



# The Chamber News

## September 2018

**WOW!**  
What can the chamber do to WOW  
you?  
Let us know!

## Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> 2018

Dear Chamber Member,

Fall is in the air and we are looking forward to cooler weather and the upcoming festive events here in Morris!

We had tremendous success at this year's Welcome Picnic on Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. It was estimated that about 900 people came out, including students and community members! We thank the Morris Area High School for being able to host the event due to rain at the last minute. Thank you to all of the businesses who had a table at the expo and greeted new and returning students. And a special thanks to all of our volunteers who served food, helped set up and tear down the event and greeted people. We couldn't have pulled it off without your support! Please see highlights of the Welcome Picnic later in the newsletter.

We hope you are excited for the change of Prairie Pioneer Days to September starting in 2019! This decision was made after polling members of the community, vendors, and organizations who have events during the festival over the last 18 months. We hope the change spurs a higher attendance and adds fun and excitement to the festival.

Save the date for the Parade of Lights on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> as the kickoff to the Holiday Promotion. We hope your business thrives during the Holiday Season! We have the dates set for many of our Holiday Promotion Events listed here in the newsletter.

We have a lot going on here at the Chamber, but we couldn't do any of it without you, our Member. Thank you so much for your continued membership and support!

Andrea Koehntop  
Marketing Director  
Morris Area Chamber of Commerce

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at  
6 p.m.: Parade of Lights**

**Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>:  
Morris Holiday Stroll**

**Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>:  
FREE Movie at the Morris  
Theatre & Pictures with  
Santa**

**Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>:  
FREE Reindeer Rides!**

**September 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 2019:  
Prairie Pioneer Days**

### NEW MEMBER:



**We would like to Welcome GVS  
Spanish Language Solutions,  
LLC as a new Chamber  
Member! Thank you for joining  
us, we are happy to have you!**

**(320) 585-5533**

### REMINDERS:

Please contact the Morris Area Chamber of Commerce if your business has any change of address, email address, phone number, etc.

If you are interested in learning more about our different committees and/or becoming part of our committees, please contact us! We would appreciate the participation.

(320)-589-1242

[morrisnmchamber@gmail.com](mailto:morrisnmchamber@gmail.com)

We are looking for sponsors to hold a Chamber Social! If you would like to host or co-host a future social, please contact our office! It is a great way to network and get your business out in the community!

# Membership Spotlight

## GVS Spanish Language Solutions



There's a new business in town that you may have not heard of before. GVS, Spanish Language Solutions was created in response to the growing need for well-trained and professional interpreters and translators. They have experience and formal training interpreting medical, educational, technical, legal and social service settings. They also translate all types of documents, from Spanish to English, or vice versa. Gilda White started her business in December of 2017 and has been very busy ever since. Currently, she is a team of two with one other person assisting with the English translation. Her two daughters are also very interested in the business and helpful. Gilda's daughter Sarah is in charge of office supplies and Victoria answers the phone and sets appointment times. And they get paid too! "This is a family business," says Gilda. "I hope one day that my daughters can take it over."

Gilda started this business in response to the huge need for services like this in our area. Hispanics are the fastest growing population in the U.S. and even more growth is expected in the future. She has over ten years of experience in interpretation and translation. Spanish is her native language, but she also speaks and writes English fluently. She is a member of the American Translators Association (ATA), the Minnesota Health Care Interpreter Roster, and the Upper Midwest Translators and Interpreters Association (UMTIA). She loves working with the Hispanic Community and assisting them with communication solutions. "The quantity of people I work with is not as important as the quality of the work I give to the people I work with," says Gilda. "I don't want to have a thousand clients and not even know who the people I work with are," she says.

But there are a lot of people in need of these services in Stevens and surrounding counties. Gilda did not expect to help the amount of people she did in one year. She helped as many people in a year as she had for a goal to help within three years! "I wish I could clone myself to have more help!" she says with a laugh. She also added that there are so many things to accomplish, sometimes it's hard to know where to start. She wants to thank the Stevens County Economic Improvement Commission for helping her get GVS started because starting a new business can be overwhelming and time consuming. The community in general has been very supportive as well.

Gilda and her two daughters have been in Morris since 2014 and love it here; they do not plan on ever leaving. "It's the only place since I moved to the states 17 years ago I could call home," Gilda says. Before this, she lived in Houston, San Antonio, and Minneapolis. Gilda says both her and her daughters truly feel to be an important part of the community.

For more information on GVS Language Solutions, or to receive services, you can email them at: [gildawhiter2017@gmail.com](mailto:gildawhiter2017@gmail.com) or [gildawhite.itr@gmail.com](mailto:gildawhite.itr@gmail.com). You can also call them at (320) 288-9784.



# Welcome Picnic Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>

