emphasis on designing innovative facilities in the region. EAPC's integrated and creative team of planners, architects, engineers, interior designers, and construction management specialists have been collaborating with its clients for 49 years, and serving clients from offices in North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Vermont, Colorado, and Buenos Aires.

### Dr. Kayla Odegard Joins Áltru's Emergency **Medicine Team**

Kayla Odegard, MD joins the emergency medicine team at Altru Health System. In the emergency department, Dr. Odegard treats a wide variety of conditions including strokes, colds, infections, heart attacks, trauma, lacerations, viral illness, fractures, etc. She states, "In emergency medicine, it's not uncommon for me to meet people on the worst day of their lives. During this time, I try my best to be a calming presence for patients and their families. I think it's important to treat patients and their families how I would want myself or my family member to be treated."

Dr. Odegard earned her medical degree from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences in Grand Forks, ND. She completed her Emergency Medicine Residency at Regions Hospital/Health Partners in St. Paul, Minnesota. During her residency, Dr. Odegard taught several emergency medicine based workshops including central line placement, basic ultrasound as well as ultrasound guided procedures, ophthalmology, orthopedics, simulations and toxicology.

Outside of work, she enjoys doing anything outdoors, including riding horse and barrel racing, hiking, fishing, camping, hunting, skiing, scuba diving and biking. In addition to outdoor activities, Dr. Odegard also enjoys traveling and was previously involved in coaching Special Olympics and high school

# **Choice Financial Promotes Thingvold**

Angie Thingvold was recently promoted at Choice Financial to Director of Residential Real Estate Operations.

Angie joined the Choice Financial team in October



of 2009 as a Loan Assistant for Grand Forks. In

November 2013, she was promoted to Commercial Lending Operations Specialist and in January of 2016 to Mortgage Processor III. She will now supervise both the in-house and secondary market operations.

When Angie has free time she loves to go to sporting events and the various activities of her four children. Someday soon she would love to travel back to Alaska for the beautiful scenery.

Choice Financial is a forwardthinking financial services organization that remains locally owned and built around longterm customer relationships, wellrounded products and services, and authentic community banking.

### **Karen Thingelstad** Joins Altru Health Foundation's Board of **Directors**

Altru Health Foundation announced that Karen Thingelstad, Vice President and CFŌ of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., joined its Board of Directors at the beginning of August.

"I am so pleased to have Karen join us on the Altru Health Foundation Board of Directors," says Jon Green, Executive Director of Altru Health Foundation. "Karen has tremendous experience in finance and leadership from her role at Minnkota Power Cooperative. When Karen gets involved with an organization's mission, she takes responsibility towards its success. Karen joins a group of outstanding board members and will provide great expertise to their work of meeting the needs of Altru's patients.'

Thingelstad grew up in the Hatton/ Northwood area in North Dakota and currently lives in Grand Forks. While interested in a number of services at Altru, Thingelstad's passions include anything relating to children or cancer. She shares, "My first husband died of cancer when he was just 29.

It had a big impact on how I look at life today, as well as how I view the people that take care of these patients.

## **Business Briefs**

"I love Grand Forks and believe that a strong health care system is an integral part of a sustainable community," says Thingelstad. She is currently the treasurer of IMPACT, a political action committee of the employees of Minnkota Power. Thingelstad is also an involved member of Sharon Lutheran Church in Grand Forks. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, reading, biking and being at the lake.

# Marco Named One of the 50 Best Places to Work by Prairie Business

GRAND FORKS, N.D., AUGUST 30, 2016 – Marco was named one of the 50 Best Places to Work for 2016

by Prairie Business magazine for the third year in a row on Tuesday, August 30. Companies were

nominated through an anonymous employee satisfaction survey and rated in areas including work

environment, employee benefits

and happiness.

"Employees in the companies nominated for this list wait eagerly to find out if their workplace has

been chosen," says Lisa Gibson, editor of Prairie Business. "It's a point of pride for our winners

because being nominated as a great place to work by actual employees on all levels of hierarchy is a

testament to really being a great company. You can't claim to be a great place to work unless the

employees who actually work for you agree."

In its third year hosting the Best Places to Work contest, Prairie Business received nearly 950 surveys

from companies in the northern Plains states of North Dakota, South Dakota and western Minnesota regions.

Magnuson Nelson, President of Hugo's, has been selected as one of Progressive Grocer Magazine's Top Women in Grocery for 2016.

### Dr. Israr Sheikh Joins Altru's Gastroenterology Team

Israr Sheikh, MD joins the gastroenterology team at Altru Health System. He sees patients at Altru Professional Center and Altru Hospital. Dr. Sheikh is board certified in internal medicine, and some of his specific areas of interest include colorectal cancer screening, Endoscopic Ultrasound, Gastro-esophageal reflux disease, Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis, Irritable bowel syndrome, Fatty Liver Disease along with autoimmune, infectious, and neoplastic Liver and pancreatic disorders.

"My approach is always patient centered, incorporating utmost compassion, empathy, and highest standards of medical care. I believe in team work, taking my patients and their families on board in clinical decision-making, utilizing evidence-based medical guidelines," states Dr. Sheikh.



## **Business Briefs**

Dr. Sheikh earned his medical degree from Kin Edward Medical University, Lahore, Pakistan. He completed his internal medicine internship and residency at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons at Harlem Hospital Center, New York City, New York, where he was given the Best Intern and Best Resident Award. Dr. Sheikh also completed his gastroenterology fellowship at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Outside of work, he enjoys traveling, art and cultural activities, tennis, soccer, cricket and horseback riding. In addition to English, Dr. Sheikh speaks Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi.



### Archives Coffee House

Kyle Thorson 3012 University Ave Grand Forks, ND 58201 (P) 701-797-1970 kyle@archivescoffee.com www.archivescoffeehouse.com Archives Coffee House is a for-profit social business that crafts high quality specialty coffee beverages and has a mission to partner and support local non-profits and organizations in Grand Forks.

### Valley Com Maize

Debbie Krueger
HWY 2 East
East Grand Forks, MN 56721
(P) 701-740-2042
kpkenterprisesllc@gmail.com
www.valleycornmaize.com
Valley Corn Maize is a locally owned, family-run
business. Our mission is to create generational
memories and cultivate agriculture appreciation
in the community, in a way that honors God.

### Premier Aesthetics

Lori Mercil, RN 2650 32nd Ave. S. STE L Grand Forks, ND 58201 (P) 701-757-2111 lori@premiernd.com www.PremierND.com Experience luxury aesthetic services from the best at Premier Aesthetics in Grand Forks. We offer cosmetic services and non-invasive injectable treatments to address your needs for healthy skin.

### Nancy Joyner Consulting

Nancy Joyner
PO Box 12606
Grand Forks, ND 58208
(P) 701-746-4728
njoyner@nancyjoyner.com
www.nancyjoyner.com
Nancy Joyner is a medical discussions expert
& medical decisions advocate. As an educator,
speaker, consultant and author, Nancy provides
palliative care nursing expertise for difficult
conversations individuals and their families face,
dealing with serious illness and end-of-life issues.

### First Command Financial Services

Adam Gallant
311A Kittson Avenue
Grand Forks, ND 58201
(P) 701- 402-2583
(F) 701-402-2638
ajgallant@firstcommand.com
www.firstcommand.com/advisor/AdamGallant



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Lower rates are for 1 year advertising contract.

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Half Page Color or BW

5" X 7 ¼"

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