

Friday Facts

A weekly update from Chamber President Kris Johnson



We were disappointed the Vadnais Heights City Council voted 3-2 Tuesday to deny the Village at Vadnais Heights proposal, which called for redeveloping the existing Wal-Mart site and surrounding area with 11 retail and restaurant buildings totaling 311,000 square feet. The development would have included pathways, plazas and courtyards in a village-like setting. Even though the City Council denied the project, Wal-mart has the right to expand an additional 30,600 square-feet under its original agreement with the City. Thank you to Mayor Susan L. Banovetz and Council Member Joe Murphy who voted for the project.

Thank you to the more than 140 members and guests who attended your Chamber's political leadership lunch featuring U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar. The Senator briefed members on many federal issues, including the effectiveness of the Minnesota delegation's bi-partisan effort in securing emergency funding for the I-35W bridge collapse.

This week, the Saint Paul City Council held its second budget workshop to review portions of the Mayor's proposed budget, which includes proposals for a number of business fees to increase as much as 30 percent. Liquor, entertainment and restaurant licenses are among the highest increases proposed. For more details of the budget, call Chad Kulas at 651.265.2787.

Thank you for your response on the transportation funding survey last week. With more than 22 percent of you responding, we have been able to gather good information for your Board to guide policy development. Among our findings: **85 percent of you support funding of Central Corridor**

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Plan Ahead

[a.m. expresso...A Networking Event](#)
Tuesday, September 4, 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m.

[President's Golf Outing --](#)
Monday, September 10, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

[Good Morning!](#) -- Wednesday,

LRT. As we prepare for a potential special session, the Transportation Policy Task Force will meet to further analyze revenue options.

Business representatives in North Saint Paul are invited to a meeting Wednesday, August 29 at 6 p.m. at City Hall. This meeting is in advance of a September 11 meeting with MnDOT regarding **signage directing customers to North Saint Paul businesses related to the Highway 36 construction project.**

Join us Wednesday, August 29, for the Gopher Football Kick-off Luncheon at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul - Riverfront at 11:30. Hear from Coach Tim Brewster and several players about the season's outlook. To register, go to www.saintpaulchamber.com.

Get to know the candidates who have filed for Maplewood City Council and hear their business views at a **Maplewood City Council Candidate Forum Thursday, August 30 at Maplewood Library from 7:30–9 a.m.** Six of the eight candidates are confirmed to participate in the forum. The top four vote-getters from the primary election on September 11 will proceed to the November election. To register for this free event, visit www.saintpaulchamber.com or call 651.265.2795.

The next opportunity for professional development begins Friday, September 7, with a new series called TIPS for Networking. This program can provide your employees and you with information on effective networking and business lead exchange. This year's line up features Joe McIntosh of Dale Carnegie Training, Paul Esch of Breakthrough Business Success, Inc., Kathleen Watson of Client Connections and John O'Malley of Action Business Coaching. Contact Amanda Faletti at 651.265.2778 or amanda@saintpaulchamber.com.

Your Chamber's suite at the Xcel Energy Center is available to lease for the **College Ice Breaker Tournament**, October 12-13, \$1,750; **Minnesota Wild vs. Avalanche**, October 21. Each event includes 16 tickets. Contact Stephanie Moore at 651.265.2786 or stephanie@saintpaulchamber.com.

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Your Chamber's unique member-to-member online business

September 12, 7:30-9 a.m.

Young Professionals Event –
Wednesday, September 12, 5:30-8 p.m.

For more events, visit www.saintpaulchamber.com.

Welcome New Members!

Design Wise

Mr. David Janssen

Elness Swenson Graham Architects

Mr. Raymond Dehn

Free Arts Minnesota

Ms. Andrea Satter

Heimie's Haberdashery, Inc.

Mr. Anthony Andler

Landmark Jewelers

Ms. Sarah Kolar

2009 PGA Championship

Ms. Shannon Loecher



SAINT PAUL AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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