

Morris Area Chamber of Commerce

507 Atlantic Avenue
Morris, MN 56267
Mchamber@fedtel.net
MorrisMNchamber.org
320-589-1242

Karen Arnold, Executive Director
Kristen Swenson, Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors:

Chair..... Shelley Evink (2011)
Vice-Chair..... Twig Webster (City Council Rep)
Paul LeTendre (2010) Dr. Randy Hamling (2012)
Corinne Kirk (2010) Karen Berget (2012)
Kris Hansen (2010) Mary Philip (2012)
Diane Anspach (2010) Sonia Meyer (2012)
Mick Ekren (2011) Christine Mahoney (UMM Rep)
Jill Loge (2011) Ron Staples (County Board Rep)
Joan Spaeth (2011)

Please share this newsletter with your employees, friends or neighbors!

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

January:

Jan 13 Chamber Annual Meeting
noon, Bello Cucina
Jan 20 Leadership Morris
Jan 20 Morris Area Health Fair
Jan 21 Events Meeting 11 a.m., Chamber
Jan 25 Business Online Seminar
Jan 27 Dale Carnegie Course Begins

February:

Feb 6 2011 Bridal Boutique
Feb 9 Chamber Social Event
Feb 10 Board Meeting noon, AgCountry
Feb 16 Mapping Your Business
Feb 17 Resource Connections Expo
Feb 24 Leadership Morris

www.MorrisMNChamber.org



Put Your Membership to Work!

We are excited to offer **another** NEW membership benefit—with your paid 2011 Chamber business membership, you will receive one **FREE** business card size ad in the Chamber newsletter. This ad is to be used in the 2011 calendar year.

Chamber Newsletter ads will reach over 200 readers every month!

Please contact us to reserve a date to use your free ad. Additional ads can be purchased for a cost of \$10 per ad. A limited amount of ads will be placed in each newsletter.

Ads will be due by the 15th of the month prior to the month that they will run in the newsletter.

Call or e-mail if you have questions regarding this new advertising option.

589-1242 or
Mchamber@fedtel.net.

January, 2011

The Chamber Connection



A Chamber Member's New Years Resolutions for 2011...

I Will:

- Get the most out of my Chamber membership possible
- Attend at least one networking event to get to know other Chamber members
- Keep the Chamber office updated on any changes in my business - new employees, services, etc. so that the staff knows what I offer and can refer potential customers to me
- Read and share the Chamber newsletter so I and my employees are aware of what is happening in the community
- Volunteer at an event (Welcome Picnic, Prairie Pioneer Days, Social Event) to develop name recognition for my business while helping the Chamber
- Take advantage of Chamber educational opportunities and seminars
- Consider joining a Chamber Committee and working with other Chamber members to promote our community and the businesses within it
- Purchase Chamber Cash to use as a gift, employee reward or door prize drawing
- Tell someone who isn't a Chamber member about my experience with membership and the benefits it provides
- Contact the Chamber office if I have any questions regarding my membership or what it offers

Have You Seen This Sign??

100+ local businesses accept Chamber Cash and proudly display this sign. If you were the lucky recipient of some Chamber Cash over the Holidays— or any time— we encourage you to spend it!

2056 checks were printed totaling \$47,887— breaking the 2009 record!!! Money spent locally turns over an average of 4x in the community it is spent in.

As a reminder, Chamber Cash is available for purchase all year long.



Chamber Social Event

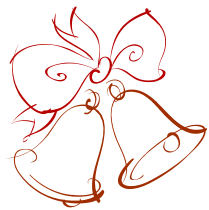
The Old No. 1 Southside will be the setting for this year's Annual Chamber Social Event on Wednesday, February 9, 2011. Mark your schedule to attend the social event of the year! Social Hour will be 5:00 - 6:00, followed by the Grand Buffet. A plated vegetarian option is available by request. Everyone's favorite Lucky Buck Auction will take place after the meal. Bring those dollar bills to win some fabulous prizes!

All Chamber members and their employees, as well as the public, are welcome to attend and bring a guest. Tickets are \$25, and are available at the Chamber Office or from Board members. Tickets will also be on our website soon, where you will be able to take advantage of using PayPal to purchase them.

Member News:

- Congratulations to Karin Jahnke, Administrative Assistant at **Federated Telephone**, for 10 years of service!
- Congratulations to the **University of Minnesota, Morris** on receiving the 2011 Minnesota Construction Association's Special Recognition Award for the restoration of the Welcome Center.
- The **Pamida** Foundation donated \$1,500 to the Stevens County Food Shelf to help meet demands through the holiday season.
- **Pizza Ranch** is offering business to business specials - great lunch deals for your office. Call Rob at 589-2102 if you haven't received your flyer and cards.
- Congratulations to Ron Bouressa on his retirement! Ron had over 43 years of service at the **Morris Coop**,
- **Get Framed Custom Framing** has moved to Keepers Bazaar, 613 Atlantic Avenue. Framing consultations will begin at the new location on January 4, 2011.
- Come to the '**Morris Area Health Fair**' at the RFC on Thursday, January 20th between 11am-2pm & 4pm-7pm. Meet health and wellness vendors, get screenings, attend learning sessions and healthy activities for youth, families, and seniors. Free parking in UMM South Lot.
- Congratulations to Kristi Ablor, the new Site Coordinator at the **Courage Cottage**.
- Fresh baked bread is delivered to **Pomme de Terre Foods** on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- The **RFC, UMM, WROC and West Central Wellness** have teamed up to create a new 'Community Garden'. They are now looking for 20 families to take part in this grant program for 2011. It's Free and a great opportunity for families to learn how to garden and eat healthy together.
- Check out the new electronic sign in the window at **Morris Electronics**.

Did you know that Chamber members can share their news in this section of the newsletter at no charge?
This free exposure is just one of many Chamber membership benefits.



Bridal Boutique

Sunday February 6, 2011
Best Northland Prairie Inn
12:00 - 3:00
Fashion Show 2:00

A new year brings new brides.

You are invited to be a participant in the 2nd annual Bridal Boutique 2011! There have been numerous requests to continue this event, both from brides, and the businesses who attended last year.

Booth prices are:
\$60 for single booth (1 - 8ft table/chair)
\$90 for double booth (2 - 8ft table/chair)
Please supply your own tablecloth/table skirt
Electricity will be available on a first request basis
Each vendor will be asked to donate a door prize

This is a great opportunity to showcase your business and the products and services you offer.

Registration forms are available at Bon Jos, Sandra D's, the Prairie Inn, or on the Chamber website, www.MorrisMNchamber.org, under Calendars and Events.

Sponsored By:

Bon Jos
Sandra D's

Best Northland
Prairie Inn

2011 Chamber Dues

Invoices for the vast majority of members go out next week. Please take the time to read the benefits of being a member, so that you might take full advantage of them.

We are once again offering monthly ACH withdrawal of dues from the account of your choice. This has been a very effective program— both for those who have taken advantage of it, and for the Chamber office.

This option spreads payments over 12 months, making it a very affordable advertising choice. Simply divide your annual dues by 12 to see what your monthly payment would be. The signup process is very simple, there is no contract to sign, the process is secure, and it is easy to track as a business expense.

Call Karen (589-1242) if you are interested in this option.

Membership Directory

We will be compiling a membership directory in the near future listing Chamber members. Members must be in good standing in order to be listed. The directory will be mailed to members when it is complete. It will also be available in the Chamber office.

Be watching for your copy!!!

2011 Chamber Board of Directors Elections

The annual Chamber of Commerce Board meeting will be held at noon on Thursday, January 13, at Bello Cucina in the Fire Side Room. Voting will take place as you enter, followed by a business meeting. Everyone is welcome to stay for lunch and network (on your own) after the meeting.

All Chamber members are invited and encouraged to attend. During the meeting 4 positions on the Chamber Board of Directors will be filled.

The names of the current Directors that are ending their official terms are:

- Paul LeTendre (State Farm Insurance)
- Corinne Kirk (Stevens Community Medical Center)
- Kris Hansen (RiverWood Bank)
- Diane Anspach (Bremer Bank)

***Diane was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board in 2010.

We are very fortunate to have these individuals as part of our Chamber Board and appreciate their dedication as well as the time and efforts they have made to promote or community and the businesses within it.

The names of the Nominees to replace the retiring Directors who, if elected, shall serve a term beginning January 9, 2011 - December 31, 2013:

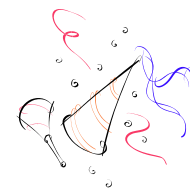
- Diane Anspach (Bremer Bank)
- Dr. Eric Rambow (Morris Dental Clinic)
- Marty Ohren (Thrifty White Drug)
- Patti Wente (Pomme de Terre Food Coop)
- Patty Kill (RiverWood Bank)

Each professional, business, associate, non-profit organization member shall be entitled to one vote.
Please attend or send a representative.

Friday Facts Reminder

Beginning January 1, 2011 all information for Friday Facts must be sent in an email form **that can be copied and pasted** into the correct week's events.

We will continue to print and post fliers in our window, but they must accompany a written blurb ready to be inserted in Friday Facts. We will accept hand written information from those who don't have access to internet. Ads can be purchased by Chamber members in Friday Facts for \$15 per week. Non-members may purchase ads for \$30 per week. If you have any questions regarding the changes to Friday Facts that will be taking place, please contact the Morris Area Chamber of Commerce at 589-1242.



Wishing you a
Happy New
Year!

From the Chamber Staff:
Karen and Kristen



Welcome New Member:

City of Morris Transit System
Beth Heinrich
P.O. Box 438
609 Oregon Ave.
www.ci.morris.mn.us
320-589-1000