



Princeton Area CHAMBER OF COMMERCE and Tourism

SPRING WEATHER—SUMMER PLANNING

We are well underway in planning for the **Rum River Festival, happening June 6-9th**. There will be a lot going on this year for the festival as we continue to collaborate with many businesses and organizations to make this a great 4-day event. We don't have all the details ready to go yet, but here is what we know so far:

Thursday, June 6: Medallion hunt begins, City-Wide garage sale, vendor fair, parade.

Friday, June 7: Medallion hunt continues, City-Wide garage sale, vendor fair, World's Largest Rubber Duck display, Lucky Duck drop.

Saturday, June 8: Medallion hunt continues, City-Wide garage sale, vendor fair, Farmer's Market, World's Largest Rubber Duck display, Rum River Festival 5K, Food Trucks on the Farm, sand volleyball tournament.

Sunday, June 9: Medallion hunt continues, World's Largest Rubber Duck display, Lions Fly-In/Drive-In Breakfast

There is even MORE being planned, but we are still waiting for confirmation on a few things. Are you wondering about the **World's Largest Rubber Duck**? Well, let us tell you a few things about it. The duck is SIX—yes SIX stories high! It has traveled the country and even been rented by Elon Musk. The only other place it has been on display in Minnesota is in Duluth for the Tall Ships event, so it is very special to have it in Princeton for the Rum River Festival.

The mission of the World's Rubber Duck is: *to spread happiness and love wherever she goes with a gentle reminder to enjoy our outdoor spaces wisely, preserving them for many generations to come.* We are told that the duck brings SIGNIFICANT economic impact to communities who display it and that we can expect people to come from all over to see it. We invite you all to join in the fun as we welcome the World's Largest Rubber Duck to Princeton! More to come so be sure to stay tuned!

SAVE THE DATE

February 8

Puzzles, Pizza & Pub Night, 4, 6, & 8 pm, Sunken Ship Brewery

February 13

Lunch & Learn, 5 Common Workplace Strategies, Della Ludwig, DEED, Noon, Pizza Pub's Raven Room

February 15

Leadership Series, 9 am—3 pm: Princeton Businesses

February 28

Morning Networking, 8 am, Bopha Sar, Chamber Office



Welcome to our
New Members!

The Dog Pawlor

The Dog Pawlor specializes in the priority care of pets. Each “spaw” contains two full sessions with shampoo including a massage.

North Country Goldens

North Country Goldens offers boarding, doggy day care and breeding. Here, your pup can romp and play all day long, socializing with other dogs and humans.

Heart Strings Ministry

Heart Matters Ministry was created to provide a place to receive Hope for Spiritual, Emotional and Mental health needs in tangible ways.



FEBRUARY MORNING NETWORKING

Join us on **February 28th for Morning Networking with Bopha Sar!** Owner Bopha Thomas is going to share with us the color of the year along with some other fun fashion information. We always have a lot of fun hearing about the latest and greatest! Networking starts at 7:45 am—Meeting begins at 8 am. There are three morning networking spots left for 2024: July, Aug, and Oct. Reach out to Kim if you want to grab a spot!

FEBRUARY LUNCH & LEARN

We hope you can join us on **Tuesday, February 13th for our February Lunch & Learn at noon at the Pizza Pub’s Raven Room.** We will be hearing from Della Ludwig of DEED, who will be talking to us about the 5 most common workforce strategies. Della is a Workforce Strategy Consultant for Central Minnesota and will discuss the labor market, discuss today’s workforce needs and receive tools to support your organization to recruit, train and retain your workforce. Please arrive about 11:45 to get your lunch so that we may start promptly at noon.

AFTER HOURS

For After Hours this month, we invite you all to stop by Sunken **Ship Brewing Company on Thursday, Feb. 8th to check out our Puzzles, Pizza and Pub Night** while you sip on a delicious brew. We have 24 teams signed up to compete over 3 rounds beginning at 4, 6, and 8:00 pm.

Running in conjunction with this event, is our annual **Winter Online Silent Auction.** You can check that out here: <https://www.32auctions.com/pacct2024>. Thank you to all the businesses who supported the chamber through awesome donations! We appreciate it!

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 Chad Winkelman. Chad graduated from Princeton High School in 1989 and is the owner and president of R.W. Builders. Through his position, he works primarily on the residential side of the business, spending most of his time working with customers to develop plans for their dream homes and carefully managing the construction of those homes.

Chad's parents started the company shortly after Chad was born, so he grew up around construction his entire life. He has now been a part of the business for over 30 years, working side by side with his parents and now as the owner. "It's really rewarding to drive through town and see all the homes and businesses we've helped create over the years," he said. Chad said his favorite thing about his job is seeing the excitement and joy on a customer's face throughout the process and knowing that the home they built will be their safe haven for years to come. Chad said that his favorite thing about living in Princeton is that it still has a small town feel. "Wherever I go, I run into family and friends." Chad has served on a number of boards of local organizations and coached various sports and said that R.W. Builders is "always happy to donate back to the community in whatever way we can."



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 **Feb. 22nd 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.

PACCT's New Mission Statement

Each year, our chamber board meets for what we call our Annual Board Refresh. We meet over a meal at the chamber office to discuss goals, plans and more. With the addition of the tourism bureau to our chamber, we wanted to review and rewrite our mission statement, making sure we encompassed the tourism piece, while also expressing what we do and who we do it for—in just one sentence.

If you have been a part of a group who is writing its mission statement, you know this is not an easy task, but the board came up with a statement that we feel accomplished our goal.

Our new mission statement:

The Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism leads, promotes and advocates for our community partners to make Princeton a great destination city.

Thank you to our 2024 Sponsors!

ABRA Auto Body & Glass
Berry Law Offices
Crystal Cabinet Works
Edward Jones -
Carlson, Endicott, Zebrowski
First Bank & Trust
M Health Fairview
Marv's True Value
Minuteman Press
Plastic Products Co., Inc.
Sterling Pointe Senior Living

City of Princeton



2024 PRINCETON SHOP LOCAL

Please support our Princeton Shop Local participants:

- * Beyond Sport
Princeton Fitness
- * Coborn's
- * Coffee Corner
- * Hierlinger's Shoes
- * Mark's Sewer Service
- * Marv's True Value
- * Northern Nutrition
- * Princeton Book & Bible
- * Princeton Wine & Spirits
- * Twice New Clothing & Treasures

THIS is
PRINCETON
Stay Here, Play Here, Shop Here