



# chamberXpress

DULUTH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY NEWS

Vol. 25 • Issue 7 July 2024

## FINAL ISSUE



### Join Us at the Golf Classic After Party!

The 55th Annual Chamber Golf Classic presented by Spectrum is SOLD OUT, but all golfers, non-golfers, sponsors, guests and members are encouraged and invited to attend the after party! Join us for networking, appetizers and drinks at Ridgeview Country Club on July 22, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. No registration required. Don't miss out on the biggest business-to-business golf event in the Northland.

Questions, contact Kathleen Privette at [kprivette@duluthchamber.com](mailto:kprivette@duluthchamber.com).



**Spectrum**

### Save the Date: Duluth Area Chamber's 154th Annual Meeting & Dinner Celebration

It's time to celebrate with us! For 154 years the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce has dedicated our time supporting, developing and collaborating with our business community. Join us and 1,300 community leaders at the premier business gathering of the year, the 154th Annual Meeting & Dinner Celebration. This year's celebration will take place on Thursday, November 7, at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center.

The evening will showcase the keynote address from Ward Swanson, President and CEO of Barr Engineering Company, as well as award winners for their contribution to the Chamber and business community.

Highlight your organization within our business community with a sponsorship at this premier event. This is a great way to gain exposure for your organization, network with fellow professionals and celebrate moving business forward.

For sponsorship information, please contact Kathleen Privette at 218-740-3745 or [kprivette@duluthchamber.com](mailto:kprivette@duluthchamber.com). Individual and table registration opens in September by visiting [duluthchamber.com](http://duluthchamber.com).

We hope you will join along in the celebration!



*What matters most...*

is that you get to enjoy this moment - because we've got you covered.



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**DULUTH**  
AREA CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

# On Our Radar

**One Enjoyable Event.  
One Compelling Speaker.**



Neal Ronquist

## Connect @ Clyde – Tuesday, July 9

**Presented by Neal Ronquist, Publisher, Duluth News Tribune**

On July 9, join fellow business professionals at Connect @ Clyde to hear from Neal Ronquist, Publisher of the Duluth News Tribune, as he addresses the increasing importance of local news gathering organizations in today's polarized environment. Learn why and how the Duluth News Tribune continues to invest and commit to being the largest and best source for news and advertising in Duluth and the Northland. Thank you to our friends at Cenovus Energy – Superior Refinery for sponsoring this event.

**Join us at Clyde Iron Works Restaurant, Brewery and Event Center**

**2920 West Michigan St**

**11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Chamber members \$30 / Nonmembers \$40**

**Register at [duluthchamber.com](http://duluthchamber.com)**

**or contact Kathleen Privette**

**at [kprivette@duluthchamber.com](mailto:kprivette@duluthchamber.com).**

Sponsored by:



## Save the Date

## Registration Opens in July for the Women in Leadership Conference

**Monday, September 30**

**DECC Harborside Ballroom**

**8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

The Duluth Area Chamber is proud to present the second annual Women in Leadership Conference – a signature event designed to motivate, inspire and advance female leaders at any stage in their careers. Rooted in storytelling, empowerment and connection, this innovative conference will offer attendees the opportunity to hear from trailblazing local women leaders as they tell the story of their personal journeys and the key lessons they learned along the way. This signature event will also offer personalized career development workshops, pioneering leadership panels, relevant breakout sessions for any career level, and an engaging after-party and women's expo highlighting women-owned and female-led organizations. This one-of-a-kind conference is an event that you and your team will not want to miss. Keep an eye on the event page at [www.duluthchamber.com](http://www.duluthchamber.com) for further registration details and admission cost.

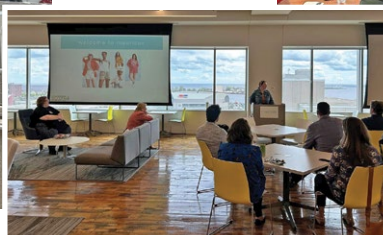
Sponsorships are now available! To learn more about sponsorship levels and benefits, reach out to Aubrey Hagen at [ahagen@duluthchamber.com](mailto:ahagen@duluthchamber.com).



# Leadership Duluth Explores Cultural Awareness

The 2023/2024 Leadership Duluth class met for the 10th and final time prior to graduation for Cultural Awareness Day in early June. Cultural Awareness Day was an opportunity for the class to learn more about the diverse populations in our area and how employers in our community are helping celebrate and embrace cultural awareness. The program visited UMD's multicultural education department and heard from various presenters on the meaning of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging practices. They also heard from leaders at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth Campus and maurices about how these employers are living their values and helping create a more welcoming community while strengthening our local economy. The group enjoyed touring University of Minnesota Duluth, as well maurices' downtown headquarters.

Thank you to our premier sponsor North Shore Bank and day sponsor Kraus-Anderson, as well as our speakers and hosts, for helping make this day a success.



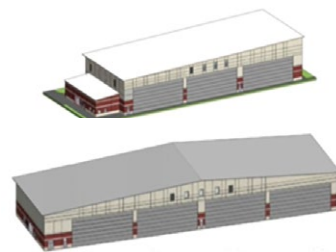
## Policy and Advocacy Update: Duluth Area Chamber Remains Committed To Finishing the Job at the State Capitol

After representatives from the Duluth Area Chamber and Chamber Foundation made dozens of trips to the Minnesota State Capitol the past few months and worked closely with many lawmakers and various Chamber members to successfully advocate for several local projects and legislative priorities in northeast Minnesota, we watched as the fate of the 2024 bonding bill came down to the final seconds of the legislative session and ultimately failed to pass. While it was, unfortunately, becoming increasingly clear in the final weeks of session that a fully funded infrastructure package was unlikely to pass due to the increasing political drama, there was still hope that a smaller cash bill had the votes needed to get through both the house and senate. The bill did not pass the senate prior to the midnight deadline on the final night of the legislative session, missing it by only seconds.

The bill contained partial funding for important projects in our region, including design funding for much-needed new hangars at the 148th Fighter Wing ([www.duluthchamber.com/148fw](http://www.duluthchamber.com/148fw)) and initial funding for a much-needed new air traffic control tower at the Duluth International Airport. These are a couple of the projects we helped advocate for, and are grateful for the strong, bipartisan support for both projects. Both the current hangars at the 148th and the current air traffic control tower at DLH are more than 70 years old, have significant challenges and both projects have the ability to leverage millions in additional federal investment, helping secure the longer-term fate of both institutions. Both of these projects have significant annual economic impacts and it's imperative that these projects get done soon. It was a very disappointing end to the legislative session, and there doesn't seem to be much hope for a short, focused special session anytime soon.

So, at this point, we are already strategizing and planning for another very aggressive session next year and remain committed to getting the job done. We hope you will once again join us, in record numbers, for Duluth & St. Louis County at the Capitol Days in 2025 so we say in a unified, regional voice that we need these and other projects completed, and soon. While there was some progress made on other fronts, including much-needed permitting reform, we need to get a bonding bill passed soon to invest in these important regional projects and economic drivers for our business community and local economy.

Thank you for your support and continued commitment. Please contact us at [foundation@duluthchamber.com](mailto:foundation@duluthchamber.com) if you have any questions or are interested in getting involved to help support these important projects.



# CELEBRATING SUCCESS

## Ribbon Cutting Event Helps Welcome Widseth to the Duluth Business Community

The Duluth Area Chamber welcomed Widseth to the Duluth area business community and to Chamber membership! Our longtime member Architectural Resources, located at 126 East Superior Street, has merged with the Widseth Team. We look forward to continuing to work with the team and supporting them however we can. Congratulations and welcome!



## Wired Whisker Celebrates Grand Opening of Cat Café

It was a purr-fect day to welcome Wired Whisker to the local business community and Duluth Area Chamber membership last week! Wired Whisker is Duluth's first cat café, located at 1823 East Superior Street, where you can relax and enjoy beverages and locally made baked goods, and also spend time with adoptable cats through partnerships with Animal Allies and Pet Haven of Minnesota.

## Boot Barn Celebrates Grand Opening of Duluth Location

Congratulations to Boot Barn on the grand opening of their store, located at 1307 Miller Trunk Highway in Duluth. Boot Barn has the latest styles in cowboy boots, hats, western wear, work boots and much more. The Duluth Area Chamber was proud to help welcome them to our local business community and to Chamber membership!



## Memorial Blood Centers Celebrates Grand Opening of Duluth Donor Center

Congratulations to our member and community partner Memorial Blood Centers on the grand opening of their beautiful new Duluth Donor Center at 4 East Central Entrance. We encourage those who are able to sign up to visit, donate and help save lives.

## East West Property Management Celebrates 10th Business and Chamber Anniversary

East West Property Management celebrated their 10th anniversary in business and their 10th anniversary as a Chamber member with a ribbon-cutting event in the historic Duluth Board of Trade Lofts, one of several properties East West manages. Congratulations to East West Property Management on their first successful decade, and wishing them many more successful decades ahead.



# CELEBRATING SUCCESS

## CHAMBER STAFF

### Zenith DCHS Apartments Celebrate Grand Opening

Congratulations to Zenith DCHS Apartments on their grand opening! The 128-year-old historic Central High School in downtown Duluth has been transformed into the beautiful Zenith DCHS apartments, 122 mixed-income modern apartments.



Matt Baumgartner  
President  
218-740-3751  
mbaumgartner@duluthchamber.com

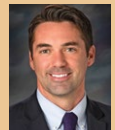


Jebbeh Edmunds  
Director of Education  
218-740-3754  
jedmunds@duluthchamber.com



### Ski Hut Celebrates Grand Opening of New West Duluth Location

Congratulations to Ski Hut Adventure Center on their grand opening! The Duluth Area Chamber was excited to help welcome this newest addition to the Ski Hut family. This one-stop-rental-shop for all your favorite outdoor activities along the North Shore is located directly across from the Spirit Mountain Grand Avenue Chalet.



Daniel Fanning  
Vice President of Strategy & Policy  
and the Executive Director of the  
Duluth Area Chamber Foundation  
218-740-3743  
dfanning@duluthchamber.com

### Northwestern Mutual Celebrates New Office Suites

Congratulations to Northwestern Mutual on their beautiful new office suites! The Duluth Area Chamber was proud to celebrate their expanded space with them, and thank them for being an important part of our local business community and Chamber membership.



Aubrey Hagen  
Director of Membership Development & DEI,  
Program Director of Fuse Duluth  
218-740-3758  
ahagen@duluthchamber.com



### Genereau & Company Celebrates Grand Opening

Congratulations to Genereau & Company on the grand opening of their beautiful location at 231 East Superior Street. Duluth Area Chamber staff and ambassadors were proud to help celebrate with them.



Leah Kohits  
Director of External Relations  
and Community Resources  
218-722-3223  
lkohits@duluthchamber.com

### Aspirus St. Luke's Unveils New Branding, New Clinic Names

St. Luke's Hospital is now Aspirus Health St. Luke's! New merger, new branding, same dedication to patient-based health care and commitment to community. The Duluth Area Chamber was proud to be there to help celebrate this new partnership and investment in our community. Aspirus Health is now a network of 18 hospitals and 130 outpatient locations across northeastern Minnesota, northern and central Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.



Kathleen Privette  
Director of Events and Board Operations  
218-740-3745  
kprivette@duluthchamber.com



Lori Steinbach  
Director of Office Administration  
218-740-3744  
lsteinbach@duluthchamber.com

# Fuse Duluth: Upcoming Events

## Ignite Your Fuse Experiential Luncheon: Duluth Harbor Monsters

Thursday, July 18, 2024

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Amsoil Arena

350 Harbor Drive

\$25 Chamber Members and Students

Duluth professionals love experience-based learning; that is why the Ignite Your Fuse series is anything but a typical sit-down luncheon. On July 18, join Fuse Duluth for an exclusive meet and greet with Duluth's new football team – the Duluth Harbor Monsters!

The Duluth Harbor Monsters are coming to town, and they are ready to rock the DECC Arena with some of the most exciting and innovative indoor football you've ever seen. The Harbor Monsters are part of the Arena League, a fast-paced and high-scoring league that will keep you on the edge of your seat. You won't want to miss their debut season this summer. Attendees will also have a chance to win complimentary tickets to Saturday's home game. We hope to see you there!

Thank you to our friends at Marshall School for sponsoring this luncheon.

# Marshall School

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## Save the Date: 2024 Fuse Fest

Wednesday, August 28

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Clyde Iron Malting Building

2907 Helm St.

\$25 Chamber Members and Students

The local food and drink market of your dreams returns at our most exciting networking offering of the year. In 2024, we will celebrate 19 years of Fuse Duluth!

Inspired by the great food halls of Europe, Fuse Fest 2024 is a foodies' paradise, offering attendees a true taste of the local culinary scene. Feast on scrumptious creations from local vendors and taste the latest beverages from our top-notch breweries. Savor it all while mingling with established professionals and rising stars celebrating the leadership training of young Northland professionals offered by Fuse Duluth.

Grab your friends for a fun-filled evening of music, networking, food and craft beverages at this end-of-summer birthday bash. The combinations are endless and will leave you with a true taste of Duluth! All proceeds support the Fuse program. Your ticket allows you access to unlimited food and beverages throughout the night. There will also be exciting raffle items and games you can play to win prizes. See you at Fuse Fest!



## July 9

**Connect @ Clyde - Neal Ronquist, Publisher, Duluth News Tribune**  
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Clyde Ironworks, Restaurant, Brewery and Event Center  
2920 W. Michigan St., Duluth  
Sponsored by Cenovus Energy



## July 10

**Duluth Chamber Educational Series: Innovative Hiring Strategies**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Live Webinar + Q&A  
Presented by Hannah Grunzke, Duluth Workforce Development  
Sponsored by The College of St. Scholastica Stender School of Leadership Business and Professional Studies



## July 18

**Ignite Your Fuse Experiential Luncheon - Duluth Harbor Monsters**  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
Amsoil Arena  
350 Harbor Drive, Duluth  
Sponsored by Marshall School

## Marshall School

## August 7

**Duluth Chamber Educational Series: Great Leaders, Teams and Why People Follow**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Live Webinar + Q&A  
Presented by Lori Coda-Peterson, Codavision, LLC  
Sponsored by The College of St. Scholastica Stender School of Leadership Business and Professional Studies



## August 13

**Let's Do Lunch - Sue Ross, SVP-Chief Administrative Officer, maurices**  
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Greysolon by Black Woods  
231 E. Superior St., Duluth  
Sponsored by Minnesota Power - An ALLETE Company



**Please register for events at [duluthchamber.com](http://duluthchamber.com) or by calling 218-722-5501.**

# WelcomeNewMembers

### BB + FRIENDS

**Artists**  
Anna Bailey  
601 N. 56th Ave W.  
Duluth, MN 55807  
218-481-7799  
[www.baileybuilds.com](http://www.baileybuilds.com)  
BB + Friends: A vibrant hub of local creativity in Duluth, Minn., offering artisan goods and unforgettable community events.

### Crank and Dasher

**Restaurants**  
Annie Carmichael  
2725 E. 6th St.  
Duluth, MN 55812  
218-343-0734  
[www.crankanddasher.com](http://www.crankanddasher.com)  
Crank and Dasher is a local small-batch ice cream producer. Our indulgent ice cream and confectionery are crafted with the finest quality ingredients available.

### Duluth Girls Hockey Association

**Sports**  
Ashley Hirt  
P.O. Box 16443  
Duluth, MN 55816  
360-975-2680  
[www.duluthgirlshockey.org](http://www.duluthgirlshockey.org)  
Duluth Girls Hockey is an all girls hockey program and is available to all girls in Duluth, 8U through 15U. Throughout the season, the Duluth Girls Hockey program works with the local Duluth Rinks to schedule various

practices, skills sessions and scrimmage events for all girls registered with Duluth Hockey at the local rinks and with Duluth Girls Hockey Icebreakers. All girls are encouraged to participate in these practices and events regardless of where they are registered to play in Duluth.

### Genereau & Company

**Retail**  
Kyle Genereau  
231 E. Superior St., Ste. 103  
Duluth, MN 55802  
218-522-4455  
[www.genereauco.com](http://www.genereauco.com)  
Retail Jewelry store specializing in bridal, fine jewelry and watches. Two goldsmiths, one watchmaker, an amazing sales staff and one office manager.

### Hobbytown

**Retail**  
Westley Smrcka  
4879 Miller Trunk Hwy, Ste. B  
Duluth, MN 55811  
218-723-7114  
[www.northshorehobbytown.com](http://www.northshorehobbytown.com)  
Classic hobby store, with RCs, Gundams, model trains, cars, rockets and more!

### Integral Inspection Services, LLC

**Home Inspection**  
Gabe Johnson  
5133 North Shore Drive, Ste. 15  
Duluth, MN 55804  
218-260-9974  
[www.integral-inspections.com](http://www.integral-inspections.com)  
Residential home inspection company that offers pre-listing, sale and annual/home inspections. Also offers radon, sewer, lead, mold and asbestos testing.

### Jonny Roman Coaching

**Consultants - Leadership & Organization**  
Jonny Roman  
1118 Chester Park Dr.  
Duluth, MN 55812  
203-550-5411  
[www.jonnyroman.com](http://www.jonnyroman.com)  
Jonny Roman Coaching offers business, leadership and life coaching to help you, your business or your team become more effective and create impactful results.

### Minneapolis Recruiting Battalion

**Government**  
James Knight  
517 NW 4th St., Ste. 111  
Brainerd, MN 56401  
612-725-3161  
[www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com)  
U.S. Army is looking to partner with local groups to gain exposure at various meetings and events;

ultimately spreading the word of the Army's benefits to the public.

### Sofidel America Duluth

**Manufacturers**  
Simone Giacomelli  
100 N. Central Ave.  
Duluth, MN 55807  
218-283-3890  
[www.sofidel.com/en/the-group/sofidel-in-the-world/sofidel-america/](http://www.sofidel.com/en/the-group/sofidel-in-the-world/sofidel-america/)  
Sofidel is one of the leading manufacturers of tissue paper for hygienic and household use, like kitchen towels, bath tissues, napkins and facials.

### The Bridge Cocktail Room

**Restaurants**  
Jeffery Zervas  
325 S. Lake Ave., Ste. 109  
Duluth, MN 55802  
218-721-2071  
Cocktail lounge with small menu, establishment located inside Hoops Brewing.

### The Lakeview Properties, LLC

**Real Estate - Developers**  
Stuart Zadra  
10 W. Mifflin St., Ste. 400  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-274-7447  
[www.thelakeviewat333.com](http://www.thelakeviewat333.com)  
We are a private real estate development and investment organization with a long-standing track record for transforming communities through successful

execution and investment in major economic development initiatives.

### Traction With Gabby, LLC

**Business Education Programs**  
Gabby Matzdorff  
4080 Lotus Dr.  
Minnetrista, MN 55331  
763-370-3978  
[www.eosworldwide.com/gabby-matzdorff](http://www.eosworldwide.com/gabby-matzdorff)  
I work with entrepreneurial leadership teams to implement simple practical tools (EOS) to run a great business and live their best life.

### Wired Whisker

**Coffee House**  
Misha Smith  
1823 E. Superior St.  
Duluth, MN 55812  
218-481-7107  
[www.wiredwhisker.com](http://www.wiredwhisker.com)  
Wired Whisker is a unique cat cafe that combines the love of coffee with the joy of cats, supporting local rescues with each cup served.

## chamberXpress

The Chamber Xpress newsletter is published monthly by the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce. Members of the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce receive the Chamber Xpress at an annual subscription rate of \$12, which is included in their membership dues.

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Website: [www.duluthchamber.com](http://www.duluthchamber.com)

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## ATTENTION CHAMBER MEMBERS:

**Due to the increasing popularity of our digital communications and the rising cost to print and mail publications, we will be discontinuing the Chamber Xpress.** However, we look forward to continuing to provide the latest news and updates to our members and subscribers in other easily accessible formats. To stay connected and informed about the latest regional business news and updates, please follow the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce on social media, subscribe to the Duluthian Magazine and subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, the Chamber Connection. Simply scan the QR code to subscribe today. We value your engagement and look forward to continuing to provide you with timely news and information of importance to the business community, as well as impactful marketing opportunities for your business in the weekly e-newsletter the Chamber Connection and bi-monthly printed Duluthian Magazine. For more information, please contact us at [news@duluthchamber.com](mailto:news@duluthchamber.com).



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