

Google announced as company behind Hermantown's proposed data center project

Hermantown Area Chamber of Commerce Responds

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 3, 2026 - Hermantown, MN: The Hermantown Area Chamber of Commerce is encouraged by the announcement that Google, a subsidiary of Alphabet, Inc. has been named as the company behind the proposed data center project in Hermantown.

As outlined on the City of Hermantown's official project page (www.hermantownmn.com/project), the proposed development represents one of the most significant private investments ever considered in our region. The project includes substantial privately funded infrastructure improvements, long-term construction employment, and the creation of high-quality, full-time operational jobs once completed.

"From the Chamber's perspective, this is about long-term economic strength," shared Kimberly Parmeter, President & CEO of the Hermantown Area Chamber of Commerce. "A project of this scale has the potential to reshape Hermantown's tax base, support public infrastructure, and reduce long-term pressure on residential taxpayers. Tens of millions of dollars in projected property tax revenue over time would help fund city services, schools, and future community improvements — without shifting that burden onto homeowners and small businesses."

"Our staff has stared at the list of Top 50 Companies in the US for months now wondering who it could be, and who would be the right fit for Hermantown — not just financially, but culturally and operationally. We hoped for a partner with a proven track record, strong infrastructure standards, and the capacity to answer public questions clearly and responsibly. We are ecstatic to find out we'll get those needs met, AND it's a household brand, one that 'my generation' has used for the better part of two decades now. Our kids are using the Google platform in schools, our technology is interconnected, email, photos, maps, search engines, our phones, how we communicate. This company is already a part of our life, now it can be part of our local economy, bringing jobs and enhancing infrastructure. That means great possibilities not just our community, but the entire Northland moving forward."

The Hermantown Area Chamber of Commerce advocates for smart, strategic economic development that strengthens our business members, supports continued business growth and community stability. "Large-scale investments do not present themselves often. When they do, communities have a responsibility to evaluate both opportunity and impact with discipline and facts — not speculation.

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Hermantown has built an excellent reputation as a business-friendly, forward-looking community, just look around at the projects in the past 10 years. Being asked to be part of a project like this reflects that strength. Great job City of Hermantown!”

The Chamber remains committed to ensuring our members have accurate information, responsible dialogue, and a clear voice as this process continues, and encourages everyone to review the official project information available through the City of Hermantown. “Hermantown is growing. The question before us is how we grow — and whether or not we position ourselves for long-term economic success, THIS is a generational opportunity” stated Parmeter.

About the Hermantown Area Chamber of Commerce

The Hermantown Area Chamber of Commerce represents more than 360 business members across Hermantown, Proctor, Rice Lake, and Duluth. The Chamber provides advocacy, education, and networking opportunities that help businesses and our communities grow and thrive. As the region’s primary business advocate, the Chamber partners with government, education, and the broader business community to strengthen economic growth in and around the Hermantown area. For more information, visit www.hermantownchamber.com.

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Editor / Producer Note: Interview with President / CEO and Board Chair available.

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