



january2013

# chamber connection

The Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce is the region's leading business advocate and champion for business. Our objective is to create growth and success in the community.

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## 2013 chamber walleye tournament applications available!

**JUNE 21 2013**

The 37th annual walleye tournament is right around the corner. Again this year, the tournament will start on Friday. It will run on Friday and Saturday, with Sunday as an optional fishing day due to inclement weather. The dates for this year's tournament will be June 21 and 22, 2013.

Early bird sponsorship entries must be returned by March 31, 2013.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Johnnie Candle or Suzie Kenner with any questions or concerns. We will be happy to visit with you. You can reach Johnnie at 701.371.9431 and Suzie by calling the Chamber office at 701.662.4903. We look forward to receiving your applications. Please make sure to book your accommodations as soon as possible. You can find a list of options at [www.devilslakend.com](http://www.devilslakend.com) (under the tourism tab).

**Download the 2013 Chamber Fishing Tournament Application here.** Just click on the interactive pdf file to download or stop into the Chamber to pick up your application. If you have fished the tournament in the past you will be receiving an application in the mail in the next week.



# chamber

Suzie Kenner, Executive Director

## Parking Issues Come to Light

Downtown parking, and parking in general becomes a topic of conversation every year, and seems to hit home more so in the wintertime.

The Chamber of Commerce has been fielding phone calls and letters recently from concerned shoppers about the lack of parking in the downtown area. Customers are all of our number one priorities.

Please take these tips into consideration:

- 1.** All business owners and employees should park in the parking lots in the downtown area during working times to free up parking spaces for your customers.
- 2.** Respect the handicap parking areas. Don't park too close to the line and make sure to give ample room.
- 3.** During the winter, please make sure to shovel your sidewalks.
- 4.** Click this link for the cities snow removal schedule and information

Chances are, if a customer can't find a place to park they will go somewhere else to shop. Let's make sure to keep as many parking spots open as possible to help your bottom dollar!

## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Join the  
**Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce  
and Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson**

for a Business After Hours  
on Thursday, January 17th  
5:00 - 7:00 pm

Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson  
1820 Walnut Street East, Suite 6

Refreshments Served.

## Do you have questions on healthcare reform?

Check out these websites provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota for more information.

**BCBS of North Dakota: Health Reform Facts**  
<https://www.bcbsnd.com/healthreform/>

**Ask Blue Healthcare Reform: Interactive tool**  
<http://www.askbluereform.com/>

**Kaiser Family Foundation: Implementation Timeline**  
<http://healthreform.kff.org/timeline.aspx>

**Additional Health Reform Information**  
<http://healthcare.gov>

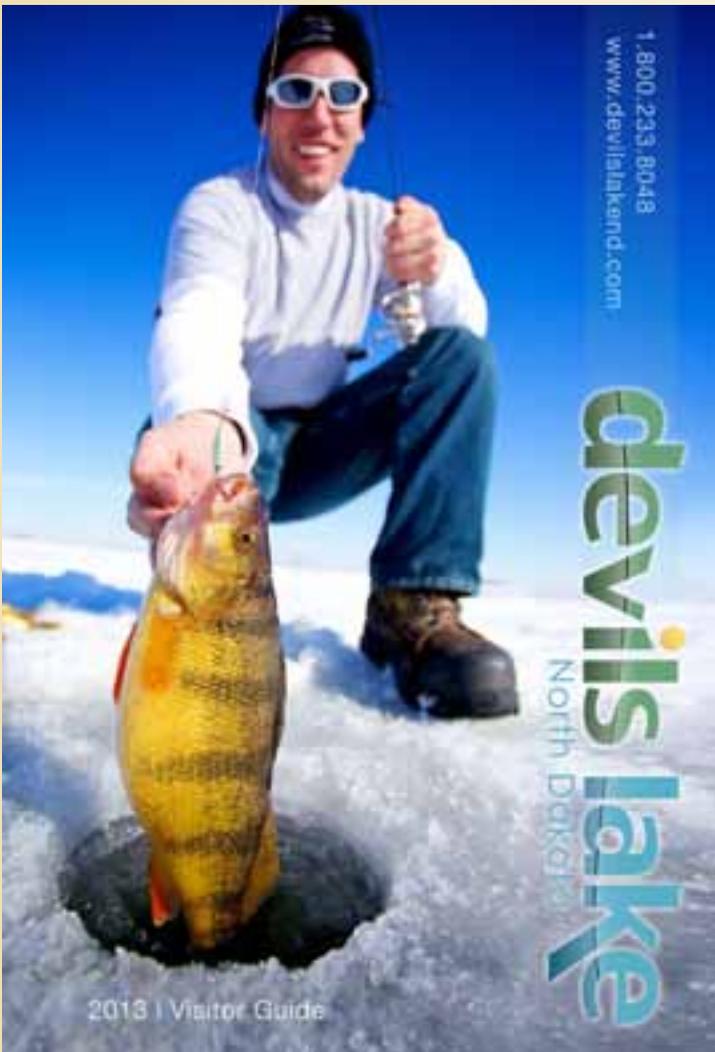


# tourism

Suzie Kenner, Executive Director

mark your calendars  
**ANNUAL ND TRAVEL  
CONFERENCE**  
Grand Forks, ND  
April 15-17, 2013

## The NEW 2013 Devils Lake Visitor Guide Available!



The Devils Lake Convention & Visitors Bureau has released the 2013 visitors guide and 40,000 copies will be hitting the roadsides throughout North Dakota. The guide is also available at sport shows across the Midwest and Canada and is available to visitors and residents looking to explore the Legendary experience of the Lake Region.

The full-color 6 x 9 guide is power packed with

information. It includes two maps – a Devils Lake lake map and well as a city map, vivid photos, accommodations listings and a list of things to do in the area. The guide also features hunting & fishing information, aquatic nuisance species details, and fishing & hunting guide services. You can also download a free pdf, interactive version from our website, [www.devilslakend.com](http://www.devilslakend.com).

The guide is also available at many local gas stations, banks, area motels & resorts, bait shops, and campgrounds. The visitor guide is also available for weddings, family reunions, sports tournaments, corporate meetings and other events. The guide is a great tool to use to help bring more visitors to the Lake Region in the coming year and a great resource for them to explore the area.

To obtain a 2013 Visitors Guide or other area travel brochures, call the Devils Lake Convention & Visitors Bureau at (701) 662-4903, go to [www.devilslakend.com](http://www.devilslakend.com) or stop by the office at 208 Highway 2 West in Devils Lake.

Be sure to visit our website for the community events calendar, updated fishing reports, the latest news, and relocation information. If you need any help planning your upcoming trip to Devils Lake just let us know...after all, it is just one of the many reasons we are here!

The Devils Lake Convention & Visitors Bureau promotes growth and development of the convention, visitor and tourism industry in the Lake Region. Tourism contributes an estimated \$30.2 million annually to the Devils Lake economy.

*Catch it all in Devils Lake!*

# Tax Commissioner Reports 22 Percent Growth in 3rd Quarter Taxable Sales & Purchases

BISMARCK, N.D. – Tax Commissioner Cory Fong announced today that taxable sales and purchases made during July, August, and September 2012 were \$6.735 billion, up \$1.233 billion or 22.4 percent compared to the third quarter 2011.

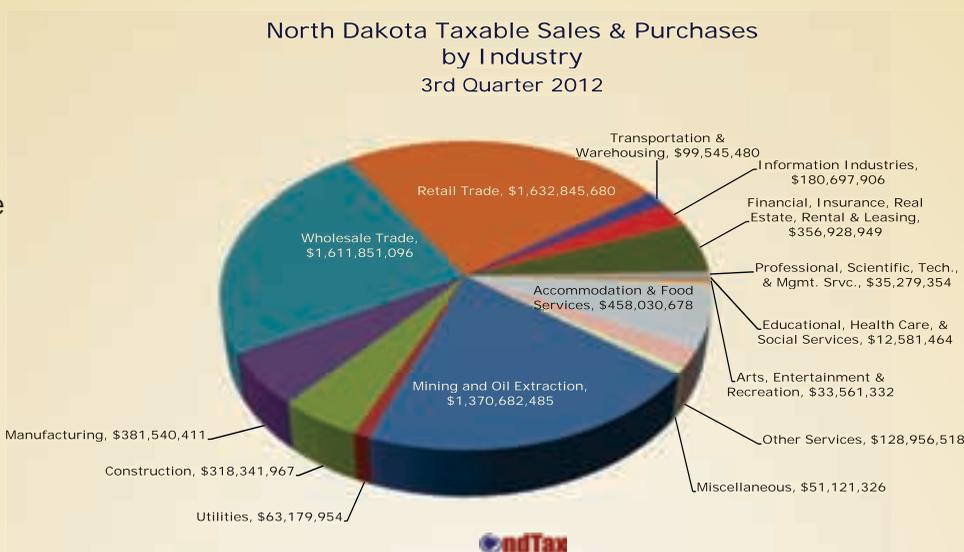
“North Dakota continues to be a bright spot in the nation,” said Fong. “We have a record number of workers working in the state, a robust housing market, and strong land values, all contributing to upbeat consumer confidence as we entered the fourth quarter.”

Fong mentioned the recent news story featured by 24/7 Wall St, “The Cities Where Everyone Has a Job,” highlighting Bismarck, Fargo, and Grand Forks as the top three cities with the lowest unemployment rate in the nation.

Retail trade, the sector often looked to as a measurement of consumer confidence, continued to grow, reporting a gain of 13.1 percent compared to the same period for 2011. Wholesale trade, which reflects spending by businesses, reported gains of 30.7 percent. Inflation during the same time was 1.7 percent.

“North Dakota’s wholesale and retail trade sectors were strong performers in the third quarter, representing confidence among consumers and businesses as we entered the fourth quarter” said Fong.

Thirteen of fifteen industries reported growth during the third quarter of 2012. The utilities sector reported the largest percentage increase, rising by 55.7 percent while the wholesale trade sector reported the largest dollar increase of \$378.9 million. Of the sectors that reported gains, the utilities sector grew 55.7 percent; construction grew 46.1 percent; financial, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing grew 35.5 percent; wholesale trade up by 30.7 percent; miscellaneous grew 28.8 percent; mining and oil extraction grew 25.4 percent; other services, up by 20.3 percent; manufacturing grew by 16.7 percent; accommodation and food services, up by 13.5 percent; professional, scientific,



technical, and management services grew 13.4 percent; information industries grew 13.1 percent; retail trade up by 13.1 percent; and arts, entertainment and recreation grew 7.9 percent.

Two sectors reported a slowdown in taxable sales and purchases: educational,

health care, and social services, dropped 7.5 percent; and transportation and warehousing, declined 4.3 percent.

“While the global economic slowdown may have moderated North Dakota’s growth a bit in the third quarter, early reports suggest that the holiday shopping season got off to a great start,” said Fong. “Even though North Dakota is facing labor and housing shortages, a steady job market along with North Dakota’s strong economy has encouraged consumers to be in a spending mood this Christmas season.”

Of the 50 largest cities, the largest percentage increases for third quarter of 2012 were: New Town, up 87.4 percent; Tioga, up 62.7 percent; Watford City, up 46.7 percent; Crosby, up 44.5 percent; and Kenmare, up 42.2 percent.

The largest percentage third quarter decreases for the 50 largest cities, were in Walhalla, down 26.4 percent; Mayville, down 22.6 percent; Linton, down 17.5 percent; Cando, down 14.5 percent; and Beach down 12.7 percent.

Counties with the largest percentage increases were Renville, up 56.5 percent; Oliver, up 53.2 percent; Divide, up 42.3 percent; Cavalier, up 39.6 percent; and McKenzie, up 39.4 percent.

The counties with the largest percentage decreases were Emmons, down 24.9 percent; Steele down 15.1 percent; Benson, down 13.8 percent; Towner, down 13.1 percent; and Golden Valley, down 10.9 percent.

Complete North Dakota Sales and Use Tax Statistical Reports from Third Quarter 2012 can be accessed on the web at: [www.nd.gov/tax](http://www.nd.gov/tax). [click on the interactive link to download the report]



# development

Chris Schilken, Executive Director

## Job Openings in Ramsey County

The table below shows the counties with the highest number of job openings advertised online in North Dakota in January 2013 (Jobs De-duplication Level 1).

Building permits issued for \$20,862,251

RANK	AREA NAME	JOB OPENINGS
1	Cass County, North Dakota .....	5,248
2	Burleigh County, North Dakota .....	2,669
3	Ward County, North Dakota .....	2,039
4	Williams County, North Dakota .....	1,571
5	Grand Forks County, North Dakota.....	1,552
6	Stark County, North Dakota .....	1,340
7	Stutsman County, North Dakota .....	449
8	<b>Ramsey County, North Dakota .....</b>	<b>367</b>
9	Mountrail County, North Dakota .....	309
10	Morton County, North Dakota .....	246

*Job Source: Online advertised jobs date*

Tax Collections		
	Dec. 2011	Dec. 2012
Sales Tax	\$230,517	\$250,147
Sales Tax Yearly Total	\$2,831,977	\$3,105,882
Restaurant Tax	\$19,811	\$20,085
Restaurant Tax Yearly Total	\$243,440	\$264,283
Lodging Tax	\$10,327	\$6,832
Lodging Tax Yearly Total	\$119,541	\$123,920

*\*2011 YTD total is the amount for the full year. 2012 YTD total is the total through the month listed.*

## Facade Improvement Program Guidelines

- \$5,000, \$7,500 or \$10,000 interest free loan
- Loans to be paid back minimum \$100, \$150, or \$200 depending on the loan amount per month until paid in full
- Payback is 50 months
- Loan money received is put back into the fund to keep it revolving
- Fund will be administrated out of the Forward Devils Lake Office
- There will be an application process which will include proposed drawings, before pictures, building permits, etc. before loan is approved for the business
- Check with City Building Authority
- Check with Devils Lake Historic Preservation Commission
- Materials must be purchased locally if possible
- Money to be disbursed on completed and agreed upon plans
- Available to any business within City Limits

## Multi Family Housing Incentive Program

- \$300,000 allocated from the growth fund to participate in the FLEX Pace Buy Down program through the Bank (Interest Rate Buy-Down)
- The max any developer would receive from FDL would be \$107,000 (Loan)
- Bank of ND would contribute \$200,000 per project (Grant)
- Total available buy down per developer is \$307,000
- The local share would be paid back to FDL after the original loan is paid
- Payback of FDL money is over 5 years at 0%
- FDL would have a second mortgage or lien
- Development must be within City Limits
- Total development must be 4 units or larger

# **“Remembering Our Fallen” from North Dakota**

## **Photo Exhibit of North Dakota’s Fallen**

A very emotional exhibit, **“Remembering Our Fallen” from North Dakota**, is a sad reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by 19 North Dakotans killed in The War on Terror while wearing our country’s uniform in Afghanistan or Iraq.

*“The warriors of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, professionals, who volunteered to join the United States Armed Forces, grew up in the shadow of September 11, 2001, a defining moment for most of them. They come from all walks of life and every corner of our country, daring to go where so many never would. They retain the face of freedom and build upon the legacies of those who went before them in a cause greater than themselves.”*

*“We can never forget those who sacrificed everything for our freedom. We must remember these American Heroes and speak their names when we see their family members,”* said Colonel James Biernesser, USAF (Ret.). *“This exhibit is created so it can travel easily throughout North Dakota, so that more people will have the opportunity to honor and remember North Dakota’s Fallen.”*

The exhibit was created by Bill & Evonne Williams of Patriotic Productions in Omaha, Nebraska and is sponsored by Bellevue University. The North Dakota Department of The American Legion will be responsible for moving the exhibit from community to community.

Bellevue University is a private, non-profit University in Bellevue, Nebraska. Founded in 1966, with the charter of serving our military heroes, it has been a military-friendly school for 45 years. Bellevue University was an early adopter of distance learning and is now a leader in online education with students in the 50 US states and 55 foreign countries, including Afghanistan and Iraq.

The exhibit is open to the public. For information regarding hosting the display, please contact David A. Johnson, Adjutant, for the North Dakota Department of The American Legion at 701-293-3120 or [adjutant@ndlegion.org](mailto:adjutant@ndlegion.org). You may also view other states and the ND schedule at the following website; [www.rememberingourfallen.org](http://www.rememberingourfallen.org).

Respectfully, David A. Johnson





Dear Valued Business Owner:

The Devils Lake Area Chamber of Commerce was recently introduced to an exciting new wave of digital media solutions that will enable our organization and local businesses to highlight our many assets and attributes in dynamic new ways.

We will participate in a multi-faceted promotional campaign in partnership with CGI Communications, Inc., the parent company of Relocate.org. This will include the production of a Devils Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Video Program highlighting our Chamber as well as various aspects of our community. The video will be accessible for viewing via [www.devilslakend.com](http://www.devilslakend.com) and [www.relocate.org](http://www.relocate.org), a website portal that serves as the largest provider for chambers of commerce to reach people relocating nationwide!

CGI will also be contacting local businesses to offer them the opportunity to take advantage of various digital media technologies, enabling area businesses to utilize these products in an effort to achieve added exposure, and increased communication with their clients.

We encourage you to consider the program as it provides an exciting new opportunity to showcase our members, our Chamber, and our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzie Kenner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Suzie Kenner  
Executive Director

# santa's bag winners!



Week 4:  
Mike Cull of  
Cavalier qualified  
at Simmons  
Multimedia in  
Langdon.



Week 5:  
Sheryl Erickson  
of Devils Lake  
qualified at US  
Bank.



Week 6:  
Perry Garske of  
Devils Lake. Perry  
qualified at Boots &  
Heels.

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## Membership Renewals

Thank you to all individuals and businesses for your 2013 membership renewal and continued support and commitment to making the Best - *Better*.

Anglers Inn  
Sue's Travel Center

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## New Members

Thank you to these businesses for joining the Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce in August, and for their support and commitment to making the Best - *Better*.

Ultra Green Packaging Inc.

# january 2012

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
		1	2	3 LAKE REGION GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT	4 LAKE REGION GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT	5 LAKE REGION GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT  PUBLIC SWIMMING: 12:00, NDSD
6	7 DL CITY COMMISSION MEETING: 5:30 city offices	8 EXTENSION ROUND UP: Memorial Building	9 RETAIL COMMITTEE MEETING: 8:30 am, Chamber  EXTENSION ROUND UP: Memorial Building	10 CHAMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: 10:00 am, Chamber	11	12 JR DUCK STAMP CAMP: 10:00 am, Sullys Hill  PUBLIC SWIMMING: 12:00, NDSD
13	14	15	16	17 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS: 5:00 pm, Kadmas, Lee & Jackson	18 PEE WEE A&B HOCKEY TOURNAMENT  LONESTAR CONCERT: 7:00 pm, Spirit Lake Casino	19 PUBLIC SWIMMING: 12:00, NDSD  PEE WEE A&B HOCKEY TOURNAMENT  CLASS "B" DAY
20 PEE WEE A&B HOCKEY TOURNAMENT	21 CHAMBER OFFICE CLOSED	22 TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING: 9:00 am, White House Cafe  CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD MEETING: 12:00 pm	23	24 MILITARY AFFAIRS CMT MEETING: 11:30 am, Camp Grafton CREATIVE IMPR. UNVEILING: 4:30 pm, Creative Impressions DL VOLUNTEER ICE FISHING TOURN. PRE- REGISTRATION: 5:00 pm, Memorial Bldg	25 DL VOLUNTEER ICE FISHING TOURN. PRE- REGISTRATION: 5:00 pm, Memorial Bldg  FORWARD DEVILS LAKE MEETING: 12:00 pm, White House Cafe	26 PUBLIC SWIMMING: 12:00, NDSD  DL VOLUNTEER ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT: 1:00 pm, Six Mile Bay
27	28	29	30	31		