



# January 2024 Newsletter

Our monthly newsletter includes updates from the Board, recognizes renewing and new members, shares upcoming events, photo gallery and more.

## Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Presents: *Mid Winter Celebration & Fundraiser* Saturday, January 27, 2024

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 69, 60 6TH AVENUE, GRANITE FALLS, MN**  
**SOCIAL HOUR: 5PM DINNER: 6 PM MUSIC: 7PM**

“Take an authentic trip back to the fantastic 50s with  
**The Holy Rocka Rollaz!**”



**GAMES AND SILENT AUCTION**

**Dress to impress in your Best 50's style attire!**



**TICKETS ARE \$60 INCLUDES DINNER & CONCERT**

- Available at:**
- Chamber of Commerce
  - Heathers Book Nook & SEW much more
  - Flowers from the Heart Granite Falls Location
  - American Legion Post #69

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING:**



- GRANITE FALLS ENERGY
- AVERA GRANITE FALLS HEALTH CENTER
- CHERRY ROAD MEDIA
- YELLOW MEDICINE EAST SCHOOLS
- SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE FOUNDATION
- ALMICH'S MARKET
- MVTV WIRELESS INTERNET
- PRAIRIE'S EDGE CASINO RESORT
- PROJECT TURNABOUT
- WESTERN FEST

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE: [FACEBOOK.COM/GRANITEFALLSAREACHAMBEROFCOMMERCE](https://facebook.com/granitefallsareachamberofcommerce)

Let's Rock & Roll!

Let's have a party!

Cruise on over!



Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Presents:

# Mid - Winter Celebration & Fundraiser

Saturday, January 27, 2024  
AMERICAN LEGION POST #69  
60 6TH AVENUE  
GRANITE FALLS, MN

# 1950'S SOCKHOP



There will be a whole lot of shakin' going on!

TICKETS ARE \$60 EACH AND INCLUDES DINNER & MUSIC FROM MINNESOTA'S OWN

## The Holy Rocka Rollaz



Mid-Winter Celebration & Fundraiser

Saturday, January 27, 2024  
AMERICAN LEGION POST #69  
60 6TH AVENUE  
GRANITE FALLS, MN



SOCIAL HOUR: 5PM  
DINNER: 6PM  
MUSIC: 7PM

TICKETS ARE ONLY: \$60  
INCLUDES DINNER & MUSIC  
FROM MINNESOTA'S OWN:



Come on upstairs at the Legion & let the good times roll!

GAMES AND SILENT AUCTION



AMERICAN LEGION POST #69  
60 6TH AVENUE  
GRANITE FALLS, MN

A night of fun, food & dancing!



Saturday, January 27, 2024

SOCIAL HOUR: 5PM  
DINNER: 6PM  
MUSIC: 7PM



TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE NEW CHAMBER OFFICE  
761 PRENTICE STREET, SUITE 5  
(320) 321-3202

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT:  
HEATHERS BOOK NOOK & SEW MUCH MORE  
FLOWERS FROM THE HEART (GRANITE FALLS)  
AMERICAN LEGION POST #69

DRESS TO IMPRESS  
IN YOUR BEST  
50'S STYLE ATTIRE!

TICKETS ARE \$60  
INCLUDES DINNER & MUSIC  
FROM MINNESOTA'S OWN  
THE HOLY ROCKA ROLLAZ!

A Special THANK YOU to the following:



- GRANITE FALLS ENERGY
- AVERA GRANITE FALLS HEALTH CENTER
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# BUSINESS

## Over **BREAKFAST**

### COFFEE - CONTACTS – PARTNERSHIPS



**Guest Speakers: Terry Gaalswyk, College President and  
Rebecca Weber, Dean of Student Services**

**Tuesday, January 9th, 2024**

**Where: Minnesota West Community & Technical College, use North  
entrance by the flagpole.**

**Coffee, juice and a light breakfast will be served.**

**Doors open at 7:30 am., program at 8 am.**

**RSVP 320-321-3202 or via email to:**

**[granitefallschamberofcommerce@gmail.com](mailto:granitefallschamberofcommerce@gmail.com)**

**Chamber Business Members: Free, Individual Members: \$5, Friends: \$10  
Pay at the Door. Walk-ins Welcome**



**Monthly Business Over Breakfast is sponsored by: Almich's Market, Citizen's Alliance Bank;  
Granite Falls, FM BANK; Granite Falls, Pioneer PBS, Prairie's Edge Casino Resort, and YME  
Schools.**

# Upcoming Member Events:

Every Thursday- Burger Day- Granite Run Golf Course

Every Thursday- Bingo- 7 pm- American Legion

Every Thursday- Knock-out Nachos & \$1 off Margaritas- The Rock: Dining & Events

Every Saturday- The Rockin' Bloody Mary 11-2 pm @ The Rock: Dining & Events

Second Tuesday- Book Club- GF Avera Care Center- 3:30-4:30 pm

Fourth Tuesday- heart 2 heart Memory Café – Senior Center- 9-10:30am.



City Council Meetings 7 pm. Every First & Third Monday at the City Hall



EDA meetings 5:30 pm. Second Monday at the City Hall



YME School Board meetings 6 pm. Second Monday at YME Board Room

## January

**1<sup>st</sup>- New Year's Day**

**5<sup>th</sup>- Artist Salon! Open Mic! with Brian-Paco 6:30-10 PM, The YES! House**

**9<sup>th</sup>- Business Over Breakfast- MN West Community & Technical College**

**15<sup>th</sup>- Martin Luther King's Birthday**

**27<sup>th</sup>- Chamber of Commerce Mid-Winter Celebration & Fundraiser @ American Legion. Tickets on sale now!**

**29<sup>th</sup>- Ole & Lena Medallion Hunt begins- Sponsored by FM BANK, Granite Falls location and Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce**



American Legion Post #69

Ole & Lena Specials

Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> to Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

Monday- Meatball Dinner 5-7pm

Tuesday- Liver & Onions Platter 5-7 pm \$9.95

Wednesday- Potato Klub 5-7 pm \$9

Thursday- Broasted Chicken Buffet & Salad Bar -- BINGO

Friday- Lutefisk Platter \$17.95, Broasted Chicken Dinner \$9.50, ½ BBQ Rib Dinner \$13.95

Lena's Samples of New Products 5-8pm Beer/Wine/Liquor

## February

**January 27<sup>th</sup>- February 3<sup>rd</sup>- Ole & Lena Days**

**2<sup>nd</sup>- Groundhog Day**

**3<sup>rd</sup>- Pancake Breakfast- 8-11am**

**3<sup>rd</sup>-Ole & Lena Days Craft & Vendor Show- 9 am- 1 pm**

**3<sup>rd</sup>- Lions Buck Euchre Tournament- 1 pm- The Rock: Dining & Events**

**3<sup>rd</sup>- Granite Falls Firemen's Dance/ Raffle- Prairie's Edge Casino Resort**

**8<sup>th</sup>- Business After Hours- Happy Hour Celebration- Open Forum 4:30-5:30 pm**

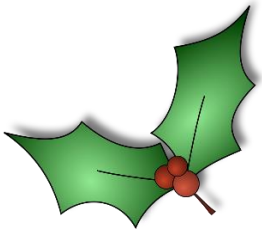
**12<sup>th</sup>- Lincoln's Birthday**

**13<sup>th</sup>- Business Over Breakfast- Lee Mar Ranch @ Pioneer PBS station**

**14<sup>th</sup> - Valentine's Day**

**19<sup>th</sup>- President's Day**





## **Ole and Lena Days- January 27- February 3, 2024**



Celebrate the region's Norwegian heritage and shake off the winter blues with a fun-filled, week-long celebration featuring some favorite annual events. The week kicks off with the **Chamber's Midwinter Celebration & Fundraiser, 50's Sock Hop**, with entertainment by **The Holly Rocka Rollaz** on **Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**, at the American Legion Post #69, and the hunt for the **Ole and Lena Medallions** starts **Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**. Join the local Kiwanis Club for a **Pancake Breakfast** and check out the **Winter Fest Craft and Vendor Show** on **Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Finish the week off by finding a partner to compete in the **Buck Euchre Tournament** put on by the Granite Falls Lions at **The Rock: Dining & Events** on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and the culminating event, the **Fireman's Dance** which always proves to be a great time on **Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>** at the **Prairie's Edge Casino Resort**. The **Granite Falls Volunteer Fire Department** is having its **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Raffle** for a 2024 Polaris Ranger 1000 Premium. **Drawing held at Prairie's Edge Casino Resort on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**. It is a time-honored tradition and fun for all ages. You can contact the YME Community Ed. Office at 320-564-4081, ext. 111 for more information.

**Get ready to go out and find Ole & Lena Medallions!!**

**Sponsored by The Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce & FM BANK; Granite Falls location.**



## December Business Over Breakfast

Thank you, Nick Richter, KCC Director, for speaking at our monthly Business Over Breakfast event. Nick told us all the exciting things going on at the Kilowatt Community Center in 2024. Thank you, Nick, for educating us. It was very helpful & informative!

Thank you for all who attend these events.



### Artist Salon! Open Mic! with Brian-Paco

January 5 | 6:30-10 PM

6:30 PM: Social Gathering / Sign Up Sheet

7-10 PM: Open Mic

The YES! House, Main Floor

Calling performing arts people! Performers and audience members are wanted for an open mic night with **Brian-Paco as our featured poet**. An evening of creativity and talent is on display in downtown Granite Falls. Local artist friends and lucky audience members sign up to take the stage to share their passions. The open mic includes space for poetry, music, comedy, storytelling, raps and more. Brian-Paco is excited to share poetic inspirations as well as a creative reading of their poems.

Participants: Brian-Paco (artist in residency), Pirate Betsy (hosting/music), Micheal (saxophone/accompaniment) and Cory (bass/accompaniment), Oak & Shell (music duo), Josh (comedy) Drew (guitar music) and more...

*This activity is part of Department of Public Transformation's River Valley Ripple Artist Residency Program at The YES! House, made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.*



## Meet the new *Chamber Board Member* **Jennifer Garcia Gray**



**Chamber Member Business:** Flowers from the Heart

**Something people might not know about your business:** We don't just sell flowers, plants and bereavement items. We have home decor and gift items too. Something for everyone!

**Role/Title at the business:** Sales Rep & Social Media Marketing Specialist

**Book or podcast you would recommend:** Mayim Bialik's Breakdown is a wonderful podcast about mental health. Smartless with Jason Bateman, Sean Hayes & Will Arnett is a funny one!

**Career advice for a high school student:** Take some business and finance classes or online courses right now!

**Favorite thing to do in the Granite Falls area:** Walking the paths at Memorial Park or Upper Sioux State Park. My kiddo is an athlete so spend a good amount of time at the baseball and football fields and in the gym at YME and KCC!

**Anything else we should know:** There are a lot of volunteer opportunities around this area, help out if you are able!



*Did you see that the Chamber has a sign outside of the Prentice Place Commons building? It was installed on November 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*Thank you, E & C Graphics!*

***\*\* Looking for businesses/organizations to present for  
Business Over Breakfast in 2024\*\****

***May 14<sup>th</sup> and beyond***



**Business Over Breakfast meets monthly to learn and mentor each other, grow businesses together & share business experiences. It has been proven to be the fastest way to market & grow businesses in a quick and extremely cost-effective way.**

***Holiday Lights & Decorations Contest Winners!!***

***Downtown Category: Granite Falls Public Library***

***Highway 212 Category: Dave's Electric Motor Co. & Trailer Sales***



**CONGRATULATIONS!!**



## 2023 Chamber Champions!!



**Thank you, Jennifer Garcia Gray and Lisa Travis for your volunteer work with the Chamber this past year!**

**Each received a gift certificate to Almich's Market.**

### Ten complete MCCE's Executive Leadership Program

Congratulations to the following individuals who completed the 2023 Executive Leadership Program in November. These new executives spent the year learning about the core components of a successful chamber, traveling the state visiting other local chambers, leadership development, and networking with each other. Each will be recognized at the Annual Meeting in February.

Pictured participants include Linda Althoff, Teresa Appelwick, Jane Bartho, Elizabeth Greenawalt, Aubrey Koop, Laurie Levine, Kandi Menne, Derek Ricke, Bonnie Vik and Sarah Warmka



# Winter Solstice December 21, 2023



Amazing night in downtown Granite Falls!!

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate the Winter Solstice!!

Enjoy all the wonderful Selfies with Elfie...



**Businesses and Individuals that have renewed their Membership Investment in  
2024**

Almich's Market	MN West Community & Technical College
Anderson, Barry & Kathy	MVTV Wireless Internet
Anderson-TeBeest Funeral Home	NAPA Auto Parts/ Star Group, LLC
Aus Floors & More	Prairie's Edge Casino Resort
Avera Granite Falls Health Center	Project Turnabout
Bjorndal, Scott & Karla	Rock Haven Church
CherryRoad Media/ GF Advocate Tribune	Southwest Initiative Foundation
Dairy Queen; Granite Falls	Thrivent, Mark Jensen
Falls Boutique	United Church of Christ
FM Bank	United Way of SW Minnesota
Freitag, Avis	Upgren Agency- State Farm
Granite Falls Energy	West Central Sanitation
Granite Falls Lions Club	Wing Bain Funeral Home
Granite Falls Lutheran Church	Women's Rural Advocacy Program
Granite Family Dentistry	YME School District
Granite Family Eyecare	Western Fest
Granite Hardware	
Henry Hill Apartments, MBG Property Management	<b><u>New Member:</u></b>
Hoffman & Brobst	IMS Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning
Kramer Law Office	Granite Family Chiropractic Center
Kubly, Pat	Granite Falls Assembly of God

***The Chamber had many successful events, with great community participation. We wish to continue advancing Granite Falls and the region.***

***The Chamber is a proud steward of its community and is grateful to Members like you for your support!***



Update on December's website analytics and Facebook information... In the month of December, our website, **Granitefallschamber.com** has had increased activity, with our Holiday Lights & Decorations Contest, Events, Contact Us, Member Directory and Job Opportunities pages getting the most activity. Google.com and Bing.com referred visitors to our website. On Facebook, the post that received the most views was: "Congratulations to the Granite Fall Public Library(downtown category) and Dave's Electric Motor Co. & Trailer Sales(Highway 212 category) for winning this year's traveling trophies..." We have 1,532 followers with Granite Falls being the top city for views location. Montevideo, Marshall, Clarkfield and Willmar were very close. Follow our Facebook page for up-to-date information and events.

## **Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors**

**Acting President:** Carolyn Lindquist, Heather's Book Nook & Sew Much More

**Treasurer:** Cindy Miller, Celtic Cross Massage

**Secretary:** Pam Rosenau, MVTV Wireless Internet

**Director:** Kevin TeBeest, Anderson-TeBeest Funeral Home

**Director:** Kelly Kruger, Full Circle Realty Group

**Director:** Samantha Godfrey, CherryRoad Media/Advocate Tribune

**Director:** Jennifer Garcia Gray, Flower's from the Heart

**Executive Director:** Bonnie Vik

**Office Hours: Monday- Friday 10 am – 2pm.**

**Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce & CVB**

**761 Prentice Street, Suite 5**

**Granite Falls, MN 56241**

**Email: [granitefallschamberofcommerce@gmail.com](mailto:granitefallschamberofcommerce@gmail.com)**

**[www.granitefallschamber.com](http://www.granitefallschamber.com)**

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