

# THE *Voice*

Official Publication of Grand Forks - East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce

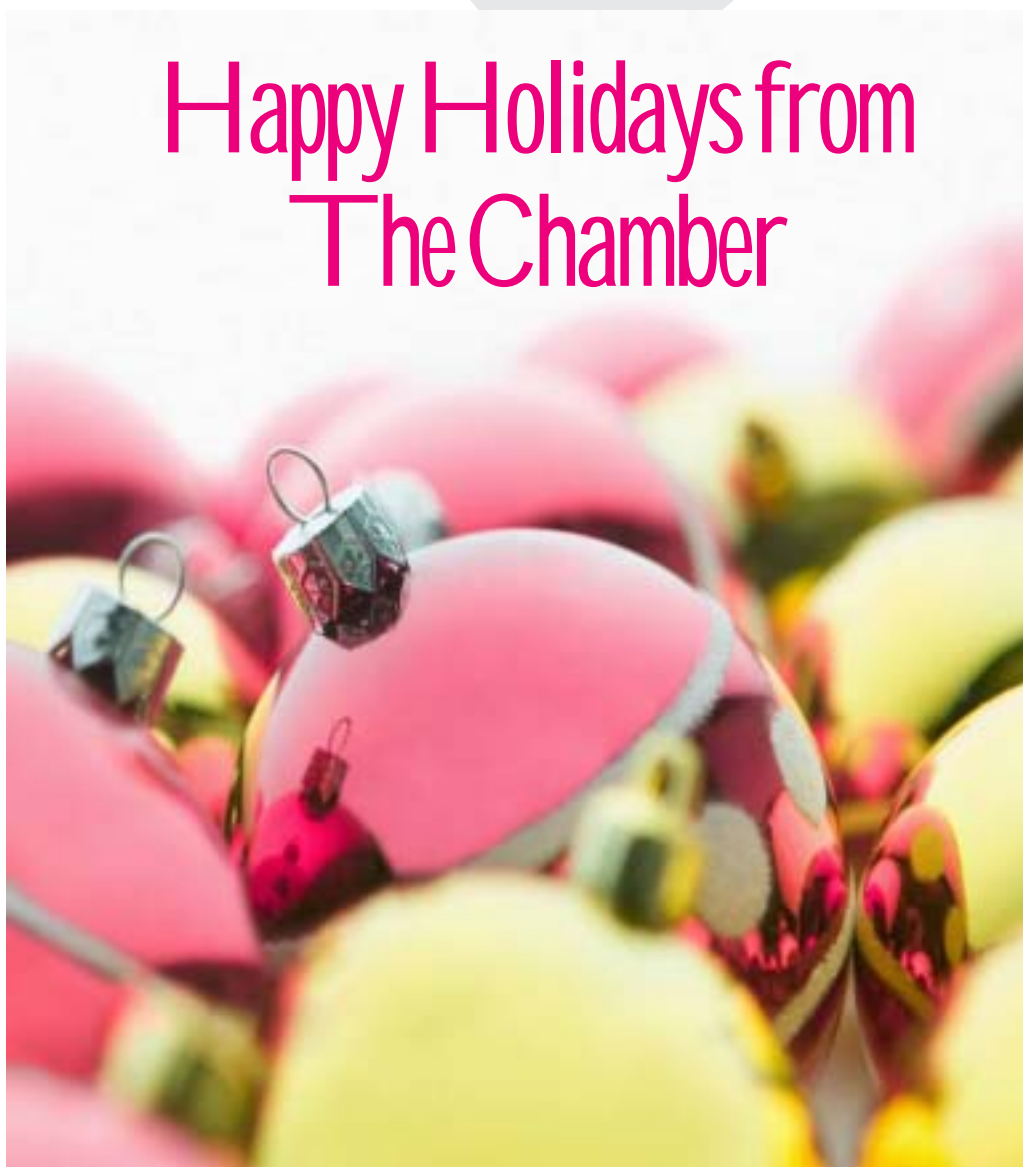
Vol 4 Issue 12

December 2008

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***Officers***

**Chair: Jerry Youngberg**

First Realty of GFF

**Chair-Elect: Rick Duquette**

City of Grand Forks

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CVIC

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**Curt Kreun**

GF City Council

**Scott Roche**

Great Plains Financial Group

**Barry Wilfahrt**

The Chamber - GF/EGF

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Marketing

**Dave Beehler** - Ecolab

**Pat Berger** - United Way of GF/EGF

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**Kent Hanson** - NCTC

**Jeff Jaspersen** - Canad Inns

**Steve Johnson** - GF Regional Airport

**Monica Musich** - Valley Dairy Stores

**Linda Pierce** - Crary Homes & Real Estate

**Jim Richter** - EGF EDHA

**Chris Semrau** - Ralph Engelstad Arena

**Steve Swanson** - AE2S

**Vance Taylor** - ND Mill & Elevator

**Klaus Thiessen** - GF Regional EDC

**Greg Weisenstein** - UND

***Sr. Military Advisor to the Board***

**Colonel John Michel** - GFAFB

## Chamber Update

### Relevance, Advocacy and Value Chamber's Theme for 2009

Incoming Chamber Board Chairman, Rick Duquette, announced his theme for the retreat and 2009 Chamber Year at the annual strategic planning retreat. According to Duquette, "relevance, advocacy and value are at the core of everything the chamber does."

As the chamber looks ahead; each issue the chamber takes on, project it organizes, and every committee activity, must come back to these three core premises or the chamber has to ask itself, "why are we doing this activity?"

At the Annual Planning Retreat in October, more than 30 volunteers spent a day identifying opportunities for the chamber to provide relevance, advocacy and value to its membership and the

community. Staff has also been meeting with current chamber committees to solicit their input on how to improve existing chamber programs. The staff also spent a half day talking about each chamber activity and how it can be improved. With this input, the Board will finalize the chamber's Plan of Action in December and January. It will be formally presented to the membership at the January 26<sup>th</sup> Chamber Annual Meeting and Dinner.



## You Are Invited!

### Military Affairs Committee Breakfast

Featured Speaker:

**Colonel John Scorsone, GFAFB**

Colonel Scorsone will provide an end of year review and a look forward into the future of Grand Forks AFB.

**Thursday,  
December 11, 2008  
\$12.50/person**

Registration-7:30am

Program-8:00am

Canad Inns- Mezzanine Room

(next to upper level of Playmakers)

Buffet style breakfast

Seating is limited. Registration deadline is December 5, 2008.

Please RSVP to Corrina, 772-7271 or [corrinas@gochamber.org](mailto:corrinas@gochamber.org)

## Chamber Update

# One Second Hold Time Approved

The Grand Forks City Council approved the new electronic sign ordinance with just a 1 second hold time which is a victory for the business community.

Several members have asked “why is the one second a big deal?” According to Chamber President, Barry Wilfahrt who spearheaded the effort to keep the time as short as possible “it is very important to the 23 businesses who currently have electronic changeable signs. Longer hold times would mean the signs they paid good money for would not be able to be used to their full potential to convey messages they want to convey to their customers.” “Second and just as important is, It shows working together as a business community works.” The Chamber will be an advocate for business and coordinate efforts like this where a specific change in an ordinance impacts a broad spectrum of the

business community like it did on this issue. The Chamber will work to keep the regions business climate as favorable as possible.

Thanks to the 18 of the 23 sign owners who attended the many meeting on this issue. Their participation in the process is what accomplished this.



### Staff

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### Mission Statement

*“The Chamber of Commerce creates an environment that encourages business success while enhancing the quality of life in our region.”*

## Featured Ambassador

**Scott Roche, Investment Centers of America, Inc.**



Scott has been in the Financial Services industry in Grand Forks for 22 years. He has been through extensive training in the areas of retirement, insurance, estate and investment planning. He is interested in helping clients

achieve financial security while working and in retirement. Scott is a Registered Representative with Investment Centers of America, Inc., member FINRA/ SIPC.

Scott is currently on the executive board of The Chamber, is active at church, and in Business Networking International. He has been

president of Toastmasters International, Church Council member, Sunday School and Confirmation teacher. Scott and his wife Sharon have two children. Scott's Chamber tip-Always check The Chamber Membership Directory first when business or holiday shopping.

*The Ambassdor Committee of The Chamber is a very active committee serving as the welcoming arm of The Chamber. The Ambassadors conduct ribbon cuttings, membership drives and help at various Chamber events.*

## Thank You for Renewing Your Membership

The following businesses have renewed their membership in The Chamber - GF/EGF. Please visit these businesses for your purchasing needs.

Advanced Engineering & Environmental Services  
Agri-Data, Inc.  
Amazon.com  
American Tire Service, Inc.  
Amundson Family Funeral Home  
Anchor Marketing  
Area Community Credit Union  
Aurora Urgent Care  
Bank Forward  
Brekke Tours & Travel  
Business Essentials  
C & H Insurance, LLC  
C'Mon Inn  
Caldis, Tingum & Tingum, Ltd.  
Capital Resource Management  
Center Court Fitness Club  
Citizens Community Credit Union  
Community Violence Intervention Center  
Crary Homes & Real Estate  
Crary Homes & Real Estate-Ruth Ann Halvorson  
Crary Homes & Real Estate - Shawn Horn  
Custom Stripes, Inc.  
Dakota TV & Appliance  
Dance, Etc!  
Dean Foods/Land O'Lakes  
Eagle Electric, Inc.  
Ecolab, Inc.

El Roco Nightclub & Bottle Shop  
Empire Arts Center  
Face and Jaw Surgery Center  
Family Medicine Associates  
Fine Print Screen Printing & Embroidery  
First State Bank  
FirstLink Volunteer Center  
Fisher, Olson & Juntunen, Ltd.  
Florian & Sons Excavating  
Garden Hut  
GEICO Insurance Companies  
GF Board of Realtors  
GF County Historical Society  
GF Public Schools  
GF Region Economic Development Corp.  
Gowan Construction, Inc.  
Great Clips for Hair  
Hanson-maves Company  
Happy Grass  
Indigo Signworks  
Lumber Mart  
Mayport Insurance & Realty, Inc.  
Midwest Refrigeration, Inc.  
Mikkelson consolidated, L.L.P.  
ND Association for the Disabled  
ND Mill & Elevator  
Neil, Gerard D.P.C.  
Nissan Honda of Grand Forks  
North Dakota Society of CPA's  
Northland Community & Technical College  
Northland Custom Woodworking Inc.

Northwestern Mutual Financial Network  
O'Connell, James D.D.S.  
Opp Construction  
Overmoe & Nelson, Ltd.  
Panther, Robert, DDS MS  
Porta-Mix Concrete, Inc.  
PRACS Institute, LTD.  
Praxair Distribution, Inc.  
Property Resources Group  
Riverfork Federal Credit Union  
Riverside Christian School  
Rogers Construction  
Royal Tire  
Saint Michael's Church  
Ski & Bike Shop  
Spare Husband, Inc.  
Spirit Lake Casino and Resort  
St. Anne's Guest Home  
Stadem, Paul D.D.S.  
Stennes Funeral Home  
Stennes Granite Co.  
Swanson, Steven D.D.s.  
The Toasted Frog  
UBS Financial Services, Inc.  
University Station, LLC  
Vaaler Insurance, Inc.  
Valley Vision Clinic  
Valvoline Instant Oil Change  
Wal-Mart  
WDAZ-TV  
Welcome Home By Design

## Welcome New Members

### Pucks Commercial Cleaning

Mike Pokrzyinski  
406 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NW  
East Grand Forks, MN 56721  
[www.puckscleaning.com](http://www.puckscleaning.com)

### Dakota Jet

Patti McEnroe  
1168 12<sup>th</sup> St. NE  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
[www.Dakotajet.com](http://www.Dakotajet.com)

### Suite-49 Bar & Grill

Patti McEnroe  
2950 10<sup>th</sup> Ave N  
Grand Forks, ND 58203  
[www.suite49.com](http://www.suite49.com)

### Happy Joe's

Todd Halverson  
2909 S. Washington St.  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
[www.happyjoes.com](http://www.happyjoes.com)



***It's True!***

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Contact Lisa at  
[lisas@gochamber.org](mailto:lisas@gochamber.org) or  
772-7271 to reserve your spot.

## A Message From Your Chamber President



It has been 8 months since I started as your Chamber President. I have been out to visit more than 400 chamber members in their place of business to have a one on one conversation. My plan is to visit with every member who is willing to meet with me by mid 2009. I am learning a great deal. Three common concerns I am hearing are:

- Workforce quality and quantity
- High property taxes
- A sense of caution in the current economy

Many current chamber programs address these concerns and much of the focus at the chamber's recent strategic planning retreat was on these issues as well. At the annual meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> we will present our plan to address these top membership concerns in more detail.

I want to thank the chamber leadership past and present for all of their insight into the chamber and community. You have brought me up to speak quickly. Your input has been invaluable as we together set new priorities for the Chamber. We have truly great communities and it is a privilege serving as the chamber's president.

*-Barry Wilfahrt  
President/CEO*

## Ribbon Cuttings



**Laser Esthetics of ND & Heart Institute of ND**  
The Ambassadors welcomed new Chamber member, Laser Esthetics of ND & The Heart Institute of ND, with a ribbon cutting.

## Mark Your Calendars

The Chamber's Annual Dinner and Meeting is scheduled for **January 26th, 2009**. Formal Invitations will be sent early January.

Sponsorships are available, contact Lisa for more information, [lisas@gochamber.org](mailto:lisas@gochamber.org) or 772-7271.

## It's Been a Grand Year in the Grand Cities



It is truly amazing December 2008 is already here.

Although there were challenges throughout the year, this has been a very enjoyable and very satisfying experience as THE CHAMBER Board of Directors Chair.

First, a thank you to every member for your investment of dues dollars, sponsorships and time participating in the organization both as volunteers and program participants.

Second, a thank you to the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for the leadership, the added hours and the guidance you have provided.

Finally, a thank you to the very dedicated staff of THE CHAMBER. They do the organizing, cover the details and are a key part of each successful activity of THE CHAMBER.

I am particularly pleased with the leadership and enthusiasm our new CEO, Barry Wilfahrt, has provided.

We have been able to make great progress in stabilizing our financial position. Significant progress has been made in becoming a more credible and influential voice for the business community here in the Grand Cities as well as in North Dakota and Minnesota. Progress has been made in providing leadership with other organizations in meeting the challenges to the Grand Cities and the region as they unfold.

I believe THE CHAMBER is making this an even better place to live, to raise a family, to be educated, to succeed in the business and academic fields and to have a wonderful life.

A very sincere **Thank You** for the opportunity.

*-Jerry Youngberg  
Board Chair*

# A Month In Pictures

Business After Hours - Choice Financial/  
Rehabilitation Consulting & Services



Business After Hours - Choice Financial/  
Rehabilitation Consulting & Services



Business After Hours - Choice Financial/  
Rehabilitation Consulting & Services



Farmer's Appreciation Banquet



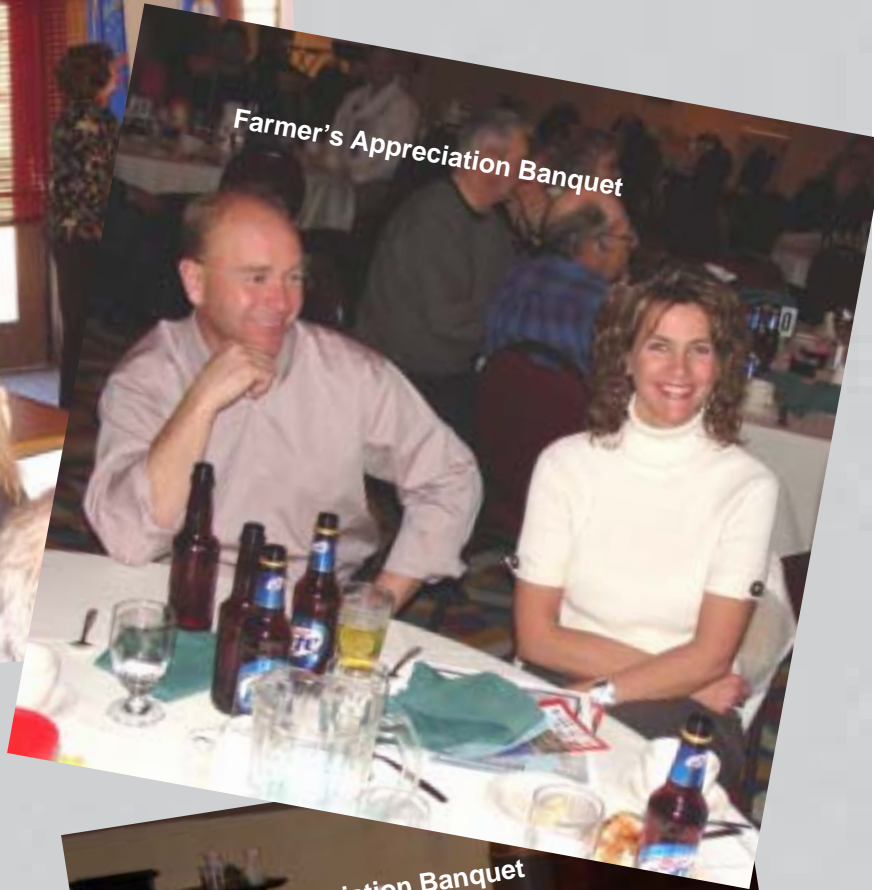
Farmer's  
Appreciation  
Banquet



# A Month in Pictures



Brown Bag Seminar - November



Farmer's Appreciation Banquet



Farmer's Appreciation Banquet



Farmer's Appreciation Banquet

## Bremer Bank Ranked the Top SBA Lender in ND

Bremer Bank, a regional financial services company jointly-owned by its employees and the Otto Bremer Foundation, has been recognized as the leading SBA lender in North Dakota in terms of loan originations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008. This is the second consecutive year Bremer has finished on top.



“SBA lending is one of our core business bank offerings at Bremer and we are proud of this recognition,” said Tammy Peterson,

regional SBA manager for Bremer Bank. “Our vision at Bremer is to build healthy communities through partnerships, and SBA programs and lending is a prime example of a partnership that allows our business clients and communities to grow and prosper.”

Eric Giltner, SBA Business Development Manager for the Northeast Region, and Mike Gallagher, SBA Deputy District Director, recently visited Bremer in Grand Forks to congratulate the business team on its accomplishment.

## Altru Welcomes New Staff

Altru Health System welcomes **Dr. Annabi Djalo**, family medicine, in September upon completion of his residency at New York Medical College, Brooklyn-Queens Program. He is a medical school graduate of the Ross University School of Medicine in Portsmouth, Dominica and completed nursing school at Helen Fuld College of Nursing in New York, New York. His experience as a palliative care nurse and emergency room nurse inspired him to complete medical school and become a practicing physician.

Altru Health System welcomes **Dr. Bradley Belluk**, general surgeon, in November upon his transfer from Altru Clinic - Lake Region. He is a medical school graduate of the University of Manitoba Medical School and completed his residency there. Belluk is a board certified general surgeon and has practiced at Altru Clinic - Lake Region since 1996. His main interest lies in gastrointestinal endoscopy.

Altru Health System welcomes **Dr. Fredstrom**, internal medicine, who started at the Roseau branch clinic in October. She came to us from Carilion Roanoke Medical Hospital in Roanoke, Virginia. Fredstrom is a medical school graduate of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and completed her residency at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. Over the last six years, Fredstrom has been a part of various committees and participated in Rural Opportunities in Medical Education program, which gave her eight months of experience in a rural hospital.



Altru Clinic-Warroad welcomes **Dr. Timothy Rittenour**, family medicine, in December. He is a medical school graduate of the Loma Linda University of California and completed his residency at the University of Grand Forks School of Medicine. Rittenour is board certified in family medicine and has been in the medical field since 1991. Additional certifications include ACLS and ATLS.

## Alerus Financial Promotes Staff

**Lori Laturnus** has accepted a new role at Alerus Financial as the Deposit Platform Manager.



Laturnus is responsible for the development and support of the commercial and consumer deposit platform systems. Additionally, she works close with the deposit product management

team to identify customer needs and implement corresponding systems to support these needs.

Laturnus has been employed with Alerus Financial for 23 years and held a variety of positions including teller, deposit operations specialist, and deposit operations manager. She earned a business administration management degree from the University of North Dakota where she graduated Cum Laude. Laturnus is a graduate of the North Dakota School of Banking and holds an Accredited ACH Professional Certification. She and her husband, Dennis, live in Grand Forks.

They have a grown daughter.

**Michael Helt** has accepted a new role as Lead Personal Banker at Alerus Financial's Banksouth location on South Columbia Road.



Previously a Personal Banker, Helt's new role now includes leading the sales activities of the branch. Additionally, he will provide coaching and mentoring to employees as they develop sales skills

necessary to provide customers with a clear understanding of the technical aspects and benefits of products and services offered at Alerus Financial.

Helt joined Alerus in 2004. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with minors in computer information systems and political science from the University of Mary. Helt is a member of the Forks First Business Networking International Chapter, Greater Grand Forks Young Professionals, and Knights of Columbus. He participates on Alerus Financial's Relay for Life team and is also a band member of Matt & the Dakota Dutchmen. Helt and his wife, Amber, live in East Grand Forks, M.N.

Alerus Financial is pleased to announce the promotion of **David Rasmussen** to Personal Banker at their Express office in downtown Grand Forks.



Previously a Customer Service Representative, Rasmussen is now primarily responsible for providing superior banking services to customers in a professional manner and for generating new busi-

ness opportunities through inbound and outbound activities. Additionally, he maintains in-depth knowledge of all financial products and services offered at Alerus Financial.

Rasmussen has 3 years of banking experience and graduated with a Bachelor's of Business Administration degree from the University of North Dakota where he majored in banking and financial economics. Rasmussen lives in Grand Forks with his fiancée, Jessica.



## AE2S Hires New Staff

AE2S (Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.) has hired **David Brown, PE**, as a Senior Project



Manager in its Minneapolis office. Originally from Eldridge, IA, Mr. Brown earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University in Ames, IA.

Prior to joining AE2S, Mr. Brown was President of Bluestone Engineering. He also worked on lime softening systems for Staples, Minnesota; Pacific Ethanol in Madera, California; Granite Falls Energy in Granite Falls, Minnesota; and Pacific Ethanol in Brawley, California.



AE2S has hired **Ted Field, PE** as a Senior Wastewater Project Manager in its Minneapolis office. Originally from Mahtomedi, MN, Mr. Field earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Duke University in Durham, ND and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN.

At AE2S, Mr. Field will be initially working on the Grand Rapids, MN and Grand Forks, ND wastewater treatment plants. He will also be responsible for developing the AE2S wastewater market in MN and providing technical and business development support for wastewater clients and projects throughout the region.

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## Xcel Energy and enXco to Develop Wind Farms

Xcel Energy and enXco, an EDF Energies Nouvelles Company, today announced plans to develop 351 megawatts of wind power in North Dakota and Minnesota by the end of 2011, increasing the utility's wind power resources by more than 10 percent company wide. Once developed, project ownership will be transferred to Northern States Power Co.-Minnesota, an Xcel Energy company.

"Xcel Energy already is the nation's No. 1 wind power provider, and this agreement advances our commitment to meet aggressive renewable energy require-

ments," said Richard C. Kelly, Xcel Energy's chairman, president and CEO. "We believe our partnership with enXco also will allow us to meet our goals in a cost-effective manner for our customers."

## Community Foundation New Board Members



The Community Foundation Board of Directors welcomes three new members.

Mr. Dave Homstad is the owner of Blue Moose Bar & Grill



Dr. Leland Lipp is a clinical psychologist at Lipp Carlson Lommen Witucki, Ltd



Dr. Margaret Tweten is the District Director for NDSU's Extension Service in Grand Forks County

## Dr. Rahman Joins Kidney & Hypertension Center

**Dr. Mohammed H. Rahman** joined the Kidney and Hypertension Center in October 2008. He earned his medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine at Edison, NJ, completed his internal medicine residency at Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY, and completed his nephrology fellowship at University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY. Dr. Rahman is looking forward to serving the health needs of the Red River



Valley and surrounding communities. He is located at 1451 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue South - Suite 112D, Grand Forks, ND.

## EAPC Recognized By The Zweig Letter

EAPC was ranked 75 on *The Zweig Letter* Hot Firm 2008 list of the 200 fastest-growing architecture, engineering and environmental consulting firms in the country. This placement is based on their percentage of revenue growth as well as absolute dollar revenue growth over a three-year period in relation to the hundreds of other participants.

Alan Dostert, EAPC president, accepted the award at the Zweig Letter Hot Firm 2008 Conference and Awards in Chicago on October 28.

Going on its ninth year, *The Zweig Letter* Hot Firm Conference has become the premier industry event for progressive thinking A/E/P firm leaders from around the country who are interested in sustainable growth and success for their companies. This annual two-day program features top design and environmental industry executives, entrepreneurs, and authors as well as leaders from the fastest-growing companies in the industry.

## Anchor Marketing Receives Award

Anchor Marketing was recently awarded a **2008 American Graphic Design Award** by *Graphic Design USA*, a national news magazine for graphic designers and other creative professionals. Anchor Marketing was among the top 15 percent out of 10,000 entries from across the country to be recognized with an Awards Certificate

of Excellence. Anchor Marketing was acknowledged for its work on the Less Mess packaging line for D&D Commodities, Ltd., a national outdoor pet food manufacturer headquartered in Stephen, Minnesota.



"We couldn't be happier to win this award," says **Steve Eickman**, president of Anchor Marketing. "Effective design is something we excel at, and this award is a great testament to our creative team's ability to bring innovative ideas to life in a big way."

## Marco Technicians Place in Competition

Marco, Inc. recently competed in the Sharp Information and Imaging Company of America (SIICA) Master Technician Competition. With more than 3,000 technicians representing approximately 425 dealerships from all 50 states, the Sharp Master Technician Competition pitted technicians against each other in a series of competitions that tested their knowledge and understanding of Sharp document imaging solutions. With a strong showing, three Marco technicians placed in the top 150 participants, achieving the Sharp Master Technician - Superior Level.

The Master Technician Competition tested technicians on knowledge of a number of

*Continued on pg. 11*

A Chamber & SCORE Brown Bag Seminar

## Effective Advertising in a Tough Economy

*10 Golden Keys to Maintaining Your Small Business*

What do you do when tough economic times threaten to close the pocket book of your customers?



**Studies show it costs five times as much to gain a new customer as it does to keep an old one.**

Because of this, you need to dedicate your advertising efforts to keeping your current customers and reminding them your business is the “difference maker” for their market needs.

Attend this workshop to gain insight on the “10 Golden Keys” to maintaining your business in tough economic times.

**This brown bag is presented by:  
Linn Hodgson, General Sales Manager,  
Leighton Broadcasting**

**Wednesday, December 10th, 2008  
11:30am – 1pm  
The Chamber  
Lunch is provided  
\$15/members ... \$25/ non-members**

To register, contact The Chamber at 772-7271 or [info@gochamber.org](mailto:info@gochamber.org).  
Reservation deadline is December 9th.  
Seating is limited, sign up soon.

*Reservations not cancelled 3 business days prior to the event will be billed.*

## 35,000+ Webpage Views in One Month!

[www.gochamber.org](http://www.gochamber.org) lists all our Chamber members and people are finding you there! Some of the categories visited and number of views received from November 3rd to December 4th were:

Abstractor/Architects/Engineers	1901
Hotels & Motels	1328
Restaurants	1156
Realtors	1142
Non Profit Organizations	1285
Contractors & Construction	1008
Automotive Supplies & Service	946
Financial Institutions	901
Agriculture/agribusiness	842
Attorneys	827
Insurance Agencies	736

## More Ways Your Chamber Is Working For You:

**Member Referrals Made By The Chamber In 2008:**

# 731

**Total for November: 30**

**Certificates of Origin Signed By The Chamber In 2008:**

# 12

**Total for November: 1**

**New Resident Packets Distributed By The Chamber In 2008:**

# 237

**Total for November: 10**



Thursday, December 18, 2008  
4:45pm - 7:00pm

**Hosted by RML Trading, LLC**  
at Eagles Crest

Hosted by:



**Free Admission**

Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres & Beverages ~ Great Door Prizes ~ Progressive cash drawing is at \$1200! ~ NO RSVP Needed

RML Trading invites all Chamber Members and employees to their exciting Business After Hours event to be held at Eagles Crest. Stop in...enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities while you are there. You might even win \$1200 in our progressive cash drawing! We'll draw the name of one Chamber Member business. If someone from that organization is present, they win!

*Business After Hours is a great time to network, catch up with friends, coworkers and clients in a fun and casual way. Spread the word and plan to attend the next Business After Hours.*

topics, including networking, printing and Sharp OSA™ technology. Each technician from Marco was asked to demonstrate an advanced working knowledge of Sharp document solutions, both in written form as well as hands-on experience. David Mattos, Gregg Carlson, and Jeff Jones achieved the Sharp Master Technician – Superior Level during the competition.

The Sharp Master Technician – Superior Level represents an advanced stage of expertise, with only 150 technicians nationwide achieving such status. Rich Boomsma, Vice President Sales, Sharp Information and Imaging Company of America, was impressed with the level of expertise displayed throughout the competition, saying, “It is clear to me that Sharp dealers and technicians are some of the most talented in the industry. On behalf of everyone at Sharp, I would like to congratulate Marco, and all of our dealers, on a job well done. We look forward continued success from their entire team.”

### AgriData Receives Technology Award

AgriData, Inc. of Grand Forks was recently awarded the *Innovative Business User of Technology Award* from the Information Technology Council of North Dakota (ITCND). The award was presented to AgriData, Inc. owners David Hagert and Chad Ringenberg at the 2008 Information Technology Awards Program and Annual Meeting on October 14, 2008 in Fargo, North Dakota.

The ITCND recognizes IT leaders in North Dakota for outstanding achievements in the use of innovative technology that demonstrates their ability to provide products and services that are on the cutting edge in today's competitive markets. AgriData,



Inc. was recognized for its pioneering, map-based information management system, Surety® Customized Online Mapping. This award also honors AgriData, Inc. for its scope of installation, system integration complexity, return on investments, ability to meet strategic business

objectives and accomplishments as an outstanding corporate citizen.

“We are honored to receive this recognition,” says David Hagert, CEO of AgriData, Inc. “Surety® has become an important part of modern agribusiness, and it's been tremendously satisfying to be involved in its development.”



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lisas@gochamber.org or  
772-7271 to reserve your spot.

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- # Hotel/Motel Shuttle
- # Crosswinds Restaurant
- # Gift Shop
- # Car Rental
- # Charter Air Service
- # Air Cargo

## December 2008 Chamber Calendar

<b>Dec 3<sup>d</sup></b>	7:30am	Small Business Task Force Meeting (COC)	<b>Dec 15<sup>th</sup></b>	4:00am	Ambassadors Meeting (Bonzer's)
<b>Dec 4<sup>th</sup></b>	6:00am	Eggstravanganza (Blue Moose)	<b>Dec 17<sup>th</sup></b>	12:00pm	Athena Meeting (Blue Moose)
<b>Dec 5<sup>th</sup></b>	8:00am	BOD Meeting (COC)	<b>Dec 18<sup>th</sup></b>	12:00pm	Finance Meeting (COC)
<b>Dec 9<sup>th</sup></b>	7:30am	Agribusiness (AAltos)	<b>Dec 18<sup>th</sup></b>	4:30pm	Business After Hours (RML Trading @ Eagles Crest)
<b>Dec 10<sup>th</sup></b>	7:30am	BGEA Meeting (COC)	<b>Dec 19<sup>th</sup></b>	8:00am	Executive Committee Meeting (COC)
<b>Dec 11<sup>th</sup></b>	8:00am	MAC Breakfast Meeting (Canad Inn)	<b>Dec 24<sup>th</sup></b>		Chamber Offices Closing at noon
	5:00pm	Leadership Graduation (Holiday Inn)	<b>Dec 25<sup>th</sup></b>		Christmas - Chamber Closed
<b>Dec 12<sup>th</sup></b>	7:30am	Past Board Chairs Meeting (COC)	<b>Dec 26<sup>th</sup></b>		Chamber Offices Closed

### Ag Banquet A Success!

The Chamber's Agri-Business Committee along with several area sponsors, recently hosted a Farmer's Appreciation Banquet at the Alerus Center.

Area sponsors were able to invite their ag customers to a great event organized by the committee. Nearly 400 people enjoyed a night of dinner and entertainment by the Front Fenders. The banquet was offered at no charge to the communities ag families in appreciation for all they do.

Thank you to the corporate sponsor, ND Mill & Elevator and these sponsors who made this night a success!

American Crystal Sugar  
 Bergstrom Electric, Inc.  
 Betaseed  
 Mayport Insurance and Realty  
 Nodak Electric Cooperative  
 Rydell Auto Center  
 First State Bank  
 US Bank  
 GF County Soil Conservation  
 Botsford & Qualley Land Company  
 Norm Enerson Crop Insurance, Inc.  
 A. Link, Inc.  
 Agri-Data  
 Agri-Valley  
 Alerus Center  
 Altru Health System  
 Berts Truck Equipment  
 Big Jims East Side Tire  
 Canad Inns  
 Community Bank of the Red River Valley  
 Drees, Risky, Vallager, Ltd."  
 Drummer's Diesel  
 Forks Equipment  
 Grand Forks Herald

GF Welding & Machine Co.  
 Honeyford Farmer's Elevator  
 Hugo's  
 Huot's Tree Service  
 Johnstown Bean Co.  
 Lumber Mart  
 Lunseth Plumbing & Heating  
 Minto Ag Center - Minto Flying  
 Northwood Equity Elevator  
 Opp Construction  
 Progressive Ag Marketing  
 Qwest Communications  
 Rabo Agri Finance  
 Ray German Law Office  
 Red River Farm Network  
 Scotts Transport  
 Simonson Lumber - GF & Grafton  
 Simplot Grower's Solutions  
 Spray Advantage  
 Stone's Mobile Radio  
 Thompson's USA Ltd.  
 Titan Machinery  
 Vigen Construction  
 Zimney Foster PC

900

The number of local children living in violent homes.

#### Come to a free 2009 Break the Silence Tour

The Community Violence Intervention Center invites you to a one-hour tour to find out answers to questions about violence occurring right here in our community. What happens to the 900 children living with violence? How are we working with others to stop the cycle of violence once and for all? You will have the opportunity to see the center's work firsthand. You won't be asked for a financial contribution, but we would appreciate your advice and feedback on our programs and tour.

Please select a tour and R.S.V.P. to Edie at [edie@cviconline.org](mailto:edie@cviconline.org) or (701) 746-0405. Space is limited, so sign up early!

11 a.m. - Noon Tours		8 a.m. - 9 a.m. Tours
January 15	July 16	January 28
February 19	August 20	June 24
March 19	September 17	5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Tours
April 16	October 15	
May 21	November 12	April 21
June 18	December 30	October 27

Tours are held at CVIC offices, 211 S. 4th St., rear entrance.