



DeForest Windsor Area  
Chamber of Commerce

*advocate • educate • promote*

## DWACC December 2025 Newsletter



Welcome Janel Hartjes with  
Keller Williams

Welcome Dustin Williams with  
PureTech Home Services

Welcome JSD Professional  
Services, Inc.

**It's time to nominate your favorite Area Businesses and Individuals for our Annual Chamber Awards. Nominate your favorites for Chamber Member of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Non-profit of the Year, and New Venture of the Year. Find the form [here](#) and details below! Nominations due by January 15th.**

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## 2025 NOMINATIONS



### **Chamber Member Volunteer Non-Profit New Venture**

*The purpose of these awards is to identify, honor and reinforce the activities of exceptional people whose service or performance positively contributes to the quality of life in the communities served by the DeForest Windsor Area Chamber of Commerce.*

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#### **Chamber Member of the Year**

The nominee (individual/business/organization) should be a member of the DeForest Windsor Area Chamber of Commerce whose leadership performance and influence has helped enhance the quality of life for the DeForest Windsor area through involvement in the community. This nominee must have demonstrated an active interest and significant involvement within the community and has, through their efforts, assisted the Chamber in meeting its mission.

#### **Volunteer of the Year**

The nominee must have volunteered in the DeForest Windsor area. Through their volunteerism, they have shown Norsk pride and made a significant contribution to it through creating effective positive partnerships with members of the public, other community organizations, businesses and/or local government. Showing no concern for personal financial gain, nominees have demonstrated support for the efforts of their fellow volunteers and the spirit of volunteerism in general.

#### **Non-Profit of the Year**

The non-profit organization will be considered based on the history of service to the area as well as its most current achievements.

#### **New Venture of the Year**

The nominee will be considered based on their impact and professionalism through customer service, product quality and community involvement. Nominees may have special accomplishments including any of the following: leadership, customer service, innovations in product or service, continuous improvement, employee and community relations and involvement.

*Please complete the information on page 2*

**Submission deadline: Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**2025 AWARDS NOMINATIONS FORM**

**Award Nominated For:** *(You may nominate for each category, please share on separate forms, Thank you.)*

- ☐ Chamber Member of the Year Award
- ☐ Volunteer of the Year Award
- ☐ Non-Profit of the Year Award
- ☐ New Venture of the Year Award

**Nominee:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title or Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator:** Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Accomplishments:**

Please share specific examples of participation in the community and/or Chamber activities within the last year and some background information about your nominee or any other information that may help set them apart from other nominees: \_\_\_\_\_

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**RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:**

DeForest Windsor Area Chamber of Commerce, 321 N. Main Street Ste.300, DeForest, WI 53532  
Or email to [info@deforestarea.com](mailto:info@deforestarea.com)

**Take a look at our Membership, Sponsorship,  
Advertising, and Volunteer opportunities for 2026  
below!**

## DeForest Windsor Area Chamber of Commerce

## Chamber of Commerce Mission Statement:

"To provide proactive leadership to advance a positive business environment and foster economic growth, through community identity involvement, and membership participation."

## advocate

To be the voice of the business community in matters most important to the future of the greater community by convening area business leaders to identify needs and issues and communicating with policy and decision-making bodies that effect the community about business needs and issues.

## educate

Facilitate access to resources and tools that contribute to a thriving business environment by supporting the development of a quality work force; informing the membership and community; and enhancing collaboration and relationships among business and the community.

- Leadership Series through Madison College
- Educational speakers at monthly meetings
- Chamber newsletters and emails to keep you informed on local issues and events

## promote

To promote and support business by creating a vibrant community, enhancing business visibility at Chamber events, and supporting economic development while promoting the area. Provides you with access to Chamber and community events that can lead to key partnerships and opportunities such as:

- Listing in the Annual Chamber Community Guide
- FREE access to Chamber website marketing tools: Hot Deals, Job Postings, and Member2Member Deals
- Participation in the Chamber Bucks
- Business/Community Expo
- Annual Golf Classic
- Chamber Holiday Party
- Ribbon Cuttings/Grand Openings
- Committee and sponsorship opportunities
- Monthly Networking Events
- Electronic Membership Directory
- Business Profile Listed on Chamber Website Directory with Link
- Chamber Referrals

2026

## Board of Directors

## Executive Board of Directors

## President

Monica Titley, Titley Insurance Group

## Secretary

Amber Newkirk, Sanimax USA

## Treasurer

Ben O'Neill, Jump Around Gymnastics

## Executive Director

Luke Justman

## Board of Directors

Doug Richard, Heartland Credit Union

Alex Allon, Village of DeForest

Jamie Rybarezyk, Village of Windsor

Dr. Rebecca Toetz, DeForest Area School District

Kathy Williams, DeForest Area School District

## Why Join the Chamber?

We provide the tools you'll need to promote and grow your business. That's why more than 200 businesses in the Greater DeForest Windsor Area rely on the support they receive from their local Chamber of Commerce. As a Chamber member, you'll benefit from the power of a strong network of diverse businesses and non-profit organizations right here in your backyard. Plus, we'll connect you with those business partners so together, you can collaborate and create innovative ideas to establish strong business relationships in our community.



## 2026 Membership Dues

Non-profit Organization:	\$150
Municipal   Sole Proprietary:	\$200
2-9 employees:	\$300
10-19 employees:	\$400
20-49 employees:	\$500
50+ employees:	\$950

## Annual Event Opportunities

Chamber Member Meeting with Guest Speakers  
Annual Awards Ceremony/State of the Chamber  
Coffee Chats  
Chamber Member Networking  
Community Expo  
Multi-Chamber Mega Mixer  
Chamber Golf Classic  
Leadership Series with Madison College  
Trunk or Treat  
Winterfest Weekend Celebration  
Chamber Holiday Party



DeForest Windsor Area  
Chamber of Commerce

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Burke | DeForest | Leeds | Morrisville | Vienna | Windsor



321 North Main Street, Suite 300  
DeForest, WI 53532  
608.846.2922 | info@deforestarea.com  
deforestarea.com





## Why create a banner ad?

- Increase visibility and brand awareness
- Launch products and promotions
- Reach new audiences and target segments



**Terra Firma**  
-REALTY-  
**MikeCokeTeam.com**



*"We're the ones you **know**. We're the ones you **trust**. We're the ones who will be there **when you need us**."*

## How to get involved...

**1 month  
package  
\$99  
(480x60 pixels)**

**6 month  
package  
\$599  
(480x60 pixels)**

**12 month  
package  
\$999  
(480x60 pixels)**

## More opportunities...

### Enhanced Membership Listing: \$50

- 1600 character description
- More photos and video link
- 5 linking bullet points
- Logos
- Map link
- Additional keyword searches
- Additional website link

## Contact us:



**info@deforestarea.com**



**608.846.2922**



**www.deforestarea.com**



**DeForest Windsor Area**



**DeForest Windsor Area**  
**Chamber of Commerce**

*advocate • educate • promote*

## 2026 Sponsorship and Volunteer Opportunities

# Annual Awards Ceremony & State of the Chamber

<b>Premier Sponsor: \$2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advertising as premier sponsors on website, newsletter, and event banner</li><li>• 5 free tickets to event</li><li>• Verbal recognition at event opening remarks</li><li>• Delivery of award of your choice</li><li>• 30 second introduction and address to crowd</li></ul>
<b>Gold Sponsor: \$1500</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advertising as sponsor on website, newsletter, and event banner</li><li>• 5 free tickets</li><li>• Verbal recognition at event</li></ul>
<b>Silver Sponsor: \$1000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advertising as Sponsor on website, newsletter, and event banner</li><li>• 2 free tickets</li></ul>



**Date TBD: February/March**



# Community Expo



**Gold:**  
**\$300**

- Name/Logo Recognition on welcome banner, passport, invitations, and social media & website
- Booth Included

**Silver:**  
**\$150**

- Name/Logo Recognition on invitations, passport and social media & website
- Booth Included



Date TBD: April /May



# Chamber Golf Classic

Club House: \$2,000	Meal: \$1,450	Gold: \$1,200	Snack Shack: \$750
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prominent Name/Logo Recognition</li> <li>• Program</li> <li>• Banner</li> </ul> Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Golfers</li> <li>• Hole Sponsors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prominent Name/Logo Recognition</li> <li>• Program</li> <li>• Banner</li> </ul> Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Golfers</li> <li>• Hole Sponsor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name/Logo Recognition</li> <li>• Program</li> <li>• Banner</li> </ul> Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Golfers</li> <li>• Hole Sponsor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name/Logo Recognition</li> <li>• Program</li> <li>• Banner at Shack</li> <li>• Logo on Tickets</li> </ul>

Beverage Cart: \$350	Hole: \$225	Premium Prize: \$200	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name/Logo Recognition</li> <li>• Program</li> <li>• Beverage Carts</li> <li>• Drink Tickets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name/Logo Recognition</li> <li>• Program</li> <li>• Signs at Hole</li> <li>• Lunch Included</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name/Logo Recognition</li> <li>• Program</li> <li>• Premium Prize Sign</li> </ul>	



TBD in June!

# Holiday Party

Premier:  
\$750

Gold:  
\$500

Silver:  
\$250

- 6 Registrations
- Sponsorships  
Display online  
& at event

- 4 Registrations
- Sponsorships  
Display online  
& at event

- 2 Registrations
- Sponsorships  
Display online &  
at event



Join us in December, TBD!

# Chamber Committees

## Become More Involved!

Board of Directors: Now taking 2026 Chamber Board Applicants!

The Directors ensure that programs and operations of the chamber are effective and fiscally sound. They do this through vision, leadership advice, and the direction for the staff and volunteers supporting the mission of the chamber.

Ambassadors: member recruitment and retention, new member support, evaluation of communication and marketing to members.

There are many ways to use your membership to get involved with the DeForest Windsor Area Chamber of Commerce. One of the best assets the chamber has is its member driven committees. These committees serve as the voices in the business community, they work to further educate and provide support to their business colleagues.

### Event Committees:

State of the Chamber and Annual Awards: held annually to award winners and to hear state of the chamber addresses from both Villages, the School District, and the Chamber.

Chamber Networking Events: meets every other month to discuss Chamber networking and social events throughout the year.

Chamber Golf Classic: meets monthly from Feb-June to coordinate the Chamber Golf Classic.

We are always in need of volunteers to help with our Chamber Events!  
Thank you!

Please contact Luke Justman, Executive Director  
608-846-2922 (office)  
[Director@deforestarea.com](mailto:Director@deforestarea.com)

## Premier Partner Sponsorship Opportunity

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### Become a Premiere Partner

Join the DeForest Windsor Area Chamber of Commerce as a Premiere Partner — our highest sponsorship level — and position your business as a community leader dedicated to growth, collaboration, and local success.

### Annual Investment: \$5,000

Limited to 5 exclusive partners per year

### Premiere Partner Benefits

#### Community Visibility

- Premier logo placement on Chamber website homepage (with live link)
- Logo featured in Chamber newsletters, social media, and annual Community Guide
- Recognition as a Premiere Partner in Chamber promotions and press releases
- Recognition at all major Chamber events.

#### Event Recognition

- Complimentary VIP tickets for two (2) to:
  - Annual State of the Chamber & Awards Gala
  - Community Golf Classic
  - Community Expo
  - Business Networking events
  - Annual Holiday Party
- Opportunity to provide welcome remarks or branding at one signature event
- Priority opportunity to host a Business networking event

#### Leadership & Influence

- Recognition as a Chamber Advisory Partner
- Participation opportunities in Chamber panels and initiatives

#### Marketing Exposure

- One Premiere Partner Spotlight Feature in newsletter & social media
- Complimentary digital ad in Chamber e-newsletter (1 per quarter)
- Logo display in event slideshows and video presentations

#### Membership Value

- Complimentary Chamber membership renewal
- 25% discount on additional sponsorships and advertising
- 10 complimentary event tickets per year
- Priority registration for limited-seating events



#### Optional Add-Ons

- Exclusive Industry Category: +\$1,000
- Custom-Branded Program (e.g., "Premiere Partner Presents: Business Leadership Series") – Custom pricing

#### Your Investment Fuels Our Mission

Your support helps fund Chamber initiatives that:

- Strengthen local business connections
- Drive tourism and community engagement
- Advocate for a thriving DeForest Windsor business climate

#### Join Today

To become a Premiere Partner, contact: Luke Justman  
DeForest Windsor Area Chamber of Commerce

 (608) 846-2922 |  [director@deforestarea.com](mailto:director@deforestarea.com)

 [www.deforestarea.com](http://www.deforestarea.com)

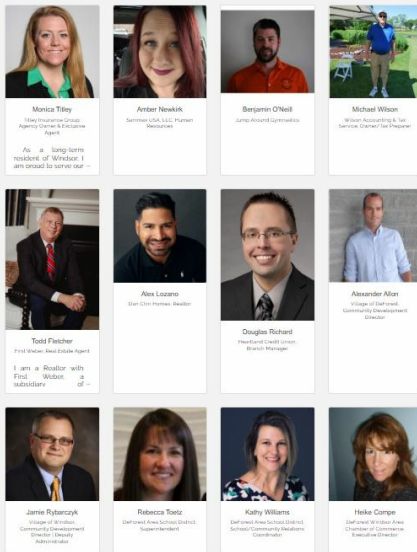


DeForest Windsor Area  
Chamber of Commerce  
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## Chamber News & Events

**We thank 2026 Board of Directors for all their volunteer work with the Chamber this year! See more about each of them [here](#).**

**Are you interested in serving on the  
DeForest Windsor Area Chamber  
Board of Directors!**



Please let us know!

Please email applications to  
[info@deforestarea.com](mailto:info@deforestarea.com)

[Application](#)

[Director Position Description](#)

WISCONSIN  
MANUFACTURER  
OF THE YEAR

## Apply for Wisconsin's Most Prestigious Manufacturing Award



Wisconsin's manufacturers continue to set the standard for excellence — driving innovation, creating family-supporting jobs, and strengthening communities across our state.

If your company has demonstrated **outstanding achievements in 2025**, we invite you to apply for the 37th Annual Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year (MOTY) Awards. This black-tie celebration honors manufacturers of all sizes whose vision and leadership keep Wisconsin's economy moving forward.

There are now **two ways to be recognized**:

### Grand Awards: The Tradition of Excellence

For 36 years, the Grand Awards have recognized manufacturers of all sizes who embody business excellence, innovation, and community leadership.

These awards celebrate Wisconsin companies whose impact extends beyond their walls and into the state's economy and workforce. Financial information is required.

[Apply for Grand Award](#)

### Spotlight Awards: New Honors of 2025

New this year, the Spotlight Awards recognize excellence in specific areas — from workforce commitment to innovation and community impact. Applications are simpler and **do not require financial information**, making them an ideal introduction to the MOTY program.

## Apply for Spotlight Award

### How to Apply

A company may apply for one Grand Award and one Spotlight Award, or for two Spotlight Awards.

Apply by **Wednesday, December 10**, to join a legacy of Wisconsin's most respected manufacturers.

[Learn More](#)

### Save the Date

Mark your calendar for the 37th Annual MOTY Awards Ceremony on **Thursday, February 19, 2026**, at the historic **Pfister Hotel** in **Milwaukee**.

Event registration details will be shared in **January 2026**.

### General Inquiries:

#### John Laux

Wisconsin Manufacturers &  
Commerce  
2 Suttonwood Ct  
Madison, WI 53718  
608-438-3484

[Email John](#)

#### Jessica Karcz

Baker Tilly US, LLP  
Two Terrace Ct  
PO Box 7398  
Madison, WI 53707-7398  
603-687-7348

[Email Jessica](#)

#### Alexa Holliday

Michael Beier  
790 N Water St  
Suite 3500  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
262-259-0266

[Email Alexa](#)

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce | 608.258.3400



Every purchase  
has a purpose.

SHOP LOCAL.

NOV 1 - DEC 31, 2025

Together, we make small **BIG!**





**When you shop local,** you're not just making a purchase, you're fueling jobs, supporting dreams, and keeping more money in our community.



DeForest Windsor Area  
Chamber of Commerce  
*advocate • educate • promote*



*Every purchase has a purpose. **Shop Small.***

## Member News & Events



#### Volunteer & Ride Coordinator:

##### Job description

This position supports all Center volunteers including training, scheduling, and ongoing support. Duties also include coordinating medical and local ride scheduling. The Volunteer Coordinator works to create an environment where everyone can gather to socialize, have meals, and volunteer.

Center mission: We are a cooperative inter-municipal Community and Senior Center providing area residents with a welcoming place to meet, participate and volunteer while promoting independence, self-reliance and well-being for older adults and their families.

Location: Cornerstone Community Center, 505 N. Main Street, DeForest, WI 53532

##### Salary:

- Non-exempt, hourly pay range \$18.00-\$21.00 per hour based on experience
- 20-25 hours/week, morning through early afternoon, M-F preferred
- WI Retirement System pro-rated
- Pro-rated health insurance

##### Key responsibilities:

- Recruiting and coordinating schedules for 150+ volunteers
- Scheduling medical and local rides
- Making community connections and promoting the Center
- Provide accurate and timely reporting and documentation

##### Required

- Knowledgeable about resources and services for older adults
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office and ability to learn Center database
- Exceptional interpersonal and organizational skills
- Ability to work independently and with a team
- Valid drivers license

Applications can be found at <https://deforestcenter.org/about/employment/> or picked up at the Center, 505 N. Main Street, DeForest, WI, 53532.

Please submit applications, resumes and cover letters to Natalie Raemisch, Executive Director, at [nraemisch@deforestcenter.org](mailto:nraemisch@deforestcenter.org) or drop off at Center.

Deadline for applications: Friday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Background check required.

**Cornerstone Community Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer**

505 N. Main St. DeForest, WI 53532 | (608) 846-9469 | [www.deforestcenter.org](http://www.deforestcenter.org)

Here's a [link](https://deforestcenter.org/about/employment/) to the above application website

### **Mission Nutrition DeForest**

Mission Nutrition DeForest –  
Serving DeForest Area School  
District residents  
Rest of 2025 Pantry Schedule

SENIOR PANTRY (Ages 60+):  
FIRST & THIRD Fridays  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Reserved for guests aged 60  
and older

**October 2025**

- ☐ Friday, October 3 – Senior Pantry, 10 am–12 pm
- ☐ Tuesday, October 7 – Drive-Thru, 5–6 pm
- ☐ Tuesday, October 14 – Drive-Thru, 5–6 pm
- ☐ Friday, October 17 – Senior Pantry, 10 am–12 pm
- ☐ Tuesday, October 21 – Drive-Thru, 5–6 pm
- ☐ Tuesday, October 28 – Drive-Thru, 5–6 pm

**November 2025**

- ☐ Tuesday, November 4 – Drive-Thru, 5–6 pm
- ☐ Friday, November 7 – Senior Pantry, 10 am–12 pm
- ☐ Tuesday, November 11 – Drive-Thru, 5–6 pm
- ☐ Tuesday, November 18 – Drive-Thru, 5–6 pm
- ☐ Friday, November 21 – Senior Pantry, 10 am–12 pm
- ☐ Tuesday, November 25 – Drive-Thru, 5–6 pm

**December 2025**

- ☐ Tuesday, December 2 – Drive-Thru, 5–6 pm
- ☐ Friday, December 5 – Senior Pantry, 10 am–12 pm
- ☐ Tuesday, December 9 – Drive-Thru, 5–6 pm
- ☐ Tuesday, December 16 – Drive-Thru, 5–6 pm
- ☐ Friday, December 19 – Senior Pantry, 10 am–12 pm

**Closures**

- ☐ Tuesday, December 30 – Closed (5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)
- ☐ Friday, January 2 – Closed (Holiday)

**January 2026**

- ☐ Tuesday, January 6 – Drive-Thru, 5–6 pm
- ☐ Tuesday, January 13 – Drive-Thru, 5–6 pm
- ☐ Friday, January 16 – Senior Pantry, 10 am–12 pm
- ☐ Tuesday, January 20 – Drive-Thru, 5–6 pm
- ☐ Tuesday, January 27 – Drive-Thru, 5–6 pm

Donations will still be accepted in the drop box at all times. Regular schedule resumes Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

**[www.MissionNutritionDeForest.org](http://www.MissionNutritionDeForest.org)**

Please don't line up before 9:45 AM

Bring reusable shopping bags –  
caryout help available

DRIVE-THRU PANTRY (All  
ages):

First FOUR Tuesdays OF  
MONTH

5:00 – 6:00 PM

Drive-thru only – do not line up  
before 4:45 PM

Be in line by 6:00 PM to be  
served



NEW GUESTS: Please bring  
photo ID showing a DeForest  
Area School District address, or  
a current piece of mail for  
registration.

ALL GUESTS: Must bring your  
assigned pantry card each visit.

SENIORS: You may visit up to 4  
times per month. Need a ride?  
Call 846-9469 for transportation

info.

Visit us at [www.MissionNutritionDeForest.org](http://www.MissionNutritionDeForest.org) to learn more or to sign up to  
volunteer.

Thank you for being part of a caring community!

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Over 3,000 individuals rely on Mission Nutrition DeForest

32% are children under the age of 18

27% are seniors over the age of 60

Your support ensures that these vulnerable members  
of our community don't go to bed hungry.

## MISSION NUTRITION DEFOREST FOOD PANTRY



Kelly Bennett &  
Associates



FIRST WEBER

**HELP US RAISE \$10,000 FOR OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY &  
WE WILL MATCH IT ~ DONATIONS WILL BE MATCHED BY  
CLASSIC CUSTOM HOMES OF WAUNAKEE &  
KELLY BENNETT/FIRST WEBER FROM NOW TO 12/15/25**

HOW  
TO  
DONATE

- [www.MissionNutritionDeForest.org](http://www.MissionNutritionDeForest.org)
- Mail check to: Mission Nutrition 691 S. Main St, DeForest
- Drop check payable to Mission Nutrition at Open House  
(Open House schedule at [KellyFirstWeber.com](http://KellyFirstWeber.com))

Update From DeForest Area School District: Looking for event  
Volunteers!



Hello,

We are reaching out to our community partners and friends to invite you to participate in two exciting, hands-on learning events for our students this coming February. Your expertise is invaluable to our program, and we would be honored to have you involved.

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### **1. Reality Day Volunteer**

#### **Thursday, February 5**

Our annual Reality Day event provides our students with a practical, eye-opening experience in personal finance. Volunteers staff stations representing various aspects of adult life (e.g., housing, transportation, insurance, childcare). Students are given a mock salary and must budget their way through these real-world expenses. We rely on volunteers like you to share your knowledge and challenge students to make financially sound decisions.

- **Date: Thursday, February 5**
  - **Time: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM**
  - **Location: DeForest Area High School**
- 

### **2. FBLA Judge Opportunity**

#### **Saturday, February 7**

We are seeking professional volunteers to serve as judges for our Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Regional Leadership Conference. This is a fantastic opportunity to interact with high-achieving students as they demonstrate their skills in competitive events ranging from business law and accounting to public speaking and job interviews. Your role as a judge would be to evaluate student presentations and submissions, providing them with constructive feedback.

- **Date: Saturday, February 7**
  - **Time: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM**
  - **Location: DeForest Area High School**
- 

### **Next Steps (How to Respond)**

- **For Reality Day (Feb 5):** If you are available to volunteer, [please complete the commitment form](#)
- **For FBLA Judging (Feb 7):** If you are able to participate as a judge, please **email Tim Wells directly** at [twells@deforestschoools.org](mailto:twells@deforestschoools.org)

Specific details and instructions for the event(s) you sign up for will be provided as the event date get closer.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a direct impact on our students' education and future careers. We look forward to hearing from you!

[Here's a link to the form referenced above!](#)

Contact teacher Tim Wells for more info  
[twells@deforestschoools.org](mailto:twells@deforestschoools.org)



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

WANT TO GIVEBACK  
TO BUSINESS  
MINDED STUDENTS?



## WHAT?

- JUDGING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ON BUSINESS RELATED TOPICS

## WHERE?

- DEFOREST AREA HIGH SCHOOL

## WHEN?

- SATURDAY, FEBUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> FROM 8AM-LUNCH TIME  
(LUNCH AND BREAKFAST INCLUDED)

MAKE YOUR MARK  
ON THE NEXT  
GENERATION OF  
BUSINESS PEOPLE



## Business Resources Corner

See below for a [small business grant program through Amex.](#)

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## Amex Shop Small Grants Program

While all members are welcome to review, this opportunity is especially beneficial for small retail and restaurant businesses.

### [AMEX Shop Small Grants Program | Main Street America](#)

- **Program Timeline** - Applications will be open from Small Business Saturday, November 29, 2025, to Friday, January 16, 2026 at 11:59 CT.
- **Applications Open:** Saturday, November 29, 2025
- **Applications Close:** Friday, January 16, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CT
- **Grant Recipients Notified:** March 2026
- **Grant Period:** April 2026 ? September 2026 (6 months)
- **Grant Reports Due:** Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. CT

To help small businesses grow, innovate, and support their local communities, American Express is teaming up with Main Street America this Small Business Saturday® to launch the Amex Shop Small Grants Program. The Program will provide an initial \$5 million to fund 250 grants of \$20,000 each to eligible small business owners across the U.S. Plus, every time an American Express Card Member shops with their eligible Card at a qualifying U.S. small business on November 29, 2025, American Express will donate an additional \$1 to fund additional grants.



The Amex Shop Small Grants Program reflects the shared commitment of American Express and Main Street America to champion small businesses that strengthen communities and help local economies thrive.

#### **About Small Business Saturday**

Small Business Saturday is a day dedicated to supporting small businesses and communities across the country and is part of the larger Shop Small Movement. Founded by American Express in 2010, this day is celebrated each year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving in the U.S. Since its launch in 2010, U.S. consumers have reported spending an estimated \$223 billion at small businesses on Small Business Saturday.

Applications are open from Small Business Saturday, November 29, 2025, to Friday, January 16, 2026 at 11:59 CT.

Recipients will have a 6-month period in which to complete their projects, so applicants are encouraged to prepare a “ready-to-execute” project plan and a detailed, itemized budget. During that period, Main Street America will provide opportunities for grant recipients to connect and network with each other, complete self-guided e-learning courses, and share the story of their business and their Amex Shop Small Grants Program project journey with a variety of audiences.

## **December Event Calendar**

**Click the calendar to see all of the events and set a reminder to attend!**

**Do you have an upcoming event that you would like on  
the Event Calendar?**

**Login to the Member Information Center - Go to Events - Click Add Event -  
Create and Submit!**

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Winterfest Cinnamon Rolls with Santa DeForest Area Music Boosters Holiday Craft Fair Family Bingo at Center
7 Vibrant Connections Social Spot	8 Holiday Crafting Event	9	10 DeForest Holiday Tree Lighting	11 Parkside Senior Living Holiday Party Chamber Holiday Party	12 DeForest Windsor Lions Colossal Shrimp Fundraiser Candlelight Hike in Western Green	13
14	15	16 Tony Rocker Holiday Show	17	18	19	20
21 Christmas Craft Fair & Cookie Walk	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**Visit our Community Websites for more  
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