



“WRIGHT” NEXT TO THE METRO

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What's inside?

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A recap of 2007.

“Highway 55 Corridor Coalition” –
Elected 2008 Officers.

“2008 Annual Meeting Press Release” –
Come check us out!

“Upcoming Events” –
2008 Annual Meeting & Award Ceremony with guest speaker Mike Ciresi.

“Membership Directory 2008” –
Consider advertising in the wide spread 2008 Membership Directory.

“Partnership current member listings” –
Check out the members we do have and consider joining or recruit another business to do so.

“Contact information” –
For any questions you may have about The Partnership or “Around the County”, please contact us.

Around the County



Around the County

by
Noel LaBine
Executive Director

Looking back on 2007 gives a positive perspective about the state of the Wright County Economy. A number of industrial and commercial developments have occurred throughout the county:

- In Albertville there were 3 new multi-tenant retail buildings (strip malls) by the Town Lakes Development.
- In Annandale, a second 16-bed hospital was built to care for developmentally challenged people, 8 to 10 new personal storage condominiums were built, Annandale Foods started their 6,000 square foot (s.f.) expansion, the canopies in downtown were upgraded, and the old Ambassador building along Highway 55 is being remodeled for Classic Rides & Rods, an antique car auction place.
- In Buffalo, R&M manufacturing of St. Louis Park has confirmed plans to move into the 114,000 s.f. Honeywell Building with plans to have up to 120 manufacturing jobs in the next two years.
- In Cokato, Olson Chain & Cable started the New Year moving into their new building, which has a very sophisticated ground-heat pump HVAC system that provides most of their energy needs. Also, at the beginning of the year, the Classic Egg building was acquired and occupied by a local egg cracking company.
- In Delano, the downtown mixed used project was completed with a new restaurant and two other retail spaces; and Integrated Molecular Material Science, a manufacturer of ceiling tiles that are green construction friendly, started up.
- In Hanover, the new Bank West building began construction on the corner of Co. Rd. 19 and 20.
- In Maple Lake, Hanson Welding completed their new building that houses 11 employees. Certified Wood Products moved into their new state-of-the-art building providing certified wood products for the green construction industry. A new 4 unit strip mall along Hwy 55 was completed and two new business. Rhino Rotational Molding started their second expansion with a 50,000 s.f. factory warehouse space.
- In Monticello, the voters agreed to allow the city to start a city-wide fiber optic communications company that would provide broadband services to all of its citizens. This will eventually provide the best world-class internet service to businesses in Monticello. Retail grew rapidly with a new Home Depot and a new Target opening along I-94. Several strip malls also were built with about 50% of that new space occupied. River City Lanes Extreme opened in November. Standard Iron Works purchased the vacant Maus Grocery building and began retrofitting it for their new office headquarters building. Karlsburg Foods opened their new building in the Industrial Park and Washburn Computers completed their move into the retrofitted 30,000 s.f. building at 218 Chelsea Road.
- In Otsego, Duke Realty completed its first 150,000 s.f. spec industrial building along State Highway 101. Also, Terra General Contractors began construction on the new Target Store, which will be located between #101 and County Rd. 42.
- Northwest of Rockford along Highway 55, a proposed industrial park just east of the existing Dickinson Springs industrial area, passed all approvals. Construction is expected to begin this spring.

- In St. Michael, a new Allina Clinic, a new Holiday convenience and a new 78,000 s.f. Market Place Grocery opened by the new Town Center along #241. Also, the new High School building began construction and J&B Wholesale, a meat processor, started their 95,000 s.f. expansion.
- In Waverly, the city approves plans for the new industrial park located behind the Citizen's State Bank, and the developer began construction of the infrastructure there. Also, a new grill and bar opened up along Highway # 12.

Moreover, there are several positive signs that are keeping our regional economy buoyed:

- Retail customers continue to spend. This past season has been good, and even post Christmas shopping is up 2.2 percent, according to our nation's retailers.
- Minnesota's new export orders jumped in December. Even though Minnesota manufacturers are more pessimistic than they have been in the recent past, the overall Midwest report declared improved conditions in December.
- The cheap U.S. dollar is having a positive effect on demand for U.S. products.
- Locally, conversations with commercial contractors and architects reveal that demand continues for development of commercial property.

Overall, the Wright County business climate reveals a strong tendency towards a successful 2008 year. We certainly hope that you have a good one, too!

Noel LaBine
Executive Director

Highway 55 Corridor Coalition elects officers for 2008

The Highway 55 Corridor Coalition at its December 14, 2007 General Membership meeting elected its officers for 2008. Elected Chair was City of Independence Mayor, Marvin Johnson. Marvin Johnson is a long time City of Independence councilman and mayor. He has been involved in the City since 1973 serving on the Planning Commission from 1973 to 1975, then as a councilmember from 1976-1979 and from 1979 to present, 28 years; Marvin has been mayor of Independence.

During this time, Mayor Johnson has served on numerous regional, state and national committees and organizations including Vice Chair of the League of Minnesota Cities and member of the Metropolitan Radio Board. Mayor Johnson has been an active member of the Highway 55 Corridor Coalition and welcomes the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Coalition.

Elected Vice Chair was Mark Casey. Mark is currently the City Administrator for the City of Annandale since 2004. Prior to working for the City of Annandale, Mark worked for the Annandale and Maple Lake School Districts for ten years. Mark also worked for the cities of Columbia Heights, St. Peter and Faribault. Currently Mark also serves on the Allina Hospital Board of Trustees, Wright County Economic Partnership Board of Directors and Wright County Water Task Force.

Liz Weir was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Liz Weir is in her fourth year of serving as a Medina city council member. From 1997 to 2004, she was a Planning Commission member, and she chaired the commission from 2001 to 2002. Liz represents Medina at the Highway 55 Corridor Coalition, Healthy Communities Committee and the Lake Independence TMDL Task Force. She trained as a nurse in England, worked as an RN in Cape Town, South Africa and in Minneapolis and has written for weekly newspapers and reviewed theater for Talkinbroadway.com.

2008 Annual Meeting to be held at the new River City Extreme Entertainment Center in Monticello

The Wright County Economic Development Partnership will hold its Annual Meeting at the new River City Lanes Extreme Entertainment Center in Monticello on January 19th from 7:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. This event will feature a buffet breakfast, presentation of business & citizen's awards, and guest speaker, Mike Ciresi. The cost to attend this event is \$25 for non-members and it is free for paid-up members.

Award Presentations will start immediately after a brief business meeting. Awards to be given out include: Outstanding Member of the Year, Outstanding Start-up Entrepreneur of the Year, Outstanding Citizen of the Year and Outstanding High-Economic Vitality Business of the Year.

The event will culminate with a high-energy presentation by Mike Ciresi. Mike Ciresi has lived and worked in Minnesota his whole life. The son of a St. Paul grocer, he has become a very successful advocate for victims of the chemical and tobacco industry. He has represented those people injured in the Bhopal Chemical disaster in India upon request of the government of India, and he is best known for his monumental victory over the tobacco industry in a nationally celebrated case.



**A scene from last year's annual meeting.
Here the crowd is showing their spirit with
the Wright County cheer.**

Upcoming Event



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

You are invited to our

2008 Annual Breakfast Meeting

January 18, 2008

at the new River Lanes Extreme Entertainment Center in Monticello.

Registration begins at 7:45 am

Free for members, \$25 for non-members.

Keynote Speaker

Mike Ciresi, Candidate for US Senate



Mike Ciresi has lived and worked in Minnesota his whole life. In our great state, Mike has proven himself as a leader and passionate advocate for justice. Through his work as a lawyer and community leader, he has improved and made a difference in the lives of Minnesota families. Mike is a 2008 DFL candidate for US Senate.

Awards to be Presented:

Outstanding Member of the Year Award

Outstanding Start-up Entrepreneur of the Year Business Award

Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award

High Economic Vitality Business of the Year Award

For more information or to register, please visit www.wrightpartnership.org/events.htm
or call 763-477-3086.



"WRIGHT" NEXT TO THE METRO

Participation in the Membership Directory 2008

This agreement is for the mutual benefit of the Partnership and:

Company Name: _____	Contact name: _____
Mailing Address: _____	Phone: _____
	Email address: _____

ADVERTISEMENT RATES:

Colored Pages:	Size	# Available	Amount
○ Tabbed pages	8" x 10 ¼"	8 pages	\$ 500 per page
○ Full Colored pages	8" x 10 ¼"	11 pages	\$ 500 per page
○ Half page	8" x 5 ¼"		\$ 300

* If available, last years advert gets first choice

Black & White Pages:

○ Half page	7 ½" x 5"	10 half pages	\$ 200
○ Quarter Page	3 ¾" x 5"	20 quarter pages	\$ 150

The Advertiser agrees to pay in full by the 30th of January, 2008. The Partnership, at its option, may terminate this agreement if the Advertiser fails to pay any amount when due or fails to perform in accordance with this agreement.

Additional Terms: Advertisement is not confirmed until signed contract is received by the WCEDP.

By: _____
 Authorized Corporate Signature Date

Deadlines:

Deliver designed materials to the WCEDP office by January 30, 2008.
 After this date a special \$50 handling fee will be required

Accepted Formats: PDF, Quark, InDesign, EPS (PDF preferred)

Production Notes:

- Fonts and images must be included (except for PDF, where they should be embedded). For fonts not included, substitutions will occur and likenesses are not guaranteed (no Word or Publisher files).
- All digital files can be submitted via e-mail or CD.
- Do not send web-ready images, as they are not acceptable in the print medium. Send high-resolution files, 200 dpi or greater (300 dpi preferred).

Design Services: Artwork assistance is available at an additional cost of \$100 an hour.

Membership

The Wright County Partnership's events are a great place to network with community leaders from Wright County and get first-hand information about various development activities. The networking participation at these events has been very valuable to developers, city representatives, and others. We have a total of about 345 individuals involved in some aspect of the Partnership. For more information on these events or others like them please contact Noel or Jeanene at the Partnership at 763-477-3086 or nlabine@whe.org or jstrum@whe.org.

There are lots of reasons to belong to the Partnership

"It's wonderful to have someone like the Partnership helping out local businesses! As a very small business owner, it's hard for us to wear all the hats a business is required to now days – it's people like you who take time to make that one phone call who really make a difference! We appreciate the service you provide to this area! We definitely tell other business owners who are thinking of relocating what a great area this is!"

LaDonna Ahrens, Ahrens Enterprises, LLC, Albertville

"I appreciate the work that Noel and the Partnership have done with the development seminars. It brings the private sector development people with the Cities, and it has created a lot of contacts and partnerships that otherwise may not have happened."

Bob Derus, City of St. Michael

"These are the movers and shakers of what's happening in Wright County! We should be part of this organization."

Rick Borden, Larson Allen

Consider this:

- Network with community and contractors, developers, and realtors from Wright County and those interested in doing business in Wright County.
- Promote your business to other businesses. All members will be listed in our new Directory, which will be distributed throughout Wright County. Members only can purchase additional advertising in this new Directory.
- Attend events and receive a membership discount. This discount will be between \$25 and \$15 per event.
- Stay in touch with development news in Wright County. Our monthly newsletter features stories about industry and development in Wright County.
- Reach out to thousands through our webpage, www.wrightpartnership.org and get a link from our site to your site.

Welcome to our newest members!

**Strategic LLC and
Otto Associates Engineers & Land Surveyors**

Current Members

<p><u>Banks/ Lenders</u> Annandale State Bank Bank of Elk River Bankwest Citizens State Bank 1st National Bank of Elk River Great Northern Bank Highland Bank Klein Bank Lake Community Bank Mid-Country Bank Premier Banks Riverview Community Bank Security State Bank of Maple Lake State Bank of Delano Wells Fargo</p> <p><u>Businesses</u> Alex Wikstrom Allied Properties AMS Insurance Bainey Group Bauer Design Build, LLC Bolton & Menk Engineers Bonestroo Central MN Development Co. Central MN Jobs & Training Service Courie, MacArthur & Ruppe Darkenwald Real Estate DiOrio Business Group Duke Realty Edina Realty - Buffalo Edina Realty – Terry Morrow Farr Development Franklin Outdoor Advertising Group 10 Technology Henningson & Snoxell Law Firm Herald Journal Publishing IDC - Monticello IKON Office Solutions Initiative Foundation KKE Architects KLC Financial Land for Sale</p>	<p><u>Businesses continued...</u> Landcor, Inc. Larson, Allen & Weishair Liberty Title Lenzmeier Realty Services Loucks & Associates Marcus Construction Meyer – Rohlin Engineers Nelson Building & Development North Hennepin Community College Otter Creek Otto Assoc. Eng. & Land Surveyors PALO Companies Paumen Properties Pfeffer Company Riverwood National Golf Course Rockwoods Grill Backwater Bar Schlenner Wenner & Co. Schoell Madson – Elk River office Scott Builders S.E.H. Engineering Shingobee Builders Sil-Pro of Delano Silver Springs Golf Course SRF Consulting Group Stallion Development Strategic LLC Summerset Studio Sunny Fresh Foods Terra General Contractors Trail Head Land Dev. Corp. The Staubach Company Veolia ES Landfill Weatherhill Commercial Wild Marsh Golf Course WSB Engineering</p>	<p><u>Cities</u> Albertville Annandale Buffalo Clearwater Cokato Delano Hanover Howard Lake Maple Lake Monticello Montrose Rockford South Haven St. Michael</p> <p><u>County</u> Wright</p> <p><u>Hospitals</u> Buffalo Hospital (Allina) Monticello-Big Lake Hospital</p> <p><u>Townships</u> Woodland</p> <p><u>Utilities</u> Wright Hennepin Electric Xcel Energy</p> <p><u>Associate Members</u> Wright County Chambers of Commerce I-94 Chamber of Commerce NW Suburban Chamber MN Technology Wright Technical Center</p>
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Partnership Staff

Noel LaBine, Executive Director
6800 Electric Dr. PO Box 525
Rockford, MN 55373
(763) 477-3086
nlabine@whe.org

Jeanene Strum, Executive Assistant
jstrum@whe.org
Rockford, MN 55373
(763) 477-3000 ext. 3470

www.wrightpartnership.org