

Chamber Chatter

Boots, Buckles & Business Celebrating Our 2026 Award Winners



The Central St. Croix Chamber of Commerce gathered for an unforgettable evening at the annual Boots, Buckles & Business Dinner & Awards, celebrating the businesses and leaders who continue to shape and strengthen the Roberts–Hammond community.

With Western flair and strong community spirit, the evening honored excellence across industries — recognizing organizations that consistently demonstrate service, leadership, and commitment to local growth.

After enthusiastic community voting, the 2026 Best on the Range winners were announced:

- ✦ Adoray Home Health & Hospice – Best Non-Profit
- ✦ WhiteCap Financial Advisors – Best Financial Planning or Services
- ✦ Citizens State Bank – Best Banking
- ✦ Minuteman Press – Best Print/Marketing
- ✦ Carbone's Pizzeria – Roberts – Best Food & Beverage Services
- ✦ Western Wisconsin Health – Best Health Services
- ✦ J Haas Excavating – Best Home Services
- ✦ R&R Pets – Best Retailer
- ✦ Phoenix Fixtures – Best Industrial Services
- ✦ Hammond Golf Club – Best Events & Entertainment
- ✦ Al's & Company Salon – Best New Member

2026 Business of the Year: Hammond Golf Club

2026 Board Member of the Year: Dawn Whipple

Each winner represents the dedication, professionalism, and community involvement that define the Chamber's membership. The Chamber also extends congratulations to all nominees and finalists — earning a top-three placement is an accomplishment in itself.

The organization is grateful for her time, leadership, and passion for advancing the Roberts–Hammond business community. The Central St. Croix Chamber of Commerce congratulates all 2026 award recipients. The strength of the Chamber lies in the businesses and individuals who actively support one another and invest in shared success.

Welcome, New Members!



Outdoor Property Solutions

At Outdoor Property Solutions LLC, the team prides itself on providing dedicated service tailored to each client's unique needs. With more than 20 years of experience, they bring the expertise and craftsmanship necessary to transform outdoor spaces — from simple backyard improvements to fully realized outdoor environments designed for gathering, relaxing, and entertaining.

Their commitment to quality and attention to detail ensures that every project reflects both functionality and beauty. Whether enhancing residential properties or creating welcoming outdoor experiences, Outdoor Property Solutions LLC focuses on delivering results that clients can enjoy for years to come.



Johnson Motors

Family owned and operated since 1925, Johnson Motor Sales has built its reputation on nearly a century of exceptional service and commitment to customer satisfaction. Their longstanding presence in the region reflects both stability and dedication to the communities they serve.

As a full-service dealership, Johnson Motor Sales offers new Chevrolet and Buick vehicles, along with a wide selection of quality pre-owned vehicles across multiple brands. Their team is focused on providing an outstanding customer experience from the moment a client walks through the door.



Brazen Beef

Located on a farm between Roberts and Hammond, Brazen Beef is dedicated to providing high-quality beef and locally made products directly to the community. Through their on-site farm store, they offer customers the opportunity to purchase locally raised beef along with a selection of products crafted by area producers.

By keeping their operations local, Brazen Beef supports not only sustainable farming practices but also fellow small businesses throughout the region. Their commitment to quality and community reflects the strong agricultural roots that define the Roberts–Hammond area.



Red Barn Plumbing

Red Barn Plumbing is a local plumbing company specializing in septic installations and repairs, as well as plumbing services for both new construction and existing properties. Their team is committed to providing reliable, high-quality workmanship to homeowners and businesses throughout the area.



PeopleWhoCare.cloud

PeopleWhoCare.cloud is a nonprofit organization committed to supporting charitable and civic initiatives throughout Western Wisconsin — as well as the individuals and organizations who make those efforts possible.

With expertise in essential infrastructure services, Red Barn Plumbing plays an important role in supporting residential growth and maintaining strong foundations across the Roberts–Hammond community.

Their mission centers on promoting and supporting companies, entrepreneurs, and organizations that actively contribute to charitable causes within the region. By highlighting and uplifting those who give back, PeopleWhoCare.cloud works to strengthen the broader community.

Unlike many nonprofit organizations, PeopleWhoCare.cloud does not solicit or accept charitable donations. Their operating budget is funded exclusively through structured sponsorships, allowing them to focus their efforts on community impact and collaboration.

To learn more about their mission and community involvement, follow them on Facebook at PeopleWhoCare.cloud.

Java Jumpstart – Monthly Networking Opportunity

The Central St. Croix Chamber of Commerce continues its commitment to consistent networking opportunities with its monthly Java Jumpstart event.



Java Jumpstart takes place on the second Thursday of every month at 8:00 AM at the Hazel Mackin Library in Roberts, providing members and prospective members an easy and welcoming way to connect before the workday begins.

This month's gathering will be held on:

 **Thursday, March 12**

 **8:00 AM**

 **Hazel Mackin Library – Roberts**

Java Jumpstart is designed to be informal, relationship-focused networking — no pressure, no presentations, just genuine conversation and connection among local professionals.

Members are encouraged to bring employees, colleagues, or guests who may be interested in learning more about the Chamber. These monthly gatherings are an important part of strengthening business relationships within the Roberts–Hammond community.

Whether attending regularly or for the first time, participants can expect a welcoming environment and meaningful connections.

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Member
FDIC



Now Seeking Chamber Board Members

The Central St. Croix Chamber of Commerce is currently accepting applications and nominations for its Board of Directors.

As the Chamber continues working to strengthen and support businesses in Roberts and Hammond, strong leadership remains essential. Board members play a key role in guiding strategy, shaping programming, supporting

networking initiatives, and ensuring the Chamber remains aligned with the needs of its members.

Serving on the Board is an opportunity to:

- Help shape the future direction of the Chamber
- Advocate for local businesses
- Strengthen community partnerships
- Support events and member initiatives
- Build meaningful professional connections

The Chamber welcomes interest from business owners, managers, and professionals who are passionate about community growth and willing to contribute their time, perspective, and leadership.

Individuals interested in serving — or nominating someone for consideration — may complete the application: [APPLY OR NOMINATE HERE](#)

Those applying are asked to join the Chamber Board on Thursday, March 19 at 8:00 AM at the Hazel Mackin Library to meet current board members and learn more about expectations and responsibilities.

The future of the Roberts–Hammond business community depends on engaged leadership. The Chamber looks forward to welcoming new voices and fresh perspectives to the table.



It's time to Spring Clean...and we're not just talking about your home!

Now's a great time to tidy up your spending, review automatic payments, and organize all your important

documents now that tax filing has probably occurred. It takes time and energy to spring clean, but the reward is feeling renewed and refreshed with regards to where you stand with your financial goals.

If you need some assistance getting started, we are here to help! www.whitecapfa.com

Thank you as well for your trust and confidence in what we provide here at WhiteCap Financial Advisors. We are grateful and humbled to have won "Best on the Range" in the Financial Planning and Services category this year!!



Chamber Scholarship Now Open

The Central St. Croix Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that applications are now open for the Chamber Scholarship.

This scholarship is available to Chamber member business owners, employees, and their children. It is not limited to the St. Croix Central School District and is open to students of any age pursuing post-secondary education in any field of study.

Whether attending a technical college, university, trade program, or continuing education course, eligible applicants are encouraged to apply. Priority consideration will be given to applicants who demonstrate meaningful involvement in their community. Previous recipients are welcome to apply again, provided they meet the eligibility requirements.

The Chamber remains committed to investing in the future of its members and their families. Eligible individuals are encouraged to [apply](#) and take advantage of this opportunity.



MARCH

SPECIALS & EVENTS

MARCH 14TH

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PRE-PARTY

TIPPY CUP TOURNAMENT AT 1PM

PRIZES FOR TOP 3 | DRESSES TO IMPRESS AWARD

KARAOKE

EVERY SATURDAY | 10PM-2AM

KING OF DIAMONDS

BACK EVERY MONDAY | 3PM-7PM

MEAT RAFFLE

EVERY TUESDAY | 6PM-8PM

TO SUPPORT ERIC DAVIS



Cindy Brown Bauer, Minuteman Press Hudson, will be retiring on March 6

Brown started at the Hudson Star Observer back in 1985 as an advertising assistant followed by earning an advertising degree and 6 years at the New Richmond News as part of their award winning advertising staff. In 1993 she came back to Hudson for an 18 year stint at RPG (Resco Print Graphics) and then has spent the last 14 years with Minuteman Press.

"For the last 40 years I have done what I enjoy-helping small local businesses prosper and look good. I've always taken pride in how their printing or advertising space came across



to their target market. I've been able to use my creativity and marketing knowledge as well as make many friends during my career in the printing industry."

A Roberts native, she also spent over 20 years directing both the St Patrick's Youth Choir and Roberts 4-H Music Group; 18 years as a Hot Air Affair Committee Member, Central St Croix Chamber of Commerce Board Member and most recently was the Roberts Sesquicentennial Chair.

Please join her at an Open House on Friday, March 6 from 2-5pm at Minuteman Press, 596 Outpost Circle off of exit 4-Hudson.

Spring Golf Tournament Registration Now Open

Registration is officially open for the Central St. Croix Chamber of Commerce Spring Golf Tournament!

 Wednesday, May 20, 2026
 Hammond Golf Club
 Shotgun start details available at registration link



This annual event brings together Chamber members, local businesses, and community supporters for a day of networking, friendly competition, and fun on the course. Whether golfing for bragging rights or simply enjoying a day outside with fellow professionals, the Spring Golf Tournament continues to be one of the Chamber's most anticipated events of the year.

Participants can expect:

- A full day of golf at Hammond Golf Club
- Opportunities to connect with fellow business leaders
- On-course sponsor engagement
- Prizes, camaraderie, and community spirit

Team registrations and sponsorship opportunities are now available.

 Register today at:

<https://www.centralstcroixchamber.org/spring-golf-tournament>

Spots fill quickly, and businesses are encouraged to secure their teams and sponsorships early.

The Chamber looks forward to another fantastic day on the course strengthening connections and supporting the Roberts–Hammond business community.



Hammond Golf Club Thursday Night Mens League

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Thursday April 2nd.
Hammond Golf Club – Clubhouse
Time: 6:00 p.m.

This is an informational pre-season meeting open to all players/teams. Teams must consist of at least four players. Anyone currently not on a team is encouraged to attend. This is a “fun league” that has a 5:30 shotgun start. A match play format with established handicaps is used. So mark your calendar and plan to attend. We hope to see you there!

For more information call Clubhouse @ 715-796-2266

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THURSDAY: BROASTED CHICKEN & RIB BUFFET | \$16.99

AVAILABLE AFTER 4PM



FRIDAY FISH FRY | STARTING AT \$12.99

BEER BATTERED COD (ALL YOU CAN EAT), HOMESTYLE COD, BROILED COD, FISHERMAN'S PLATTER



STEAK & BUFFET SATURDAY | \$16.99

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STEAK SANDWICH SUNDAY | \$9.99



WEEKEND BREAKFAST BUFFET | \$12.99

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BAR:

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RESTAURANT:

TUES-FRIDAY: 11AM-10PM
SAT: 9AM-10PM | SUN: 9AM-9PM



Keep up on all the events and programs at the Hammond Community Library:
<https://hammondpubliclibrary.org/subscribe-to-newsletter/#top>



Spring Food Drive



March 2–21

Where's your donation going?

100% of donations collected will benefit families in the communities we serve

What's your impact?

For every \$1 donated, local food pantries can purchase up to 10 meals worth of food

Where can you donate?

Any WESTconsin office will accept:

- ✓ Non-perishable items
- ✓ Monetary donations





ST. PATRICK'S DAY
Special

CORNED BEEF | CABBAGE | CARROTS | POTATOES
ENLESS SOUP & SALAD BAR

\$14.99 PLATE  \$16.99 BUFFET



 *The* PARKSIDE
RESTAURANT
& Bar 

TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH | 11AM-10PM

Small Business Development Grant for St. Croix County

St Croix Economic Development Corporation's Small Business Development Grant (SBDG) is designed to provide direct financial assistance to small businesses and second-stage companies in St. Croix County.

Eligible Businesses

- Headquartered in, moving to, or adding a location in St. Croix County
- Be a For-Profit Business
- Have 25 or fewer full-time employees
- May qualify for multiple grant programs (stackable capital options)
- Must be in good standing with the State of Wisconsin (registered, licensed, current on taxes, etc.)
- All selected businesses must meet with the St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center or the UW-River Falls Small Business Development Center before receiving funds

Facade Improvement Grant

Helps businesses boost curb appeal and enhance community vitality through exterior improvements.

- Grant Amount: Up to \$5,000 (reimbursement grant)
- Eligibility: Available for improvements to rental or owned properties; receipts required for verification
- Eligible Expenses: Paint, landscaping, signage, awnings, exterior lighting, windows, masonry work
- Ineligible Expenses: Interior renovations, routine maintenance, or equipment
- Note: Projects must be completed on or after January 1, 2026 and before requesting reimbursement for grant funds. Receipts must be provided to SCEDC for verification.

Rental/Purchase Assistance Grants

Supports businesses opening in long-vacant spaces by offsetting rental or purchase costs and encouraging long-term commitments.

- Grant Amount: \$5,000
- Eligibility: Spaces vacant for 3+ months (vacancy verified by the municipality)
- Requirements: Sign a 3+ year lease for at least 750 sq. ft. or purchase a building, with the lease start date or purchase date on or after January 1, 2026. Provide documentation to SCEDC.
- Timeline: Businesses must be operational within six months of signing the lease

Capital Access Boost Grant

Provides additional support to businesses leveraging non-traditional loan programs, increasing access to working capital.

- Grant Amount: Matching grants up to \$5,000
 - Use of Funds: Unrestricted, for general business purposes incurred after January 1, 2026.
 - Eligibility: Businesses must provide documentation of an approved non-traditional loan
- Qualifying Programs:
- All SBA loan programs
 - All RBF loan programs
 - WWBIC loan programs
 - SCVBIC grants
 - KIVA loan programs
 - Hmong Chamber of Commerce loan program

Scale Up Pitch Competition

- Organizations must be in operation for at least one year and be in a growth stage
- Held twice during the grant period - May 2026 & May 2027
- Note: Separate application required

Administered Locally By:



For more information visit:
stcroixedc.com/SBDG

Funding Provided By:



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For more information visit St. Croix County's recycling webpage at: sccwi.gov/Recycling



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Chamber & Member Events

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MEMBERS: Be sure to [send us your events](#) to get them added to the calendar!



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