



Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

The Voice of Business for September

GRACC Scholarship Recipients



Sponsored in part by



Congratulations to Claire Clusiau from Nashwauk High School and Emma Bradford from Grand Rapids High School, our 2024 two-year and four-year scholarship winners. Thank you to Majestic Pines for being a sponsor. We were privileged to select two clearly distinguished students from a large pool of exceptional applicants. Claire will be attending MN North College - ICC Campus to study Law Enforcement. Clair read to us her submitted essay on why she is interested in studying law enforcement. Emma will be attending University of Crookston to study Natural Resources, specializing in Wildlife Management. Emma talked to us on What she feels the Grand rapids Area needs are and how the community can help. They both received \$500.

We also extend our gratitude to the Scholarship Committee. Pictured: Greg Bounds - Century 21, Annabelle Versich - Majestic Pines, and Laurie Clausen - Edward Jones Not Pictured: Lori Gill - UPM Blandin



Keep an eye on our social media channels for upcoming announcements about our featured speakers.

www.grandmn.com
www.facebook.com/grchambermn



Luncheon Sponsor:

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRAND RAPIDS AREA

The Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation (GRACF) promotes and facilitates impactful philanthropy in the Greater Itasca area. Working as a catalyst to stimulate robust charitable support, the Foundation partners with individuals and businesses to set up giving funds that directly impact nonprofits, individuals, community programs and projects and forward their mission work. GRACF is celebrating our 30th anniversary in 2024!

When: Sept 16, 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 Sept 12, 2024

Calendar of Events for 2024

Chamber Monthly Luncheon
Sept 16, 2024

Golf Outing & Fun Day
Sept. 19, 2024

Taking Care of Business
Dec. 4, 2024
National Lampoon Christmas Vacation Theme!
Sponsored by Paul Bunyan Communications

Chamber Committee Meetings

Ambassador - Second Wednesday/ monthly, noon - 1:00pm

Government Affairs - Last Friday/ monthly, 7:30am - 9:00am

Forestry Affairs - Last Friday/ monthly, 9:15am - 10:45 am

Chamber member, you are welcome to come and check them out to see if you are interested in joining.

Ribbon Cutting

Trails Inn Motel & RV Park



We are thrilled to join the community and embark on this new journey with you. Trails Inn Motel & RV Park is dedicated to providing a relaxing and memorable experience for all our guests. Conveniently located on the ATV and snowmobile trails, we offer an ideal base for adventure seekers year-round. With 20 motel rooms and both seasonal and weekend RV sites, we cater to a wide range of travelers. In addition to our current amenities, we are excited to announce the addition of mountain bike trails (opening soon), further enhancing the outdoor experiences available to our visitors. Whether you're here for a peaceful retreat or to explore the great outdoors, we're here to ensure your stay is comfortable and unforgettable. We look forward to being a part of this vibrant community, supporting local businesses, and contributing to the area's growth and prosperity. Thank you for your warm welcome, and we can't wait to see what the future holds as we share this exciting new chapter with you.

GRACC Ambassadors- Debbie Tahtinen - Midland Title, Laurie Clausen- Edwards Jones, LeAnn Hardy - City Limits Storage

My Place Hotel



We are thrilled to announce the grand opening of the My Place Hotel in Grand Rapids, an event that has gone down in brand history as one of the highest attended Grand Openings! My Place Hotels of America, LLC ("My Place Hotels") is a rapidly growing hotel franchisor that focuses on providing clean, comfortable, and modern accommodations paired with excellent customer service—all at an affordable price. Headquartered in Aberdeen, SD, the company currently has 72 locations across 29 states and over 120 hotels in the pipeline.

We are incredibly grateful to the Grand Rapids community for their overwhelming support and look forward to serving your lodging needs in the years to come. For more information on franchising with My Place Hotels or to book your next stay, please visit myplace-hotels.com/about/franchising or contact Terry Kline at (605) 725-5685.

Thank you, Grand Rapids, for making this event unforgettable! We are excited to be part of this vibrant community.

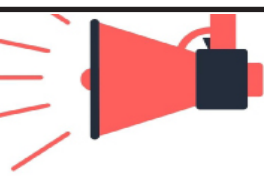
Pictured from left to right: Sara Arbach – Director of Product Development, Ryan Rivett – CEO and President of My Place Hotels of America, Ali Rahimi – Senior Vice President of Legacy Management LLC, JuliAnn Kelsey – Housekeeping, Taylor Grife – General Manager, Kayla Schmidt – Front Desk, Aimee Foxx – Front Desk, Demitrius Johnson – Maintenance, Brenna Beddoe – Housekeeping, Randee Grife – General Manager, Rhea Rennecke – Rapids Radio, Michael Lenhart – Front Desk, Terry Kline – Executive VP Franchise Development, Eric Myers – VP Franchise Sales and Development, Debbie Tahtinen - Midland Title/ Chamber Ambassador, Laurie Clausen - Edward Jones/ Chamber Ambassador

Customer Service Award Winner

Dylan Curtiss
S&S Meats



CUE THE confetti



**SERVICE YOU DESERVE,
NOMINATE THE PERSON WHO
TREATS YOU RIGHT!**

CUSTOMER SERVICE GOLD STAR AWARD

Congratulations, Dylan, 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.

"Dylan exemplifies 5-star customer service, whether he's explaining the perfect cut of meat, going to the back for a fresh cut on the spot, or patiently assisting an older couple despite a line out the door. The Hager Family is fortunate to have him and the rest of the dedicated crew at S&S, where every customer is greeted and served with care."

Also pictured GRACC Ambassador LeAnn Hardy - City Limits Storage

Get in touch with Kerry Larsen today to nominate someone great in our community!
Office location: 1 NW 3rd Street, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Contact information: (218)326-6619 / kerry@grandmn.com
*Must be an employee, not an owner of the business

This Month's Business Spotlight Recipient: The Itasca County Agricultural Association



The Itasca County Agricultural Association (ICAA) is committed to the care and safety of the beautiful Itasca County Fairgrounds. Every year, they bring us the Itasca County Fair and partner with volunteers to create the magical winter event, Lights in the Pines.

Did you know? The fairgrounds, nestled in Grand Rapids, MN, are available for rent by the day or in hourly blocks. Whether you're planning a special event or just want to explore, the ICAA welcomes you to enjoy the grounds year-round.

With a rich history dating back to 1892 and its current location since 1907, the fairgrounds offer 80 acres of fun, food, and entertainment. Whether you're here for an hour or a day, there's something for everyone—from the Midway to scenic camping "under the pines."

The fairgrounds, managed by the ICAA, are available for rent by the day or in hourly blocks. Whether you need the entire grounds or just a specific building or room, the ICAA is here to meet your needs. They are also committed to listening to public feedback to ensure the fairgrounds continue to improve and serve the community for years to come.

Come explore, relax, and make memories!

Meet the dedicated team behind the scenes:

- President: Lori Huber
- Vice-President: Brian Carlson
- Secretary: Lilah Crowe
- Treasurer: Julie Carpenter
- Directors: Wendy Uzelac, Tammi Anderson, Karl Greniger



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

Northern Minnesota Swap Meet and Car Show Recap

Hooray for Another Successful Year at the Northern MN Swap Meet & Car Show!

We are thrilled to announce the resounding success of this year's Northern MN Swap Meet & Car Show! Our heartfelt thanks go out to our incredible volunteers, whose dedication and hard work made this event possible. We also extend our gratitude to the crew that spent the week prior meticulously marking the hundreds of spaces for our Swap Meet vendors. It was truly remarkable to watch the grounds and buildings come alive as nearly 250 vendors set up for the weekend, many of whom have become familiar faces, returning year after year.

We are deeply touched by the kind and encouraging words we received from so many of you. Organizing this event brings us immense joy, especially seeing our community and visitors from far and wide come together to enjoy it. This event is not just about cars and collectibles; it's about supporting our local community.

This year, several local sports teams from area schools assisted with parking, while the Civil Air Patrol managed on-site hauling. We are profoundly grateful for the contributions of our members and the invaluable support of our main sponsors, Paul Bunyan Communications and I M Hotel. We also want to acknowledge the generous in-kind donations from Waste Management, Northland Portables, Midwest Communications, Super One, JDI Contracts, Rapids Radio, and the City of Grand Rapids. Your dedication and hard work do not go unrecognized, and it is because of your unwavering support that this event continues to thrive.

Year after year, the Northern MN Swap Meet & Car Show brings vitality to our community, filling hotels, resorts, and campgrounds up to 30 miles away. Our local shops and restaurants buzz with activity all weekend long. It is a true pleasure to witness our community flourishing and enjoying all that this event has to offer.

Thank you once again to everyone who made this year's event a success. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!



GRAND RAPIDS RIVERFEST
SEPT. 7
grandrapidsriverfest.com

SPOON SHAKEY GRAVES
SARAH JAROSZ
S.G. GOODMAN
COREY MEDINA & BROS.

GET TICKETS

President & CEO: **Malissa Bahr**
Business Relations Coordinator: **Kerry Larsen**
Events and Marketing Coordinator: **Stacia Rom**

