



WILLMAR LAKES
AREA CHAMBER

SUPPORTING BUSINESS IN KANDIYOHI COUNTY

Embrace Change | Drive Momentum | Champion Growth

1700 Technology Drive NE Suite 124 • Willmar, MN 56201 • 320-235-0300
info@willmarareachamber.com • willmarareachamber.com



Chairman's Circle Investors





THIS
Holiday
season
WE ARE THANKFUL
FOR ALL OF THE
BUSINESSES WHO
MAKE
...OUR COMMUNITY
STRONGER!

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES





Congratulations to Public Affairs Consultant Sarah Cafilisch and Director of Community Health Sarah Senseman of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota on 20 years! Blue Cross and Blue Shield is a Minnesota-based health insurance company that offers coverage to individuals, families, employers, and Medicare members across the state. It also invests in community health initiatives through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation, supporting efforts that improve health outcomes and reduce disparities.





Congratulations to Paul Barbaro and Angie Peterson of Slumberland Furniture on 30 years! Since opening its first store in 1967, Slumberland Furniture has expanded to more than 120 locations across 12 states, primarily in the Midwest. The company offers budget-friendly, stylish furniture and mattresses for every room, while supporting local communities through efforts like the 40 Winks Foundation. This year alone, its Home for the Holidays event donated 130 beds with help from 15 agencies and schools. Slumberland also provides in-store discounts for veterans and stands behind purchases with a 30-day Low Price Guarantee.

CHAMBER
CHAT




THURSDAY MORNINGS @ 10:00AM
With Chamber President James Miller



Thursdays mornings on Open Mic, Chamber President/CEO James Miller hosts Chamber Chat. Recordings are available on KWLM's website or on Spotify. Woodland Centers, Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services, Pioneer PBS, and Glacial Ridge Curling were featured in December.

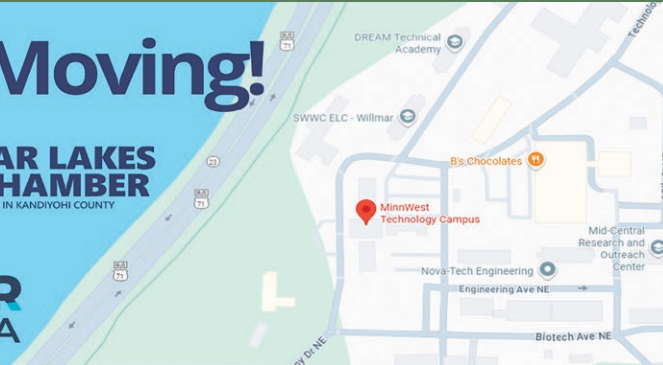
A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

We're Moving!



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Exciting changes are on the horizon — the Willmar Lakes Area Chamber and Explore Willmar Lakes Area are relocating to the MinnWest Technology Campus! Our new home will be a modern hub designed for collaboration, training, and community connection. The expanded space will feature enhanced technology and larger meeting areas, allowing us to better serve local businesses, partners, and visitors in fresh and innovative ways. To bring this vision to life, we've launched a \$100,000 capital campaign to support the build-out of the new space. If you'd like to be part of this exciting next chapter, we'd love to connect with you.

Now Accepting Nominations!

COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Submit nominations online by January 7, 2026
willmarareachamber.com/community-leadership-celebration

Legacy Award Exemplary Leadership Milo Award
5 Under 45 - Emerging Leadership Awards

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP CELEBRATION
and Annual Meeting

Save the Date!

Please join us in recognizing what makes the Willmar Lakes Area so great - the people who step up to lead, volunteer, and inspire the future of Kandiyohi County.

 Thursday, February 12, 2026

 7:30 am - 9:00 am

 Willmar Conference Center



RIBBON CUTTINGS

Edina Realty - Spicer





Congratulations to Dana Olson and Lindsay Marks of Edina Realty on the ribbon cutting of their Spicer office! The grand opening was full of holiday cheer—complete with Santa and Mrs. Claus—and lots of great community spirit. Whether you're a local or visitor searching for a lake home, a place in town, or ready to list your current property, Dana and Lindsay are ready to help! Plus, with Edina Realty backing them, you'll have a true one-stop shop with extensive resources to guide you from start to finish.

Open Door Christian Church





Congratulations to Open Door Christian Church on the new Pioneer Kids' Church addition at their beautiful George Lake campus! Open Door recently welcomed community members for an unforgettable Grand Opening Celebration and Family Outreach with Blitz Ministries. The high-energy event was filled with games, interactive fun for all ages, and a powerful message of hope for our community. We're excited to see the incredible impact this new space and ministry will have in the years ahead!

RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP ON THE
WILLMAR LAKES AREA CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS!



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