

In this Issue

City Spotlight
This month:
Coon Rapids
Page 3

**Interested in Serving
on the Chamber's
Board of Directors?**
Page 8

**Production of
Chamber Map
Begins**
Page 1 & 6

**Who Just Joined
the Chamber?**
Page 7

**See Who Just
Cut the Ribbon**
Page 11

NETWORKING!
Page 9

**Who is the
Ambassador
of the Month**
Page 11

**Learn about your
fellow Members in
"Member News"**
Page 5 & 6

**From the Desk of
Peter Turok**
"Oh What A Year"
Page 12

April 2021 Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ✓

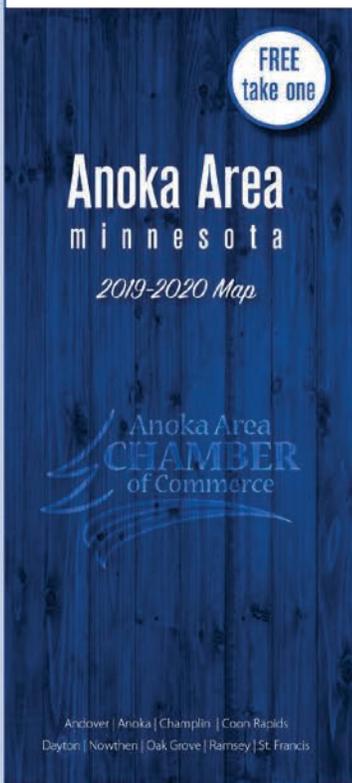
Membership Drive Coming!

The Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce, like any organization needs to continue to grow and the best way to do that is with a Membership Drive!
The Chamber's Board of Directors are finalizing plans for a Drive to be held in April and May. The Drive will include special deals for not yet member businesses, two special events to talk to not yet member businesses and more!
Current members are urged to help this effort and we'll make it worth your while. Special incentives for members to help this effort will be coming soon!

**Increase Your Exposure by Advertising
on the 2021-2022
Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce
Official Map!**

Last year was an interesting year. Based on all of our experiences with Covid-19 and the challenges we all faced, the decision was made to not produce a map in 2020. Based on the progress we have made and demand for the Official Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce map, our goal is to publish it this year.

Every year we have very positive feedback about the map and want to continue to make it a part of your membership benefit. We do rely on member advertising support to publish the map, so if you have not reserved your space for advertising, now is the time. See page 6 for more information about the Official Map of the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce and advertising opportunities.





MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHAMBER COMES WITH BENEFITS!

This Anoka Area Chamber Member Benefit CAN MAKE YOU A TV STAR!!

This month's benefit is: Your Business profiled on the Chamber Cable TV show on QCTV & CTN.

Each month the Chamber produces a television show called "The Chamber Report" that airs on QCTV-15 in Andover, Anoka, Champlin and Ramsey and CTN in Coon Rapids. Part of the show is dedicated to educating the public about the Chamber, what we do and why they should call us for business referrals. Another part of the show is dedicated to doing member profiles. Your business can be highlighted with a 5-minute feature piece. Interested businesses will be asked to come to the QCTV studio in Champlin on the day of taping. You'll be asked to bring with you 3 questions you'd like Peter Turok, the host, to ask you on camera. It's that easy. The show will then air numerous times over a one-month period. There is NO cost to you as it is a benefit of membership. To get on the cable list, call the Chamber office and before you know it, we'll be doing a profile on your business.

For more information about this benefit or any other benefits of membership in the Chamber, call 763.421.7130.

The Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce is a business organization made up of and ran by business people. Our goal is a simple one, do the best job to help promote and better our business members. There are many benefits of membership available only to members of the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce. Each month we'll highlight one of the benefits. If you'd like to learn about all benefits available, attend a Member Orientation Meeting held each month on the 2nd Thursday from 8 to 9 AM at the Chamber office. The meeting is free. RSVP to 763.421.7130 or mail@anokaareachamber.com.

Chairperson's Letter

So, since January 20th the stock market has been stable and on the rise. The scientists that were working with the SAARS vaccine were able to adapt and create more than one vaccine to counter the effects of COVID-19. Our business world is opening, and we are starting to see a renewal into the business world we all love. This is a far faster recovery than the one we experienced 12 years ago when the lending institutes failed us. It took many people years to recoup their losses.

So, with that we should be not only be happy, but also ready to take on the challenges of our own individual businesses. If you have not seen a positive improvement with your business, reach out to those in the Chamber that have seen this. We can all learn from each other.

The Chamber is a great platform to convey business ideas and venues that can help us all. Reach out and

have a personal meeting (coffee etc.) to help each other with positive spins on our local economy. I for one love having meetings with fellow professionals. I always learn so much...

Spring is just around the corner and we will start seeing the positive effects of being able to interconnect. Zoom has been helpful. But let us admit that it is not the same as meeting someone face to face. Let us all get our shots, wear our masks, and start meeting in person again. Contact me, I would love to meet up with you.

Maris Schilling
Chair of the Board of Directors
Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce



Maris Schilling
Chairperson of the Board of Directors

"The Chamber is a great platform to convey business ideas and venues that can help us all."

Spotlight on: The City of Coon Rapids

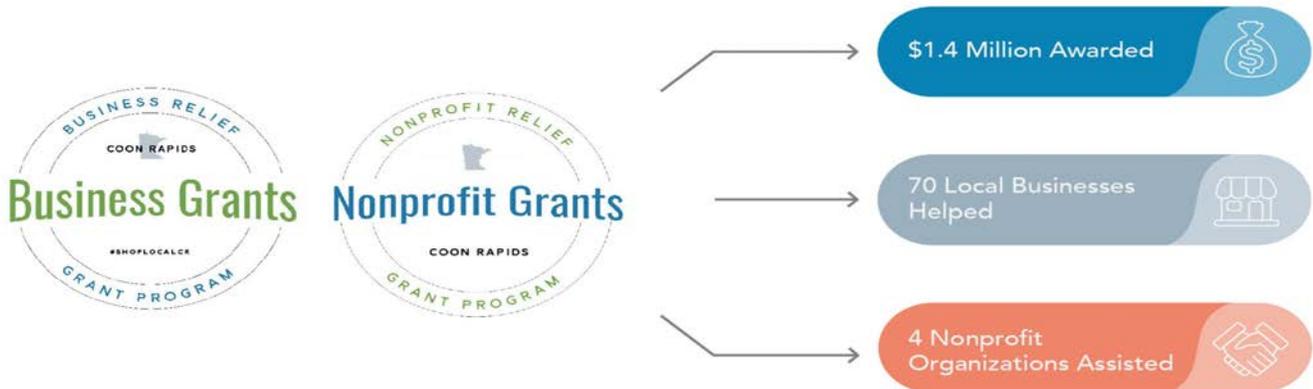


Community strength... for generations

Helping Local Businesses with Relief Grants plus Development Changes in Coon Rapids

The City of Coon Rapids recognizes the significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the city's business and nonprofit communities. To help small businesses and nonprofits survive during this challenging time, the City created a grant program for brick and mortar businesses in Coon Rapids and local nonprofit organizations that have experienced financial burden during the pandemic.

In mid-2020, the City of Coon Rapids received \$4.8 million in funding through the Federal CARES Act, most of which has been used to assist with local government costs related to the pandemic. However, over \$1.4 million of this allocation was provided to 70 businesses and four nonprofit organizations to cover COVID-19-related expenses. The City solicited applications in September and October and was able to fund all eligible applicants. The Coon Rapids Business Relief and Nonprofit Relief Grant Programs have demonstrated the importance of these companies and organizations to our community.



What's Happening on that Corner?

It's a question we receive a lot at the City...what is being built on the corner of Main Street and Northdale Boulevard, in the location that used to be Famous Dave's restaurant. A new multi-tenant building is being constructed, featuring a bank and veterinary clinic. And just recently reported in the Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal, Famous Dave's is opening a quick line service model in the space, instead of the conventional sit-down restaurant experience the company has been known for.

New Tenants for Former JCPenney Building

JCPenney closed its store in Riverdale Village in 2020, and now the new development group in this area is pursuing a plan to change the large retail space into several tenant spaces. There have been various news reports of Amazon Fresh possibly coming to the site, but this has not been confirmed with the City. Other similar discussions of a national grocer have also taken place in Eagan and Burnsville, so time will tell if a new grocery chain enters the north metro market.

Abilities Ahead

Incorporating people with disabilities into the workforce

Successful Partnership Solves Workforce Challenges!

When the pandemic forced more people to stay close to home for their sports and recreation, the consumer demand for foam pool noodles surged. Local business woman Susan Otten turned to Opportunity Partners to manage the packaging and shipping of thousands of pool noodles every week.

Otten is the owner and founder of Indie Do Good which helps entrepreneurial companies with back-end logistics such as warehousing, shipping, and supply chain management as well as front-end services such as website design and branding strategy. Its mission is to champion companies that do good for the community.

The Opportunity Partners team tackles the packaging and shipping of more than 5,000 pool noodles each week. The process is complex, but the team manages it with accuracy and speed. Tasks include packaging pool noodles by color, length and quantity. They also measure, cut and seal the bags, and do all the labeling for shipping.

The team also assists with other lines of business as time allows. "It was great to see the team expand their work and help in other areas, especially during the busy holiday season," said Otten. She also sees added value in having Opportunity Partners on site. "They contribute to our culture," she said. "They are part of the team. Everyone appreciates them."

Organizations like Opportunity Partners are eager to help you with packaging and assembly at our locations, as well as community teams of on-site workers or direct hires. Contact us today!

By Opportunity Partners, a nonprofit organization advancing the quality of life for people with disabilities. More at opportunities.org, partner@opportunities.org or 952-930-4201.



WHAT IS BUSINESS WATCH?

Modeled after Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch takes the "neighbors looking out for neighbors" concept to the commercial level. Creating a partnership between businesses, law enforcement, and other organizations that represent business interests. The Business Watch philosophy is straightforward - take control of what happens in your business community and lessen your chances of becoming a victim.

Business Watches actively reduce and prevent crime through cooperation and education. Programs vary according to need; however, successful groups adhere to these fundamental steps:

- Promote communication and understanding between law enforcement and business
- Encourage and enhance cooperation among merchants
- Teach merchants to crime-proof their own properties, watch over neighboring businesses, and document and report suspicious activity

WHY BE PART OF BUSINESS WATCH?

When you start a Business Watch program on your street or block, or within your shopping center or mall, you take an important step toward a safer environment for yourself, your employees, your customers - and your community as a whole. In addition to reducing crime, Business Watch offers many other benefits including opportunities to:

- Network with area businesses
- Foster good rapport with law enforcement
- Educate employees



Want to join? Fill out the form at <https://www.anokaminnesota.com/FormCenter/Police-Department-4/Business-Emergency-Contact-Information-46>

Have questions? Contact Nicole Neis at nneis@ci.anoka.mn.us

Vision Statement of the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce

The AACC will be known as the predominant regional leader, providing member businesses with opportunities and resources to help them thrive while advocating with government, education, and citizens to help create a better business environment and a stronger community.

Member News

Member News is a column that gives members a chance to introduce their business products and services to the membership of the Chamber. These articles are written by the businesses featured.



LYRIC ARTS *no Broadway*
2021 CABARET
VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING PARTY & BENEFIT CONCERT
SATURDAY, MAY 15

LYRIC ARTS IS YOUR HOMETOWN THEATER

Over the last 25 years, **Lyric Arts** has become a well-loved theater throughout the Twin Cities and beyond, making us a **destination for tens of thousands** of audience members, artists, and students each year.

OUR CABARET FUNDRAISER

Our **22nd annual Cabaret Fundraiser**—which will be held virtually again this year—will help us **raise the funds we need to kick off a new season of theater** in the fall of 2021.

SPONSORSHIPS START AT JUST \$500!

Sponsorships include **logo inclusion, event night recognition, streaming passes, and theater tickets and program advertising** in our upcoming 2021–2022 season!

Plus, when you **align your business with a 501(c)(3) non-profit** arts organization like Lyric Arts, you're also elevating and strengthening your brand by letting your customers know **you care about the performing arts and the community.**

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Contact us at **763.422.1838** or **info@lyricarts.org**. Or, get all the details at **www.lyricarts.org/cabaret2021!**

bluebird
nest
organizing
creating happy spaces



Now, more than ever, people are experiencing overwhelming stress and anxiety. This last year has been challenging in just about every way possible. In today's unprecedented times, if we can keep our own house and possessions in order, it allows us to experience greater control over our lives, less anxiety, increased confidence and an overall sense of personal happiness.



Bluebird Nest Organizing's mission is to change people's lives by helping them to create spaces that are organized, functional and inspire happiness.

Services include:

Residential Organizing. Whether it's a small area or your whole home, we will help you sort through what you have, make decisions on what to keep, and organize the rest.

Moving. Moving can be stressful and it can be hard to keep everything in order. We will help you prepare, transition and settle in.

Life Transitions. Big changes can be both exciting and overwhelming, and keeping your space in order amidst major life transitions is not always easy. We will help you make way and prepare for the future.

Maintenance. At times, life gets too busy and we just can't keep up with it all. We will help you restore order and get back on track.

For further information:

Jennifer Cofer, Bluebird Nest Organizing

bbnestorganizing@gmail.com www.bluebirdnestorganizing.com

Gg's gifts is OPEN!

Located at 11884 Round Lake Blvd NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433 (Between Ero Nails and Bamboo Village). A specialty gift shop offering something for everyone. From kitchen gadgets to baby blankets or seasonings to bread mix and don't forget the candy jars to gift baskets (both pre-made and custom). Stop in and check us out.

I am also excited to offer gifting assistance to businesses and help you engage with your employee's, clients or anyone who needs a need to know you appreciate them. With a quest for supplying a variety of gift options to an array of communities, we hope to help you bring the unity and recognition to your employees, co-workers, clients, residents, families, etc. I offer great local delivery rates and FREE delivery to Mercy/Unity Hospital and all Elder Care Communities within 10 miles of the store location. Contact us today to place your order!

WEBSITE: gggiftsnthrifts.com

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/ggs.giftsnthrifts.3>

Member News

Amoré Antiques

Everything Antique, Vintage, and Collectible!

In 1994 Amoré Antiques was founded by Neil and Carolyn Smeaton, but sadly in 2008 Neil past-away leaving Carolyn to run the business alone. Amoré Antiques has survived almost three decades. However, 2020 was obviously a challenging year for all of us. Carolyn now 86, concerned about her own safety, struggled to manage the business during a pandemic. Amoré Antiques may not have survived without the support of Carolyn's antique dealers.

Carolyn realized it was time to pass the torch for the sake of the business and sold the business to Brandon Altenweg. One of her top dealers. With Brandon coming aboard as the new owner ushers in the next generation at Amoré Antiques. The antique/vintage market has changed a lot since Neil and Carolyn opened Amoré 27 years ago. 70's, 80's, and even stuff from the 90's is hotter than ever. Check your closets!

Know this, Carolyn isn't going anywhere, and will continue to play an important role at Amoré Antiques. We are planning a special event Saturday March 20th at 10am. We're calling it the "pass the torch, meet the new owner, ribbon cutting ceremony, open house!" which coincides with our annual spring 20% off sale. Please join us to help celebrate Carolyn's years of success as owner, as she passes the torch to the next generation, Brandon. All are welcome.

Chamber's State of the Cities Luncheon a Big Hit!

The Chamber's Annual State of the Cities Luncheon was held both virtually and in person on February 16th. Thank you to all the cities that attended and gave updates on what has, is and will be happening in their respective communities!

A special thank you to our luncheon sponsors: Iceberg Web Design and Darlene & Bruce Sogn at Oakwood Insurance Agency!

If you missed out on seeing it and want to get up to date on everything happening in our area, you can go to QCTV.org and watch it. Look for "Chamber Events" on that site and click on the State of the Cities Luncheon.



Coon Rapids Mayor Jerry Koch kicked off the State of the Cities Luncheon with an update on Coon Rapids!

Reach over 2,500 Area Visitors & New Residents!

Advertise on the Official Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce Map

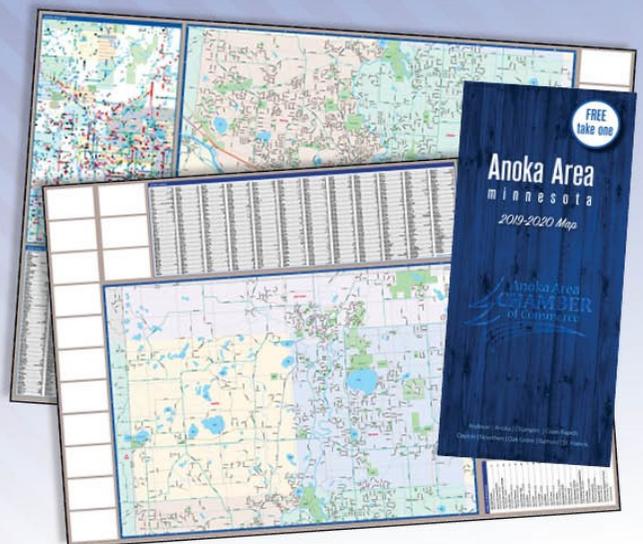
By investing advertising dollars in this piece, you will help support the 2021-22 Chamber Map project, but more importantly your ad will reach new visitors & residents looking to do business with you!

This is the only map endorsed by the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce!

2021-2022 AD SIZES AND PRICES

| Ad Size | Dimensions | Investment | |
|------------------|------------|------------|-------|
| Back Cover Panel | 3.5" W | 8.5" H | \$725 |
| Double Ad | 3" W | 4.15" H | \$415 |
| Single Ad | 3" W | 2" H | \$315 |

The Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce partners with Adams Publishing Group for the publication of the 2021-22 Map



CONTACT YOUR SALES REPRESENTATIVE TODAY!

MARY JO SIREK

Adams Publishing | 952.846.2052 | maryjo.sirek@apgecm.com

Welcome New Members

The Board of Directors of the Chamber would like to welcome the following New Members to this business organization!

We urge the membership to use the goods and services of other Chamber members. This is what the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce is all about. Promoting business between local partners interested in the future of the area!

Bluebird Nest Organizing

Jennifer Cofer

bbnestorganizing@gmail.com

Dayton, MN 55327

763-350-0097

www.bluebirdnestorganizing.com

Professional Organizing

Chrave Davis, LLC

Christopher DeGidio

chris@chravedavisllc.com

7400 149th Lane NW, Ramsey

612-405-8002

www.chravedavisllc.com

Painting/Residential & Commercial

The Cove Massage Studio

Tara Tuveson

Tara.tuveson@gmail.com

2705 Bunker Lake Blvd. NW, #200,
Andover

763-308-8383

www.thecovemassagestudio.com

Massage

Minnesota Automotive

Aaron Strand

aaronstrand76@gmail.com

2721 Coon Rapids Blvd., Coon Rapids

763-757-0607

www.minnesotautomotive.com

Automotive Services

Renewal by Andersen

Ben Amundson

Benjamin.amundson@andersencorp.com

1920 County Road C West, Roseville

763-684-9063

www.renewalbyandersen.com

*Window/Door Replacement-
Construction*

Talking Heads Salon

Clare Brown

Talkingheads.mn@gmail.com

11427 Hanson Blvd. NW, Coon Rapids

612-220-7281

Salon

Not yet a member of the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce? We invite you to be a part of this growing business organization dedicated to making your business better! Contact Chamber President Peter Turok at pete@anokaareachamber.com for details!

Are you interested in serving on the Chamber's Board of Directors?



Have you ever thought about serving on the Board of Directors of the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce? The current Board is looking for interested candidates for five open

Board of Director seats that will open up this October.

The term of a Board Member is three years. You would be required to attend monthly meetings to discuss the action plan and running of the Chamber of Commerce.

Interested individuals should contact Peter Turok at the Chamber office no later than June 1st. The current Board of Directors will discuss the open positions and choose the new Board members at their June meeting.

Chamber Board of Directors Nominations Letter to Membership

TO: General Membership of the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce

RE: Request for nominations for the Board of Directors of the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce for three-year terms.

Article 6, Section 4 of the By-Laws of the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce states that 135 days prior to the end of the fiscal year (September 30), all members in good standing shall be contacted requesting nominations for the Board of Directors, and is to be returned to the Chamber office no later than 120 days prior to the end of the fiscal year. At that time, the Board of Directors shall review the nominations and present a slate of five candidates to replace the directors whose regular three-year terms are expiring. The Board of Directors will confirm the fact by personal contact with the candidates, that they are willing to accept directorship responsibilities. Please keep in mind that any director nominated should be capable of serving as an officer of the Chamber, since officers are elected from the Board of Directors.

Please contact the Chamber office with your nominations for the position on the Board of Directors to the Chamber office no later than **May 31, 2021**.

Should you have any questions concerning this, please contact me at the Chamber office at 763-421-7130.

With regards,

Peter Turok, President

Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce

HEY BUSINESS OWNER!

Are you looking for a bank that will fight for your business? We're here for you through the Paycheck Protection Program process!

LEARN HOW
WE CAN HELP



CorTrust Bank.

Member
FDIC
ID 405612

NETWORKING ALERT!!!!

The Anoka Area Chamber will feature some great networking events in the coming months. These events are designed to give you the opportunity to promote your products and services. See full details in articles within this newsletter or go to the Chamber web site at www.anokaareachamber.com. *All meetings will be held via ZOOM for the foreseeable future.*

Mark your calendar for these networking events:

- 3/17 AM Connections Networking
- 3/18 Women's Professional Network
- 4/7 AM Connections Networking
- 4/15 Women's Professional Network
- 4/21 AM Connections Networking



1st and 3rd Wednesdays
of the month
8:00 a.m.
Meet via **ZOOM**

JOIN US!
Join us to connect with other local businesses in the Anoka Chamber!
A FREE benefit of your Chamber Membership!

A.M. CONNECTIONS MEMBERS...
Invite a local business & get entered to **WIN** a Half page Ad in the Chamber Newsletter!

Contact the **Anoka Chamber Office** for more information:
763-421-7130
AnokaAreaChamber.com

NETWORKING!!

Check out these Anoka Area Chamber Networking Opportunities!

The Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce offers numerous networking opportunities for our membership. See what is available below and don't miss these opportunities to promote the products and services your business has to offer and don't forget to bring your business cards!!!!

AM Connections Networking Group-



This group meets on the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. The meetings are held from 7:45 to 9 am via ZOOM. FREE** to attend for all members of the Chamber!! For more information, contact the Chamber office at 763-421-7130.

Women Professionals Network-

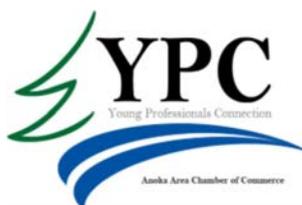


This Chamber features a group focused on promoting the growth of women business professionals through educational opportunities and a supportive network of contemporaries.

The group meets on the third Thursday of each month from 12:00-1:00 pm. The group is open to Chamber members and there's no cost to join. Contact Tami Wendt at tami@lexicacomm.net to RSVP or with questions.

Young Professionals Connection-

The Anoka Area Young Professionals Connection (YPC) seeks to help young professionals connect, collaborate, and build community. YPC hosts social events, monthly Lunch & Learns on professional development topics, and more all with the goal of cultivating the next generation of Chamber members and connecting area businesses to local non-profits. For more information, contact the Chamber office at 763-421-7130.



YOU ASKED FOR NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES AND CHAMBER IS OFFERING THEM!!

The Anoka Riverfest & Craft Fair is a GREAT Marketing Opportunity!

Limited Sponsorships now available!



One of the largest craft fairs in the Twin Cities is coming soon and it is a great marketing opportunity for

your business! The 22nd annual *Anoka Riverfest & Craft Fair* is coming this summer. This year the festivities take place on Saturday, July 10, 2021 in historic downtown Anoka.

Anoka Riverfest & Craft Fair is a great way to showcase your business to potentially 20,000 plus people in just one day. What other promotion can give you that exposure?

The 2021 festival promises to be another great success and we want to offer your business the chance to be involved. There are many ways to partner with *Anoka Riverfest & Craft Fair* to promote your business. **BE A PART OF THIS EVENT WITH A SPONSORSHIP THAT STARTS AT JUST \$100!!** That sponsorship will get your logo on the Riverfest web site, promotional posters and Day of the Event Signage! Other sponsorships are available that include **limited booth spaces** for commercial businesses that will put you on the street in front of over 20,000 people!

Please contact Peter Turok at 763-421-7130 or pete@anokaareachamber.com for more information on these limited sponsorship opportunities.

Go to www.anokariverfest.org for more details!



Voted #1
Tire Store

Wright Tire Service

Quality Tires and Service at the Right Price
www.wrighttire.com
763-427-5700

710 W. Main Anoka (Next to McDonalds)
FIRESTONE • MICHELIN • BRIDGESTONE

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Lube-Oil & Filter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Up to 5 Quarts Premium Oil •Special Oil or Filters Extra •Large Trucks & Motorhomes Extra •Envirmnet Disposal \$3 •Tire Rotation \$10 Extra <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">\$24.99</p> <p style="font-size: 10px; margin: 0;">Expires 10-31-2021</p> </p> | <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">10% OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Take 10% OFF labor on any service over \$100</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">Can not be combined w/other coupons, discounts or offers. Does not include tires or tire service. Expires 10-31-2021</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">SPIN BALANCE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$8.99 W/PURCHASE OF TIRES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$13.99 W/OUT PURCHASE OF TIRES</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">TRUCKS & CARS W/MAGS OR LOCKING HUBS EXTRA</p> | <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">\$20 OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">Brake Service</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">Expires 10-31-2021</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">5 Cents OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Per Gallon</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">(Up to 20 Gallons of Gas) May not be combined with other offers or coupons.</p> | <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">\$20 OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">RADIATOR FLUSH & FILL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">Expires 10-31-2021</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">\$30 OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">Transmission Flush</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">Expires 10-31-2021</p> | <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">\$20 OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;">4 Wheel Alignment</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">Expires 10-31-2021</p> |



“Who’s Hiring Page” on the Chamber Web Site!

Do you have openings at your business you’d like to fill? The

Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce has another avenue to help. A new “Who’s Hiring” page is now up and running on the Chamber web site at anokaareachamber.com.

This is a place for you to place any open positions you have at your business. To get your open position listed just email the job information, link if applicable and contact information to

pete@anokaareachamber.com. It’s that easy. Once the posting has been filled just email and let the Chamber know and it will be taken down. **THERE IS NO FEE TO LIST AN OPEN POSTION**, it’s just another benefit of membership in the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce. The page also features links to various entities concerning workforce and also an events section that will list job related events like job

Announcing the “Anoka Area Chamber Ambassador of the Month”

Joe Laux, Riverdale Church



Joe Laux is the Pastor of Community Engagement at Riverdale Church in Andover. Riverdale has a rich 77 year history in our community and believes that everyone is welcome, nobody's perfect and anything is possible! Joe and his wife Vicky have lived in Blaine for the past 25 years. He has become a recent member of the Chamber BUT

has jumped into the Ambassador program with both feet not missing many ribbon cutting ceremonies as an Ambassador. He says he LOVES meeting people and visiting and encouraging local business owners as an Ambassador.

If you are interested in becoming an Anoka Area Chamber Ambassador, contact Peter Turok at pete@anokaareachamber.com

Ribbon Cuttings

David Weekley Homes 3120 Rum River Way, Anoka



The Anoka Area Chamber Ambassadors and City of Anoka officials held a ribbon cutting at David Weekley in Anoka.

Cutting the ribbon is Julie Lintvedt from David Weekley Homes.

**Local decisions.
Bank on it!**

CorTrust Bank

Erik Sandell
Vice President
Champlin Branch Manager
NMLS 1570180
(763) 488-3601

Member
FDIC
ID 405612

From the Desk of: Peter Turok



Peter Turok
President

Oh What A Year!

It was this time last year when it HIT! COVID-19. It seems so long ago and oh what a year it was. I along with all of you started to hear about things after the first of the year. There wasn't much in the news, just a bit here and there. We motored through January and February. Things really started to change in early March and by the

end of the month we were in full blown pandemic mode.

I can remember the March 2020 Chamber Board of Directors meeting as we talked more and more about it all. That meeting was on March 17th. Things got real serious shortly after that as the shutdown went into place. By the end of March the Board stepped up and a special COVID page was added to the Chamber web site. That page has and continues to get up to date information to the membership. Boy, early on the phones at the office exploded and so did that COVID page on the web site. Everyone was looking for answers to all sorts of questions.

What I loved about all of that was that so many of you looked to the Chamber to get your answers. Isn't that what we are supposed to do? Heck yes it is! We serve at the pleasure of the member businesses that make up this place.

The Chamber began having regular contact with the Governors office and other state elected officials in our region. That continued through 2020 and continues in 2021. I'll be honest and say I've worked

harder the last 12 months than at any other stretch in my over 35 years on this job. I'm not complaining, just stating fact. I'll also say I have never been more frustrated than over the last year. To hear the stories from so many of you members about what you were going through was heartbreaking. I used those stories when I talked to people that needed to hear them. That also continues to this day.

The great news is that I believe the next 12 months will be a lot better than the last 12 months. I have hope that things are getting better and will get better. I've always been a guy who's glass is half full and I swear there was a leak in that glass over the last year but it's looking better every day.

Normal? Not sure what that will be but better is a word I know is coming. This one has hurt us all. That hurt isn't over but hopefully healing is happening.

The incredible support of you, the members of the Chamber is so greatly appreciated!! Things will get better! Oh what a year!!!



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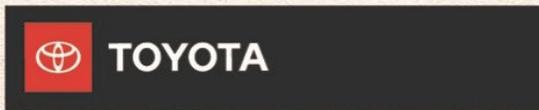
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Contact Pete Turok at the Chamber office for details.

Calendar of Events

March

- 16-Chamber Board of Directors Meeting**
Chamber Office
Meeting held via ZOOM and/or in person
7:30 AM to 9:00 AM
- 17-Chamber A.M. Business Connections**
Networking Group
Meeting held via ZOOM
7:45 to 9 AM
FREE to Attend and NO RSVP NEEDED!
- 18-Women's Professional Network Meeting**
Meeting held via ZOOM
Noon to 1 PM
FREE to attend!
Contact Tami Wendt/Lexica Communications to RSVP. tami@lexicacomm.net

April

- 2-The Chamber offices will be closed for Good Friday**
- 7-Chamber A.M. Business Connections**
Networking Group
Meeting held via ZOOM
7:45 to 9 AM
FREE to Attend and NO RSVP NEEDED!
- 15-Women's Professional Network Meeting**
Meeting held via ZOOM
Noon to 1 PM
FREE to attend!
Contact Tami Wendt/Lexica Communications to RSVP. tami@lexicacomm.net
- 15-Taping of The Chamber Report TV Show**
QCTV Studios in Champlin
1:30 PM to 3:00 PM
- 20-Chamber Board of Directors Meeting**
Chamber Office
Meeting held via ZOOM and/or in person
7:30 AM to 9:00 AM
- 21-Chamber A.M. Business Connections**
Networking Group
Meeting held via ZOOM
7:45 to 9 AM
FREE to Attend and NO RSVP NEEDED!

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