

September 2023 Newsletter

From The Executive Director

“It’s not about ideas, it’s about making ideas happen.”

~Scott Belsky



~Photo provided by freepik

A person who undertakes the risk of starting a new business venture is called an entrepreneur. An entrepreneur creates a firm to realize their idea, known as entrepreneurship, which aggregates capital and labor to produce goods or services for profit. The entrepreneur is commonly seen as an innovator, a source of new ideas, goods, services, and business/or procedures.

Wright County has been a place focused on ideas becoming reality. We can continue to support existing and new businesses as we grow and expand.

IT'S GOLF TIME!!

We are 1-week away from this year's golf fundraiser! There is still time to register to join in on the fun!

2023 Design-Build Open

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023


at **Albion Ridges** in Annandale

OPEN TO EVERYONE - BRING A GUEST

GOLFING, GAMES & SPONSORSHIPS
SKIP THE LINE, PAY EVERYTHING ONLINE!

Early Bird Registration Extended to Aug. 11th, 2023

9:00am Registration

Coffee & Fruit thanks to 

10:00am Shotgun Start

3:30pm Social Hour

4:00pm Meal

Golfer & Sponsor Registration

Player 1: _____

Email: _____

Player 2: _____

Email: _____

Player 3: _____

Email: _____

Player 4: _____

Email: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

<i>Early Bird Registrations added to a drawing for \$100 per team</i>	WCEDP Partner	Non-Partner
Early Bird Individual Golf & Meal	\$125	\$150
Golf & Meal Individual (after Aug. 11, 2023)	\$150	\$175
Early Bird Foursome	\$400	\$500
Foursome (after Aug. 11, 2023)	\$500	\$600
Extra Meal	\$35	\$35
Fun Pack! MUST PREPAY 4 Strings, 4 Mulligans, 4 Grenades, 4 Prize Raffle & Party Cart Raffle Tickets	\$150	\$150

GAMES/CONTESTS

Game/ Ticket	Cost	Quantity
TEAM Dice Game (Only 1 per team)	\$20	
Mulligans (Only 1 per player)	\$10	
Strings (Only 1 per player)	\$10	
Grenade (Only 1 per player) (throw ball to improve a shot or get out of a hazard with no stroke penalty)	\$10	
50/50 & Prize Raffle Ticket <i>Cash or prepay only</i>	1 for \$5	
50/50 & Prize Raffle Tickets <i>Cash or prepay only</i>	5 for \$20	
Mass Putting - Must be at green at 9:45 <i>Cash or prepay only</i>	\$5	
Party Cart Raffle Ticket	\$5	

Register Online- WWW.WRIGHTPARTNERSHIP.ORG/EVENTS, fill out this form and mail check to:
 Wright County EDP, 3650 Braddock Ave NE, Suite 1300, Buffalo, MN 55313

For more information: Contact Missy Meidinger at 763-496-5632 or via email admin@wrightpartnership.org



There is still time to be a sponsor!

2023 Design-Build Open

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023
at **Albion Ridges** in Annandale

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- \$1,200 Premier Sponsor - THANK YOU Ayars & Ayars**
(Logo on Banner/Flier, sign at hole, foursome for golf & dinner, & brief presentation)
- \$700 Platinum Sponsor**
(Name & Logo on program, sign at hole, and foursome. Must provide a prize for silent auction)
- \$550 Gold Sponsor**
(Name & Logo on program, sign at hole, and dinner & golf for 2)
- \$300 Silver Sponsor** (Name & Logo on program, sign at hole, golf & dinner for 1)
- \$200 Partner/Non-Profit Hole Sponsor**
(Includes 1 meal, no golf)
- \$225 Non-Partner Hole Sponsor**
(Includes 1 meal, no golf)

- \$500 Food/Dinner Sponsor**
(Name & Logo on program, sign at clubhouse & golf & dinner for 1)
- \$500 Beverage Cart Sponsor- SOLD OUT**
(Name & Logo on program & on beverage cart. Dinner for 1)
- \$250 Retriever Cart Sponsor X3**
Must have someone at the event to be the retriever- Banner on cart, logo on marketing materials
- \$250 Party Cart Sponsor - SOLD OUT**
Banner & Logo on Carts, logo on marketing materials

Platinum Sponsors



Hole Sponsors



Game Sponsors



Survivor Ball Sponsor

Gold Sponsor

YOUR NAME HERE!

Silver Sponsor



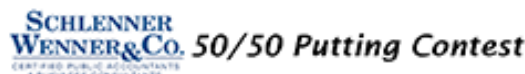
Party Cart Sponsor



Beverage Cart Sponsor



Hole in One Sponsor



We are still looking for silent auction/ raffle prizes, swag bag promo items (100), golfers & sponsors!

Email Missy today to become a sponsor or for donations!



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Celebrating Manufacturing Month in Minnesota - October 2023

MFG Day is October 6, 2023



Held annually on the first Friday in October with events that continue throughout the month, MFG Day—Manufacturing Day—helps show the reality and future of modern manufacturing careers by encouraging thousands of companies and educational institutions around the nation to open their doors to students, parents, educators, and community leaders. As manufacturers seek to fill 4 million high-skill, high-tech and high-paying jobs over the next decade, MFG Day empowers manufacturers to come together to address their collective challenges and build excitement about manufacturing careers so they can help their communities and future generations thrive.

The state of Minnesota is once again celebrating October as Manufacturing Month. With 41,369 jobs at 1,212 establishments, manufacturing is the second largest industry in Central Minnesota. Average annual wages were \$63,908 in 2022, well above the overall average across all industries (\$53,352). Total payroll for manufacturing topped \$2.64 billion, more than any other industry sector in the region. Manufacturing is vital to Central Minnesota's economy and the region has the second highest concentration of Manufacturing in the state.



[REGISTER NOW](#)

Employer Events: October 4

Workforce Wednesday - 11:00 a.m.-Noon, Noon-12:30 p.m. Unplugged Audience Q&A- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Commissioner Matt Varilek will join a panel of Minnesota manufacturers and the Workforce Strategy Consultant Team to discuss strategies for growing and expanding your business through automation, upskilling workers and fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce. Please join prepared to share your experiences and ideas! [Register now](#)

What Can You Do?

- **Manufacturers** can offer in-person or virtual tours; reach out to local schools and offer presentations about manufacturing career pathways; sponsor school's VEX Robotics programs; or set up scholarships with local colleges.
- **Schools** can reach out to local manufacturers to request personalized tours for their teachers and students; ask local businesses for swag or materials to do manufacturing projects in their classrooms; and help students understand the successful career pathways available in manufacturing.
- **Chambers and community leaders** can recognize local manufacturers by highlighting their local companies and debunking manufacturing myths in their newspapers and on social media sites; have a luncheon for local manufacturer recognizing their contributions to the community; offer proclamation certificates to their local manufacturers.

PARTNER EVENTS

Career Fairs & Hiring Events!

October 16th, 2023, at the Wright Technical Center in Buffalo!



WTC would like to invite you to our annual Career and College Fair. The purpose is to expose over 700 students from 8 area high schools to a variety of career and post-secondary opportunities. The focus of the fair is to broaden students awareness of careers, school preparations needed for employment, practical aspects of daily work, chances for advancement, rate of pay, etc. Please feel free to bring hands on demonstrations and interactive exhibits.

REGISTER NOW

Rockford High School CAREER FAIR



TO REGISTER
Use the link or QR code below to register.

<https://tinyurl.com/2023-RHS-Career-Fair>



SAVE THE DATE
Tuesday, October 24, 2023
9:30am – 11:00am

Rockford High School
7600 County Road 50
Rockford, MN 55373

Rockford High School is hosting its 2nd Annual College and Career Fair for high school students on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 from 9:30am-11:00am. The Career Path program at RHS exposes students to various career fields, including the required educational path or work experience they need, to pursue rewarding careers. We invite you to take this opportunity to introduce your school or business to our students grades 9-12 at the Fair, all students will be attending.

We are excited to welcome back the many businesses and schools who participated last year, and welcome several new colleges and career fields at next fall's event.

REGISTER NOW

PARTNER EVENTS CONT.

Celebrate with the WTC at the Grand Opening of Operating Engineers Pathway!

GRAND OPENING



OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY AT WRIGHT TECHNICAL CENTER

In partnership with International Union of Operating Engineers, Wright Technical Center and industry partners, we proudly introduce the Heavy Equipment Operations & Maintenance Program.

WHAT: Grand opening for Operating Engineers Pathway program at Wright Technical Center

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 14

WHERE: Wright Technical Center, 1405 Third Ave. NE, Buffalo, MN

This industry-driven program offers:

- High school and apprenticeship credit
- Hands-on experience with heavy equipment
- Industry networking opportunities



PARTNER EVENTS CONT.

20 23

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

Hosted by the City of Monticello IEDC
to highlight funding opportunities for local businesses!



The City of Monticello Industrial & Economic Development Committee (IEDC) invites local businesses to our 2023 Business Roundtable event! This free event is open to the Monticello business community and aims to highlight the various business assistance loans and grant programs offered through multiple resources in our community.

What is it?

The program features a panel discussion including representatives from organizations offering non-bank financial assistance: Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (MN-DEED); Wright County Economic Development Partnership; The Initiative Foundation; & The City of Monticello EDA.

When & Where?

Join us Thursday, September 14 from 3-5 p.m. at Nordic BrewPub (530 Cedar Street, Monticello, MN 55362).

There is no charge to attend the Roundtable event. Local sponsors are covering the costs of food and beverages.

If you plan on attending our 2023 Roundtable, please RSVP to Vicki by 12 p.m. on Thursday, September 14, 2023!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MBFC Grant Presented to The City of Monticello EDA



MBFC presented a grant to the City of Monticello Economic Development Authority. Joshua Laffen, Vice President of Business Development of MBFC, awarded the funds to Jim Thares, Economic Development Manager, for the EDA. MBFC supports programs that allow communities to thrive and make investments in economic development initiatives that benefit the region.

Monticello's EDA's mission is "to coordinate, evaluate, and implement sustainable development in a respectful and approachable manner. Through service, education, and engagement, we strengthen the community." This area serves approximately 95,000 people based on the market and various industries and they highlight a strong City Council which welcomes new and expanding business development.

St. Michael Council Approves Starbuck's, Chipotle for Town Center



As St. Michael council members, planning staff and city employees put their heads together more than a decade ago for a comprehensive plan surrounding commercial development in the city's new Town Center development, it surveyed residents for a hint of what people wanted to see.

The resounding result was one - at the time, relatively new - brand: Chipotle. The other? A Starbucks for those caffeine-addicted car drivers on their way to work.

The feedback, at the time, was people needed to be patient.

"Everything we always here from franchises like that is that St. Michael, and communities like us, needs more rooftops," said Community Development Director Marc Weigle. "When things stalled out in 2008 and the years after, for a while, those franchises focused on larger, second ring suburbs like Plymouth, Woodbury, and places like that."

[READ MORE](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Landscape Structures Stands Strong in Supporting Parks and Recreation Professionals: Launches 15th Annual State Speaker Scholarship Program

Program has awarded nearly 350 scholarships to support conference speakers.

Landscape Structures Inc., a Delano, Minn.-based commercial playground equipment manufacturer, has proudly announced its commitment to supporting parks and recreation professionals through its annual Parks and Recreation State Speaker Scholarship program. The 2023-2024 program will support the appearances of keynote speakers at state parks and recreation associations' annual or regional conferences.

Recipients of the 2023-2024 scholarship will receive \$3,000 to support conference speakers whose messages are focused on topics related to play, inclusion, equity, urban parks planning or other professional development. Scholarship applications are being accepted now through May 31, 2024.

Howard Lake to break new ground with the state's first ever net-zero library

BY AUSTEN NEATON
Staff Writer (Herald Journal)

After exploring its options for an updated public library in recent years, the City of Howard Lake has decided on a design for a new facility that will make history as the first-ever net-zero library in Minnesota and the upper midwest.



A net-zero energy building is a building that can generate energy onsite in a quantity that is equal to or greater than the total amount of energy that it consumes. The building generates energy using renewable resources.

The city's decision to pursue an updated library first came several years ago when it determined that the current library could no longer fully satisfy the needs of the community.

Built in 1979, the current library lacks an abundance of sunlight and, more importantly, an elevator.

[READ MORE](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.



Third-Annual Electric Vehicle (EV) Ride and Drive Open House!

The event is 5:30-7 p.m. on September 21 at Wright-Hennepin (WH)'s headquarters (6800 Electric Drive, Rockford, Minn.)

Last year we had about 200 attendees and 114 test drivers, so we are looking forward to growing that this year!

The event is free for everyone to attend, but we ask that people preregister for test drives; there is a Sign-Up Genius link to do so on the event page on our website that I linked to above. Test drivers will need to have a valid license and car insurance.

If test drive slots fill up we still encourage people to come enjoy the rest of the event! In addition to the test drives, we'll have an EV car show hosted by WH members who are current EV owners, which was a big hit last year both for attendees and for people bringing their car- we had a wait list for people wanting to bring their EV to show off! We'll also have a food truck, free ice cream while supplies last, a DJ, e-bikes, and this year we will also have electric lawn mowers.



[REGISTER NOW](#)

Xcel Energy® Plans to nearly triple the amount of solar on Upper Midwest system by 2028.

Company seeks to expand Upper Midwest's largest solar project at Sherco site

Xcel Energy is proposing to add an additional 250-megawatt solar project near the existing Sherco plant site in Becker, Minnesota, which will soon be home to the Upper Midwest's largest solar development and represents an important piece of the company's clean energy future. Today, Xcel Energy is asking the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to add a third solar array adjacent to the 460-megawatt Sherco Solar project already under construction. The three solar projects are expected to be complete by the end of 2025 and will replace the capacity of the Sherco plant's first coal unit that is scheduled to retire later this year. As part of its expansion of solar energy it delivers to customers, Xcel Energy is also proposing to purchase power from the 100-megawatt Apple River solar project being developed in northwest Wisconsin.



[READ MORE](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.



Learn How Minnesota's Foreign Trade Zones Can Help Your Bottom Line
Are tariffs and duties for your global business a significant drain on your bottom line?

A Foreign Trade Zone designation may be the answer to serious savings. Your county and state government economic development teams are ready to help you explore the benefits and cost-savings offered by Foreign Trade Zones (FTZs).

Importer, exporter, merchandise processing, warehouse, manufacturer. However you work in the global economy, you may be paying significant tariff, duties, or processing fees. Foreign Trade Zones are designed to help global companies that have over \$2 million in revenue potentially realize hundreds of thousands or more in savings.

Register today for a virtual information session at no cost -
"Foreign Trade Zones: Possibly the best tax incentive you've never heard of"

This session, featuring Marshall Miller, President of Miller & Company, renowned expert in strategies and techniques for importing and exporting, special customs procedures, including analysis of benefits and establishment of U.S. Foreign Trade Zones, will help you learn the benefits of FTZs such as how to defer and reduce duty payments, how to store imported goods and export without incurring duties and much more.

September 27th
12:00 - 1:30 pm

REGISTER NOW 

Some of the leading companies in Minnesota are designated Foreign Trade Zones, including AGCO Corporation, Archer Daniels Midland, Mat Industries, Murphy Warehouse, Polaris Industries, Red Wing Shoe Company, Sick Industries, Tk Trading, and more. Join them!

Your business is global. Use this critical federal program to help save money.

Learn more
Visit [Minnesota's FTZ website](#)