

November 2021

www.winonachamber.com | (507) 452-2272 | 902 E. Second St., Suite 120, Winona, MN



Congratulations Winona!

Christie Ransom, President & CEO
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

We were so incredibly excited and honored to have been recognized in October by the Minnesota Retailers Association as Retail Community of the Year. This is an award given to only one community in the state at their annual Retail Rally and Awards event. What a privilege to have been given this award for Winona.

Over the past year, I have watched a population rally around one another and around the businesses that make our community what it is. Through efforts at the Chamber such as our restaurant lists, our gift card promotion, our downtown retail programs, our toast to the holidays event, and tons of shop local

messaging, we saw people rally together and embrace businesses like never before.

While some aspects of the pandemic are behind us, our businesses are still experiencing many hardships as the aftermath ensues. They are faced with serious workforce shortages, they are ALL experiencing supply chain disruptions, and they continue to face a divided population of customers that differ in their COVID stance related to many things. While things have not always been easy, I have seen uplifting and support that makes me so immensely proud to be a part of the fabric of Winona.

This award is a tribute to a connected community and collaborations with others to make great things happen in Winona. As we celebrate this prestigious award, we ask that everyone continue to shine as a beacon of what this award represents. Congratulations Winona!

ABOUT THE CHAMBER

- OUR MISSION -

To Serve Businesses How and When They Need Us

- OUR VISION -

Be the Foremost Resource and Advocate for Businesses in the Winona Area

Officers:

Michael Charron – Chair
Andrew Puetz – Chair Elect
Dave Jensen – Past Chair
Jolene Vaselaar – Treasurer
Kyle Rupprecht – At Large

Retiring 2021:

Ben Adank
Joanne Thompson
Dave Jensen
Rebecca Lamberty
Jolene Vaselaar

Retiring 2022:

Michael Charron
Danny Rivers
Kyle Rupprecht
Randy Skarlupka
Ellen Smith

Retiring 2023:

Andrea Northam
Dave Pederson
Kelly Pronschinske
Andy Puetz
Mike Dieter

Staff:

Christie Ransom – President & CEO

Kay Mathews – Vice President of Finance and Operations

Amanda Steine – Membership Development and Programs Manager

Ben Strand – Main Street Program Manager

Winona Named Retail Community of the Year!

The Minnesota Retailers Association recognized the community of Winona and the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce as its **Retail Community of the Year** at their award ceremony in early October.

“Many communities across the state do a great job of supporting retailers, but Winona stands out as a shining example of what can be done when a community works together through the leadership of the Chamber of Commerce,” says Bruce Nustad, Minnesota Retailers Association president. “It takes true collaboration to try new things and a shared vision to accomplish what Winona has in support of the entire community. We congratulate Winona and the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce, and all of its partners, on being named Retail Community of the Year.”

“We are so proud of how the Chamber, the City, the County, and businesses have come together to support the entire community,” says Christie Ransom, president and CEO of the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce. “We’ve started many new initiatives for the sole purpose of supporting our retailers, our businesses, and every Winona area employee. The team here at the Chamber and all of

our partners have been all hands on deck to support the community during some truly difficult times, and we have gotten the job done. While there is always more work to do, as a community leader I am proud to accept this recognition for all of Winona.”



Winona and the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce is the sole recipient of the Minnesota’s Retail Champions **Retail Community of the Year** award for 2021.



Main Street October Newsletter

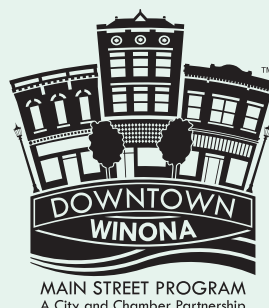
Ben Strand, Program Manager
Main Street Program

I’d like to thank everyone who attended Streets & Treats and Boos & Brews over Halloween weekend last week! Seeing kids and adults alike enjoy themselves at Main Street events is something that always puts a big smile on my face. I’d also like to thank our sponsors for Streets & Treats – Merchants Bank, Nate & Ally’s Frozen Treat Creations, Dave Jensen – Farmers Insurance Agency, and Children’s Dental of Winona... without your support Main Street events like this don’t happen!

Now that we’re into November and the jolliest time of year is just around the corner, I’d like to talk about a project we’ve been working on for several months – the “Light Up Downtown” fundraiser. Students at Minnesota State College Southeast began work on the 17-foot tree early September and completed it just last month. The holiday tree will be put up at Peter’s Biergarten for the duration of the holiday

season and I can’t wait to see it full assembled – garland, snowflake star, twinkle lights and all! Additionally, we have surpassed our \$5,000 fundraising goal and I’d like to give an emphatic THANK YOU to all the individuals and businesses that donated to the fundraiser.

We will be having a “Tree Lighting Ceremony” open to the public on Thursday, November 18. Beverages and food will be available at Peter’s Biergarten and Blooming Grounds, Santa will be there to take photos with kids and receive their wish list, and so much more! Mark your calendars and tune in to the Winona Main Street Facebook page for more details in the coming weeks.



CHAMBER CHAMPIONS

- VISIONARY -



- PREMIER -



- EXECUTIVE -



BE SEEN • BE HEARD • BELONG **JOIN THE CHAMBER!**

It’s not just business as usual in Winona. The potential dividends from an investment in the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce are unlimited, because what develops at the Chamber is everyone’s business.

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BIZ BITES



Orthopedic specialist, **Jonathan Asp, MD**, a physician with Twin Cities Orthopedics, now sees patients at **Winona Health**. His areas of focus include hip, knee, shoulder and elbow care and sports medicine, and he primarily will be offering general orthopedic and joint replacement care for Winona Health patients. Dr. Asp is certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and has a subspecialty certification in Sports Medicine. He earned his Medical Degree at Harvard University Medical School and completed his Residency at Mayo Graduate School of Medicine. Dr. Asp is a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the Minnesota Medical Association and Minnesota Sports Medicine. Dr. Asp was born and raised in Minnesota. He has been on backpacking trips to Bhutan and Patagonia and has climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. He also enjoys cycling and cross-country skiing. He and his wife have two adult children. Dr. Asp joins physicians Andrew Millis, MD, FAAOS; Adam Fletcher, MD; Michael Dussault, MD; and Garrett Fooshee, PA-C, in providing care for patients in the Winona Health Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Clinic, 855 Mankato Avenue in Winona.



The **Merchants Bank Trust Department** has been recognized as a Premier Partner by investment management partner BTC Capital Management for the department's growth, according to **Masood Dehnafar**, Trust Department Manager. "Over the last three years, our Trust Department has significantly expanded wealth management services across our footprint to serve more families, businesses, and non-profits throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin," said Dehnafar. "We're proud that BTC has recognized our commitment to providing competitive trust and investment management solutions as part of our community banking approach." In the past year, the Trust Department has celebrated several milestones, including assisting a record number of clients and approaching \$500 million in assets under management. The team has also grown and expanded their individual expertise. In addition to Certified Financial Planner® and Certified Trust and Financial Advisor, Martin Oines; Retirement Plan Director, Chris Livingston, earned his Qualified 401(k) Administrator and Accredited Investment Fiduciary designations.



Altra Federal Credit Union is pleased to announce **Anita Cisewski** has been hired as the Office Manager for their branch in Winona. "We are excited to have Anita join the Altra family," said Jolene Vaselaar, AVP, Retail Operations, for Altra Federal Credit Union. "Her abundance of banking experience will prove invaluable as she leads our team serving Altra's Winona-area members." Cisewski has over 30 years of financial industry experience, serving most recently as Branch Manager for Wells Fargo in Winona. Cisewski has a Degree of Occupational Proficiency in Accounting from Minnesota State College Southeast. She and her husband have two daughters and reside in Winona. In her spare time, Cisewski enjoys volunteering at Habitat for Humanity, boating and spending time with family.

NEW MEMBER



Watlow has been a part of the Winona community since 1976. They design and manufacture industrial heaters, temperature sensors, controllers, and supporting software, as well as assemblies – all the components of a thermal system. The company partners with its customers to optimize thermal performance, decrease design time and improve efficiency of their products and applications.

Watlow brings its experience to numerous industries, including semiconductor processing, environmental chambers, energy processes, diesel emissions, medical, and foodservice equipment.

Since 1922, Watlow has grown in product capability, market experience and global reach. The company holds more than 450 patents and employs 2,000 employees working in nine manufacturing facilities and three technology centers in the United States, Mexico, Europe, and Asia. Watlow also has sales offices in 16 countries around the world. The company continues to grow, while the commitment remains the same – to provide its customers with superior products and services for their individual needs

If you would like to learn more about Watlow visit them at www.watlow.com or contact their Plant Controller, Michele Sobotta at 507.454.5300.



The Winona Area Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee is proud to thank all of the amazing sponsors that made the Harvest Buckets a success! Due to the gracious support of our sponsors, 50 Buckets filled with amazing items were delivered to area farmers during harvest!

We want to thank all of our producers for their hard work and dedication to support and feed our communities!



WINONA CHAMBER NETWORK NITE

All Chamber Members are invited to join us

Thursday, November 11th from 5–7PM



*Held in the parking lot under a covered tent with heaters, please dress for the weather
(Merchants Bank, 102 E 3rd St., Downtown Winona)*