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CHAMBER NOTES

Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce

By serving its members, the Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce actively champions economic development and the advancement of the community's quality of life.

July/August 2016

2016 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson: Luciana King - Lappan Agency; Past Chairperson: Chad Esch - Bannan Funeral Home; Vice Chairperson: Ryan Fairchild - Omega Electric; Secretary-Treasurer: Ken Gembel; Directors: Eileen Budnick - First Federal of N. Michigan; Pat Gerow - R.S. Scott and Associates; Cindy Limback - RE/MAX New Horizons; Elaine Orr - Alpena Power Company; Adam Poll - City of Alpena; Shawn Shankie - Days Inn; Brian VanWormer - Employment Services Inc.; Dylan Wallace - The Wallace Firm, P.C.

CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For ribbon cuttings and event details, contact the Chamber at 989.354.4181 or visit www.alpenachamber.com.

July 2016

- 6 - Ambassador meeting
- 7 - Government Relations meeting
- 12 - Economic Development Board meeting
- 12 - Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance meeting
- 15 - Good Morning Alpena event, Brown Trout Kick Off, sponsored by Accident Fund Insurance, 7:00 a.m. breakfast, \$9 per person
- 20 - We are hosting the monthly HSCC (Human Services Coordinating Council) meeting at 10 a.m. at the Days Inn of Alpena

* register by contacting the Chamber:
info@alpenachamber.com or 989.354.4181

August 2016

- 3 - Ambassador meeting
- 4 - Government Relations meeting
- 5 - FLOG Fest
- 9 - Economic Development Board meeting
- 9 - Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance meeting
- 23 - Chamber of Commerce Board meeting

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info@alpenachamber.com or 989.354.4181



Nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

The Story of the 2016 Alpena Fireworks

When the Chamber firework's crew met to discuss plans for fundraising for the 2016 show, it began like any other year. The group had to set a goal, plan their fundraising events and tactics, and then get to work. As is typical for the Chamber, we like to add fun to everything we do. So we came up with a unique goal of \$22,016.74 and let people try and guess what the goal meant. People came close, but no one hit the nail on the head. 2 - the month (February) we started fundraising. 2016 - the year we were fundraising for. And 74 cents - the date the event would take place (July 4th). Fundraising was going well. Until it wasn't. About a month before the deadline, we found ourselves significantly behind where we were in previous years at the same time. We were perplexed but were not going to give up. We set forth to spread the message that we were behind. But that wasn't the whole message. We also repeatedly communicated the reality - that the show is not the Chamber's show. It is not the City of Alpena's show. There was no one waiting in the sidelines to close the gap. That's because the fireworks show is YOURS - the people of the community and their visitors, friends, and family. For about two weeks it looked to us that we, for the first time in a decade, would not meet the goal. But then something happened. Something that happens again and again in this town. The amazing people and businesses of the Alpena area stepped forward. The next few bracelet sales events went remarkably well. More donations started coming in. Businesses stepped up. Individuals stepped up. Our media stepped up to help get the message out.

Internally in our office, we sat down and added up what we had collected, what we had been told to expect from various sources, and how many bracelets we had left to sell. The total put us less than \$3,000 from our goal. We continued to push the message. You continued to give.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Chamber. We continue to grow in membership which also means we are able to accomplish more. We appreciate all of our members - both new and returning ones.

Precious Days LLC
11229 US 23 South
Ossineke, MI 49766
989.471.2780

Matt Liske Construction, Inc.
6875 Winters Road
Hubbard Lake, MI 49747
989.727.1205

Thunder Bay Industrial Contracting, LLC
123 N. Second Avenue
Suite 210
Alpena, MI 49707
989.340.2410

After our last bracelet sales event, we realized we had surpassed our goal. The incredible community had stepped forward once again to make sure we would be celebrating the Fourth of July and our Country's Independence in traditional impressive fashion. We waited to be sure before making the announcement. You had once again surpassed the goal and can look forward to a spectacular end to an outstanding day in beautiful Alpena, MI.



SAVE THE DATES!



September 15, 2016



October 15, 2016

A Board Meeting Discussion

You are aware that Chambers of Commerce are governed by a Board of Directors. We wanted to share with you more information about the Board, how we operate, and what we have on our agenda these days.

Who makes up the board?

The Chamber Board is made up of 12 representatives from our membership. Each year anywhere from two to four directors are at the end of their term on the board and we seek to replace them with new board members who will serve a three year term (sometimes extended for Executive Board positions). The current board list is on the back of this publication. The nominating committee takes names of interested parties, but also reaches out to people who they feel will add value to the board and will fill any identified gaps to keep the board full of diverse skills and backgrounds.

How often does the board meet?

We meet every other month, starting in February and ending in December with a strategic planning/board meeting half day event. Meetings are typically the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 a.m.

What does the board discuss?

The board agenda is divided into five parts: outside input (guests can present in the first ten minutes of any board meeting as long as they have received approved agenda time), consent agenda (minutes, financial statements, membership report, and reports on items that do not need discussion or action), an Ambassador update, items for consideration and discussion, and then the closing updates from the President on letters/communications and the President activities/updates.

So you can learn more about what the board is up to lately, keep reading for some items on the June, 2016 agenda.

Consent agenda topics: strategic planning update on the areas of mentoring/connections and additional directives, a report on the Experience Alpena, MI APP data, preview of the Chamber's compilation scope of services agreement, and an update on the chamber appreciation event during chamber of commerce month.

Ambassador update: Ambassador Carolyn Daoust from Alpena Community College will update on the current activities of the Ambassador (fireworks fundraising recap, ribbon cuttings, FLOG Fest, RWB Review, etc.).

Other: The board will hear a presentation from a company called My Sidewalk. The company provides a data and research tool that staff is exploring.

Items for consideration/discussion: budget changes (due to DDA relocation), Leadercast 2017, and educational attainment plan approval.

If you ever have questions for the board, don't hesitate to reach out.

Don't forget about the Experience Alpena, MI

App for your smartphone A great resource to find things to do and places to eat all summer long!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Ron Prell's business adventure began in 1968 when he took over Terry's Towing Service. It began as one truck with a mobile phone, a 24 hour phone service operated from home and his mother handling all of the bookwork. The business grew and he added vehicles and employees. Soon he needed to find a base for operations and leased a Mobil gas station on the corner of State and Barry Streets. In the early 1970's he decided to diversify by purchasing the City Cab Company. In 1974 he was approached by the Michigan Department of Transportation about operating a Dial-A-Ride system in the community and by that August service began.

Operating four busses, seven days a week, three cabs and a towing service out of the small building proved to be both exciting and challenging. The station also did outside maintenance and mechanical work. The business remained in that location until he was forced to move due to a structural fire that caused extensive damage to the building. Luckily, all of the busses, cabs and trucks were moved to a safe location.

Prell's Services then moved to US 23 South where Kipfmillers now stands. The offices for the business were located there while the mechanical and maintenance services were located first at the Everett Smith building and then on Pearl Road. In 1986 Ron purchased what was known as the Petch building on US 23 South to house the growing business. Today that building takes care of 40 busses working in four counties, a towing service, rentals, a maintenance and mechanical facility and a staff of more than 50 employees. The newest additions to the fleet of busses are the four new hybrid trolleys that were rolled out in May, 2016. In 2015 Ron's son Jeff assumed the position of General Manager, with the intention of Ron retiring after serving the community for 50 years. Their challenging adventure has not stopped and they will continue to grow.

Prell's Services/Thunder Bay Transportation Authority is located at 3020 US 23 South, Alpena and can be reached at 989.354.2487 or 354.3214. You can find them online at www.prellstowing.com or www.thunderbaytransportation.com.

Alpena Septic Service has been in business serving the communities of Northeast Michigan for over 19 years. Owner, Lynn Gillespie, has been around the septic service business almost her entire life. She has learned a lot from her father, Bernard Abbott, who was in business for 30 years. They are a local company that keeps their purchasing local.

Lynn started out on her own with one truck in 1997 and has done it all from tank pumpings to installing new septic systems. The company has grown to three pump trucks, a sewer vac truck, a portable pumper truck and two slide-in units for porta-johns. They currently have five employees along with Lynn and her husband.

Alpena Septic Service is a full service company that will answer the phone 24/7! They do everything from standard septic pumpings to new installations, from the main drain line to the drain field and everything in between. In the winter months they have a high temp, high psi cleaning machine to thaw frozen lines. They also have a high-tech sewer camera, which is great for locating drain lines, to show a close up view of exactly what the problem is. They also rent porta-johns and hand-washing stations. They have over 200 porta-johns of all sizes, for all occasions and for any period of time or time of year. They also service ships at two major shipping ports in Northeast Michigan, Calcite in Rogers City and Stoneport in Alpena. They are available to pump these ships any time of the day or night.

Alpena Septic Service is also certified to conduct Septic System Inspections and have their own slurry store, which is an onsite wastewater management system. In 2007, they started treating septage for land applying. This means they are licensed to haul and treat raw septage, and then apply the treated product to fields.

This year they have acquired new property, a ten acre site with two barns, that they needed to store their growing fleet of equipment and the expansion of their porta-john services.

More information is available on their website at alpenaseptic.com or email them at alpenaseptic@hotmail.com. The office light might be off, but you can guarantee that their phone will always be answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. No job is too big or too small, so give Alpena Septic Service a call at 989.727.4205.