



**Micki Ward****From:** Grand Island Area Chamber of Commerce [receptionist@gichamber.com]**Sent:** Thursday, July 28, 2011 9:02 AM**To:** membership@gichamber.net**Subject:** Grand Island Chamber of Commerce July NewsletterIf you're having trouble viewing this email, you may [see it online](#).Share This:    

# Direction for Business

July 2011

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**Outside Eyes Needed!***A Message from your Chamber President*

The Grand Island Chamber Board of Directors and staff will soon be embarking on a comprehensive analysis of the Chamber operations. This review is being conducted in conjunction with the Chamber's application for accreditation through the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Accreditation with the United States Chamber of Commerce is the only program of its kind that defines excellence in chamber planning and recognizes chambers for outstanding contributions toward positive change in their communities. There are over 800 chambers that have participated in the accreditation program since 1964, among which only 230 currently remain accredited.

The Grand Island Chamber is one of those 230; most recently accredited in 2005 for a five-year period. With nearly 7,000 chambers in the United States, accreditation with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is a prestigious honor that distinguishes the high quality, expertise, and strong leadership displayed by those state and local chambers of commerce who earn the designation.

Accreditation focuses on how chambers of commerce:

- Develop business and strong business practices
- Recognize leadership and outstanding contributions to the community
- Support the principles of free enterprise and pro-growth policies at federal, state, and local levels
- Establish best practices and stay in-step with industry changes

***We invite and welcome business leaders to participate in***

Sarah Arnold  
 Mary Berlie  
 Janell Folkerts  
 Rhonda Veleba  
 Micki Ward

**review of specific segments of the Chamber's operations and initiatives for the accreditation application.** Your 'outside eyes' provide valuable insight relative to this organization's operations and how resources (time, talents, and dollars) are utilized, in accordance with the business community's expectations and the Board's Strategic Plan. Specific areas we will review include:

- Strategic Plan (Development and Implementation)
- Governmental Affairs Program
- Financial Stability, Policies and Procedures
- Communications
- Governance
- Facilities

December 31, 2011 is the deadline for submittal of our application for accreditation. The 'heavy lifting' (so to speak) will occur during the fourth quarter. Will you help ensure your Chamber is once again recognized for the high quality, expertise, and strong leadership necessary to once again be recognized as one of the elite 230 accredited Chambers of Commerce?



Auto Fleet invited the Connectors to a ribbon cutting on July 1, 2011 to celebrate their opening and new Chamber partnership.



Rogue Manufacturing had a ribbon cutting on July 8, 2011 to celebrate their new Chamber Partnership.



Line-X invited the Connectors to a ribbon cutting on July 8, 2011 to celebrate their new



Mosaic celebrated their new Something Special store with a ribbon cutting on July 1, 2011.



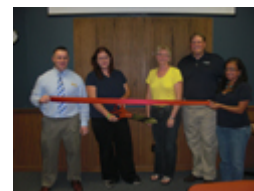
Fuji Japanese Seafood and Steakhouse held a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 7, 2011 to celebrate their opening and new Chamber partnership.



Flat Tops Counter Company had a ribbon cutting on July 15, 2011 to celebrate their opening and new Chamber partnership.



CNH Health Care Center celebrated their opening with a ribbon cutting on July 13, 2011.



Quality Cleaning Plus had a ribbon cutting on July 15, 2011 to celebrate their new Chamber

Chamber partnership.

partnership.

## New Chamber Connectors

Chamber Connectors support the Chamber and Chamber partners by connecting the businesses to one another and the community. Connectors welcome new partners at ribbon cuttings and serve as mentors for these companies through a yearlong mentoring program. Chamber Connectors encourage networking and involvement by hosting Business After Hours and volunteering at annual Chamber events.

The following are new Chamber Connectors; the number of active members Connectors is now 44.

Brad Bell, Great Western Bank  
 Amanda Hanquist, Farmers Insurance Group  
 Renae Keenan, Associated Staffing  
 Michelle Heuertz, Platte Valley State Bank & Trust Co  
 Mike McCoy, Nebraska Danger Indoor Pro Football  
 Ryan Rahmann, LaserTec of Nebraska  
 Shane Stocker, H&R Block  
 Jen Thompson, Big Brothers Big Sisters  
 Lee Van Boening, H&R Block

## Chamber's Agriculture Awareness Effort a Success

The Chamber's Agriculture Committee is committed to educating and informing the community on the importance of agriculture and livestock production for our area. The Chamber's Ag Committee under took a new initiative this year, a QR Code Tour at the 2011 Hall County Fair. The two-dimensional barcodes were located throughout the livestock barn; fusing agriculture, technology, and education. Corby Flagle, Hall County Fair organizer stated, "The QR Codes added to the excitement of the fair and introduced a new element of technology to fair goers."

A special thank you to KDSI and Copy Cat Printing.

For additional information on the Agriculture Committee's QR codes, please visit the following media sites:

[http://www.1011now.com/news/headlines/Promoting](http://www.1011now.com/news/headlines/Promoting_Agricultural_Education_Through_Technology_125984809.html)

[Agricultural Education Through Technology 125984809.html](http://www.1011now.com/news/headlines/Promoting_Agricultural_Education_Through_Technology_125984809.html)



<http://www.nebraska.tv/story/15126482/high-tech-fun-at-the-hall-county-fair>

[http://www.khastv.com/news/local/Hall-County-](http://www.khastv.com/news/local/Hall-County-Fair-debuts-a-new-look-this-year-125959514.html)

[Fair-debuts-a-new-look-this-year-125959514.html](http://www.khastv.com/news/local/Hall-County-Fair-debuts-a-new-look-this-year-125959514.html)

## Nebraska State Fair - Company is Coming!

More than 300,000 people are anticipated to attend this year's Nebraska State Fair, August 26 - September 5. Volunteers are needed in a variety of areas, including staffing the information and welcome booths, greeting at various locations throughout the grounds, assisting with special events, interpreters, ticket takers and more. Generally, each volunteer shift will be four (4) hours in duration. Multiple shifts are encouraged! Volunteers are most needed for the evening shifts (5 p.m. - 9 p.m.) and afternoon shifts (1 p.m. - 5 p.m.). Free gate admission to the Nebraska State Fair will be provided for each day volunteered. From hospitality to assisting with educational and children's programs, there truly is something for everyone who wishes to participate. For more information, contact Rhonda Veleba, Volunteer Coordinator, Chamber of Commerce, 308-382-9210 or [rveleba@gichamber.com](mailto:rveleba@gichamber.com).

**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Duck Derby**  
**Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. **FREE Kids Festival**  
 10:00 a.m. **Duck Race**

**Leadership Tomorrow is kicking off the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Tom Dinsdale Duck Derby with \$6,500 in cash prizes and over \$4,000 in items.**

What is a Duck Derby?  
 5,000 rubber ducks will race in the lazy river at Island Oasis to raise funds for Leadership Tomorrow and Youth Leadership Tomorrow

Can people watch the race?  
 The event is free to watch and open to the public. Enjoy the FREE Kids Festival with your family before the race with ring tosses, bean bag throws, face painting, inflatable jumpers, prizes and fun!

What if I buy a duck and it wins?  
 You win one of 32 great prizes including CASH prizes of \$3,500, \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500!


Where do I buy ducks?

- 1) Duck Central - Grand Island Area Chamber of Commerce
- 2) Tom Dinsdale Automotive
- 3) The Grand Island Independent
- 4) We are selling Ducks out of RV's at the S. Locust Skagway and Conestoga Mall on 13<sup>th</sup> & Webb

RV Dates & Hours:	Mon. Fri Aug 8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	3pm - 7pm
	Sat. Aug 13 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 1pm
	Mon. Fri Aug 15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	3pm – 7pm

How much are ducks?

Lucky Duck	\$5.00 each
Quack Pack	6 for \$25.00 (1 FREE)
Flock of Ducks	13 for \$50 (3 FREE) – Buy a Flock & be entered to win 2 Husker Football tickets.



Thurs, Aug 11<sup>th</sup> Duck Out Early to the Barn Bar at the State Fairgrounds 4:30 – 6:30pm  
 Music, beverages, hors d'oeuvre, great prize raffles and Quackie!

## New Chamber Partners

July 2011

Buffalo Wild Wings  
 Ryan Castro  
 809 Allen Drive  
 Grand Island, NE 68803  
 308.381.7983

The Boat Dock  
 Ryan Snyder  
 3620 West Old Highway 30  
 Grand Island, NE 68803  
 308.398.3300

Flat Tops Counter Company  
 Tim Rush  
 1104 West 3rd Street  
 Grand Island, NE 68801  
 308.390.7891

Hall County Farm Bureau  
Shelly Russell  
2118 Kent Avenue  
Grand Island, NE 68803  
308.382.5707

Hydro Tech, Inc.  
Lou Schmitt  
2219 East Highway 30  
PO Box 877  
Grand Island, NE 68802  
308.384.7083

Line-X of Grand Island  
Nick Wilson  
2401 East Highway 30  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
308.381.2755

N2 Projects, Inc.  
Justin Zavodny  
2202 Central Avenue #9  
Kearney, NE 68847  
308.455.1085

NMC-The Cat Rental Store  
Travis Boyll  
3708 Arch Avenue  
Grand Island, NE 68803  
402.891.7721

Shady Bend (Restaurant)  
Craig & Karen Woodward  
3409 East Highway 30  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
308.384.7071

309 West 2nd Street | PO Box 1486 | Grand Island, NE 68802-1486  
Phone: 308.382.9210 | Fax: 308.382.1154

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