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- ▶ **Ellen Heydon**
Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity
- ▶ **Rich Pettet**
Rich's Window Cleaning

Welcome New Board Members



Ellen Heydon, Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity



Kelly Boongarden, County Inn & Suites-Owatonna



Rich Pettet, Rich's Window Cleaning



Syd Briggs, Steele Waseca-Cooperative Electric



Paul Smith, Federated Insurance

Business After Hours



FEBRUARY
Tuesday, February 26
5:30 – 7:00 pm

Sponsor: Minnesota Secured Title
Location: 245 SE 18th ST, STE 101, Owatonna



MARCH
Tuesday, March 26
5:30 – 7:00 pm
Sponsor: Spherion Staffing
Location: **New Location**
134 E Vine ST, STE 1- Owatonna



▶ **TOURISM** Update | Karen Pehrson, Director of Conventions and Tourism



Highlighting Owatonna Attractions with Area Planners

Visit Owatonna had the opportunity to be an exhibitor at the 2019 Summer Resource Fair at the new Basecamp Leadership Center in St. Paul last month. This is an annual event where youth and adult group planners from across Minnesota can meet the best providers field trips and travel destinations. The Visit Owatonna exhibit highlighted Owatonna's attractions and experiences to planners on the hunt for spring, summer, and fall trip and tour ideas. Tourism Associate, Emily Volkmer, talked face-to-face with over 250 planners (and other exhibitors) on why they should plan their next field trip or tour to Owatonna.



Growing Minnesota TOGETHER

On January 9 the Minnesota Chamber held the 2019 Sessions Priority Dinner as a start to the legislative session. Minnesota Chamber President Doug Loon reviewed the 2019 Legislative Priorities which include:



- **Tax Competitiveness**
 - Ensure that our tax climate supports long-term success.
- **Health Care**
 - Ensure quality care is affordable and accessible to all Minnesotans while enhancing the ability of the employers to provide coverage to their employees.
- **Workplace Mandates**
 - Preserve the right of private employers to develop wage and benefit packages that fit the distinctive needs of companies and employees.
- **Transportation**
 - Ensure Minnesota has a safe, reliable and efficient multimodal transportation system through sustained and strategic funding for roads, bridges and transit.
- **Workforce Development**
 - Accelerate private-sector workforce efforts to help employers attract and retain the skilled workers they need to compete.

OACCT was pleased to organize a table with chamber members and legislators to support the state and local efforts for 2019. Local talented musicians Tammy & Michael Ferch and Vianna Bohlan sang the National Anthem in front of a packed ballroom of 1700. A conversation with newly elected Governor Walz rounded out the evening.



- **American Family Insurance**
Richard Anderson Agency
 Jessica Gruenwald
 212 S Oak AVE | Owatonna
 (507) 455-3501
 Jmeeks1@amfam.com



- **Buddah WP**
 Josh Elwood
 1309 Newhall DR | Faribault
 (507) 210-7294
 josh@budhawp.com



- **R-U Wireless (T-Mobile)**
 Jeff Reineke
 660 W Bridge ST, STE 200 | Owatonna
 (507) 214-1250
 Jeffrey.reineke1@t-mobile.com

Supply Chain Results, LLC



Proven Solutions, Measurable Results

- **Supply Chain Results, LLC**
 Frank Busby
 43175 80th ST | Janesville
 (952) 393-5929
 frank@supplychainresults.com

► CHAMBER PROGRAMS (continued on page 4)

Young Professionals

What is Y-Pro?

Established in 2016, Y-Pro offers young professionals the opportunity to network with other young professionals in the Owatonna business community through various professional development, social, and community engagement activity offerings. Y-Pro strives to provide future community leaders with opportunities for networking, personal and professional development. Eight events have been outlined for 2019 below:



- February 19 – Lunch & Learn
- April 11 – Social
- May 21 – Lunch & Learn
- June 19 – Fitness Activity
- August 14 – Social
- September 19 – Lunch & Learn
- October – Community Involvement Event
- December 5 – Social

Passholders can purchase entrance to all eight events for a cost of \$40, or \$10 per event. If you want to visit and check them out? Your first event is FREE! Questions? contact Ellen Heydon, 2019 Chair at eheydon@tworivershabitat.org or Brad Meier, bmeier@owatonna.org

Three Birchwood Cottage locations in Owatonna and Mankato underwent management transition on January 1, 2019. They are now under new management with Senior Housing Management of Cedar Rapids, IA.

Edward Jones – John Havelka and Edward Jones – Jeff Hall recently moved to downtown at 134 W. Bridge Street, Owatonna.

Little Theatre of Owatonna has announced the cast for its winter musical production of “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street”. Jeffrey Jackson is the artistic director, Bev Cashman the music director and Kathy Purdie the technical director. This

production is for mature audiences with performances at 7:30 p.m., February 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23, with matinee performances at 2 p.m. February 17 and 24. Patrick McColley is Sweeney Todd. For a complete list of cast, <http://littletheatreofowatonna.org/cast-announced-for-ltos-production-of-sweeney-todd-the-demon-barber-of-fleet-street/>.

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) invests more than \$1.2 million in regional businesses. Three Steele County businesses approved for funding include Advantage Cabinets, Inc., Owatonna, BioPlastic Solutions LLC, Ellendale and Sollid Yoga, Owatonna.

United Way of Steele County receives a generous donation totaling \$21,539 from the employees of Jostens to the 2018 campaign.

United Way of Steele County received a generous donation from Viracon, Inc. and employees totaling \$116,171 to the 2018 campaign.

Westbrack Marketing announces co-sharing office space in downtown Owatonna to offer services in life, health and business on January 2, 2019 at 109 W Rose ST-Owatonna. Each business is bringing their own expertise and providing a variety of events, seminars, educational opportunities and more.

► **FEBRUARY & MARCH** Events

► **YOUNG PROFESSIONALS – Educational Lunch & Learn**
February 19 | 12–1 PM
Topic: Saving and Investing to Build Wealth in your 20's and 30's

► **BUSINESS BOOT CAMP**
February 21 | 12–1 PM
Location: Owatonna Public Library-Gainey Rm, 105 N. Elm, Owatonna
Speaker: Dave Meyer
Topic: Google
Sponsor: **Owatonna Area Business Development Center**
12:00 – 1:00 pm

► **BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**
February 26 | 5:30 – 7:00 pm
Sponsor: **Minnesota Secured Title**
Location: 245 SE 18th ST, STE 101, Owatonna

► **MN CHAMBER BUSINESS DAY AT CAPITOL**
February 27
11:00 am – 4:00 pm

► **CHAMBER PACK INSERT DEADLINE**
Supply 550 copies of your promotional insert by February 20 for March's mailing; \$150

► **BUSINESS BOOT CAMP**
March 21 | 12–1 PM
Location: Owatonna Public Library-Gainey Rm, 105 N. Elm, Owatonna
Speaker: Peggy Young
Topic: Customer Service
Sponsor: **Riverland Community College**
12:00 – 1:00 pm

► **BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**
March 26 | 5:30 – 7:00 pm
Sponsor: **Spherion Staffing**
Location: **New Location** -134 E Vine ST, STE 1, Owatonna

► **CHAMBER PACK INSERT DEADLINE**
Supply 550 copies of your promotional insert by March 27 for April's mailing; \$150



www.riverland.edu

Business Bootcamp

Join us at the Owatonna Public Library in the Gainey Room every third Thursday of the month from noon-1pm for this growing event. This event is helping our Owatonna business community grow and thrive through the mixture of educational and networking components it offers to attendees. Pre-registration is required, the event is FREE!

- January 17 (3 Pillars of Business Greatness) – **Sponsor: RE/MAX Venture**
- February 21 (Google) **Sponsor: Owatonna Area Business Development Center**
- March 21 (Customer Service) **Sponsor: Riverland Community College**
- April 18 (Emerging Workforce Study) **Sponsor: Spherion Staffing**
- May 16 (Mental Health)
- June, July, August – no programming
- September 19 (Fire/Emergency Planning)
- October 17 (Protect Small Business from Hackers)
- November 21 (Financial Health)



Business Brief is published by the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
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