



Message from the President

Mary Claire Olson Potter
Chamber President



Get More Value From Your Chamber Membership – Attend Chamber MAX on September 10

We have all heard it. Whether it is a commitment to fitness, taking a new class, a new hobby, or a volunteer opportunity, you get out of it what you put into it.

Your membership in the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce is no different. The Chamber offers a myriad of opportunities to get involved, connect with other members, and increase the visibility of your business.

Join us at the annual Chamber MAX event on Thursday, September 10 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 pm at YMCA Camp St. Croix – Royal Credit Union Discovery Center. (RCU).

MAXimize your membership with quick refreshers, new opportunities, and meaningful interactions. Plus, you will be entered for a chance to win a prize for each prospective member you invite to Chamber MAX.

“I attended Hudson Chamber MAX just one month into my membership and it was the absolute best introduction to everything the Chamber offers” stated Jade Fleming with Learning Tree Academy.

To register for this event, [click here.](#)

September is Chamber of Commerce Month!



Wisconsin has 265 local chambers of commerce that work to support local businesses, community engagement, and tourism. The Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau will be celebrating 74 strong years of business in 2027 with over 500 members and is excited to continue to expand and help the Hudson area grow and thrive.

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**Thank you to our
September sponsor,
Carpenter Nature Center!**

We appreciate your
support of this important
communications piece



Strengthen Your HR Expertise with **UW-Stout** Polytechnic's SHRM Certification Prep+ Course For small business owners, HR professionals, and managers who wear many hats. Strong human resource practices can make a significant difference in attracting, retaining, and supporting employees. This course helps participants build expertise in key HR topics while preparing for the SHRM-CP or SHRM-SCP certification exam. This intensive online program combines expert instruction with the SHRM Certification Prep System as well as live online sessions and numerous optional review sessions. It also offers 36 SHRM professional development credits (PDCs). Register by the early bird deadline of September 8 to save 20%! Learn more and register by [clicking here](#).

Seasons Gallery invites you to our September First Friday Celebration on September 4th from 5-8pm for the opening reception of Dreamscape. This new exhibition brings together a vibrant collection of expressive abstract florals by Mel Tudisco, luminous blown glass by Emily McBride and Amy Monroe's narrative, surreal paintings. Each work invites you to see the familiar in a new way. The exhibit will be on view September 4 – September 27.

LIGHT HOUSE Yoga + Fitness invites you to Power, Prosecco + Petals on Thursday, September 10, from 6-8 p.m. at Belle Âme Vineyard. This elevated evening features an all-levels Power Yoga class, Prosecco with a nonalcoholic option, a floral bouquet bar with White Barn Flower Farm, live acoustic music, a curated swag bag, and time to mingle and connect. Come with a friend or arrive solo and leave feeling stronger, refreshed, and inspired. Space is limited; follow LIGHT HOUSE or [click here](#) for registration details.

Join the **Free Clinic of Pierce & St. Croix Counties** for Harvest in Hope, Sunday, October 11, from 1-4 p.m. at Forestville Vines in River Falls. Bring family and friends for an afternoon of fall fun featuring Pick a Pumpkin for \$10, giant Jenga, bags, croquet, rock painting, food, Wine Pull, 50/50 raffles, silent auction and more! Every ticket, bid and activity helps provide no-cost healthcare, medications and preventive education to uninsured neighbors in Pierce and St. Croix Counties. Come for the fun. Leave knowing you helped make a difference. To learn more, [click here](#).

Lights down, curtain up: **St. Croix Valley Opera** brings Cabaret Night: Steppin' Out to the Phipps Center for the Arts' Black Box Theater in Hudson, WI, Saturday, September 19 at 7:00 PM. Beloved vocalist Jennifer Eckes hosts, joined by James Rocco and Andrew Fleser, for an evening of Great American Songbook classics, Broadway favorites, and Hollywood standards. Think intimate New York cabaret energy: big voices, warm stories, and a few surprises along the way. General admission. Recommended for ages 13+. Tickets at the Phipps box office. To learn more, [click here](#).



Guidelines: Submit 100 words or less by the 15th of the month for the next month's Chamber newsletter. We reserve the right to edit or omit any submitted business briefs. Email submissions to Info@HudsonWI.org.

Be the impact: Register as a volunteer for the **Hudson Hometown Music Fest** 2026 on Saturday, September 12. To review volunteer opportunities and sign up, [click here](#).

Mayor Rich O'Connor has declared that September is Golden Rule Awareness Month in Hudson. The month will be marked by the mayor reading The Golden Rule and the Classroom Clash to elementary students, who can take free copies home. The book was published in honor of longtime community member Dick Whitcomb. There will be weekly columns in the Star Observer and Golden Rule Signs placed in yards, businesses, churches, and all city properties from September 1-30. (Upon your request, we will deliver Golden Rule signs with stakes and put them in your yard for free.) If you or someone you know would like a sign, let us know at lszyman@fcchudson.com.

Bring the Smoke to Your Next Event! **Old Southern BBQ**—the Twin Cities' beloved smokehouse—now serves Hudson and the St. Croix Valley with full-service catering that fits any occasion. Whether it's a corporate lunch, company picnic, wedding, or neighborhood block party, we've got you covered four ways: Pick Up, Delivery with Setup (yes, we actually set it up for you!), Full-Service Catering, and Food Trucks that bring the party to your front door. Slow-smoked brisket, fall-off-the-bone ribs, legendary sides — real BBQ, zero stress. Ready to fire up your next event? Let's talk! Contact Sandy Vogel, Senior Catering Sales Manager, for a custom quote today. Call **612-382-0033** or email sandy@oldsouthernbbq.com.

Willow River Cemetery extends its sincere thanks to Blooms for Happiness, the Knights of Columbus, the Octagon House Museum, the City of Hudson, and the many individuals who provided generous support through summer events and donations. As an independent nonprofit organization, every contribution helps sustain our operations and ensures we can continue caring for families during their time of need. We are grateful for this community partnership and look forward to additional collaborations and events this fall, including new opportunities with the Octagon House Museum. Thank you for helping us serve our community.

Transform Everyday Business Communication with "AI for Everyday Writing" from **UW-Stout** Polytechnic UW-Stout Polytechnic's "AI for Everyday Writing" course helps business professionals use AI tools to improve workplace communication while maintaining their own voice and judgment. In this self-paced online course, participants identify tasks where AI can provide support, learn to write effective prompts, refine AI-generated outputs, and match AI tools to common business needs. The course also introduces practical approaches such as reusable prompt templates, custom assistants, saved workspaces, and simple AI-powered workflows to save streamline routine tasks. The two-hour course is available on demand, includes a digital badge, and costs just \$59. To register, [click here](#).





Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center®

Proudly serving the Twin Cities Metro, St. Croix Valley, and Western Wisconsin communities since 1981

www.carpenternaturecenter.org | 651.437.4359



Minnesota Campus
12805 St. Croix Trail South
Hastings, MN 55033



Wisconsin Campus
279 South Cove Road
Hudson, WI 54016

FREE admission | Open year-round | Hiking trails
School groups | Public programs & events
Live animal exhibits | Summer camps
Apple orchard | Wildlife research

Trails, grounds, buildings, parking lots, and front gates open daily* from 8:00am—4:30pm.
Front gates close at 4:30pm.
*Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Easter.

The Apple Shack

Carpenter Nature Center's Orchard Store
Located at the Minnesota Campus
Open daily 9:00am—5:00pm
Labor Day through Thanksgiving
Proudly growing 19 varieties of apples

Also available:
Apple Sauce | Pies | Jellies | Honey | and more!

For an up-to-date list of varieties in stock,
please call 651-437-4359 ext. 115.

Upcoming Events

Raptor Release | Minnesota Campus
September 26 | 11am—2pm

Wisconsin Summit for
Natural Resources Volunteers
October 1—3

Apple Festival | Minnesota Campus
October 10 & 11 | 10am—5pm

Frosty 40 Winter Challenge
Registration opens December 1



FREE Preschool Story Time Series

Located at the CNC WI Campus | Al & Laurie Hein Visitor Center

Generously funded by **CARDINAL**
Glass Industries | Hudson, WI

Visit our website for program dates and registration information



Good Morning Hudson: Welcome New Teachers Luncheon



We were excited to welcome the newest teachers and administrators from the Hudson School District and Trinity Academy at our annual New Teachers' Luncheon!

The luncheon gave our new educators an opportunity to meet members of the local business community, learn more about Hudson, and hear updates from our area schools. Each teacher also received a welcome bag filled with information, samples, and goodies from local businesses.

Thank you to the Hudson High School for hosting us, and to Angel Duratti and Erica Johnson for stuffing the welcome bags. We appreciate our volunteers at the event:
Cheri O'Connor | Shannon Route | Maria Schmitt | Bobbi Stanley | Lisa Woletz

The welcome bags were a great way to introduce our newest educators to some of the businesses and organizations that make Hudson such a great community. Thank you to the following Chamber members for contributing items to the bags: Angel's Pet World | Associated Bank | Associated Eye Care | BackRoom Vintage | The Bees Knees | Big Guys BBQ Roadhouse | Blooms for Happiness | BrightStar Care | Card My Yard | Carpenter Nature Center | Chapter2 Books | ChiroWay Chiropractic of Hudson | Crisp & Green | Embodi Wellness Studio | First Presbyterian Church | First State Bank & Trust | Fletch Real Estate | Free Clinic of Pierce & St. Croix Counties | Grand Fete | Grey & Grove | Hudson Hot Air Affair | HotWORX Hudson | Hudson Flower Shop | Hudson Grocery Cooperative | Hudson Physicians | Ink N Threadz | Knoke's Chocolates & Nuts | Mainstream Boutique | Northern Star Scouting | River City Stitch | Royal Credit Union | St. Croix County Community Development Department - Parks | Thunder Homes LTD Realty ONE Group SIMPLIFIED, Tropical Wings / The Golden Rule, University of Wisconsin-River Falls | Valley Agencies | WESTconsin Credit Union | White Pine Berry Farm | Wisconsin Realty | Xcel Energy | YMCA in Hudson

Thank you to our event sponsors:

BrightStar Care | Discovery Financial Centers, Inc | Hudson Grocery Cooperative | Hudson Hospital & Clinic | Hudson Physicians | Jerry's Foods Hudson | Royal Credit Union | Thunder Homes LTD - Realty ONE Group SIMPLIFIED | University of Wisconsin-River Falls | Valley Companies | WESTconsin Credit Union | Xcel Energy



Learn Pickleball and Support a Good Cause!

Have you been wanting to try pickleball? This is your chance! You don't need to be an experienced player to join us at the first-ever Hudson Area Chamber Foundation Pickleball Tournament. Come learn, meet new people, and enjoy a great day supporting a great cause!

The day starts with an intermediate tournament from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and opens up for a beginner tournament after a social hour at 1:00 p.m. Register as an individual and we'll pair you with a partner, or sign up as a team—no equipment needed!

Best of all, proceeds from the tournament benefit the Hudson Area Chamber Foundation Scholarship Fund to support local students.

Event Details:

Date: Friday, September 18
Location: YMCA Camp St. Croix
To register, [click here](#). Registration deadline: Friday, September 11.



RIBBON CUTTINGS



The Custom Edit - Located at 521 Second St. This new retail shop downtown offers apparel, gifts, and a custom hat bar! The hat bar offers a wide range of unique design options, making it the perfect place to commemorate special moments or treat yourself to a new accessory. Welcome to the Chamber!



Thrivent - Lasting Legacy Financial Consultants - Located at 400 Second St South, Suite 230. The team at Thrivent - Lasting Legacy Financial Consultants offers all people a holistic approach to their finances to help them achieve their goals and make their dreams a reality. Congratulations on your new office space and expansion!

AMBASSADOR VISITS



Associated Bank - Located at 2001 Coulee Rd. With two locations in Hudson, Associated Bank is pleased to offer Consumer, Mortgage, Commercial, Wealth Management, and Full-Service Banking. In addition, financial education programming is available to all Chamber members. Thank you for your support of the Hudson Area Chamber!



Papa John's - Located at 2111 Coulee Rd. Locally owned and operated by John and June Christopherson, this location offers carry-out and delivery. Whether it's their signature sauce, toppings, or fresh, original dough, they invest in their ingredients to ensure you have the best pizza for any occasion. Thank you for your support of the Hudson Area Chamber!



Premier Chiropractic - Located at 2113 Coulee Rd. Dr. Chad Kobs and Dr. Curtis Zachmeier specialize in Neuro-Structural Correction to provide lasting results through an objective approach. They also recently completed an expansion to their clinic, allowing them to better serve patients. Thank you for your support of the Hudson Area Chamber!



Applebee's Grill + Bar - Located at 2201 Coulee Rd. Whether you're looking for lunch specials with coworkers or dinner with family and friends, Applebee's offers dining options you'll love. Happy Hour specials in Hudson are from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. to close each day. Thank you for your support of the Hudson Area Chamber!

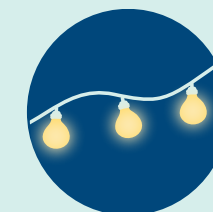


Sponsorships Available!

Each winter, thousands of visitors gather in Lakefront Park to experience the magic of *Buena Vista: A Stroll in the Park*, a spectacular display of lights along the St. Croix River. This community tradition is made possible through the generous support of local businesses, families, and individuals who help bring holiday cheer to Hudson.

Businesses are invited to become sponsors and showcase their support for this beloved seasonal attraction while gaining recognition throughout the event. Sponsorship opportunities are available at a variety of levels, including Founding Corporation, Founding Family, Evergreen Tree, Food & Beverage, and Sponsor a String of Lights.

Help us continue creating a memorable experience for our community and visitors throughout the 2026-2027 season. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, contact the Hudson Area Chamber or [click here](#).





Congrats to Our August Brand Champion

Congratulations to our August Brand Champion, North Hudson Pepper Festival!

The North Hudson Pepper Festival started in 1954 to help raise money for building North Hudson Elementary and to honor the area's Italian roots. Over the years, it has grown into a celebration for the whole community, supporting many non-profits in the St. Croix Valley. Each year, volunteers run the event and donate the proceeds to local youth, schools, community, and service organizations.

Members of the Pepper Fest Royal Court help out at Hudson Area Chamber events throughout each year. They serve in several roles, from assisting with children's activities at the Hudson Community Expo and the Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival to volunteering at the Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes during the Friday Dazzle Tour.

Congratulations to the Pepper Fest planning committee for putting on another excellent event this year!

Wondering about the qualities of a Brand Champion? They include:

- Passionate and Supportive
- Knowledgeable and Communicative
- Invested in Success
- Interested in Building Loyalty

If you know of a great Chamber Brand Champion, let us know so we can recognize them and award them \$25 in Chamber Checks.



Highlight Your Business During the Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival with an Autumnal Display!



Sign up to decorate and display a scarecrow outside your business during the Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival (September 26 & 27) by Friday, September 11, 2026. Festival attendees will be able to scan a QR code to vote for their favorite scarecrow during the festival, so get creative and make your display stand out! Check out last year's winning scarecrow, made by Rose & Lavender!

To register, [click here](#).

**SPRIT OF THE
ST. CROIX**
Art Festival



Meet the Candidates: Kevin Knoke and Shannon Zimmerman

Join us as we hear from the candidates running for Wisconsin State Assembly for District 30. Incumbent Shannon Zimmerman and challenger Kevin Knoke will present their experience, qualifications and why they want to represent District 30. Each candidate will present opening comments and respond to questions prepared by the Community Affairs Committee and take written questions from the audience as time allows. This event is presented by the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau and the River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau.

Event Details:

Date: Tuesday, October 13 5:30 to 7:00 P.M.
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 1901 Vine St. Hudson
To register, [click here](#). **Registration deadline:** Tuesday, October 6.

WE APPRECIATE OUR RENEWING MEMBERS

[Aileron IT](#)

[Big Brothers Big Sisters of](#)

[Northwestern Wisconsin](#)

[Cardinal Glass](#)

[Carmichael, LLC](#)

[Croix View Construction &](#)

[Remodeling, Inc.](#)

[Derrick Companies](#)

[Dr. Chu Acupuncture Clinic](#)

[FamilyMeans](#)

[Gavic Construction Corporation](#)

[Golden Rule Initiative](#)

[Grooves River Falls](#)

[Helmer Dance Studio](#)

[Hudson Boosters Inc.](#)

[Hudson Grocery Cooperative](#)

[Hudson Optical](#)

[Innovative Planning Group](#)

[Junior Achievement of Hudson](#)

[Knoke's Chocolates & Nuts](#)

[Learning Tree Academy](#)

[McDonald Insurance Agency](#)

[Nan's Naughty and Nice Bloody Mary](#)

[Mix](#)

[Nelson & Lindquist S.C.](#)

[Nicolet Law Office S.C.](#)

[Olsen Thielen & Co., Ltd.](#)

[Operation HELP/Fresh Harvest](#)

[Pantry](#)

[Pahl's Designer Showroom - JH Larson Co.](#)

[Paulson CPA LLC](#)

[Realty ONE Group SIMPLIFIED](#)

[River Valley Trails](#)

[Royal Credit Union](#)

[St. Croix Business Park Corporation](#)

[St. Croix Hospice](#)

[StarTech Computing, Inc.](#)

[Valley View Window Treatments, LLC](#)

[Walmart](#)

[Willow River Saloon/Carbone's Pizzeria](#)

*Members listed above renewed from July 28 through August 31.

Welcome Our New Members



Welcome to our newest Chamber members. We are proud to have you join a network of businesses committed to progress, partnership, and community impact.

[The Custom Edit](#)

[Foreguard Advisory Group](#)

[Hudson Outpost Center LLC](#)

[J. Bradley](#)

[Los Campeones](#)

[Nomad Sauna](#)

- Sponsored by Tricia Christiansen, [Christiansen Creative](#)

[RaiderStreaming](#)

Chamber Member Referral Program



We are thrilled to continue the Hudson Area Chamber Member Referral Program. When you refer a business to the Chamber, and they become a member, you'll be listed as their sponsor and receive a \$25 Chamber Check as a thank you. For any questions about this program, please email Info@HudsonWI.org



Each month, on the fourth Wednesday at Noon, we meet at a local restaurant for lunch and connections. This event is open to all Chamber members, and we rotate to different member locations. Members pay for their own lunch. Join us for a chance to win either a free lunch or a gift certificate to the restaurant for future use!

Thank you to everyone who joined us in August at Max's Social House; all enjoyed delicious food and amazing conversations.



Date: September 23 | Noon
Location: Kelly's Pub & Grill
To register, [click here](#).



September Calendar of Events

- 3 Small Business Crawl Task Force
8:30 a.m., Hudson Chamber Office
- 3 Community Affairs
9:30 a.m., Zoom
- 3 Hudson Area Chamber Foundation Board
1:00 p.m., Hudson Chamber Office
- 4 Have a Hudson Holiday Planning Call
9:00 a.m., Zoom
- 7 Labor Day - Chamber Office Closed
- 8 Hilltop Pumpkin Party Planning Call
9:00 a.m., Zoom
- 8 Past Chair Event
4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Pedro's Pizza Lounge, 212 Walnut St.
- 9 Retail / Restaurant Meeting
9:00 a.m., Brueske's Bread Garden, 302 Vine St.
- 9 Anchor Websites Ribbon Cutting
11:00 a.m., Hudson Chamber Office
- 9 Pickleball Planning Meeting
1:30 p.m., Hudson Chamber Office
- 10 Chamber MAX
4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Camp St. Croix - RCU Discovery Center, 532 County Rd. F
- 11 Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival Planning Call
10:00 a.m., Zoom
- 12 Hudson Hometown Music Fest
Lakefront Park
- 15 Leadership Hudson - Kick Off
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., White Eagle Golf Course, 216 White Eagle Trail
- 16 Urban Table Ribbon Cutting
10:00 a.m., 502 2nd St.
- 16 Tourism Committee
1:30 p.m., Zoom
- 17 Hudson Chamber Board of Directors
9:00 a.m., Hudson Chamber Office
- 17 Ambassador Committee
3:00 p.m.
- 18 Hudson Area Chamber Foundation Pickleball Tournament
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., YMCA Camp St. Croix
- 22 Lodging Properties Meeting
Noon, Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton, 2610 Pearson Dr.
- 23 Let's Do Lunch
Noon, Kelly's Pub & Grill, 517 2nd St.
- 24 Small Business Crawl Planning Meeting
8:30 a.m., Hudson Area Chamber Office
- 26 - Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival
27 Lakefront Park
- 29 Nicolet National Bank Ribbon Cutting
11:00 a.m., 404 County Rd. UU
- 1 Christmas Tour of Homes 40th Anniversary Party
5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Belle Ame Vineyard, W10829 875th Ave. River Falls



Stay up to date on all the events.
Scan the QR code to view the full
Chamber and community
calendar.

Congratulations to the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau 2025 Award Winners!



Chamber Member of the Year - **Erica Johnson**

Small Business of the Year - **Blooms for Happiness**

Large Business of the Year - **County Market**

Manufacturer of the Year - **Cardinal Glass**

Non-Profit of the Year - **Hudson Rotary Clubs**

Community Volunteer of the Year - **Susan Heiser**

Marie Blakeman Award - **Angel Duratti**

Chamber Staff

The Chamber Newsletter is published monthly
by the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce &
Tourism Bureau.

Mary Claire Olson Potter, President

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Get in Touch

**Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
Bureau**

219 2nd Street, Hudson, WI 54016

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 715-386-8411

Email: Info@HudsonWI.org

**Members can take advantage of this monthly
opportunity to reach our membership by being a
paid advertising sponsor. Call the Chamber office
at 715-386-8411 to request information on
becoming a sponsor.**