



# CHAMBER Connection

Serving the communities of Columbus, Forest Lake, Lent, Linwood, Scandia, Stacy, and Wyoming

## Watch Your Mail for Home Show Registration Materials

The Forest Lake Home & Business Show is April 2, 2005. Registration materials will be in the mail soon.



Forest Lake Area Chamber of Commerce  
Volume 22, Issue 2 • February 2005

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### OUR MISSION

The Forest Lake Area Chamber of Commerce is an organization representing business and industry, working together to advance the economic well being of its members and the community.

## Membership Meeting

February 16 North Metro Harness Racing Initiative will be showcasing their plans for the track in Columbus Township. We will be meeting at 11:30 a.m. at The Lodge at Forest Hills at Forest Hills Golf Club. Registration form on page 10.

## Legislative Breakfast

February 18 you will get a chance to ask your local legislators about the issues important to you at our Annual Legislative Breakfast, 7:00 a.m. at Famous Dave's in Forest Lake. Registration form on page 9.



# Welcome New Members

**Eagle Painting**  
612-986-8821

**Masterson Personnel**  
26357 Forest Blvd  
Wyoming, MN 55092  
651-462-7505

**St. Croix Endodontics**  
25 N. Lake Street, Ste 110  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
651-464-7388

**Twin Cities Dermatology**  
280 12th Street SW, Ste A  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
651-466-0766

**VIP North Scrapbooks**  
26685 Fallbrook Avenue  
Wyoming, MN 55092  
651-462-0606

# Non-renewing Members

Please update your member directories. We thank these firms for their past participation and support of our community: Maxxum Office Solutions, Sauro Insurance Agency, Sisbro Printing, Inc., Washington Mutual Bank and Mortgage, Chain of Lakes YMCA.

## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

# Toddler Town

Toddler Town is owned and operated by Brandy Grell, who has over fourteen years experience in the childcare industry. Brandy saw a need for a full-service, professional childcare center in the Wyoming area, so in 1999, she built her 9000 square foot center on the site of the old elementary school, located right off Highway 61 and Viking Blvd.



With a capacity to provide childcare to 117 children, Toddler Town serves infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers and school-aged children. Besides separate classrooms for each age group, there are also separate, enclosed play areas, and a large indoor gymnasium that each group uses twice a day for large muscle exercise.

Staff members at Toddler Town are all certified and have been trained in emergency procedures. And, Brandy says, when hiring her staff, she not only expects them to be educationally qualified to care for children, they must also possess another very important qualification—they must love and enjoy being with kids.

According to Brandy, "Our parents can leave their child knowing that they are in a safe, caring environment. Our goal is to provide each child with a positive, loving experience that will enhance their social, physical and emotional development. And," she added, "We want them to have fun too!"

Brandy says Toddler Town joined your Chamber because she wanted the opportunity to meet and network with other small business owners in the area.

"I've met many new people at Chamber events who share my interests and concerns about running a small business," she says.

Toddler Town currently has some openings in all its age groups, so if you, or one of your employees is looking for high-quality, positive childcare, Brandy says to give her a call at 651-462-1407.

FROM  
THE  
CHAIR



## Chamber events – your cure for cabin fever

Dead of winter! Too cold to go outside, too early to start seedlings, the Vikings no longer provide us with our only exercise, that adrenalin rush that occurs when we allow ourselves to get a bit excited, and the walls are closing in. To the rescue — your Chamber! Our events will exercise dusty brains, and leave you feeling hopeful that spring is truly just around the corner.

The Legislative Breakfast is on February 18 at Famous Dave's. Come refuel the fires that were lit in November. Senator Bachmann, Representative Vandever, Senator Nienow, Representative Nelson, Congressman Kennedy and Congressman Obserstar have all been invited to attend. Come, hear their opinions and plans for this session, share your thoughts, air your frustrations. The breakfast starts at 7:00 am. Cost is \$9 for Chamber members, \$11 for non-members. This is the "exercise dusty brains" part.

Finally, as sure as spring will come again, the Home Show comes to the high school on April 2. The Home Show gives businesses the opportunity to showcase their products and services, and allows you to discover the many resources available in our community. This is the "hopeful that spring is truly around the corner" part. It has been proven time and again that within a month of the Home Show, spring comes to Forest Lake. It is very likely that the two are related events, and I for one do not want to risk missing the Home Show for fear of the outcome.

Sincerely,  
*Debra Bean*

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## Member Notes

Orthopaedic Sports, Inc. (OSI Physical Therapy) is having an open house celebrating their remodeling. More space has been added in addition to the work center starting up in Forest Lake. Please join us on Thursday, February 24 from 5 pm to 7 pm. Contact with questions at (651) 464-8502.

## Patronize Your Fellow Chamber Members

Thinking about selling you house or business? Give a fellow chamber member a call to find out what it is worth.

### **Search Co. Real Estate Appraisers**

168 N. Lake Street  
Forest Lake, MN 555025  
651-464-7880

### **Vandever Associate Appraisers, Inc.**

321 Old Highway 8  
New Brighton MN 55112  
651-631-8442

## For Sale

Konica Copier/ Printer. Can be networked with your computers. Prints 20 copies per minute. Duplexes (prints two sided copies). Sorts and Staples. Two paper drawers. 4 years old. \$1500 or best offer. Call the Chamber office at 651-464-3200.



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BUSINESS  
CARDS!!**

## a.m. Connection February 23

The next a.m. Connection will take place on Wednesday, February 23, from 7:30 to 8:30 am at **Mattson Funeral Home**, 343 N. Shore Drive. Take an hour to mix and mingle with other Chamber members while enjoying a light breakfast. If you don't have an entire hour, don't worry — stay as long as you want. Please RSVP by Tuesday, February 22, by calling the Chamber office, 651-464-3200, by fax 651-464-3201 or online at [www.flacc.org](http://www.flacc.org).

## February Refreshment Host

***Thank you!***

**Doc Savage  
Productions**

The Refreshment Host supplies the Chamber with coffee, pop, and snacks for meetings held at the office. The cost is \$30 in cash or supplies.

**FROM  
THE  
PRESIDENT**



What will it mean to the Forest Lake area to have the Harness Racing Track in Columbus Township? What will a possible Len Pratt development of 1600 housing units mean? What will any new development in the area mean besides more traffic? Sleepy Forest Lake will be waking up.

The Harness Racing track, the attached card room and restaurant will attract people to our area who have never visited here before. Most of the traffic, especially for the races themselves, will be off peak hours. The

card room will have individual cars, one at a time coming and going at all times of the day and night. It will be wonderful to have another fine dining restaurant in the area. 300 new jobs will be created and I am here to tell you dealers in card rooms and servers in fine dining establishments may make minimum wage but their tips are fantastic. People from outside the area attending the races will be staying in our motels, dining at our other restaurants and exploring other things in the area.

A recent study showed that most people who move to a new area have visited as tourists first. The same can be said of business people who have not visited our area before. After visiting the track or card room they may look around and discover the other amenities that we have to offer.

That's where a Pratt housing development comes in. I recently had a phone call from someone who has visited two other Pratt developments in Stillwater and Hugo. She could not wait to purchase a home in one of his planned communities. She currently lives here, but has been tempted to move because she liked his concepts. I believe she would sign on the dotted line today if that were possible.

These two projects can only attract other quality opportunities. First we have to get people here to see what we have to offer. For business that can only be good. People will visit time and time again and some of them may move here or move businesses here. If you moved here expecting it to remain small forever you won't like this, however if you have a local business more bodies in the area can only mean more business.

*Debby*

[debby@flacc.org](mailto:debby@flacc.org) • 651-464-3200

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## We Apologize for Our Website

If you have recently visited our website, you know we have been experiencing problems. We hope to have it updated and running again within the next 30 days.

# Thank You Renewing Members

The following members have renewed their investment in their Chamber of Commerce. Please utilize their services whenever possible:

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>Ace Solid Waste</b>                  | <b>Maranatha Assembly of God</b> |
| <b>Applebees</b>                        | <b>McDonald's-Wyoming</b>        |
| <b>Avalon Homes Inc.</b>                | <b>Minnesota Workforce</b>       |
| <b>Coates RV Center</b>                 | <b>Center - Washington</b>       |
| <b>Courage Forest Lake</b>              | <b>County</b>                    |
| <b>Dazy Maze Incense &amp; More</b>     | <b>Rapheal Consulting</b>        |
| <b>Direct by Owner-Mike Guindon</b>     | <b>Spartan Security</b>          |
| <b>Edward Jones &amp; Co. - Patrick</b> | <b>State Farm Insurance -</b>    |
| <b>Growe</b>                            | <b>Bruce Johnson</b>             |
| <b>ERA Muske Co. - Dan Hames</b>        | <b>Sun Yi's Academy of Tae</b>   |
| <b>Forest Lake Area Athletic</b>        | <b>Kwon Do</b>                   |
| <b>Association</b>                      | <b>Toddler Town Child Care</b>   |
| <b>Forest Lake Mitsubishi</b>           | <b>Center</b>                    |
| <b>G.R.O.W.</b>                         | <b>UpperDeck</b>                 |
| <b>Gaughan Companies</b>                | <b>Village Apartments</b>        |
| <b>Hitching Post Motel</b>              | <b>Yellow Book USA</b>           |
| <b>Lakes Area Community Television</b>  |                                  |

## Minnesota Chamber Legislative Conference Call Series

There has been a slight change in the schedule of calls. There was a call scheduled for the Friday, February 25. The call has been re-scheduled for April 8. Below is the complete revised schedule. All other details remain the same. The calls run from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. with the first 15 minutes "listen only" while the lobbyists provide updates from the capitol and the final fifteen minutes are opened up for your questions.

### 2005 Conference Call Dates

January 28	April 22
February 11	April 29
March 11	May 6
March 25	May 13
April 8	May 20

If you plan to participate in any or all of the calls, please call Debby at 651-464-3200.

## Customer Contacts By Staff in December

Apartment Lists Requested . . . . .	2
Calls Answered for Chamber President(not counted elsewhere) . . . . .	67
Demographic Info Request . . . . .	5
Emails - Receptionist . . . . .	42
Emails – Admin Assist. . . . .	160
Emails – President . . . . .	350
Event, Chamber or Member Queries. . . . .	31
General Business Referrals & Maps . . . . .	13
Government, Social Agency or Organization Referrals . . . . .	11
Moving Packs Requested . . . . .	2
New Member Inquiries . . . . .	3
Specific Member Referrals . . . . .	25
Calls Answered for Admin Assist. . . . .	8
Misc. . . . .	18
Total Contacts . . . . .	657
Walk-in Visitors Included Above. . . . .	48
Unique Visitors to Website . . . . .	1365
Total Number of Visits to Website . . . . .	2081

### OUTGOING MAIL COUNT & COST

(excluding Newsletter & Bulk Rate Mailings)

Apartment List . . . . .	0
Bills . . . . .	15
Tourist Info. . . . .	0
Invoices . . . . .	38
Miscellaneous . . . . .	15
Member Communications . . . . .	27
New Member Info . . . . .	3
Demog/Moving/New Res Packs . . . . .	0
Potential Membership Packets . . . . .	3

# January Ambassadors

## HEINZ 57

Members of the Forest Lake Area Chamber of Commerce volunteer their time to make "Ambassador Visits" to local businesses each month. If you would like a visit from the Ambassadors, please call the Chamber office at 651-464-3200.



### OSI Physical Therapy

Vicky Savage, UptoDate Bookkeeping; Jill Scheider, OSI Physical Therapy; Jeff Meyer, OSI Physical Therapy; Kate Tipping, Landmark Insurance



### bella flowers

Vicky Savage, UptoDate Bookkeeping; Melissa Haseltine, bella flowers; Diane Rainer, bella flowers; Kate Tipping, Landmark Insurance

# Minnesota Moves will move our economy forward

By David Olson, president, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce is poised to be a key player in this year's legislative debate over how to fix the state's deteriorating transportation system. Minnesota Moves is a statewide initiative addressing roads and bridges as well as transit. Nearly 60 projects are identified to receive accelerated funding. Putting more money toward these priority concerns also ensures that other work in the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) long-range plans will remain on schedule.

Estimated unfunded needs in the state and local road/bridge and transit systems exceed \$1.1 billion annually. Our plan, in its current draft, would generate approximately \$6 billion over 10 years and is an acknowledgment of the limits of legislative and public support.

Minnesota Moves is based on six working principles:

- **Accountable and efficient:** MnDOT operations and policies must be reformed to increase efficiency and effectiveness. Aggressive standards for performance should be established and measured.
- **Statewide:** Projects must address transportation/transit concerns in urban and rural areas.
- **Multimodal:** Roads and bridges as well as transit, air, port and rail.
- **Long-term:** The plan should

provide a long-term vision of the state's transportation needs.

- **Project specific:** Voters must know what they are buying. Include those projects that incorporate the long-range blueprints of Minnesota Department of Transportation and Metropolitan Council in combination with safety data, population patterns and freight movement.
- **Use-based:** Any increased transportation funding should be user-fee based.

One distinctive aspect of this plan is the project-specific approach. Minnesota Moves has identified 13 major expansion projects in the metropolitan area and 43 Greater Minnesota projects.

A menu of funding options would generate the following money in the first year: Efficiencies: \$60 million; federal funding: \$160 million; general obligation bonds: \$65 million; trunk highway bonds (five years): \$150 million; tolls: \$20 million; match by local governments (property tax): \$25 million; 5-cent increase in constitutionally dedicated fuel tax: \$160 million; motor vehicle sales tax transfer (80 percent): \$72 million.

Adoption of Minnesota Moves is linked to approval of a proposed constitutional amendment which would be placed on the November 2006 general election ballot. The amendment would guarantee that

the additional money would be dedicated to specific projects.

Minnesota Moves would piggyback on Gov. Tim Pawlenty's 2003 transportation initiatives. His bonding program has resulted in about \$1 billion of new construction for each of 2004-06. The Chamber's blueprint, if approved by the Legislature and voters, would result in a decade of additional funding, beginning in the summer of 2007.

The principles and menu of funding sources will give Minnesota Moves supporters the ability to work with the Legislature to pass a significant transportation package this session.

Minnesota Moves was unveiled in September following nine months of listening to stakeholders, including local chambers of commerce, across the state. Since then, Chamber staff presented the plan to nearly 40 groups — again local chambers of commerce plus local government, trade associations and transportation groups. Those comments were incorporated into the plan adopted by the Chamber Board of Directors in December.

We now look forward to the support of our local chamber federation. The Minnesota Chamber is committed to moving Minnesota forward by building a vibrant business community. It's critical the business community — large and small companies spread across the state — speak with one voice on transportation if we are to achieve results at the Capitol.

# Calendar of Events

## February

- 2 Program/Activities Committee Meeting
- 3 Membership Committee Meeting
- 4 Grow Minnesota Advisory Team
- 10 Board Meeting
- 16 Marketing Committee Meeting
- 16 Membership Meeting--Lodge at Forest Hills
- 18 Legislative Breakfast--Famous Dave's
- 23 a.m. Connection—Mattson Funeral Home

## Community

- 5 Ice Fishing Contest
- 19 WSA Kids Pro Ice Racing (Kitty Kat)
- 26 Snowmobile Speed Run



## Chamber Success Story

Recently Chamber member Dan Babineau from Micro Consulting called to ask for the phone number for Doc Savage Production. Dan had a client who wanted to make a video series and wanted a reputable experienced person to work with. The client did not have any contacts in this area so Dan turned to his chamber for a referral. Rick Savage just completed a pilot project that could turn into something much larger for Dan's client and Rick. Thanks Dan and congratulations Rick.

If you have a Chamber success story or received great service from a fellow Chamber member, let us know. We'd love to hear from you. Our email address is: [chamber@flacc.org](mailto:chamber@flacc.org)

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## Merchants Beware

Forest Lake Police Chief Clark Quiring has asked us to alert Forest Lake area merchants to the increased number of counterfeit bills that are being used. Be sure to either look for the watermark on all bills \$10 and larger or use one of the pens designed to check their authenticity.

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## Watch for your referral postcard

We've sent these in the past and we're bringing them back. When the Chamber refers your business or provides your phone number to a potential client or customer, we are going to send you a "referral postcard." Maybe you have one in your mail today!

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## Display Items

Remember to bring your business cards to the Chamber so we can put them in our display case. Brochures and flyers can be displayed too!

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## Membership Directory

Look for our Membership Directory in the Many Faces of Forest Lake and Wyoming which was published at the end of January. Members who do not regularly get the Peach will be mailed a copy.



FOREST LAKE AREA  
**Chamber of Commerce**

# Annual Legislative Breakfast

What are the important issues for our legislators in the 2005 session? Come, listen to their opinions and share your thoughts (and frustrations) with them. The Forest Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Legislative Breakfast is your opportunity to talk to the people responsible for many decisions affecting your business.

**Senator Michele Bachmann** District 52, **Representative Ray Vandever**, District 52A, **Senator Sean Nienow** District 17, **Representative Pete Nelson**, District 17B, **Congressman Mark Kennedy** and **Congressman James Oberstar** have been invited to address your questions and concerns.

**Don't miss this important legislative briefing.**

**Thanks to our Corporate Sponsor, Qwest.**

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Names of those attending: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:  Pay at door     Check enclosed     Bill me     Credit Card

Type of Card: (Master or Visa only) Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

For reservations call the Chamber at 651-464-3200, email [chamber@flacc.org](mailto:chamber@flacc.org) or fax this form to: 651-464-3201 **or** mail to: FLACC, PO Box 474, Forest Lake, MN 55025-0474.

**Friday, February 18, 2005**

**7:00 am - 9:00 am**

**Registration 7:00 am**

**Famous Dave's**, 43 SW 19th Street, Forest Lake

Includes breakfast of eggs, sausage, rolls, fruit, juice & coffee.

\$9.00 Chamber Members

\$11.00 Non-members

**Reservations are requested by Noon, Monday, February 14, 2005 by calling 651 464-3200 or by faxing the registration form below to 651-464-3201.**

DETACH AND MAIL OR FAX



# February Membership Meeting

## Harness Racing Track

North Metro Harness Racing Initiative will make a presentation and answer questions about the proposed track in Columbus Township.

**Wednesday, February  
16, 2005**

**11:30 am to 1:00 pm**

**Lodge at Forest Hills  
Forest Hills Golf Course  
7530 210th Street N**

\$15 Members  
\$20 Non-members

**RESERVATIONS DUE BY 12:00 pm  
Friday, February 11, 2005**

DETACH AND MAIL OR FAX

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Member?  Yes  No      Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of those attending: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:  Check enclosed     Bill me (members only)     Credit Card

Credit Card Number: (Master or Visa only) \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on card: (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**FAX THIS FORM TO: 651-464-3201 OR MAIL TO: FLACC, PO Box 474, Forest Lake, MN 55025-0474**

This event is open to both members and non-members. Reservations may be cancelled at no charge up to 24 hours before the event. Reservations cancelled with less than 24 hours notice and no-shows will be billed at the full amount as we must guarantee and pay for all meals reserved.

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## Forest Lake Travel

Town Square Suite 203  
20 North Lake St  
Forest Lake, MN 5025

Bus: 651-464-5092

Debra Oaks-Rentschler Fax: 651-464-5143  
Owner email: flkdeb@aol.com



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# FOREST LAKE AREA Chamber of Commerce

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