

Chamber Currents

A publication of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, St. Francis, Minnesota WINTER/SPRING 2011

St. Francis Area Community Expo set for April 16

The 2011 St. Francis Area Community & Business Expo will be held Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Francis High School. Chamber members receive \$80 off the price of a booth!

If you have not been a part of this event in the past, consider being an exhibitor this year. It is a great opportunity to promote your business to hundreds of potential customers and network with other businesses. Last year more than 700 people attended the Expo!

Again this year BOB-FM is broadcasting live from the expo. There will be limited exhibitor advertising available. Contact us for details. BOB will also have giveaways for kids and many drawings including Twins tickets, music and theatre tickets and more. The Chamber and vendors will also have prize drawings throughout the day.

The Chamber is working hard to get the word out with yard signs across the area, news articles and ads, as well as BOB-FM advertising the Expo for the week prior to and during the event. The Expo gets bigger every year. It is your chance as an area business to reach hundreds of potential customers face to face!

Help make the Expo another great community event everyone will be talking about for months! Sign up for this great opportunity to promote your business to local consumers.

Register now for the 2011 St. Francis Area Community & Business Expo! For your convenience you can register electronically and pay online with a credit card at www.stfrancischamber.org.



The St. Francis Area Community & Business Expo draws hundreds of area residents. Sign up now to showcase your business!

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Chamber Currents is a quarterly publication of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 655, St. Francis, Minnesota, 55070. For article submissions, contact Alicia Loehlein, service representative, 763-438-5163 or chamber@stfrancischamber.org.



Chamber to sponsor 2011 Area Guide

The Board of Directors of The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the publication of the 2011 St. Francis Area Community Resource Guide. The guide will be a full-color 8½" x 5½" glossy booklet that will include community, school, church, recreation and event information, in addition to a listing of area businesses and Chamber members. This will be a useful reference guide that residents will want to keep!

The publication will be inserted into *The April Courier* and delivered to 14,500 homes and businesses in St. Francis area. It will also be available at the St. Francis Area Community & Business Expo.

Chamber members received a free premium listing in the guide, another one of the great benefits of being a Chamber member!



The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce exists to serve its members and better the community. To find out more call: 763-438-5163 or visit: www.stfrancischamber.org

Words from the president

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Joe Raus and I am the owner of Premier Specialties, a promotional products and custom printed apparel business.



When I decided to run for the Chamber board, I was motivated by a desire to become more involved in the community. Never did I imagine that after being elected, I would then be nominated and elected president of the Chamber. I welcome the opportunity. We have a great group of board members that are willing to go above and beyond to carry out the Chamber mission statement.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our outgoing president, David Johnson. David's tireless efforts as both a board member and president of the Chamber has helped shape the direction of the Chamber and led us to where we are today. David, from all of the board members, Chamber members and local businesses, a heartfelt thank you!

The new board has a busy schedule ahead. First on the agenda is the St. Francis Area Community & Business Expo. It's hard to believe that this event is just around the

corner. Our goal is to make this year's Expo bigger and better than last year. If you haven't already registered for a booth, give Chamber Service Representative Alicia a call at 763-438-5163. It is an event that you certainly won't want to miss participating in.

We will also be publishing an updated St. Francis Area Community Resource Guide. The guide contains information on products and services available from area businesses as well as city, school and church information. It will be distributed to residents in the St. Francis ISD 15 school district, as well as an insert in The Courier. It will also be available at the Expo, at area businesses and city halls.

The Chamber also sponsors a free breakfast networking event on the second Wednesday of each month, 8 a.m., at Billy's Neighborhood Bar & Grill in St. Francis. This is a great opportunity to meet members of other local businesses and also get the word out on your business.

The Board and I look forward to an exciting year. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the Board members with any questions, concerns or suggestions you may have.

Joe Raus
Chamber Board of Directors President
Premier Specialties

New officers chosen at January board meeting

Newly elected board members were introduced at the January 19 Chamber board meeting. Joe Raus of Premier Specialties and Gail Mengelkoch of Captain's on Long Lake were elected to three-year terms and Lynn Moe of Village Bank was re-elected to another three-year term. Joe Buhn of The Refuge Golf Club was appointed to fill a vacant position.

Also at the board meeting, 2011 officers were elected. Raus was elected president and Moe was elected vice president. Janice Audette of The Courier and Kerby Scherer of Subway retained their positions of secretary and treasurer.

Thank you to outgoing board members David Johnson of Highland Money Management, Don Hiller of the St. Francis Lions and Stephanie Wallin, individual member.

Elections for the Chamber Board of Directors are held in November. Let us know if you would like to shape the future of the Chamber by serving on the board. ◀

Check out the Chamber's Facebook page

As another way to connect and keep members informed of Chamber news and events, the Chamber has set up a Facebook page. Search for our St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce to follow us and stay up to date. As always, we welcome your submissions and input. Feel free to add your own event photos, discussions, posts, etc. ◀



Find us on
Facebook

St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Joe Raus (through 2013)
Premier Specialties
612-412-9079

VICE PRESIDENT

Lynn Moe (through 2013)
Village Bank
763-398-8035

TREASURER

Kerby Scherer
(through 2011)
Subway
763-228-1215

SECRETARY

Janice Audette
(through 2011)
The Courier
763-753-7032

DIRECTORS

Brian Opp (through 2011)
Opp Family Chiropractic
763-213-0615

Elaine Mustari
(through 2012)
Elaine Mustari, CPA
763-772-5094

Bob King (through 2012)
County Market
763-753-3334

Gail Mengelkoch
(through 2013)
Captain's on Long Lake
763-753-7873

Joe Buhn (through 2012)
The Refuge Golf Club
763-753-8383

Get the latest news,
events, and community
information:
www.stfrancischamber.org

Lend a hand—serve on a Chamber event committee

Network, serve the community, promote your business! Do all of these things as a Chamber event committee member. To have successful events we need dedicated and creative people to organize them. The Chamber is only as strong as its members!

Contact us if you would like to help with any of the following events:

St. Francis Pioneer Days, June 11-12 - Volunteers needed to operate Chamber booth in Community Park and collect

giveaway items for spinning wheel.

Chamber Golf Tournament - date to be determined - Volunteers needed for event organization.

Night to Unite, August 2 - Help serve root beer floats in Community Park

Annual Chamber Dinner - date to be determined - Volunteers needed for event organization.

We always appreciate your help! ◀

Chamber seeks partners for networking events

Feedback from the Chamber's recent Business After Hours Event, co-hosted by Village Bank, was very positive. Events such as this are great opportunities for business owners like you to network, share ideas and promote your business.

Would your business be interested in hosting a Chamber networking event? The Chamber will assist in promotion, food and beverages and location if your business cannot accommodate a crowd. Have an idea for a networking event or speaker? Contact us! ◀



More than 30 area business members attended the February 3 After Hours networking event held at Village Bank in St. Francis.

Chamber offers ribbon cuttings

As an added benefit to Chamber membership, The Chamber is now offering ribbon cutting ceremonies as a way to provide exposure to your business. Having a grand opening or reopening? Let us know and we'll provide scissors and ribbon in addition to a photo and article of your event that will appear in Chamber communications and in *The Courier*. Call us at 763-438-5163 if you or a business you know of would like a ribbon cutting ceremony. ◀

Don't miss out on member discounts

Don't forget to participate in the Chamber's Member to Member Discount program! If your business is interested in offering a discount on a product or service, available only to other Chamber members, give us a call at 763-438-5163.

View the Chamber's Member to Member Discount offers at the discount page at www.stfrancischamber.org/discounts.htm for more information. ◀

The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce serves the needs of its membership in working toward the common goal of a growing, healthy business environment and community as a whole.

2011 Quick Dates

Mark these dates on your calendar. Visit www.stfrancischamber.org for more details.

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|------------|---------------|
| April 13 | Breakfast |
| April 16 | Expo |
| April 20 | Board Meeting |
| May 11 | Breakfast |
| May 18 | Board Meeting |
| June 8 | Breakfast |
| June 10-12 | Pioneer Days |
| June 15 | Board Meeting |

Join us for free monthly breakfasts

Do you eat breakfast? Do you like things that are free? Combine the two and you get the Chamber's monthly breakfast networking meetings. Join us the second Wednesday of every month, 8-9 a.m. at Billy's, 23212 St. Francis Blvd. NW.

Upcoming dates are listed in the Quick Dates section of this newsletter.

These informal meetings are a great opportunity to meet other area business owners. Bring some business cards to pass out and your appetite!

Chamber breakfasts are FREE to Chamber members. ◀

New 2011 Chamber members

Anoka Hennepin Credit Union
763-422-0290

Dusty's Drain Cleaning
763-286-8741

Printing Unlimited
763-753-2721

Learn more about all of our businesses at www.stfrancischamber.org.

St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Members

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|---|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3rd Dimension Stoneworks | County Market | Mansetti's Pizza & Pasta | St. Francis Insurance Agency, |
| ABC Newspapers | Crown Electric, Inc. | McDonald's | St. Francis Lions |
| Ace Solid Waste, Inc. | Dairy Queen/Orange Julius | North Anoka Plumbing, Inc. | St. Francis Physical Therapy |
| Advanced Automotive Care | DL Johnson Heating and Air Conditioning | Northland Siding & Insulation | St. Francis True Value Hardware |
| All City Containers | Dr. Douglas T. Jonak, DDS, MS | Northstar Outdoors, Inc. | St. Francis Veterinary Clinic |
| American Family Insurance - Mary Dresch | Dusty's Drain Cleaning | Oak Grove Sewer & Water | Subway |
| Anoka County | Edward Jones Investments | Opp Family Chiropractic, P.A. | Tasty Pizza |
| Anoka Hennepin Credit Union | Elaine M. Mustari, CPA | Patriot Lanes & Lounge | TC Net-Works, Inc. |
| Anytime Fitness | Farmers Insurance | Premier Specialties | The Bridge |
| Barna, Guzy & Steffen, LTD | Gerdin Auto & Tire | Printing Unlimited | The Courier |
| Bertolas & Pekula, LLC | Gold Star Kennels | ReMax - Larry D. Anderson | The Oaks of Lake George |
| Billy's Bar & Grill | H. Swisher Law Firm LLC | Rum River Tree Farm | The Ponds Golf Course & Restaurant |
| Bolton and Menk, Inc. | Heating & Cooling Solutions | Sara D. Sauer, CPA | The Refuge Golf Club & Restaurant |
| Captain's on Long Lake | Hidden Haven Golf Club | Signs by RSG | The Rusty Rowel, LLC |
| Casey's General Store | Highland Money Management, Inc. | St. Francis Bait and Tackle | The Writings on Your Wall |
| Christian Dollar Plus | Joseph Anderson, P.A. | St. Francis Bottle Shop | Village Bank |
| City of St. Francis | K-Nails | St. Francis Collision & Glass | WHY USA North Anoka Realty, Inc. |
| Connexus Energy | Lone Wolf Greenhouses | St. Francis Dental Care, P.A. | |
| Costco Wholesale | | St. Francis Fire Department | |
| | | St. Francis Foods | |



St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce
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