

The Connection

FEBRUARY 2021



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2021 Minnesota Legislative Session Update



by Sonnie Elliot,
FAEGRE DRINKER

THE LEGISLATURE CONVENED ON JANUARY 5, 2021. THE HOUSE AND SENATE HAVE DEDICATED MUCH OF THE FIRST MONTH TO HEARING OVERVIEWS FROM DEPARTMENTS LARGELY DISCUSSING RESPONSES TO THE COVID19 PANDEMIC.

Committees will start transitioning into hearing legislative proposals and priorities. The February budgetary and economic forecast will be released at the end of the month and will provide the Legislature an outline for developing their budget proposals.

MSCA will continue to advocate for priorities to strengthen our industry. Reducing the state general levy, which is an additional levy imposed on commercial/industrials properties, will help lower property taxes for businesses that have been hit hard during the pandemic. MSCA supports comprehensive and long-term funding solutions for our transportation system without unduly burdening our businesses. We also support further transparency and accountability of local municipality fees.

Faegre Drinker will continue to advocate for MSCA's priorities at the Minnesota State Capitol. We work closely with others in the business community when appropriate, but also bring forward issues which are unique to the shopping center industry.

MSCA urges members to contact their legislators and educate them regarding the impacts of state policy changes on our industry and local economies. We need to provide them firsthand experiences of how the pandemic has impacted our operations. Correspondence to legislators from their constituencies plays a key role in what policies they will ultimately support.



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Minnesota Marketplace

▶ **B.A.D. WINGZ**, the chicken-wing concept from the founders of Soul Bowl, is moving into the first floor of Graze and Provisions food hall.

▶ **MOODY'S CORPORATION** to acquire commercial real estate platform **CATALYST**.

▶ **BED BATH & BEYOND** will close their Coon Rapids store in the first quarter of this year. It is one of only a few closures in the Midwest.

▶ A long time food truck, **MED BOX GRILL** has gone brick and mortar in Chanhassen.

▶ **BURGER KING** started the new year off by changing their branding with changes to its logo and packaging. Look for the salad restaurant concept, **SALADWORKS** to grow this year.

▶ **LUCE LINE BREWERY** opened its first craft brewery and taproom in Plymouth. **FIRE & NICE ALEHOUSE** has finally opened after a fire delayed them from opening for two years in North Minneapolis. **BROTHER JUSTUS WHISKEY CO.** has opened a 14,000 square foot space overlooking the Columbia Park and Golf Course in Northeast Minneapolis.

▶ Look for **TAQUERIA EL TRAVIESO** to open in Minnetonka at Highway 101 and Minnetonka Boulevard in March taking a former restaurant space.

▶ Women's clothing chain **CHRISTOPHER & BANKS CORP.** filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy becoming the latest retailer to succumb to pandemic pressures and an evolving shopping environment.



by Lisa Diehl,
DIEHL AND PARTNERS, LLC



by Holly Robinson,
MID-AMERICA REAL ESTATE – MINNESOTA, LLC



by Jesseka Doherty,
MID-AMERICA REAL ESTATE – MINNESOTA, LLC

▶ Former Applebee's in Rogers to house new **EL LORO MEXICAN** restaurant.

▶ **LOVESAC** is headed to Grand Avenue in St. Paul. They recently opened a store in the Southdale market. **IDEAL IMAGE** is under construction on Grand Avenue also.

▶ **SLOANES BEAUTY BAR** recently opened at Cedar Commons near Bde Maka Ska.

▶ Look to see more **BONCHON** locations popping up. Their most recent is in the Eagan Town Center Outlot. **PLANET FITNESS** also just opened at the Center.

▶ **FURBALL FITNESS** – opened at the Variant in the North Loop.

▶ **MARIAH'S COOKIES** (Delivery only, mariahcareyscookies.com/) Mariah Carey launched a delivery-only cookie company that kicked off December 4th in 30 markets, including the Twin Cities, in partnership with Virtual Dining Concepts, restaurateur Robert Earl's portfolio of delivery-only brands that operates from existing kitchens throughout the country.

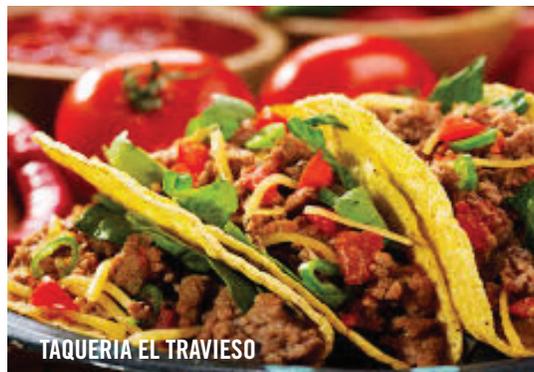
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VALENTINE'S DAY/ GODIVA CHOCOLATE

Americans spent nearly \$15 billion on chocolate last year, a 5 percent increase since 2019. Godiva has announced they will close all 128 chocolate retail stores in North America after Valentine's Day, citing decline in shoppers due to the pandemic. Godiva is not going out of business.



B.A.D. WINGZ



TAQUERIA EL TRAVIESO



MARIAH'S COOKIES

CONTINUED: **Minnesota Marketplace**

- ▶ Look for a spring opening for **VIVELY BODY SCIENCE**, a medspa relocating from Ridgedale to Colonial Square in Wayzata.
- ▶ **SOLA SALON** signed at West End for 9,200 square feet along Park Place.
- ▶ **STARBUCKS** signed a number of leases: for a 980 square foot drive-thru only location in Eden Prairie along Highway 5 at 16315 Terrey Pine Drive; a lease in Blaine for 2,100 square foot location at the Lexington Meadows development; another lease for 2,200 square feet in Grand Rapids at a new redevelopment at 104 SW 23rd Street formerly the Sawmill. **STARBUCKS** closed their Lake Street location in downtown Wayzata replacing it with a newer location on Wayzata Boulevard.
- ▶ **PET SUPPLIES PLUS** signed a lease for 6,504 square foot inline at Fridley Marketplace.
- ▶ **HARK! CAFE** a plant-based, gluten-free bakery and restaurant owned by two best friends, a baker and a chef, comes to the North Loop.

- ▶ **SIDE HUSTLE** - The folks behind St. Paul's Cafe Astoria are in residence at Cook Saint Paul with a pop-up focused on Filipino cuisine, sandwiches and toasts and "bits in bowls." Open Tuesday through Saturday for breakfast and lunch.
- ▶ **THE CLUCKERY**, Tequila Butcher's new ghost kitchen makes chicken tenders and sandwiches, biscuits and sauces for delivery and pickup.
- ▶ **TONO PIZZERIA + CHEESESTEAKS** Three years after the legendary St. Clair Broiler closed, a new restaurant is finally reviving the storied space on the corner of St. Clair Avenue and Snelling Avenue in St. Paul.
- ▶ **UNION HMONG KITCHEN UNION** Hmong Kitchen has moved to Mid-City Kitchen for takeout and delivery until chef Yia Vang's restaurant Vinai opens in spring 2021.



2021 MSCA Philanthropic Charity of Choice

Ever since Open Arms of Minnesota started serving meals way back in 1986, they have continually opened their arms wider to nourish and comfort as many neighbors in need as possible. They are now proud to announce that they are finally living up to their entire name: Open Arms of Minnesota is now shipping medically tailored meals to select individuals living in greater Minnesota!

Through grants and partnerships with funders including Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Minnesota Department of Human Services, many of our neighbors living outside of their regular Twin Cities' delivery zone now have the opportunity to receive their delicious meals. Eligible shipping clients receive the same loving treatment that local clients receive: 14-21 free meals a week, same menu choices (with slight modifications), and all of it made with love and care in their kitchen. But rather than being delivered by one of Open Arms incredible volunteers, the food is shipped by UPS.

The new shipping program is just another step in Open Arms mission to ensure #foodismedicine makes a difference where it is needed most. While it's a small pilot project at the moment, they hope to secure more funding so that even more of our vulnerable neighbors from greater Minnesota can receive the nourishment and love they give to all their clients.



by Emma Radtke,
MSCA

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OPEN ARMS OF MINNESOTA, [CLICK HERE](#)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

DAVID CLIETT	Republic Services
STEPHANY ELMER	Barna, Guzy & Steffan, Ltd.
ERIK ORDAHL	Barna, Guzy & Steffan, Ltd.
TIM REESEMAN	TCF Bank
TYLER THIELSEN	Showcase Lawn Care
MICHAEL TROTTER	TCF Bank

REGISTER FOR THESE 2021 CALENDAR EVENTS

DID YOU KNOW: YOU CAN VIEW THE LIST OF ATTENDEES TO ANY OF OUR EVENTS IF YOU CLICK ON THE EVENT?

EVENT	VENUE	DATE
THE CHANGING FACE OF THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY IN A PANDEMIC	Webinar	February 3, 2021
VIRTUAL THIRD THURSDAY	Webinar	February 18, 2021
TUBING EVENT	Buck Hill	February 23, 2021

WWW.MSCA-ONLINE.COM/EVENTS/CALENDAR/DATE/2021-02

5TH ANNUAL TUBING AND NETWORKING EXTRAVAGANZA AT BUCK HILL ON FEBRUARY 23RD

[CLICK HERE!](#)

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* Based on Commercial Multi-Peril direct premiums written, according to a 2013 report by SNL Financial.

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