



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG PRAIRIE CHAMBER/EDA/TOURISM COMMISSION

## Good Riddance 2009?

As some might say. I on the other hand have looked back at our year here in Long Prairie and have seen many exciting things that have happened. Many industries have hired more employees, stores have stayed open, expansions of businesses. Central Avenue has seen some better days, with hope that will return, it may not look the same as it did in the past but growth of a community takes on many shapes. Many businesses seen 2009 the same as 2008, which in prospective is a good thing. Other businesses have commented that it was a banner year in sales, you may say WHAT? The businesses response to this is that more of the local residents stayed home and spent their dollars here. That in of itself is thanks to local advertising dollars and also the community realizing that if it was not here in their community, than what. 2010 will bring multiple opportunities to Long Prairie, the Incubator Building in the Southwest Industrial Park will be available to entrepreneurs looking start their business or expand out of their home-based business. We as a community need to embrace these small businesses owners and encourage growth. The Healthy Community Gardens will be available to local residents in the Spring of 2010. LET'S GROW LONG PRAIRIE IN MUTIPLE WAYS!

## Chamber Bucks Accepted Here

As you already know, the Chamber of Commerce sells Chamber Bucks, right here in town. They come in increments of \$5, \$10 and \$25. They make perfect gifts for stocking stuffers. They can be redeemed at ANY Long Prairie Business. Make sure you, as a business, in your advertising state that you accept them. They are very easy to redeem with one simple phone call to the Chamber staff. 320-732-2514. We are all striving to make sure that local dollars are spent locally.

## 7 Benefits of being a Long Prairie Chamber Member

1. Save Money
2. Increase the visibility of your business
3. Expand your business network
4. Give back to the community
5. We are preparing Long Prairies' leaders
6. Increase your revenue
7. Your membership can pay for itself

**Web Hits=  
411,938**

**Visitor Packets  
Mailed in 2009=  
608**

# Long Prairie Chamber Membership Prospect Excuses!

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## **CASE #1—"NO TIME FOR IT"**

You don't have time to answer hundreds of requests for information or help in studying the City Zoning laws either, do you? But do you know that it is being done. If you can't give time, all the more reason why you should financially support your fellow business person who does take the time from their business to help out.

## **CASE #2—"TOO MANY ORGANIZATIONS"**

The Chamber of Commerce is a partner to every business and every citizen. As long as you are in business in the Long Prairie Area you are benefiting from its activities and you should shoulder a part of the operating expense.

## **CASE #3—"I'M A PROFESSIONAL PERSON"**

One of your greatest assets is your location or office in a prosperous growing community where people are constantly moving in and where the economic level is high. That is the objective of the Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce. Your income is derived from your practice in our town. Your practice benefits by the activities of the Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce.

## **CASE#4—"JUST A BRANCH OFFICE"**

This is your home and you as a branch office benefit from Chamber activity which is all the more reasons you should contact your home office and secure it membership. Your first job is to make yourself a part of the community, and the way you do this is by identifying yourself with the leading community organizations.

## **CASE #5—"I CAN'T AFFORD IT"**

No town or business ever stands still; you either proceed or recede. We are not asking you to give away money, but to make an investment which will help your business progress. The membership dues (tax deductible under business expense) amounts to a few pennies a day....such a small amount that you can't afford not to belong.....

## **CASE #6—"I'M JUST A LITTLE GUY"**

The best way to increase your business is to support the Chamber of Commerce.....more residents, more industries, more tourists, more people shopping in your town will mean more business for you. The Chamber is working to promote all of these things. (In addition, it affords valuable contacts with your fellow citizens and business people).

## **CASE#7—"I'M NOT INTERESTED"**

This should not be true because you ARE interested in commercial and industrial progress reacting favorably upon your business. Thus, you should be interested in the promotional programs of the Chamber of Commerce.

## **CASE#8—"MAYBE LATER"**

Other cities are actively competing for trade, new industries, new businesses, better housing, better streets, more parking, and everything else that will make them better, more prosperous and more pleasant places in which to live and work. Your "later" may be too late. Join us TODAY for a better Long Prairie Area TOMORROW.

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[www.longprairie.org](http://www.longprairie.org)

The chamber website is a useful tool for business members and residents alike. In order for any website to be a success it must be utilized. Time is also a factor in keeping the website up to date. We have many tools on the web site. **Examples:**

- ⊙ Community Calendar
- ⊙ Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- ⊙ Other Members
- ⊙ Newsletters
- ⊙ Event Listings

If you would like for information on the web page, please contact the chamber staff. If you have an open house or special sale for your business, let us know as well, we CAN post it.

**Mission Statement**

To preserve, protect, and encourage the free enterprise system through promoting a prosperous business community and positive quality of life for the businesses and residents of Long Prairie and the surrounding area.

**2010 Chamber Meeting Schedule**

- January 5
- February 2
- March 2
- April 6
- May 4
- June 8
- July 6
- August 3
- September 7
- October 5
- November 2
- December 7

These meetings are open to all Chamber Members, 4:30 pm at City Hall.

**Board of Directors**

**President-**

Becky Hillig

**Vice President-**

Dennis Breitenfeldt

**Secretary-**

Denita Wisniewski

Toni Tebben  
 Mike Wolters  
 Mary Schmidt  
 Anita Rademacher  
 TJ Cadwallader  
 Misty Lemke  
 Mark Poegel  
 Roseann Hummel  
 Kathleen Nauber  
 Joe Krueger  
 John Rachuy  
 Allan Ulbricht

**Liaison's**

Gerald Ruda  
 Don Rasmussen  
 Pastor Andrew Brown  
 Jon Kringen

**Staff**

**Lyle Danielson and Julie Baum**

320-732-2514  
 info@longprairie.org  
 www.longprairie.org

**THORSON FARM MARKET**

**HEAD OF THE LAKES RESORT**

**NEW MEMBERS FOR 2009**

As we send out our last Chamber newsletter for the year, I want to say that I have appreciated the job of trying to make Long Prairie and our surrounding community a better place. The last couple of years have been a bigger challenge as to what to do to make the biggest impact, especially due to the faltering economy.

From time to time people will say things like: "Are the businesses leaving town, and what are you doing about it?". Usually I tell them that only a few have left. Some have retired, some have quit because of lack of business or not enough profit to stay in business. After some discussion, usually it comes down to empty stores on Central Avenue. They remember years ago when every building was full. When I came to town there was not any businesses on Hwy 71 other than gas stations. Now most of the retail business is on the Highway.

There is way more businesses and more activity than ever before, but it just is not on main street. I still have a passion for filling up the downtown again, but it needs to be something in the specialty type of business. If anyone hears of anything that might be a good fit, be sure to contact our office. I am quite certain that most of these buildings could be rented or purchased reasonably.

I am optimistic about the future economy bouncing back. Hopefully we encourage each other when the chips are down. We all need that from time to time.

I wish you the best during this Christmas season ahead. May the year 2010 be even better. Call the chamber office anytime.

*Lyle Danielson, Staff*

## **SOCIAL MEDIA REVELATION**

- ☉ By 2010, Generation Y will outnumber Baby Boomers, 96% of them have joined a social network.
- ☉ Years to reach 50 million users:
  - Radio=38 years
  - TV=13 years
  - Internet=4 years
  - Ipod=3 years
- \*Facebook added 100 million users in 9 months, if Facebook were a country, it would be the 4th largest.
- ☉ Facebook's fastest growing market, 55-65 year old females
- ☉ Generation Y and Z consider email passe`
- ☉ Only 14% of social network users trust advertising.

Are you Ready!



# Chamber of Commerce

## SUPPORT YOUR MEMBERS

Ace Hardware  
Ace Realty  
ALCO Discount Store  
American Family Insurance  
American Heritage Bank  
Bargain Barn  
Birdsell Realty  
Burger King  
Brown/Krueger Law Center  
Bud's Floorcovering  
Budget Host Inn  
Cars Plus  
Central MN Federal C.U.  
Centerpoint Energy  
Camp RnL RV Park  
Casey's General Store  
Cathedral Press  
CentraCare Clinic  
Central Bi-Products  
Central Lakes College  
Coborns  
Country Computers  
Crisis Line Referral Service  
Dairy Queen  
Danielson, Lyle  
Dan's Prize  
Daybreak Foods  
Deb's Floral & Gifts  
Dennis Bacon, CPA  
Dennis Breintenfeldt Ins.  
Dr. Stephen Larson  
Dairyland Peach

Ecowater  
Eldred Realty  
Century Link  
First Baptist Church  
Gilbert Financial Services  
Griff's Pizza  
Greater MN Lending  
Hands of Hope/Long Prairie  
Hart Trailer Sales  
Head of the Lakes Resort  
Hillig Auto Center  
Holiday Stationstore  
Holiday Resort  
Hometown Furniture  
Impact Technology  
John Wiese Ford  
KEYL/KXDL  
Kingsway Cleaning Service  
Kinship of Todd/Wadena  
Lady Dog Design  
Lake Osakis Resort Assoc.  
Legend Insurance Services  
Levin Electric  
Long Prairie Auto Parts  
Long Prairie Country Club  
Long Prairie Dental Clinic  
Long Prairie Eye Clinic  
Long Prairie Fleet Supply  
Long Prairie Leader  
LP Memorial Hospital & Home  
Long Prairie Oil Company  
Long Prairie Packing  
Long Prairie Plumbing  
Long Prairie Sanitary Service  
LPGE Education Association  
Long Prairie Vet Clinic  
Medicine Shoppe  
Mikey's Downtown Restaurant  
Mid-Central Savings Bank  
Minnesota Power

MN National Bank  
MN National Agency  
NAPA Auto Parts  
National Bushing  
Neal's Motorsports  
Pastime Antiques  
Pet Vet  
Peters & Churchwell Law  
Plus Services  
Prairie Lanes  
Prairie Motors  
Radio Shack  
RR Donnelley  
Ruby Construction  
Ruda, Gery  
Sandberg & Sons Trucking  
Sellnow Law Office  
Southside Auto Sales  
State Farm  
Stein, Robert and Mary  
Williams Dingmann Funeral Home  
Super 8  
TCC  
Thorson Farm Market  
Tim Dally Drywall  
Todd County Ag Society  
Todd County Realty  
Valley View Estates  
Vanguard Insurance  
Jim Woeste Auto  
Wolters Body Shop  
Worms Ready Mix  
Yellow Book