

MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

"Committed to the success of the Big Lake business community through information, communication, cooperation and support for all."

Board of Directors

<u>Chair:</u> Paul Knier Cabot Lodge Securities 763-263-1716

Vice Chair: Monica Parrish 763-275-1515

<u>Secretary:</u> Brenda Geldert Options, Inc. 763-263-3684

<u>Treasurer:</u> Hanna Klimmek City of Big Lake 763-251-2979

Ken Geroux, Ken Geroux Construction 763-263-6878

Cory Laugen, State Farm 763-263-0513

Allen Snegosky, Sherburne State Bank 763-271-4919

Tim Suchy, Edward Jones 763.262.9988

Executive Director: Gloria Vande Brake 763-263-7800

info@biglakechamber.com 160 Lake Street N P.O. Box 241, Big Lake, MN 55309

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8 am -noon Or by appointment

GLORIA'S GEMS

I was happy to coordinate Chamber members experienced in finance, marketing, technology and manufacturing and willing to serve as judges for students who developed business products or technology and presented them in a Shark Tank format. Big Lake High School English teacher Ms. Jen Spaulding had 16 teams request funding from the judges for their projects.

SHARK TANK JUDGES

"I really like the Shark Tank show and it is great to get that level of think-



ing in the high schools," exclaimed Operations Manager Russ Scheller of Arconic Engineered Solutions.

Banking Center Manager Donna Clarksean of Old National Bank added, "It was a lot of fun and the talent in our schools is amazing."

Clarksean agreed to the funding request of the Endearing Team of Lynette Lazaon, Annika Holl, and Kayleigh Schwebke to produce their line of earrings. At right Schwebke showed the judges their product. Financial Advisor and Chamber Board President Paul Knier of Cabot Lodge Securities counter-proposed a lower stake in their com-

pany than Clarksean but with 17% royalties but the students opted to stay with Clarksean as their financial partner!

President Becky Jacobs of Northstar Technology Solutions said she really enjoyed it and "the students were amazing!" Ms. Spaulding reported that the "The Sharks carried out their role perfectly. A huge thank you to the BL Chamber for their partici-

pation in this."

At left Advance Notice team of Jessica Sandberg & Aubrey Barthel thanked judges Scheller, Jacobs, Clarksean & Knier.

NEW MEMBERS



WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

IPS Solar is a leading provider of solar power solutions and focused on the development, installation and management of solar power systems for commercial, community solar and residential customers. For over 25 years IPS Solar has been serving customers with integrity and excellence, delivering everything from 5 kilowatt arrays to multi-megawatt community solar gardens. For more information check out their website here!



Liberty Bank Minnesota began in Downtown St. Cloud in the 1930's and remains a family owned company. They are the oldest remaining bank name in Monticello, Waite Park and St. Cloud and have been in Monticello for over 30 years. They make loans for "any worthwhile purpose" and provide a large array of deposit products. Check them out https://example.com/heres/least-state-new-minnesota

Minnco Credit Union has provided the people of East Central Minnesota with quality financial products and services at the lowest possible cost since 1935. They have grown to more than 26,000 members at 5 locations and plan to open their Big Lake branch at 613 Rose Drive in June. Their website is <a href="https://example.com/here/branch/he



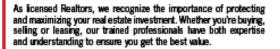
Profusion CBD Wellness is committed to quality and carry a wide variety of edible, topical, oil and water soluble CBD products. They work with their customers to determine what type would work best for them and their lifestyle. Their store is located at 441 Jefferson Blvd. and their website is here!



RE/MAX Results-Cindy Lemm has 25 years of experience as a realtor in the Big Lake area and recently joined the RE/MAX Results team. Her specialties are first-time home buyers, families, and waterfront properties. She does complimentary Competitive Market Analysis on homes so that her clients can see what similar homes in the area are selling for.



Bullseye Properties is a licensed real estate brokerage specializing in residential and commercial sales. We are experienced with: single-family homes, town homes, condos, apartments, homeowner associations and retail/office/warehouse.





(763) 275-1515 | 35 Lake Street South. Ste. #300, Big Lake, MN 55309 | www.bullseyeproperties.com

FEATURED LISTING:



For Sale or Lease: \$208,999/\$1,750

2 Office Condos totaling 1,688 S.F. 14054 Bank Street, Becker, MN

Beautifully built-out with reception desk, 3 private offices, bathroom, breakroom, plus large flex room to use as showroom or cubical area or as you see fit.



COMMUNITY FAIR

March 21st 9-noon

ATTEND THE BIG LAKE COMMUNITY FAIR!

Community Fair chair Steve Westerberg of Big Lake Schools encourages everyone to attend the annual Community Fair.

The entertainment schedule is nearly full along with fun activities. New this year is a balloon artist from Funtime Funktions along with Robotics and STEM projects. Locally-produced items can be purchased at the Winters Farmer Market. People receiving a drawing from Caricatures by William B. Morgan will be able to donate to BLHS scholarships.

All children who attend the event can register for a free 12", 16" or 20" girl's or boy's bike. Sponsors for the bikes are still needed at \$75 each.

Other door prizes can be donated. Volunteers are needed for 1-hour shifts to help out at the Chamber booth.



Big Lake Community Fair Saturday, March 21, 2020 9 am- noon Big Lake High School

Free admission Free entertainment & activities including:

Evolution Tae Kwon Do Spamalot Tap Dancing
Jazz Band Chamber Choir and Soloists
Guitarist Mason Krause and Pianists Joshua Hunt & Kobe Goodwin

Robotics & STEM projects
Face-painting by Big Lake Ambassadors
Caricatures by William B. Morgan

Funtime Funktions balloon artist Free Food

Free giveaways including BIKES!
Buy locally-produced items at the Winters Farmers Market!

GOLD SPONSORS









SILVER SPONSORS









WINTER FARMERS MARKET VENDORS at COMMUNITY FAIR

- Carmies Creations: cakes, bars, scones, jam, lemon curd
- Cat Tail Farm: canned goods, baked goods, market tote bags, pet beds
- Confectionary Fudge: homemade fudge
- Crafty Rodeo Momma: homemade bath bombs, assorted craft items
- **Dudley's Syrup:** maple syrup, maple sugar, flavored syrups
- Glorious Things: tea and spice blends, cutting boards, crochet items, plants
- Grace's Goodies: pies, sweet breads, aprons, wood crafts
- Home Sweet Honey: honey, sauces, candles, preserves, apple products
- Jack's Greens: salad microgreens, radish microgreens
- Jewelry by Linda Lee: guitar string earrings and essential oil blends
- Katie's Kitchen: cookies, bars, rolls, sweet breads, pies, jam, salsa, peppers
- Marlys Baker: gift bags, totes, hand painted jewelry, wood products
- Mavki Produce: salsa, pickles, spaghetti sauce, baked goods, wood items
- Oak Park Farm: produce, grass-fed beef, chicken, eggs, canned goods
- Paula B's Crafts: wood crafts, magnets, purses
- Prairie Fire Kitchen: BBQ sauces, jam, salsa
- Solar Fresh Produce: dry herbs, garlic, eggs, baked goods
- The Softer Side of Bees: lotion, lip balm, soap, wood conditioner

MEMBER EVENTS



BOOTHS AT March 21st COMMUNITY FAIR (members in bold)

Abba Preganancy Resource Center Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon **Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry Big Lake Fire Department Big Lake Police**

Big Lake Public Library Big Lake Schools

Big Lake Spud Fest

Carousell Works

Citizens for Freedom Rock

City of Big Lake

Custom Door Sales

Edward Jones

Edina Realty-Ryan Benjamin Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge **Great River Spine & Sport**

Guardian Angels

Insurance Specialists Team

Keller Lake Commons

Keller Williams Integrity NW--Connie Stegora

Kwik Trip

Liberty Bank

Minnco Credit Union

Monticello Times

Old National Bank

Options Inc

Profusion CBD Wellness

Pullman Place Cooperative

Realty Group-Brad & Carla Swanson

RE/MAX Results-Cindy Lemm

Schleif Real Estate Group

State Senator Mary Kiffmeyer & State Rep. Paul Novotny

Sherburne County Bridges Education

Sherburne County Master Gardeners

Sherburne County Sheriff's Office

Sherburne County Veterans

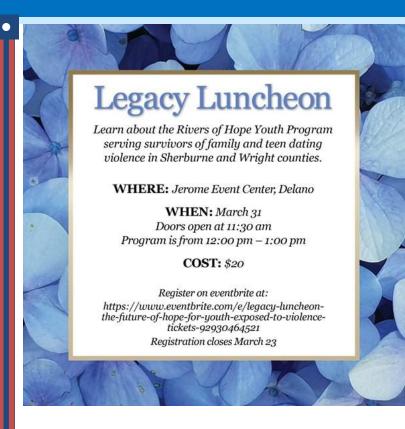
Sherburne History Center

Spire Credit Union

State Farm-Cory Laugen

The Wave Youth Center

Window Concepts of MN







YOUR VOICE IN GOVERNMENT

House Bills Mandating Paid Leave

HF 5: This bill creates an expansive, state-administered, 24-week paid leave insurance program on all employers and employees (12 weeks parental and family leave plus 12 weeks medical leave). It is financed through a new tax on employers and would be administered by new state bureaucracy.

HF 11: Modeled after an ordinance in Minneapolis, this bill creates a new statewide mandate on employers to offer at least one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked. The bill does not exempt small businesses. However, there are carve-outs for collective bargaining agreements and the construction industry. Employers face much greater liability, stricter recordkeeping requirements and stiff penalties for violations (penalty for first violation is up to \$10,000).





Chamber Day at the Capitol

Chamber Executive Director Gloria Vande Brake was excited to meet with newly -elected Representative Paul Novotny and State Senator Mary Kiffmeyer during the 2020 Chamber Day at the Capitol on Feb 27th. With the recently-announced projections of a \$1.5 billion budget surplus for Minnesota, our legislators discussed ways to return it to taxpayers and businesses and to minimize additional mandates for businesses. She also shared the Chamber's concern for business mandates in the





workplace with State Senator Bruce Anderson of Monticello and State Senator Jerry Relph of St. Cloud (lower right). Big Lake Chamber's support of lawful gambling receipts modified to have more funds stay local (SF 1219 & HF 69) are in their Taxes Committees.



2020 Census

This month residents will be able to complete their census questionnaire online or by phone with 25% asked to complete a paper form. Please complete it for accurate counts. Persons not responding will receive follow-up visits.

Census statistics help determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives and some experts indicate MN will lose a congressional seat. Census results also determine how billions of dollars in federal funds will be allocated by state, local, and federal lawmakers every year for the next 10 years.



2nd ANNUAL

GOLF SCRAMBLE

SIGN UP AS SPONSOR & REGISTER YOUR GOLF TEAM!

Golf Committee Chair Dr. Scott Schulz of Great River Spine & Sport reports that sponsors and teams are welcome for the Chamber's 2nd Annual Golf Scramble on Thursday, May 28 from 10-5:30 pm at the Monticello Country Club.

While some of the sponsors have already signed up, many more are needed for a great day of fun and networking. Golfers registering by April 28th will enjoy an early bird savings. In addition to Dr. Schulz, Committee members include Paul Knier of Cabot Lodge Securities, Hanna Klimmek of City of Big Lake, Tim Suchy of Edward Jones, Julie Evans of Insurance Specialists Team (IST) and Karah Hawkinson of Sher-

burne History Center.

For more information, you can contact any Committee member, email the Chamber office or sign up here.







Special Recognition at the Awards Dinner.

GOLFERS

Enjoy games such as longest drive, longest putt & closest to pin

\$20,000 HOLE IN ONE PRIZE sponsored by



Team with Lowest Score receives \$200 to use at Pro Shop Register or sponsor at www.biglakechamber.com/golf-scramble

EDUCATION/YOUTH



NEW BIG LAKE SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT



With considerable input from administrative staff, teachers and support staff, students and community representatives, the Big Lake School Board announced last month their selection of Tim Truebenbach as their new superintendent, pending negotiations. Truebenbach has been serving as superintendent of Milaca School District for the past 5 years. He is scheduled to begin July 1st. Current Superintendent Steve Westerberg will be retiring in June. Truebenbach's photo is provided by Monticello Times.







Thursday, March 23

Events



Join the Friends of Big Lake Library. is seeking new members of any age who want to support the library. They meet the first Monday of each month at the library at 5:30 pm. They support programs such as Storytime, Winter and Summer Reading programs, Craft programs, Bookclub for Teens, Gingerbread House, Wednesday Crafts and Books at the school in Summer and lots of programs for all ages at our local library.

CHILDREN

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten: A reading program designed to increase the awareness of early literacy and to encourage parents to embrace their role as their child's first teacher. For ages 0-5. Registration is required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Library Bag Decorating: Come and decorate a cloth bag you can use for your library books. Using fabric markers create a one of a kind, just for you library bag. For ages 6 -12. Limit 12. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library. Wednesday, March 25th 4:30pm to 5:30pm

Kidding Around Yoga Class: Age-appropriate yoga practice including breathing instruction, relaxation techniques, stretching and strengthening poses, all using funfilled music, games and imagination! Experience the unique opportunity to learn skills that will provide a sense of balance, calm and power for years to come. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one. For ages 4-12. Limit 20. Registration required.

Saturday, March 28

10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

TEEN & ADULT EVENTS

Card Making : Make someone feel extra special with a handmade card. If you have never paper crafted before, please come at 5:15 for a pre-class session. All supplies provided. Limit 15. Reg. required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library Thurs. March 19

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Seed Bomb Program: Join us for a fun night of creating seed bombs and learn how important it is to plant flowers for local pollinators. For ages 13 to adults. Registration required. Limit 20. Sponsored by the Friends of the Becker Library.

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Follow and like us on FB. Register on the online library events calendar https://griver.org/events/6/all/all/0/calendar/2019-12



FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP

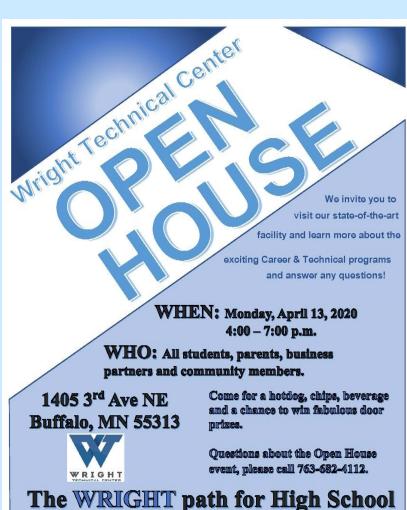
MEETING

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Join us for our March membership meeting on Tuesday, March 31st at Hideout Restaurant west of Big Lake. Sherburne County's Lead Community Health Coordinator Cody Engelhaupt will update us on coronovirus in MN and present us with ideas on how you can be ready for epidemics like the flu or natural disasters. A couple Chamber members will share their risk management plans. The Hideout will provide a delicious buffet for \$15. Registrations and lunch is at 11:45 with the meeting starting at noon. Register here!

Photo at right is Independence STEM Elementary Principal Jona Deavel and Superintendent Steve Westerberg sharing their Science, Technology, Engineering and Math activities at the February membership meeting.





MEMBER EVENTS



WRIGHT TECHNICAL ACCEPTING BIDS

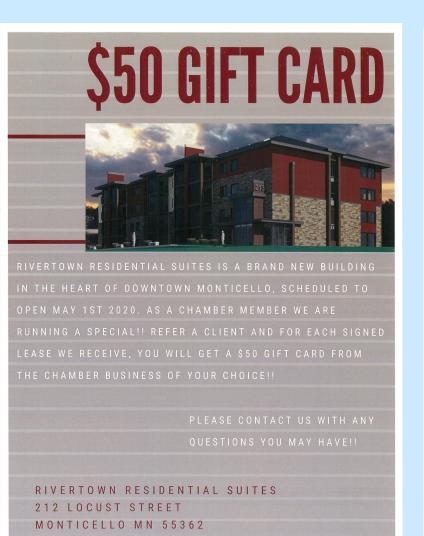
The student-built house project at Wright Technical Center is accepting bids until 3 pm on March 27th. Minimum bid is \$79,900.

Special features and specifications for this house project are: 1560 sq. ft., open floor plan with vaulted ceilings in living room, dining room and kitchen, 3 bedroom rambler, one full



bath, one ¾ bath in master bedroom, angled bay window in living room, patio door in dining area, first floor laundry, kitchen island, custom quality cabinets and vanities, all light fixtures, switches and outlets installed, Marvin Integrity Casement windows and patio door, Dura Core Entrance Door Systems, Mainstreet vinyl siding and accessories, 20″ blown in insulation in attic-R60.

See details <u>here</u> or contact Mike Anderson, Construction Trades Instructor, 763-684-2214 or the office at 763-682-4112, for more information.





Saturday, March 14 10 AM – 12 PM

Join us for this **Spring Open House** event focused on active learning, moving and fitness! We will have the Liberty Elementary gym set up with exciting activities designed to help get your little ones moving and grooving.

This is a **FREE** event for children Birth-5 years old and their families. Registration is appreciated but not required.

www.biglakece.com

Questions? Call 763-262-3233



MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women of Today needs donations for the candy and toys that they give out to hundreds of children at their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4. Donations can be left at the Chamber office.

Enjoy chili at Big Lake Fire Department's 9th Annual Chili Cook-off Saturday, March 8th starting at 4:30 pm at Lupulin. Price is \$5 per person or \$20/family of up to 5 (ages 5 and under are free). Vote for your favorite chili. Proceeds will be donated to the Big Lake Food shelf! BLFD is also seeking donations for fire safety and burn prevention educational materials as they teach chil-

dren and families on how to prevent fires and fire losses.

Lupulin Brewing Company is celebrating Big Beer Week through March 8th.

Programs at Big Lake Schools requesting assistance:



- 1. SPUDInc. Big Lake Robotics Team would like to partner with area businesses. They are needing financial donations, mentors and robot material donations such as aluminum, fasteners and electrical components.
- 2. BLHS All Night Graduation Party is asking for food, prizes, gift cards, coupons and cash to provide graduating seniors with a safe, chemical-free environment where they can celebrate their hard work and achievements with games, entertainment, music, prizes, food and more!

Sherburne County Area United Way is looking for *volunteers* to be Community Reviewers for their Community Investment Projects. A Community Reviewer will volunteer their time to: 1) learn about local nonprofits and the services they offer, 2) read 1-4 grants from agencies who are applying for LIVE UNITED funding from SCAUW; 3) attend a one-time 1-hour training (for volunteers needing a refresher); 4) visit/evaluate 1-4 agency sites with a small group on Friday, April 17, 2020 (8:15am-1pm) to help evaluate agency impact. Group will start the morning at Pullman Place in Elk River and 5) provide input into where this year's United Way investment will go.

Check out their website <u>here</u> for more details.

Friends of Sherburne Wildlife Refuge is hosting John Pennoyer, a professional nature photographer on animal photography Wednesday, March 11th at the Sherburne NWR Photography Club monthly meeting. John is a Minnesota -based photographer originally from Montana with extensive experience in this subject area. The Photography Club has a social time starting at 6:30 pm and the presentation will begin at 7:00 pm at the Oak Savanna Learning Center (16797 289th Ave NW, Zimmerman, MN 55398) located just off of Sherburne County Road 9.



NO COST TO ATTEND!

REGISTER AT BIGLAKECE.COM Learn the basics of vegetable and flower gardening in this series presented by the City of Big Lake, Big Lake Community Education, and the Master Gardeners

Sherburne County Are

WORKSHOPS START AT

COMMUNITY GARDENS 18041 198TH AVENUE BIG LAKE, MN





BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Thursday, March 19

Business After Hours & Networking Prize Drawing



In addition to great networking, February's Business After Hours on **Thursday, March 19 starting at 5 pm at McPete's Entertainment Center**will include a Network Prize drawing with a value of \$335. All current members are entered into the drawing and members must be present to win. If the lucky winner isn't present, the business name will be placed back in the box and another business will be drawn at the March 31st Membership Meeting at Hideout Restaurant. You can register here at no cost

In January both A Catered Event and Angell's Construction were drawn as winners but as they were not at the events, their names were placed back in box for future drawings.

Last month's attendees below right included Pat McGuire of Shore View Town Home Association, Chamber Executive Director Gloria Vande Brake and Board member Tim Suchy of Edward Jones.

Prizes at this time include:

\$25 gift certificate



Chiropractic treatment at GREAT ORIVER

\$30 Gift Card at



Monticello Printing free address stamp

\$25 gift card at







Newsletter Tidbits Due

Want to include something in the Chamber Newsletter? Send us a 1/4 page ad or a few sentences to include in next month's newsletter by Wednesday, Mar 25rd. Full page ads can be added for only \$25 per month.

Are you a new member? Ask the Chamber how to redeem your free full page ad!



MARCH 2020 CALENDAR

Sunda	y Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 BLFD Chili Cook-off 4:30 pm at
8	9	Board 12:30 City Large Confer- ence Room	Ambassadors 11:30 The Third Rail	12	13	14
15	Community Fair Committee Mtg 11 am office for visit!	17	18 Golf Committee noon at Trails	Business after Hours 5 pm at McPete's. Register here.	20	21 Community Fair 9-noon BLHS
22	23 Member/Prospects Visits 1-2 pm. Call office for visit!	24	25 Block Party Committee noon at McPete's	26	27	28
29	30	31 Membership Meeting 11:45-1 Hideout Restau- rant				

Mark Your Calendar!

Wednesday April 1- Tuesday April 7: Office Closed

Thursday, April 16 Business after Hours at 5 pm.

Tuesday, April 28 Membership Mtg at 11:45.

Tuesday, May 26 Legislators @ Membership Meeting 5:30-7 pm at The Buff/Friendly Buffalo Thursday, May 28 Golf Scramble at 10 am at Monticello Country Club. Register here! Saturday, August 15 Block Party from 10-2 pm at Mc Pete's.