

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

During these tough economic times, each and every household is evaluating their expenses in order to pinch pennies to pay for higher gas prices, and the ever-increasing cost of living. As consumers we need to evaluate our spending that drives us elsewhere to do business. You might be able to buy at a lower price elsewhere, but when it comes time for a service call for your appliance will you really save? When it comes time for your group to sell something for a fundraiser, do you go out of town to sell? When your group is looking for donations, do you go out of town or do you rely on local businesses for support?

The Pine City business community has a generous spirit. They work to give back what they can to our community with the hope that you will continue to do business here. Now more than ever they need the support of each and every person in our community. Help all of our local businesses by shopping local when you can.

GO GREEN means to help the environment, BUY LOCAL means help support our business community.

FALL EDITION OF THE FUNDRAISER CARD AVAILABLE SEPT. 1

Pine City Chamber Businesses have come together once again to offer a variety of discounts for the Community Fundraiser Card that will become available on Sept. 1. The cards will be sold for \$10 each by Pine City High School Seniors. The selling groups will retain 70 percent of the sales of each card to benefit their groups. For more details on how you can get your copy of the Community Fundraiser Card, visit the Chamber Web site after Aug. 15 or contact the Chamber office for more details.

Nominations open for 2008-09 Citizen of the Year

The Pine City Chamber of Commerce is now accepting letters of nomination for the 2008-2009 Citizen of the Year. Letters should be submitted to the Chamber office at 900 4th St. SE, #85, Pine City MN 55063. A nominee should be a resident of the Pine City area and exhibit qualities that make them deserving of recognition by the community. The nomination letter should include specific examples of these qualities by listing some of the things that the nominee has done for our community over the years. The deadline for submission of nominations is Monday, Sept. 1, 2008.

PARADE NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT COMMUNITY SUPPORT

On Saturday, Aug. 2 the Pine County Fair Parade was presented to a crowd of onlookers over the mile-long parade route. The Pine City High School Band was the first of many bands that would be featured during the parade. These many bands and entertainment groups would not be possible without the generous contributions of area service groups and local businesses. It is with our heartfelt thanks that we take this opportunity to say thank you for your contribution to making this such a wonderful parade. An additional thank you to the Pine City Fire Department for displaying the new Donor Banner's for our community to see this year's parade supporters.

- Arlen Nordwood Insurance Agency - State Farm
- City of Pine City - City Hall
- Cross Lake & Snake River Association
- Denny Hecker Auto Mall
- East Central Energy
- Fourth Avenue Dental
- Grand Casino Hinckley
- Great MN Credit Union
- Horizon Bank
- KFC
- MINPACK
- Novak-Milliren VFW Post 4258
- Pine Area Lions
- Pine City Knights of Columbus Squires
- Pine City Lions
- Pine County Agricultural Society
- Pokegama Lake Association
- Rock Creek Lions
- Rural American Bank
- Snake River Valley Conservation
- Swanson Funeral Chapel
- US Bank

CHAMBER AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Coordinated by Wendy Johnson, the Chamber Ambassadors welcome new businesses with a visit on the 2 Wednesday of each month. To learn more about the benefits of Chamber membership, please check out our Web site or call our office at 320-629-4565. We look forward to visiting with you.

Chamber Ambassadors Wendy Johnson, Rick Herzog, TJ Musgrove, Jan Carl, and Frank Christopherson, were accompanied by Mayor Jane Robbins, and City Planner Nathan Johnson for the June 25th visits.

Heidelberger Farm Equipment, LLC, 3923 State Highway 70, 320-629-1122, Owner Dale Heidelberger. "We specialize in Farm Equipment, Horse & Livestock Auctions. Visit our Web site for the current auction information and special events, including the PRCA Rodeo at the end of August."



L to R: Jane, Rick, Dale Heidelberger, TJ, and Jan

Sprouts Hometown Market & Gifts, 245 5th St. SE, 320-629-3470, Owner CJ Gustafson. "With the addition of Picturing Pine and an emphasis on locally produced items, including artwork, foods and books, Sprouts Hometown Market celebrates much of what is good about small-town America and showcases the talents and resources that Pine City has to offer. CJ loves to chat about the history of Pine City and the amazing artists (both youth and adult) who create the beautiful pieces found only at this fun, fresh little store on Historic 5th Street in the heart of Pine City."

L to R: Jane, Sara Maki, Nathan, TJ, CJ Gustafson, Jan & Rick



Rural American Bank, 560 3rd Ave. S.E., Owner Dennis Frandsen, President Corey Berube; "Rural American Bank has been serving the Pine City area since 1896. Not only is it the oldest bank in the area, it has remained in the same Pine City location for 112 years. We now offer stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other financial planning to better serve our customers and the community. Rural American Bank is "Your Bridge to Financial Success for Life"."



L to R: Rick, Corey Berube, Nathan & Jane

The Pit Stop, 5987 State Highway 70, Owners Paul & Sue Pogones. "Stop in at the Pit Stop, located off the Rock Creek exit just south of Pine City. Bakery goods, Breyers ice cream & snacks with an eating area. Open 4:15am - 10pm weekdays, 7am - 10pm weekends."

L to R: Rick, Paul Pogones, Sue Pogones, Jan, TJ, and Jane



Creative Cottage, 8520 State Highway 70, Owners Brenda Hartmann & Georgene Johnson. "The Creative Cottage is the hot spot to get your quality, hand-crafted, and unique items. There is something for everyone on your shopping list. Open 10-6 Thurs - Mon. Weekends only in Jan & Feb."

L to R: Jan, Jane, Georgene Johnson, Brenda Hartmann, TJ & Rick

CHAMBER INTRODUCES A NETWORKING "COFFEE BREAK"

Calling all Chamber members and Pine City businesses. Do you have a hard time making it out to the Chamber meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, but want to stay informed? Do you want a chance to meet with other business owners in Pine City to share ideas and information on your business? We invite you to join us for a "Coffee Break" on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at Java Joe's Bistro at 7:30 a.m. For just the price of a cup of coffee, you can join the Chamber directors and Pine City business owners in a roundtable discussion of a variety of hot topics in Pine City. We look forward to seeing you.

The mission of the Pine City Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote economic development and business in the area.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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| Rick Herzog ,
President
(Pizza Pub) | Wendy Johnson
(Prodigy Real Estate) |
| Mike Anderson
Vice President
(Pine Agency) | Carolyn Kolar
(Horizon Bank) |
| Casey Anderson
Director Emeritus
(Individual) | T. Janet Musgrove
(Coldwell Banker Results) |
| Julie Anderson
(Voyageur Bottle Shop) | Bruce Nelson
(Culligan) |
| Lori Buck
(MINPACK, Inc.) | Kerri Schumacher
(MINPACK, Inc.) |
| Frank Christopherson
(US Bank) | Patrick Schifferdecker
(North West Co. Fur Post) |
| Jeff Flaherty
(Red Dog Billy's Bar & Grill) | Joel Peterson
(Student Director, Pine Technical College) |
| Jan Carl
(Coldwell Banker Results) | Katie Kopy
(Student Director, PCHS) |
| | Jade Fedder
(Student Director, PCHS) |

AUGUST BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

President Rick Herzog welcomed a number of Chamber Members to the Aug. 5 Chamber meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Rick opened the meeting with an Open Forum discussion of the former Pine County Courthouse. Rick attended the Pine County Board meeting this morning along with representatives of the Pine Center for the Arts as they approached the county commissioners to provide information on the proposed use of the courthouse as the site of the Pine Center for the Arts. Although the group received a warm response at the meeting, nothing definitive was reached.

Mayor Jane Robbins and City Administrator Don Howard report that they have received a number of bids for renovation of the building for roofing, heating & air conditioning and renovating of the space to accommodate the open floor plan. Don believes that there will be continued discussions with the county, and that the county will be looking for a resolution before winter.

In other reports, Don Howard mentioned that the city and Chamber will be holding monthly meetings in order to keep the lines of communication open between our two organizations so that we may better serve our members and community.

Frank has set the kick-off date for the new Chamber Networking opportunities. The first meeting will be on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 7:30 a.m. at Java Joe's Bistro. The meetings will continue on the second Tuesday of each month.

Rick Herzog reported that a donation of \$570 was made to the Chamber of Commerce as the profit raised from the Saturday night Street Dance held during Freedom Fest weekend. Rick felt that the lower attendance numbers was due to the July 4th holiday falling on the weekend and fewer people remained in town to participate.

The 2008 Pine County Parade was another successful event. A total of 92 units participated this year with just a few no-shows. One of the units that did not show up was one of the paid units and as a result there will be one less payment to the participating units. There was a minor issue regarding the placement of the donor banner that was created to say thank you to the parade sponsors. Other arrangements will be made for next year's event.

One comment was made during the discussion of this year's parade. Local business owners - particularly downtown businesses - would like to know if there is anything that can be done to keep people from placing their chairs on the sidewalk on Thursday or Friday and limit them to only placing them out on Saturday morning. The comment was noted for next year and will be addressed by the Parade Committee.

A group of retail business owners visited with the Chamber at today's meeting to discuss their concerns with Pine City and its stagnant growth. The group would like to work with the Chamber to be part of the solution to improving the retail outlook for our small business community. A request from the group was a short article to be included in the Chamber Chat that encourages our community to shop locally and support our local businesses. An idea that the group would like to work on implementing is a Coupon Exchange. With this exchange, a person would spend \$25 or more at one location and then be able to choose a coupon for another location.

For the complete Board Meeting Minutes, visit our Web site at www.pinecitychamber.com. If you would like to receive a printed copy of our minutes each month, contact the Chamber office for details.

Current Chamber members are encouraged to attend our monthly meetings. All interested and potential Chamber members are invited to join us as well. The next Chamber meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 1 p.m. in the Community Room in City Hall.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

As the Pine City Area Chamber of Commerce strives to make a difference in our business community through seminars, fundraisers and support of our area businesses, we must remember to thank all of the Chamber members for their continued support. We would like to welcome the following Chamber businesses as they join us for 2008.

Hollywood Pyrotechnics - 17677 Ironwood, Pine City; Professional Fireworks Displays and Special Effects. Fireworks Displays for Summer and Winter, on Land or Water. For more details on this company visit their Web site at www.hollywoodpyrotechnics.com