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**August 2021 Newsletter**



**IT'S BACK!!!!**

**Burgers, Brats and Business!**

**Chamber Board of Directors to host**  
**Annual Chamber BBQ/Network Luncheon**  
**on August 10th!**

Summer is winding down and what better way to take full advantage of what's left than with a BBQ. The

Board of Directors of the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce will be putting on the aprons and hosting our Annual Burgers, Brats and Business Luncheon at the Chamber office on Tuesday, August 10th. We'll have the grill fired up outside the Chamber office and ready to go at noon come rain or shine. The Chamber office is located a 1/2 block off Main Street on First Avenue South in the Bridge Square Mall Building in Anoka.

You'll be able to network with fellow members and check out the Chamber office to boot!

It's just \$10 person. We'll have more food than you can imagine! Take that special employee out to lunch for one last taste of summer. Better yet, invite a not yet member business friend of yours to attend. We'll offer them a special first year membership offer!!

Call the Chamber office at 763.421.7130 or email you RSVP to [mail@anokaareachamber.com](mailto:mail@anokaareachamber.com).

Burgers, Brats and Business, A GREAT COMBINATION!

**Killebrew Root Beer**  
**is Title Sponsor for the**  
**Chamber Golf**  
**Tournament on**  
**September 20th!**

THANK YOU to Jim Lundeen and the crew at Killebrew Root Beer!! They are the 2021 Anoka Area Chamber Golf Tournament Fundraiser Title Sponsor!!

The event will be held on Monday, September 20th at Green Haven Golf Course in Anoka. Details on sponsorships, golfing and more coming soon!



*“With the Hall of Fame Taste”*

**ROOT BEER**



# MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHAMBER COMES WITH BENEFITS!

**This Anoka Area Chamber Member Benefit HAS THE COLOR YELLOW ALL OVER IT!!!!**

## **This month's benefit is: Business Listing in the Chamber Magazine.**

Each year the Chamber produces an Informational Resource Guide Magazine. The magazine features articles about the Chamber, area cities, churches, arts & culture, parks, history and much more. The most important feature in the magazine is the yellow page listing of all the members of the Chamber. This is a free benefit of membership. In the near future the Chamber will be sending an informational packet to all members concerning the production of this year's Chamber Magazine that will be distributed in October/November of this year. In that packet is a business listing form that you should fill out. You select your category and fill in your business information that you'd like to see published in the directory. The magazine is mailed to over 40,000 homes in our area and is also distributed throughout the year from the Chamber office, city and county offices to name just a few. For more information about this or any of the other benefits of membership in the Chamber, call 763-421-7130. It's FREE and it's another benefit of membership in the Chamber!

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](mailto:mail@anokaareachamber.com).

## **Chairperson's Letter**

This summer is going by way too fast. Business is getting back a new normal and we all are looking for business opportunities.

The AM Connections Networking group is now meeting in person once again. That group meets the first and third Wednesday of each month from 7:45 to 9 am at the Chamber offices. FREE member benefit. No cost, no rsvp needed. Great networking opportunity!

We have a couple of groups looking for a lead person. Those two groups are the Women's Professional Network

Group and the Christians in Business Networking Group. If you are interested, contact the Chamber.

If you are into less structured ways to connect, look for the "Mix Business After Hours Networking Event". This will start back up very soon. This is a quarterly event held from 4 to 6 pm at various locations in our area. More details coming soon.

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

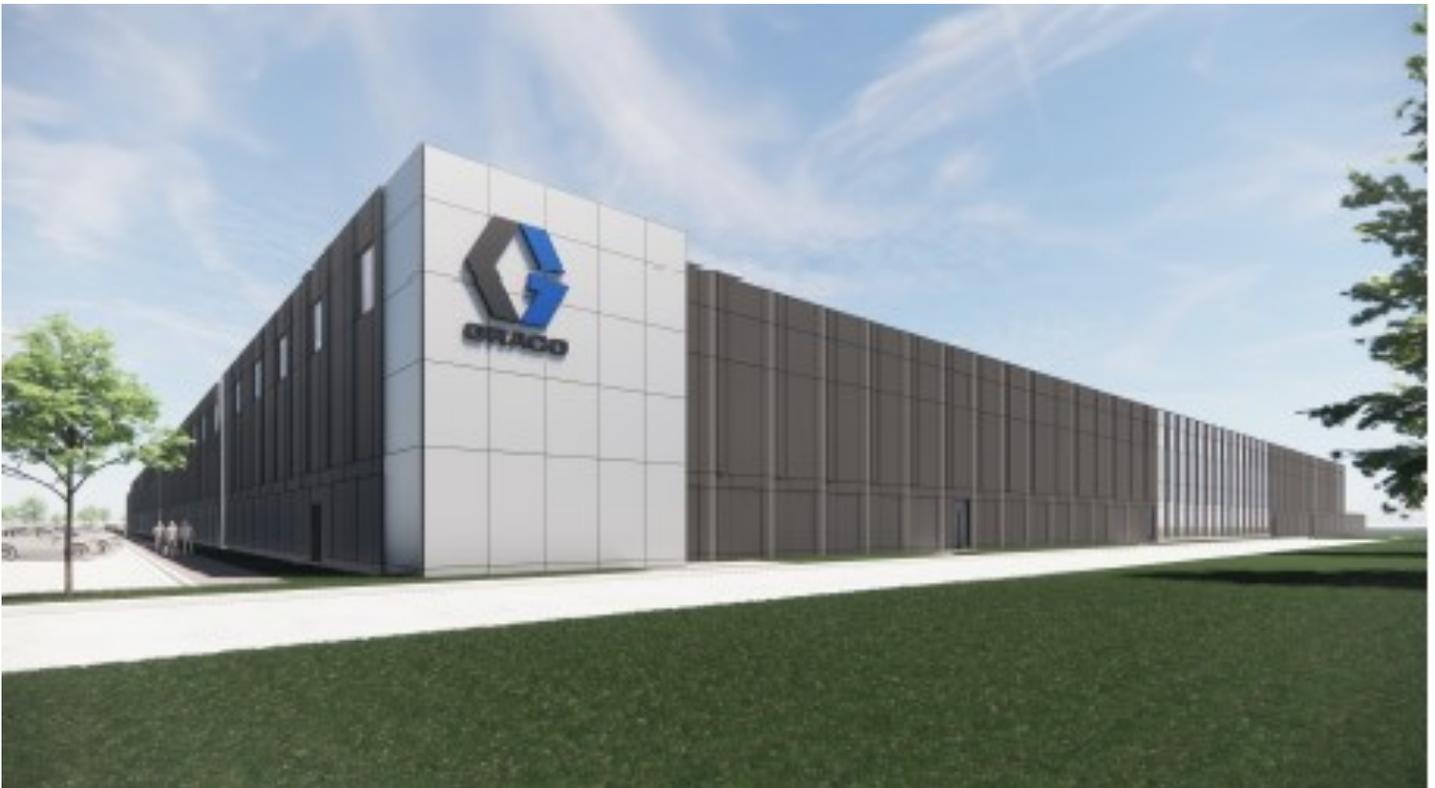


**Maris Schilling  
Chairperson of the  
Board of Directors**

***"This summer is going by way too fast. Business is getting back a new normal and we all are looking for business opportunities."***

# Spotlight on: The City of Dayton

Graco Minnesota Inc. received approval for a 500,000 square foot manufacturing facility within the French Lake Industrial Center located just east of Brockton Lane off and south of West French Lake Road. This industrial park was approved in 2015. Graco has purchased 100 acres for its campus. This manufacturing facility will include manufacturing, engineering labs, demonstration labs and office space for its Industrial Products and Process Divisions. Grading will underway and construction of the building will start mid- Summer.



## ***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.**

# Abilities Ahead

## Incorporating people with disabilities into the workforce

### Working through the pandemic

For Gary, 63, Opportunity Partners provided just the right amount of support to help keep him working successfully throughout the pandemic. As a greeter at a Twin Cities Walmart, Gary was considered an essential worker and was entrusted with expanded job duties during COVID-19, checking that customers wore facial coverings and keeping track of numbers entering for capacity limits.

What's more, Gary was a welcome face at the store throughout the uncertainties of the pandemic. "A lot of regulars were glad to see him," his staff noted.

Gary, who experienced partial paralysis following a heart attack and stroke in his 20s, is grateful for non-profit organization Opportunity Partners for originally placing him in the job nearly a decade ago and providing ongoing job coaching to help him be successful over the years.

"Opportunity Partners staff have done a good job through the years of helping me," he said. "I enjoy the people at my job and it gets me out of the house."

Organizations like Opportunity Partners are right here in your community, ready to help people with disabilities find and succeed at jobs and to serve as a resource and disability expert for companies who need assistance finding dedicated employees.

During a time when many companies are struggling to recruit enough workers, our organization can match companies with eager candidates. We also provide assistance with company training, regular job coaching – either onsite or behind the scenes – and are ready to step in and help if any special supports are needed.

In addition to direct placements, Opportunity Partners can also provide supervised teams at your location and can do contract packaging and assembly at our facilities. Contact us today for more information!

*By Opportunity Partners, a nonprofit organization advancing the quality of life for people with disabilities. More at [opportunities.org](http://opportunities.org), [part-](http://part-)*

## 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](http://www.anokaareachamber.com). *All meetings will be held in person !*

### *Mark your calendar for these networking events:*

**7/21 AM Connections Networking**

**8/4 AM Connections Networking**

**8/10 Annual Chamber Member BBQ at the Chamber Office**

**8/18 AM Connections Networking**

### *SAVE THE DATE!*

**September 20th-Annual Chamber Golf Tournament Fundraiser at Green Haven Golf Course!**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://AnokaAreaChamber.com)

# 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.*



**Kent Hartwig  
Keller Williams  
Classic Realty NW**

I was first licensed as a real estate salesperson in the state of Minnesota in 2002 then left in 2010 to take on a role in corporate business development during the housing crisis. Fast forward to 2020 and I had the opportunity to re-enter the real estate sales

profession. The technology has changed but real estate is still about building strong relationships and trust with clients and colleagues in the business. I am excited to be a member of the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce and look forward to meeting everyone and becoming an active member to advance the goals of the organization.

I am a 25-year resident of Champlin and married to my wife Patty. Together we have successfully raised two fantastic children. Some of my hobbies include biking, archery and golf. My passion for road-biking started about 5 years ago and recently completed my first double-century ride (200 miles in one day). To say that I love a challenge is an understatement!

Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or would like to network with me. I'm happy to include you as an Allied Partner in my business.

612-716-8230, khartwig@kw.com

**Mission Statement  
of the Anoka Area  
Chamber of  
Commerce**

**Creating  
Opportunities For  
Business  
and  
Community  
To Thrive**

## **Ramsey's Annual Happy Days Festival is September 11**

Join us for Ramsey's Happy Days Festival Saturday, September 11, across from Ramsey City Hall on Sunwood Drive.

Register for the 5K and Youth Fun Run (for kiddos under 9) or the Family Bike Tour. Then, head over to the Kitchen Table for a pancake breakfast. Afterwards, head out to the Happy Days site for a round of bean bags, admire the classic and electric vehicles featured in the car show, and enjoy the dog show!

Delight in the flavors of a variety of food vendors – from Thai cuisine and favorite American fair food!

Kids can bounce bungee trampoline, cruise down the inflatable slides and get their face painted. The fun continues when the parade floats coast down Sunwood Drive.

Shop the expo booths, sample homemade chili at the returning chili cook-off and watch the community talent show.

End the evening with a round of Bingo and a beer in hand, jamming to G.B. Leighton and enjoying a spectacular fireworks show.

The Happy Days Committee is still looking for volunteers and sponsors! If interested, contact Event Coordinator Megan Thorstad at [mthorstad@cityoframsey.com](mailto:mthorstad@cityoframsey.com) or 763-433-9831. To register for an event, visit: [cityoframsey.com/343](http://cityoframsey.com/343).



# Ribbon Cuttings

## Champlin Pizza Ranch 12443 Champlin Drive, Champlin



The Anoka Area Chamber Ambassadors and City of Champlin officials held a ribbon cutting at Pizza Ranch in Champlin. Cutting the ribbon are owners Randall & Sheryl Hubin.

## Creative Kids Academy 1800 Coon Rapids Blvd., Coon Rapids



The Anoka Area Chamber Ambassadors held a ribbon cutting at Creative Kids Academy in Coon Rapids. Cutting the ribbon are owners Rajiv Garg & Magistrate Sangeeta Jain.

## Nutrition Haven 3015 Coon Rapids Blvd., Coon Rapids



The Anoka Area Chamber Ambassadors held a ribbon cutting at Nutrition Haven in Coon Rapids. Cutting the ribbon is owner Jessica Spah.

## Suite Living of Ramsey 7007 139th Lane NW, Ramsey



The Anoka Area Chamber Ambassadors and City of Ramsey officials held a ribbon cutting at Suite Living of Ramsey. Cutting the ribbon is Housing Director Karen Binsfeld.

# 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!

## **Anoka Clothing Company**

Liz McFarland  
liz@anokaclthingcompany.com  
112 East Main Street, Anoka  
**763-421-2222**  
**www.anokaclthingcompany.com**  
*Men's Clothing*

## **Kent Hartwig/Keller Williams**

Kent Hartwig  
khartwig@kw.com  
7365 Kirkwood Ct., #200, Maple Grove  
**612-716-8230**  
**www.kenthartwig.kw.com**  
*Real Estate*

## **CardSmart**

Jared Huston  
Jared.huston@cardsmart.io  
720 River Lane, Anoka  
**763-657-6468**  
**www.cardsmart.io**  
*LLC*

## **NADS/SG Riverdale Village LP**

Ryan Burke  
Rburke@centrecorp.com  
12761 Riverdale Blvd. NW, Coon Rapids  
**651-333-7955**  
*Property Management & Development*

## **Creative Kids Academy Anoka**

Rajiv Garg  
rgarg@me.com  
1135 West Main Street, Anoka  
**763-323-4067**  
**www.ckakids.com**  
*Childcare*

## **Toni's Flowers**

Toni Meyer  
toni@toniesflowers.net  
625 East River Road, Anoka  
**763-421-3123**  
**www.toniesflower.net**  
*Florist*

## **Creative Kids Academy Coon Rapids**

Rajiv Garg  
rgarg@me.com  
1800 Coon Rapids Blvd., Coon Rapids  
**763-205-1640**  
**www.ckakids.com**  
*Childcare*

## **Walser Nissan Coon Rapids**

Jason Loechler  
jloechler@walser.com  
3300 129th Avenue NW, Coon Rapids  
**763-205-7710**  
**www.walsernissancoonrapids.com**  
*Auto Retail & Service*



# Announcing the “Anoka Area Chamber Ambassador of the Month”

**Maris Schilling,  
Bridge Realty**

Maris Schilling ,  
Associate Broker

of Bridge Realty. "I have been a member of the Chamber since 1985. I have enjoyed helping with the Ambassador Program. It has been both fun and rewarding meeting all the great people in our community. Although I've not been able to attend all of the events, it has certainly been rewarding and a great learning experience for me. Seeing others live their business dreams is uplifting."

*If you are interested in becoming an Anoka Area Chamber Ambassador, contact Peter Turok at [pete@anokaareachamber.com](mailto:pete@anokaareachamber.com)*

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## Chamber Looking for a Lead Person for 2 Networking Groups!

As things continue to open up, the Anoka Area Chamber is looking to see if two of our networking groups that paused during the pandemic will get going again. Those networking groups are:

### **The Women Professional's Network and Christians in Business Network Connection.**

The Chamber is looking for two members to take a leadership role to head up one of the two groups. That person will work with Chamber staff to look at a game plan to gauge interest in the restarting of the networking groups and a game plan moving forward should the interest be there.



### **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.

This group had been meeting once a month prior to the pandemic.



**Christians In Business Networking-**Christian's in Business Networking Connections is a networking group for Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce

members who wish to grow their business network while exploring and enhancing their faith.

This group had been meeting once a month prior to the pandemic.

If you have interest in taking a leadership role in either of these networking groups, please contact Peter Turok at the Chamber offices via email at [pete@anokaareachamber.com](mailto:pete@anokaareachamber.com) or calling 763-421-7130.

## SAVE THE DATE! *The 2021 Chamber Golf Tournament Fundraiser is September 20th at Green Haven Golf Course*

The Chamber Golf Committee has begun planning the 2021 Chamber Golf Tournament set for September 20th. The tournament has always sold out as 144 players will hit the course for the Chamber! Many sponsorship opportunities exist for this event and it's a great way to network your products and services to the players! Look for the tournament flyer in the mail later this summer but for right now, **GET September 20th ON YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN ON ATTENDING!**

## Advertising in the Chamber Newsletter Hits the Business Mark!

The Chamber newsletter is emailed to over 800 area businesses each month. Advertising in the newsletter gets your word out to those business owners. It's affordable and it hits the mark!

### Advertising Rates in the Chamber Newsletter

<b>Business Card Ad</b>	<b>\$25.00 per month</b>
<b>1/4 Page Ad</b>	<b>\$50.00 per month</b>
<b>1/2 Page Ad</b>	<b>\$75.00 per month</b>
<b>Full Page Ad</b>	<b>\$100.00 per month</b>

*Contact Pete Turok at the Chamber office for details.*

# From the Desk of: Peter Turok



**Peter Turok**  
President

## What the "HACK" is going on!

You have probably seen an email or two from me. Well, not me, but sort of from me recently. My name has been hacked. Why me from all the people in the world, but me. The emails are obviously NOT from me. The Anoka Area Chamber has become the target of frequent attempts of a person or per-

sons to pose as Pete Turok. The emails are asking for some gift cards I need or other strange things.

To say I'm frustrated by this is an understatement. I have reached out to Chamber members in the know about these types of things and have learned a lot. First, this happens all the time to lots of people. It is just the world we live in today.

These types of emails are called phishing messages. They are completely out of any email system's control and there is nothing any email system can do about them. They are coming from a generic email address and I can't control that. I always report the ending email address as spam, but those doing the phishing will just use a different generic address the next time.

My job is to let you know that this is happening and to be aware that you could receive a suspicious email with my name on it. Please be sure to check the "From" address of the email sender to verify that any email you receive from me is coming from an

@anokaareachamber.com" email. I've

seen those emails and it's always a different email sender each time. Problem is, it says "Peter Turok" and most people don't look at the actual email address. If you get an email that has my name on it and it looks strange, the best thing to do is call the Chamber office and ask staff.

Thank goodness that the Anoka Area Chamber has a number of members that have been helpful to me in understanding the entire situation. As much as I'm not happy about the situation, it is what it is and the best thing that I can do is explain it to you and may you aware of it.

Look, it's not like I wouldn't love to have you give me a bunch of gift certificates or help me get that \$50 million out of some other country if you'll just give me your social security number and money to make that happen.

Seriously, I wish it would stop but that isn't going to happen. For now, I ask that when you see an email from me or anyone at the Chamber, just check the email sender and if it's not from @anokaareachamber, you'll know it!



**RICHARD J. MUSSELL**  
AGENT  
763-421-5502  
TTY 711

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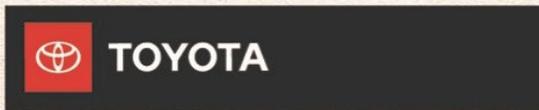
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**Coon Rapids, MN 55448**



### Chamber Web Site Sponsorship's available!

The Chamber gets tons of hits per day as both the public and business people go to the web site. Get your logo and a link on the Chamber Web Site and be seen! Limited opportunities exist!

Contact Pete Turok at the Chamber office for details.

# Calendar of Events

## July

### 20-Chamber Board of Directors Meeting

Chamber Office

Meeting held via ZOOM and/or in person  
at the Chamber offices

7:30 AM to 9:00 AM

### 21-Chamber A.M. Connections Networking Group

Meeting held via ZOOM and/or in person  
at the Chamber offices

7:45 to 9 AM

FREE to Attend and NO RSVP NEEDED!

## August

### 4-Chamber A.M. Connections Networking Group

Meeting held via ZOOM and/or in person  
at the Chamber offices

7:45 to 9 AM

FREE to Attend and NO RSVP NEEDED!

### 10-Annual Chamber Member BBQ/Open House

Chamber Offices

11 AM to 1 PM

Cost: \$10 per person

RSVP to [mail@anokaareachamber.com](mailto:mail@anokaareachamber.com) or  
call the Chamber offices at 763-421-7130

### 17-Chamber Board of Directors Meeting

Chamber Office

Meeting held via ZOOM and/or in person  
at the Chamber offices

7:30 AM to 9:00 AM

### 18-Chamber A.M. Connections Networking Group

Meeting held via ZOOM and/or in person  
at the Chamber offices

7:45 to 9 AM

FREE to Attend and NO RSVP NEEDED!

### 19-Taping of The Chamber Report TV Show

QCTV Studios in Champlin

1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

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