

BUSINESS CENTRAL

Issue: November/December 2011

Section: Business Calendar

Word Count:

Art/Photos:

Photo Credit:

Captions:

Finken Water Center is celebrating 50 years of quality water treatment.

“Wif Finken started Finken Water Centers in September, 1961 out of a small shop in Melrose, MN. Finken has since grown to be a distinguished and respected water, plumbing, heating and cooling solutions provider. Finken Water Centers and Finken, Plumbing, Heating and Cooling now operate out of five different locations in Minnesota including: Melrose, Litchfield, Osseo, Albertville and Headquarters in St Cloud.”

Noonan, Bursch Join Community Foundation Board

“Business Leaders To Help Drive Vision

St. Cloud, Minn. – The Central Minnesota Community Foundation (CMCF) announced today the appointment of business leaders Mike Noonan and Fred Bursch to the board of directors.

Mike Noonan is a founding shareholder of Rinke Noonan law firm, based in St. Cloud. He focuses on serving businesses and specializes in corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, commercial transactions and real estate development.

Fred Bursch is owner of Bursch Travel, the largest privately owned travel company between the Twin Cities and Seattle. He leads the travel agency’s 13 branch offices and 2 satellite offices in Greater Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. Bursch serves as board representative for the Alexandria Area Community Foundation affiliate, where he also serves as a member of the local board.

The board of directors for the Central Minnesota Community Foundation governs the Foundation, establishes policy, sets priorities and makes final grant decisions. All members are volunteers and serve three-year terms.

The Central Minnesota Community Foundation (CMCF), based in St. Cloud, is a public charity that administers over 500 charitable funds totaling more than \$65 million for the benefit of local residents. CMCF has been engaging people and connecting resources to build a better community since 1985. CMCF deepens its community impact through its affiliates, Alexandria Area Community Foundation, Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation, and Willmar Area Community Foundation, as well as its supporting organization the Minnesota Real Estate Foundation. Learn more at CommunityGiving.org.”

Business Journal Announces Steve Knutson from Marco, Inc. as CIO of the Year for 2011

St. Cloud, MN – The Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal has announced Steve Knutson, CIO of Marco, Inc. as an honoree for its first-ever CIO of the Year Awards. The Business Journal chose 14 honorees who serve as chief information and technology officers at firms ranking from small companies to global corporations. Knutson was selected as CIO of the Year for the corporate level. Honorees were chosen by a panel of judges from the Twin Cities tech community. Knutson has been with Marco since 1999 and became CIO/CTO in 2004. Profiles of all the honorees will appear in a special Business Journal publication next month.

Rajkowski Hansmeier Ltd. Would like to announce:

Troy A. Poetz, share holder with the Rajkowski Hansmeier law firm in St. Cloud, was recently selected for inclusion in the 2011 Minnesota Rising Stars. The Minnesota Rising Stars are based upon a search for evidence of peer recognition and professional achievement and only 2.5 percent of lawyers in the state are named to the list.

Frank J. Rajkowski, Gordon H. Hansmeier, Paul A. Rajkowski, and Kevin F. Gray, shareholders with the Rajkowski Hansmeier law firm in St. Cloud, were recently selected for inclusion in the 2011 Minnesota Super Lawyers. Only the top five percent of lawyers in the state are named to this list.

Loran Hall Elected Chairman of the Board of Lumbermen's Merchandising Corporation

(St. Cloud, Minn.) – Loran Hall, President of Mathew Hall Lumber Company, was recently elected as Chairman of the Board of Lumbermen's Merchandising Corporations (LMC).

LMC is the largest forest products and building materials buying group in the USA. The 362 independent lumberyards who make up LMC's stockholders have 1,200 members across 48 states and the Bahamas with annual sales of \$8 billion.

Hall was chosen for his unique perspective that comes from his wide range of experience and knowledge from serving on LMC committees. He has served on the finance, audit, building materials, forest products and the executive committees in the past. Hall will serve as Chairman of the board through 2013.

Mathew Hall, a five-generation company, continues its heritage of treating each and every customer as a personal friend while providing the very best quality of building materials. Their team of professionals help contractors and homeowners build, remodel and redecorate their homes.

Dyan J. Ebert Joins Executive Committee of the Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association

“Quinlivan & Hughes, P.A. is proud to announce that Dyan J. Ebert has joined the Executive Committee of the Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association (MDLA). She will

initially serve as Secretary beginning in August advancing to Treasurer, President Elect, and eventually President in 2014.

MDLA is an association of over 700 members dedicated to serving the needs of lawyers engaging primarily in the defense and trial of civil disputes.”

Marco CFO Jennifer Mrozek Named as one of the Top Women in Finance for 2011

St. Cloud, MN – Finance & Commerce recently named Jennifer Mrozek, CFO at Marco, Inc. as one of the Top Women in Finance for 2011. The award recognizes the efforts of women who are making notable contributions to their professions and communities. Mrozek has been with Marco since 1998 and became CFO in 2003. She has served as a Board Member, Community Investment Team Chair and Audit Committee Member for the Central Minnesota United Way. She is a board member of the St. Cloud Area YMCA and the St. Cloud Junior Achievement Chapter. Mrozek also belongs to the Minnesota ESOP Association Program Committee and the local Forum of Executive Women.

Honorees will be recognized at the November 10th dinner and awards presentation at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis.

Rinke Noonan adds attorney

Rinke Noonan is pleased to welcome Jennifer Elston-Brondell as an attorney. Jennifer graduated from the College of St. Benedict and later received her law degree from William Mitchell College of Law. Prior to joining Rinke Noonan, Jennifer previously worked for several years in the area of estate planning at a local firm.

Culver’s launches antibiotic-free chicken

St. Cloud, MN- (Sept. 6) “Culver’s commitment to authentic, freshly-sourced ingredients continues with the launch of their new, premium- antibiotic free- chicken this week at all locations, including” the Culver’s located at 901 Hwy 10 South in St. Cloud and the Culver’s located at 1101 Second Street in Waite Park.

“The juicier, fresh taste of the new chicken originates from being raised on a 100 percent vegetarian diet by family-owned Springer Mountain Farms in Georgia, a subsidiary brand of Fieldale Farms.”

“Culver’s is an expanding franchise system with more than 439 independently owned and operated restaurants in 19 states. The restaurants’ awarded-winning customer service is based on small-town, Midwestern values, genuine friendliness and an unwavering commitment to quality and freshness.”

“Springer Mountain Farms is the only poultry company in the world to be American Humane Certified by the American Humane Association. This means that, besides being void of growth stimulants, chickens are never fed animal by-products; have access to clean water; live under conditions that limit stress; and have sufficient space, facilities, shelter and resting areas.”

Marcus Theatres® Announces Renovations and New Zaffiro's Pizzeria and Bar at Parkwood Cinema in Waite Park, Minn.

MILWAUKEE--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Marcus Theatres®, a division of The Marcus Corporation (NYSE:MCS), today announced that renovations are underway at its Parkwood Cinema in Waite Park, Minn., a western St. Cloud suburb. The theatre is undergoing extensive renovations to transform it into an entertainment destination featuring the company's second Zaffiro's Pizzeria and Bar, remodeled auditoriums and a new concession stand and box office.

“Literally every inch of the building will be renovated. Guests will be greeted with a brand-new entryway and open lobby area where they can enjoy their favorite snacks from the renovated concession stand,” said Bruce J. Olson, president of Marcus Theatres. “Three auditoriums will be converted to intimate luxury® style auditoriums that include oversized leather reclining seats, side tables and 16 additional inches of legroom. The remaining 14 auditoriums, with a total of 2,550 seats, will be updated with wide, comfortable memory-foam velour cushioned seats with reclining backs. The upgraded seats will allow guests to adjust the seat-back to their personal preference and provide better support. The theatre's restrooms will also be remodeled as part of the renovations.”

“The expanded food and beverage facilities will allow guests to purchase food and drinks from the concession stand and Zaffiro's Express, which will serve many of the same items on the Zaffiro's restaurant menu, to enjoy in the comfort of their seat while watching the latest blockbuster. Moviegoers will now be able to dine and enjoy a movie in one convenient location,” added Olson.

Olson said the highlight of the Parkwood theatre renovations is the addition of Marcus Theatres' second Zaffiro's Pizzeria and Bar restaurant. The new Zaffiro's will replace one of the theatre's existing auditoriums. “Because of the outstanding response we received to our first Zaffiro's restaurant adjacent to our North Shore Cinema in Mequon, Wis., we plan to open our second restaurant in Waite Park in time for the holidays. A Milwaukee, Wis. tradition since 1954, residents in the St. Cloud area will enjoy the thincredible, handmade-to-order pizzas, along with other popular menu items including bruschetta, the Zaffiro's kitchen sink salad, delicious pastas and sandwiches, homemade soups and mouth-watering desserts. Zaffiro's will also include a full bar with signature drink selections, an extensive wine and beer list and other cocktail selections. Other features will include a carryout service, live acoustic music on Fridays, patio seating and iPads for guests to enjoy as they dine.”

“From brand-new seats and a remodeled concession stand to the availability of delicious pizza and signature cocktails, we are excited to combine all of these elements into one entertainment destination,” added Olson.

Olson said the lobby renovations and Zaffiro's restaurant are scheduled to be completed by December, with the balance of the project expected to be completed in early 2012.

Microbiologics, Inc. Breaks Ground on Corporate Headquarters Building Expansion

Saint Cloud, Minnesota USA (September 15, 2011) Microbiologics held a ground breaking ceremony yesterday for a 19,200 square foot expansion, nearly doubling the size of their existing building, at the company's corporate headquarters in Saint Cloud, Minnesota. Scheduled for completion in April 2012, Microbiologics has teamed up with local design and contracting company Miller Architects and Builders to complete the project.

Microbiologics is a global leader in manufacturing biological reference materials for quality control testing in the pharmaceutical, food, environmental, clinical and educational industries. In 2008, St. Cloud based investment firm Granite Equity Partners became the majority owners of Microbiologics. Guests of the ground breaking ceremony included Microbiologics Board of Directors and employees, Granite Equity Partners investment group, members of the St. Cloud City Council, and other local business partners.

The new two-story building will include a reception area, many offices and work spaces, several conference rooms, a large shipping and warehouse area, as well as an area for employee functions. Renovations will also be completed to improve production and packaging areas in the existing building.

Microbiologics Chief Executive Officer, Brad Goskowicz, commented, "With this new building expansion, and the improvements to our existing building, Microbiologics is going to be even more efficient than we are today. We are redesigning our production, packaging, and shipping areas to streamline the manufacturing process and get orders out the door faster, and all of our administrative departments will be located in one central area to create a more organized work environment."

Goskowicz added, "Microbiologics is growing rapidly and with additional space and enhancements, we will continue to expand as we fulfill our mission of providing the highest quality biomaterials for a safer, healthier world."

Schlenner Wenner Promotions

SEE PDF

Darin Evavold Joins Westwood

August 3, 2011

Minneapolis, MN – Westwood Professional Services, Inc., a national land and energy development consultant, announces that Darin Evavold has joined the firm's St. Cloud, Minnesota office.

Evavold will be working as an engineering technician in the land group. He brings more than 17 years of construction experience to Westwood. Evavold graduated from the University of North Dakota with a B.S. in Industrial Technology.

Local Veterinarian Wins Top Prize in Google Essay Contest for Small Business

SEE PDF

Times Media continues to add key staff to support Gannett initiatives alongside President and Publisher Scott Johnson

Monday, August 15, 2011

St. Cloud, MN – Times Media and the St. Cloud Times have hired three key staff members to support strategic print, online and mobile initiatives, promote Social Media innovations and marketing departments, and drive advertising sales.

Jennifer Noble has been named marketing manager. She brings more than 15 years of extensive sales and marketing experience which includes advertising sales, retail, direct selling, programs and promotions management and product development from major corporations including St. Cloud-based Creative Memories World Headquarters, Dex Media, along with business ownership in local Noble Custom Homes. She is leading Times Media branding, promotions, programs, community partnerships, charitable work and works with the Advertising, Newsroom and Circulation Teams and Directors. Strategic Initiatives specifically are aimed at growing print and online revenue and customer outreach to ensure that Times Media remains solidly positioned as a key leader and active participant in growing the Central Minnesota community.

Rachael Wenner has been named Social Media Commerce Manager. Wenner will focus on the new national Gannett initiative DealChicken.com, the hottest new deal website. Customers can register to receive weekly major local deals. Closely interfacing with the Directors of Advertising, Retail Sales and Marketing, it is a rapidly moving, innovative business venture. Rachael brings extensive background in social media, viral marketing, consumer interface, along with experiential marketing and promotions management.

Aaron Lundrigan has been named Advertising Account Executive. Lundrigan brings extensive advertising sales background from Dex Media. Aaron will be working directly with local businesses helping them to achieve their goals and objectives through an effective marketing campaign. He will be utilizing all of the Times Media products including the St. Cloud Times in print and online, as well as our magazines and Yahoo. Aaron will be focusing on businesses within Waite Park and the ROCORI area.

Marco, Inc. adds staff

September 2, 2011

Marco recently hired John Wallenfeldt- Network Engineer, Darlene Gately- Leasing Coordinator, Robert Wilczek- Accounting Assistant, and Chris Grazlewicz- Copier Service Technician.