

STUTSMAN COUNTY



November 2025



DEVELOPMENT
JAMESTOWN / STUTSMAN CO.

Exciting Changes on the Horizon: Building Remodel Set to Begin in December

A remodel will soon be underway at our shared building to improve accessibility, security, and efficiency for staff and visitors. The Department of Motor Vehicles will move into the space formerly occupied by the National Guard, gaining upgraded security features and enclosed offices.

The DMV's current area will become a new visitor lobby for Jamestown Tourism, creating a more welcoming entrance for guests.



Several former National Guard and Chamber offices will be reconfigured to add more office and hallway space, and new indoor connections between the Chamber and JSDC offices will make it easier for staff to move throughout the building. These updates will modernize the facility and better serve the community while supporting collaboration among all building partners.

The JSDC Board of Directors approved \$80,000 for their share of the renovation costs at their November meeting. This will be with an 80/20 city/county split. This request will now go to the city and county for approval. Stay tuned for more updates!

**Tourism Funding Approved to
Continue Driving Jamestown's
Visibility**



At the November JSDC Board of Directors meeting, the board approved Jamestown Tourism's annual funding request of \$125,000, with costs split 80/20 between the city and county. This request will now go to the city and county for approval. The funding will continue supporting digital-first destination marketing, local partnerships, and innovative campaigns that strengthen Jamestown's presence in key markets.

During their presentation, Emily and Warren from Jamestown Tourism highlighted the ongoing collaboration with North Dakota Tourism to expand Jamestown's reach in major metropolitan areas, such as Chicago and Minneapolis. Digital campaigns have generated over eight million impressions and have seen a notable increase in clicks this year. Although overall website visits declined due to a platform transition and changing digital behaviors due to the rise of AI, engagement and video completion rates remained well above industry averages.

Regional tourism activity also remains strong. Frontier Village, home of the World's Largest Buffalo, welcomed about 137,000 guests this year, and overnight stays in Jamestown increased by 1.3%. Roughly 64% of tracked visitors stayed overnight, contributing to higher hospitality tax revenues and an estimated \$17 million local tourism impact.

Jamestown Tourism's creative partnerships and influencer collaborations have produced authentic, high-quality social media content that continues to boost awareness for local attractions, museums, and events. The award-winning "marketing co-op" program also helped elevate exposure for community partners throughout the region.

Looking ahead, the Tourism team also shared plans for a new multi-year content initiative and upcoming collaborations, including cross-promotions with the future Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library.

JSDC Internship Program Evolves into Workforce Pathways Initiative

At their November Board of Directors meeting, the JSDC Board of Directors approved a series of updates to the Internship Reimbursement Program, marking a renewed focus on workforce development and long-term career outcomes. Now transitioning into the Workforce Pathways Program, the initiative aims to go beyond traditional internships by helping students build meaningful career connections and encouraging them to stay in Jamestown and Stutsman County after graduation.



Key updates include the introduction of a new evaluation rubric and enhanced eligibility criteria for employers to ensure internships provide substantial, career-relevant experience. A major addition is the emphasis on full-time employment pathways, requiring organizations to outline how an internship could transition into a permanent role aligned with the student's field of study.

The program will also expand outreach to participating interns to better track post-graduation outcomes and strengthen data collection. Collaboration with the Young Professionals of Jamestown will help connect young talent to local business and community opportunities.

The program's core funding model remains the same. An additional funding request of \$35,000, split 80/20 between the city and county to support up to ten internships in the coming year, was approved and will now go to the city and county for approval. The new structure represents a strategic shift toward building a stronger local workforce.

Our goal is to make internships more than short-term experiences, creating real opportunities for students to build their careers and futures in the Jamestown region!

What's In The News:



Inclusive playground nears completion, but work will keep Nickeus Park closed until the spring

Editor's note: The initial information for this story reported the amount of the project as \$1.2 million. That number was updated after the newspaper press deadline to \$1.6 million.

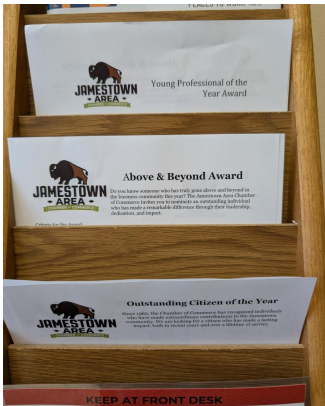
[Read More](#)



Grants awarded for Jamestown Arts Center project, miniature golf course at Frontier Village

The ND Department of Commerce awarded \$15M in Destination Development Grants to 23 projects across the state.

[Read More](#)



Recognize Jamestown's Outstanding Community Leaders

The Jamestown Area Chamber of Commerce is looking for nominations for three special awards recognizing community excellence. Do you know a deserving Young Professional in our community? How about someone who has gone Above & Beyond their duties in service to the community? Do you know someone who is clearly an Outstanding Citizen and deserves to be recognized? Nominate them!

Winners will be announced at the annual Chamber Awards Banquet in January 2026. Nomination forms are available online or at the Chamber office. Submit your nomination today and help celebrate the people who make Jamestown shine!

Loyal to Local Holiday Passport: Make Your Holiday Shopping Count!

This holiday season, support Jamestown businesses and earn a chance to win prizes with the Loyal to Local Holiday Passport. The goal is simple: keep local money in our community while you shop.

How it works:

- Get a Passport. Pick one up at the Chamber Office,

Zimmerman's Furniture, or any participating business. Add your name and contact information on the first page so they can reach you if you win.

- Shop local and collect stamps. Businesses will stamp your passport based on your purchase, from \$5 to \$50.
- Complete your Passport. Collect at least \$250 in stamps from five or more different businesses. You can complete more than one passport to increase your chances of winning.
- Turn it in. Drop your completed passports at the Chamber Office or in the drop box at Zimmerman's Furniture.



The 2025 Loyal to Local Holiday Passport runs from Saturday, November 29, 2025, through Monday, January 5, 2026. All passports must be turned in by January 5, and prizes will be drawn on January 6, 2026.

Have fun and remember that when you shop local, your community wins!

Questions or want your business to participate next year? Contact Vincent at membership@jamestownchamber.com.

Project Updates:



Vetter Construction recently celebrated their ribbon cutting at their new location at 1022 4th Ave SW.

Vetter Construction, in partnership with Kiella Lawrence, was approved for up to \$33,110.44 in interest buydown through the Flex PACE program in January.

In addition, they were also awarded Business of the Month for November!



Kiella Lawrence Photography is gearing up to open their new studio space at 1022 4th Ave SW!

Not only will this studio space be used for photography sessions, but it will also be available to rent for private events.

You can sign up for updates [here](#).

November is National Entrepreneurship Month

November marks National Entrepreneurship Month, a time to celebrate the innovators, risk-takers, and visionaries who drive our local economy. Entrepreneurs play a crucial role in creating jobs, fostering innovation, and strengthening communities in Jamestown and Stutsman County.

The JSDC encourages anyone with a business idea or growing venture to explore the resources and programs available locally to support entrepreneurship. From small business loans and workforce development programs to networking opportunities, there are many

ways to turn an idea into a thriving business.

This month, take a moment to support local entrepreneurs by shopping local, sharing their stories, or considering starting your own business. Every step helps strengthen our community's economy and culture of innovation!

Upcoming Business Resource Events:

Event:	Date:	Hosted By:
<u>Connecting With Our Core Values</u>	November 18	<u>JREC</u>
<u>S.T.I.R. with Jamestown Parks & Recreation</u>	December 3	<u>Jamestown Chamber</u>
<u>Understanding and Overcoming Imposter Syndrome in Professional Settings</u>	December 3	<u>JREC</u>
<u>Startup Business Pitch Competition</u>	December 5	<u>JREC</u>
<u>Strong Women, Strong Connections</u>	December 9	<u>NDWBC</u>
<u>A Year in Review: Metrics that Matter</u>	December 10	<u>JREC</u>
<u>7 Baby Steps to Budgeting with Chad Plett</u>	December 16	<u>JREC</u>

On the Search for More Local Events?



Visit Our Website

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