

CHAMBER NEWS

September 2026
Volume 33 - No. 9



Official Newsletter of the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce



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A New Way to Make an Impact

What happens when Chamber members come together for an afternoon with one simple goal—to make a difference? This October, we're going to find out.

COMPASS Young Professionals Network is launching its first Impact Day, a new Chamber-wide day of service that brings members together to give back, build connections and strengthen our community.

On **Thursday, October 1**, Chamber member employees are invited to step away from the workday and spend the afternoon helping local residents in need with fall yard clean-up. We'll kick things off at 12:30 with a box lunch at the Chamber and provide the team assignments before heading into the community. After the work is done, we'll gather at Woodfire Pizza for a networking social to celebrate the impact made together.

While Impact Day is coordinated by our COMPASS Young Professionals, **participation is open to all Chamber members**. Businesses can put together a team, send a few

employees or encourage individuals to sign up. Don't have a team? No problem. Individual participants will be matched with others for the day.

Impact Day is about more than raking leaves. It's an opportunity to work alongside people you may not see in your regular business circles, strengthen relationships and demonstrate what can happen when our business community comes together to serve.

Bring your team. Bring your coworkers. Bring your rake and gloves.

Together, we can turn one afternoon of service into something meaningful for our neighbors - and our community.

Make an impact. Build connections. Strengthen our community.

Learn more and sign up at detroitlakeschamber.com.

Scan here
to register! >



Have You Checked Out What's New?

Our new Chamber website is live at **detroitlakeschamber.com**, with improved navigation, enhanced business listings and expanded information designed to better connect our members with residents, visitors and one another. It's another way we're working to increase visibility for Chamber members and make our website an even stronger community resource. **Coming soon, Chamber members will also have opportunities to advertise on the website, providing another way to increase visibility with website visitors.**

And don't forget the new **Member Info Hub!** Watch your inbox for an email inviting your business's primary contact to create a login. Once inside, review your business information, **upload your company logo**, register for events, manage invoices and more.

Take a look around - and make sure your business is putting our new tools to work!

DLChamber@VisitDetroitLakes.com • 218-847-9202

GET IN TOUCH

218-847-9202

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Detroit Lakes, MN 56501**

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Support Specialist*

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Cleone Stewart

Tourism Director

cleone@visitdetroitlakes.com

FOLLOW US!



#DLCHAMBER

OUR MISSION



*The mission of the Detroit Lakes
Regional Chamber of Commerce
is to promote and enhance a
vibrant business community while
contributing to the quality of life
through leadership, connection
and community.*



Our Reach in 2026

June 2026

Walk-Ins

323

Phone Calls

224

Website Viewers

83,036

2026 Totals

Walk-Ins

1,174

Phone Calls

999

Website Viewers

265,051

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair

Liz Holzer - 2029

Dynamic Homes

Treasurer

Jason Kuehn - 2029

DL School District

Past Chair

Kim Bettcher - 2029

DLCCC

Directors

Cara Frank - 2029

Bell Bank

Emily Haverkamp - 2027

MState

Jennifer Hagman - 2029

Better Every Day Consignment

Nate Hunter - 2027

HomeSmart Adventure Realty

Rachel Lawlor - 2029

Essentia Health/St. Mary's

Ashley Minard - 2028

Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites

Joe Skogmo - 2029

First Lutheran Church

Tiffany Voigt - 2028

DL Tribune/Forum Communications

Jennifer Winn - 2027

Arvig

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Understanding Homelessness in Our Community

Homelessness may not always be visible in our community. In rural areas, it can look very different than many of us imagine—families staying temporarily with others, individuals living in vehicles or people moving from place to place without stable housing.

But even when we don't see it, its impact reaches across our community—including our businesses.

Join us for Coffee & Community on October 7 from 8:00–9:00 a.m. at the Becker County Museum

for a conversation about what homelessness looks like locally, what can lead individuals and families to lose stable housing, and the challenges they face in finding a path forward.

Our panel will bring perspectives from organizations working with individuals, families and youth:

Meagan Hernandez, Family Development Director with MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership; **Ally Hefta**, LSW, Homeless School Liaison with Detroit Lakes Public Schools; and **Sara Peterson**, Director of Community Engagement and Agape Ministry Coordinator at First Lutheran Church.

Together, we'll explore available



resources, barriers to stable housing and the broader impact of homelessness on our workforce, schools, healthcare, public services and local economy. We'll also talk about how businesses and community members can be part of solutions.

For employers, understanding these challenges can provide important perspective on barriers that may affect current or potential employees and connect businesses with resources available to help.

We may not solve homelessness in an hour, but we can better understand what is happening in our community—and how each of us can help.

Scan here to register! >



While you're preparing for your whole world to change, partner with providers who are ready to help shape the best pregnancy and delivery experience for you. At Sanford Health in Detroit Lakes, you can build a relationship with our team of OB/GYN providers to support you at every step of growing your family.

Learn more at sanfordhealth.org

Sanford Detroit Lakes Clinic
1245 Washington Ave.
(218) 846-2000



Jaimie Deraney, MD



Michael Norgard, MD



Becky Peterson, APRN



Jenny Lessman, PA-C

SANFORD
WOMEN'S



1st Thursday of every month!

If Human Resources is in your job description, this is the group for you!

Thursday, September 3
8:15 – 9:30 am

LOCATION:
Chamber Conference Room
700 Summit Ave.
Detroit Lakes

Free for Members
\$10 for Non-Members

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Welcome New Members

Gottenborg Apple Orchard

David Gottenborg, Owner
Audubon Lake Road (so. of US 10)
Audubon, MN 56511
218-298-2992
Email: gott2134@loretel.net



Their 8,000 tree orchard specializes in U of MN varieties like Zestar, Sweetango, HoneyCrisp, Kudos and First Kiss. Tree-ripened, pesticide-free and hand-picked at the peak of ripeness. Open weekends beginning in late August. Pre-picked available all season and U-Pick on weekends. On select weekends, orchard visitors can participate in cider making.

Wood Fire Foods

Tanner Duncan, Owner
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Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
218-841-3113
Email: woodfirepizzadl@gmail.com
www.woodfirepizza.co



They offer dine-in, take-out, delivery service, and catering.

Strehlow Insulation

Gemenie Strehlow, Owner
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Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
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They are a veteran-owned insulation contractor proudly serving Detroit Lakes and the surrounding area. They provide residential, commercial, agricultural, and new construction insulation solutions, including spray foam, fiberglass batt, blown-in insulation, air sealing, blower door testing, crawlspace insulation and sound reduction solutions. Their team is committed to quality workmanship, reliable service, and helping customers improve comfort and energy efficiency.

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They exist to pair world class media production with intelligent marketing strategies to achieve growth for their clients.



2nd Wednesday of every month!

Join the :45 Fill Up for networking and share business and event information! Be sure to bring business cards and flyers to share!

**Wednesday,
September 9**

8:15 – 9:00 am

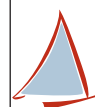
Ribbon Cutting to follow at 9:15am

LOCATION:

Sherwin Williams
990 US Hwy. 10
Detroit Lakes

Want to host a :45 Fill Up at your business?

Contact the Chamber!



CONTACT US!



218-847-9202



700 Summit Ave.
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501



DLChamber@VisitDetroitLakes.com

Ambassador Visits



Chamber Ambassadors joined Sanford Health providers and staff to celebrate the opening of Sanford MRI Services in Detroit Lakes!



Chamber Ambassadors were honored to celebrate the groundbreaking of Lincoln Flats, an exciting new housing development that will bring 36 modern apartment homes to Detroit Lakes.



Exciting things are happening in Detroit Lakes! United Savings Credit Union and the Chamber Ambassadors celebrated the groundbreaking of a new branch location at Richwood Road and Highway 34.



Another reason to stop, explore and enjoy Ortenstone Gardens & Sculpture Park! The Chamber Ambassadors recently celebrated the opening of the new Ortenstone Gardens & Sculpture Park Shoppe with a ribbon cutting and 1st Dollar of Profit.



The Chamber Ambassadors celebrated another beautiful addition to Detroit Lakes with a ribbon cutting at Ortenstone Gardens & Sculpture Park! The newest sculpture, Wandering Bear, is a bronze work by Detroit Lakes artist Ellen Moses.

West Lake Drive Project Updates

Stay up to date on the latest news, construction progress, and project timelines for the West Lake Drive improvement project.

More Information:

218-847-5658

cityofdetroitlakes.com/westlakedrive





COMPASS Young Professionals

is a dynamic network for professionals ages 18–40 who are looking to build connections, develop as leaders, engage in the community, and have fun along the way. Through events, volunteer opportunities, and professional development, members gain valuable experiences that support both personal and career growth.

For employers, encouraging participation in COMPASS helps cultivate future leaders, enhance employee engagement, expand professional networks, and strengthen our community for years to come.

Upcoming events:

- **September 14:** Cherry On Top Ice Cream Social at Hub41
- **October 1:** Chamber Impact Day
- **November 9:** Imposter Syndrome Session



Scan here to join!

Program Sponsored by:



Member News

Congratulations to Vernell Roberts, **Detroit Lakes Public Utilities**, one of four recipients of the American Power Association's Mark Crisson Leadership and Managerial Excellence Award. This award recognizes managers at a utility who steer their organizations to new levels of excellence.

Congratulations to **Spanky's Stone Hearth** for bringing home the gold for Best Restaurant in Central Minnesota in Minnesota's Best 2026.

Congratulations to **MANNA Food Co-op** for receiving the Brix Award for retail excellence.

Detroit Mountain Recreation Area has new adaptive rental options available. Thanks to a special donor, they have acquired two adult size Josi jogging style strollers that can be converted to a pull behind bike trailer.

Essentia Health St. Mary's welcomes two to their Urgent Care Dept. RayAnna Hart, advanced practice registered nurse and certified nurse practitioner; and Claire Wolhowe, certified physician assistant.

Essentia Health St. Mary's welcomes Dr. Mark Rosenblum, licensed sleep psychologist to the Detroit Lakes Clinic.

Welcome Back Teachers



The Chamber was proud to once again welcome area teachers as they kicked off a new school year! During orientation, teachers received a Welcome Back Teacher bag filled with items donated by Chamber members, along with a traditional back-to-school apple and the chance to win some great door prizes. It's a small way our business community can say thank you to the educators who make such an important impact on our students, families and communities.

A big thank you to our generous Chamber members who donated items and door prizes to help us give our teachers a warm welcome!

Amazon Hub Delivery
Arvig
Becker Pet & Garden
Boys & Girls Club of Detroit Lakes
BTD Manufacturing
Bucks Mill Brewing
Central Market
Connect Interiors
Detroit Lakes Public Utilities
Essentia Health
First Lutheran Church
Kayla Ulschmid, Keller Williams Realty
Lake Agassiz Regional Library
Laker Prep
Midco
Midwest Bank
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Member Renewals

Thanks to the following members who have renewed their Chamber Membership from July 28 – August 21, 2026.

Amazon Hub Delivery	Esser Plumbing & Heating/Green's	McDonald's
American Legion Campground	Fair Hills Resort	Meadowland Surveying, Inc.
American National Bank	Fireside of Detroit Lakes	Mid Central Door
Anytime Towing & Repair	Foltz Buildings	Minnesota Energy Resources
Automated Maintenance Services	Kimberly Fuhs, CPA	MN Title
Barefoot Lawns	Glik's	Nereson Automotive
Becker County DAC	Goodin Company	North Shore Townhome Association
Bell Bank	Haga Kommer, CPA's	Pemberton Law Firm
Bergen's Greenhouses	Holy Rosary Church & School	Price's Fine Jewelry
Best Western Premier The Lodge on Lake Detroit	Hough, Inc.	PRO Resources
Beverage Wholesalers	Humane Society of the Lakes	Rainbow Resort
Boys & Girls Club of DL	Jolly Fisherman Resort	RainMan Irrigation & Snow Removal
Breezy Point Resort	Kujawa Fiberglass Repair	Sanford Health DL Clinic Same Day Surgery Center
Brygge Taps & Tastes	L & M Fleet Supply	Schatt's Electric, Inc.
Builders FirstSource	Lakeland Mental Health Center	Shooting Star Casino, Hotel & Event Center
Calibrated Auto Glass	Lakeridge Dental	Steve's Sanitation
Carrier & Varty-Ameriprise Financial Services	Lakers Agency	SuLaine's Antique Mall & Collectibles
Caulfield Studio	Lakes Crisis & Resource Center	Sunset Bay Resort
Central Market	Lakes Homes & Program Development	sWheat Scoop
Chinese Dragon	Lakes Sport Shop	T.S. Dock & Lift
Connect Interiors	Lakeshirts, Inc.	Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge
Country Campground	Lakeside Tavern & Brewery	Tamarac Resort & Campground
David-Donohew Funeral Home	Laney's Mechanical, Inc.	The Big DL
Dermatology at the Lakes	Laurentian Lakes Chapter, No. Co. Trail Assoc.	Thrifty White Pharmacy
Detroit Country Club	Leighton Media	Tomlinson Schultz
Detroit Lakes Animal Hospital	Lighthouse Construction	Tri-State Diving
Detroit Lakes Comm. & Cultural Center	Long Lake Campsite & RV Resort	Trophy House
Detroit Lakes Corner Market	Lutheran Social Service of MN	The UPS Store
Detroit Lakes Floral & Gifts	M & H Gas Station	Valhalla Resort
Detroit Lakes Newspapers	M State	Webber Family Motors
Detroit Lakes Public Schools, ISD #22	MAHUBE-OTWA Comm. Action	West-Kjos Funeral Home
Diamond Willow Assisted Living	Partnership	White Earth Enterprises
East Silent Resort	Malstrom Electric	Wild Rice Electric Cooperative
Esser Plumbing & Heating	Marco	
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Detroit Lakes Chamber Bucks Reminder:



For good customer service, please continue to accept ALL Chamber Bucks but let the Chamber know if you receive any \$10 checks from First Security Bank; we will exchange them for **new** 1st National Bank checks.



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56502-0348**

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What's Happening - September 2026

Tues/Sat.....Lakes Area Farmer's Market, 10am-1pm, Peoples Park
Saturday.....Shady Hollow Flea Market, 7am-3pm, Hwy. 59 South; also Sept. 6 & 7

- 3..... HR Connect, 8:15-9:30am, Chamber Office**
4-6.....50th Anniversary Celebration, Holiday Inn
4-7.....Western Minnesota Steam Thresher's Reunion, Rollag
8.....MN Flyers Gymnastics Open House, 12-2pm; Ribbon Cutting at 11:45am
9..... :45 Fill-up, 8:15-9am, Sherwin Williams, 990 US Hwy. 10 West
9.....Ribbon Cutting, 9:15am, Sherwin Williams
9..... Cruise DL, 4-8pm, DL City Park & North Shore Drive
12.....Dick Beardsley Races
13.....Toast to Tamarac, 11am-4pm, Lakeside Tavern
14..... COMPASS Young Professionals Social, 5-7pm, Hub 41
17.....Troll Tour, 11am, Olander Bus Co., www.olerbus.com
18.....Plants and Prizes, 3-6pm, Laker Prep Early Childhood
19.....Oktoberfest DL, 12-5pm, Zorbaz & Peoples Park
19.....Plants and Prizes, 3-6pm, Lakeside Tavern
23.....Pinot for Paws, 5:30pm, Spanky's Stone Hearth
24..... Chamber Board of Directors, 8am, Chamber Office
26.....Sasquatch Trail Run, Detroit Mountain
27.....Becker Co. Food Pantry Walk for Hunger, 1pm, Co. Hwy. Dept., 1771 N. Tower Rd.
29-Oct. 1...Rotary Blood Screening, 7-9:30am, EMS Building
30.....SCAM Jam, 8:30am-noon, Becker County Museum

See full calendar of events and local information at DetroitLakesChamber.com

Please let us know if you have events for our calendar.

Route Around Your Office
Please route to:

_____	_____
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forget



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Black Tie Gala

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YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

IMPACT *Day*

MAKE AN IMPACT.
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Join young professionals from across our community for a day of service as we rake leaves for local residents in need - **together.**



OCTOBER 1st
STARTING AT
12:30 PM

ENDING WITH A
**NETWORKING SOCIAL AT
WOODFIRE PIZZA!**



**12:30PM
BOX LUNCH**

Kick-off the day with lunch
and team assignments.

Lunch Sponsors:
La Barista
My Kind of Bank
Gottenborg Apple Orchard

THE DAY INCLUDES:



SERVICE PROJECT

We'll head out in teams
to rake leaves for residents
in our community.

**Bring your own rakes
and gloves!*



NETWORKING SOCIAL

Let's celebrate our
impact and connect
with others at
Woodfire Pizza!

Sign Up **INDIVIDUALLY *or* AS A TEAM!**



BRING A TEAM OR SIGN UP SOLO

We'll place individuals
on a team.



SIGN UP TODAY!

Help make a difference
and be a part of
something meaningful.



*Let's rake
in change
- together!*

Learn more & sign up at
detroitlakeschamber.com

Questions? Reach out to the COMPASS YPG or contact
the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce

Noon Rotary Club Presents

OKTOBERFEST DL

Powered by Strudel

September 19th, 2026

Noon - 5pm

ALL DAY BIERGARTEN & FOOD FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

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13 - 20.....\$10

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Detroit Lakes
Noon
Rotary



OKTOBERFESTDL.COM

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SCAN FOR TICKETS



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Infant to school age

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perennials, succulents, house plants

Rooting for Kids Prize Board

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Sept. 18, 3:00-6:00 pm

Laker Prep Early Childhood
551 11th Ave. Detroit Lakes

Sept. 19, 3:00-6:00 pm

Lakeside Tavern
200 W. Lake Dr. Detroit Lakes



Contact Mary with Questions! 651-335-0396

In partnership with Morning Rotary

Laker Prep is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization





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BUSINESS /ORG NAME: _____ PRIMARY CONTACT NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

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**Thank
you!**

50th Anniversary

Celebration Weekend!

PEACE
LOVE &
GOOD
TIMES!

FRIDAY
SEPT. 4

Happy Hour
3-7 PM



**Root
Beer
Floats**



SATURDAY
SEPT. 5



**12-4 PM
CLASSIC
CAR SHOW**



4-8 PM

FRONT FENDERS
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& Good Vibes!**

Holiday Inn

DETROIT LAKES

THANK YOU FOR 50 AMAZING YEARS!

SUNDAY
SEPT. 6

**BEAN BAG
TOURNAMENT**

12-4 PM



**SIGN-UP
BEGINS:
11 AM**

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PAYOUT!**

**GOOD
TIMES
ROLL!**



Celebrating 50 Years on the Lake!

Holiday Inn Lakefront

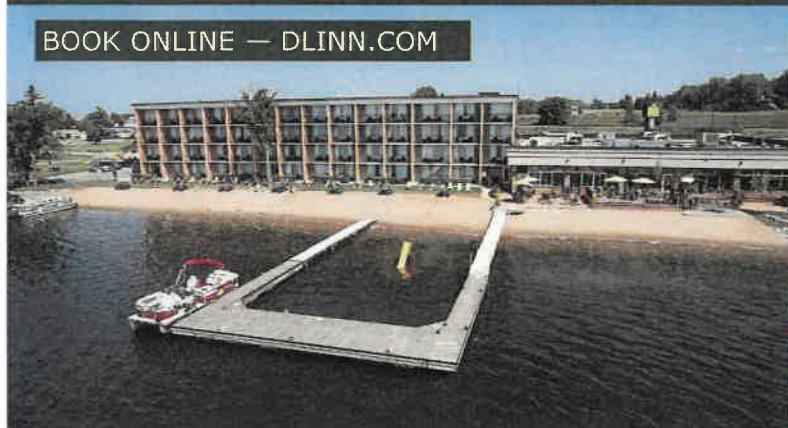
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- Sauna
- Laundry services / guest laundry
- Complimentary Fitness Center
- Marketplace / Sundries
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- Flexible Meeting / Event spaces available
- Go Go Rental onsite—Recreational & Equipment Rentals
- Free Onsite Parking including areas for boat & snowmobile trailers
- Lake access adjacent to property



IHG  ONE
REWARDS

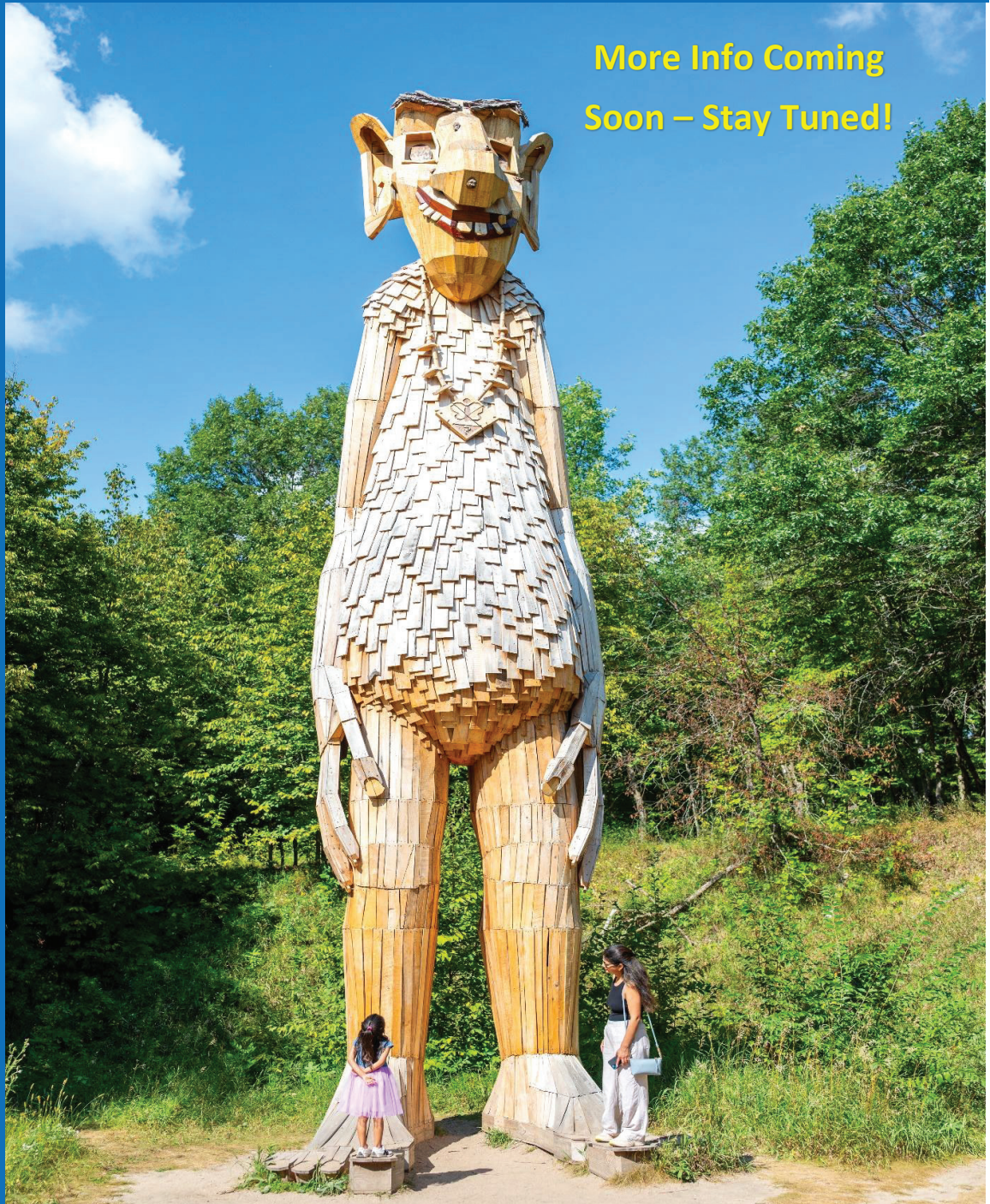
2027 DETROIT LAKES AREA OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE

You're invited to advertise in the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce's official 2027 Visitor Guide!

- Printed in December for 2027 distribution
- Your ad has exposure in 35,000 copies
- Full color quality stock with area info, photos, Lodging Grid, Dining, & Worship Listings
- Features large center pull-out maps of city and area
- Distributed to entire region. **FREE** to the public at Travel Info Centers, Chamber offices and those who inquire about Detroit Lakes
- Includes Digital Guide for one year. Nearly 2,876 issue visits and more than 37,304 page views January - July 2026
- Early Bird Rates available. **NEW This Year:** Place an Ad in the Visitor Guide and Receive a Discount to Advertise in the Chamber's Member Resource Directory!

Thank you for supporting the annual Detroit Lakes Chamber's Visitor Guide!

More Info Coming Soon – Stay Tuned!



**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, September 25th, 2026**

**Ads Due to Chamber office by Thursday, October 15th, 2026*



PO Box 348, Detroit Lakes MN 56502 P: 218.847.9202 Email: joanna@VisitDetroitLakes.com

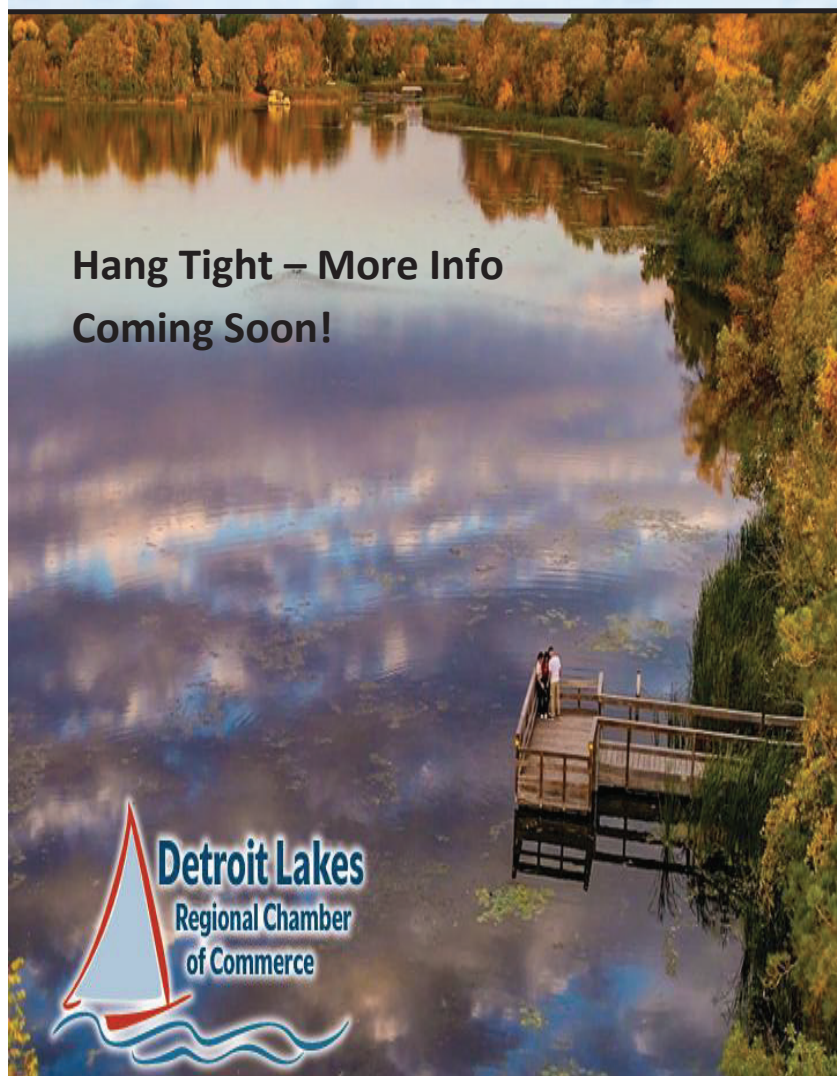
DETROIT LAKES



Same Prices as Last Year!

- Printed in November for Distribution
 - Your Ad has exposure in 6,500 copies
 - Colored quality ads featuring Detroit Lakes City Snowmobile Trails, Becker County Snowmobile Trails, & Frosty Fun events.
 - Distributed throughout the Detroit Lakes area.
FREE to the public!
 - Includes Digital Guide on the Chamber's website & Becker County's Trail Directory website
 - Early Bird Rates Available - Due: Thurs, Sept. 17th, 2026
 - Ads Due to Chamber office by Thurs, Oct. 1st, 2026
- Details Coming Soon!

You're Invited to Advertise in the 2026-2027 Becker County Winter Trails Map!



**Hang Tight – More Info
Coming Soon!**

2026 – 2027 Member Resource Directory

- Exclusive to Detroit Lakes Chamber Members
- Same Prices as Last Year!
- **New This Year:** Place an Ad in the Visitor Guide & Receive a Discount to Advertise in the Chamber's Member Resource Directory!
- 500 copies printed. Distributed to current Chamber members & new Chamber Members throughout the year
- A great way to highlight & promote your business
- Reserve your Ad space by Friday, September 25th, 2026
- Ads Due to Chamber office by Thursday, October 15th, 2026
- *Thank you for supporting the annual Detroit Lakes Chamber's Members Resource Directory*

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