



1,500 Tourists are on their way to Hudson!

Now in its 37th year, the Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes continues to feature four privately owned homes lavishly decorated to awaken holiday memories. Tour-goers will be delighted and amazed when visiting this year's homes and the historic Octagon House, November 17-19. Take the weekend to tour, dine, and shop.

Tickets can be ordered online or by calling (715) 386-8411. Place your order by November 8 to be eligible for grand prizes and Purple Bow door prizes. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets online.

Tickets will also be available for purchase at the Chamber office throughout the tour weekend.

Thank you to the homeowners, retailers, restaurants, and lodging properties for all of their help and support of this annual event.

Two Tour Options

- **Friday, November 17, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. - Dazzle Tour**

Tour four homes in the evening hours and experience the season aglow on this self-guided tour. Your ticket for this tour may be used to tour the first floor of the Octagon House on Saturday or Sunday, during the hours of the Traditional Tour. This tour does not include transportation.

Tickets: \$39

- **Saturday, November 18, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and**

- **Sunday, November 19, Noon to 4:00 p.m. - Traditional Tour**

The Traditional Tour includes four private residences and the first floor of the Octagon House on either day. Free shuttle transportation is included, but not required. Your tour ticket can be split between both days to visit the homes.

Tickets: \$29

ON THE INSIDE



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EVENTS 6



BRAND CHAMPION 10



BUSINESS BRIEFS 10

Thank you to the sponsors:

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Star-Observer



Join us for our monthly connections meeting in November as we continue to network and build relationships with other business community members! Presenting at this meeting will be Andrea Uebel with Droplets of Wellness. Enjoy a sampling of cookies from Crumbl Cookies Hudson.

- Bring plenty of business cards for a business card exchange
- ***Please park in the locations that are not marked for bank parking**

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: Tuesday, November 7

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Location: Citizens State Bank,
375 Stageline Rd.

[Click here to register.](#) ■



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Mary Claire Olson Potter
Chamber President

Watch your email: Your involvement makes a difference!

In the upcoming weeks, a membership survey will be emailed to you. Please take the time to complete the survey and submit it back to the Chamber.

The results of this survey will be reviewed at the Board of Directors strategic planning retreat in December. Your feedback is vital as the Board develops goals and areas the Chamber will focus on in 2024.

Tell us which issues matter to you.

As you know, members are the driving force of the Hudson Area Chamber. The Chamber is the voice for business - we value your feedback. Please respond to the survey! Thank you in advance for your time and input.

Board Retreat

The 2024 Board of Directors strategic planning retreat will be held on December 14. At this annual planning session, current and new Board members, along with committee chairs, will develop the Chamber's Plan of Action for next year. As a result of this annual retreat, the Chamber can establish goals and objectives for each committee and determine the Chamber budget accordingly. To have an issue included in these discussions, contact any member of the Board of Directors, or Mary Claire at the Chamber at (715) 386-8411.

Save the Date - Thursday, January 25, 2024

Each January, the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau sets aside one special evening to recognize and honor the accomplishments of Chamber members at the Annual Member Celebration. Join us as we celebrate business award winners, thank outgoing board members, and welcome new board members.

Nominations for Large and Small Business of the Year, Chamber Member of the Year, Community Volunteer of the Year, Manufacturers Award, and the Marie Blakeman Award will be available soon. Watch for more information. ■

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Third Quarter Results Reflect Continued Growth and Momentum

When the Chamber board approved the 2023 Plan of Action, we committed to providing quarterly updates to the membership on the progress of the plan. We are pleased to report that as we conclude our second quarter, we are progressing on all five of our 2023 priorities. Thank you to the Board and all members for your continued involvement and support.

Membership Goal: Continue providing recognized value that results in an increase in new members and retention of existing members.

Q3 Results:

- Welcomed 16 new members, reaching our new member goal for the year of 55 new members.
- Held the third annual Chamber MAX event on September 14 with 52 attendees and welcoming five new members. Recognized 10+ and 25+ legacy members.
- The Ambassador Committee welcomed 13 new members with ribbon cuttings.
- Community Affairs met with St. Croix County Supervisor Paul Berning and developed questions for annual membership survey.
- The Connections & Coffee Committee has met in person, with 85 members attending in the third quarter.
- The Non-Profit Roundtable held its quarterly meeting in August to discuss how to appeal to the younger generation of donors.
- Continued recognizing members through the Brand Champion and Legacy Member programs.

Programs and Services Goal: Develop and coordinate events that address the needs and interests of members while meeting Chamber financial objectives.

Q3 Results:

- Partnered with RiverFest on the July 19 St. Croix River Cruise.
- Hosted the annual Welcome New Teachers event for the August *Good Morning Hudson* event.
- Held our September *Simply Connect* at Pedro's del Este.
- Partnered with The Phipps Center for the Arts on the 15th annual *Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival* featuring 80 artists, live entertainment, and food that drew 7,000 attendees.

Tourism Goal: Increase the economic benefits of tourism to the community by marketing Hudson as a community to explore, visit, and support to both local and tourism audiences.

Q3 Results:

- Sent out 50 visitor information packets.

- Worked with local organizations to promote Booster Days, RiverFest, North Hudson Pepper Festival, and Yellowstone Trail Heritage Day/Britfest/Twin Cities Model A Ford Event.
- Continued to update and enhance the website.
- Promoted regional campaigns that elevate Hudson as a visitor destination.

Workforce Development Goal: Develop partnerships with organizations/agencies/educational systems to help employers attract and retain the skilled workers they need to compete.

Q3 Results:

- Manufacturers Roundtable met in person for a tour at Lucky Guys Distillery in August.
- Continued to promote job openings for members on the Chamber's website.
- Continued to promote the Work in Hudson rack card.
- Developed plans to celebrate Manufacturing Month in October.

CHAMBER FOUNDATION: Workforce Development Goal: Support the community financially with a focus on advancing education and workforce development initiatives within Hudson and the surrounding area.

Q3 Results:

- Chamber Foundation continued partnership with local schools to help develop future workforce and plans for annual fundraising event.
- Developed plans for annual fundraising event in October.

Thank you to all members for your continued involvement in the Chamber programs and events. With your participation, we will continue to provide value to the membership and meet our objectives. ■



Hudson Area Chamber **Member Benefit**

Chamber Checks Keeps Dollars Local

As a member of the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce, you receive many exclusive benefits. One that is popular amongst the community is Chamber Checks! Chamber Checks promote shopping, dining, and supporting local, as they can only be used at Chamber businesses. Chamber Checks can be accepted just like a regular check, with the bonus of knowing your customer is invested in the local community. As we move into the holiday season, there is an increase in Chamber Check circulation; if you need a refresher on how to process Chamber Checks, please reach out to Anna@HudsonWI.org or 715-386-8411. ■



HILLTOP PUMPKIN PARTY

On October 21, we turned another leaf as we held the 12th Annual Hilltop Pumpkin Party and 70th Annual Rotary Halloween Parade. Hundreds of children and families headed outdoors to Camp St. Croix DayCroix, where attendees had the opportunity to partake in a variety of activities while visiting members from businesses and organizations around the Hudson area. The event included horse-drawn wagon rides, pumpkin decorating, a petting zoo, a kid's costume contest, food trucks, and numerous games.

A special thank you to the Hilltop Pumpkin Party Planning Committee for all their hard work to put on this event:

- **Tiffany Dux**, Blooms for Happiness
- **Tava Ellingson**, Citizens State Bank
- **Chris Kost**, YMCA in Hudson
- **Linda La Kosky Eng**, Minuteman Press – Hudson
- **Zach McNamee**, McNamee Real Estate Team

Thank you to the following volunteers for all their help at the event:

- Bee Healthy Chiropractic
- Hudson Ambassadors
- North Hudson Pepper Fest Royalty
- Youth Action Hudson at the YMCA

A special thank you to Camp St. Croix DayCroix for being our venue sponsor.

Thank you to the following sponsors for their continuous support:

Gold

- Associated Eye Care
- County Market
- All Things Sheared at Eagle Eye Farm
- Edina Realty, Inc.
- Minuteman Press - Hudson
- Valley Surgery Center
- WESTconsin Credit Union

Silver

- Angel's Pet World
- McNamee Real Estate Team
- Royal Credit Union

- Valley Companies

Bronze

- Bee Healthy Chiropractic
- Blooms for Happiness
- Carousel Pole Fitness
- Dot & Daisy
- First State Bank and Trust
- Hudson Lions Club
- LearningRx Hudson
- Smiles in Motion, Pediatric Dentistry
- St. Croix Kids Pediatric Dentistry
- Sylvan Learning Center of Hudson

Food Sponsors: Smokey Treats & River Road Coffee

Thank you, Hudson EMS, Police, and Fire, for displaying your vehicles for the kids to interact with.



Scooby-Doo and Spiderman checking out the Pumpkin Patch! All kids received one free pumpkin to decorate, thanks to Minuteman Press – Hudson.



Youth Action Hudson at the YMCA helped kids decorate their pumpkins! ■



Explore Your Hudson



On October 19, Hudson residents became tourists in their own town and explored local activities, offers, and specials while supporting Hudson businesses through our **Explore Your Hudson** event. To wrap up the day, Lucky Guys Distillery held an after-party where grand prize winners were announced. Fun was had by all who were involved!

Thank you to the following businesses for participating in this event, including special offers within the passports, and donating items for the swag bags:

Angel's Pet World, BackRoom Vintage, Bee Healthy Chiropractic, Belle Âme Vineyard, Beloved Makers and Company, Bennett's Chop and Railhouse - Hudson, Black Rooster Bistro, Blooms for Happiness, Carbone's Downtown Hudson, Chapter2Books, Crumbl Cookies Hudson, Droplets of Wellness, LLC, Dunn Brothers Coffee, et cetera, Grand Fête, Knoke's Chocolates & Nuts, kudos, Octagon House- Carriage House Shoppe, Post - American Eatery, Rose & Lavender, Salon Rosé, SEASONS Gallery, The Bees Knees, The Purple Tree, and The Remedy.

Additionally, a special thank you to Angel's Pet World, Knoke's Chocolates & Nuts, and The Bees Knees for providing grand prize items!

Thank you to Lucky Guys Distillery for serving as the venue sponsor for our after-party. ■



This year we look forward to filling Hudson with lights and over-the-top decorations for our shops and award-winning restaurants. We invite you to enjoy our events this holiday season! Our Hudson Holiday events are made possible by the

generous donations from area businesses and organizations, with special recognition to the City of Hudson and the Hudson Area Home and Garden Club.

Decorating Contest: November 15

Businesses throughout Hudson will be decorated and voted on by a select group of judges. Check out all the businesses and enjoy your favorite decorations!

Find Santa in Hudson: November 6 - December 5

Starting November 6, pick up your FREE passport at participating businesses. Search for the photo of Santa hidden throughout our many welcoming bistros and shops. Drop off your completed passport at Angel's Pet World by December 5 at 4:00 p.m. for a chance to win prizes.

Plaid Friday- November 24

We encourage you to wear plaid and do your holiday shopping locally this year!

Light up Hudson- November 24, 7:00 p.m.

Santa is escorted to Lakefront Park. With a wave of his wand, he illuminates the thousands of twinkling lights in the lavish holiday display along the St. Croix River. It promises to be a magical evening for everyone.

Buena Vista: A Stroll in the Park- November 24, 2023 - February 9, 2024

Celebrate the magic of thousands of lights in Lakefront Park along the St. Croix River. We are grateful for the generous donations from area families and businesses in the community which support this fifth annual event.

Small Business Saturday- November 25

Shop, eat, and sip locally on Small Business Saturday! Keep it local because your dollars support the community, local businesses create local jobs, invest in your community, support the environment, and keep Hudson unique!

Candlelight Stroll- December 1, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Carriage rides through Lakefront Park aglow with luminary candles set the mood for this holiday event. Festively decorated shops and bistros greet you with the sights and sounds of the season. Tasty treats tempt your senses while restaurants showcase the best of holiday dining. Come see Helmer Dance Studio's talented Holly Doll dancers pose as live mannequins in downtown Hudson's storefront windows.

Santa & His Critters- December 2, Noon - 3:00 p.m.

Santa will visit with children in Lakefront Park. Children bring your lists; parents bring your cameras. Sweet treats, sled dogs, a petting zoo plus many other activities. Visit the downtown shops and restaurants for specials.

Visit with Santa - December 10, Noon - 3:00 p.m.

Bring your list to visit with Santa at Thorcraft customs Kitchens located at 512 2nd Street in the 2nd Street Crossing building. Bring your camera for photos with Santa. ■



Welcome Sign Refreshed



The Hudson Welcome Sign off Exit One has been a long-time partnership between the Hudson Chamber and the **Hudson Daybreak Rotary Club**. The sign needed a fresh coat of paint, and Rotarians stepped up to scrape and paint the entire sign. They carefully removed the photos to complete the project and then reinstalled them when finished.

In addition, **Willow River Company** installed edging and rocks to complete the project. Also, **B & B Electric, Inc.** helped to fix the lights that shine on the sign. Thank you also to **Nancy Fouks**, City Gardner, who installed two new planters at the sign and planted summer and fall flowers. We look forward to seeing what she is planning for the holidays.

Thank you to all who helped with this important community project.

2024 Board of Directors

The Chamber's Nominating Committee is currently accepting names for candidates to serve on the Chamber Board of Directors. Nominations may be mailed to the Chamber and addressed to the Nominating Committee.

Serving on a board of any organization should always be considered an honor, and the Chamber board is no exception. A board member is regarded as a leader in the business community, a visionary able to determine trends of the future.

Additional names of candidates for directors can be nominated by petition bearing the genuine signatures of at least ten (10) qualified members of the Chamber. Such petition shall be filed with the Nominating Committee within ten (10) days after notice has been given of the names of those nominated. The determination of the Nominating Committee as to the legality of the petition shall be final per the bylaws of the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau. ■

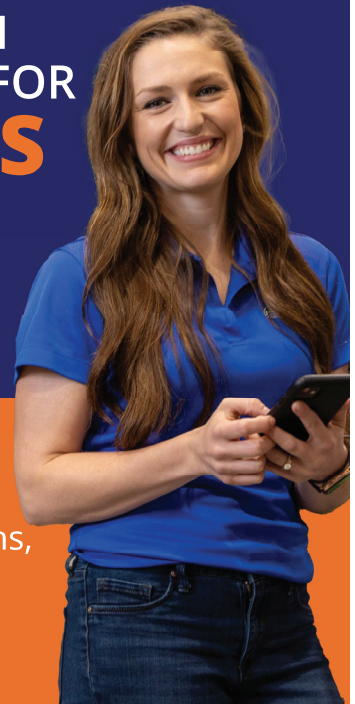
SPIRIT OF THE ST. CROIX Art Festival

Special thank you to the Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival Committee for planning the successful event on September 23 - 24, 2023:

- **Angel Duratti:** Angel's Pet World
- **Peter Goodwin:** Coldwell Banker Realty - Goodwin & Moore Team
- **Andrew Jennings:** Phillips-Medisize, a Molex Company
- **Linda La Kosky Eng:** Minuteman Press - Hudson
- **Audrey Martin:** Audrey Martin Art
- **Brian Moura:** Lucky's Wine & More
- **Lee Ann Pomplas:** The Phipps Center for the Arts
- **Ben Thietje:** The Phipps Center for the Arts ■

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On October 18, friends and family of Angel and Al Duratti gathered at **Angel's Pet World** to celebrate the business receiving the Governor's Award for National Disability Employer Awareness Month (NDEAM). This award is given annually to one small and one large business in the region. NDEAM celebrates the contributions of America's workers with disabilities, past and present, and showcases supportive and inclusive policies and practices that benefit employees and employers alike. Anna Eggebrecht, Deputy Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, presented this award to Angel and Al Duratti, the owners of Angel's Pet World. Congratulations!

To learn how you can connect with job seekers through the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, contact Tara Burns at taram.burns@dwd.wisconsin.gov. Learn how individuals with disabilities looking for the opportunity to work can help meet the needs of your business. ■

STUDIO **Studio EA** Celebrates 40 Years

From humble beginnings as a small design studio in Hudson, Wisconsin, **Studio EA** has grown into a highly regarded design firm in the region with thousands of projects to its credit.

With a portfolio that includes libraries, schools, hospitals, office buildings, churches, industrial facilities, and residential complexes, Studio EA is known for its innovative and sustainable designs that positively impact the communities they serve.

To commemorate our 40th anniversary, Studio EA will celebrate throughout the year with social media recognition, volunteer work, corporate outings, and client appreciation events.

Thank you to the people who work with us and to our clients for helping us create all the amazing places that have enriched the lives of so many people. ■



Barkers Bar & Grill Celebrates 35 Years

Downtown Hudson, WI staple; **Barker's Bar & Grill** Celebrates their 35th Anniversary this October. Bob "Barker" Wasmund opened the doors in October 1988 with a love of hospitality, craft beers, and a fresh approach to food - boasting the first "exhibition-style" kitchen in the area. Wasmund hired Pete Foster as a cook & bartender shortly after opening the restaurant, and the two became fast friends. Foster graduated with a degree in Hospitality from UW-Stout, and after working in the hotel industry, he decided the restaurant business was where his heart was at. In July of 1996, Foster and Wasmund became co-owners of Barker's and, together, opened The San Pedro Café. Foster now owns Barker's Bar & Grill, The San Pedro Café, and Pedro's del Este- all located in historic downtown Hudson, WI. Foster attributes the longevity and success of Barker's to the incredible staff that he considers family and the loyal, local customers that have supported Barker's over all these years. ■



Key's Café & Bakery Celebrates 50 Years

Key's Café & Bakery is celebrating 50 years of business! Founded by Barbara Hunn in 1983, they have been refining and improving her successful formula ever since. Now, with 9 family owned locations, Key's Café & Bakery proudly serves meals we all know and love. Make sure to stop by their Hudson location and check out their new full bar, seasonal drinks, holiday meals, and pies to go.

If your business has an anniversary coming up that you would like to share, please email Anna@HudsonWI.org ■



Hudson Area Chamber **Sustainability Corner**

We're entering the autumn weather: the air is colder, the nights longer, and leaves scatter the ground. As a river town, reducing the amount of leaf litter entering our storm drains is imperative. With the direct route to the St. Croix River, excess leaf litter is a one-way ticket to unwanted algae growth. This additional algae can have disastrous consequences, including decreasing the available oxygen in the water for our marine life. As you go about your daily lives, please be mindful of storm drains. If leaf piles are nearby, consider collecting them with your other fall leaves or composting them. The Scenic St. Croix River will thank you! ■



Growth Management Solutions – located at 1091 Sutherland Ave, River Falls. By possessing the necessary tools to empower you in making informed decisions about your technology, our primary objective is to optimize your time to focus on growing your business. For more information, [click here](#).



Keys Café & Bakery – located at 840 Carmichael Rd, Hudson. Our philosophy is simple: memorable service and absolutely the best food. Breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and desserts created from scratch recipes “you grew up with.” Be sure to stop by and check out our new bar, now open until 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays through Saturdays. For more information, [click here](#).



Edward Jones – Financial Advisor - John Steenis, AAMS, CRPC – located at 811 1st Street, Suite 203, Hudson. Our mission is to be each client’s financial concierge, providing complete, comprehensive wealth management. Our branch also gives back to the local community through volunteering and charity involvement – we take pride in making a difference in our clients’ lives and in our community. We would enjoy meeting one-on-one to introduce our services in more detail. For more information, [click here](#).



Hudson Hockey Association – located at 1820 Hanley Road, Hudson. Our mission is to provide and promote equal opportunities and positive experiences for all Hudson area youth in skating and related activities. Check out our newly renovated facility. For more information, [click here](#).



Sonya’s Employment Options LLC – We work to counsel, empower, inspire, and equip individuals to reach their highest potential. Ability not disability. Helping persons with disabilities gain the opportunity to succeed in the workforce. For more information, please email sonyasemploymentoptions@gmail.com.



Tareen Dermatology – located at 2651 Hillcrest Dr, Suite 304, Hudson. Tareen Dermatology employs only the newest, state-of-the-art methods and procedures in medical, surgical, and cosmetic dermatology to enhance the health and beauty of your skin. As a top St. Paul and Minneapolis dermatologist, Dr. Tareen proudly practices old-fashioned quality care with state-of-the-art flair. For more information, [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.

Wine & Wisdom with Brightstar Care of Hudson on November 8

BrightStar Care of Hudson would like to invite you to our Wine & Wisdom event series at Cracked Barrel Winery on November 8 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. with featured Guest Speaker Andrea of Droplets of Wellness. Andrea will give insights on some of the best metaphysical and holistic practices to follow this holiday season. The topic for this month's event is "How to navigate the holidays." To RSVP, please email LakeElmo@BrightStarCare.com or call (651) 234-0044.

Key's Café & Bakery Open on Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and Key's Café is ready to serve. You can go to the restaurant and enjoy a delicious turkey dinner for \$26.99 per person. Or you can order a dinner for 6 for pickup, either warm and ready to serve or cold and ready to be reheated. Call 715-377-0004 to place your order. Hudson Key's Café Thanksgiving Day hours are 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Crumbl Cookies - Hudson, Wisconsin

Connie and Rory Young, along with Dr. Karen Lea French 'Frenchy,' are the three owners of our new Crumbl Cookies store on 1020 Pearson Drive. We started our business in Hudson on March 30, 2023. Please stop in to welcome them and bring cookies to your friends and family. We have single boxes, 4, 6, and 12 packs for your cookie enjoyment. Catering is another specialty of ours - 50 is the minimum catering order. You can order minis (only way to get the mini cookies) or regular cookies for your catering order. Store # 715-280-9800

Hours - 8 AM - 10 PM. M-Th, 8 AM - 12 AM F & Sat. Closed Sunday

Gift Giving Season is Approaching

It's time to start thinking about what you want to give your customers this holiday season and personalize it with your Company Logo/Information. We are still experiencing some product supply issues, shipping delays, and short staffing at manufacturing plants. Don't be caught off guard - order early to make sure your items arrive before the holidays! We have thousands of items to choose from. Contact Pam Deutsch today for an email link so you can start shopping, or give us a few ideas and we'll look for you. Please contact Pam Deutsch today. Phone (715) 273-2113, Email pam@helmerprinting.com.

Babies, Toddlers the Focus of New St. Croix Valley Foundation Grant Program

The St. Croix Valley Foundation is launching a new annual grant program focused on the needs of children in their first

thousand days of life. The program aims to help mitigate the governmental shortfall in attention and resources during this critical period of development. In 2023, the FIRST 1000 DAYS grant program intends to support organizations/programs that prepare children to succeed when they enter school.

The grant application process closes on Nov 17. Grants will range from \$1,000 (expanding current services/programs) to \$25,000 (development and deployment of new services/programs).

Who qualifies? Non-profits and tax-exempt organizations with a long-term commitment to early childhood education and programming in the 6-county St. Croix Valley Foundation service area.

Learn more at www.scvfoundation.org/grants. ■



Congratulations to our October Brand Champion, Rachel Renner with SEASONS Gallery.

Rachel is dedicated to bettering not only the chamber, but our community as well. She has served on the Retail/Restaurant Committee for several years and currently serves as the chair. Rachel helps with the Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival by checking in the artists and

helping them set up in their booths. This year, Rachel designed chalk art throughout the downtown inviting guests to attend the festival in the park. Rachel has also been an active participant with the Christmas Tour of Homes working with homeowners to add art to their homes. In addition, you will find Rachel at the annual Golf Outing at the putting green contest.

As the Retail/Restaurant chair, Rachel has participated in the Chamber MAX event for the past three years. Also, Rachel completed the Leadership Hudson program and continues to be active with the class and helps promote participation from other businesses.

Thank you, Rachel, for all that you do. We look forward to your continued participation.

If you're 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! ■



CHECK OUT OUR UPDATED OCTOBER STATS!

WEBSITE: 8.5k visitors
LINKEDIN: 472 followers
CHAMBER FACEBOOK: REACH: 6,034, LIKES: 5,488

DISCOVER HUDSON FACEBOOK: REACH: 17,747, LIKES: 17,065
DISCOVER HUDSON INSTAGRAM: REACH: 5,255 FOLLOWERS: 5,151

Thank You, Wolfy's Butcher Shop & Deli, LLC

Since their opening in 2021, Wolfy's Butcher Shop & Deli, LLC was a staple in the downtown Hudson business community. Serving high-caliber meats and artisan sandwiches, Wolfy's old-school butcher shop and small-town charm created a welcoming place for the community to gather. Wolfy's closed their doors on August 11, 2023. Best of luck to Shana and Anthony Blanco in their future endeavors and thank you for all your support and involvement in our community. ■



The Hudson Chamber Ambassadors went to **Pier 500** for their September meeting and retention visit. For more information about Pier 500, [click here](#).



The Hudson Chamber Ambassadors visited **Gallery 77 LLC** for their October retention visit. For more information about Gallery 77 LLC, [click here](#).



The Hudson Chamber Ambassadors went to **Old Southern BBQ Smokehouse** for their October meeting. For more information on Old Southern BBQ Smokehouse, [click here](#).



Hudson Area Chamber FOUNDATION



Each month, we will feature a foundation board member, and this month, we are pleased to introduce Ben Olson.

Ben Olson joined the Hudson Chamber Foundation Board of Directors in 2023. Ben grew up in the St. Croix Valley and currently resides in Somerset with his wife Jessica and their two children.

Ben works as a Commercial Lender at First State Bank and Trust in Hudson.

In his role as a lender, he has seen and heard the common concern and struggle for many the businesses in this region to find and maintain qualified employees. The mission of the Hudson Chamber Foundation is to attract, develop, and retain a thriving workforce through partnerships between businesses, K-12 and post-secondary education institutions. In light of the current business community environment, Ben is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of an organization working to provide resources towards solutions to address the needs of our local businesses. ■



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November Calendar of Events

- 1 Ribbon Cutting – SweetLea Esthetics, 1:00 p.m., 1370 Hosford Street
- 2 Service Committee Customer Service Seminar, 8:45 a.m., Citizens State Bank, 375 Stageline Road
- 2 Community Affairs, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
- 3 Ribbon Cutting – Peppermint Theory, 1:00 p.m., 242 Main Street, Somerset
- Nov. 6 – Dec. 5 Find Santa
- Nov. 6 – Feb. 9, 2024 Have a Hudson Holiday
- 7 Connections & Coffee, 9:00 a.m., Citizens State Bank, 375 Stageline Road
- 7 Ribbon Cutting – Edward Jones – Cody Uhrhammer, 1:00 p.m., 900 6th Street North, Suite 103, North Hudson
- 8 Retail/Restaurant Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Urban Olive & Vine, 520 Second Street
- 8 Welcome to the Hudson Chamber New Member Orientation, Noon, Chamber office
- 10 Have a Hudson Holiday, 9:00 a.m., Zoom
- 13 Finance Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Zoom
- 14 Executive Committee Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Zoom
- 15 Tourism Committee Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Zoom
- 16 Board of Directors Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Chamber Office
- 16 Ambassador Committee Retention Visit & Meeting, 3:00 p.m., Buffalo Wild Wings
- 17 Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- 18 Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- 19 Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes, Noon – 4:00 p.m.
- 23 Thanksgiving – Office Closed
- 24 Office Closed
- 24 Plaid Friday
- 24 Light Up Hudson, 7:00 p.m., Lakefront Park
- Nov. 24 – Feb. 9 Buena Vista: A Stroll in the Park
- 25 Small Business Saturday
- 28 Drive for 5, 9:00 a.m., Zoom
- 29 Ribbon Cutting – Chapter2Books, 2:00 p.m., 226 Locust Street

2023 Board of Directors

- Leanne Van Allen** – University of Wisconsin–River Falls, Chair
- Angel Duratti** – Angel’s Pet World, Past Chair
- Linda La Kosky Eng** – Minuteman Press – Hudson, Chair Elect
- Joel Larsen** – MidWestOne Bank, Treasurer
- Heath Ehrnreiter** – Cardinal Health
- Mark Hein** – Integrity Cleaners, LLC
- Chris Kost** – YMCA in Hudson
- Katie Kranz** – First State Bank and Trust
- Maria Machtemes** – Citizens State Bank
- Mark McNamee** – McNamee Real Estate Team
- Deb Pittman** – Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton
- Kevin Urbik** – Heywood, Cari & Anderson, S.C.
- Blake Willman** – Weathersafe Restoration, Inc.

Staff

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

- Mary Claire Olson Potter**, President
- Anna Gunderson**, Administrative Assistant
- Tyler Warwick-Mick**, Events & Marketing Coordinator

MISSION: To provide value to and serve our members, promote a strong local economy, advocate for the interests of the business community, champion sustainability, and market the recreational and cultural opportunities in the Hudson area.

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

- Large Business of the Year – **Andersen Corporation**
- Small Business of the Year – **Jonesy’s Local Bar & Grill**
- Chamber Member of the Year – **Tim Foster, Hudson Flower Shop**
- Community Volunteer of the Year – **Chris Kost, YMCA in Hudson**
- Manufacturer of the Year Award – **Ciranda, Inc.**
- Marie Blakeman Award – **Clarence “Buck” Malick, Sustain Hudson-RiverFest**



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