

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

# CHAMBER CHAT



[www.pinecitychamber.com](http://www.pinecitychamber.com)

(320) 322-4040 • [info@pinecitychamber.com](mailto:info@pinecitychamber.com)

[www.facebook.com/pinecitychamber](http://www.facebook.com/pinecitychamber)

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

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

<b>Sara Helseth, President</b> (MINPACK, Inc.)	<b>Chad Hughes</b> (Wings North)
<b>Erin Skalicky, Vice President</b> (Astaffing, Inc.)	<b>Jeana Milyska</b> (Coldwell Banker Results)
<b>Casey Anderson</b> Director Emeritus (Individual)	<b>Bonnie Menigo</b> (Old Oak Inn)
<b>Mike Anderson</b> (Pine Insurance Agency)	<b>Erica Nelson</b> (Fairview Lakes Pine City)
<b>Corey Berube</b> (Rural American Bank)	<b>Dawn Plestad</b> (Kanabec Hospital)
<b>Frank Christopherson</b> (US Bank)	<b>Lara Smetana</b> (Voyageur Bottle Shop)
<b>Todd Cummings</b> (Todd's Custom Services)	<b>Stephanie Kozisek</b> (Student Director, PCHS)
<b>Chad Faur</b> (Cason Home Loans)	<b>Joe Wolf</b> (Student Director, PCHS)
	<b>Heather Hansen-Mead</b> (Student Director, PTC)

## Chamber Ambassador Program

Coordinated by Cindy Bostrom-Dahlin, the Chamber Ambassadors welcome new businesses with a visit on the second Wednesday of each month.

To learn more about the benefits of Chamber membership, please check out our website or call our office at (320) 322-4040. We look forward to visiting with you! The following businesses received visits on Nov. 10.

### H & R Block

890 Main Street, Pine City, (320) 629-6196, Owner, Steve Ebbers  
"We appreciate the strong support from the community over the years and look forward to serving everyone at our new location at 890 Main Street S. Stop in or call us at (320) 629-6196 for all your tax planning and return preparation needs."



L to R: Don Howard, Sara Helseth, Frank Christopherson, Becky Schueller, Bobbi Blum, Kathy Koffler, Therese Gross, Erin Skalicky and Nathan Johnson

### Frontier Auto Sales

205 8th Avenue SE, Pine City, (320) 629-0027, Manager, Jesse Sinell  
"Don't see something you like, let us know and we'll find the car that's right for you! Open Monday - Thursday from 9am-5pm, Fridays 9am - 4pm and Saturdays 9am - 2pm. Come in and check out our selection of used vehicles."



L to R: Don Howard, Erin Skalicky, Becky Schueller, Jesse Sinell, Nathan Johnson, Frank Christopherson, and Sara Helseth

### The Yoga Place

250 2nd Avenue SE, Pine City, (320) 515-9759, Owner, Charrie Van Vleet  
"Offering classes for students of all levels. Beginning Yoga, Intermediate Yoga, Gentle/Restorative Yoga, and Yoga for Fitness and Weight Loss."



L to R: Frank Christopherson, Sara Helseth, Erin Skalicky, Don Howard, Charrie Van Vleet, Becky Schueller & Nathan Johnson

## Chamber Welcomes 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 and individual members as they join us for 2011!

**Goldenrod Web Design**  
**Usborne Books & More**  
**KBEK 95.5 FM**

Interested in getting more information on one of our newest Chamber members? Check out our website at [www.pinecitychamber.com](http://www.pinecitychamber.com) and visit the Business Directory.

## Board Meeting Time Change

The Chamber Board of Directors has approved a time change for our monthly meetings. The new time for our monthly meeting will be noon. Meetings remain on the first Tuesday of each month and all current and prospective Chamber members are invited to attend.

New in 2011, we will be having a guest presenter for each month. Current meeting agendas and minutes from previous meetings are now available on the Chamber of Commerce website at [www.pinecitychamber.com](http://www.pinecitychamber.com) in the "Chamber Business" section.

## Become a Member in 2011

There has never before been a better time to consider becoming a member of the Pine City Area Chamber of Commerce. We ended our year in 2010 with an all-time high for membership with 179 businesses, organizations, churches, and individuals on our membership roster. This is an accomplishment that we are proud to share and realize that it comes with some pretty high expectations. That is 179 different organizations that we want to work with and advocate for in making Pine City a great community to do business in.

Our members have opportunities to participate in Chamber activities in a variety of ways. The list keeps growing and we've developed a membership handbook to help identify all of the benefits of becoming a member of the Pine City Area Chamber of Commerce. Whether you are a new business or an existing business, if you are interested in receiving a copy of our membership handbook, we would love to share it with you. Whether you are looking for opportunities in marketing your business, networking with peers, or training for yourself or employees, we have a variety of programming in place to meet those needs.

As we look ahead to 2011, I would like to invite you to join the Pine City Area Chamber of Commerce in our efforts to serve the Pine City business community as well as the community at large. We are so proud to be an organization that works to improve the quality of life here in Pine City and we hope that you will join us. Becoming a member is simple, the first step is making the decision to put us to work for you! Contact us by phone at (320) 322-4040 or by e-mail at [info@pinecitychamber.com](mailto:info@pinecitychamber.com)

**For the complete Board Meeting Minutes, visit our website at [www.pinecitychamber.com](http://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, March 1, 2011, at 12:00 pm in the Council Chamber at the Pine Government Center.**

## FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Guest Presenter: Pine County Relay for Life, Lisa Westernen

Lisa is the coordinator for the Pine County Relay for Life that will take place on May 14. Southern Pine County has not participated in the Relay for Life walk for about five years and a small group was interested in bringing it back to the area. There are currently 20 teams that have expressed an interest in participating, including the Miss Pine City ambassadors. This year's event will be an overnight walk beginning at 6pm on Saturday night and going until 6am on Sunday morning.

Businesses that are interested in getting involved can donate prizes or services, place a donation can & poster in your place of business, sponsor a sign or large "Hope" luminary or become a T-shirt sponsor. For more details on how your business can participate, contact Lisa Westernen. On Feb. 8 there will be a Team Captain meeting at 5pm at the Elementary Media Center.

Guest Presenter: Yellow Ribbon Committee, Cindy Foster

The committee for the Yellow Ribbon Community is meeting on a monthly basis on the second Monday of each month. The next meeting is set for February 14. The committee recently learned that families in the Pine City area will be preparing for a deployment of 130 members of the National Guard. The YRC will be developing an action plan for working with the community to provide support for the families affected by this deployment.

Executive Director Report: (Becky Schueller)

2011 Membership Update: At the end of January we had received approximately 62 membership renewals for the year. The executive board has asked for a comparison of our renewal rates each month to previous years. Becky will have this report ready at our March 1 meeting.

Chamber Showcase at Black Bear Casino: On May 19 the Pine City Chamber has been invited to participate in a Chamber Showcase. This event was done last year for Chambers in the Northeastern Minnesota region and they are looking to expand and include Pine City this year. The showcase will be an evening event which will require approval for additional hours and mileage reimbursement in order to attend. There is no cost for the Chamber booth space at this event.

Board members inquired about the audience at this event in past years to determine the value for us to attend. Todd Cummings noted that the Hinckley Chamber participated in the showcase last year and found it to be quite valuable in sharing information about Hinckley as a tourist destination.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report was given. Expenses incurred by the general fund included payroll, Chamber Bucks reimbursements, printing of 2011 member decals and handbooks, as well as other regularly budgeted items. These general fund expenses total \$2,254.30. Additionally, expenses were incurred for the Miss Pine City Ambassador's totaling \$32.04 and scholarships paid out totaling \$1750.00. These expenses are transferred from their savings accounts.

A motion was made by Faur to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted, second by Cummings. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Lifestyle Show: Erica Nelson served as the co-chair this year and agreed to do so again in 2012. Overall the event went well, but the consensus among those that volunteered is that the event was not as well attended this year as it has been in previous years. The booth was in a prime location for greeting people as they arrived at the event.

Freedom Fest: The Chamber committee for Freedom Fest met last week and discussed last year's postevent report and shared ideas for this year. The committee is making a recommendation that entry into the street dance be free this year. The group would like to sell the wristbands again this year as a fundraiser for the fireworks display.

Additionally, the group would like to coordinate an additional event in May as a fundraiser for the fireworks. The date for this event was set for Friday, May 20. The committee will meet next week to begin planning for this event.

The Freedom Fest committee will be seeking proposals for our 2011 fireworks display. An RFP will be issued by the end of February.

Pine County Parade: Erin Skalicky will return as the chairperson for the Pine County Parade this year. The committee met today (Feb. 1) to begin looking at new group ideas. A representative from the Pine County Fair Board was invited to join in the planning meetings in an effort to share ideas for the weekend event lineup. Erin & Becky will be contacting Red Rock Radio to discuss the possibility of getting a live broadcast for the parade to come back this year.

Business & Community Development

At the January EDA Meeting, it was reported that the Pine Technical College Incubator project is currently over budget. The architect firm that is working on the project indicated that the original estimates are too low for the current plan. The EDA will be supporting a recommendation to the city council for an application by the city for a \$200,000 grant. Small Business Development Center services that have been offered in the past by Jordan Zeller through the East Central Regional Development Center will soon end. The SBDC has elected not to renew the contract with ECRDC. This will leave Pine County without an authorized location for entrepreneurs to seek assistance in writing business plans, cash flow projections, etc.

Other highlights of happenings include:

An RFP for bids on the new fire hall should be completed by the end of this week.

A major renovation project is being scheduled for the Pine City Armory. It will include an increased parking lot size from 50 to 100 spaces.

PANEL sessions continue with the Entrepreneurship Advisory Board and Chamber partnership.

# Upcoming Event Information

### Wednesday, February 16

PANEL Seminar  
**Lessons to Learn: Starting a Business**  
11:30am - 1:00pm  
Pine Technical College  
**Cost \$10, includes lunch**  
**RSVP Required By Friday, 2/11/11**  
Call 322-4040

### Saturday, February 19

North West Co. Fur Post presents Queen Charlotte's Ball from 6 - 9 pm. Step back in time to a place where formal dances were popular. All dances will be taught. Advanced ticketing is required.  
320-629-6356

### Thursday, February 24

Homebuilder Seminar 101  
FREE session for anyone interested in building their own home.  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Hosted by Agstar Mortgage Services  
RSVP to Jack Klein at 866-577-1831

### February 25, 26 & 27, March 4 & 5

Pine City Heritage Players to present "Faith County".  
Friday & Saturday shows at 7:30PM, Sunday show at 2:00PM.  
Adults \$8, Students \$6  
Advance Tickets are available at the Pine Center for the Arts.