

MAY 2021

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> Monica Parrish Meraki Property Management & Consulting 763-275-1515

<u>Vice Chair:</u> Tim Suchy, Edward Jones 763.262.9988

Secretary: Brenda Geldert Options, Inc. 763-263-3684

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

Yvonne Blum, Minnco Credit Union 763--552-7309

Cory Laugen, State Farm 763-263-0513

Oscar Cooper, El Teca Barber Shop 763-207-8822

Allen Snegosky, Sherburne State Bank 763-271-4919

Tim Truebenbach, Big Lake Schools 763-262-5218

Executive Director: Gloria Vande Brake

info@biglakechamber.com 160 Lake Street N P.O. Box 241, Big Lake, MN 55309 763-263-7800

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8 am - 2:15 Or by appointment

GLORIA'S GEMS

In February Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce and Sherburne County Area United Way discussed ways to encourage families and citizens to explore the local parks.

Soon Big Lake Chamber and Elk River Area Chamber were asked to join in on a friendly 3-community challenge to see how many "selfie" photo entries of families, dog owners, young adults and seniors from each community enjoying the local parks and trails could be submitted in a 4-week period during April.

I greatly appreciate the support of City of Big Lake staff Chamber Parks and Parks Advisory Committee and our sponsors.

PROGRAM OF THE MONTH: PARKS CHALLENGE

Sherburne County Area United Way (SCAUW) hosted information about the 3-Chamber Parks program, details and interactive park maps on their webpage. Local citizens visiting a park during April were encouraged to submit "selfies" and the name on the park on SCAUW's Facebook page, hashtag "biglakeparkschallenge2021. Citizens submitting photos were eligible to win weekly prizes as well as a Grand Prize between all 3 communities valued at nearly \$800.

Amy Thies of Big Lake submitted 2 photos during the Challenge and won the Grand Prize! She and her son below display some of their prizes including a seasonal parking pass at Lakeside Park, a gift certificate from Debbie's Cleaning, 2 nights camping, splash park passes and kayak rentals at Riverside Campground in Princeton, a large dice game & many other gift certificates and items.



The traveling trophy sponsored by Majestic Creations and featured below went to

the Chamber with the most entries. To honor Earth Day, double entries were given to photos submitted 4/22-4/25. Big Lake had 66 entries from 10 individuals and won the trophy for 2021.



(continued on page 4)



COMMUNITY FAIR!

Saturday May 8th

PLAN TO JOIN US AT THE BIG LAKE COMMUNITY FAIR MAY 8th

The Community Fair Planning Committee is excited to announce our 2021 Big Lake Community Fair will be held on Saturday, May 8th from 10-1 pm at the Big Lake High School.

New this year is that all proceeds will go to the BLHS scholarships. As in the past, there is no admission fee. Inside the gym 24 businesses, non-profits and governmental groups are providing fun games and activities and giving away promotional and informational items. Reptile SideShow is bringing some of their animals to the Fair. Big Lake Schools Director of Community Education and Communications Allen Berg is providing background music. Big Lake Ambassadors will provide a fun activity for youth.

Adults can register to win door prizes and youth can register to win one of 3 bikes sponsored by Edward Jones, State Farm-Cory Laugen and The Wave Youth Center!

Attendees can enjoy free food samples from Coborn's located outside. Twelve vendors of the Farmers Market will be held outside along with seven businesses, youth associations or non-profits having a less-expensive area.

We thank our Silver Sponsors:

















HELP SPUD FEST!



SPUDFEST

SUPPORT BIG LAKE SPUD FEST!

The Board and volunteers of Spud Fest are planning great things for 2021 Big Lake Spud Fest Thursday, June 24 -Sunday, June 27. Talent Show is Thursday night, Fireworks on Friday evening, Parade at 11 am on Saturday and Big Lake Ambassadors Coronation on Saturday afternoon. Big Lake Lions will serve potato pancake breakfast Sunday morning and a Spud Daze Marketplace of vendors will offer their products from 9-2 pm on Sunday. Music, Bingo, softball, motorcycle run, SpudINC Robotics and lots more is being planned. Check out the schedule here!

Sponsorship opportunities are still needed. Please consider donating here! Chambers members are encouraged to submit prizes for the many rounds of Bingo games and can drop them off at the Chamber office. Or email info@biglakechamber.com for staff or volunteers to pick it up.

Volunteers during Spud Fest are also needed. Perhaps you can gather a group from your businesses or non-profits or even family and friends and sign up together here!

BIG LAKE SPUD FEST IS IN NEED OF BINGO PRIZE DONATIONS



The Bingo Tent is open all week-end during Spud Fest and a lot of rounds of bingo games are played.

Prize donations help so much in making this event successful!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN DONATING...

You can drop off at the Big Lake Chamber office or Big Lake City Hall during business hours

DEB JOHNSON by emailing biglakespudfest@gmail.com
to make arrangements for pick up

It would be great if all donations could be made by June 24th.



COST TO REGISTER-FREE-

2 Divisions To Compete: Student (up to age 18) and Adult (18 and older) 1st place in each Division wins \$100 and 2 Mega Passes





CHAMBERS PARKS

Der CHALLENGE (Continued)

CHAMBERS PARKS CHALLENGE (continued from page 1)

Princeton, who had been winning the Challenge the first 3 weeks of the program, had 46 entries from 16 people and Elk River had 36 entries from 6 people. The double entries on the last 4 days greatly helped Big Lake win! You can watch the live Grand Prize drawing and traveling trophy announcement here if you don't viewing it sideways!

Big Lake had no park photo entries the first week of the Challenge. In week 2 Holly Bondhus Neuman of Big Lake won a gift bag from Old National Bank including a \$20 gift card for local pizza, sunglasses, bottle koozie and other items with the photo of her granddaughter on the slide at Powell Park at right.

Jody Henning's selfie at McDowall Park at left in week 3 won her a seasonal Lakeside Park parking pass, beach towel, child's sand bucket and shovel from the City of Big Lake. In week 4 Troy Bondhus at right won a duffle bag with a yoga mat, hammock, water bottle, shaker and Bluetooth speaker from CentraCare Health with the photo of his son and himself at Lakeside Park. Our Grand Prize winner Amy Thies also won a \$20 gift certificate from Profusion CBD during Week 4 with her photo at

right of the Big Lake Preschool Group at Big Lake Township Lions Park.

We thank our sponsors for their generosity:





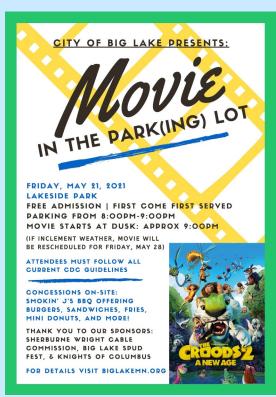








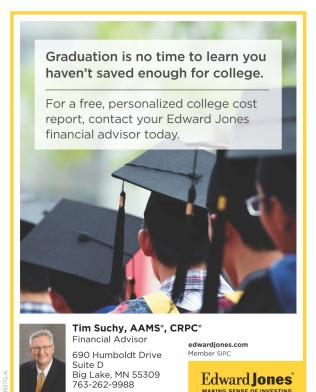




MEMBER ADS







BIG LAKE TOWNSHIP • ORROCK TOWNSHIP • CITY OF BIG LAKE 2021 RECYCLING DAY

Saturday, May 15th

Town of Big Lake Maintenance Bldg. 20150 166th St. NW

ITEMS ACCEPTED

 Appliances/Gas Grills 	\$10/ea
 Exercise Equipment 	\$15/ea
 Tube Televisions/Monitors 	\$25/ea
Rear Projection/Wood Console	TVs \$50/ea
 Computers & Electronics 	\$5/ea

• Tires REMOVED FROM RIMS

• Passenger \$6/ea

• Tractor \$40/ea

• ADDN'L RIM FEE \$5/ea

Lawn Mowers ENGINE DRAINED \$15/ea

OF GAS & OIL PRIOR TO ENTERING

O ADDN'L DRAINING FEE \$10/ea \$1/ea \$

Lawn Tractors/Snowmobiles & 2-cycle
Engines ENGINE DRAINED OF GAS & OIL
PRIOR TO ENTERING

ADDN'L DRAINING FEE \$45/ea

Scrap Metal

Vehicle Batteries

Cash OR Check ONLY
Checks Payable to: "TOWN OF BIG LAKE"
Non-Sufficient Funds checks will be charged a service fee of \$30. An invoice will be mailed.

RESIDENTIAL ONLY

- ONLY ITEMS LISTED WILL BE
- ACCEPTED

 DONATE GENTLY USED ITEMS TO
- LOCAL CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

 DISPOSE OF WELL USED ITEMS IN
- CALL YOUR WASTE HAULER TO PICK UP LARGER WELL USED ITEMS

EVENT FORMS WILL BE MAILED

8 AM - 1 PM

CALL 763-263-8111 OR 763-241-8787



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Local Government Websites
www.BIGLAKETOWNSHIP.com
www.ORROCKTOWNSHIP.com
www.BIGLAKEMN.org

Construction/Demo Debris Elk River Landfill: 763-441-2464 Vonco II Landfill, Becker: 763-262-8662

HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE

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YOUR VOICE IN GOVERNMENT

Governor Walz Loosens COVID Restrictions

On May 6th Governor Walz announced and released his latest Executive Order to allow restaurants and bars to be at 75% capacity with tables of 10 persons each effective Friday, May 7th at noon. Big Lake Chamber has requested that the Governor reopen these businesses several times this year. All restrictions will be removed once 70% of Minnesotans are vaccinated. See more details here!

Two Weeks Left of Legislative Session

The State Legislators are scheduled to finish their legislative session on Monday, May 17th. As of May 4th, 13 omnibus bills still need to be negotiated, agreed to by conferees, and passed off the House and Senate floors. Some conference committees do not have their joint budget targets yet. As neighboring MN Representative Marion O'Neill stated in her newsletter this week, "with two weeks left to go in the session, it will be a race to the finish as we work around the clock...for a reasonable budget."

Additional Workplace Mandates?

The Jobs Omnibus Conference Committee has been meeting to negotiate the difference between the Senate and House bills impacting workplace mandates. The Minnesota Chamber has testified supporting the Senate's "do no harm" position and against the House's new workplace mandates and cost burdens which would hinder our economic recovery:

- Up to **24 weeks of a paid family and medical leave mandate** paid for through a new **0.6% payroll tax** on every employer to create a new state-run insurance program that will collectively cost the Minnesota business community **\$2.2 billion** over the next 3 years.
- Up to 80 hours of a statewide paid sick and safe time mandate that employers must offer fully paid time off in a specific format, for an expanded set of familial persons, for an expanded list of qualifying events.

Kim Noding Elected to Big Lake City Council

Kim Noding won the special election on April 13th as a new councilperson for the City Council. We congratulate her and wish her the best as she governs the city.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Sherburne County COVID cases: as of May 5th, we've had 11,401 confirmed cases compared to 9828 last month, 8642 in late Feb, and 7617 in Dec. We have 92 deaths, just 6 more deaths than last month, 80 in late Feb, and 29 deaths in Nov. Likely due to more vaccinations, the county's 7-day average count has dropped to 39.9 compared to 46.9 last month, 10.1 in late Feb, 30 on Dec. 30th, 92.6 on Dec. 9th and a high of 174 in mid-Nov. Average age dropped slightly to 38.5 compared to last month's at 39. Big Lake's cases total 2300 compared to 1900 in April, 1700 in Feb and Jan, 1500 in Dec, 547 in Nov, 244 in Oct. and 163 in Sept. Check it out here! 27,482 persons in Sherburne County have received at least one dose of vaccine and 20,341 have completed the series.

MEMBER ADS





 ${m \mathcal{E}}$ BIG LAKE HIGH SCHOOL

During these unprecedented times **WE ARE HERE FOR OUR GRADUATES!** Are you a business owner with a Monticello or Big Lake High School graduate working for you? A parent who has a graduate you'd like to recognize? Do you have a general **CONGRATULATIONS** message to the class of 2021?

> Call us and we'll put it in this Lifetime Keepsake Edition! This section will be distributed in the Monticello Times and Shopper.

MONTICELLO HIGH SCHOOL Publishes June 3 • Deadline: May 21 BIG LAKE HIGH SCHOOL Publishes June 3 & 4 • Deadline: May 21

Tab Section Full Page (9.888" x 9.75")	DISCOUNT	Full Color
Full Page (9.888" x 9.75")	IN BOTH	\$589
1/2 Page (4.888" x 9.75" or 9.888" x 4.7	5")	\$379
1/4 Page (4.888" x 4.75")		\$199
1/8 Page (4.888" x 2.25")		\$109





Call or email Sue Emberland today! 763-271-6478 sue.emberland@apgecm.com





Opened April 5, 2021

We exist to support the value and dignity of human life with a holistic approach to reproductive health. Providing free educational, material, emotional and spiritual support services; and reproductive health consultative and (future) medical services.

- Empowering Women In Unexpected Pregnancy Situations
- Consultation, Classes, And **Support Services**
- **FUTURE Onsite Ultrasound** With Professional Medical Staff
- Professional Referral Services
- Evidence-based Education **And Services**
- Free Onsite Lab Quality **Pregnancy Tests**
- Trained Supportive Patient And Client Advocates
- All Services Are Provided Free



Elevier Women's Center

19022 Freeport St. NW, Suite E Elk River, MN 55330 office@elevier.org

www.elevier.org (763) 363-9820

Affiliated with Wabba



Local food trucks Free parking Live music Debit-credit accepted Snap-EBT & Market Bucks **Power of Produce Program** Free activities weekly

Every Wednesday from June - August from 3pm - 7pm Every Wednesday in September from 3pm - 6pm Lakeside Park

101 Lakeshore Dr., Big Lake, MN

Questions? Contact Corrie Scott at 612-297-6331 or visit biglakemn.org for more information.



Grow Minnesota!*



2021 Workforce Solutions Forum

This year's Workforce Solutions Forum from 10-11:30 on Thursday, May 13th looks to the future while also focusing on innovative efforts today. The keynote speaker, Jamie Merisotis, President and CEO of the Lumina Foundation, will inspire a path forward for Minnesota, and our country. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn some best practices from other leaders. Speakers will provide real life examples of solutions to talent shortages, making change in the education and training systems to meet job needs and creating opportunities for the next generation of employees in Minnesota. The cost is \$75 and you can register here!

Minnesota Supplier Match for All Businesses

The Grow Minnesota! initiative seeks to highlight Minnesota's robust supply chains and increase business-to-business activity in the state. Any Minnesota business can register and/or receive credentials to source from the database at no cost. Register as a supplier here. To access the database for sourcing purposes, email suppliermatch@mnchamber.com for login credentials. Contact Sean O'Neil, soneil@mnchamber.com for more information. A MN Supplier Match Virtual Roundtable focusing on digital strategies is scheduled from 10-11:30 on Tuesday, May 18th. Cost is \$50 and you can register here!

Employee Wellness

A recent article in Human Resource Executive identified strategies such as allow employees to continue to work a few days per week remotely and offer flexible benefits to support employee wellness in the changed workplace. Check it out here!

This article in Human Resource Executive indicates 58% of workers say they would "absolutely" look for a new job if they weren't allowed to continue working remotely in their current position.



EDUCATION/YOUTH



BIG LAKE SCHOOLS' LISTENING SESSION



Big Lake Schools are planning a Community Listening and Learning Session on Thursday, May 20th from 6:30-8:30 pm at the High School. Educational Equity Consultants Stacy Wells and Bukata Hays along with School Administrators will review the role of educational equity and listen to attendees' thoughts.









Hours: Mon 1-6p; Tues: 10a-2; Wed 1-7p; Thur:2-6p; Fri: 10-5p; Sat: 10-1p **Join the Friends of Big Lake Library.** Friends are 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.



NOW OPEN Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2-6pm. We will continue to operate online program activities on Monday and Friday.

The Board announced that its new Executive Director is Katrine Jackson

On June 19th, 2021 The Wave is hosting its first ever golf scramble fundraiser and silent auction. Donations are welcomed!

Check out their website here!



Check out our events at here!

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Zoom a Story: This will be a quick 10-15 minute, hello song, story and good-bye song format with Big Lake Library staff. Craft and a selection of books will still be available at the library that day, while supplies last. Stop by the library for the Zoom login information. For ages 2-6.

Friday, May 28 10:30-10:50 a.m.

Balloon Rocket STEM: Make a balloon and see how far it will go. All supplies provided, while they last. Ages 6 and older. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Thursday, May 20

2-6 pm

ADULT EVENTS

Clothes Pin Magnet Take & Make: Keep those important notes handy with this refrigerator clothes pin magnet for you and a friend. While supplies last. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Monday, May 24

1-6 pm



MEMBER NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sherburne History Center is seeking board members for two three-year terms. Board meetings are the third Tuesday of each month. Primary duties include policy and procedures oversight, fundraising assistance and development and promotion of events and programs. For more information contact Mike Brubaker, Executive Director at mbrubaker@sherburnehistorycenter.org or call at 763-262-4433.

Sherburne **His**

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge will be hosting an outdoor selfpaced event on Saturday, May 15. Hosted at the Oak Savanna Learning Center Trail system from 10 am to 2 pm, a story stroll and beginning birding loop will provide visitors with a great way to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day.



This event is free, open to all ages and is geared towards beginning birders and families with young kids. Staff will be onsite to answer questions, hand out bird checklists and check out binoculars. Photo to the right is by Sara Wolman. For more information about the Refuge, check it out here!



Lupulin Brewing Company is turning 6 years old on May 22 and encourages everyone to help them celebrate. They ask that you vote for them in the Eat & Drink category of the Star Tribune's "Minnesota Best" for both brewery and taproom. You can vote once a day until May

21st. Vote here!

Loch Jewelers matriarch Monica Loch turned 100 last month. Loch Jewelers Check out their history on their website here!



Coborn's turned 100 this year! They started as a Produce Market in Sauk Rapids. Two generations of Coborn family leadership are actively involved in the company today, including Chris Coborn, who is

the current President, CEO and Chairman, and his daughter, Emily Coborn, who is Vice President of Fresh Merchandising. They are employee-owned with more than 120 retail locations in Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, North Dakota, Illinois, and Iowa. Check out their history here!

Sovran Earns Microsoft Gold Cloud Platform Cert



Gold Cloud Productivity Gold Cloud Platform Silver Small and Midmarket Cloud Solutions Silver Collaboration and Content

Microsoft

"Having the 'Gold Cloud Platform' certification gives us access to even more specialized training and additional support to serve clients better."

- Shonn Twight, Sovran vCIO

Sovran is proud to announce we have just earned the Gold Cloud Platform certification from Microsoft! This means we will have access to new skills and information about Microsoft Azure, the cloud platform, which directly benefits

Check out our latest blog to learn more about this certification, and find out how Sovran can help your business.

Read More: Sovran Earns Gold Cloud Platform Cert

Check out the article here!



May's Business After Hours



May's Business after Hours is scheduled for 5 pm on Thursday, May 20th at the Community Room at McPete's Sports Bar & Lanes. There is no cost but members are encouraged to register here! Last month we had 12 members attending!

We had a Network Prize Drawing Winner Last Month!

After having their name drawn in February, Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association (BELIA) was present in March as a winner of the network box and claimed prizes valued at \$414.

Members who had their names drawn this year but were not present to win include Big Lake Community Food Shelf, Coborn's, DATASuccess, Magic Mushrooms in the Crystal Garden and United Bus Sales.

More prizes are needed but current Network Prizes include:



COBORN'S 4-pack of Works Plus Car Washes



Free Drink

Monticello Printing Certificate





Color Ads

May 25th Legislative Membership Meeting

Join us for our May 25th Legislative Membership Meeting at 5 pm on Tuesday, May 25th at Russell's on the Lake.



State Senator Mary Kiffmeyer and Representative Paul Novotny will update the members on the Legislative Session.

Registration is at 5 pm and the presentation begins at 6 pm. Dinner costs \$25. and you can register here!

Photo in the lower left is from our April meeting in which Big

Lake Schools Director of Community Education and Communications Allen Berg informed members of the many activities of the Community Education program.

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, May 26th. 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!



MAY 2021 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday Tu	uesday Wed	dnesday T	hursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	COMMUNITY FAIR 10-1 pm Big Lake High School
9 Mother's	10	Board Meeting 12:30 at McPete's & virtually	12	Business After Hours. 5 pm. McPete's. Register here!	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	Membership Meeting 5:30 State Legislative Update at Russell's on the Lake. Register here!	26	27	28	29
30	31 MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBER AND HONOR					

Mark Your Calendar!

Thursday, June 17th at 5 pm: **Business After Hours** at

Saturday, August 21st from 10-2 pm: Big Lake Block Party at

Tuesday, August 31st at 11:30: Membership Meeting at

Thursday September 9th: Golf Scramble at





