

CHAMBER CHAT



www.pinecitychamber.com

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www.facebook.com/pinecitychamber

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
315 Main Street South, Suite 155, Pine City, MN 55063



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Erin Skalicky, President
(Individual Member)
Bonnie Menigo, Vice President
(Old Oak Inn)
Casey Anderson
Director Emeritus (Individual)
Mike Anderson
(Pine Insurance Agency)
Corey Berube
(Frandsen Bank & Trust)
Frank Christopherson
(US Bank)
Todd Cummings
(Individual Member)
Sara Helseth
(MINPACK, Inc.)

Jeana Mikyska
(Coldwell Banker Results)
TJ Musgrove
(Coldwell Banker Results)
Ericka Nelson
(Fairview Lakes Pine City)
Dawn Plested
(FirstLight Health System)
Lara Smetana
(Voyageur Bottle Shop)
Joe Wolf
(Individual Member)
Baylyn Pangerl
(Student Director, PCHS)
Adam Martin
(Student Director, PCHS)
Open Position
(Student Director, PTC)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MINPACK, Inc.



MINPACK

Tucked away on the east side of Pine City along Cross Lake, the 3M plant began operations in 1968 to manufacture Microfilm Aperture Cards for a global market. Since its opening, the facility has changed names and ownership a number of times and has employed a large number of local citizens over the years. In 1998 one of those employees was Bob Thompson, hired on as the plant manager. Thompson remained plant manager through the 2002 sale of the 3M/Imation facility to an Information Technology Company based in Philadelphia. Just three short years later, Thompson purchased the plant assets and formed MINPACK, Inc.

When asked to share information about what the company does, Thompson says, "Manufacturing processes can be very complex. I prefer

describing our operations as a paper and film converting company. In the simplest form we take large rolls and sheets of paper and film and transform them into smaller functional parts and products for the global office supply and light industrial markets." The company is considered one of the top contract packaging companies in the Upper Midwest.

From inception, the company has been providing printing services, but only for in-plant needs. In 2008, the company purchased their first digital printing press and began offering high definition color printing to their current customers and gradually began to expand to a local market. According to Thompson, "The value of digital printing is zero make ready cost, color consistency sheet to sheet,

print only what you need and personalize every sheet in the run if required. This is a huge benefit in this fast-paced world in which we communicate."

Although MINPACK doesn't fit the bill as a retail store where the community can "shop local," support from customers is essential for growth. "I always tell my colleagues to be ambassadors for our community," says Thompson. "When you purchase something locally and you like the product or services, tell your friends. Word of mouth is still a very important referral."

"Concept to Production – Quality Service Guaranteed"

Visit the company website at www.minpack.com

SBDC Satellite Office in Pine City

The Pine City Economic Development Authority has a new opportunity to assist local business owners and entrepreneurs. Through a partnership with the MN Small Business Development Center at Central Lakes College, the EDA is pleased to present small-business consulting as a new resource.

Having begun in January 2012, 200 hours of consulting are available at no-cost to local entrepreneurs. Skills such as business plan development,

access to financing, cash flow management, and marketing are available to assist entrepreneurs. Consulting is not just limited to new businesses; existing businesses can take advantage of this service.

The consultants for the Pine City area will be Jill Bolejack. Jill received her MBA in International Business from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, Calif. Her experience includes

an extensive background in consulting and real estate, and she has been a small-business owner herself. She currently teaches business classes at Pine Tech. The EDA is pleased to be partnering with her and the SBDC to offer this opportunity.

For more information, please contact Nathan Johnson, njohnson@pinecitygov.com, 320-629-2575.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

President Skalicky called the meeting to order at 12:03PM.

Executive Director Report

Schuller reported that there were 96 dues renewals made in the month of January. That is our highest renewal count for our first month in the last four years that we started tracking this information. A reminder to those businesses that have not yet renewed, we will hold a drawing on Feb. 14 for \$50 in Chamber Bucks to be drawn from those businesses that renew 2012 membership by Friday, Feb. 10.

The February Member Spotlight is MINPACK, Inc. This monthly article has been uploaded to our website, linked to our Facebook page and will be printed in the February Chamber Chat as well. We are currently looking for additional members to feature in the coming months.

The next PANEL Session will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 15. This month's topic is on Small Business Computer Maintenance. We have relocated all PANEL sessions to be held in the Pine Government Center for 2012.

The 2012 Relay for Life of Pine County will be held on June 2 this year. Organizers held the first Captain's meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 7. Anyone looking for more information on the event should contact Lisa Westeren.

The Cambridge Chamber of Commerce has announced a date for a Regional Board of Director Summit that will be held on April 25. All Pine City Chamber Board Members are invited to attend this event and Schuller will provide more information as it is released.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report was given. Expenses incurred by the general fund included Chamber Bucks reimbursements, enhanced listing with Explore Minnesota, printing services for the Pine City map production, and payroll expenses. These general fund expenses total \$4,033.72. A motion was made by Menigo to approve the Treasurer's Report, second by Musgrove. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Wine Tasting

Smetana reports that the wine tasting event on Friday evening is all set to go. Voyageur Bottle Shop will have over 30 wines to taste at the event and four additional vendors will have gift ideas on hand as well. Tickets will be sold through Friday for advance tickets at \$15 each. Tickets at the door are \$20. Steve Gamec at the Pine City Country Club will be handling the light appetizers that will be served. Committee members will plan to set up between 5 & 5:30 on Friday evening.

Freedom Fest

The Freedom Fest committee members have started meeting to plan for the upcoming Fireworks Fundraiser. The fundraiser event date has been set for Friday, May 4 at Pizza Pub. More details will be available next month. We are planning a silent auction once again and look for the community members to help support this fundraiser as well.

Business & Community Development

Lauren Ellmers, VISTA Volunteer with the city of Pine City, was present to share information regarding the new SBDC services that the EDA is partnering to provide through a local consultant. The services will be available to new business as well as existing businesses that are looking for assistance with expansion ideas or cash flow projections.

Ellmers also distributed a pocket flyer to remind folks about the Community Blog that was developed through the Pine City Horizon project. New bloggers are always welcome!

Downtown Leadership Group

Joe Wolf reported that at the January DLG meeting a representative from the Family Pathways Teen Center based in Mora was present. She was able to share information on the success of the Teen Center in other communities and was able to give some ideas and direction for the group to look at for developing the idea on a local level.

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, March 6, 2012 at 12:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the Pine Government Center

Upcoming Event Information

**February 17, 18, 19,
24 & 25**

Heritage Players
Community Theater
"The Foreigner"
February 17, 18, 24 &
25 at 7:00 PM and
February 19 at 2PM
Tickets are \$8 adults,
\$6 students

Tuesday, March 6

Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting
12:00 Noon
Pine Government
Center at 315 Main St.
Meetings are open to
members, community
organizations

Friday, March 9

"My Antonia", touring
production from the
Illusion Theater will
show at 12.30 PM
General Admission
tickets available for \$5.
Co sponsored by: Pine City
Library, Pine City School, Pine
City Arts Council & Pine City
Heritage Players

Saturday, March 10

Pine EMS Fundraiser
and Family Fun Night
5:00 - 7:00 PM
Chili Feed
Silent Auction
Ventriloquist Show at
6:15 PM
VFW Hall in Pine City