

SIMPLY CONNECT

Join us for a night of networking! The Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau's Simply Connect is a great way to socialize with others in the Hudson business community within a fun happy hour setting. If you are new to the Chamber or would like to learn how to maximize your membership, join us at 4:30 p.m. for the Welcome to the Hudson Chamber Orientation and then stay to meet other business leaders.

Additionally, we invite you to join us in collecting diapers for Operation HELP. In appreciation for your donation, all donors will be entered into a drawing for Chamber Checks! Three winners will be drawn at the event. Thank you for your help in supporting those throughout our community!



Thank you to our Event Sponsors:



Thank you to our
Host Sponsor:



EVENT DETAILS:

Date: Thursday, December 8, 2022

Time: 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Location: LoLo American Kitchen & Craft Bar – Hudson
175 South 2nd St.

[Click here to register.](#) ■

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THE PRESIDENT**

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January 26, 2023 – Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet – Celebrating 70 Years

Happy Holidays! Before we know it, the holidays will be behind us, and the new year will be underway. The new year always brings the opportunity to reflect on the past and pause to celebrate all those who have contributed to the Chamber's success.

Our Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet is an opportunity to recognize Chamber members and volunteers for all that they have done to help the Chamber grow. It is also a time to celebrate what the Chamber has accomplished in the past year, introduce priority goals for 2023, thank outgoing board members, and welcome new board members.

We will also celebrate innovative, successful member businesses through our awards program. The Annual Meeting/ Awards Banquet Committee will review nominations and select two recipients for the Business of the Year awards: one to a business with 1 to 20 or more full-time equivalents, and another to a business with 20 or more full-time equivalents. We will also present the Outstanding Chamber Member Award, the Outstanding Community Volunteer Award, Manufacturer's Award, and the Marie Blakeman Award.

We need your help! Nominations are due to the Chamber by December 9.

[Click here](#) to nominate deserving Chamber Members! ■



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Mary Claire Olson Potter
Chamber President

Supporting Local Makes a Big Impact

When you do your holiday shopping, or are looking for a great meal, plan to go to all the local shops and restaurants right here in the Hudson area. Keeping your dollars local supports local businesses, local jobs, and brings more money into the local economy.

To find a list of Hudson stores and restaurants, visit www.HudsonWI.org and support our fellow Chamber members.

Chamber Checks have been around for years, but this year they mean more than ever. Purchase Chamber Checks as gifts that can be used at most members of the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau. Checks come in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, or \$75. Let us know what you would like, and we will put them together in our special holiday packaging.

Thank you to the sponsors of the Holiday Chamber Checks: Angel's Pet World, The Bees Knees and RJ's Meats. ■



Promote your business at the Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet – January 26, 2023

The Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet offers many opportunities for sponsorship and promotion of your business. By supporting this event, more than 260 area businesspeople will become familiar with your business and its products and services.

Sponsorship options include:

Gold - \$750 (Includes 4 seats)

Silver - \$500 (Includes 2 seats)

Bronze - \$150 (includes 1 seat)

All levels of commitment receive visibility by including a business listing in the Chamber newsletter and recognition at the Annual Meeting. A quick response guarantees additional exposure by listing your company as a sponsor in the official program for the evening. Call (715) 386-8411 for more information.

Thank you to Citizens State Bank for being the Platinum Sponsor.



Invitations for this hybrid event will be sent out in early January.

On behalf of the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau Board of Directors and staff, we wish you a happy and safe holiday season and a wonderful New Year! ■



HUDSON CHRISTMAS

Tour of Homes

Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes welcomes over 1,500 tourists for a lavish holiday weekend.

The Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes kicked off the holiday season by welcoming hundreds of visitors to the Hudson area. Tour-goers from near and far filled the shops and restaurants within the area, igniting the holiday spirit throughout town. We thank tour homeowners, committee members, volunteers and business members for their efforts to help make the weekend a must-attend event.

Thank you to the following homeowners for opening their doors to inspire weekend visitors:

- Laura Butler
- Kendra Dare
- Jillian & Nathan Newes-Opatz
- Barb & Bob Peterson

In addition to visiting the beautifully decorated homes, tour-goers enjoyed a visit to the Octagon House Museum. This step back in time relies on the volunteerism of the St. Croix County Historical Society. Thank you!

Executing this event is a big commitment. As always, the Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes depends on many volunteer participants, including home hosts, decorators, ticket sellers, retailers, and other volunteers who helped. A special THANK YOU to the Tour of Homes Committee and their volunteers who helped:

- Laura Butler
- Genie Castro, Cream of the Crop Artists
- Teri Larsen, T Larsen Design LLC
- Audrey Martin, Audrey Martin Art
- Kathy Miller
- Jillian Newes-Opatz, Jono Properties LLC
- Kate Pechacek
- Cecely Spohn, Cecely Interiors

The Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes relies on the generosity of many Chamber members. Special thanks to the participating retailers and restaurants for arranging displays, providing product, decorating services, gift certificates, and Purple Bow door prizes:

- The 715
- 4 North Beauty Collective
- Abigail Page Antique Mall
- Angel's Pet World
- Art Doyle's Spokes & Pedals
- Audrey Martin Art
- BackRoom Vintage
- Barker's Bar & Grill
- Bee Healthy Chiropractic
- The Bees Knees
- Beloved Makers and Co
- Black Rooster Bistro
- Bricks Neapolitan Pizza
- Butler CPA, LLC
- C1 Athletics - CrossFit of St. Croix
- Casanova Liquors
- Chapter2Books
- Chicone's Liquor Mart
- Cracked Barrel Winery
- Cream of the Crop Artists
- Dot & Daisy
- Droplets of Wellness, LLC
- Dunn Brothers Coffee
- Ember & Bean Roasting Co
- et cetera
- Grand Fête
- Hop & Barrel Brewing Company, LLC
- Hudson Flower Shop
- Integrity Cleaners, LLC
- Kelley Gallery Art & Frame
- Kenzington
- Key's Café & Bakery
- Knoke's Chocolates & Nuts
- kudos
- La Rue Marché
- Lucky Guys Distillery
- Milwaukee Burger Company



CHECK OUT OUR UPDATED
NOVEMBER STATS!

WEBSITE: 11K VISITORS
LINKEDIN: 399 FOLLOWERS
CHAMBER FACEBOOK:
REACH: 5,600, LIKES: 4,939

DISCOVER HUDSON FACEBOOK: REACH: 17,411, LIKES: 16,856
DISCOVER HUDSON INSTAGRAM:
REACH: 4,741, FOLLOWERS: 5,332

- Octagon House Museum/ St. Croix County Historical Society
- Pedro's del Este
- Pier 500
- Pita Pit
- The Phipps Center for the Arts
- Post - American Eatery
- ProteinHouse
- The Purple Tree
- RJ's Meats & Groceries
- SEASONS Gallery
- St. Croix Baking Company
- St. Croix Cigar Co., LLC
- The SubHouse
- T Larsen Design LLC
- Ultimissimo - Boutique Salon
- Urban Olive & Vine

Thank you to the following sponsors for their generosity and continuous support of this event:



We thank the following for their time, service, support, and donations for this special event:

- All the volunteers who served as hosts/hostesses throughout the homes.
- **Grand Prize Participants:** The 715, The Bees Knees, Grand Fête, and Hudson Flower Shop.
- Best Western Plus, Comfort Suites, Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton for providing **hotel stays** for the homeowners.
- **CD Products** for installing the monument sign.
- Hudson Neighbors Magazine, Star Observer/O'Rourke Media Group and TwinCities.com/Pioneer Press for serving as **Media Sponsors**.
- **The North Hudson Pepper Festival Court** for welcoming guests during the Evening Dazzle Tour.
- **County Market** for donating shoe bags.
- The **Window Decorating** contest judges.
- **Braydn Walker** for taking photos of homes.
- The **City of Hudson, Public Works Department**, and the **Parks Department** for distributing signs and traffic cones.

- **Tim Foster** and the **Hudson Flower Shop**, for helping with directional signs, deliveries and use of the shop van.
- **Hudson Ford LLC and Quick Lane** for coordinating van rental.
- **Christopher Mick**, Space St. Croix, **Greta Miller**, and **Bob Peterson** for serving as van drivers throughout the weekend.
- **Minuteman Press- Hudson** - Kim Tauer, Linda La Kosky Eng and John Jenkinson for applying the bus banners.
- **Safeway Bus Company** - Tom Stiles and Laurie Hein for determining the route, Zeb Holder and all the bus drivers for the timely shuttle service.
- **Angel's Pet World, et cetera, Jonesy's Local Bar & Grill, kudos** and **The 715** for serving as additional ticket selling locations. ■

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Guidelines: Submit 100 words or less by the 15th of the month for the next month's Chamber news.

We reserve the right to editor omit any submitted business briefs. Email submissions to info@HudsonWI.org.

Warm Hearts Winter Collection

Spread warmth this season by donating winter gear in support of Grace Place from November 21 through December 23. All FNC Bank branches will be collecting new or like-new winter gear including hats, mittens, coats, sweatshirts, and sweatpants. For each donation you bring to our branches, you can receive a backpack cutout to write your name on and decorate our lobbies! For more information, [click here](#).

Solidago Farm to be Featured at Tattersall Winter Market

Join Solidago Farm at Tattersall Winter Market, Saturday and Sunday, December 10-11 from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Fill your shopping list with pure beeswax candles, caramel honey, salves, ointments, and more to promote health and harmony. Solidago Farm is Katherine Krumwiede of Diamond Stone Oriental Medicine, Inc.'s product line made from the plants grown on their farm east of River Falls.

St. Croix County Participates in the Toys for Tots Program

Every year St. Croix County employees come together to give back to the communities we serve. This year St. Croix County is participating in the Toys for Tots program. Donation boxes will be placed at each of the locations listed below. Both employees and residents can donate. So please join us in making the holidays brighter for the kids in our area. If you want to help, please bring a new, unwrapped toy to one of our St. Croix County locations by Thursday, December 15.

We will have donation boxes at:

- Baldwin
 - o St. Croix County Highway Building
- Hudson
 - o St. Croix County Government Center (front entrance and ground level by the Sheriff's Office)
- New Richmond
 - o St. Croix County Services Center
 - o St. Croix County Health & Rehab Center

Upcoming Events at Black Rooster Bistro

Give the gift of elevated dining experiences this holiday season. Certificates available for 5 course tasting dinners at Black Rooster Bistro on Thursday, January 19th at 7pm with Green Bus Provisions as well as a Fundraising dinner for Coco's Heart Dog Rescue on Sunday, January 29th at 5pm. New Year's Eve Reservations are available now at Black Rooster Bistro. Join us for your choice of a three or five course dinner offered at 5pm, 7pm, or 9pm on Saturday, December 31st. Call (715) 808-0560 as these events sell out quickly!

Test Drive...Next Stop Reality – Fueled by Royal Credit Union

Volunteers needed! If you're looking for an opportunity to get involved in making a difference in the lives of students, then this is the perfect opportunity for you! More than 80 volunteers are needed for Test Drive... Next Stop Reality on Friday, January 13, 2023 at Hudson High School!

Test Drive is a hands-on experience in which students select a career and then research the education needed and salary that would come from that career. With an expected salary in hand, students then enter the event in the West Gym at Hudson High School and attend each of 22 different stations in categories such as housing, utilities, clothing, childcare, insurance, and food. Volunteers at each station will teach them about the topic and guide them through the different options based on their lifestyle and budget.

Approximately 215 students participating in personal finance classes will be participating in this event. We hope you will consider volunteering – we couldn't host this event without the support of our community! [Click here](#) to sign up.

Office Space Available for Sub-Lease

Picture Factory, Inc., a small business based in Hudson, WI, has space available to sub-lease within its office/warehouse facility located at 2011 O'Neil Road. The rentable space (approx. 600 sq. ft.) includes both shared and private workspace. The private office is approx. 132 sq. ft. A year sub-lease begins January 1, 2023, with the option to move in sooner and renew annually. The monthly rent is \$925 per month + utilities. The idea tenant works in the same or similar industry (i.e. film/video production, editing, writing, marketing/branding, photography, graphic design, web-design, etc.). If interested in sub-leasing work space, contact Jillian Nodland a jillian@picture-factory.com or 612-968-2192.

Bennett's Chop & Rail House – Hudson – Now Open!

Bennett's Chop & Rail House – Hudson is now open and we are excited to welcome you! Starting at 11:00 a.m., lunch and dinner will be served daily, with happy hour offered Monday – Friday from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

For a small fee of \$20 per person, we offer a shuttle service to and from all Minnesota Wild hockey home games in addition to concerts and events held at the Xcel Energy Center. Children 16 and under ride for free. RSVP is required. For more information, visit <https://www.bennettschopandrailhouse.com/> or call (715) 501-2467 to secure your shuttle & dining reservations today. We hope to see you soon! ■



HAVE A
**HUDSON
HOLIDAY**

Visit With Santa



Bring your kids to visit with Santa at Thorcraft Custom Kitchens LLC at 512 2nd St. on Sunday, December 11, from Noon to 3:00 p.m.! Children, be sure to bring your lists so Santa can hear your holiday wishes; parents, bring your cameras for fabulous photo opportunities.

A special thank you to our Platinum Sponsor Edward Jones, and to all the sponsors for supporting Have a Hudson Holiday events! A full list of sponsors will be included in our January issue. ■

Edward Jones

www.edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



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Congrats to Our November
Brand Champion

Congratulations to our November Brand Champion, Zach McNamee with McNamee Real Estate Team.

Zach has led the Hilltop Pumpkin Party, which draws over 450 children and adults to this fun interactive community event, for almost ten years. He helps with all the details, including recruiting sponsors, putting out signage, finding over 400 pumpkins and bringing them to the event, and set up and clean up. This event has grown over the years thanks to Zach's leadership.

In addition, Zach has chaired Hudson Business Connections, formerly known as the I-94 Business Alliance, for many years. This group meets monthly and offers an excellent opportunity to connect with other businesses and expand contacts. Thank you for all you do, Zach. We look forward to your continued involvement.

If you're wondering about the qualities of a Brand Champion, they include:

- Passionate and Supportive
- Knowledgeable and Communicative
- Invested in Success
- Interested in Building Loyalty

If you know of a great Chamber Brand Champion, let us know so we can recognize them and award them \$25 in Chamber Checks! ■



December Calendar of Events

- 1 Ribbon Cutting – et cetera, 3:30 p.m., 502 2nd St.
- 1 Ribbon Cutting – Whatnot Boutique, 4:00 p.m., 421 2nd St.
- 2 Candlelight Stroll, 6:00 p.m., Downtown Hudson
- 3 Santa & His Critters, 11:00 a.m., Lakefront Park
- 6 Hudson Business Connections, 9:00 a.m., Citizens State Bank, 375 Stageline Rd.
- 6 Ribbon Cutting – Space St. Croix, 1:00 p.m., Chamber Office, 219 2nd St.
- 8 Service Committee, 9:00 a.m., Citizens State Bank, 375 Stageline Rd.
- 8 Hudson Community Affairs, 11:00 a.m., Zoom
- 8 Simply Connect, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m., LoLo American Kitchen & Craft Bar, 175 2nd St. S.
- 9 Executive Committee, 9:00 a.m., Zoom
- 11 Visit with Santa, Noon, Thorcraft Custom Kitchens LLC, 512 2nd St.
- 12 Finance Committee, 8:30 a.m., Zoom
- 13 Leadership Hudson – Education Day
- 14 Welcome to the Hudson Chamber New Member Orientation, 11:00 a.m., Zoom
- 14 Tourism Committee, 1:30 p.m., Zoom
- 15 Board of Directors & Committee Chairs Planning Retreat, 8:30 a.m., Citizens State Bank, 375 Stageline Rd
- 15 Ambassador Committee, 3:00 p.m., TBD
- 23 Office Closed
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Office Closed
- 27 Membership Committee, 9:00 a.m., Zoom

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Mark Hein – Integrity Cleaners, LLC

Chris Kost – YMCA in Hudson

Linda La Kosky Eng – Minuteman Press – Hudson

Mark McNamee – McNamee Real Estate Team

Deb Pittman – Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton

Kevin Urbik – Heywood, Cari & Anderson, S.C.

Blake Willman – Weathersafe Restoration, Inc.

Staff

The Chamber Newsletter is published monthly by the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau.

Mary Claire Olson Potter, President

Lauren Battis, Marketing & Membership Coordinator

Tyler Warwick-Mick, Special Projects Coordinator

MISSION: To provide value to and serve our members, promote a strong local economy, advocate for the interests of the business community, champion sustainability, and market the recreational and cultural opportunities in the Hudson area.

Congratulations to the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau Award Winners!

Large Business of the Year –

Barker's Bar & Grill, San Pedro Café, Pedro's del Este

Small Business of the Year – **Christiansen Creative**

Chamber Member of the Year –

Erica Johnson, Angel's Pet World

Ashley Filkins, Angel's Pet World

Community Volunteer of the Year – **Paul McGinnis, MD, FAAFP**

Manufacturer of the Year Award – **Croix Gear & Machining**

Marie Blakeman Award – **Gary Zappa, Zappa Brothers**

