



take root
Rushford-Peterson Valley[®]
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Newsletter

April 2016



Successful Community Clean-up



Saturday, April 23 provided a perfect morning for the Root River Trail Towns's Trail-wide Clean-up and the Rushford Peterson Valley Community Clean-up. In our valley alone, over **70 volunteers** made quick work of trash removal along our 15-mile stretch of the trail and parks and public spaces in all three cities. In some locations, volunteers also helped with weeding. Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Arendahl 4-H, and the R-P Fellowship of Christian Athletes (and many family members of these groups) participated. **A big thanks to the Rushford Lions for serving a great lunch at the Rushford Depot for**

the volunteers. During the Trail-wide Clean-up, all communities along the trail took sections of the 60-mile trail and several communities decided to conduct their own in-town clean-ups the same day. Thanks to the volunteers that helped keep our area a beautiful place to live and visit!

Events Calendar
 1st Wednesday of the
 Month - Lions Club
 Evening Meeting

Survey from Rushford EDA

Survey deadline extended! The Rushford Economic Development Authority has asked for input from our business community in regards to opportunities in our central business district. Please utilize the link below to complete a

1st Saturday of the
Month - Masons Pancake
Breakfast

May 5
(5-7 p.m.)
Rushford Community
Foundation's Cinco de
Mayo Celebration/
Fundraiser/Annual
Meeting @ Ferndale Golf
Course

May 13-14
City-wide Garage Sales
in the RP Valley

May 14
(8:30 a.m.)
Rover Run

May 17
(12:30 p.m.)
Ribbon-cutting at Grace
Place's expanded
location

May 18
(5-6 p.m.)
After-Hours Social at
Rushford State Bank

May 20-21
Twin Cities Model A Ford
Club staying at Rushford
Loken's Inn

May 20-22
SEMBA Bluegrass
Festival @ Cushon's
Peak

May 21
(5-8 p.m.)
6th Annual ExpoCulinaria

May 26
(12 p.m.)
Chamber Member
Meeting - Lunch w/
Rushford Postmaster
Monica Bjork re: Direct
Mail Marketing

May 30
(10 a.m.)
Peterson Memorial Day
Service at the Bandstand

June 18
Gammel Dag Fest

two question survey. The survey link will remain active until only May 6, so respond today, and thanks for your participation!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/rushfordsurvey>



SAVE THE DATE
May 21, 2016 | 5-8 pm
Downtown Rushford

Savor delectable samples.
Listen to jazz and blue grass.
Watch cooking demonstrations.

Delicious samples at Norsland Lefse, Stumpy's Restaurant & Bar, The Creamery, Ferndale Country Club, Jessie Street Java, Rushford IGA Deli, Shawnee's Bar & Grill and Pam's Off-Sale Liquor. Cooking demonstrations by Steve Burdey, owner of Burdey's Café in Peterson, and Rodney Thompson.

taste. enjoy. listen.

Pick up your **FREE** ExpoCulinaria passport at Jessie Street and Hwy 43 on the 21st.

www.facebook.com/expoculinaria | www.rushfordpetersonvalley.com

Chamber Activities

Network with fellow Chamber Members at the following events:

Join the Chamber Board of Directors on May 17 at 12:30 p.m. to celebrate **Grace Place's expanded location** at 300 S. Mill Street. This additional space will be used for the non-profit organization's mentoring and small group parent and child activities. Grace Place's thrift store will remain at 110 W. Jessie St.

Rushford State Bank will host an After-Hours Social on Wednesday, May 18 from 5-6 p.m. Meet their new employees, receive information on avoiding counterfeit money, and enjoy appetizers and punch at this open house event..

A **Chamber Member meeting** will take place on Thursday, May 26 at 12:00 p.m. at the Rushford Legion. Our local postmaster, Monica Bjork, will speak about direct mail marketing available through the U.S. Postal Service. A wrap & soup lunch will be served from Norsland Lefse. Stay tuned for more details.

Membership. We have **103 members** in 2016 to date! Welcome newest member: Town & Country Women's Club! Thank you to all who continue to support the Chamber and its activities. Please [contact us](#) if you have not received your 2016 Membership Certificate.

Collaborative Advertising. Efforts continue to market our area as a place to visit, to live, and to do business. Along with our cities, the Chamber participated in collaborative advertisements in the official *Minnesota 2016 Travel Guide* and the *Explore Southern Minnesota* magazine. It is only with the participation from several communities part of Root River Trail Towns that

we are able to highlight our region in these major publications.

GAMMEL DAG FEST
 PETERSON, MN
JUNE 18, 2016
 Activities starting at 10 AM
 Scandinavian Midsummer Celebration
 and Good Old Days Activities

Hardanger Fiddler
 Nordic Dancers
 Scandinavian Treats
 Folk Art Demonstrations
 Nordic Fashion (Bunad) Show
 Flower Crowns
 Norwegian Language Lessons
 Parade
 Children's Games
 Vintage Baseball
 Artists
 Medicine Show
 Vintage Quilt Show
 Scavenger Hunt
 Puzzle Contest
 Chicken Dinner
 4-H Desserts
 Strawberry Shortcake
 Legion Street Dance (Fri-Sat)

BUTTON DRAWING
 Saturday at 10 AM
 216 271 22

For more details go to petersonmn.org or Facebook

June 24-25
 Root River Trail Towns'
 60-Mile Garage Sale



Purchase "take root"
 brand t-shirts at
 Rushford Hardware.
 Men's and Women's
 sizes available in
 several colors.

Used Ink Cartridges
 The Rushford Lions Club
 collects used ink
 cartridges, which are
 turned in to raise money
 for the Lions Children's
 Eye Clinic and the
 Hearing Center at the
 University of MN.

Share news or events!
 If you have information to
 share with your fellow
 Chamber members or
 would like to be
 considered for the
 Business of the Month,
 please contact the
 Chamber office. Also,
 Chamber members may
 post employment
 opportunities on the RP
 Valley website at no cost.
 The Chamber coordinator
 updates the local Cable
 Access Channel, so

PRESTON We have it all! Fishing, biking, hiking, skiing, canoeing, tubing, snowmobiling, visit Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park, or the State Veterans Cemetery! Now's the time to "Get Hooked on Preston!" Start planning your Preston visit today!
www.prestonmtourism.com

Fountain

Whalan

Laneshboro

HARMONY So much awaits you in our friendly rural community! Visit fascinating Niagara Cave, enjoy an Amish tour and explore our antiques and unique gift shops! To help keep you fueled grab a bite in any of our excellent restaurants. With so much to offer let us help you find Harmony in your life!
www.exploreharmony.com

Rushford

Rushford Village

LANESBORO Recognized by Smithsonian Magazine, Fodor's Travel, ArtPlace Magazine and USA Today Travel as a Top Community to visit in the USA!
www.lanesboro.com

Houston

RUSHFORD/PETERSON "Take Root" in this scenic valley, abundant in wildlife and year-round, outdoor fun. Bike the Root River State Trail, hike the bluffs, enjoy river activities, shop various stores, experience local restaurants, and stay awhile— with camping or hotel accommodations.
www.internationaloulcenter.org
www.rushfordpetersonvalley.com

take root
 Rushford-Peterson Valley
 MINNESOTA
www.rushfordpetersonvalley.com

Root River Trail Towns
rootrivertrail.org

MN Mayors Association Conference. Thank you to the following Chamber member businesses and organizations that contributed items for Rushford Mayor Chris Hallum to bring to the Minnesota Mayors Association Conference on April 29:

- Sweet Dreams Bed & Breakfast
- Metz Hart-land Creamery, Dairy & Honey
- Norsland Lefse & Bakery
- Shipwreck Publishing
- Nordic Lanes & Lounge
- Semcac Community Action Agency
- Tri-County Electric Co-operative
- Farmers Co-op Elevator
- Dahl's Auto Works
- Rushford-Peterson Schools

Chamber Member Business of the Month O'Donnell Wealth Management

In observance of April's designation as National Financial Capability Month and National Financial Literacy Month, we recognize Chamber member O'Donnell Wealth Management. April's designations are meant to draw awareness to the need to improve access to safe and affordable financial services and to improve the financial skills of all people. One of the keys to improving financial capability is our willingness to talk about money. At O'Donnell Wealth Management, *meaningful conversations* are at the forefront of the financial services offered.

Since 2007 when Jeffrey O'Donnell began O'Donnell Wealth Management as an independent adviser with LPL Financial, he has been building relationships with his clients through conversations—providing quality financial information and guidance to help them make sound decisions in managing assets and planning for their financial future. O'Donnell helps clients with retirement planning, 401(k) rollovers, consolidating accounts, investments, risk management, small business retirement plans, college savings, estate

planning, charitable giving, and more. Whatever an individual or couple's level of financial capability, at O'Donnell Wealth Management one finds an approachable and helpful financial consulting

community events will be put on that channel and the RP Valley website.



process aimed at identifying and achieving financial goals.

When not at his office in the Mill Street Mall, Jeffrey and his wife, Chelsea, raise a family in Rushford. He also serves on the board of the Rushford Community Foundation, acts as vice chair at Root River Community Church, and is a member of the Rushford Volunteer Fire Department

The Chamber recognizes O'Donnell Wealth Management as the Member Business of the Month, commending the business' nine years of serving residents of the Rushford Peterson Valley and beyond!

Local Business & Community News

Rushford Community Foundation is having a Cinco de Mayo Celebration/Fundraiser/Annual Meeting on May 5, 5-7 p.m., at Ferndale Golf Course. A limited number of tickets are being sold. Attend to support our local foundation and receive appetizers, a drink of choice, and door prizes. A silent auction will be held, and participants will hear from guest speaker Tim Penny. Tickets are \$25 and available from any board member or by [email](#).

Nordic Lanes & Lounge will have a "Tap Takeover" event on May 5, 5-9 p.m., sponsored by Schott Distributors. Four brews from Oskar Blue Brewery will be available for tasting, and tacos will be available for purchase. Nordic Lanes' Volleyball League starts May 10. The Tuesday night league is looking for teams or subs. Contact Jim at 864-7799 or by [email](#).

Grace Place in Rushford will sponsor Watercolor Classes, led by [Joyce King](#), and all proceeds go to support the Grace Place mission. This Adult/Teen Watercolor class will be held at the Mill Street Mall on Saturday, May 14 at 1:00 p.m. The fee is \$15 with supplies provided. Registration (due May 9) is available at Grace Place's Rushford Thrift Store or by calling 864-2324.

Rushford Lutheran Church Women will have their Annual Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, May 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m, in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$7. The public is welcome, and carry-outs are available.

City of Peterson welcomes new **City Clerk Leanne Kasper**, who has lived in the area for over 35 years. Kasper retired last July from Benchmark Electronics, where she was a regulatory affairs specialist. Kasper's City of Peterson office hours will remain the same: Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m. The Peterson City Council will now meet the **second Wednesday each month** at 6 p.m. at Peterson City Hall. The **Peterson Memorial Day Program** will be at the Bandstand (Middle School in case of rain) at 10:00 a.m. on May 30.



Reminder! Peterson's New Playground will be installed on Saturday, May 7. Volunteers are needed from about 7 a.m. to 12 noon. A consultant from the playground company will be on-site to guide the volunteers. All volunteers will be fed by the *Friends of Peterson*. Contact Loren Rue with your availability: 507-875-2262.

Root River Trail Towns is planning its second annual 60-Mile Garage Sale on June 24-25. Any resident in or between these communities can participate for no cost. Please contact [Jen Hengel](#) or [Gail Boyum](#) to have your garage

sale added to the Google map and social media promotion of this event. The group's first annual [Root River Bluff & Valley Bicycle Tour](#) is scheduled July 8-10. Beginning and ending in Whalan, the tour travels roadways and visits all nine Root River Trail Towns. The bike tour participants will be in Rushford on Sunday, July 10 for "lunch on their own" and will be in Peterson later that afternoon for refreshments.

Veterans Memorial Park Conceptual Sketches & Images were presented at Rushford City Hall in April. The Rushford Veterans Memorial will be built on the west edge of Creekside Park. The Rushford American Legion is taking orders for memorial bricks (order forms available at City Hall or Legion). Orders received by June 15 will be placed in the park by September 11, 2016. Contact Scuffy Paulson at 507-450-8493 with questions.



Groups coming to our area in May:

~ **Twin Cities Model A Ford Club** will be here May 20-21, staying at Loken's Rushford Inn.

~ **Minnesota Street Rod Association** will have their Spring Camp-out at Eagle Cliff Campground on May 21. Prior to their car show at the campground that afternoon, they would like to have a morning Poker Run, including Rushford Peterson Valley establishments. Stay tuned for more details, and contact the Chamber office if your establishment is interested in being a Poker Run site.

Employee Wellness Opportunity! R-P Community Ed is offering a new fitness class in May. Rockout while you workout with POUND, the alternative fitness phenomenon inspired by drumming that fuses cardio, strength training, and conditioning using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix. This 4-week session of 45-minute classes will be performed barefoot. Bring a yoga mat (or they're available at class if you don't have one), sweat towel, and water bottle. Advanced registration is required.

Spring Household Clean-up Days have been scheduled for Rushford Village--May 13 & 14--and [Rushford--May 21](#). (Peterson had its household clean-up on April 23.) Contact each City Hall for more details on what items will or will not be accepted. Household hazardous waste items won't be accepted at these city clean-ups; however, the Fillmore County Resource Recovery Center is having its [Household Hazardous Waste Collection](#) on Tuesday, May 3 from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

News from around the state and nation

MN Headlines: House passes major jobs, ag, environment budget bill; wide gulf with Senate (from Minneapolis Star Tribune, 4/28/2016)

The Republican-controlled House passed a major environment, agriculture and jobs bill after hours of debate on Wednesday, leaving a wide gulf between the House and Senate, which have until May 23 to finish work for the year. House Republicans, led by Rep. Pat Garofalo, R-Farmington, chairman of a key jobs committee, cut about \$20 million from existing economic development programs called the Minnesota Investment Fund and the Job Creation Fund for new spending on broadband Internet expansion, the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System, workforce housing and economic disparities, among many other programs. [Read more...](#)

MN Headlines: Minnesota GOP pushes 'smarter government' spending plan (from Duluth News Tribune, 4/28/2016)

Republicans want to finish a southwest Minnesota water project, kill the state film board, fund a tractor safety program, get rid of two business economic development programs and help Mille Lacs Lake-area businesses suffering from walleye fishing restrictions. All of that is part of what the GOP says would come without raising overall state spending. Democrats say a massive bill the House passed 72-54 Wednesday, after nearly five hours of mostly partisan debate and votes, missed an opportunity to help Minnesotans because it does not use money from an expected \$900 million state budget surplus; it only moved money from one pocket to another, so some existing programs would shrink or disappear. [Read more...](#)

As Google found out, it takes a lot of work to really hire smarter

(from TLNT) As much as we might not like to admit it, our career paths are heavily influence by sheer luck and happenstance, i.e., knowing someone who can give us a referral, or simply being in the right place at the right time. [Learn more about Google's quest for a hiring algorithm...](#) and [Google's four rules for hiring exceptional employees...](#)

The Secret To Business And Workplace Success? It's Getting Stuff Done

(from TLNT) This can be a little hard to comprehend because we're conditioned to believe that complexity requires more complexity, a lesson that may have sunk in for me back when I was taking higher math classes as a kid and got freaked out by the humongous equations. But, it also infects the business world and the talent management arena, too. [Read more for an informative--and simple--message about workplace success...](#)

Contact

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