

Promoting the Alexandria Lakes Area as the ultimate destination to live, work, play and prosper.

Official Newsletter of the Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce

DECEMBER 2019 | VOLUME 112 | ISSUE 12

2019: A year of **'Neighbors Helping Neighbors'**

The Chamber's theme in 2019, chosen by President Greg Bowen of Brophy Lake Resort and Bowen Contracting, was "Neighbors Helping Neighbors." Anyone who knows Greg knows he has a servant's heart - for his family, friends, community and his neighbors. He truly cares.

Over the past few years the Chamber has focused on relationships and collaborations. Greg's theme built upon these efforts, supporting our belief that a strong community is built on healthy competition, where organizations realize they must join efforts for the common goal of prospering, even if it means working closely with direct competitors.

If local businesses don't do well, our community suffers economically, and we are all impacted. Less money circulates through our community to provide quality roads, public spaces and opportunities. There may be less job opportunities. People may choose to move away or not move here. We aren't an attractive vacation destination if storefronts are empty. When a community has a healthy, vibrant business base, everyone reaps the benefits.

Throughout 2019 we asked our members to help their neighbors, and you didn't let us down! Time and time again you shared kind words and celebrated each other, you welcomed and supported new members, and you came together to work on issues our community faces. We didn't see negativity among competitors - only genuine care for the community.

All of the year's accomplishments will be spotlighted in our annual publication due out in late January and at our annual celebration on January 27. Our staff is dedicated to serving our members individually and the community as a whole. Thanks for putting your trust in us!

Jane L. Bixman



Save the Date!

Chamber Annual Celebration
Monday, January 27, 2020

More details to come!

Special thanks to our 2019 sponsors:

Winning Edge Graphics for sponsoring dessert at the Annual Celebration.

Alomere Health for sponsoring the Spring Luncheon held in partnership with Alexandria Community Education featuring resiliency speaker Mike Kutzke.

Viking Bank for sponsoring the Fall Luncheon featuring attitude expert Matt Booth.

Innovative Builders for serving as the Duffers Delight Title Sponsor, and to all businesses who served as green, tee, swag bag and team sponsors.

Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union for sponsoring all of the 2019 monthly Noontime Knowledge luncheons.

Walmart for serving as the New Member Sponsor by donating breakfast for all Chamber 101 events and providing frames for new member certificates.

Pot of Gold sponsors, listed in all Wake Up Alexandria eblasts and at Wake Up events.

Our media partners, **KXRA-KX92-Z99 Radio/Voice of Alexandria, Echo Press** and **KIKV**.

Upcoming Chamber Events

Wake Up Alexandria

Friday, December 6 from 7:30 - 8:30 am
Alexandria Technical & Community College |
1601 Jefferson St.

Noontime Knowledge

Featuring Jill Carlson & Nicole Pfeiffer of MMFCU
Monday, December 16 from 12-1 pm
Broadway Ballroom | 115 30th Ave. E

Wake Up Alexandria

Hosted by The Written Gift
Friday, December 20 from 7:30 - 8:30 am
Anderson Funeral Home | 659 Voyager Dr. NW



Visit Alexandria MN



Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce



alexlakesareachamber

Chamber Horizons, USPS 330070, is published monthly by the Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce.
Periodicals postage paid at Alexandria, MN 56308. Postmaster: Send address changes to

Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce | 206 Broadway St, Alexandria, MN 56308
320-763-3161 | www.alexandriamn.org

Welcome!

November new members

Elements Salt Room & Wellness

Becky Byrne
(320) 815-1879
becky@elementssaltandwellness.com
www.massagesaltandwellness.com

ICON Business Advantage

Leigh Bauman
(218) 671-8325
lbauman@iconba.us
www.iconba.us

John Buck Accounting, PLLC

John Buck, CPA
(320) 808-8818
john@jbuckcpa.com
www.jbuckcpa.com

Ryan Witte State Farm Insurance

Ryan Witte
(320) 762-2394
ryan@ryanwitteinsurance.com
www.ryanwitteinsurance.com

Will O Be Woodworks

John Thill
(708) 567-3498
willobwoodworks@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/Will-O-B-Woodworks

Please consider these new members for your personal and professional needs, and welcome them to our network!

Noontime Knowledge is a one-hour informative luncheon held the third Monday of each month from 12 to 1 pm at Broadway Ballroom. Cost (includes lunch): \$10. No RSVP required - pay at the door.

Join us Monday, December 16, 12-1 pm

Holiday Hangover

When your spending was more than your budget

Are you worried about the financial holiday hangover? Jill Carlson, Vice President of Training and Community Relations, and Nicole Pfeffer, Alexandria Branch Manager with Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union (MMFCU), will be the guest speakers at the December luncheon. Learn how to avoid those last minute impulse purchases, how to recover financially after the New Year and get some suggestions on how to budget for next year.

Unique to this month's luncheon will be a holiday spin-off. MMFCU will give away three gift baskets with a total value of \$150, and there will be Chamber Bucks drawings! "Mock"mosas will also be provided by MMFCU.



Jill Carlson



Nicole Pfeffer

Generously sponsored by:



We're with you all the way.

We offer Relocation Packets!

The Chamber offers relocation packets to new and potential residents. The packets include maps, the Alexandria Visitor and Livability Guide, an economic development profile, law enforcement and recreational information, sponsor brochures and information on how to connect with Chamber member businesses for a multitude of services.

We encourage Chamber members to use these FREE packets as recruitment tools during the hiring process or to give new hires to help them settle into the community. *To order packets or for more information, contact Katie at 320-763-3161 or membership@alexandriamn.org.*

We're in the Business of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"



The Bank That Feels Like Home



Del Mari Runck
COO/Market Manager/
Director



Dawn Thorstad
Sr Universal
Banker



Jean Feigum
Mortgage Lender



Paul Martinek
VP Business Banker



Vic Dale
Retail Manager

320.763.8366 803 N Nokomis NE | Alexandria | Member FDIC



Wake Up Alexandria

Wake Up Alexandria is a networking event held the first and third Friday of each month from 7:30 to 8:30 am at a Chamber member location. A dollar gets you in the door, with all proceeds donated to a non-profit Chamber member.

November Hosts



Carlos Creek Winery | November 1

6693 county Rd. 34 NW

Non-profit: Inclusion Network

Carlos Creek Winery is home of the "Official Wine of Minnesota Fun!" The winery features a tasting room, tours, live music, and an event center. Special events are held throughout the year, including the Grape Stomp, which attracts thousands.



Lakes Area Recreation | November 15

720 Fillmore St., Ste. B020

Non-profit: Douglas County Fair Board

Lakes Area Recreation was formed in 1989 to provide affordable recreation to all residents of the region. The non-profit joint powers entity is comprised of School District 206, City of Alexandria, Alexandria Township and LaGrand Township.

Off the Clock

Off the Clock is a networking event held the fourth Thursday of each month from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at a Chamber Member location. A dollar gets you in the door, with all proceeds donated to a non-profit Chamber member.

November Host



Alexandria Sertoma Club | November 21

Broadway Ballroom - 115 30th Ave. E

Non-profit: Alexandria Literacy Project

Chamber Buck Drawing Sponsor:

Larson Insurance of Alexandria

Sertoma's main focus is "Service to Mankind" by communication of thoughts, ideas and concepts to accelerate human progress in health, education, freedom and democracy. Every year Sertoma clubs raise \$20+ million for community projects.

Give the gift of Chamber Bucks!

Consider giving Chamber Bucks for gifts or employee rewards this holiday season. Anybody can purchase Chamber Bucks and they can be spent at hundreds of participating Chamber member businesses!

Chamber Bucks are available in any increment and are valid for 12 months. There are no fees involved - if you purchase \$20 in Chamber Bucks, you pay \$20! Best of all, Chamber Bucks keep dollars local! In 2018, more than \$44,522 in Chamber Bucks were purchased.

**To order, contact the Chamber at 320-763-3161
or info@alexandriamn.org.**

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Membership Team

Volunteers on the Membership Team visit new member businesses to welcome them to the Chamber. They also serve as mentors and liaisons, supporting new members with introductions, information, and education on membership benefits.

November Visits



Finances Made Simple/GiAnt Worldwide
Stacey Doege, Owner/Senior Consultant

Finances Made Simple is an insurance company that offers small group health, individual coverage, Medicare coverage and more. Owner Stacey Doege is also a partner with GiANT Worldwide, offering leadership training that focuses on using the 5 Voices.



Mark Lee Asphalt & Paving
Jodi Lee, Office Manager; Sue Bertrand, Secretary

Mark Lee Asphalt & Paving Inc. in Alexandria has been serving the community for more than 45 years. Its employees are fully insured and bonded and the company offers competitive pricing for parking lots, driveways, roads, speed bumps and more.



Office Max
Kelli Rheame, Store Manager

Office Max, located at 4525 Hwy. 29 S in Alexandria, offers office, school and breakroom supplies, office furniture, computer and printing supplies and the latest technology. It also offers tech recycling and support, packing, mailing and shipping services.

The Chamber is going ACH!

We are excited to announce that we are moving to an ACH system for membership dues and other Chamber-related expenses. This is a service many of our Chamber members have asked for, and we are excited to now offer it to simplify your payment process! This will simplify our payment process and offer a more streamlined service to our members.

ACH will withdraw your payment automatically from your checking account upon your annual, quarterly or monthly renewal and will eliminate the need to send in checks or call with credit card information.

If you have any questions contact Jess 320-763-1489 or jess@alexandriamn.org.

Caring for you in Alexandria



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1527 Broadway St.

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- Endocrinology

SANFORD
HEALTH

Ambassadors

The Ambassadors are volunteers who extend the public relations arm of the Chamber. They attend business open houses, groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings; welcome new businesses to the area; and commemorate relocations and major remodels. They are out making business visits the second Wednesday of every month.

November Visits



Massage by Natalie | New Location

Natalie Goodwin, BCTMB, Owner

Natalie Goodwin is the owner of Massage by Natalie located at 510 22nd Ave. E, Ste. 201B in Alexandria. Goodwin is a National Board Certified Massage Therapist offering therapeutic and relaxation massage as well as massage cupping.



Elements Salt Room & Wellness | New Location

Becky Byrne, Owner

Becky Byrne is the owner of Elements Salt Room and Wellness located at 510 22nd Ave. E, Ste. 201B. She is a certified Massage Therapist, Biofeedback Specialist and Consulting Hypnotist. One of the notable areas of her businesses is the Salt Room.



Vantage Bank | New Location

Chase Bukowski, Credit Analyst; Stephanie Stueve, AVP; Jeff Montgomery, President; Karen Johnson, Loan Process Manager; Misty Tracy, Loan Processor; Cindy Mannum, VP. Not Pictured is Stacy Bruss, Customer Service Manager

Vantage Bank is located at 311 30th Ave. E in Alexandria. In 2012 a loan production office was opened in Alexandria and was named Vantage Bank and in 2015 it became a full service branch. In spring of 2019, it moved into a new, larger location.



Endless Treasure Second-Hand Store | New Business

Rich & Karla Guldseth

Endless Treasure Second-Hand Store opened in 2019 at 2420 MN-29 in Alexandria. It accepts second-hand donations from the public to be sold in the store with a goal to donate a majority of its proceeds to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

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ALOMERE
HEALTH

Filling out your patient information digitally using MyChart's **eCheck-In** before your visit dramatically saves you wait time. Download the MyChart app for your mobile device today—and see how much easier healthcare can be.



Big Ole Coloring Contest winners!

During the month of October, the Chamber conducted a fun Halloween coloring contest featuring a picture of Big Ole dressed up as a ballerina for Halloween. The contest was for anyone ages 1-12. The Chamber received more than 90 entries. All entrants were entered into a drawing and 3 winners were pulled at random to receive a free Big Ole plush doll. Watch to see what Big Ole will dress up as for next year's Halloween contest! Pictured below are this year's winners, Tahira Schaffran and Desiree Galbraith. Not pictured is 7 year old Asher Ellerbroek of Alexandria, MN.



Tahira Schaffran
Age 12 | Millerville, MN



Desiree Galbraith
Age 10 | Alexandria, MN

Thanks for sharing your ornaments!

The 20 businesses that brought in ornaments for our Christmas tree were placed in a drawing for a free Chamber email blast. Congratulations to the winner, **Henry's Foods!**

The tree was on display at the Parade of Trees in the Boathouse of the Legacy of the Lakes Museum during the Runestone Museum's Christmas in the Fort on Friday, November 29. The event was a great success, with more than 1,500 attendees!

Stop in at the Chamber office, 206 Broadway, to see our tree adorned with our members' creative, unique ornaments! It will be on display through the month of December.



Business Buzz

AIA North Central States Region, the Emerging Professionals Committee of the American Institute of Architects, has recognized **JLG Architects** with a 2019-2020 Emerging Professional Friendly Firm Award. JLG was one of 12 firms honored with the award.

Josh Meyers of **Zimny Insurance Agency** recently earned his Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) designation. The CIC program provides an in-depth practical approach to education for insurance agents.

Knute Nelson in Alexandria received the *Spirit of Advocacy* award from LeadingAge Minnesota. This is given to an individual or organization who makes outstanding contributions to advocacy on behalf of aging Minnesotans and the people who provide them with care in long-term care and senior living settings.

To include your business news in the Chamber Horizon Newsletter, email information to Lauren at marketing@alexandriamn.org.

Add a coupon to the Chamber website!

Did you know? As a Chamber member you can create and post your own coupons to promote your business on the Chamber's website. With more than 171,000 visitors on the Chambers website in 2018, it is a great way to reach prospective customers.

Log in to your online member portal, and click on "add a coupon." For help logging into your portal contact us at 320-763-3161.



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Merry Christmas!

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