

Our Mission: To aggressively promote the interests of the business community.

Business Perspectives

January/ February 2009

Keep it Local

Think Local. Buy Local.

Headlines read, "Retail is down, numbers don't look good" – but what can we do as consumers? South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights are fortunate to have places to eat, rent movies, get a home loan or purchase new (or used) cars. But these great businesses rely on the loyalty of its community based customers to remain viable.

That is why Velita Frandrup, the 2009 River Heights Chamber of Commerce Chairman will help us launch a "Keep it Local" campaign to remind people of the top-notch goods and services our Chamber members have to offer. When you buy locally, your money stays within the community, bolstering the local economy. And when you purchase goods produced locally, you increase our community's self-reliance and reduce our dependence on goods trucked from far away, reducing fuel consumption and pollution.

The River Heights Chamber is trying to raise business and consumer awareness of how buying patterns affect the local city budget, local businesses and residents, and the educational system. This program is not about getting people to spend more during tough economic times, yet to urge the community to be more conscientious and to think locally in their purchasing habits.

Many Chamber committees and the Inver Grove Heights and South St. Paul Local Issues groups address the concern of how to help each other, promote their businesses to get new and recurring customers, and grow their business (and sometimes even just stay in business).

With the help of you and this campaign, it will be a good start and continued effort as the year moves forward to work together for a good cause-keeping our communities prosperous. As Nancy

Velita Frandrup
Bank of the West

River Heights
Chamber of
Commerce
Chairman, 2009



Fish of Bywords Printing used to say, "Remember a Member." Keep our local businesses in mind when making your purchasing decisions.

South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights have much to offer residents, businesses, employees and visitors, now we just have to remember to utilize the resources and members' goods and services that are in our own backyard.

When heading out the door and looking for a place to dine, shop, bank, get your car repaired, or even buy a vehicle, check what business may be just around the corner or visit our Chamber membership directory online when in doubt at www.riverheights.com. Help promote your community as a great place to shop, stay and play!

Save the Date

*River Heights Chamber of Commerce
and Progress Plus Annual Meeting*

"Keep it Local"

February 19th

Mendakota Country Club

AMBASSADOR HIGHLIGHTS



Acupuncture Healing Arts
Erika Sullivan
1074 Robert Street
West St. Paul
651-769-5228



IGH City Offices
Chief Chuck Kleckner
8150 Barbara Avenue
Inver Grove Heights
651-450-2526



Client First Network
Jerry Meyer
6015 Cahill Ave, Ste 200
Inver Grove Heights
651-455-0621



Colliers Turley Martin Tucker
Bradley Brown & David Stokes
200 S Sixth Street, Ste 1400
Minneapolis
612-341-4444



Comcast Business Services
Erin Smith
10 River Park Plaza
St. Paul
651-493-5318



Hometown Meats
Randy Wallerich, Robin
& Rob Rietberger
3025 80th Street East
Inver Grove Heights
651-455-1397



Patrick Nickleson Enterprises
Patrick Nickleson
3006 Rice Street
Little Canada
651-231-1433



Southview Animal Hospital
Dr. Foster & Sandy Shirley
32 West Mendota Road
Inver Grove Heights
651-455-2258



Tai Lan
Wah Liu
6495 Cahill Ave East
Inver Grove Heights
651-457-5244



Tequila Mexican Grill
Pablo Ferriera
7537 Concord Boulevard
Inver Grove Heights
651-455-9964



USA Values, Inc.
Tom Wolfgram
7879 Somerset Court
Woodbury
651-735-3018

NEW MEMBERS

Dustin Bower
8865 Branson Drive
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
612-308-8049

Client First Network
6015 Cahill Avenue, Suite 200
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
651-455-0621

Colliers Turley Martin Tucker
200 South Sixth Street, Suite 1400
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612-341-4444

Jim Kemp
12050 Matera Lane #202
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
651-238-4757

Southview Animal Hospital
32 West Mendota Road
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077
651-455-2258

**Thought Leadership
Management, LLC**
14529 Florissant Path
Apple Valley, MN 55124
651-423-5621

USA VALUES, Inc.
7879 Somerset Court
Woodbury, MN 55125
651-735-3018

Wells Fargo Bank
161 North Concord Exchange
South St. Paul, MN 55075
651-205-8016

MEMBER RENEWALS

3M Cottage Grove Center
ABC Rentals, Inc
Acorn Mini Storage
Allstate Sales Corporation
American Family Insurance
Arbor Pointe Holiday
Joseph Atkins
Bester Brothers Transfer
Bierstube Steakhouse & Grill
Bulach Development
Bywords Printing
Cahill Dental Care
Caribou Coffee, Arbor Pointe
City Auto Glass
The Coop Restaurant
Croatian Hall
Dakota Awards and Engraving
Dakota County Smoke-Free
Communities Partnership
Dakota Premium Foods, LLC
Edward Jones, Steve Doody and Sean Michaelis
Ensemble Creative & Marketing,

Flint Hills Resources, LP
Gertens
Grannis & Hauge, P.A.
Chip Grannis
Grevas Photography
H&R Block, Cahill Avenue & Southview Blvd.
Inver Grove Storage, LLC
J&R Marketing
Kane Transport, Inc.
Kaposia Convenience Center
Krech, O'Brien, Mueller & Associates
Lawrence-Bohmbach Insurance Agency, Inc.
LeVander, Gillen & Miller, P.A.
Lewis, Kisch & Associates, LTD
Lightning Disposal, Inc.
Bill Lucking
Mahoney, Ulbrich, Christiansen & Russ
Marco
McDonald's, 80th St and Upper 55th St
Midwest Fence & Manufacturing Company
Mike McPhillips, Inc.
Mortgage Enterprises, Inc.
Outback Steakhouse

Paster Enterprises, LLC
PDC Pages
Petersen Carefree Travel
Quality Auto Care Center
ReMax Realty 100, LLC
Safeway Bus Company
Schaeffer Financial Services, Inc
Sherman Insurance Agency
South St. Paul Family Chiropractic
South St. Paul Future, Inc.
State Farm Insurance - Youmans
Strole & Company
P. James Taurinskas
Upper River Services, LLC
Valley Staffing, Inc.
Cari Vujovich
Wakota Federal Credit Union
Waste Management of Minnesota, Inc.
Deirdre Wells
Wernet Enterprises, Inc
Xcel Energy

How is our local workforce faring in this economy?

Article by: Cathy Weik, Dakota-Scott Counties Workforce Investment Board Chair

Increasing unemployment, company lay-offs and economic bad news inundates us every day. The County's unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 5.4% in November while the state rate was 6.0%. Sectors hard hit include retail, construction and housing related finance.

With current economic conditions, we find ourselves in a challenging situation. Our short-term realities are helping folks find jobs and/or get the training to make them more hire-able. Right now there are about 3 job seekers for every job opening. However, long-term, demographic reports indicate a workforce shortage. In Dakota and Scott counties, we have WorkForce Centers in Shakopee, Burnsville and West St. Paul. While there are numerous "eligibility" programs for individuals who provide one-on-one services, we're also able to help out others through the Resource

Rooms which have computers for writing resumes, job searching, applying for jobs, etc. Through November, more than 68,000 visitors have been served at the three sites.

Employment counselors note that hiring is still occurring. However, in many cases the hiring process is taking longer. Additionally, we've even seen companies who are in the news for their lay-offs and hiring in other departments.

The economy and jobs will be a key issue for 2009. Dr. Tom Stinson, the state economist noted that he expects that the state be in an upswing at this time next year. His advice was to focus on building the foundation for that upswing. Specifically, he noted that the three R's for economic success in the 21st century are Retention, Recruitment and Retraining, which are also building blocks for all of us as employers.

OUR EVENTS



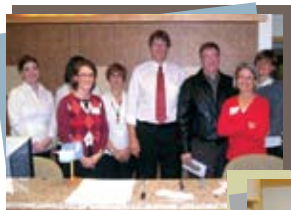
2008 Snowflake Gala

ANNUAL GALA

BUSINESS CARD EXCHANGES



Bill Smith, Chairman
St. Paul Winter Carnival
Royal Family Knighting
Croatian Hall



Cahill Dental

YPROS



South Metro Young Professionals
Holiday Gift Drive



QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

Dr. Deirdre Wells, IGH Superintendent

The River Heights Chamber of Commerce Urges You to Speak Up Against Card Check Legislation

We saw who you voted for on November 4th! Just kidding. Don't worry - your ballot was secret and your vote was private. But imagine if there was no secret ballot. What would it be like if you had to cast your vote with everybody looking? Not just strangers - but your boss and your co-workers?

Sound un-democratic?

That's because it is. Unfortunately, the Big Labor Unions and liberals in Congress are teaming up to push a bill that would kill the secret ballot in union organizing elections.

Some news reports say this will be one of the first bills introduced when Congress reconvenes in January. The River Heights Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have partnered together to stop this legislation, but we need your help.

"Please take the time to voice your opinion while you still have the ability to do so. Some things are private and should remain private. Voting is a personal and private choice. Let's do what we can to keep it that way," stated 2009 Chairman of the River Heights Chamber Board, Velita Frandrup.

Help fight this legislation by joining the Virtual March on Washington at: <http://www.voteforbusiness.com/secretballot> to save the Secret Ballot. Visit <http://secretballot.voteforbusiness.net/nationalmall.php> to see who is already marching on Capitol Hill to save the secret ballot.

For more information on the Employee Free Choice Act, visit www.uschamber.com/wfi. The River Heights Chamber is a proud member of the US Chamber of Commerce, working to support our member businesses at the local, state and national level.









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Inver Grove Heights MN 55076

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



JANUARY 2009

Sponsor :

13	5 - 6:30 p.m. – Business Card Exchange and Member Social @ Baja Sol Cantina, 5681 Blaine Ave., Inver Grove Heights	
14	8 a.m. – Dakota County Leadership Academy Session Begins @ Inver Hills Community College, 2500 East 80th St., Inver Grove Heights	  

FEBRUARY

Sponsor :

19	11:30 a.m. – River Heights Chamber & Progress Plus Annual Meeting @ Mendakota Country Club, 2075 Mendakota Dr., Mendota Heights	
26	5 - 6:30 p.m. – Business Card Exchange and Member Social DARTS, 1645 Marthaler Lane, West St. Paul	

For upcoming meetings and events visit www.riverheights.com