

May 2023

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



Event Season is Around the Corner

Christie Ransom, President & CEO
Winona Area Chamber of Commerce

Every year, we host a variety of events. From our annual Golf Classic to Family Night on the Farm to a host of training and Leadership programming, something is happening every month at the Chamber.

One thing that generates a lot of excitement, but also a lot of questions, is our Annual Car Raffle. Our 4th Annual Car Raffle boasts a 2023 Jeep Wrangler Willys Edition, thanks to the help and sponsorship of Chrysler Winona. Additionally, we have an amazing canoe and paddles, thanks to our friends at Sanborn Canoe Co., and lots of cash prizes.

I want to focus on this event and what it means to our organization. Many people ask what the proceeds from this raffle support, and I can't wait to fill you in.

After the purchase of the vehicle and the other prizes, the proceeds of this initiative are used to support all of our

amazing shop local messaging and programming! One thing that we learned as a community during the pandemic is the importance of supporting our local businesses. As a business organization, that has always been important to us, but that message grew and evolved in a profound way. With billboards, advertisements, and events (such as our gift card program) becoming a necessary part of what we do, finding a way to ensure they continue and have a funding source also became imperative.

With the popularity of the Car Raffle, we knew that we had found something exciting that our community could enjoy and support and would continue to fund those shop local programs and messages year after year. We cannot tell you how grateful we are for all who support this initiative and continue to shop, support, and love local!

If you are looking for a way to support the work that we do, let us know. Whether it is through one of the events, programming, or something different, we would be happy to assist in finding a chamber initiative that fits your needs and values.

Email: info@winonachamber.com
Phone: 507.452.2272

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:

Katrice Sisson – Chair
Stan Breitlow – Chair Elect
Andrew Puetz – Past Chair
Amber Hamernik – Treasurer
Andrea Northam - At Large

Retiring 2023:

Andrea Northam
Dave Pederson
Kelly Pronschinske
Andy Puetz
Mike Dieter

Retiring 2024:

Dr. Marsha Danielson
Janneke Soback
Katrice Sisson
Jared Literski
Kendra Maggert

Retiring 2025:

Stan Breitlow
Amber Hamernik
Jason Gamoke
Kevin Ritz
Mandy Hansel

Staff:

Christie Ransom – President & CEO
Kay Mathews – Vice President of Finance and Operations
Emma Ebbinger – Director of Workforce and Business Development
Kateri Petry – Director of Marketing and Communications
Anna Sibenaller – Director of Main Street Programs



Wear It Wednesday

Emma Ebbinger, Director of Workforce and Business Development



WINONA AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WEAR IT WEDNESDAY

Is your business hiring? Have you seen our new program 'Wear It Wednesday'? We can help you attract the workforce you need! Put our Chamber President, Christie, and me to work in your business and we will create a promotional video for you that we will post to our website, e-news, and social media.

If your business is interested in this program or would like to learn more, call Emma at 507.452.2272

CHAMBER CHAMPIONS

- VISIONARY -



- PREMIER -



- EXECUTIVE -



Winona Health



Main Street Corner May 2023

Anna Sibenaller, Director of Main Street Programs

MAY this newspaper find you well today! Let's get right into it. First, we're excited to bring you the Main Street Program's Parade of Trucks on Saturday, May 20 from 9 a.m. – Noon once again.

As we've done for the last couple of years, we'll have the vehicles drive down 3rd Street, before putting them in park and opening their doors to give you a peek inside! There will be no shortage of cool vehicles for your family to see. The parade begins promptly at 9 a.m. on Johnson Street and progresses down 3rd Street to Franklin Street. Once the parade is over, kids will be able to interact with all the vehicles until noon. A big thank you to our event sponsors Allstate Peterbilt, MBM Logistics/TLM Express, Rihm Kenworth and Winona Health Main Street Clinic – it's because of these community-focused organizations that we're able to have fun, free, family-friendly events for our region to enjoy.

We're also looking forward to our Friday evening summer events – now called Winona in the Street! The first will be Swinging in the Street on June 9, so put on your dancing shoes or bring some camp chairs to enjoy an evening of great music, fun, and energy! Don't forget to visit your favorite downtown establishments for food and refreshments.

If you're interested in learning more about getting involved with the Main Street Program, don't hesitate to reach out to me at (507) 452-2272 or asibenaller@winonachamber.com



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.

May 2023

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BIZ BITES



Saint Mary's University receives \$4.5 million gift
Momentum continues building on recent record \$25 million gift commitment

Just weeks after announcing a record \$25 million gift commitment, Saint Mary's University has received a new gift of \$4.5 million.

"Two gifts of this importance in such a short amount of time is extraordinary," said the Very Rev. James P. Burns, IVD, Ph.D., Saint Mary's president. "This latest gift validates the work we are doing to stabilize and grow the university while continuing to provide an excellent education and a strong character building experience. We could not be more grateful to this benefactor."

This new \$4.5 million gift, which will be made in 2023 and 2024, will complete fundraising efforts for the renovation of Aquinas Hall, the Winona Campus' newly transformed state-of-the-art facility for business, science, psychology, and its new nursing program. The \$16 million project was completed in 2021.

The most recent benefactors, who wish to remain anonymous, acknowledged the work that Saint Mary's has undertaken in the last year to reduce spending, right size academic offerings, and set the path for long-term stability. They appreciate that their gift will allow the university to grow in areas most sought after by students and employers while retaining our commitment to a liberal education core for each student.



Merchants Financial Group, Inc reports strong performance and shareholders re-elect three directors

WINONA, Minn. – At its Annual Meeting on Thursday, Merchants Financial Group, Inc., (MFGI) Executive Management reported record earnings for 2022, shared insights about Merchants' strong liquidity and financial stability, and shareholders re-elected three Directors to the MFGI Board.

MFGI formally reported net income of \$30,424,467 for 2022, a 5.72% increase over 2021 earnings. New commercial loan activity was a significant driver of the strong performance with more than \$608.5 million in new loan and lease origination. Due to new commercial loan activity, year-over-year net loan and lease growth was 17.3%, finishing 2022 at \$1.85 billion. Merchants' strong business line diversification allowed for record earnings even though residential mortgage lending activity in 2022 was just 47% of 2021 volume.

Total deposits for the Company were in excess of \$2.3 billion at year-end 2022, providing Merchants with healthy liquidity.

Re-elected to three-year terms as Directors were Greg Evans of Merchants; Richard Lommen, Jr., President & Owner of Courtesy Corporation; and Brad Peterson, Chairman of Mississippi Welders Supply Co., Inc.

Also at the meeting, retiring Merchants Bank, N.A., Board member, Timothy Murphy, was recognized for 28 years of Board service. Murphy, Partner at Murphy Law Office, PLLP, served on the Bank's governing Board from 2015-2022, the Merchants Financial Group, Inc. Board from 2005-2019 and the Caledonia and Spring Grove Advisory Board from 1995-2022.

NEW MEMBERS



Adobe is a software company focused on creating digital experiences. From individuals to businesses to government agencies, Adobe helps users create and design to share information, stories, make great experiences, and more. With Adobe Acrobat, Photoshop, Premier Pro, and many more, Adobe has the program to help you create!

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JOIN THE CHAMBER!

If you are interested in leading the way with us, go to www.winonachamber.com and complete the online form.

To set up an appointment to explore the advantages of Chamber membership or to learn more about available resources at the Winona Chamber contact us at (507) 452-2272 or email info@winonachamber.com



SATURDAY, MAY 20th
9AM-NOON
FREE EVENT

Visit **WinonaMainStreet.com** for location and event details.

SPONSORED BY



WINONA AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CAR RAFFLE

SPONSORED BY **CHRYSLER**
WINONA



GRAND PRIZE
2023 White Jeep Wrangler
2-Door Willys Edition
OR \$20,000 cash

For more information: WinonaChamber.com or 507.452.2272
Need not be present to win. 4,000 tickets being sold. **Permit #:** X-93936-23-007

BUY TICKETS AT
SUGAR LOAF FORD
CHRYSLER WINONA
CHAMBER OFFICE
(902 E. Second St.)

Drawing on Sept. 3 at 4pm
during Big Muddy Brew 'n Que.

TICKETS
\$20

OTHER PRIZES
Merrimack Canoe and
Sanborn Canoe Paddles
Cash Prizes:
(2) \$1,000; (4) \$500; (8) \$250