

Morris Area Chamber of Commerce

507 Atlantic Avenue
Morris, MN 56267
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morrisnchamber.org

Interim Director – Karen Arnold
Administrative Assistant—Kathleen Albert

Board of Directors:

Chair..... Shelly Evink (2011)
Vice Chair..... Twig Webster (City Council Rep)
Paul LeTendre (2010) Neil Suess (2009)
Corinne Kirk (2010) Amy Searle (2009)
Kris Hansen (2010) Elaine Simonds-Jaradat (2009)
Ben Winchester (2010) Sonia Meyer (2009)
Mick Ekren (2011) Christine Mahoney (UMM Rep)
Jill Loge (2011) Larry Sayre (County Board Rep)
Charity Ciaramitaro (2011)

Your Chamber is your Resource for: Business Promotion, Seminar and Training Opportunities, Community Information, Leadership Training, Networking, Partnerships, Referrals, Retail Trade, Special Events, Tourism Promotion, and MORE!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING..

February

Feb 6-7 Community Scholars-UMM
Feb 10 Leadership Morris
Feb 12 Board Meeting
Feb 14 Valentine's Day
Feb 26 Building Trust in the Workplace Seminar

March

Mar 3 Leadership Morris: Trip to the Capitol
Mar 6-8 PeeWee Hockey Tournament
Mar 28 National Guard Sendoff Program, Dinner & Dance

www.morrisnchamber.org



Chamber 400 Winners:

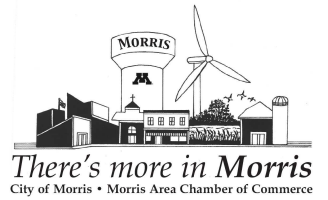
1/5/09 \$100-Craig Lesmeister
1/12/09 \$250-Steve Banken
1/19/09 \$100-Mick Ekren
1/26/09 \$100-Barb Hesse

February Green Recognition:

Morning Sky Greenery prints their catalog on recycled paper, reuses their pots, ships their plants in newspaper, uses a programmable thermostat and controls insects with natural products and crop rotations.

February, 2009

The Chamber Connection



Chamber Seminar: Preventing Identity Theft

Officer Dan Koski of the Morris Police Department shared a wealth of information on a wide variety of scams and preventing identity theft with chamber members on Friday, January 23. After the presentation Dan answered questions from the group. He also offered handouts to take home— the Chamber office has some of these handouts available, please stop in if you are interested.

Some recommendations to protect yourself are:

Never give out personal information over the phone, cell phone or e-mail. Legitimate businesses do not request information in this manner.

Change passwords often. Do not use information that would be readily available or obvious: birthdays, phone numbers, pets names, etc.

Use a credit card rather than a debit card when you travel. If your debit information is stolen, it could wipe out the available cash in your account, incurring overdrafts.

Share this information with your children. Students away from home and in dorm or shared housing settings face an increased risk of theft. Make sure your child understands how to keep his/her information safe.

Check your bank account information often. Reviewing your account activity online or when the statements comes will alert you to any suspicious activity quickly.

Check your credit report annually. This can be done for free through the three credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion.

Report Theft Immediately! Keep a record of your credit cards and how to contact the companies in a safe place. This will save you valuable time and headache if you are the victim of theft.

A special thanks to Dan for presenting this seminar!

Welcome New Chamber Board Members:

Jill Loge– Bank of the West
Charity Ciaramitaro– American Family Insurance
Christine Mahoney– UMM representative

New Chamber Board officers are:

Shelley Evink (Federated Telephone)– Chair
Twig Webster (Morris City Council Rep.) Vice-Chair

Member News:

- **West Central Screen & Print** is sporting a new sign at 622 Atlantic Avenue.
- Welcome to Brian Giese who joins **State Farm Agency** as a Farm, Crop & Hail agent.
- Prairie Computers and J&W Computers have merged to become **Tech Plus**. Their products include computers, networking, hosting and more. You may reach owners Jim Dieter, John DeRung and Brad Krosch at 585-5688 or team@techplustmn.com. They are in the same location, 208 Atlantic Ave.
- Congratulations to **Sonia Meyer** of Sonia's Hair Clinic as she celebrates 45 years of business!!
- Unicef is now Verizon. Stop in at **Radio Shack** for details, and check out their new customer service area while you are there.

Committee Opportunities:

Chamber committees will be reorganizing next month to gear up for the coming year. Our committees allow for some great networking opportunities. We would be happy to have you visit one or more committees to see which is the right fit for you. All chamber member business owners and their employees are welcome to join the committees or attend meetings.

Chamber Committees:

Retail- Works with retail businesses on promotions— Crazy Days, the Great Pumpkin Event, Parade of Lights, and the Holiday Promotion. Oversees the Customer Service Award program.

Community Development- Communication role of community development activities and issues.

Ambassador/Membership- Recruit new members. Review and make recommendations on dues structure, and ongoing membership issues and concerns. Visit and recognize members. Plan membership events. Identify educational needs/opportunities and coordinates and promotes program efforts with area resources.

Events/Fundraising- Coordinate fundraising activities and events, which include Seminars, the Chamber Social Event, UMM, Business Expo, Community Picnic, Coffee Breaks, and the Chamber 400 Fundraiser.

Communications- Promotes the chamber and the work of the various chamber committees.

Prairie Pioneer Days- Works closely with the Prairie Pioneer Days Coordinator, Plans and implements events for the annual community celebration.

If you are interested in attending a committee meeting, please call for the date, time and location. (to be decided in February).

Welcome New Members:

Sellit-MN.com
Darron Carr

Reflections Hair & Tanning Salon
Lori Wevley
628 Atlantic Ave
589-3883

Stevens County Historical Museum
Ranee Hokanson, Director
116 W 6th St
589-1719

Associate Member Ardyce Johnson

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who attended or donated a basket to the Chamber Social Event. It was a wonderful evening, in spite of the weather, and a very successful fundraiser for the Morris Area Chamber. We look forward to doing it again next year!

The Events & Fundraising Committee
(Kris Hansen, Donnal Eul, Twig Webster & Charity Ciaramitaro)
Karen Arnold
Kathleen Albert



Drew Israel 585-2468

Drew Israel's fashion sense has opened many doors for him. He got his foot in the door when he worked as a stylist, hair dresser and assistant for celebrities in California. And now another door has opened. Drew opened "Fashion Cents," a Resale Boutique, this past fall at 200 Atlantic Ave. The boutique offers women's clothing in sizes 0-5x, jewelry, shoes, and purses. Beginning in January, he will also carry girls' clothing. Drew stresses that the boutique is not a consignment store, noting that Morris already has "a wonderful consignment business." Of his inventory, 60% is "resale," and 40% is new clothing. "Fashion Cents" is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., the later closing time specifically geared toward working women. Drew spends Mondays purchasing merchandise for the store in the metro area, "or anywhere I can get a good buy," and plans to broaden his search this summer to the east coast. "I have gotten to know people at several stores who put aside clothing for me." "The clothing is reasonably priced, with the average price being \$11. "My customers keep coming back. The prices are just right for people who want to explore their style. For the amount of money you would spend on a shirt in the mall, you can come here and leave with four or five pieces of clothing." Drew sells more than clothes. He also offers confidence, a sense of style, and understanding. Drew noted, "Everybody, no matter what age or what size you are, has issues about their bodies. We all deserve to feel good about ourselves. That's what I want to provide – a place where people can shop locally and not spend a lot, but still feel great about themselves. That is my ultimate goal."



Growing up in Alaska and then transplanting to Los Angeles, Drew visited and shopped in many similar boutiques. "I've always wanted to do something like this, but I knew I could never afford to open a store in L.A. I was surprised that this area didn't have a store like this!" Image Consultation is another service offered at "Fashion Cents." Having been trained in styling, hair and make-up, Drew offers the consultation service to help customers learn how to properly shop for their bodies and evaluate their current wardrobe. "It's a lot like the TV show, 'What Not To Wear,' but I think I'm much more sensitive," he said. The 4-6 hour consultation session includes a makeup lesson and discussions in what colors and styles suit the client. Drew is convinced that it's not all about the clothes, and it's definitely not about spending a lot of money for clothing. He wants people to feel good about themselves. "If people can come in here, feel great about themselves, and leave the store with some money in their pockets – that's what I want to provide."

Service Organization List

We continue to update our service organization list to enable us to give current information when it is requested. Please contact the Chamber with the current contact information for your group or nonprofit organization.

Chamber Cash— Keeps on Going and Going!

The Chamber continues to receive requests for Chamber Cash, with \$1430 being printed in January. We invite businesses and individuals to remember that Chamber Cash is available through out the year, and makes a great gift, donation or incentive at any time. Valentine's Day is coming— and this would be a great gift for your sweetheart! Let her/him choose from spa services, jewelry, fishing must-haves: the list is endless. Give the gift that keeps giving locally!

Businesses— Prepare!!

The University of Minnesota, Morris Community of Scholars Event scholarships competition will be held on Friday and Saturday, February 6 & 7. 200 students (and their families) will come to the UMM campus to participate in this competition. Local visitor guides will be available for all those attending.

The Lee Community Center is going to be hosting a PeeWee Regional hockey tournament March 6 - 8. There will be 150 skaters from out of town, along with their families, visiting that weekend. A flyer with entertainment, dining, hotel and shopping opportunities will be mailed out in the team packets, in addition to being available during the tournament.

Please welcome these visitors into our community!