



Minnewaska Area News Notes

2008 Membership Goal Nearly Reached ~ But We are Still Growing!



We are busy rolling out the Red Carpet for our new members !

Again this month, we had more new members join the Glenwood Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and we are busy contacting other potential new members daily. We are so close to passing our 2008 goal of 200 members—with new members being added each week!

Remember, *if you make a referral to the Chamber that results in a new membership*, by mentioning your name, *you will be eligible for the drawing at the*

end of November for the FREE Grand Casino - Mille Lacs Standard Room and Buffet for 2 package that I have donated back to the Chamber!

Don't forget to have them mention your name when they contact us and if they join now, they are eligible for the pro-rated discount on the regular membership rates! The 2 FREE ski-lift passes for Andes Tower Hills that all members receive will be coming in handy here very soon!

We would like to take a quick moment to welcome the following new members:

Individual/Family Memberships:

- Geri L. Krueger (Glenwood)
- Jackie & Don Vacek (Glenwood)

Business Memberships

- Hampton Inn & Suites (Alexandria)
- John O's Dining & Lounge (Brooten)
- Sawdust N Shards, LLC (Alexandria)
- Viking Office Supply (Alexandria)

Shop Locally & Win \$300.00 in Minnewaska Dollars!

With the holiday shopping season underway, once again the Glenwood Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce will be encouraging you to shop locally at the Glenwood businesses and surrounding area Chamber merchants and businesses!

Beginning Friday, November 28 and continuing through Monday, December 22, collect your receipts from the local Glenwood businesses and all Glenwood Chamber member businesses as you do your holiday shopping. Bring the receipts into the Glenwood Chamber office and register to win up to \$300.00 in Minnewaska Dollars,

good at all local Glenwood businesses!

For every \$300.00 spent at local or Chamber businesses, you will receive one entry into our drawing which will be held on Monday, December 22, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. at the end of our Chamber Holiday Open House, which will run from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. ~ Just in time for some last minute holiday shopping or even a special treat for yourself.

Shopping locally not only helps the local economy, but can also save you time, gas, and maybe even win you \$300.00 extra spending money!

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Grow Minnesota Update!

Last month, the Glenwood Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce began the site visits for our partnership with the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and the Grow Minnesota program.

As reported last month, we have set a goal of visiting at least two sites a month - one with a Chamber member and one with a non-Chamber member.

During the month of October, we were able to visit a total of five sites, two of which were existing Chamber members and one that resulted in a new

GROW MINNESOTA!

MINNESOTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber membership.

While the purpose of these visits are NOT to solicit Chamber memberships, but to better get to know what common concerns are out there amongst our businesses, industries, and citizens, along with the unique concerns that may not affect everyone.

Additionally, we like to hear what we, as a local Chamber of Commerce or the State Chamber of Commerce can do to better assist you and your business, organization, industry, or service.

To learn more about Grow Minnesota, feel free to visit their website at http://www.mnchamber.com/research_economy/. To schedule a site visit and teach us more about your business, industry, or services - please contact Scott at the Chamber office at (320) 634-3636.

Minnesota Chamber announces launch of Energy Smart program



"Energy Smart: to help Minnesota businesses save money through energy efficiency."

ST. PAUL – Oct. 8 – Minnesota businesses have a new resource for improving energy efficiency and saving money. Energy Smart, a program of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, is a statewide initiative designed to help businesses save money by taking advantage of conservation programs and increasing energy efficiency in their buildings and operations.

"We're here to help businesses save money through energy efficiency," said Mark Blaiser, executive director of Minnesota Waste Wise, an affiliate program of the Minnesota Chamber which operates this new initiative. "Energy Smart will help connect businesses to existing energy efficiency programs offered by the state's energy utilities. Saving energy is smart business."

Minnesota Waste Wise has 15 years of experience delivering strategic sustainability consulting that helps businesses save money through waste reduction, resource conservation and now energy efficiency.

Energy costs make up a big portion of most businesses' annual operating costs, and those costs are

rising, Blaiser noted. Energy Smart will connect businesses with current Conservation Improvement Programs (CIPs) offered by the state's utilities and other resources that can analyze a company's energy usage, efficiency upgrade options, potential cost savings and available financial incentives. Energy Smart is intended to provide businesses with the information and tools needed to make informed choices about their energy use and efficiency upgrade options.

The contract for Energy Smart, a pilot alternative CIP for 2008-09, was awarded by the Minnesota Office of Energy Security for inclusion in Minnesota electric utility CIP plans. It is funded by the state's four largest utilities – Xcel Energy, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power, and Interstate Power and Light. State law requires utilities to reduce electricity demand in specific increments on an annual basis.

"Energy Smart has the potential to significantly increase business participation in energy conservation utility programs," said Bill Glahn, director of the Minnesota Office of Energy Security and deputy commissioner of the Department of Commerce. He referenced a 2008 survey of small to mid-size businesses conducted by the Minnesota Environmental Initiative, which revealed ample opportunity for improved marketing to increase awareness and utilization of energy efficiency programs and resources.

"Increased participation in utility CIPs, particularly on the part of Minnesota businesses, is a critical

element of achieving the conservation goal that has been established for Minnesota as a part of Minnesota's Next Generation Energy Act of 2007," Glahn said. Those goals include a 25-percent renewable energy standard by 2025, as well as a goal of 1,000 Energy Star-rated buildings in Minnesota by 2010.

"Many large companies have staff looking closely at reducing energy consumption and are seeing significant cost savings through efficiency upgrades," Blaiser said. "That isn't the norm for most small and medium-size businesses. That's where we come in. We can connect them with the appropriate resources." A lighting upgrade alone could save a business 35 percent of its lighting costs, Blaiser noted.

Rebates, grants and low-interest loans are available from utility programs if a business implements certain energy efficiency upgrades. These financial incentives can help recoup some of the up-front investment costs to the business.

"Minnesota businesses have high potential for energy savings – especially small and midsize companies," Blaiser said. "We're here to make the process easier and to help businesses understand how energy efficiency translates into lower operating costs."

For further information about the program, businesses should contact Jill Curran, Energy Smart program manager, at (651) 292-4653 or jcurran@mnchamber.com, or visit the Web site at www.mnenergysmart.com.

Cody's Corner ~ MOVING INTO THE FUTURE.....2009

In 2008, our Chamber Membership has continued to increase despite the changes in our world and local economy. We have continued to have comments from residents and tourists that people have found our website and the 'new' location of the Chamber to be much more accessible and user friendly. We continue to emphasize the value of shopping in Pope County and the necessity of COMMUNITY PROMOTION throughout the State and Region.

We recognize the importance of tourism and regional promotion for

the sustenance of our community.

Our Community and County are both very fortunate to be able to distribute 'the Minnewaska Guide' which is one of the best promotional magazines in the State with copies of the magazine distributed throughout the upper Midwest. Through rental spaces, our Chamber has made the magazines available at the **Mall of America** which has 40 million visitors per year.

If you act NOW there is still time to place advertisements in the 'Minnewaska Guide' to help promote your business and support promotion of our

Community as a Destination Site. As the 2009 edition is being prepared to go to press, we urge you to contact the Tribune if you have not already placed an ad. For 2009, 10,000 copies of the magazine will be printed and distributed.

We will be moving into the future despite the economy and we will need to continue to promote our community and **'encourage a spirit of cooperation among our businesses and residents through the promotion of our Community as a great place to work, shop, live and play!'**



SANTA is coming to the Minnewaska Area Elementary School...Volunteers Needed to help out ~ Scott's Splash

It's hard to believe that it is that time of year again, but plans are being made already with Santa to again visit the Minnewaska Area Elementary School next month!

Santa has told us that the elves are quite busy to take time off right before the holiday, so he is asking us to recruit some local volunteers to help fill bags and even to help Santa pass them out at the elementary school because he will be talking to all of the kids in each and every classroom!

Additionally, donations are being

accepted for holiday candy, snacks, and other goodies for each of the holiday bags. Monetary donations will also help us to buy the needed supplies!

What a great way to show your community and holiday spirit at the same time, by helping Santa and the Glenwood Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce with this event which is sure to bring a sparkle to that little one's eye!

Goodie bags will be filled on Wednesday, December 17, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at MAES.

Santa will also need help on Friday, December 19, 2008, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and continuing all day long ~ short shifts would be greatly appreciated!

Contact the Chamber office for more information or, to make a donation, or volunteer your time and services! Happy Holidays!

"...this event which is sure to bring a sparkle to that little one's eye!"



Community Events



There has been a lot happening at the Glenwood Chamber office and in the community these days!

You can submit your community events to our community events calendar on our local website by choosing the "calendar" tab on our website, selecting the "submit an event" button, and entering in the information. It's as simple as that!

Once you submit your event, we are notified at the Chamber office of a pending event and can even upload images or logos for you ~ if you email them to us.

Our website can be found at: www.glenwoodlakesarea.info.

There are several upcoming events that are posted on the

community calendar, such as:

- ◆ Battle of the Businesses Bowling
- ◆ 55 Alive Courses
- ◆ Glacier Ridge Computing Open House & Free Community E-Recycling
- ◆ Jodi McGinty's Tastefully Simple Open House
- ◆ Holiday Open Houses & Shopping
- ◆ Starbuck Area Chamber of Commerce Fundraiser

- ◆ Central Square Concert Series - The Sheldon Theatre Brass Band
- ◆ Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- ◆ Toy Drive: Sponsored by the Glacial Ridge Health System & Emergency Services
- ◆ New Year's Eve Gala ~ Sponsored by Glenwood & Beyond (Early Bird Deadline is fast approaching)

...and many, many more being added daily!

Check Out the web site & add your event Today!

"This is a great tool! I just submitted the event..."

Nicole Meyer, Glacier Ridge Computing

Our Mission:

To encourage a spirit of cooperation among our businesses and residents through the promotion of our community as a great place to work, shop, live, and play!

CHAMBER BOARD MEMBERS:

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

- ◆ *Ms. Mary Brenden, President: Eagle Bank ~ Term Expires December 31, 2008*
- ◆ *Ms. Terri Richards, 1st Vice-President: Hunt's Resort & Porta Dock ~ Term Expires December 31, 2009*
- ◆ *Mr. Craig Olson, 2nd Vice-President: Glenwood State Bank ~ Term Expires December 31, 2010*

DIRECTORS:

- ◆ *Mr. Jon Buettner: Andes Tower Hills ~ Term Expires December 31, 2008*
- ◆ *Mr. Bob Mork: Individual Member ~ Term Expires December 31, 2008*
- ◆ *Vacant: Vacant ~ Term Expires December 31, 2008*
- ◆ *Ms. Karen Bartels: Eagle Bank ~ Term Expires December 31, 2009*
- ◆ *Mr. Tim Douglass: Pope County Tribune/Starbuck Times ~ Term Expires December 31, 2009*
- ◆ *Mr. Wayne Martin: American Solutions for Business ~ Term Expires December 31, 2009*
- ◆ *Ms. Nancy Hitchcock: Hoplin-Hitchcock Funeral Home ~ Term Expires December 31, 2010*
- ◆ *Ms. Pat Olson: Soo Line Credit Union ~ Term Expires December 31, 2010*
- ◆ *Mr. Michael Swanson: Lakeside Ballroom ~ Term Expires December 31, 2010*
- ◆ *Ms. Sandra Heidecker, Past President*

CHAMBER STAFF MEMBERS:

Mr. Cody Rogahn, Director ~ Since 2005

Mr. Scott Formo, Associate Director ~ Since 2008

