

Monday, October 11, 2021



More than ever, jobs for the disabled are vital

While we look ahead to begin the path to recovery, COVID-19 remains a great economic uncertainty for employers and employees alike. It is an even more sobering reality for those with disabilities. One in five has become unemployed since the start of the pandemic.



Historically, people with disabilities — both visible and not — have had a higher unemployment rate than the overall population. The pandemic has only amplified the disparity. From March to April 2020, the number of employed people with disabilities fell by 20%, while the number of employed people without disabilities decreased by 14%.

Read more from *Star Tribune* [here](#).

Dakota REIT acquires Eagandale Tech Center

Dakota REIT purchased the Eagandale Tech Center for \$12.1 million late last month, according to a recently published electronic certificate of real estate value.



The building, at 1303 Corporate Center Drive, has nearly 77,000 square feet of commercial space near the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. The buyer, a Fargo, North Dakota-based real estate investment trust, is further expanding its presence in the Twin Cities commercial market with the purchase.

Read more from *Finance and Commerce* [here](#).

CHAMBER NEWS

Elevate Business HC - a great resource for your business!



Elevate Business HC offers businesses in Hennepin County free advising and other resources to help them recover from the pandemic and build for future growth. A collaborative effort between Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Regional Chamber, Elevate Business is committed to providing equitable and inclusive support to meet unique

needs of businesses, while driving long-term economic growth for our region.

Click [here](#) to register and learn more.

Candidate forum recaps now available

If you missed the candidate forums for the **Bloomington City Council**, **Golden Valley City Council** or **Minnetonka Mayoral** races, you may now view them on our YouTube channels.

[Bloomington City Council candidate forum
October 7, 2021.](#)

[Minnetonka Mayoral and Golden Valley City
Council candidate forums October 8, 2021.](#)



MEMBER NEWS

Comcast RISE Investment Fund - \$10,000 grants now available for BIPOC small business owners



Comcast has announced a second round of cities to receive grants from the Comcast RISE Investment Fund, providing \$1 million additional dollars to 100 small businesses owned by people of color, including Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, and Asian American owners, among others here in the Twin Cities. Eligible businesses in the Twin Cities, can apply for a \$10,000 grant. A total of 100 grants will be awarded in Nov. 2021.

Application acceptance: **Oct. 1 - 14.**

Click [here](#) to explore their website and apply.

Timberwolves Opening Night Ticket Offer

Members of the Minneapolis Regional Chamber are invited to take advantage of up to 4 complimentary lower level tickets for the Timberwolves Home Opener vs. Houston Rockets. Please click the link below and use promo code mplschamber2122 to select your tickets. Tickets are not eligible for transfer or resale.

Wednesday, Oct. 20

Click [here](#) to get your tickets.



WomenVenture names LeeAnn Rasachak as new CEO



WomenVenture has named LeeAnn Rasachak as CEO. Rasachak, who previously served on the board of the St. Paul-based nonprofit as chair of the governance committee, will take over for the Interim CEO Susan Joos. Joos will return to her position as the organization's chief financial officer.

Read more from *Mpls/St. Paul Business Journal*

[here](#).

Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health and Wellbeing opens new St. Louis Park clinic

Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health and Wellbeing operates 3 outpatient clinics, a drop-in center for adults, community based mental health care as well as services across 65 metro area schools. As part of growing expansion into Hennepin County which began in 2018 with the addition of a clinic in Brooklyn Center the agency plans to open its fourth and newest clinic in St Louis Park at 7104 West Lake Street in late October 2021.



Click [here](#) to read more.

City of Minnetonka seeks input from local businesses



COVID-19 has had a profound impact on businesses within Minnetonka. Many companies experienced closures, supply chain issues, workforce shortages and the need to quickly adapt business models or incorporate new technologies to survive.

Click [here](#) to read more and begin the survey.

WGU Partnership Opportunities in MN

Advancing racial equity in the workplace is a system-level challenge. Join Western Governors University for a DE&I panel discussion, on October 26, to learn more about representation, advancement, and the experience of people of color. Panelists from Accenture, Ulta Beauty, Kaiser Permanente, and JPMorgan Chase will discuss strategies to accelerate progress on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. Free to attend, all registrants receive recording. This session is valid for 1 PDC for the SHRM-CP or SHRM-SCP.

Tuesday, Oct. 26, 11:00 a.m.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Building a Future-Ready Workforce:
Race in the Workplace
Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 11:00 p.m. CT



CHAMBER EVENTS

Northeast Chamber Town Talk: Ward 1 Candidate Forum



Join us for Northeast Town Talk: Ward 1 City Council Candidate Forum. This virtual event is an opportunity to meet the candidates running for the First Ward. Candidates will be asked questions on each of these four areas: General City Government/Municipal Mission, Public Safety, Infrastructure and Energy & Environment. Register today and receive the link to submit your question for consideration and gain insight into this fall's City Council election.

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

Minnesota Keystone Information Session

Does your company support local nonprofits?
Provide in-kind or pro bono services? Support staff
volunteer projects or have a "dollars for doers"
program?



If the answer to any of these questions is "yes",
your company may qualify for the Minnesota Keystone Program. The Minnesota Keystone Program
promotes, supports, and recognizes companies who give the equivalent of at least 2% of their pre-tax
earnings to charitable giving.

Attend this free virtual event to learn more about qualifying for this free recognition program and how
to enroll.

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

Tupperware Studio ribbon cutting



We invite you to join us as we celebrate the opening of the new Tupperware Studio of Infinite Shine Enterprises in Plymouth.

You may have heard of Tupperware growing up. Tupperware has created tools for the kitchen to save space, save you money, and save you time in making delicious meals that your family, friends and yourself can enjoy! Explore their website [here](#).

Thursday, Oct. 14, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

Emerging Leaders Roundtable Discussion: What's on my ballot?

Election day is around the corner. Join us as we discuss what's on the ballot with David Schultz, distinguished professor of political science and legal studies at Hamline University. In this session, participants will get a bipartisan overview of the different seats and policies up for election this November. The session will include a presentation, Q&A, and networking.



Friday, Oct. 15, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

Weed It & Sweep: A Community Clean-Up

Encouraging the local community in Northeast Minneapolis to help beautify our city by getting outside for a community clean-up effort the weekend of October 15-17. This semi-annual event (formerly known as "Weed It & Reap") has been going strong for over 25 years through the generosity of local businesses, nonprofit partners, and volunteers like you! We will have a table set up at Eastside Food Co-op on Friday, Oct. 15, 8:00 - 11:00 am



with trash bags and gloves for anyone who wants to pick up supplies.

Friday, Oct. 15-17

Click [here](#) to register.

For our full events calendar, click [here](#).

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS

MDI Ability Pioneers

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Read how Arrowhead Medical CEO, Dave, has pulled from his past experiences of having a goddaughter with disabilities and found ways to use his business to hire more people who are truly seeking an opportunity to work—and for reasons bigger than a paycheck.

Learn more about Ability Pioneers [here](#).



MEMBER BENEFITS

MN Drug Card



immediately!

This program is being provided to you and your family to help lower your prescription drug costs. Simply create and print your FREE Prescription Drug Coupon Card below and receive savings of up to 80% (discounts average roughly 30%) at more than 68,000 national and regional pharmacies. This coupon card can be used for potential savings on prescription medications not covered by your insurance. This coupon card is pre-activated and can be used

Click [here](#) to sign up for your card.

AAA Minneapolis

AAA Minneapolis offers discounted memberships to Minneapolis Regional Chamber members!

Members of the Minneapolis Regional Chamber now have exclusive access to discounted AAA memberships. New AAA members can save an average of \$33 on enrollment for a 44% savings on a AAA membership. Existing AAA members can save an average of \$12 on renewal for a 15% continued savings on their AAA membership.



As a member, you receive numerous valuable services and discounts, including:

- Superior 24-hour roadside assistance
- Battery, lockout and fuel delivery services
- Identity theft monitoring with ProtectMyID