



Princeton Area CHAMBER OF COMMERCE and Tourism

WHAT A YEAR!

Happy New Year to all of our amazing chamber members! We are so grateful to all of you. We had a fantastic year in 2023, kicking it off by rebranding and adding tourism to our name and responsibilities. Through **This Is Princeton**, we have produced 17 podcasts and several commercials. We work closely with **Age-Friendly Princeton** to produce a monthly calendar that is listed both online and in paper form that you can find around town, and we also keep an online calendar each month.

We are also proud to collaborate with **Princeton Public Schools**, supporting the Tiger Career Academies. Through this collaboration, our local businesses can provide hands-on opportunities to students and give input on what is needed from a Princeton High School student at their business. See page 3 to get more involved!

We continue to collaborate with the **City of Princeton** on Light Up Princeton, the Winter Solstice Luminary Walk and much more. We feel that collaboration is the best way to get things done in our community.

In 2024, we will continue to offer you opportunities to network your business through Morning Networking, Lunch & Learn luncheons and After Hours. Our Leadership Series continues to be a great way for chamber members to learn more about our community and to become a leader within it. We are excited to start up our Welcoming Committee again in 2024 and will continue to bring you fun events and opportunities to show off your business. We are grateful to the **Sherburne County Area United Way** for bringing our nonprofits together with monthly networking meetings called **Nonprofits United**. This will continue into 2024, which gives our nonprofit members an opportunity to discuss things that are specific to their organizations.

We look forward to working with all of you in the new year and invite you to reach out with ideas and additional ways we can collaborate.

SAVE THE DATE

January 9

Lunch & Learn, Noon
at Princeton Civic
Center: Workplace
Wellness

January 17

After Hours, 6 pm,
Bingo at Sunken Ship
Brewing Company

January 18

Leadership Series, 9
am—3 pm: Heath &
Human Services

January 24

Morning Networking,
8 am, Twice New
Clothing & Treasures



Welcome to our New Member!

Jake's Top Notch Tree Service

We are excited to have Jake's Top Notch Tree Service as a part of our Chamber! Jake's has over 16 years of experience and are capable of getting anything you ask to be done in regards to your property, landscaping and tree needs. Welcome Jake's Top Notch Tree Service!



Congratulations to the Volunteer of the Year!

Congratulations to our **Volunteer of the Year, Randy Hatch.** This honor is chosen by the chamber board, and they were thrilled to name Randy as this year's winner. Randy puts in countless hours at Light Up Princeton as well as gives of his time to PACCT Leadership among many other areas in the Princeton community!



JANUARY MORNING NETWORKING

Join us on **January 24th for Morning Networking at Twice New Clothing & Treasures!** We are excited to learn about how their business works and even go on a Scavenger Hunt! Networking starts at 7:45 am—Meeting begins at 8 am. There are four morning networking spots left for 2024: July, Aug, Sept and Oct. Reach out to Kim if you want to grab a spot!

JANUARY LUNCH & LEARN

We hope you can join us on **Tuesday, January 9th for our January Lunch & Learn at noon at the Princeton Civic Center.** We're going to start the year out right with Joseph Head from **Beyond Sport Princeton Fitness** as he shares with us some great tips about Workplace Wellness. **Heavenly Fresh** will be catering some healthy and delicious food for all to enjoy. We're looking forward to kicking of the new year with this great luncheon!

UPCOMING AFTER HOURS

Thank you to all who were able to join us for December After Hours by attending the **East Central MN Chorale** Christmas Concert and then joining us for a social hour at the **Princeton VFW** afterwards. The concert was fantastic, and we enjoyed appetizers from the **Pizza Barn** as we visited with members of the Chorale.

For **January**, we're going to visit **Sunken Ship Brewing Company for Bingo on Wednesday, Jan. 17th at 6 pm!** Please **RSVP** to Kim if you plan to attend so we can save enough room for everyone, and plan to arrive early.

TIGER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Get Involved!

There are several ways to partner with students and **Princeton Public Schools**. Here are just a few!

Habits of a Tiger

Hang the 5 Habits of a Tiger poster up at your business to show you support these critical skills.

Job Postings

Advertise your open jobs for students ages 14-18 on the PHS Job Opportunities board.

Hot Jobs/Cool Careers

Complete a simple form to have your business/industry featured on the District website.

Workforce Panel

Take part in a workforce panel for PHS and/or Middle School students and talk about your industry & business.

Just Desserts

Take part in this chamber event where you'll give PHS students some practice talking to a business professional.

Tiger Community Connections

Join the TCC Advisory Group!

TIGER CAREER ACADEMIES

Do you remember your answer as a child to the common question: What do you want to be when you grow up? No matter what students from Princeton Public Schools plan for life after graduation, the Tiger Career Academies are designed to support every student's future. Through the academies, students can freely explore college and career options before racking up any student debt. The goal is for every student to graduate with an industry credential, certification, workplace experience, college credit, internship or mentorship. Connecting their learning to outside experiences, students apply new skills with meaning and relevance to the field.

PHS GRAD SPOTLIGHT— LEARN HERE, LIVE HERE, WORK HERE



This month's Learn Here, Live Here, Work Here, PHS Grad Spotlight is Tammy Wesely. Tammy graduated from Princeton High School in 1989 and currently works as a Receptionist and Office Support at **Federated Co-ops, Inc.** She greets and helps propane, agricultural and retail customers, where she said she enjoys connecting with both new and longtime residents of Princeton and the surrounding area. Tammy's

path to this career started out in Early Childhood, where she worked for years. In order to earn extra money, she took a part-time job as a receptionist in the evening and as she took on more responsibilities, she decided to do it full-time. She said that her favorite thing about working for Federated Co-ops is that they are a flexible and a family oriented company. "It's also nice having a short commute to work," she added. Through the years, Tammy has contributed to the community through volunteering with her kids youth sports teams throughout the years and is currently on the Princeton Clay Target Team Board and Booster Club. Her favorite thing about living here (besides the Pizza Barn), is that "there is never a lack of people willing to help others that live here." She added that "Princeton has many solid job opportunities in business and the trades. Princeton business owners have worked very hard and done wonderful things in creating strong companies to make it a great place to live and work."



JOIN US AT TIGER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Tiger Community Connections is a group that brings our local businesses together with Princeton Public Schools. We partner on all of the things you see on this page, and we couldn't do one without the other. Our next meeting will take place on **January 25th at 7:30 am at the City Hall/District Office Board Room**. We have a **Zoom** option as well. Please contact Kim if you are interested in attending.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



We hope you'll accept our invitation to renew your membership with the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism! If you have a membership due in January, we invite you to renew by clicking the link below.

As usual, we have three packages available to purchase in addition to your annual membership: Advertising Package, Events Package and Princeton Shop Local. You may also pre-pay for your monthly luncheons if you so choose.

These packages must be paid for by January 15th whether or not your membership renewal is due at that time. There are a limited number of Advertising packages available, so be sure to respond right away if you are interested.

[CLICK HERE](#) to get started!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our Business and Nonprofit of the Year!

Business of the Year: Hansen Power & Lighting

Hansen Power & Lighting is a complete service electrical contractor that services residential, commercial and industrial for service calls, remodels and new construction. They ensure their employees have the knowledge and experience to provide customers with quality products and workmanship. HP&L takes part in the annual PACCT Golf Tournament each year and participated in the first PACCT Community Leadership Series. They have volunteered to run several leadership sessions and also give funding and sponsorships throughout the community.

Nonprofit of the Year: Age-Friendly Princeton

An age-friendly community is a livable community for people of ALL ages. Age Friendly Princeton is an initiative in Princeton made available through AARP. Well-designed, age-friendly communities foster economic growth and make for happier, healthier residents of all ages. The most livable communities are those that enable residents to thrive at every age and every life stage- in other words, they are age-friendly. Age-Friendly Princeton has worked on a number of initiatives, including purchasing a surrey bike for rent, putting together a community calendar, working on a "community center without walls," and much more!

PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOTS

Is it time to elevate your online presence with an updated professional headshot? A professional headshot is a vital asset for enhancing your credibility, building trust, and distinguishing yourself amidst competition. Join Lifetime Adventures Photography for a quick 10-15 minute indoor photoshoot. The registration fee through Community Education includes the session and one edited image.

Sessions are held at different times on Thursday, Feb. 22nd.

Be sure to check out the new Community Education catalog, which will be available online and in print at select businesses around Princeton and register for your photos!

[CLICK HERE](#) for the direct link.