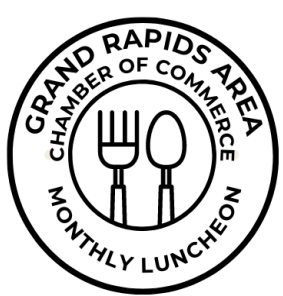




Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

The Voice of Business for May



When: May 13, 2024

Where: Timberlake Lodge Hotel

Time: 11:45 a.m.
Buffet lunch, 12:00 pm Luncheon begins.

Cost:
\$15.00 members
\$20.00 nonmembers

RSVP required:
218-326-6619 or email
Kerry@grandmn.com no later than
May 9, 2024

Luncheon Speakers



Derek Ramthun
NE Industry Relations
Explore Minnesota



Megan Christianson
Visit Grand Rapids
Executive Director

Explore Minnesota and Visit Grand Rapids Share Tourism Insights for Northeast MN

Join Derek Ramthun and Megan Christianson as they provide updates on tourism in Northeast Minnesota, courtesy of Explore Minnesota and Visit Grand Rapids. The event promises to unveil the significant impact of tourism on the region and shed light on the achievements of 2023 while highlighting upcoming initiatives.

Derek Ramthun will kick off the event by delving into the profound influence tourism has had on Minnesota, backed by insightful numbers that underscore its importance to the region's economy. Attendees can expect a comprehensive recap of the tourism landscape in 2023, along with an exciting preview of upcoming campaigns and initiatives.

Megan Christianson will then take the stage to share the successes of Visit Grand Rapids in 2023 and offer a glimpse into the future strategies and projects aimed at further enhancing tourism experiences in the region. Business owners and community members will have the opportunity to explore avenues for engagement and support within the tourism sector.

Throughout the session, attendees will gain valuable insights into collaboration opportunities between businesses and Explore Minnesota, including access to essential resources vital for success in the tourism industry. Don't miss out on this informative event that promises to shape the future of tourism in Northeast Minnesota!

Luncheon Sponsor



Visit Grand Rapids is the destination marketing organization for the greater Grand Rapids, Minnesota area with a mission to generate a positive economic impact through destination marketing, and tourism and hospitality advocacy in the greater Grand Rapids, Minnesota area. The organization is a non-profit that was formed in 1983. The organization is overseen by a nine-member Board of Directors: Dan Tembruell, President (Owner of Nevaeh Properties), Lewis Kellin, Past President (Owner of Hotel Rapids and Lake & Loft), Grant Prokop, Vice President (Owner of Thousand Lakes Sporting Goods), Sara Thompson, Secretary/Treasurer (Forest Recreation Specialist, Itasca County Land Department), Kris Ives (Timberlake Lodge), Tim Oxborough (General Manager of Sugar Lake Lodge), Jeff Johns (Director of Greater Minnesota Sites, Minnesota Historical Society), Tom Pagel (City Administrator of the City of Grand Rapids) and Rhonda Lambrecht (Owner of Rising Eagle Resort). Visit Grand Rapids has one contracted Executive Director, Megan Christianson who manages the marketing and public relations, oversees the day-to-day organization business, and leads growth development and marketing collaboration for greater Grand Rapids area.

Calendar of Events for 2024

- Chamber Monthly Luncheon
May 13, 2024
- Annual Dinner
May 2, 2024
- Swap Meet & Car Show
July 26-28, 2024
- Golf Outing & Fun Day
Sept. 19, 2024
- Taking Care of Business
Dec. 4, 2024
- Chamber Committee Meetings
- Ambassador - Third Wednesday/ monthly, noon - 1:00pm
- Government Affairs - Last Friday/ monthly, 7:30am - 9:00am
- Forestry Affairs - Last Friday/ monthly, 9:15am - 10:45 am

Ribbon Cutting Blake & Lind, CPAs



Sholom R. Blake and Karen E. Lind have joined forces to establish Blake & Lind CPAs, a premier accounting firm serving the Grand Rapids area and beyond since October 2020! With over 60 years of combined experience, we offer personalized financial guidance to Minnesota individuals, businesses, and organizations. From tax management to audits and financial planning, our expertise ensures top-notch service for every client. Our team's dedication to high standards and strong work ethic has earned us respect in the business and financial community, reflected in our loyal client base. If you're a current or prospective client, you can expect nothing less than meticulous attention to detail, personable communication, and a commitment to your specific needs. At Blake & Lind CPAs, excellence and professionalism are not just words; they're the foundation of our business. Your success is our priority! Pictured Steve Riley, EA, Kara Perry, Sholom Blake, Karen Lind, Zack Zajac and Logan Zajac

GRACC Ambassadors- Greg Bounds- Century 21, Lori Gill- UPM Blandin, Debbie Tahtinen - Midland Title, Jane Shade - MN North College, Danielle Witherill - Edward Jones, LeAnn Hardy - City Limits Storage

Visit the new office location:
Blake & Lind CPAs, PLLC
504 NW 1st Ave., Ste. 200
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218) 326-2879

New Members GRACC

Black Dirt Grand Rapids MN

Black Dirt Grand Rapids MN
21851 Moose Point Road,
Cohasset, Minnesota 55721,
218-398-7122



Green Heron Bed and Breakfast
2810 Meyers Bay Rd
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
stay@greenheronbandb.com
218-999-5795



Riverwood Healthcare Center
200 Bunker Hill Drive
Aitkin, MN 56431
(218) 927-2157



Ihry Insurance Agency, INC.
701-532-0570

This month's Customer Service Award

Katy Johnson - Davis Chiropractic

Katy Johnson from Davis Chiropractic
Congratulations, Katy, on your exceptional customer service! Your nomination was well-deserved for going above and beyond. You are a valuable asset to our community and are known for your kindness and excellent work ethic.

"Katy at Davis Chiropractic consistently goes above and beyond in providing exceptional customer service. Every time I interact with her, she makes me feel welcomed and valued. From remembering details about my last visit to managing multiple tasks with a smile, Katy's calm and engaging personality shines through. She truly deserves recognition for her outstanding service."



Also pictured GRACC Ambassador LeAnn Hardy - City Limits Storage

www.grandmn.com

This Month's Business Spotlight Recipient:



Discover the wonders of Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry's Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion! Immerse yourself in traditional summer camp experiences or enjoy programmed day or weekend events amidst the serene northwoods of Northeast Minnesota. Looking for more adventure? Embark on guided trips into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness for an unforgettable journey into nature's heart.

At VLM, we offer the perfect blend of place and program for Christian community and personal renewal. Our Christ-centered programs have been welcoming individuals since the late 1950s, sharing God's abundant grace with all. Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, VLM is committed to fostering an exceptional community at our two unique sites.

Since our merger in 1990, Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion have become integral parts of Northeast Minnesota, providing one mission at two wonderfully distinct locations for Outdoor Ministry. With deep roots in local communities and owned by over 80 congregations, our sites offer a space where kids can explore faith in the great outdoors, and where everyone is welcomed as a neighbor.

Nestled along some of the finest lakeshores in the country, our camps strive to sustain these lands while honoring the legacy of the Anishinaabe people, early camp supporters, and congregations. We recognize our role as caretakers of Creation and are actively researching the history of these lands and peoples to better understand our shared past and move forward together.

Join us in God's great northwoods for an enriching experience of faith, community, and nature. We look forward to welcoming you!

Camp Hiawatha - Deer River, MN

Available year-round for: Retreats, Conferences, Meeting Space, Family Camp, Summer Camp, and more!

Learn more at www.VLMCAMPs.org



Once a month, a Chamber Member Business in good standing will be randomly selected during the monthly luncheon and featured for the upcoming month.

This randomly drawn business will have the opportunity to showcase themselves offering them exposure through the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce network

This initiative expresses gratitude to all businesses and individuals supporting the Chamber's mission of advocating for business interests.



Join the Chamber for your chance to be premiered. The Chamber of Commerce works to help you create jobs, and helps to solve business problems. Make sure you support your Chamber, because they are supporting you. Call Kerry Larsen at 218-326-6619 or email kerry@grandmn.com

Meet the Grand Rapids Area Chamber Board of Directors

Over the coming months, we invite you to follow along as we spotlight various members of our esteemed Board of Directors. Each individual contributes a wealth of knowledge, passion, and unwavering commitment to our community, ensuring that the Grand Rapids Area remains a wonderful place to call home.



Gabrielle Jerulle, Director of Digital Marketing at APG Media (The Grand Rapids Herald Review)

Gabrielle is dedicated to fostering community engagement and growth. Her commitment extends beyond her role; she serves as a Director on the GRACC board. Leveraging her marketing expertise, she aims to deepen relationships, understand government affairs, and enhance the Chamber's presence in the community. Raised in Grand Rapids, Gabrielle returned to her roots after residing in Duluth, embodying community stewardship as a small business owner and volunteer.

Laurie Clausen, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones.

Laurie is dedicated to both quality investments and community support. Currently serving her first year on the board and second year as an Ambassador, Laurie actively contributes to the Chamber. Laurie also volunteers with organizations like United Way and Habitat for Humanity, showcasing her commitment to community welfare.



Dana Scherf, Operations Director at Essentia Health Grand Rapids and Deer River Clinics.

Dana joined the GRACC board fueled by her passion for quality, safety, and community service. Her involvement perfectly aligns with Essentia's mission to make a healthy difference in people's lives. Actively engaging with GRACC, Dana brings insights and a strong commitment to success as a member. Her dedication to community well-being extends to organizations like United Way and Eldercircle. Amidst outdoor activities like hunting and fishing, Dana cherishes raising her children amidst nature's beauty.

Dan Cooper, Business Development Manager at Lake Country Power.

Dan specializing in fostering business growth across eight counties in northern Minnesota. With a focus on economic development, Dan brings a wealth of knowledge to the GRACC Board since joining in December 2022. Outside of work, Dan co-owns Northern Man Craft, catering to outdoor enthusiasts in the region.



Visit our webpage for full bios, www.grandmn.com



2024 Northern Minnesota Swap Meet and Car Show

We have over 200 vendors with antiques, vintage swap, car stuff, and more. Many food booths and food trucks to enjoy. Breakfast is served Sat & Sun 8 am - 12pm. The weekend draws close to 20,000 visitors to the area and to this event. www.grandmn.com

Car Show is Sunday 8 am - 3 pm with over 100 cars to check out!

Main Sponsors:



For information:
Contact GR Area Chamber of Commerce
218.326.6619 or kerry@grandmn.com

Swap Meet earlybirds discount Ends May

May 15th is the last day for early registration, rates increase next week. Did you get your spot yet? If not, we do have spaces available. Call today 218-326-6619



Always Last Full Weekend in July!

President & CEO: **Malissa Bahr**
Business Relations Coordinator: **Kerry Larsen**



Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

