

Space Available

Driving around Waconia those two words really jump out at me. Buildings are for sale. Buildings are for rent. Office space available. More storage units are being built. Companies are expanding their footprint. Some businesses are closing their doors. Lots of change!

I just celebrated 11 years of being at the helm of the Chamber. I started out as Deb's assistant one week before Nickle Dickle Day in 2006 and was promoted to President in February of 2008. If you recall, 2008 was not exactly the peak of economic vitality. What we are experiencing now is a lot more fun! Part of our mission involves economic vitality and we work on this every day by meeting the needs of our members and assisting new business when they come to town.

Now is a time when the Chamber could use some assistance! In our current location inside City Hall, we have had access to the back storage area. There we have stored the essentials for each event, tourism materials, historical papers and photos, swag... and lots more stuff. The seniors of Waconia are now going to be moving into that space as they create a new senior center, so we are in search of a new storage area... and while we enjoy our space inside of City Hall, we need new office space. We are looking for Space Available. Maybe 500 sq ft. We have a few leads, but we need to move out by March 15th.

A couple years ago I sent out a survey to get a feel for where the Chamber should be located. A majority of the respondents said, "downtown." Now our need is more urgent as we have outgrown our office and we no longer have storage space, so I'm open to wherever makes sense. We do have a task force working on this... so if you have any ideas and/or space available, please let me know!

Speaking of dancing.... I mean space.... I talked with Commissioner Lynch yesterday and he let me know that a decision about the Lake Waconia Event Center – aka The Ballroom – has been made. After years of conversation, study and community input, the County has decided that they will build a new building. Important to note, the existing building will be in use until the new building is ready to go. I don't have the timeline, but current events are still welcome there! As sad as I am to see the ballroom go, it is good news that they have determined to build a new facility for Carver County to use for all kinds of events, complete with updated sewer, catering facilities... and my fingers are crossed for a dance floor.

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