

Bemidji

CHAMBER

YOUR CONNECTION. YOUR VOICE. YOUR SUCCESS.



BEMIDJI
TRUE NORTH

WE WISH YOU
-HAPPY-
Holidays
-AND-
A GREAT NEW YEAR

December 2017
Volume 50 No. 12

Calendar of Events

YOUR CONNECTION:

- December 6**
YPN Luncheon
- December 12**
Meet Deb at
Chamber After Hours
- December 19**
Lori's Retirement
Party

YOUR VOICE:

- December 8**
Capitol Day Planning
- December 11**
YPN Leadership
- December 14**
Executive Committee
- December 21**
Board of Directors

YOUR SUCCESS:

- December 14**
Ambassadors

- December 25**
Chamber Office Closed
- January 1, 2018**
Chamber Office Closed

For all calendar information,
go to www.bemidji.org



300 Bemidji Avenue
Bemidji, MN 56601
218.444.3541 | 800.458.2223
www.bemidji.org



Thank you, It's Been a Privilege

As I enter my last month as President of your Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Chamber membership, volunteers, partner organizations and the entire Bemidji Community, for all the support and encouragement that you have given me through the years.

Together, we have accomplished many highlights and achievements, making this a better place to live and do business in.

Over the last 18 years I have worked with 19 board chairs, over 200 board members and countless volunteers.

All of you have been instrumental in steering the direction of the Chamber toward the best interests of Bemidji and the membership.

There are a great number of memories and stories to share over the years, too many for the space in this newsletter.

The staff, "my team", that I have had the privilege to work with, have been outstanding, kind, fun and very passionate toward the Chamber and the community.

I will miss Carol, Dean and Angela, but I know visiting would be welcome at any time.

I am extremely proud of the work and accomplishments that the Chamber staff and all of you have done to improve our community. Thank you!

It has been a true pleasure and gift, to have been a part of this organization, serving as your President of the Bemidji Area Chamber.

Miigwech and farewell.



Visit our website
www.ypnbemidji.org

Young Professionals Network
Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce

Wednesday, December 6, 2017
11:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m.
Hampton Inn South Shore Conference Center
Sponsored by:

Young Professionals Network
Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce

Program: Give Back Luncheon
Presented by Denae Alamano from United Way of the Bemidji Area and Kim Anderson from North Homes Children & Family Services
RSVP to angela@bemidji.org • \$15 per person

Chamber After Hours

Tuesday, December 12, 2017
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
3835 Supreme Ct NW, Suite 2

Choice Therapy

Please join us at Choice Therapy to tour our facility and see the different services that we provide. Meet our staff while enjoying snacks and refreshments. You will also have the chance to enter to win a great prize! In addition, you will have the opportunity to meet the new Chamber President, Deb Pfaff.

CANDY DISH OR PETRI DISH?



IF YOU'RE UNDER THE WEATHER,
DON'T WAIT IT OUT. WALK IN.

Expanded Weekend Hours

Walk-in Clinic:
Every day from 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

1611 Anne St. Pharmacy:
Mon. - Fri. from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sat. – Sun. from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

sanfordhealth.org/bemidji



040001-00102 2/17

What's new in 2018?

We want to make sure that you have plenty of opportunities to network and connect with your fellow Chamber members. In 2018, you will see that we are no longer hosting monthly Chamber After Hours events. We will instead be hosting two Business After Hours Showcase events in June and December. More information will be distributed for these events when it gets closer to the dates.

Another new event this year will be Coffee and Conversation. This morning networking event will take place once a quarter and will feature a general discussion for chamber members. Our first Coffee and Conversation will take place on January 26, 7:30am at the Chamber.

We will also be adding additional events throughout the year, and will be announced in our newsletter and eblasts! Stay tuned!

VisitBemidji Returns!

After seven years, the Chamber and VisitBemidji will be co-located once again in the Tourist Information Center (TIC)! Both boards of the two organizations are very happy with the relocation of VisitBemidji back into the TIC. While the two have different missions, they both work together and collectively to assist the visitors to our region.

The move will take place on December 7. The two organizations were housed together in the original "Bunyan House", the former TIC, when the organization was first organized in the late 80's. We invite you to stop in and help the chamber welcome them home!



Business After Hours Showcase

BEMIDJI
CHAMBERS

COFFEE
&

CONVERSATION

YOU ARE INVITED

TO A RETIREMENT
PARTY HONORING

Lori Paris

After 18 years, Lori is retiring from the Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce and we want you to celebrate with us!

Tuesday, December 19
4:30pm-7pm

Hampton Inn & Suites
1019 Paul Bunyan Drive S

PLEASE NOTE:
THERE WILL BE A SHORT PROGRAM AT 6PM

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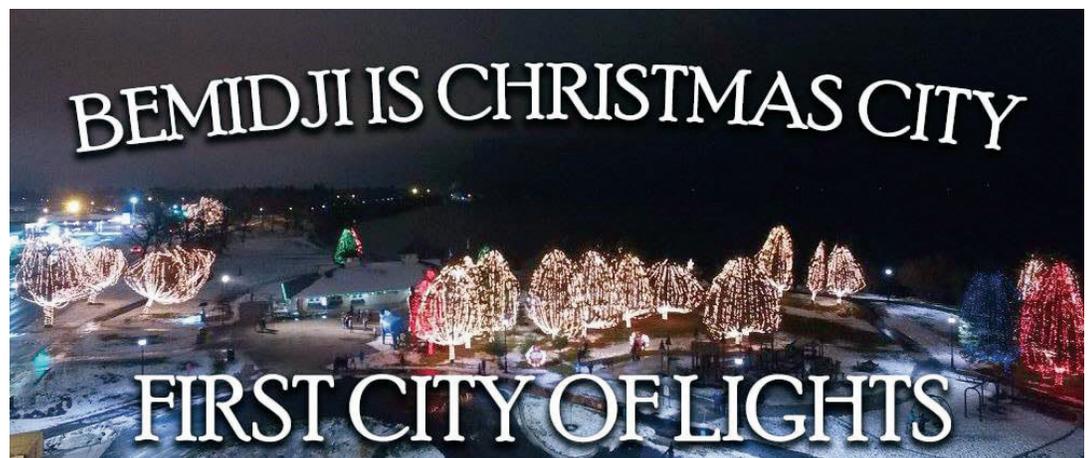
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Thank you Bemidji Jaycees!

A big thank you goes out to Josh Peterson and the Bemidji Jaycees for once again organizing the holiday lights, decorations and parade for the 2017 year! You all did a fantastic job and we appreciate all our hard work to keep the First City of Lights shining in our Downtown!

Meet Your New President: Deb Pfaff



The Bemidji Illinois Parks & Recreation Association (IPRA). In recognition of her leadership, Pfaff received the Vision Award from her colleagues in IPRA.

Pfaff transferred her background in marketing and public relations to parks and recreation from a previous career with the Downtown St. Charles Partnership, an organization focused on helping business owners thrive. She looks forward to using her talent and skills to support the business community of greater Bemidji.

Pfaff's first day with the Chamber will be November 27th. As President she will work to oversee the Chamber's operations as well as work with staff to ensure Chamber programs and services are run with a high degree of excellence that its membership has come to expect.

Before joining the Chamber, Pfaff was the Marketing Supervisor for the Addison Park District, located in the western suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. Her efforts have resulted in several of her projects receiving professional awards and recognition both statewide and nationally. Most recently, Pfaff served as the volunteer Director of the Communication & Marketing Section for the state organization,

Having spent many seasons of family vacations in northern Minnesota, Pfaff is looking forward to life in Bemidji. She has extended family in Park Rapids and looks forward to making Bemidji home.

"As Chair of the Chamber Board of Directors, I would like to thank Deb Pfaff for applying and accepting the position and I'd also thank the selection committee for their diligence and hard work in choosing a new president," said Chris Vacek. "Deb's prior experience, capability to lead and her enthusiasm make her an excellent choice to lead the Chamber into the future."

Support Your Local Businesses this Season!

December as we all know is busy filled with holiday festivity, friends, family, and of course shopping for the perfect gifts.

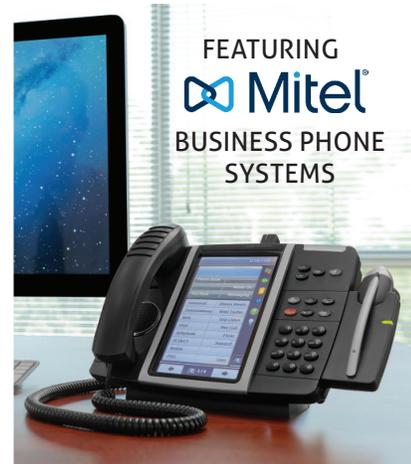
It is also one of the most important and critical months for our local businesses. These businesses are here in our communities 24/7, 365 days a year, paying taxes, wages, and supporting our local non-profit organizations. The month of December helps to bolster their revenues to get them through some lean winter months so they can be there for you when you need them year round.

*Top ten reasons to shop local this season and year round!

10. Local stores are more likely to carry locally produced foods which support local agriculture.
9. Local business owners contribute to more local fundraising and 501(c) 3's.

8. Local businesses provide a majority of jobs.
7. Local businesses support other local businesses.
6. The business community becomes reflective of this community's unique culture.
5. The sales taxes I pay support this community and county: fixing my roads, maintaining my recreational facilities, . . .
4. Competition and diversity result in fair prices and more choices.
3. Shopping local reduces my carbon footprint.
2. Local business owners invest in the community and have a vested interest in the future of this community.
1. My hometown is more important than a cheap pair of underwear!

**credit to Small Biz Survival*



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YOUR CONNECTION We're Working for Our Members

For October 2017

389 Visitors signed the guest book
1,414 Assisted in person from 41 states, 6 Province of Canada & 9 Countries
27,421 of the **Official 2017 Bemidji Lakes Area Guides** distributed

Referrals Made:

Charter Schools
Hunting License

City Transportation

Coffee Shops
Assisted Living

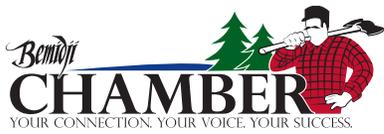


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Ashley Johnson, *Northwest Minnesota Foundation*.. Incoming Chair
Colleen Falk, *Fieldstone Financial Group, Inc.*..... Past Chair
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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce:
To serve our members and advocate for our business community.