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Subject: Chamber Insider

Monday, August 30, 2021

CHAMBER INSIDER



Minnesota schools wrestle with mask decisions just weeks before classes start



Minnesota school leaders are spending the last precious weeks of summer break agonizing over a decision they'd hoped to avoid this year: whether to require everyone in school to wear masks.

As recently as a few weeks ago, many districts were on track to begin a school year that looked mostly like those of pre-pandemic times. But the surge in COVID-19 cases fueled by the virus' delta variant halted some of those plans.

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

Minnesota public transit benefits under infrastructure bill

Public transportation systems across Minnesota could get \$856 million under the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill approved by the U.S. Senate last month.

That infusion over the next five years could prove transformative to transit service across the state, said Nuria Fernandez, administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), during a visit Tuesday to the Twin Cities.



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

Minnesota State Fair breaks 100K visitors Saturday; attendance still down overall



The Minnesota State Fair started to rebound from a stormy first couple of days on Saturday, but attendance was still much lower than in recent years.

Day 3 saw 129,984 visitors pass through the gates, the first time the Great Minnesota Get-Together surpassed 100,000 this year — the fair only dipped below 100,000 once during its last running in 2019. Saturday's mark was a 38% decline from the same day in 2019, when 209,105 people congregated at the fairgrounds.

Read more at *KTSP* [here](#).

CHAMBER NEWS

Elevate Business HC webinars

Elevate Business HC webinars are a great free

resource to get your business on track and ready for growth. Get valuable insight from expert business advisors on a range of relevant topics.

Elevate Business HC

Upcoming webinars:

- **Tuesday, Aug. 31, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.:** Banking Services-Mpls Business Mentors
- **Thursday, Sep. 2, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.:** How to Design a Pitch Deck-Mpls Business Mentors

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

MEMBER NEWS

New COVID-19 testing site in Bloomington



The Minnesota Department of Health will provide free COVID-19 testing at the site of the former DMV location, 9930 Logan Avenue, in Bloomington. The site will open on Monday, August 30 at 11 a.m. Saliva testing will be offered Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Testing is free at all of the state's community testing sites. Participants will be asked for their health insurance information so the state can bill their insurance company on their behalf. If a person is uninsured or if insurance doesn't cover some or all of the cost, the state will cover the difference so testing remains open to all at no cost.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Arc's Value Village announces new donation pickup service

Arc's Value Village is happy to announce their partnership with ReSupply! Simply schedule a pickup online, and for a small fee ReSupply will pick up your gently-used clothes, furniture and household goods and deliver them to your favorite charitable thrift store, Arc's Value Village! Pickups are within 48 hours and all items are accepted! Donation drop-offs at Arc's drive-through are still available for no charge; check website for hours and tips. Look for the floating blue "Donation Pickup" button on their website.



Click [here](#) to learn more.

2021 Nordeast big river brew & fizz fest



Come sample beverages, snack on great food, listen to live music, drink from a free tasting mug, and be part of the craft community!

Saturday, Oct. 2, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

The Opus Group names 2021 Building Community award winner

To honor their founder's legacy of giving, Opus and the Opus Foundation® launched the Gerry Rauenhorst Building Community Award in 2015. Fueled by unwavering optimism, Gerry

demonstrated an entrepreneurial spirit, creativity and a commitment to finding a better way to build a business, community and value-centered life. With an enduring belief that business has a responsibility to strengthen society, Gerry ensured giving back was a cornerstone of Opus' organization.



Click [here](#) to learn more.

CHAMBER EVENTS

Critical Issues Forum: Page Amendment: Addressing MN's education gap

Minnesota has some of the worst education gaps by race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status in the nation. As constituents of the state, we need to act now to make a real change for all of our children. The Page Amendment, named after lead advocate Alan Page, will be a catalyst for transformative changes that will improve educational and economic outcomes for all Minnesotans. Join us to listen as Nevada Littlewolf discusses this proposed policy and how it can be positive impact Minnesota's public education system and economy.



Thursday, Sep. 2, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

Issues & Insights: Digging into Hennepin County's population growth

According to data from the most recent U.S. Census, Hennepin County was one of the fastest growing counties in Minnesota with an increase of nearly 130,000 residents. Only five other Minnesota counties saw this level of growth. Join us to hear directly from representatives of Hennepin County on what attracted those new residents and the challenges and opportunities that come from a growth of this magnitude.



Friday, Sep. 10, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

Minneapolis Mayoral Forum

Please join us for a City of Minneapolis Mayoral Forum! You'll meet the many candidates running for Mayor in Minneapolis and hear their positions on the issues important to you. The League of Women Voters Minneapolis hosts this event with our co-sponsors, LeanMN, FairVote, A New 612, and MCN6. This 90 minute forum will be broadcast live on MCN 6, and live to League of Women Voters Facebook page, as well on the Roku MCN6 app!



Monday, Sep. 13, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

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

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS



MEMBER BENEFITS



Twins Tickets

As a member of the Minneapolis Regional Chamber you have access to premium season tickets for the Minnesota Twins! Tickets are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Email [Andrea Carver](#) for more information.



Upcoming games:

Wednesday, Sep. 1: 2 tickets available, \$102 per ticket

Friday, Sep. 10: 4 tickets available, \$87 per ticket

Saturday, Sep. 11: 8 tickets available, \$87 per ticket

Sunday, Sep. 12: 4 tickets available, \$87 per ticket

