



The Chamber News

October 2018

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

Thursday, October 4th 2018

Dear Chamber Member,

Happy October everyone! We hope you are enjoying our cooler than usual fall so far and your business is doing well. We have a lot of new and exciting events and trainings coming up to end the year strong and we hope you are as excited as we are!

The Chamber is excited to offer "Growing Stevens County," an eight-month series on getting to know your community. Registration deadline is October 16th. Please see the registration form and information later in the newsletter. We would love to have you!

We encourage your business to have sales and specials on Thursday, October 25th for Moonlight Madness! This is a great opportunity to bring visitors to town for a great day of shopping in Morris. If you will be having a sale or event, please let the Chamber and local media know for promotion purposes. That same day, we are excited to offer a Social Media Marketing Training at the Morris Library. Please contact the Chamber or Stevens County Economic Improvement Commission if you would like to register.

We hope you are excited for the change of Prairie Pioneer Days to September starting in 2019! We are currently planning new activities for 2019. Please send your ideas to: morrismnchamber@gmail.com or give us a call at: 589-1242.

Save the date for the Parade of Lights on Thursday, November 15th as the kickoff to the Holiday Promotion! We hope your business has a unit in this year's parade. See registration form later in the newsletter. Following that will be the 3rd Annual Holiday Stroll, free movie and pictures with Santa, free reindeer rides and more! Refer to important dates for more upcoming holidays events, and flyers later in the newsletter to hang at your places of business. If you would like to be part of this year's holiday promotion, please register at the Chamber! We hope your business thrives during the Holiday Season!

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:

Tuesday, October 23rd:
Growing Stevens County
sessions begin

Thursday, October 25th:
Moonlight Madness

Thursday, October 25th:
Social Media Marketing
Training

Thursday, November 15th at
6 p.m.: Parade of Lights

Saturday, December 1st:
Morris Holiday Stroll

Saturday, December 8th:
FREE Firetruck Rides,
Pictures with Santa & Movie
at the Morris Theatre

Saturday, December 15th:
FREE Reindeer Rides!

September 6th-8th 2019:
Prairie Pioneer Days

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
morrismnchamber@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!

We hope you have a
safe and Happy
Halloween!



Membership Spotlight

Lakes Area Web Services



Every customer wants to feel like they are special, and their business is appreciated. This is exactly how Lakes Area Web Services out of Fergus Falls and their sister company, Esultants in the Twin Cities, has been making their customers feel for almost 20 years. Esultants began in 1999 out of a need for businesses starting a website for the first time. There was a company called Express Pages Company that would send businesses a one-page sheet of paper to include a photo representing their business and an explanation of their story. Then, Express Pages would build them a one-page website for free of charge for three months. If they wanted to continue or expand on the website after that, they would pay. The company grew so big and they had so many customers calling and asking for more, they needed consultants to help with that work. Esultants was born from that need.

Currently, the company offers services for everything including hosting, content management systems, custom programming, social media, graphic design, photography, email marketing and e-commerce. They are a full-service company where no work is farmed out. Between the two companies, they have 8-10 employees, all who have worked with them for years.

Scott Christison, co-owner of Lakes Area Web Services, still prefers the title consultant, as he is down-to-earth and likes to be on a personal basis with all his customers. He found Esultants when he was looking for someone to build a website for his hockey training company called Goalies Only. He was so impressed with the customer service and the help he received from the company, that he became a consultant himself and worked for the company. Scott loved that in a world that was trying to do more and more in less time and that was becoming less and less personable, Esultants still met their customers face to face and had a real relationship with them. That original website for Goalies Only still exists today and almost 20 years later, the company has grown and is still in business for private goalie training.

When Scott met the love of his life and she got a job in Fergus Falls, he told Jeff Schissler, the owner of Esultants, that he was moving to Fergus Falls and he wanted to start a sister company there. Lucky for Scott and the growth and success of the company, Scott was able to keep working for them and opened Lakes Area Web Services. Scott and his family have loved living in the Fergus Falls community. "For the population of Fergus Falls, it's a small town. You can get to know everyone, but also not have to be known by everyone," says Scott of Fergus Falls. "They are a conservative yet progressive community. Whenever someone needs a hand, whether you are from the area or not, people step up. If you are willing to help the community, the community will help you," he adds.

And it's the kind of small town, name-to-name, friendly basis that has set Esultants apart from other similar companies in the cities. "Our motto is brining small town back to the big city," says Scott. "Jeff and I both realized we like to hunt, fish and get along with people, and that's when Esultants took off. We got rid of the suit and ties, drove vehicles we like and are comfortable in (trucks) and just build real relationships with people. It's not always about a price or discount: our customers trust us."

Scott admits that working for a company all about technology, sometimes it's hard to be ahead of the curve and always be forward thinking. There are so many new trends people hear about and believe things whether they are true or false. "We try to research these trends and then communicate with our customers on a regular basis and show them what's coming up so when it does, it's not so scary," says Scott. At the end of the day in a world of technology that is confusing, they hope to be a familiar and comforting face their customers can come to for help.

Although they have considered expanding and opening another company somewhere warm where they can enjoy winters, Scott admits it would have to be the right fit for the company and they hesitate because they want to stay on a personal, shaking hands business with their customers. "It may sound cliché, but if you love what you do, you never work a day in your life," says Scott.

Growing Stevens County Starts Tuesday, October 23rd



Growing Stevens County

An eight-month series on "Getting to know your Community"

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Cost: \$85.00 includes program, transportation and snacks

Registration Deadline: October 16th

Class size limited to 20

Program will run from 8:30 a.m. – Noon each month

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE

Individuals who are new to the community or anyone who just wants to know more about their community

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

- * Establish a network in your community
- * Relationship Building
- * Increased knowledge of your community assets

Session 1: October 23, 2010

Community Assets & Team Building

Session 2: November 20, 2018

Education Tours

Session 3: December 11, 2019

Industry Tours

Session 4: January 8, 2019

Health Care- Presentations & Tours

Session 5: February 5, 2019

City & County Government

Session 6: March 12, 2019

Media & Telecommunication

Session 7: April 16, 2019

Agriculture- Presentations & Tours

Session 8: May 14, 2019

History of Stevens County/Final Session

This program is designed to help you grow effective and sustainable LEADERSHIP on the job, at home, and in your community.

Growing Stevens County Starts Tuesday, October 23rd



Growing Stevens County Registration Form

Name _____

Employer _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

Fee enclosed _____

Upon receipt of registration you will receive details for our first session via e-mail.

Registration Deadline October 16th.

"The future of our rural communities depends on the people who live there" is a statement that drives the need for on-going leadership development education.

Social Media Marketing

Thursday, October 25th

MORRIS
Area Chamber of Commerce



Come Learn Social Media Marketing With Us!



Entrepreneurs & Business Owners

When: October 25, 2018

10:00am—noon

Where: Morris Library

102 E 6th Street

Morris, MN 56267

\$10.00

Join Shannon Berns, MBA from Du Nord Consulting. Learn how to develop your target market and how to harness and showcase what is unique about your business. Understand the most commonly used social media platforms and how they can generate valuable awareness. What works for your business may not be what is useful for another. Using tools available to all businesses you can broaden your customer base and tighten your scope.

Please register by contacting:

Morris Area Chamber at (320) 589-1242

Stevens County Economic Improvement Commission at (320) 585-2609

MORE TRAININGS: westcentralmnsbdc.com/events

QUESTIONS: Amy at 218.299.3037 | sbdc@cord.edu Visit: 1310 8th St. S., Suite 220, Grant Center, Concordia College Mail: 901 8th St. S., Moorhead, MN 56562

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Hosted in Partnership:



Hosted by
CONCORDIA
COLLEGE
OFFUTT SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



Parade of Lights

November 15th



Parade of Lights

November 15th



2018 Parade of Lights

Join the festivities and fun as we start the Holiday Season in Morris on Thursday, November 15, 2018 with the 18th Annual Grand Parade of Lights

The Chamber of Commerce's Events & Promotions Committee invites all businesses and community members to enter a float, vehicle, or characters in our Grand Parade of Lights. We have invited Santa to join us for the parade. Please do not include a Santa with your parade unit.

We encourage you to get together with co-workers, family, and friends to put together your parade entry. Because it is a "Parade of Lights," we ask that you decorate and dazzle the crowd with lots of lights on your entry and also include some holiday music. Prizes will be awarded for the best overall entry and the best show of lights. Please return this form to the Chamber Office. **Lineup will be in the order registration forms are received. You will receive an e-mail confirmation of your registration.**

Deadline to register is November 8th

Grand Parade of Lights Registration
Thursday, November 15, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Business/Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address, City, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Entry Description: Please indicate the length of unit and if you will have music.

Length of unit _____ Music _____

It is understood that service groups, businesses and organizations have their own insurance. For those without insurance, we ask you to sign a release of liability:

I, the undersigned, agree that I will notify my participants that they alone are responsible, for any personal injury and/or property damage resulting from participation in the Parade of Lights. I specifically release and discharge in advance The Morris Area Chamber of Commerce from any and all liability.

Applicants Signature _____

Please return form to:

Morris Area Chamber of Commerce, 215 Atlantic Avenue, Morris MN 56267
Or Email to morrismnchamber@gmail.com

3rd Annual Holiday Stroll

Saturday, December 1st

SATURDAY • DECEMBER 1 2018 • 9AM TO 3PM

MORRIS

• HOLIDAY •

STROLL

**JOIN US IN MORRIS FOR THE MORRIS
HOLIDAY STROLL! GET ALL OF YOUR HOLIDAY
SHOPPING DONE WHILE HAVING FUN
WITH MANY EVENTS!**



CRAFTS



**BAKE
SALES**



**DEMOS
SALES & MORE!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.MORRISMNCHAMBER.ORG

Santa Day

Saturday, December 8th



SANTA DAY IN MORRIS!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

**FREE Firetruck Rides from the Morris Fire
Department 11:30AM-12:30PM**

FREE Pictures with Santa 12-2PM

FREE Movie 2 PM "The Star"

All events are located at the Morris Theatre:

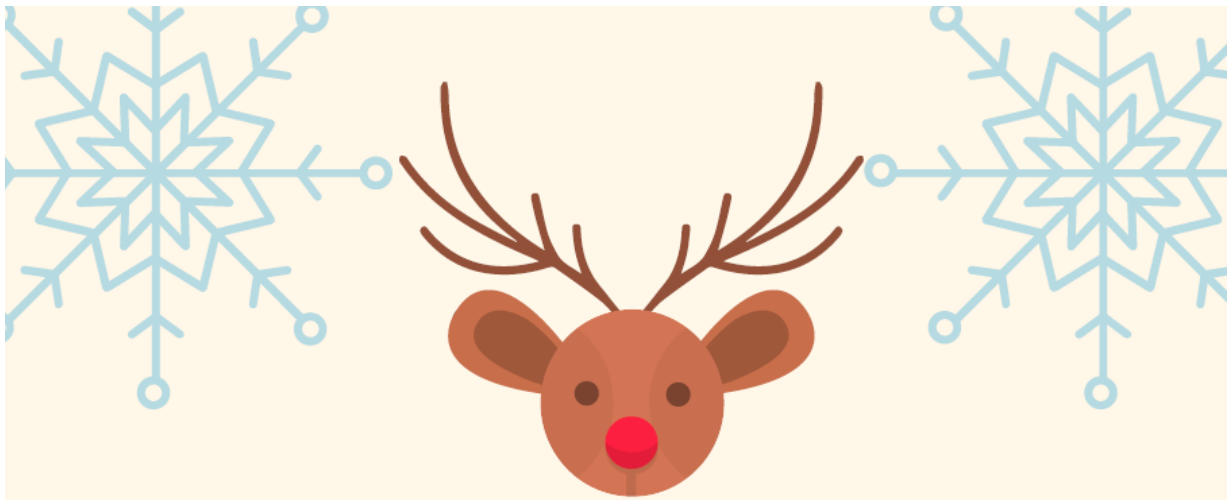
12 East 6th Street



M I N N E S O T A
MORRIS
Area Chamber of Commerce

Reindeer Rides

Saturday, December 15th



FREE REINDEER RIDES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
11 A.M.-1 P.M.
215 ATLANTIC AVE. MORRIS

Thank you to Fluegel, Anderson,
McLaughlin & Brutlag Chartered for
sponsoring the Reindeer Rides!

FLUEGEL  ANDERSON

Fluegel, Anderson, McLaughlin & Brutlag, Chartered

MINNESOTA
MORRIS
Area Chamber of Commerce