



Organization Overview

2021-2022

Events & Promotions

Chamber Bucks Program

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Introduction

In 2019 the Ely Chamber of Commerce participated in strategic planning. Across its 111 year history, this was the first time the organization had specific guidelines and a vision. Each year the Ely Chamber of Commerce board of directors has reviewed the four pillars of the strategic plan to ensure the organization maintains its focus: our work and actions must support our mission.

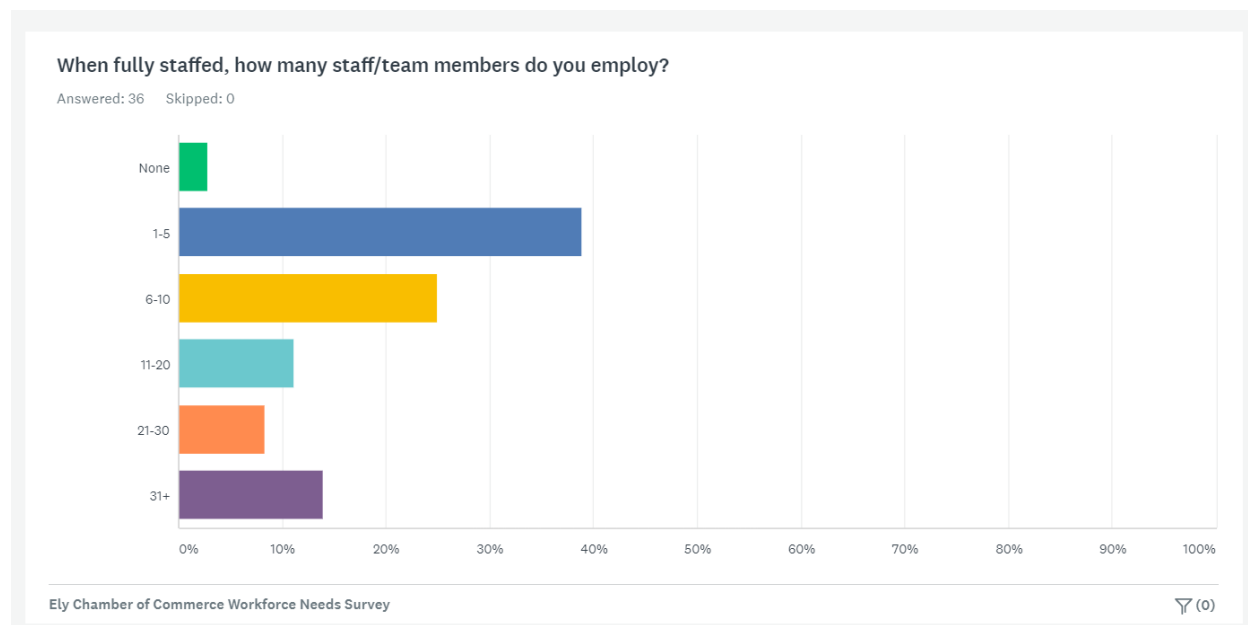
Mission: The Ely Chamber of Commerce leads a thriving, sustainable economic community through leadership and advocacy, strategic partnerships, career development of its workforce, business diversity and education.

Work & Actions Prioritized by: Business & Resource Growth, Strategic Partnerships, Leadership & Advocacy, Career/Workforce Development, and Inclusivity of All.

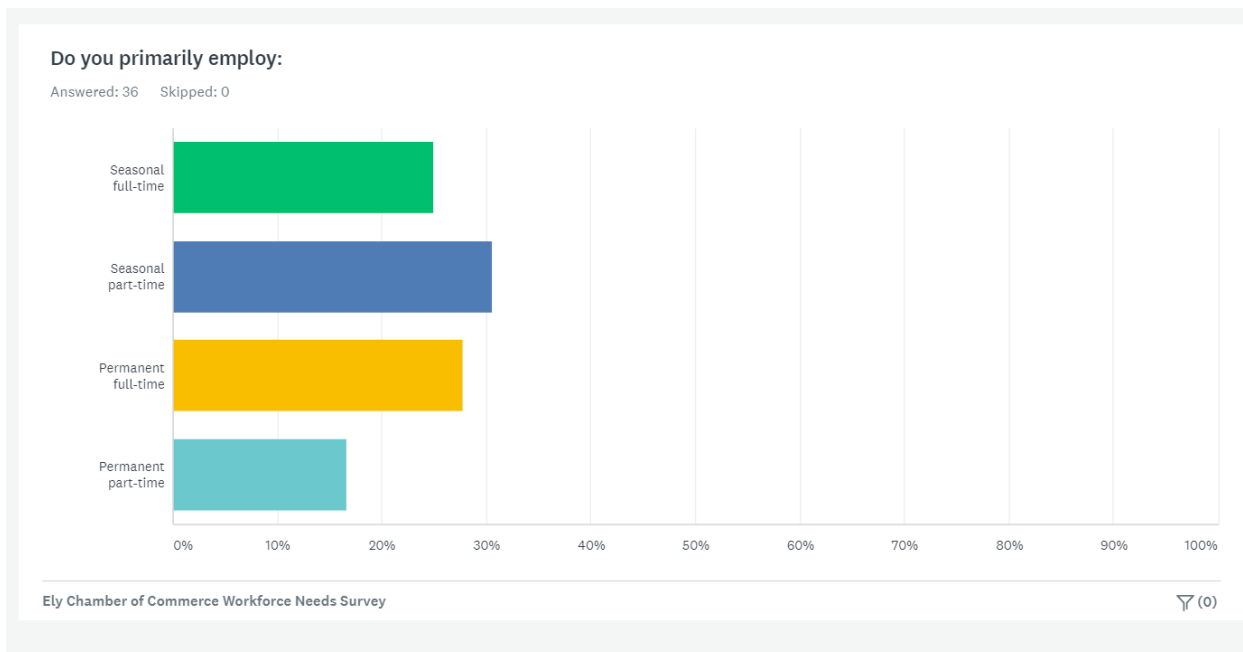
2021-2022 Focus: Workforce Needs & Development

Workforce Needs Survey Results

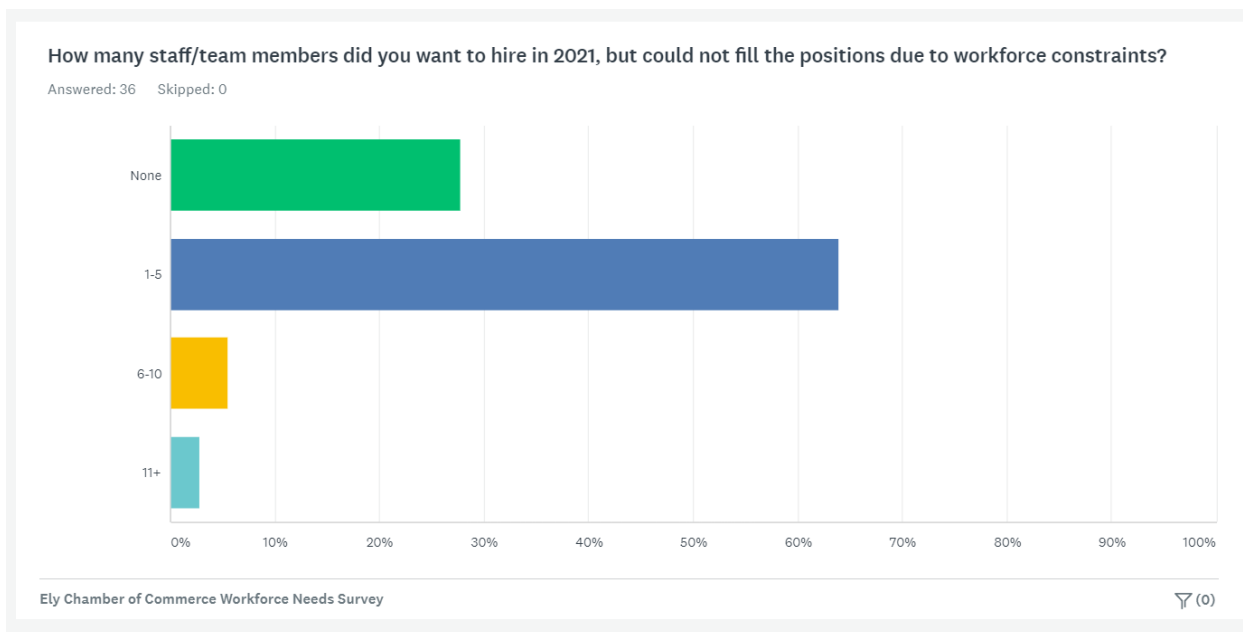
In late August, The Ely Chamber of Commerce reached out to the business community to request participation in a Workforce Needs Survey. The survey questions helped to identify the normal level of staffing compared to the current level, pay and benefits, and how the business advertises to fill job openings. The survey also asked businesses to identify if they provided, or could provide staff housing.



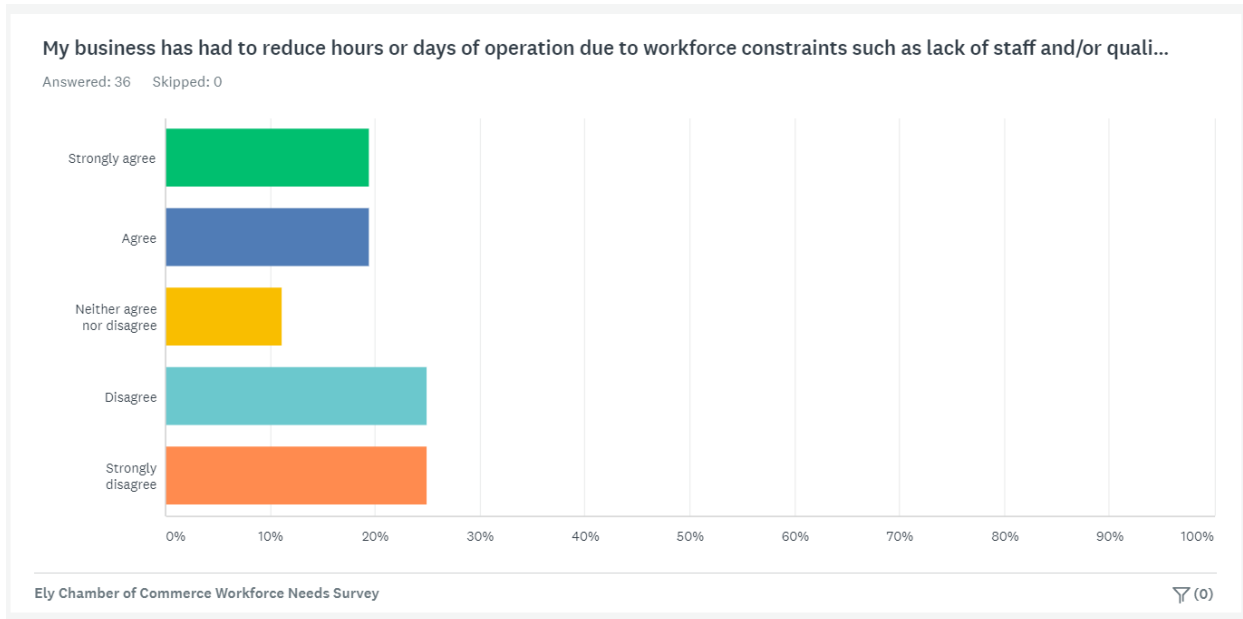
Of the businesses responding to the survey, about 38% employ 1-5 employees, followed by 25% employ 6-10.



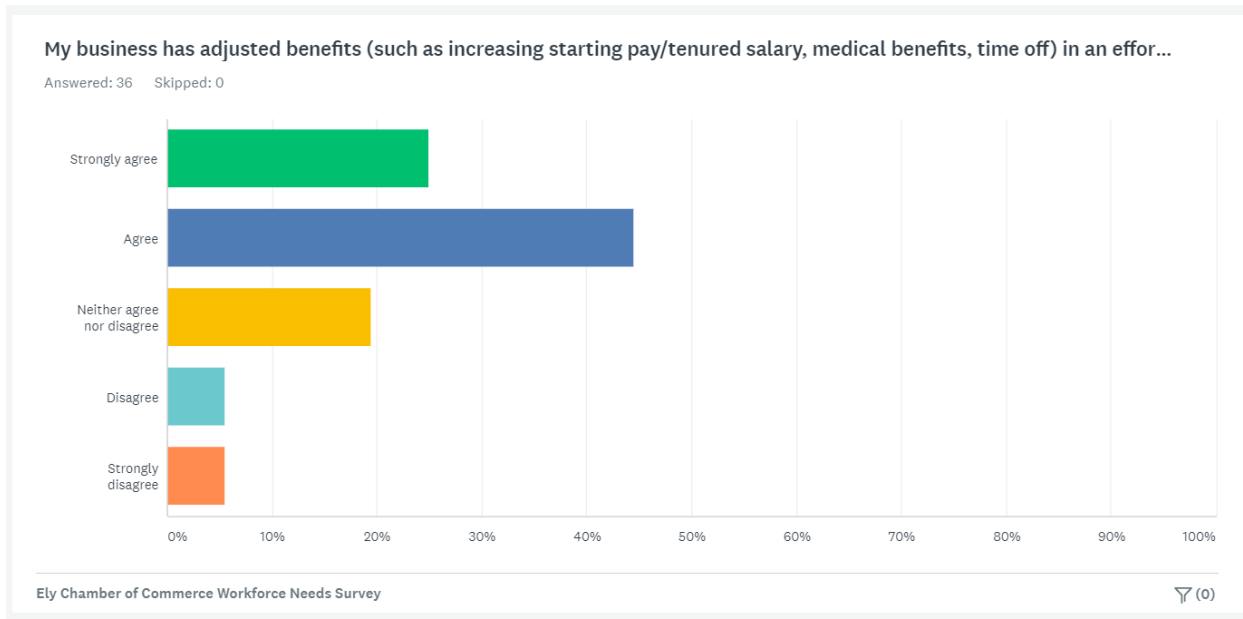
The breakdown for types of employment is: 31% Seasonal Part-time, 27% Permanent Full-time, 25% Seasonal Full-time, and 17% Permanent Part-time.



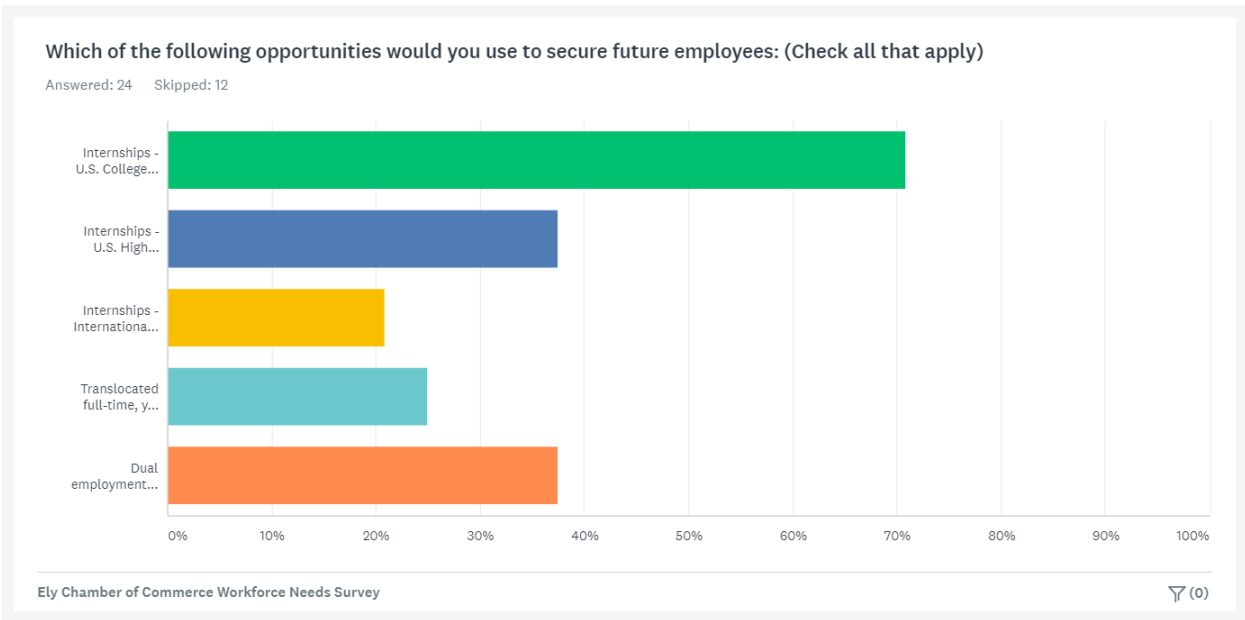
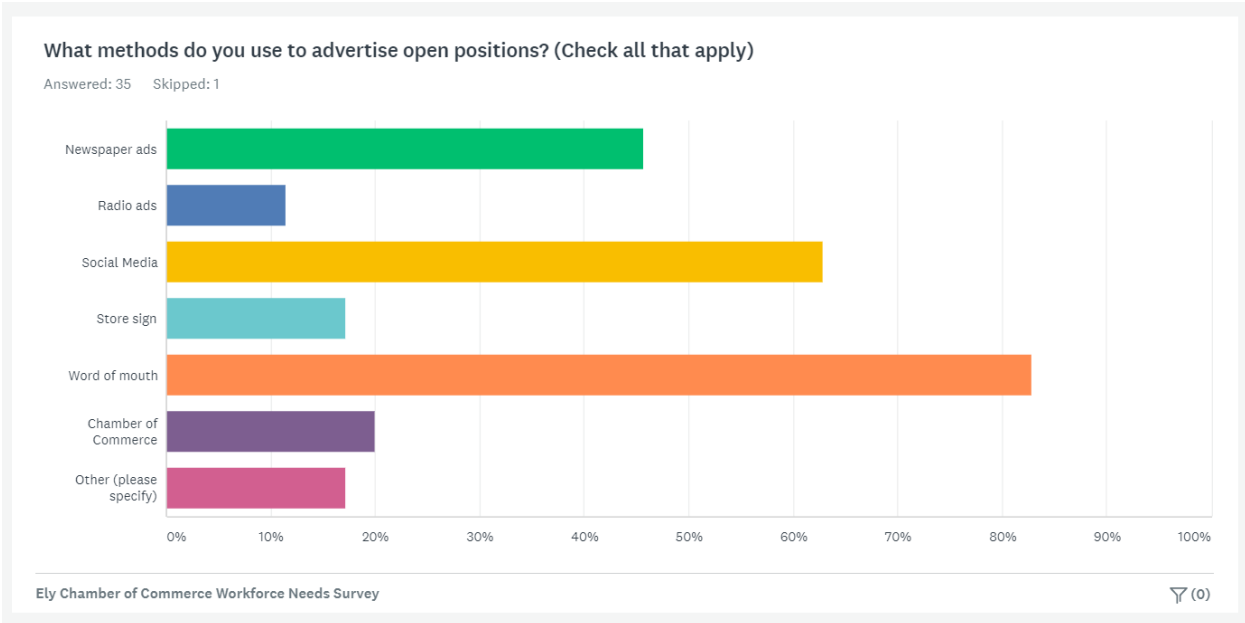
Approximately 64% of respondents wanted to hire 1-6 staff members this summer, but were unable to fill those positions. 28% were able to fill all positions.



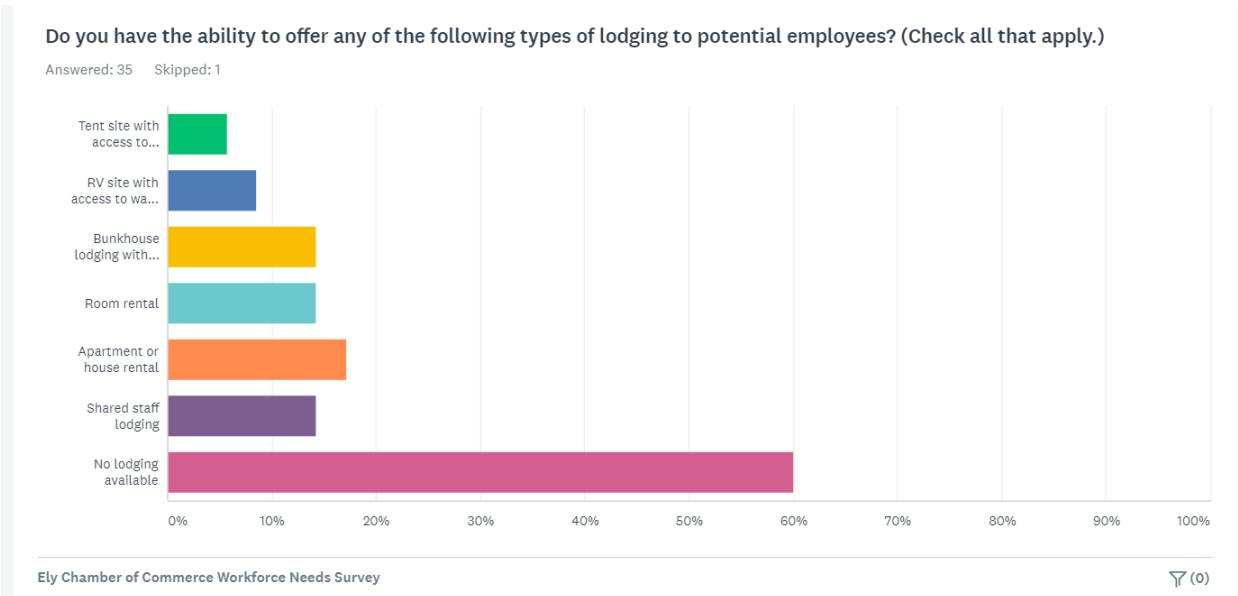
55.4% of respondents did not have to alter their business hours, or quality of service. 44.6% of respondents did need to modify their business hours or quality of service at some level.



69.5% of respondents adjusted pay or benefits at some level. 30.5% did not adjust pay or benefits.



Most businesses are interested in some type of internship. The strongest areas of interest are US based college and high school students. Dual employment (two seasonal Full-time positions pared together to create year-round Full-time employment).



Share additional thoughts or recommendations:

- Adding more housing to the area received the highest number of comments.
- Daycare facilities was listed multiple times.
- Working on employee retention is important and reduces turnover.
- Hiring an area recruiter to help locate and interview potential employees.
- Providing transportation from neighboring communities for high school students who may not drive or have a vehicle.

Pay ranged from minimum wage to over \$29/hour. The average pay noted was \$12-\$16/hour.

Next Steps:

We are reaching out to our contacts at colleges, universities, and area schools to develop internship opportunities. We are also working with the Small Business Development Center to secure a speaker for the J1 Visa process. We will create a list of businesses that are interested in the dual employment option and work to facilitate those connections.



Workforce Development Strategies

Throughout 2021 and into 2022, Chamber staff have identified opportunities for businesses to connect with potential employees.

1. Ely Chamber of Commerce members have the opportunity to list job openings on our website at Ely.org. Since the website's launch in late April, there were over 1800 visits to our Relocation page and over 1300 visits to our employment page.
2. Development of a Workforce Resource packet containing internship opportunities through our northeast Minnesota community colleges, University of Minnesota-Duluth, and University of Wisconsin-Stout. The packet also contains information on the J1 VISA program and regional resources providing workforce training.
3. Three job fairs targeting three different demographics. The Ely Chamber of Commerce created a compiled list of job openings from the business community to present at each event.
 - a. The Ely Job Fair was hosted by the Vermilion Community College in February and was open to all college students and area residents. The Chamber and 15 businesses participated in the event. We will partner with VCC for future job fairs.
 - b. A joint high school job fair was hosted by the Ely High School and included Northeast Range students. The Chamber and ten area businesses participated. We will continue our partnership with the area schools.
 - c. The Chamber is set to participate in the Iron Range Job Fair scheduled for April 21, 2022. The event is in Virginia, Minnesota, at the Iron Trail Event Center. Once the event is held, we will determine if it was beneficial to the business community.
4. Sharing of information for grants, training, and other workforce development opportunities through organizations such as: Northeastern Minnesota Office of Job Training, Northspan, Small Business Development Center, and Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board.

Ely Economic Development Authority (EEDA)

The City of Ely heads the Ely Economic Development Authority (EEDA) and works with a wide range of state and regional organizations including the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Blandin Foundation, IRRRB, Northland Foundation, Entrepreneur Fund, and DEED. The goal of the EEDA is to attract and retain businesses to Ely. The EEDA is also working to address day care and housing shortages.

The Ely Chamber of Commerce joined the EEDA in July 2021 to share its work with the EEDA. With many entities in the Ely area working on different aspects of workforce needs, sharing information is critical. The City of Ely, through the EEDA, has provided a great deal of support for our work. The monthly meetings provide us the opportunity to share our work and efforts with interested businesses and individuals beyond our Chamber membership.



Business Development

Business Development Series

Each year, the Ely Chamber of Commerce provides educational opportunities through speakers whose expertise brings opportunities for businesses to expand and grow in various areas. Molly Solberg, owner of MAS Marketing, shared marketing information using social media, local searches, websites, and planning across three sessions held in March. Sessions were offered free of charge.

Celebrate Ely Business Networking Dinner

Three years ago, we renamed the Smile You're in Ely event to Celebrate Ely. Additional changes to the event included splitting the annual meeting portion of the event off and holding it at a different time. The renewed purpose of the Celebrate Ely Business Networking Dinner is to bring businesses, nonprofits, and interested individuals together to network and celebrate our amazing business community. The event includes recognition to recipients for the Jackpine Bob Cary Community Spirit award, Good Neighbor Business award, Excellence in Customer Service, and Good Citizen Volunteer award. Recipients for the 2022 awards are:

Jackpine Bob Cary Community Spirit Award: Lori Schmidt
Good Neighbor Business Award: Frandsen Bank & Trust
Excellence in Customer Service Award: Chris Riikola
Good Citizen Volunteer Award: Tom Omerza

The evening includes a social hour, networking, dinner buffet, awards, and keynote speaker. This year's keynote speaker was Holly Hoffman, finalist from the series Survivor Nicaragua and motivational speaker.

Ely.Org Website

The shift from our very antiquated website in late April to a very sleek and stylish website has opened up a number of new opportunities for businesses to promote themselves. Each business listing offers a link to a website, multiple social media pages, photo gallery, business logo, coupons or special offers, and Google map to the business' physical location. An additional feature allows business owners, managers, or staff to access the business listing for updates 24/7. Businesses are encouraged to contact the Chamber office to learn about the many features available.

Shop Local-Ely Coupon Card

2021 marked the shift from our coupon book to our Shop Local-Ely Coupon Card. The card is eco friendly and we plan to use the same card from one year to the next. On the back of the card there is a scannable URL code that works with a variety of point-of-sale machines. The front has a QR code that takes the user to the Ely.org website. Businesses participating in the program can change their offers each month, seasonally, or keep the same offer throughout the year. The Chamber office maintains a list of participating businesses and their offerings and updates it as needed. Businesses that still prefer to use paper coupons can create a printable coupon connected to their business listing.



Articles of Incorporation

The Articles of Incorporation for the Ely Chamber of Commerce were drafted and approved in 1959. As the organization changed, bylaws were amended, however, across over 60 years the Articles of Incorporation were never reviewed.

Our first review of the original document was in 2019. With the guidance of our attorney, Jennifer Thompson, we adjusted language and several sections of the document. We had a formal vote to accept the changes, along with bylaw changes, however we did not have a significant response for the vote. We recognized that the information sent out was confusing and we decided to split the two documents apart and have members vote on each separately. In 2020, members approved the bylaw changes.

In January 2022, we sent out a packet of information that included the original Articles of Incorporation and the proposed copy, along with an overview of changes. We offered a two week period for comments. We received one recommendation and incorporated it into the proposed Articles of Incorporation.

The official vote was mailed out in February with the vote ending on March 22, 2022. Fifty-four ballots were received, all were in favor of accepting the proposed Articles of Incorporation. The board of directors formally accepted the membership vote at their April 13, 2022 monthly board meeting.

Looking to the Future

The last two years the Ely Chamber of Commerce has extended multiple surveys to its members, business community, and residents. Our goal with each survey was to gather information that would guide our organization's efforts. With limited staff and funding, it is imperative we use our resources effectively targeting topics most beneficial to our membership and the overall business community.

This fall, we will reintroduce:

- Business Incubator Sessions – The purpose of the monthly meeting is to bring together both new entrepreneurs and experienced business owners providing an opportunity to network and share experiences. Each month a speaker will provide a 30-40 minute talk on a business topic. For example: nontraditional lending, marketing, business plans, or successional planning. A business can be the host site for the event. The same business or another one can provide refreshments.
- Quarterly Chamber Business Breakfast - Chamber businesses gather together for breakfast at a local restaurant to discuss business news, growth, networking – there is no set agenda involved.

We are working on our next set of Business Development Sessions. We are always open to recommendations on topics and speakers. Based on the survey taken in 2021, businesses prefer to



have sessions on Thursdays in either the afternoon or early evening. When we offer multiple sessions, survey respondents indicated they preferred to have sessions every other week, if not farther apart.

The Ely Chamber of Commerce is continuing its commitment to its and members and the business community to provide leadership and advocacy, business development opportunities, workforce solutions, and strategic partnerships. Our vision is to lead a thriving and sustainable economic community.

We thank you for your investment in the Ely Chamber of Commerce. Your feedback and ideas are valued and welcome. Please do not wait for a survey to share your thoughts. We encourage you to reach out to our staff or board at any time.

Ely Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Dafne Caruso, The Art Corner
Dave Sebesta, Williams & Hall Outfitters
Mike Scherbing, Lady Bug Lodge
Jodi Martin, Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital
Kris Winkelman, Arrowhead Outdoors
Nick Ott, Packsack Outfitters
Willy Vosburgh, Custom Cabin Rentals

Ely Chamber of Commerce Staff

Eva Sebesta, Executive Director
Ellen Cashman, Events Director
Kristen Switajewski,
Lead Information Receptionist
Lana Hietala, Seasonal Information
Receptionist

Each month the Ely Chamber of Commerce board of directors meets. They offer an Open Forum for members and the public to share information. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. Please contact the executive director at 218-365-6123 or director@ely.org at least five days prior to the meeting to be added to the agenda.

The Events & Promotions Committee that oversees the sled dog race, festivals, and small events, meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. New committee members are welcome.

The Ely Chamber of Commerce has additional committees including; Workforce, Marketing, Membership, and Facilities that meet as needed. Please contact the Chamber office for additional details or to join a committee.



2022-2023 Events & Promotions

May 21, 2022

Citywide Rummage, Business Crazy Day, and Used Equipment & Watercraft Sale

Chamber member businesses receive a free listing and window sign. We create an event map with locations for in-town businesses and rummage sales. Those businesses outside of town have directions to their location. The Citywide rummage is for residents and nonprofit organizations, such as churches. The Business Crazy Day is for store front retail businesses. The Used Equipment & Watercraft is designed for area outfitters and resorts. The combined event is designed to attract individuals from across the Iron Range and as far south as the Twin Cities to head north and take advantage of great sales. For businesses, it's a wonderful time to move last year's merchandise, used camping gear and watercraft, or other items. Sign-up begins May 1 and closes 5 days prior to the event start.

Shop Local Campaign and Shopping Season

Our Shop Local campaign kicks off on May 21. With all the sales and activities going on in town, it's an ideal time to get the Chamber coupon cards in hundreds of shoppers' hands and start the summer shopping season. The Chamber building will be open and welcoming shoppers with coupon cards and event maps. If your business would like to carry these items at your location, just let us know. We will drop off a supply at your location.

June 11, 2022

Northwoods Kids Fishing Derby

A day-long event designed to introduce kids to the outdoors and fishing. There are four components including a fishing contest, Project WET water station, skills development, and fish art. Each youth receives a new rod & reel, goodie bag, t-shirt, and bandana. Sponsorships are available.

July 22-31, 2022

Operation Blueberry (Business Shopping)

We launched Operation Blueberry during 2020 during the time the Blueberry/Art Festival would have occurred. It was a smashing success and businesses asked us to continue offer the shopping event. Businesses are asked to create something blueberry. Some offered homemade blueberry popsicles, others pick-a-blueberry discount, still others offered all blue-colored items at a discount. There are no rules other than creating a fantastic window display or large banner for your storefront. We do offer prizes for the top three window displays or banners. We provide a map and business listing for all participating businesses.



July 29-31, 2022

Blueberry/Art Festival

The art & craft applications opened on January 1. We are well on our way to filling the event with art, craft, and food vendors. This event has a capacity for 260 vendors and fills Whiteside Park from end to end. Set-up for the festival starts the week before with us marking the park on Monday and physical set up of booths on Thursday. NOTE: We do have sponsor opportunities for businesses. If interested, contact us for details.

Experience Ely Expo

We are excited to introduce this new expo, which is a way for nonprofit organizations to participate in Whiteside Park during the Blueberry/Art Festival. In the past, we had 14 nonprofits within the festival. Now there are 20 booth spaces available and the opportunity for new nonprofits to participate. The categories are art & craft organization or event, sports & recreation organization or event, museum or attraction, first responders, and service organizations. The application period opened on January 1. The Expo application period closes on April 15.

September 2-11, 2022 **Harvest Days (Business Shopping)**

Harvest Days originated in 2020 as we searched for ways to encourage shoppers to head to Ely. This event is a great opportunity to offer sales, clearance, or other incentives to draw shoppers through your door. We will offer three prizes for the best Harvest themed window display or banners. How can you boost your bottom line in September? Consider making Harvest Days a shopping event for your store. We provide a map and business listing for each participating business.

September 9-11, 2022 **Harvest Moon Festival**

Applications for this fall event opened on January 1 and just like the Blueberry/Art Festival, it is filling quickly. This fall festival takes a slightly different direction – a more laid-back and relaxed feel compared to our bustling July event. We typically have 120 to 140 art, craft, and food vendors for this 3-day event. Set-up for the festival begins the week before as we mark the park on Tuesday, and the physical booth set up begins early Thursday morning. NOTE: We do have sponsor opportunities for businesses. If interested, contact us for details.

Experience Ely Expo

We do offer a second expo during the Harvest Moon Festival weekend. This event has the same criteria and space availability as the expo held during the Blueberry/Art Festival. Applications for this expo also opened on January 1.



November 24, 2022 Shine Bright Ely

Lights are a beautiful way to brighten any store front and lead shoppers through your door. We had some phenomenal light displays and a Mini-Ely train display that was absolutely amazing in 2020. The bar is set – how can you outshine your neighboring businesses in 2022? Prizes are awarded for the top three displays. We will provide a map of all the participating business locations.

November 26, 2022 Smalltown Christmas - Shop Local Saturday

Smalltown Christmas is Ely's kickoff to the holiday shopping season. Each participating business will receive a listing on our event flyer along with any featured products, sales, or discounts.

December 10, 2022 Mrs. Claus Party

Plan for 160 participants. Whatever happens after that is totally unanticipated and filled with extreme fun. Mrs. Claus welcomes all the area youth as they attend an afternoon filled with crafts, dancing, and singing. The afternoon would not be complete until our favorite jolly elf comes through the door. Yes, Santa always makes an appearance and listens to each child's holiday wishes. Each child goes home with handmade craft projects they create and a goodie bag filled with treats, small gifts and other items.

NOTE: We gladly accept small gifts, cash donations, candy, and other items from area businesses and organizations. We provide a sponsor/donor list in each gift bag so the families know which businesses are supporting the party.

February 25-26, 2023 WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race Weekend

Up to 60 sled dog teams travel to Ely to compete in our one day race. Prerace activities include a Musher Dinner sponsored by the Vermilion Community College Wilderness Club. Several hundred people enjoy the all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner held at the VCC cafeteria. The public has the opportunity to meet and visit with mushers.

Following the Musher Dinner, all of the mushers and their handlers head to the VCC theater where the Race Director, Race Marshall, and Trail Boss discuss race rules, the trail, and racing conditions.

The race kicks off at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning as the first 8-dog team hits the trail. Once all 8-dog teams are out, then the 6-dog teams follow. Our 8-dog teams travel 50 miles along the Taconite Trail and come across Bear Head Lake, heading back to the Ely finish line. Our 6-dog teams also travel along the Taconite Trail and head over to the



Purvis Lake area before heading back to Ely – covering about 30 miles on their journey.

NOTE: Sponsorships are available for this event.

We invite you to participate in our Chamber sponsored events. For more details, please contact the Chamber office at 218-365-6123 or director@ely.org.



APPENDIX A

2019 Strategic Plan Outcomes

In 2018, the Chamber has a shift of executive directors. The board was already having bylaw discussions and several members of the Chamber Board of Directors felt strongly that the Chamber should develop a strategic plan. Our strategic planning began in April of 2019 with focus groups that included both member and nonmember businesses. The board reviewed the collected information, and in October 2019, they participated in multiple days of strategic planning with the final details compiled and released in November 2019.

Mission: The Ely Chamber of Commerce leads a thriving, sustainable economic community through leadership and advocacy, strategic partnerships, career development of its workforce, business diversity and education.

Vision: Leading a thriving, sustainable economic community.

Work & Actions Prioritized by: Business & Resource Growth, Strategic Partnerships, Leadership & Advocacy, Career/Workforce Development, and Inclusivity of All.

Values: Local. Leadership. Career. Relationships. Growth.



APPENDIX B

Chamber Bucks Program

Several decades ago, the Ely Chamber of Commerce started a promotion used at sport & travel shows across the Midwest. Visitors were presented with a card redeemable for Chamber Bucks. They would bring the card into the Chamber office and receive their Chamber Bucks, that could be redeemed at various Ely businesses. As time went on, the program caught on locally and businesses began to buy Chamber Bucks for their guests and staff. Of course, residents thought it was a snappy idea too, so they became a popular way to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and holidays. The one-size-fits-all concept allowed the receiver to use the Chamber Bucks at dozens of area businesses.

The Chamber Buck program is exclusive to Chamber members. We offer increments of \$5, \$10, and \$20 Chamber Bucks. We keep a list of participating businesses and provide the list with each Chamber Buck purchase. When businesses receive the Chamber Bucks, they treat them just like regular cash. Businesses bring their Chamber Bucks back to our office, and we issue a check for the full-face value of each Chamber Buck returned. Businesses can bring them in person or send by mail.

For example, a customer makes a purchase for \$7.50 and provides a \$20.00 Chamber Buck. The cashier must provide \$12.50 in change or issue an in-store credit for the amount. Collect the Chamber Buck after the transaction as it is no longer valid. The business must return the original Chamber Buck to us either in person or by mail to be reimbursed.



APPENDIX C

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) For Chamber Members

Revised 04/05/2021

The purpose of this document is to answer the most asked questions of our membership. Our goal is to clearly articulate the value of Chamber membership and increase member involvement & engagement through consistent messaging and opportunities. Please let us know if you have any additional questions by contacting us via email or phone at Director@ely.org or 218-365-6123.

1. **Why should I join/maintain a Chamber membership?** As a Chamber member, you can develop yourself through networking, education and advocacy and directly impact the success of the business community. Full membership enables you to vote on the direction of business and economic development opportunities, participate in those opportunities, enjoy business referrals and advertising opportunities, receive aggregate news and much more.
2. **What are the expectations of me as a member?** We encourage you to share your voice and fully leverage the membership benefits highlighted in question eleven below. Our most engaged members are those who show a passion for the advancement of the Ely business and economic community as modeled by the following:
 - **Voice:** Serve on a committee and/or the board, vote whenever asked and/or, simply share your perspective about an opportunity for you or the Chamber to make a difference. Demonstrate a positive leadership shadow by educating others about Chamber decisions, operations, and events.
 - **Participate:** Take advantage of the member and economic development opportunities.
 - **Endorse/Invest:** Get behind the decisions of the Chamber by actively endorsing Chamber sponsored member and economic development opportunities and/or the three seasonal festivals. Educate your staff about Chamber sponsored events; their lack of awareness of an event reflects your engagement and detracts visitor participation/awareness. Help make Ely events more inviting by acknowledging the activity(ies) and/or asking customers about their awareness regardless of your participation in the event(s).
3. **What can I expect from other Chamber members?** Openness to share best practices and networking, offer promotional savings for your business, referrals, and participation in business celebrations such as new business ribbon cutting and anniversaries. In addition, you can expect other members to demonstrate a positive leadership shadow and an active voice in Chamber/business news.
4. **Why is the Chamber responsible for the visitor's center?** The Ely Chamber of Commerce has long served as both a chamber and visitor center. This is an approach that has been adopted by approximately 1/3 of chambers across the United States. Combining these functions enables us to



connect people with products and services. We serve as an information hub, which supports the Ely ecosystem—all businesses, residents, and visitors. Providing information through one location is both efficient and fiscally responsible for a community of our size.

5. **How is the Chamber funded?** The Chamber is funded through its membership dues and funds raised through the three Chamber sponsored events (WolfTrack Classic, Blueberry Fest and Harvest Moon festival). Lodging, Forest Service, City, or other tax dollars are not used to operate or pay staff.
6. **What do the membership dues support?** The membership dues support the following: a combined Chamber of Commerce and visitor/information center, building operation/maintenance, three full time salary equivalents (FTE), business development workshops, Ely.org, and social media pages, resources for new businesses including ribbon cutting ceremonies, facilitation of business ideas and networking events/promotions that support businesses and the greater Ely area community, including the three seasonal events (WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race, Blueberry Fest and Harvest Moon Festival) and a number of smaller activities geared toward driving retail traffic (see question 16).
7. **What is the relationship between the Tourism Bureau and the Chamber?** As of 2019, the Ely Tourism Bureau and Chamber of Commerce are separate entities, with separate boards and no shared funds.
8. **Does the Tourism Bureau contribute to the Visitor/Information Center budget?** The Ely Tourism Bureau does not contribute funding for the operation or staffing of the Chamber or visitor/information center. They are a separate organization that manages area lodging tax dollars.
9. **May I join a Chamber board meeting?** All members are invited to attend meetings—if you are interested in doing so, simply contact Eva Sebesta, Executive Director at Director@ely.org. The board does reserve the right to excuse members in attendance if sensitive topics will be discussed and/or voted on. Also, know that minutes are distributed following every board meeting.
10. **How can I get more involved in the Chamber?** Call us at 218-365-6123 to discuss your interests—we'd love to have you join us! There's always an opportunity to share your voice and/or passion, e.g., serve on a committee, event, or board, help us welcome and onboard new businesses, sponsor an event, etc.
11. **What does my membership include?** There are three different types of memberships: Full, Associate and Sponsoring. Full and Associate membership is available to any Ely business while non-Ely businesses in surrounding areas are invited to join as a Sponsoring member.
Full membership includes the following privileges:



- **Voice.** Vote on board members, Chamber By-laws and Articles of Incorporation as well as some of the potential direction of Chamber business and economic development opportunities, e.g., educational series, direction of Northwoods Medallion Hunt.
- **Promotion.** Enjoy business referrals from the Chamber, visibility on Ely.org and public events, inclusion in visitor center brochure/flier display as well as the opportunity to participate in the Ely Chamber of Commerce coupon card, the Chamber Membership Directory and an advertising opportunity in the annual Ely Vacation Guide and social media interactions and promotions, and priority in event sponsorships.
- **News & Resources.** Receive relevant, triaged news and resources from a variety of government/county agencies, law enforcement and other entities in addition to Chamber and community news.
- **Personal Growth.** Enjoy access to leadership and networking opportunities, e.g., education, networking forums.
- **Economic Development.** Participate and/or endorse Chamber sponsored opportunities that drive traffic and/or support new business, e.g., Ely Chamber Buck Certificate program, new business celebrations, business incubation.

Associate and Sponsoring members receive a website on Ely.org, an invitation to all Chamber opportunities, e.g., networking and workshops, a subscription to all Chamber member news correspondence and inclusion in the brochure/flier display at the Chamber visitor center.

12. **How much is Chamber membership?**

Type	Cost Structure	Cost
Full	Tier I: Sole proprietor retail, wholesale or home-based business, single guide, single cabin, or single vacation home rental Tier II: Retail, wholesale, or home-based business with employees, two guides, two cabins, two vacation home rentals, transportation service, or float plane service Tier III: Guide business, bed & breakfast, 3-4 cabins, or 3-4 vacation home rentals Tier IV: Outfitting service, campground, 5-8 cabins, or 5-8 vacation home rentals Tier V: Motel, hotel, nine or more cabins, or nine or more vacation home rentals	Varies - \$225 to \$675 depending on # and type of businesses
Associate	Non-profit clubs/ organizations that are within the Ely, Babbitt, Winton, Embarrass or Isabella service areas.	\$125
Sponsoring	A business that is located outside of our service area, but within Minnesota.	\$325

* Regardless of membership type, entities with multiple businesses may add additional businesses to their first membership at just \$225 per business.



13. **I see that Full membership includes the right to vote. What can I expect in this regard?** In addition to voting on board members, Chamber By-laws and Articles of Incorporation, we often ask for the member perspective on the direction of Chamber business and economic development opportunities.
14. **How does the Chamber advocate on my/local business(es) behalf?** We support and actively pursue federal, state, and local issues that may influence our area's business environment in partnership with State and Federal representatives, local officials, and area organizations. Examples include COVID-19 pandemic, economic development, small business development, workforce initiatives, and education.
15. **I understand that Chamber oversees the Blueberry/Art Festival, the Harvest Moon Festival, and the WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race. For what other consumer events is the Chamber responsible?** In addition to these three seasonal events, the Chamber's Events & Promotions Committee uses some of the funding generated from the three seasonal events to oversee some smaller initiatives geared at driving local traffic and sales. Most recent activities include the following and rely on Chamber member participation/endorsement: City Wide Rummage, Business Crazy Day and Used Gear & Watercraft Sale, Operation Blueberry, Harvest Days, Smalltown Christmas Shopping, Music in the Park and more.
16. **There are several other events that are the Chamber has provided advertising or financial support for. Here are a few:** The Snowmobile FunRun, Ely Winter Festival, KCPro Youth Snowmobile Racing, All-Night Graduation Party, Peter Mitchell Days, Washington Elementary PTO, Nordic Ski Club and more!