

JULY 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

Chair: Monica Parrish Meraki Property Management & Consulting 763-275-1515

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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

It is refreshing when new members jump in and volunteer! And that is what Cory Laugen of State Farm did when he joined a couple years ago. He first was elected by the members as a director to the Board. He joined the Community Fair Committee and this spring joined the Golf Scramble Committee.

State Farm-Cory Laugen Insurance has been a sponsor of our events, including giving away bikes at the Community Fair and Block Party. This year he also became a master sponsor at our Sept 9th Golf Scramble! We truly appreciate our volunteers and sponsors!

StateFarm[®] **BUSINESS OF THE MONTH:**

"I've been in insurance since I graduated from college, " reminisced Cory Laugen of State Farm. "I worked for another State Farm agent in Maple Grove for 3.5 years and then started the company here. We have 3 full-time and 1 part-time employee and are looking for 2 more."

Cory grew up in Big Lake, attended Monticello schools and returned to his hometown with his wife and children. He volunteers with Global Action Committee of Becker which raises funds for pastors in Ukraine.

"My wife and I believe it's important to give back to the community," Cory concluded. "While I enjoy data analysis, you can't calculate the value of your time when you give back. We want this community to be welcoming and to keep improving and that takes everyone doing their part. If you're not involved, you can't complain!"



(third golfer with the red and white jacket) and his team won 2nd place at the Chamber's 1st Annual Golf Scramble in 2019!







BLOCK PARTY! Saturday Aug 21st

MORE SPONSORS NEEDED FOR BIG LAKE BLOCK PARTY

One of the Chamber's largest fundraisers, the Big Lake Block Party will be held on August 21st from 10-2 pm at McPete's and this promises to be a great event!

A balloonist from Funtime Funktions will return, making balloons for youth upon request. Big Lake Ambassadors will offer face painting. Youth and families can bowl, mini-golf, toss at the fish bowl and do other great games and activities from our sponsors. Entertainment will be provided by Evolution Tae Kwon Do and Starz Dance Studio. The Wave Youth Center will once again sponsor water balloons Wave from 1-2 pm. Seven bikes will be given away to youth who attend and register. To save time at the registration table, attendees can prepay here!

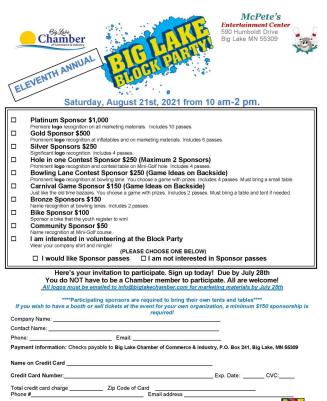
COBORN'S is again provide hamburgers, brats and fixings at a reasonable price.

Sponsors are needed for this major fundraiser of the Chamber. The options are listed below. Volunteers are also needed along with items for the first 100 children's gift bags.

Committee members include Dr. Kristi McAlpin of Big Lake Area Veterinary Hospital, Nick Ellingson of

Insurance Specialists Team, Amber Digiovanne of Minnco Credit Union, Dan McElwee of St. Croix Valley Insurance and Allen Snegosky of Sherburne State Bank. If you would like to join the Committee, please contact one of the members of the office!

Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021 10-2 pm McPete's Entertainment 590 Humboldt Drive, Big Lake Balloonist Ambulance & Police Vehicles Face Painting by Big Lake Ambassadors Games/Activities Fish Bowl Drawing for 7 bikes! Gift bags for first 100 youth!	EEVENTH ANNUAL EEVENTH ANNUAL Saturday, August 21st, 200 Permeter leage recognition on all marketing materials. Includes 11 Permeter leage recognition on all marketing materials. Includes 11 Permeter leage recognition in all marketing materials.	
Entertainment: Evolution Tae Kwon Do & Starz Dance Studio	Silver Sponsors \$250 Significant logo recognition. Includes 4 passes.	
WATER BALLOON DODGEBALL for Youth 1-2 PM GOLD SPONSORS Salada for the second	Hole in one Contest Sponsor \$250 (Maximum Prominer toge reception and contest table on Min-Gir Hole. In Bowling Lane Contest Sponsor \$250 (Game Ic Prominer toge reception at bowling lane. You chose a game Carnival Game Sponsor \$150 (Game Icleas on Just like the oil time bazars: You chose a game with press. In Bronze Sponsors \$150 Name recognition at bowling lane. You chose a game Bike Sponsor \$150 (Game Icleas Single Sponsor as the sponsor state sponsor state sponsor as the sponsor sponsor sponsor as the sponsor spo	
SILVER SPONSORS State Rank	Here's your invitation to participate. S You do NOT have to be a Chamber memt All logos must be amailed to inf@biblidekchambe ****Participating sponsors are required to I If you wish to have a booth or sell tickets at the event for you company Name: 	
BRONZE SPONSORS: Michelle Backlund, CPA, Minnesota Limited and Park Dental	Phone: Email:	
BIKE SPONSORS: Big Lake Area Veterinary Hospital, Big Lake Police Department, Connexus Energy, Cherrywood Ad- vanced Living, Minnco Credit Union, Sherburne State Bank and State Farm-Cory Laugen Insurance.	All logos must be emailed to info@bjdjdkechamber Surge Runk_ Silver Sponsors All logos must be emailed to info@bjdjdkechamber """ "	
COMMUNITY SPONSORS: Bio Lake American Legion Anviliany and Bio Lake Revond the Yellow Ribbon	Credit Card Number:	
Commonter i processione de la exercisión de gante de principal de la entre entre render render. Registration is 55 for adults and children 3 and older. SAVE TIME at the event by preparing your registration on the August Tevens Calendar at biglakechamber.com	Total credit card charge Zip Code of Card Phone # Email add	



FOOD PROVIDED BY

Block Party continued





Carnival Games & Bowling Lane Sponsor Ideas

Below are some ideas for the Carnival Game, Hole in One Mini-Golf and Bowling Lane Sponsorships. This list is simply a starting point. If you would like to add another idea or alter an already existing idea, feel free! The Chamber volunteers can help set up your activity.

**Please contact the Chamber Office to ensure your activity isn't duplicated by anyone else.

	Bean Bag Tournament Teams of two try to win at an old fashioned game of bean bags! Prizes will be awarded to the top four teams.	
	Giant Jenga This activity includes life size Jenga pieces. Players try to remove the Jenga pieces without knocking the tower over. If they are the last to remain in the game by not knocking the tower over, then they win a prize.	
	Fish Pond This activity includes a pool of water that is filled with glass fish bowls. The participant gets a chance to throw a ping pong ball and if it lands in the bowl, they get to take a goldfish home with them.	
	Minute to Win It This activity is more open ended. Participants will be given a challenge that they need to complete in under a minute. If they complete the challenge, they receive a prize.	
	Cake/Cookie Walk This activity can be done in one of two ways. Either the sponsor can donate the baked goods that kids will win, or they can sponsor the event and the Chamber will purchase the baked goods from a local business.	
	Limbo Contest Two participants face off and try to out-limbo each other. Winner of the two gets a prize.	
	Spin the Wheel to win a prize	
	Dunk Tank Select individuals who don't mind getting wet if a participant throws the ball at the target!	
	Ring Toss Participants try to throw rings onto cones. The more rings you land on the cones, the more points you receive and the closer you get to a grand prize.	
	Other	
Wea	re also looking for businesses to donate bag stuffers that will go into 100 draw string bags. The first 100 kids	-

We are also looking for businesses to donate bag stuffers that will go into 100 draw string bags. The first 100 kids that attend the Block Party will receive these giveaways. There are two options for these bag stuffers: 100 of one item to be placed in each bag <u>or</u> 1-2 larger-value items to be given as grand prizes.

Note: The Wave Youth Center will offer water balloons form 1-2 pm so attendance at booths may decline!

Contact the Chamber Office for questions or if you have bag stuffers that need to be picked up.



GOLF SCRAMBLE SEPT 9th

SPONSORS NEEDED FOR OUR SEPTEMBER GOLF SCRAMBLE!

Dr. Scott Schulz of Great River Spine & Sport and Chair of the Chamber's Golf Committee is encouraging

every member to consider participating in our Sept 9th Golf Scramble at Monticello Country Club. Members can be a sponsor, play 18 holes and win prizes, and donate door prizes and silent auction items.

New this year is a putting contest at 10:30 for \$10 each with the winner sharing the pot with the Chamber!

Golfers receive a discount if they sign up before August 26th. They can sign up <u>here!</u>

Additional 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 Cory Laugen of State Farm. If you would like to serve on the Committee or volunteer at the event, please contact one of the members or email the office.



HOLE IN ONE PRIZE:

\$20,000 Hole in One

Team with Lowest Score receives \$200 to use at Pro Shop

Early Bird by Aug 26th: \$80 each or Team of 4 at \$320 BUY Swanny Pro Package After Aug 26th: \$90 each or Team of 4 at \$360

Register or sponsor at www.biglakechamber.com/golf-scramble



YOUR VOICE

MN Special Session Ends Governor's Emergency Powers

Both the MN House and Senate approved ending Governor Walz's Emergency Powers effective July 1st, which the Big Lake Chamber Board approved months ago. Other decisions during the Special Session include:

- \$52 billion budget for next 2 years
- \$2.3 billion in rainy day fund along with \$2 billion unspent from federal American Rescue Plan and potentially \$2+ billion in tax surplus. May's tax receipts were \$1.8 billion more than projected.
- Tax conformity and credits to businesses receiving federal Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) funds and workers receiving unemployment
- Reinsurance Program at 75% of previous years continued for another year (and supported by Big Lake Chamber Board)
- 4.5% increase in general fund for school districts during next 2 years, the largest increase in a decade.



New City of Big Lake Police Chief

The Big Lake City Council approved the appointment of Matt Hayen as Police Chief late last month. Hayen has been Acting Police Chief since late 2020. Congratulations Matt!

Unemployment Insurance Fraud Survey



The Minnesota Chamber encourages employers to assist in the Office of Legislative Audit's evaluation of unemployment insurance fraud. Check <u>here</u> for a fact sheet and <u>here</u> to provide input on the evaluation before July 14th.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Sherburne County COVID cases: as of July 1st, we've had just 95 more cases at 12,032 compared to last month's 11,937, 11,401 in May, 8642 in late Feb, and 7617 in Dec. We have only 2 more deaths at 102 than last month and 10 more deaths than May; there were 80 deaths in late Feb, and 29 deaths in Nov. Likely due to more vaccinations, the county's 7-day average count has dropped to 0 compared to 6.1 in June, 39.9 in May, 46.9 in April, 92.6 on Dec. 9th and a high of 174 in mid-Nov. Average age was the same as last month at 38.3, similar to the last 3 months. Big Lake's cases remain the same as last month at 2400 compared to 2300 in May, 1700 in Feb and Jan, 1500 in Dec, 547 in Nov, 244 in Oct. and 163 in Sept. 36,407 persons in Sherburne County have received at least one dose of vaccine and 34,508 have completed the series. Check it out <u>here!</u> With 70% of Minnesotans receiving at least 1 vaccine, this update will not be featured next month.



SPUD FEST PLANS FOR 50th in 2022

50th ANNIVERSARY COMING in 2022!

The volunteer board of the Big Lake Spud Fest is not taking a long rest after their successful June event as they plan ahead for their 50th Anniversary in June 2022!

Dozens of volunteers made this year's community event successful along with its sponsors. Chamber members donated nearly \$1500 in door prizes for the Bingo prizes. Special blackout sessions were offered with the larger prizes donated!

Spud Fest's online carnival ride voucher presales in partnership with the Chamber greatly exceeded expectations as nearly \$6900 for 231 vouchers were purchased compared to a goal of \$1000 for this first-time venture! 76% of this amount was purchased on the last day!



JOIN US FOR THE WAVE YOUTH CENTER'S GOLF SCRAMBLE FUNDRAISER AND SILENT AUCTION!

> Pebble Creek Golf Club, Becker, MN Sunday August 1, 2021 18-hole Scramble Golf Tournament 8:00am Shotgun Start

Special events include contests, PRIZES, buffet lunch, silent auction and raffle offering great items for bid **\$150 per person** - includes green fees, golf cart, buffet lunch and player gift bag

\$40 ticket available for buffet lunch only

All proceeds benefit The Wave Youth Center in Big Lake, MN with The Eddy Foundation offering a \$10,000 donor match!

RSVP thewaveyc.org/golf before July 23 to reserve your spot! FOR MORE INFOMATION CONTACT KATRINE JACKSON AT

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Tim Suchy, AAMS*, CRPC*

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MEMBER ADS





DREWA BLAKE

U.S. NAVY

1977-1981

Dedication of the **Big Lake Freedom Rock®** Saturday **September 18, 2021** 10 a.m. to noon Lakeside Park - Big Lake

Call Karen at 763-234-0369 to meet the July 1 deadline for your paver request.





Big Lake

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BIG LAKE FARMERS MARKET

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.



Executive

Employee Handbook Changes & Offers?

TIDBITS/RESOURCES

A recent article in Human Resource Executive suggests 7 policies in your employee handbook that may need review soon. Check it out <u>here!</u>

Another article reported a national survey among 3000 employees that indicates 64% would choose a permanent work-at-home option instead of \$30,000 pay increase. <u>Read it here!</u>

In a third article, an employer in CO & CA is offering mortgage insurance to employees as a benefit. You can <u>read it here!</u>

A fourth article describes how a major retailer offers an employee virtual reality training module on how to "Be Kind"—which trains workers on keeping calm, intently listening, navigating the situation and determining solutions. This has helped employees be prepared for difficult situations. Check it out here!



Women in Business Conference

GROWING MINNESOTA The Minnesota Chamber's Women in Business Conference is scheduled for Thursday, July 15th from 8-1 pm at Mystic Lake Event Center. Check out the fantastic speakers and register <u>here!</u>

Manufacturers' Summit

The Minnesota Chamber's Manufacturers Summit on Oct 5th at DoubleTree Hilton Minneapolis--Park Place is offering a \$50 early-bird registration by Aug 6th. Check it out <u>here</u>.



July is Hire a Veteran Month

MN Department of Energy & Economic Development (DEED) is providing a series of four weekly online events for employers on Thursdays from 11 a.m. – noon beginning July 8. Minnesota employers are invited to register for any or all of these <u>weekly Veteran Recruitment Series – Best Practices</u> events.

Veterans, active military members, and their spouses are invited to attend a Virtual Career Fair on July 29 from 1-3 pm and they can register <u>here!</u>

EDUCATION/YOUTH





BIG LAKE SCHOOLS OFFER FREE SUMMER MEALS



Big Lake Schools in partnership with the State of MN is able to offer free meals to youth under age 19 through Aug. 17. Meals can be picked up Monday-Thurs from 7:30-8:30 and 10-noon. Breakfast and lunches can be bundled together as well as 5-day meal bundles. Email Emily Ly here.





NOW OPEN Monday 2-7 pm, Tuesday 12-5 pm, Wednesday 12-3 at Lakeside Beach & 5-7 pm onsite and Thursday noon-5pm. We will continue to operate online activities on Fridays.

The Wave postponed its June Golf Scramble to August 1st! A \$10,000 Hole In One Prize is offered by Insurance Specialists Team. Sponsors, Golfers and Donations for Silent Auction are needed! The Eddy Foundation is offering a \$10,000 Donor Match. Golfers are encouraged to register by July 23rd. See their ad on page 6.

Climb Theatre is coming July 8, 15 & 29! Check out their website here!

LIBRARY



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.



Check out our events at here!

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Storytime: Craft kits available for participants to take home, following storytime. For ages 2-6. Limit 15. Registrations required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library. 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Friday, July 9, 16, 23, 30

DNR Coloring Book full of pictures for children 5-12. Wednesday, July 7

TEENS & TWEENS

Button Blooms: Make a flower bouquet with buttons. While supplies last. Sponsored by Friends of the Big Lake Library Thursday, July 29

2:00 to 4:00 pm

FAMILIES

Back-to-School Bingo: Play Bingo with Library staff to win needed school supplies for the upcoming year. Pick up a Bingo card July 12-17 during Library open hours. Game starts July 19 with Bingo calls posted at the Library. Bingo calls will change everyone Monday. When you have a "Bingo", return the card for a prize. For ages 5 and up. Sponsored by Friends of the BL Library. July 19- August 14 **Open Hours**

ADULTS

Coaster Kit: Create a unique coaster for yourself or friend with the supplies in this Take& Make Kit. Sponsored by Friends of the BL Library. Monday, July 19 4:00-5:00 pm



MEMBER NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* FREEDOM ROCK** Citizens for Big Lake Freedom Rock have delayed the deadline for the pavers surrounding the Freedom Rock until July 15th. They need just the name of the veteran, the branch of service, and the YEARS he/she served. Call Karen at 763-234-0369 or email her <u>here!</u>

Bob & Judy's Farm Market announced their closing this week. They had been members of the Big Lake Chamber for at least the last decade. You can read more details in the July 1st issue of the *PATRIOT* <u>here!</u>

Best Western Plus Chelsea Inn's owner Marianna Khauv was installed as district governor late last month of Rotary District 5950. She is the first Chinese-American to hold that post in 5950. You can read about it in the *Monticello Times* <u>here!</u>

Lupulin Brewing Company will celebrate Dog Days of Summer on July 24th. They recently promoted Jason Wester from taproom manager to hospitality manager. Mandi has moved from their Sioux Falls location to become taproom manager. Now through Labor Day, they celebrate Service Industry Sundays with 50% off all tap beer on Sundays for their industry friends! Service industry employees (restaurants, hotels, breweries) can bring in a paystub, ID badge/name tag or other

proof of employment & their beers will be 50% off from 1-6PM.



Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge: Enjoy photography and interested in sharing your work and learning more? Join them on the second Wednesday of every month! For more information, check it out <u>here!</u> For more information about the Refuge, check it out <u>here</u>!

TIDBITS/RESOURCES Continued from page 8

The Retail Doctor Bob Phibbs suggests 11 ways to sell. Check it out <u>here</u>! Another article <u>here</u> suggests ways to increase sales with laughter.

He retail docto

TNLT.com suggests company leaders show more compassion to engage their employees. Check out how <u>here!</u>

<u>This</u> article from TNLT suggests that although the future after COVID is remote work, employers need to consider mental health concerns of their employees.







July's Business After Hours

July's Business after Hours is scheduled for 5 pm on Thursday, July 8th in the Pavilion at Lakeside Park. Lupulin Brewing will provide a quenching beverage and other food and beverage trucks are available. Members who attend are welcome to stay and hear the Shane Martin concert at this summer's last Music in the Park from 7-8:30 pm. You can register here! Last month we had 6 members attending Business after Hours representing Big Lake Schools, Edward Jones, Great River Federal Credit Union, Great River Spine & Sport, Lupulin Brewing and State Farm!

Network Drawing Box valued at \$450

GREAT 😏 RIVER

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

Current Network Prizes are valued at \$450 and include:

COBORN'S 4-pack of Works Plus Car Washes

ΒΑυτοςτορ and Monticello Printing Certificates



Free Drink

Massage and First Chiro Check

PATRIOT

Color Ads

August 31st Membership Meeting

Join us for our August Membership Meeting at 11:30 am on Tuesday, August 31st at Carefree Country Club. DEED's Regional Analyst Luke Greiner will speak about the labor force in our area and how Big Lake and Sherburne County area doing with jobs.

Registration is at 11:30 am. Introductions and Committee Reports begin at noon. Lunch costs \$15 and you can register here! A limited number of golfers will be able to play after the meeting.

> Photo at left is from our May Legislative dinner with MN Senator Mary Kiffmeyer and Rep. Paul Novotny updating members on legislative activities.

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, July 21st. 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!









JULY 2021 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday Tu	lesday Wee	dnesday T	hursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Music in the Park with Chamber vol- unteers	2	3
4 Happy 4th Of July!	5	6	7	8 Golf Commit- tee noon at Trails. Business Af- ter Hours. 5 pm. Lakeside Park. Register here!	9	10
11	12	13 Board Meeting 12:30 at McPete's & virtually	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	26	28	29	30	31

Mark Your Calendar!

Wednesday, Aug 11th at 11 am:

Ribbon Cutting & Tour. All are welcome.

Thursday, Aug 19th at 5 pm: Business After Hours Register here!

HDEOUT



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

Thursday September 9th: **Golf Scramble** Register <u>here</u> for early-bird discount!



cPete's orts Bar Lanes

Register here!