

NEWSBREAK

November 2018 Publication of the Minnesota Professional Towing Association



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∞ IN MEMORY OF

Robert “Bob” Jaspersen
1956-2018



Robert (Bob) Jaspersen, age 62, of Elko New Market, passed away Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at home. Preceded in death by his mother, Carolyn and father, Robert Jaspersen. Survived by wife, Laurie; daughter, Junell Jaspersen; brother, Bruce (Linda) Jaspersen; sister, Peggy (Paul) Hokeness; nephews, Jeremiah Hokeness, Ryan, Eric, Mike and Kyle Jaspersen; brother-in-law, Doug (Nancy) Duehn and their children, Heather and Jacob. Bob was in the towing business since 1976 and for the past 30+ years has owned and operated Kustom Karriers Towing. Bob was a generous and loving man and was loved and cherished by his family, his many friends and employees. Bob had many passions, cars, trucks, drag racing and loved his many puppy dogs.

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If you would like to make a contribution to help with the legislative efforts, please send your donations to:

MPTA
2886 Middle Street
Little Canada, MN 55117

Presidents Letter

Written by President, Brett Letourneau

Greetings everyone,

A lot has been going on of late at the MPTA. Just finished up our fall series of Tow schools. What a great turn out as we had over 50 combined students for the light-duty and heavy-duty tow schools. Would like to thank Ron Feist, Ron Gardas Jr. Jay Thompson and the MPTA board Directors for their time and dedication to our industry.

Congratulations to Kyle Siewert, Ron Gardas Jr. to another three-year term as fellow board directors. I also want to take time in thanking Jesse Lilley of Statewide Towing and Zak McClelland of Mrs. Mac's Towing & Transport for showing an interest in running for the board. As the votes were close, I always encourage others to think about their interest in adding their names to future ballots.

As the winter season approaches, tireless evenings, and countless hours of performing our duties helping our customers in need, please be careful and approach each scene, each vehicle, each responsibility with the utmost respect and best judgment. As we say in our tow schools, "we know who is running the equipment, but who is running you"? Be Safe and always remember, to always look around your scene and put your body in the best situation out of harm's way.

On October 16th, we lost a great friend in our towing industry. Robert "Bob" Jaspersen of Kustom Karriers Towing passed away. Our condolences go out to the entire Jaspersen family and Kustom Karriers Towing organization.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving. Thank you to all the members supporting the MPTA and our industry, one tow at a time.

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MPTA Hosts One-Day Advanced Light Duty Tow School

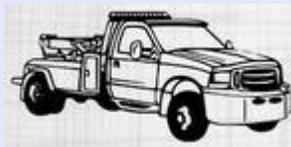
On Wednesday, October 3rd the MPTA supported our towing operators with a 1-day advanced light duty tow school. MPTA board directors Ron Feist and Ron Gardas Jr. taught the early classroom portion of the school with new information and safety statistics and everyday basics of getting ready for each towing shift. With an ever-changing industry, always nice to open the classroom up for instruction and FAQ's. Students were taught everything from size of chains, straps, pressure points, Lever's, recovery and even how to better prepare yourself mentally and professionally.

With over 35 students in attendance, MPTA board directors hosted several training sessions featuring difficult hook ups, recovery situations, roll-overs, working load limits and experiencing use of chains and straps getting a feel for what our industry has to offer. Although the school gives you a great "Hands on" experience, it can only prepare you for the "real thing!" Teaching student's the advanced lessons of recovering vehicles in a tough environment while learning the "Do's and Do not's" of our industry.

MPTA Board Directors sponsored the event providing many vehicles and the use of their equipment. The students did not disappoint. They were promised to get hands on training while getting dirty- just like every MPTA sponsored tow school. Every school the MPTA conducts, all of us learn more from the instructors as well as from our students. Special thanks to Ron Feist & Ron Gardas Jr. for teaching recovery fundamentals in the classroom as the well as Many MPTA Board of Directors assisting in the classroom and recovery sessions. Thank you to Twin Cities Transport & Recovery and Collins Bros. of Elk River for many of the salvaged vehicles as well as Twin Cities Wrecker Sales for the necessary equipment.

Shout out to the great people at MNDOT for allowing us to use their facility. Together we support our industry, but more importantly our professionalism. I would say when one looks at the time, money and personal commitment, at the end of the day, it's all well worth it!

Hope to see you or your employees at the next MPTA endorsed tow school!



MPTA Hosts Heavy Duty Tow School



For those who missed the MPTA's Heavy Duty Tow School on October 4th, two words sum up the condensed one-day event, experience and knowledge. In a full one-day class, students of the MPTA Heavy Duty tow school were taught by some of the best instructors locally, Jay Thompson and Ron Gardas Jr. and other MPTA board Directors.

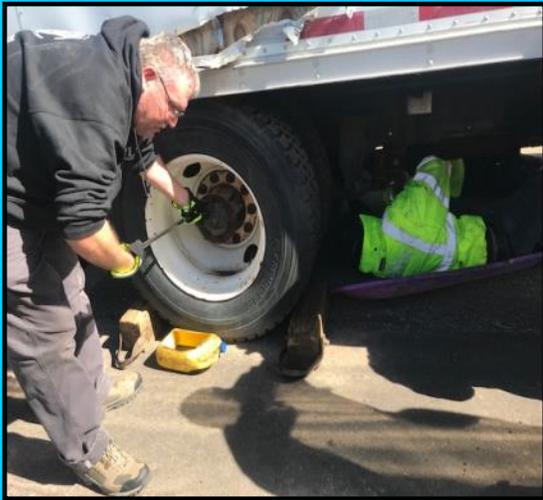
The MPTA Board Directors felt this year's Heavy- Duty Tow School should be an abbreviated one-day class as the MPTA is planning a two-day Heavy-Duty class with Tom Luciano in the spring. The morning session began with an extensive classroom presentation taught by Ron Gardas Jr. of Twin Cities Towing & Recovery. After lunch, a four hour "hands on" afternoon session taught by Jay Thompson of Lake City Towing and Ron Gardas Jr. of TCTR covering Towability, basic hook-ups, Air Systems, and Drive Lines. The "hands -on Portion also included an educational session on weight limits with MPTA's portable scales.

The class ended with a 30- minute question and answer "hands on" approach finding every student involved and eager to learn more.

Even though the day was brisk, all who participated in the Heavy- Duty Tow School will tell you, for the amount of time, money, knowledge, and the teaching of professionalism in our industry, was well worth the experience. The students were so involved, by end of day, they shared industry stories, as a lot of them stuck around for a while.



MPTA Hosts Heavy Duty Tow School



Marijuana Legalization Is Bad for Business

Last month Canada legalized recreational marijuana use. It is now also legal in nine U.S. states, including California and Colorado. Legalization is also on the ballot in Michigan and North Dakota this November 6. It's clear that the trend toward legalizing marijuana for all uses, not just medicinal, is progressing throughout the western world – odd given the opposite trend of criminalizing cigarette smoking in every public and private space. Many people are happy that possession of marijuana will no longer be a crime, but decriminalizing this drug has another side effect: it's not good for workers. Greater marijuana use further narrows the labor pool of reliable employees and harms businesses and the economy.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 24 million Americans aged 12 and up used marijuana in 2016. No doubt today it's much higher. It is the most common substance found when workers are drug tested. For employers who want to run their businesses safely and without hassle, this rising rate of marijuana use is very bad news.

First of all, there are the safety concerns. Workers who use marijuana are more likely to have accidents and injuries on the job because marijuana impairs people's ability to move, to think and to problem solve. It slows their reaction time. This is not ideal when the work being done is office work, but when it's auto repair or welding, mental impairment is a serious liability. An injury on the job is expensive in so many ways, not least in terms of Workers' Compensation claims, but also in downtime, recruiting, training, and lowered morale. No one likes to see a worker injured ever.

Marijuana also affects memory and sense of time as well. This often results in absenteeism or tardiness, and general productivity. Foggy brained people take longer to do their tasks and make more mistakes. An impaired worker who is tardy, absent, or fuzzy puts a burden on his coworkers and creates resentment in his workplace. No coworker likes doing their job and the job of someone else who partied too hard last night. Employers don't appreciate wondering if their workers will show up and be able to do their jobs. Managers don't like to fire skilled people who are talented but unreliable because of drug use.

Marijuana's impairment issues can last longer than other drugs too. It can remain in a person's system for 24 to 48 hours after casual use and up to a month for chronic users. Given that, when is it safe to say that an employee is no longer impaired? When is it safe for them to use tools or operate heavy machinery? In a day? A week? Never? Can anyone be sure?

Legalizing recreational marijuana use will result in more people using it recreationally. More marijuana use will result in people attempting to work their jobs while impaired. That's dangerous for them, and it's bad for productivity in general. It will make it more challenging for employers to find reliable workers and to safeguard them and others at work. This will be bad for individual employers and the productivity and profitability of small businesses like auto shops. Added together, it's bad for business in general. Drugged people make poor workers. Poor workers make businesses less productive. Less productive businesses make for a weaker economy. With increased marijuana use, we all lose.

What do you think? Is legalizing recreational marijuana a good thing?

Visit this link at Automotive Management Network to read the reviews or to reply to a review.

<https://www.automotivemanagementnetwork.com/marijuana-legalization-bad-business/>

Tom & Deb Ham
Automotive Management Network

www.AutomotiveManagementNetwork.com
5355 Plainfield Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616-340-2380



Re: Road Ready Consulting, LLC

Dear Customers:

We are writing to inform you that as of December 31, 2018, Road Ready Consulting, LLC will be ceasing business operations. As a result of this decision, we will be completing year end work for our clients and billing for November and December work on the November 30, 2018 invoice.

The success of Road Ready Consulting over the previous 4 years has been largely due to its amazing customer base. We have tried hard to make each one of our customers happy through exceptional customer services and we are very grateful to you for trusting in us for Department of Transportation compliance services.

Each of you have current access to your OneHub accounts. We would recommend that you take the time to print off the documents in each of the folders so that you have these hard copies for your records going forward. It will help your transition with your new provider or if you decide to keep your own records an easier transition. If you would rather we provide you with full hard copies, please let us know and we will include that in this month's monthly file maintenance or next month's file maintenance work for you.

We would like to thank you for your past business. Please contact us at 612.804.9554 if you have any questions regarding how to download your information from your OneHub account or any other questions you may have. We are more than happy to help you through this process and this difficult transition. We do apologize for any inconveniences that this may cause.

Best Regards,

Sally A. Anderson, DOT Consultant
Road Ready Consulting, LL
PO Box 559, Anoka, MN 55303
612.804.9554

MPTA Hosts Annual Meeting



Following the One-Day Light Duty Tow School, on Wednesday, October 3rd, the MPTA hosted their Annual Meeting at Crooked Pint Ale House in Maplewood. As always, the Annual Meeting is a great opportunity for towing members to share thoughts about the upcoming year. Items discussed are move over law campaigns, education and continuing how to help our towing industry be the best it can be.

This year was the third year MPTA members casted their votes by a mailing in their votes. We had five very respective towing members/ operators on the ballot. The unfortunate part situation, we can only allow three to be voted in. The three board of Directors voted on the board of directors are Ron Gardas Jr. - Twin Cities Transport & Recovery, Brett Letourneau – Citywide Service Corp and Kyle Siewert-Siewert's 24-Hour Towing & Recovery. Just like last year, the mailing of votes, the election results were very close. I encourage every MPTA member in the future to attend our Annual Meeting, as this is your meeting. Get to know your fellow towing operators while discussing our industry in an open forum.

Minnesota Election Update

While the national blue wave doesn't appear to have developed, Minnesota appears to be an outlier hardest hit by a well-organized DFL Campaign operation, focused primarily on turning out votes in the metropolitan and suburban areas of the Twin Cities. The DFL operation was able to propel both U.S. Senate Candidates, their gubernatorial ticket, Attorney General and other constitutional candidates into office. The DFL was also successful in defeating Republican Congressmen Erik Paulsen and Jason Lewis. Their political operation also flipped control of the Minnesota House. The DFL entered the night needing to win 12 seats to take control of the House, currently it appears as though the House DFL has taken 18 seats and increases their membership from 57 to 75 members and leave the GOP with 59 members heading into the 2019 Legislative Session.



Notable Republican members defeated this evening include powerful House Chairs, Jen Loon, Sarah Anderson and Jim Knoblauch. Other members defeated include Kelly Fenton, Dennis Smith, Cindy Pugh and Kathy Lohmer. Ballots are still being counted and a number of outcomes are within the margin of an automatic recount. We will provide an updated list of membership changes in the coming hours.

There were a few highlights for the Minnesota GOP. In the 8th Congressional District, Pete Stauber won the open congressional seat. The race is too close to call in the open 1st Congressional District race. In the Minnesota Senate, GOP candidate Jeff Howe was successful in winning the Special Election in Senate District 13 and gives the GOP a 34-33 seat margin in the State Senate.

Coalition Goes Nationwide

The United Coalition for Motor Club Safety is now the Emergency Road Service Coalition Of America. The group changed its name to reflect new goals and a broader national commitment, a release by the organization stated.

The coalition said because of successful advocating efforts in California, it frequently received requests for help and guidance from towers throughout the country. Its board of directors restructured the organization's focus and the Emergency Road Service Coalition of America was formed to better reflect the growing diversity of its membership.

"While we'll never forget our roots as frustrated Californian motor club towers that fought together to better our industry," said President Craig Baker of Cupertino Towing, "we've learned some key lessons along the way that we believe can also help additional towing companies in other states improve their situations."

The coalition said it has played a critical role in California politics, notably helping defeat or improve several potentially devastating bills that it said would have been crushing to the towing industry. Further, the organization stated it was involved in lawsuits that have reshaped the power dynamics between motor clubs and their contracting towing companies for the better. They also said they have been dedicated to developing improved training opportunities for drivers, including entry level online training courses.

Going forward, the Coalition plans to offer these same services and benefits to its national membership. ERSCA plans to hire legal counsel, lobbyists, PR professionals, as well as work in closer alignment with the California Tow Truck Association to ensure towers' voices are heard and their rights protected.

Source: MotorClubCoalition.com.

Former Transportation Secretary Calls for Higher Gas Tax

Ray LaHood thinks President Trump should move now to increase the federal gas tax to fund infrastructure maintenance.

WASHINGTON – After the midterm elections, President Donald Trump should strike now to forge a bipartisan transportation deal that would fix the country’s decaying airports, bridges and roads, former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said on CNBC.

The president should “persuade Republicans in the Senate that they're going to have to pass some kind of revenue-raiser,” said LaHood, who served under the Obama administration. After this week’s elections—which returned control of the House of Representatives to the Democrats but kept the Senate in Republican hands—Trump said that he and the Democrats “have a lot of things in common on infrastructure.”

LaHood pointed out that the Democrats appeared poised to approve a “pretty big, bold bill” and fund it partly by hiking the federal gasoline tax for the first time in a quarter century. The federal gas tax currently stands at 18.4 cents per gallon (24.4 cents per gallon for diesel).

“If you raise the gas tax 10 cents a gallon, you get billions of dollars. That's a very, very good start,” said LaHood, who is now co-chair of the Building America's Future coalition. “It sends a message to the states that the federal government is serious about getting back into being a good partner. ... We need to start somewhere. ... You know America is one big pothole.”

Source: NACSONLINE

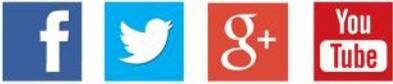
Gov.-Elect Tim Walz On Minnesota Gas Tax

Last year, the Minnesota Capitol was marred by gridlock as Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton clashed with legislative leaders in the GOP-controlled House and Senate. But after last Tuesday’s election, newly elected officials, including Minnesota’s Gov.-elect Tim Walz, are saying that will change. Among the items the governor-elect will push for is a gas tax increase to pay for Minnesota road and bridge improvements.

The opening of Minnesota’s legislative session is just under two months away. There will be a new Democratic governor, and the Minnesota House has flipped from Republican to DFL control. Republicans are still in charge of the Senate, but just barely, stemming from special Senate election results last week, where they have a one seat majority. Among Gov.-elect Walz’s priorities is passing a gas tax to help pay for improvements to Minnesota roads and bridges.

According to the latest report from AAA, the average price of gas in Minnesota is about \$2.62 — that’s about 40 cents higher than it was last year. Gov.-elect Walz openly campaigned for a gas tax hike and he easily beat his Republican opponent by 11 points. The governor-elect was a guest on WCCO Sunday Morning. “You get what you pay for. It’s clear that Minnesota infrastructure is behind where it ought to be that causes congestion that causes accidents it actually costs us money in the long run.”

The governor-elect is also confident that under his leadership gun control measures can pass the legislature. In recent years, any attempt at new gun laws has failed to gain any traction at the Capitol.



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How Much Does a Tow Truck Cost? – Angie’s List Review

The cost of towing your car- What Angie’s List notes about tow costs.

Several Angie’s List members, according to recent reviews of towing companies, reported paying between \$75 and \$125 for a tow. The national average, according to the reports, is \$109.

These prices fall in line with what service providers we spoke with charge.

Steve Catlett, owner of Steve’s Towing in Indianapolis, says you should expect to pay about \$85 for a tow. Joey Condemmi, owner of Ridgecrest Towing & Auto in Franklin, North Carolina, says the average price is about \$75 to \$80, but everything depends on the miles traveled after hook up. Many companies charge a hook-up fee and then per mile after that.

If your vehicle is towed several miles to another city, for example, it could cost \$200 to \$300, Condemmi says.

According to [CostHelper](#), some companies charge a base hook-up fee of \$35 to \$100 and then charge \$2.50 to \$5 per mile. Harris Towing Service & Auto Repair Center in Delaware, for example, charges \$60 for local towing, a \$75 hook-up fee and \$3.50 per mile for long-distance towing.

A tow of five miles or less may cost \$35 to \$125, while a 40-mile tow could cost \$125 to \$275, according to [CostHelper](#).

Catlett adds that it’s important to be wary of the “low-ball” prices he hears from some tow companies. In these cases, the company may offer a really low rate up front to get the business, only to add on an expensive per-mile charge that the customer isn't aware of.

It’s also important to have good communication with the tow company before making a hire. Some states and cities have caps on how much tow companies can charge, but unscrupulous companies can fly under the radar. You can check with your state or city government to find out if there are limits.

What affects the cost of a tow

According to [CostHelper](#), there may be additional towing costs during nights, weekends or holidays.

There may also be extra charges costs if the vehicle is stuck in a ditch or mud because it will take the tow company longer to free the car.

“The price can change when you’re dealing with flat terrain compared to mountainous,” Condemmi says. “It depends on how much time it takes for each job and how many hours were put in. In the Smokey Mountains, there are beautiful homes. But some of them have driveways that are a quarter-mile up to two miles long.”

Member Directory

Albert Lea	Allen's Tow & Travel 507-373-3551	Duluth	Dukes Towing 218-722-8885 Mrs. Mac's Towing 218-393-7377 East End Towing 218-349-3991	Maple Grove	Chase Towing & Transport 763-315-3995
Anoka	North Star Towing 763-427-4160	Eagan	Mark's Towing 651-454-1533	Marshall	Pulver Towing 507-828-5720
Apple Valley	Dick's Valley Service 952-432-2848	Eden Valley	Jack's Towing 320-453-6560	Medina	Kelly's Wrecker Services 763-473-0558
Austin	Midtown Towing 507-433-7374	Elk River	Collins Brothers Towing 763-241-9177	Melrose	Shaggy's Towing 320-256-7855
Baxter	Collins Brothers Towing Of St. Cloud, Inc. 218-822-5525	Excelsior	Williams Towing 952-446-9650	Minneapolis	Blaine Brothers 763-780-5130 Miller Towing 612-827-5591 Schmit Towing 763-253-1568
Blackduck	Bogart's Towing 218-835-4548	Faribault	Glenn's Service LLC 507-334-4202	Minnetonka	Kustom Karriers 952-938-4680
Blaine	Twin Cities Transport & Recovery 763-784-7501 Dan's Complete Auto Care 763-784-8668 Frovik's Towing 763-786-9220	Fergus Falls	Beyer Towing 218-205-6137	Moorhead	Aggressive Towing & Recovery 218-287-2344 Ed's Towing Service 218-233-7740
Blooming Prairie	Darrick's Preferred Auto 507-583-9994	Forest Lake	Dan's Towing 654-464-5551 Harold's Towing & Recovery 651-464-5313	New Brighton	Freeway Towing 651-633-5525 Statewide Towing 651-633-4262
Bloomington	Chief's Towing, Inc. 952-888-2201	Golden Valley	Feist Automotive 763-544-5512	Oakdale	Twin Cities Transport & Recovery 651-770-0152 Absolute Towing & Recovery 651-337-2149
Brooklyn Park	Cardinal Towing 763-535-1202 Citywide Service 763-424-4900	Hutchinson	Modern Towing 320-587-4603	Owatonna	Dean's Westside Service 507-455-1950 Sweet Towing & Repair 507-451-3424
Burnsville	Captain Towing 952-856-2901	Inver Grove Heights	South East Towing 651-451-9721	Plymouth	Plymouth Automotive 763-544-3202 Frankies Towing Co 763-595-0321
Cannon Falls	Siewert's Towing 507-263-4791	Ironton	AutoSmith Service Group 1-218-545-5715	Ramsey	Bee Line Towing 763-568-0858
Coon Rapids	Highway 10 Mobil 763-757-6789	Lakeville	Marek's Towing & Repair 952-469-3182		
Crystal	North Suburban Towing 763-535-2201	Loretto	Loretto Towing 763-479-1943		
Detroit Lake	Aggressive Towing & Recovery 218-287-2344	Mankato	Affordable Towing 507-388-8697 All American Towing 507-345-5005		

Member Directory

Red Wing	Midway Auto 651-388-8296 Siewerts Garage 651-388-9163	Tyler	Bruender's Corner Mart 507-247-5587	Independence	Kabus Auto Body & Recovery 715-985-2252
Rochester	CSC Towing 507-289-8344 Rochester Towing, LLC 507-288-7317 Pulver Towing 507-282-3851	Virginia	Armory Shell Towing & Service 218-741-6050	Roberts	Jerry's Towing 715-749-4450
Rogers	Burdas Towing 763-428-9911	Waseca	Bocks Service Inc. 507-835-5407 Tesch Service Center 507-835-4610	Superior	Lake City Towing 218-722-7781
Sauk Centre	Centre Towing Inc. 320-352-1500	Willmar	Ed's Service Center & Sales 320-235-5945	<u>ASSOCIATE</u>	
Savage	Allen's Service Inc. 952-894-1000	Winona	Borkowski Towing & Salvage 507-452-9073	<u>Auto & Equipment Sales</u>	
Scanlon	Blaine Brothers 218-879-6681	Zumbrota	Bergs Towing & Repair 507-732-5613	AW Direct Tom Welsh 608-662-3350 Tom's Auto Sales Ryan Tubbesing 651-482-8795 Twin Cities Wrecker Sales Rod Pellow 651-488-4210 Zip's Truck Equipment Paul Rottinghaus 1-800-222-6047	
Shakopee	Shakopee Towing, Inc. 952-445-0030	<u>IOWA</u>		<u>Financing/Leasing</u>	
Spring Lake Park	Citywide Service 763-432-4550	Sioux City	Meier Towing Inc 712-258-0609	Water Street Funding Tim Olson 763-742-7898	
St. Anthony	Twin Cities Transport & Recovery 612-789-4245	<u>NORTH DAKOTA</u>		<u>Health Insurance</u>	
St. Cloud	Collins Brothers Towing Of St. Cloud, Inc. 320-257-5525 Andy's Towing 320-251-5691	Bismarck	Berg's 24 Hour Towing 701-663-6491	Haas Managed Benefits Bill Haas 763-421-6153	
St. Francis	Ark Towing & Recovery 763-434-1686	<u>SOUTH DAKOTA</u>		<u>Insurance</u>	
St. Paul	Twin Cities Transport & Recovery 651-642-1446	Big Stone	The Shop, Inc. 605-862-8215	Midwest Insurance Service John Hall 651-439-5939	
Stewartville	Tri-State Towing 651-439-5744	Sioux Falls	Ace Towing Inc. 605-332-2173	<u>Salvage/Auction</u>	
Stillwater	Stillwater Towing 651-439-5744	<u>WISCONSIN</u>		Copart Inc Scott Gilles 763-432-7258	
		Ashland	Tomlinson's 24 Hour Towing 715-682-2717	<u>Uniforms</u>	
		Baldwin	Day & Nite Towing, LLC 715-684-3359	Cintas Dan Chanski 763-425-6666	
		Balsam Lake	Lake Services Unlimited 715-857-5753		
		LaCrosse	Goldbeck Towing Service 608-781-4869		

UPCOMING EVENT

MPTA Board Meeting

November 20, 2018

**6:00 pm Dinner
6:30-8:30 pm Meeting**

**MPTA Office
2886 Middle Street
Little Canada, MN 55117**

**Happy
Thanksgiving!**

