

April 2024 Newsletter

From The Executive Director

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

~John F. Kennedy



Gratitude

Begin this spring season with increasing our daily gratitude growth.

Take time to pause and look around yourself.

Take a closer look at very small things or what you may take for granted. Think outside the box and express your gratitude with a smile and a thank you. It is a positive response of thankfulness and grace. When we express gratitude and receive the same, our brain releases chemicals to two of our crucial neurotransmitters responsible for emotions.

They enhance our mood immediately, making us happy from the inside. By consciously practicing gratitude every day, we can help these neural pathways to strengthen themselves and ultimately create a permanent grateful and positive nature within ourselves.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Experience the Featured Founder and Technology Showcase!

You will walk away with insights into:

- Marketing & Sales approaches to build a scalable revenue machine
- The latest technology applications around MN space partnerships, MN hempcrete opportunities, MN Hydrogen Initiatives, Generative AI in the/classroom, as well as in healthcare, SMB and corporate settings, award winning VR career exploration applications, XR in healthcare, cybersecurity for all businesses, robotics, and the nexus of AI, data, and quantum that is creating multisector opportunities
- Pathways to finance a growing company, including non-dilutive funds
- Growth journeys of companies from across the state

You will meet and learn from over 40 accomplished Founders and Presenters!

Let's Golf

22nd Annual WCEDP Golf Open Fundraiser



Wright County
Economic Development Partnership
Partnering for Opportunities



SAVE THE DATE

September 10, 2024
9am Sign In-10am Start
Wild Marsh Golf Club
1720 Montrose Boulevard
Buffalo, MN 55313

Registration and Sponsorship information will be coming out soon!

Advertise your business by donating golf bag promo items or a silent auction prize!

Questions Contact Missy - missym@wrightpartnership.org

Click Learn More for Sponsorship Information



LEARN MORE

UPCOMING EVENTS

BUSINESS SERVICES

WCEDP has partnered with SBDC to bring you the assistance you need to succeed!

- BUSINESS PLANNING
- PROBLEM SOLVING
- FINANCIAL GUIDANCE
- SO MUCH MORE....

**1ST & 3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH
9AM - 3PM**

WALK IN OR SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH LARAE ROSS BY EMAILING KLROSS@STCLOUDSTATE.EDU



WCEDP Office - 3650 Braddock Ave NE, Suite 1300, Buffalo, MN 55313

Wright Tech CEO Invites You!

2023-2024 WRIGHT TECH CEO BUSINESS EXPO

MAY 22, 2024

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Wright County
Government Center
3650 Braddock Ave NE
Buffalo, MN 55313

**Come see the
new businesses
the 2023-2024
Entrepreneurs
have started
this year.**

WRIGHT TECH **CEO**[®]

CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL
OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING EVENTS



We invite you to visit our state-of-the-art facility and learn more about the exciting Career & Technical programs and answer any questions!

WHEN: Monday, April 15, 2024
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

WHO: All students, parents, business partners and community members.

**1405 3rd Ave NE
Buffalo, MN 55313**



Come for a hotdog, chips, beverage and a chance to win fabulous door prizes.

Questions about the Open House event, please call 763-682-4112.

The WRIGHT path for High School

UPCOMING EVENTS

Operation Exploration **HANDS-ON CAMPS**

**Construction ■ Manufacturing
Welding ■ Energy
Transportation/Automotive**

If you are age 14–24 and interested in learning about some of the trades, **this is for you!**

You will interact directly with professionals working in the field. Find out what skills and training are needed to begin.

Learn and earn with participation bonuses—attendance matters!

June 10–14 and June 17–18

Wright Technical Center

1405 3rd Ave. NE., Buffalo, MN

For more information on eligibility and the enrollment process, please contact:

Your Local Career Navigator

camps@cmjts.org

320.587.4740



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ANNOUNCEMENTS



PHOTO BY ROBERT HOPWOOD

Ben Nielsen, Ridgeview Medical Center chief operating officer, addresses the Delano Area Chamber of Commerce's monthly luncheon Thursday, Feb. 15, at Delano City Hall.



RIDGEVIEW

Ridgeview Medical Center sees an optimistic future

BY ROBERT HOPWOOD
Editor

The state of healthcare remains challenging, but Ridgeview Medical Center is excited about where it's at and some of the growth and strategic opportunities they have moving forward.

That was the message from Ridgeview COO Ben Nielsen, who addressed members of the Delano Area Chamber of Commerce during their monthly luncheon in February at Delano City Hall.

He filled in for CEO Mike Phelps, who was scheduled to address the business group but couldn't.

Nielsen said Ridgeview remains optimistic about its future prospects despite the challenges that continue to challenge the

health care industry. He also highlighted the medical center's strategic vision.

He said Ridgeview remains committed to addressing the evolving health care needs of the community as it navigates the difficult landscape of delivering care to patients.

Ridgeview is focused on staying ahead of the curve by embracing innovation and expansion, Nielsen said. He underscored the importance of leveraging technology to enhance patient care and improve operational efficiency.

He also highlighted Ridgeview's ongoing efforts to expand its services and outreach, ensuring broader access to quality healthcare for resi-

dents across the region.

Ridgeview Medical Center remains steadfast in its commitment to providing exceptional care while adapting to changing circumstances, Nielsen said.

He not only discussed Ridgeview's current situation, but he also provided chamber members with a look at the future of health care.

Ridgeview's dedication to serving the community remains unwavering as it continues to grow, Nielsen said.

He said that with Ridgeview's focus on innovation, expansion, and high-quality care, the health care organization is poised to navigate today's challenges and continue shaping the future of healthcare in the region.

Wright County, #1 Fastest Growth Continues



The United States Census Bureau released updated population estimates and Wright County continues to grow faster than any other county in the state – No. 1 by a significant margin in percentage (6.5 percent) and No. 2 in total increase at 9,267 people – behind only Washington County (11,379), which is almost twice the size of Wright County (278,936).

Wright County is the only county in Minnesota that has grown by more than 5 percent in the last three years and one of only five counties have grown by more than 4 percent – Wright County 6.5 percent (a 9,267 increase in population); Sherburne County 4.9 percent (5,017); Isanti County 4.7 percent (2,047); Pine County 4.3 percent (1,308); and Washington County 4.1 percent (11,379).

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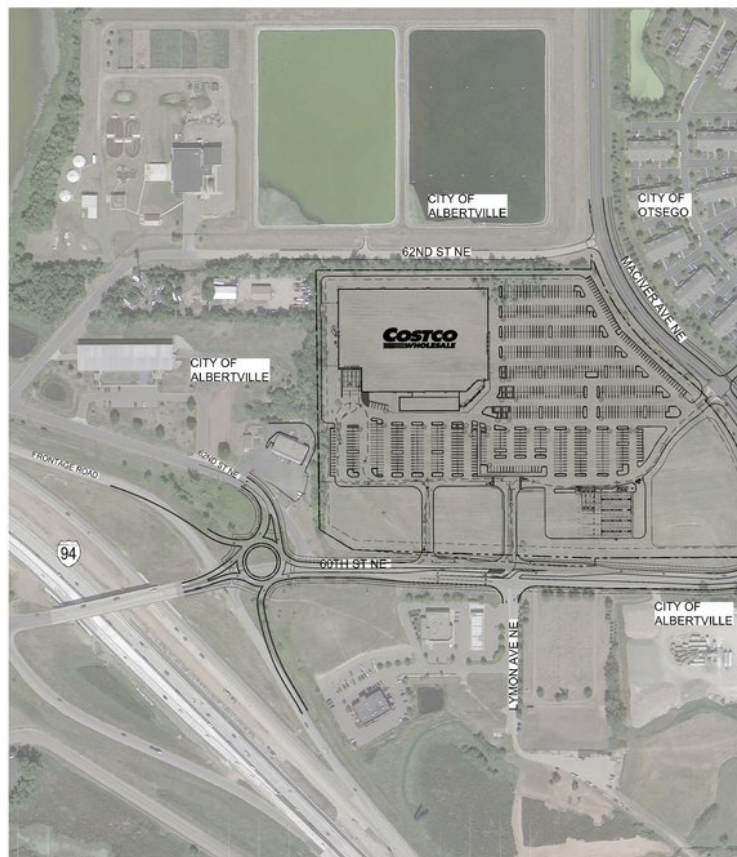


Otsego City Council Hears, Moves Forward with Costco Store Preliminary Plans

A proposed Costco Warehouse Store in Otsego has received preliminary approval from the City of Otsego, clearing initial hurdles on its way to becoming a reality in 2025-2026.

The Otsego Planning Commission held its first hearings on the preliminary plat of the store, to be located near the intersection of County Road 137 (60th Street Northeast) and Maclver Avenue Northeast on the border of Otsego and Albertville, the first week of February.

The Planning Commission voted 6-0 to move forward with the project, citing its congruence with the Otsego City Strategic Plan. The 140,000 sqft store, which would employ dozens of management and staff across its retail and auto services, also received recommendation from City of Otsego staff members, with conditions that infrastructure and other improvements needed in the area just south of the Albertville compost site would be handled by county, city and private developers in the weeks and months leading up to the store's construction.



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Gorton's 12/12 Meats Brings Legacy To Montrose

BY ROBERT HOPWOOD - Editor

It's easy to remember the location of the area's newest meat market.

Doug Gorton decided to name his new meat market Gorton 12/12 Meats in a nod to the intersection where it's located. He also created the store's logo.

"It's where 12 and 12 meet," Doug's wife, Tiffany-Ann, said. "That's what we say. That's our slogan." Gorton's 12/12 Meats opened Dec. 5 in an empty building at the corner of U.S. Highway 12 and Wright County Road 12 in Montrose.



PHOTO BY ROBERT HOPWOOD

Douglas Gorton restocks packaged meat at Gorton's 12/12 Meats.



PHOTO BY ROBERT HOPWOOD

Tiffany-Ann, left, and Douglas Gorton, second from left, pose with their children, Avery and Emma, at Gorton's 12/12 Meats.

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STEAMOLOGY
DETAILING

Delano Chamber Welcomes Steamology

BY ROBERT HOPWOOD Editor

The Delano Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribboncutting ceremony last week to welcome Steamology Detailing to the business community.

The chamber also presented co-owner Adrian Hanisch with a First Dollar Award. "May the confidence you have shown in this community and its economy be rewarded with a lifetime of success," the framed certificate read.

"It was really a welcoming experience," Hanisch said about the ribbon cutting. "I knew it was going to be great, having the ribbon cutting, but it was definitely more than I expected."

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Lantien Family Spa Open

By Brenda Erdahl

Maple Lake's eclectic downtown will soon enjoy the business of another unique entrepreneur. Lisa Yang and her husband Robert Jerome aim to open Lantien Family Spa in time for the St. Patrick's Day Festival. The couple has rented 57 Birch Avenue South which until last fall housed Sunfish Dental and before that was inhabited for many years by Dr. Dennis Quinlan DDS.

Yang, who has more than 12 years of experience as a masseuse, will offer pedicure services and back and foot massages to start with the potential for other services such as hot rocks and aromatherapy.

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Albertville's Financial Security Bank Merges with Bravera...

It's been a mainstay at the corner of County Highway 19 – aka Labeaux Avenue – and 57th Street Northeast since Albertville's development burgeoned in the 2000's.

Financial Security Bank concluded its run in Albertville this month, merging with Bravera Bank, another financial power with midwestern roots. Bravera is keeping much of the staff – if not all – in the transition, including local President Ted Sirianni, who addressed the transition with a lengthy, public social media post on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024.

"I am very excited about our transformation into a branch of Bravera Bank," Sirianni posted. "Over the past two years, I have gotten to know many of the people in the Bravera network – nice (good mid-Western) people – smart, competent, and helpful. Bravera President and CEO Dave Ehlis – as busy as he is – has come to our branch to meet with our team members and customers over a dozen times in the past 24 months. It starts at the top, and he exemplifies the importance of the relationships within our bank and with our customers."

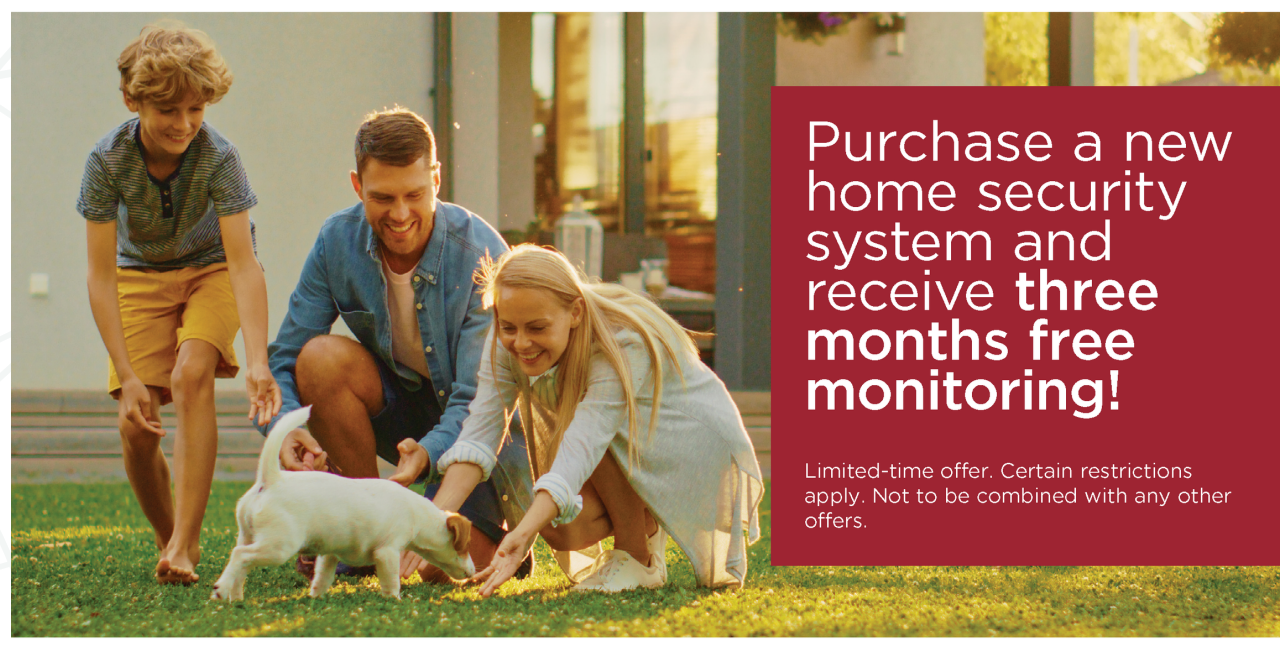
and joins WCEDP as a new Partner!

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