

AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

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

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Cory Laugen, State Farm 763-263-0513

Allen Snegosky, Sherburne State Bank 763-271-4919

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 to see third-generation businesses such as Brenteson Companies continue providing the quality of business and service that their founders did.

Last weekend I returned from SE SD where my sister and I met with our family farm renter and negotiated another 2-year contract. We are the third generation farm owners and we hope to rent to the third generation renter for many more years to come!

MEMBER OF THE MONTH: BRENTESON COMPANIES

Brenteson Companies, formerly Big Lake Sand and Gravel, is celebrating their 80th year in business! Owner Matt Brenteson's grandfather and great-uncle started the business in 1942, even shoveling gravel by hand into a dump truck! They removed trees and stumps, built roads, dug basements and dredged out the channel between lakes of Mitchell and Big Lake.

In the last twenty years they moved into more commercial work: grading for new development, digging for commercial utilities and removal of parking lots and buildings.

"We generally stick around the north metro area," noted Matt, "but have worked in northern MN, Alaska, IA, SD & Texas. We have 13 employees and they are like our family."

Matt has volunteered for many years giving rides to kids and educating families on the construction industry at the Day of the Dozers at ERX MotorPark in Elk River. This is sponsored by MN Utilities Contractors Association, where Matt has served as President. All proceeds go to Children's Minnesota. This year's event is Sept 22nd and you can register here! Matt coaches alpine skiing and mountain biking students in his spare time.

"One benefit to being a Chamber member that most businesses might not know," continued Matt, "is that some insurance companies

offer a discount for being a Chamber member.

"I hope at least one of daughters and future son-inlaw(s) will want to continue our business for years to come," concluded Matt.

Photo at upper right is Matt's uncles and dad. At left is Matt, "enjoying getting dirty!"



email them here!

MEET YOUR NEW MEMBERS!

Adobe Express: Adobe Express makes it easy to get started with thousands of beautiful templates, plus assets for social media content, logos, and more. Customers can feel like they've got the help of a trusted designer in their corner with the entire Adobe Stock royalty-free photo collection plus a full library of Adobe Fonts at their fingertips. Check out their website here or



USBank: USBank serves the people of Big Lake with local bankers Greg Wenisch, Aaron Cosellian and Mike Frey. Combined, they have over 40 years of Community and Commercial Banking experience! They consult with businesses on cash flow solutions, commercial loans, equipment finance, treasury, merchant solutions, wealth management and many other banking needs.

Greg resides in Big Lake with his wife Crista Wenisch of Skin Care Doctors and 10 year old daughter Rylee. Mike resides with his wife and 3 daughters in Becker. Aaron and his wife, 4 daughters and newborn son reside in Buffalo.

They work to meet their customers' business and personal banking needs with competitive products and services, convenient access to their accounts, and proven stability backed by industry-leading financial metrics. You can email Greg here or call him at 507-382-5119. Check out their website here!





AUG 20th BLOCK PARTY



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT BLOCK PARTY!



Volunteers are still needed at next Saturday, Aug 20th's Big Lake Block Party at McPete's. You can wear your logo shirt and volunteer a 2-hour shift to set-up, register kids and families, put on wristbands, give out backpacks, work in the food tent with grilling, taking money and handing out food items and helping kids register for bikes.

We still have room for more businesses and non-profits to share their products and services at the Block Party for just \$150. Other sponsorships are also available; contact Gloria or a Committee member if interested. This is one of the Chamber's largest fundraisers and we are able to keep our dues down because of your support.

For just \$5 each youth and adults can participate in unlimited bowling and mini-golf, the Scouts inflatable BB gun range, Plinko, fishbowl, frisbee golf, tossing games, face-painting and lots of activities at our booths. New this year is free haircuts offered by El Teca Barbershop! Big Lake Lions will have a dunk tank and classic cars will be seen in the parking lot.

Members can also purchase tickets here! Committee members include Dr. Kristi McAlpin of Big Lake Area Vet Hospital, Amber Digiovanni of Minnco Credit Union, Allen Snegosky of Sherburne State Bank, Bill Blackhurst of Scouts and Dan McElwee of St. Croix Valley Insurance.





coll Accounting, Great River Spine & Sport, Kwik Trip, Minnesota State Senator Mary Kiffmeyer, Minnco Credit Union,

MMUNITY SPONSORS: Big Lake American Legion Auxiliary, Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and Park Denta

and Sherburne State Bank



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE!



Drop off new school supplies at our Big Lake office during August! Cash donations also welcome!



Vinnee & Vinnee

Helping our local students succeed.



GOLF SCRAMBLE

Sept 15th

GOLFERS & SPONSORS NEEDED FOR SCRAMBLE!

Both golfers and sponsors are needed for the Chamber's 4th Annual Golf Scramble Thursday, Sept 15th at Monticello Country Club. The theme is "Team Up with the Chamber" and golfers and sponsors are encouraged to wear their favorite sports gear. Registration and a continental brunch starts at 10 am with the putting contest at 10:30 and shotgun at 11. Old National Bank is our dinner sponsor, catered by Von Hanson's Meats.

Golfers can receive \$20,000 if they get a Hole in One, sponsored by Insurance Specialists Team. Prizes will be awarded to the golfers who have closest to the pin, longest putt and longest drive. For just \$40, golfers can purchase a "Swanny Pro Package" which includes a mulligan, a putting mulligan, a power

drive and a ball toss. A Pro will also be available to swing on a difficult hole.

More teams are needed this year so please invite the golfers you know to come! Proceeds from this event helps keep member dues down. Early registration ends Aug. 31st and

golfers can register here!

Master Sponsors include Cabot Lodge Securities-Paul Knier, Edward Jones, Minnco Credit Union, Monticello Country Club, Otis Minnesota Services (formerly Minnesota Limited), Sherburne State Bank and State Farm.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the Committee members: Chair Dr. Scott Schulz of Great River Spine & Sport, Paul Knier of Cabot Lodge Securities, Tim Suchy of Edward Jones, Julie Evans of Insurance Specialists Team, Yvonne Olderbak of Minnco Credit Union and Cory Laugen of State Farm.





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



HOLE IN ONE PRIZE: \$20,000 Hole in One

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

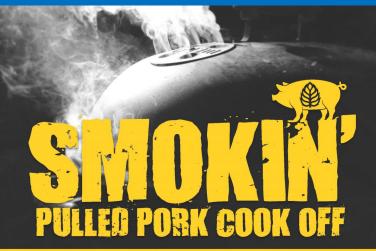
Early Bird by Aug 31st: \$80 each or Team of 4 at \$320 BUY Swanny Pro Package of a mulligan, a putting mulligan, a power drive an a ball toss for \$40

After Aug 31st: \$90 each or Team of 4 at \$360

Register at www.biglakechamber.com/golf-scramble

MEMBER ADS





SATURDAY, AUGUST 13TH, 1:45-4PM



Lupulin Brewing, in conjunction with the Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association (BELIA) are hosting a smoked pulled pork cook-off on August 13th. Bring your best recipes for smoked pulled pork to be sampled by the public and an esteemed panel of local judges. Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places along with a People's Choice Award!

Interested in competing?

Simoker space is limited, register by July 31st to reserve your space! Alules and Registration forms are available online [https://bit.ly/pork2022] or behind the bar at Lupulin.

Friday, Aug. 12th

8:00pm - Setup 9:00pm - Cooks Meeting

Saturday, Aug. 13th

1:30pm - Judging turn-in 1:45-4:00pm - Public Sampling 4:30pm - Awards

y Just want to eat some meat?

Simply come on down to the taproom Saturday, Aug 13th! Public Sampling will run from 1:45 to 4pm. Public Sampling Tickets are only \$2 (per sample)!

Questions?

Lori Andreen | 612-802-1550 bigeaglelakeboard@gmail.com



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all regular priced items you can fit inside!*



Sue Emberland Monticello limes // Crow niver news
763-271-6478 || sue.emberland@apge

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Monthly Feature **Monticello Times & Crow River News**

Let us tell your story in these special Business Spotlight page feature.

Each of the 4 areas will run once a month in the pages of the Monticello Times or Crow River News co
newspapers, Monticello-1st week, Albertville-2nd week, SLMichael-3rd week, and Big Lake-4th w

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your business. You can request to listen to it here!

Candidates for local elected positions can file through August 16. The Chamber will sponsor a political candidates forum for local city, school board and township candidates on Monday, Sept 26. In cooperation with Becker and Elk River Area Chambers of Commerce, we will host a candidates forum on Monday, Oct. 10th for 4 Sherburne County Commissioner races and Auditor/Treasurer. Both forums will begin at 5:30 for a "Meet & Greet" and will be held at Big Lake High School Auditorium.

At their meeting last Wednesday, Big Lake City Council tabled a staff-recommended 12-month moratorium on the sale, testing, manufacturing and distribution of THC products. MN Legislators approved a new law effective July 1st to allow certain edible and beverage products infused with tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) to be sold to persons 21 and older. Products cannot exceed more than five milligrams in a single serving or more than 50 milligrams of any THC package. Five milligrams is about half the standard dose in recreational marijuana products in other states. Chamber members Lupulin Brewing Company and Profusion CBD both spoke during the meeting in opposition to the moratorium, indicating that their customers will go to neighboring towns and they would lose income. Minnesota Chamber sponsored a webinar on what this new law means for

Frontline Worker Pay applicants whose application was denied for one or more reasons have until Aug. 31st to appeal. Reasons for denial include employment eligibility; unemployment insurance benefit threshold; adjusted gross income threshold; identity verification; and duplicate application.

US Global Leadership Coalition is encouraging farmers and ag-businesses to attend a free conference called Heartland Summit in Minneapolis Aug 30th. <u>Learn more about it here!</u>

Human Resource

XECUTIVE Human Resource Executive late last month said companies are increasing employee wages in 2023, the highest since the 2008 Great Recession. Read about it here!

<u>This article</u> from Human Resource Executive offers 4 ways to retain employees, including examining your culture. <u>This article ranks culture</u> higher than salary/benefits and flexible schedules.

General Mills of Golden Valley is projecting double-digit inflation in 2023. Read about it here!

HomeHelpMN has extended their August deadline for homeowners with past-due mortgage payments and other eligible housing expenses. The HomeHelpMN <u>dashboard</u> is available on the program website where you can begin an application or learn more. You can also call 800-388-3226.



CHAMBER'S FIRST BEER TENT SPONSORSHIP

With the support of City of Big Lake, Lupulin Brewing Company and our members, the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry sponsored the Beer Tent during the last 6 weeks of Music in the Park band performances. Lupulin donated all of its staff time in organizing and selling.

> At the 4th week of beer sponsorship, Jeff and Shelly Zierdt of Lupulin (pictured at left and photo taken by Jeff) set an all-time record of gross beer sales at \$500 during the nearly 3 hours of sales.

The following week Melissa of Lupulin (in photo at right) and your Chamber Executive were able to increase those sales by 28%. Humboldt Station band attracted one of the largest crowds and included former Big Lake Mayor Mike

Wallen and his daughter Amy, shown at the photo at right.

Beer tent sponsors included Edina Realty-Ryan Benjamin, Knight Barry Title Company, Pillar to Post Home Inspections and FLOATERS Recreational Rentals. Other volunteers at the tent included Cory Laugen of State Farm and Becky Ja-

cobs of Northstar Technology Group.

COPULIN DREVVINO

Tips totaling \$225 will be donated toward the Chamber's High School Volunteerism Scholarships.

Other Chamber member sponsors of the Music in the Park included Big Lake Spud Fest, Minnco Credit Union, Options, Inc, Liberty Bank, Bolton & Menk, Old National Bank, Big Lake American Legion and Auxiliary, Connexus Energy, Lake Liquors, and Cargill. Chamber's former member, the Legacy Founda-

> tion originally started the music series 10 years ago. Photo below on the crowd of July 28th is credited to Jeff Zierdt of Lupulin.

















MEMBER ADS



CITY OF BIG LAKE PRESENTS:



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022 LAKESIDE PARK

FREE ADMISSION | FIRST COME FIRST SERVED PARKING FROM 6:30PM-7:30PM MOVIE STARTS AT DUSK: APPROX 7:30PM

(IF INCLEMENT WEATHER, MOVIE WILL BE RESCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, SEPT. 23)

CONCESSIONS ON-SITE: SMOKIN' J'S BBQ, MISTER LEMONADE, AND KETTLECORN

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS: SHERBURNE WRIGHT CABLE COMMISSION AND BIG LAKE SPUD FEST

MORE INFO AT BIGLAKEMN.ORG





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EDUCATION/YOUTH





BLHS YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP & CAREER FAIR



All businesses, non-profits and governmental units are invited to attend the 5th annual **Big Lake High School Youth Apprenticeship & Career Fair** on Thursday, Sept. 22nd. Educate your future employees on your services, products and great working environment.

The Fair is an opportunity to provide EXPOSURE to the many career options in today's market. Businesses can share their careers and the pathways to those careers. Watch this vid-

eo invite! REGISTER HERE.



Enjoy a light breakfast and start your day off with a spring in your step imagining the waves we can generate together in this community.

The Wave is bursting at the seams with an average of 1,200 student visitors a month;

Come and learn about our plans for the new space and how it will:
Allow us to expand our programming
Fill a need in our community
Help us move towards the ability to be self-sustaining



Dates and Parks

10:00-11:30

June 8 Lake Ridge

June 22 Hudson Woods

July 13 Sanford Select

July 27 Highline

Aug 10 Wrights Crossing

Aug 24 Lakeside

Register Online: biglakece.com

FREE FAMILY FUN

FREE BOOK
FREE COMMUNITY RESOURCES
MISIC MOVEMENT ART AND MODE





Hours: Mon 1-6p; Tues 10a-5p; Wed 1-7p; Thur 1-5p; Fri 10a-5p; Sat 10a-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 EVENTS

Storytime Fridays: Children ages 2-6, with a favorite adult, enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement activities while building language and early literacy skills through reading, singing, talking, and playing. Social distancing measures will be in place at programs. Please stay home when sick. Limit 20. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Fridays, Sept 16, 23 & 30

10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

LEGO MAKERSPACE Challenge: Conquer our Lego challenges or design and build on your own. For ages 6 to 12. Limit 12. Registration required.

Tuesday, Aug 16 11:00 to noon

FAMILY EVENT

Remarkable Reptiles: Be educated and entertained as Jim Gerholdt shares the wonders of the reptile world. For all ages. Limit 30. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Saturday, Aug. 20

10:30-11:30 a.m.

ADULT EVENTS

Mixed Media Collage Art: Learn different styles and history of Collage Art. Make a one of a kind artwork; artboard is provided. Bring a photo and supplies. Limit 12. Reg. required. Sponsored by the Friends of the BL Library. Wednesday, Aug.17 3:30-5 pm

Tech Tuesdays for Seniors: Want to read an eBook on a tablet or take a practice driving test? Stop in and learn how to use the Digital Library or other online, library resources. Staff will have three 20-minute sessions available. Call the Big Lake Library at 763-263-6445 to register for a time slot. For ages 55 and up.

'Tuesdays, Sept. 6 and October 4

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

MEMBER NEWS



Big Lake City Council recently promoted Hanna Klimmek as City Administrator. Hanna was formerly the Community Development Director and Acting City Administrator and is finishing her second term on the Chamber's Board of Directors. Congratulations!

Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge encourages members to attend a Bird Tour Aug 20th from 8-10 am at Blue Hill Trailhead or Aug 27th at Mahnomen Trail with Volunteers Craig Mandel and Steve Chesney. A variety of fall migrants can be expected on these hikes. All experience levels welcome and binoculars are available to borrow. A Wildflower Tour led by Jenny Hengel to see wildflowers and native grasses whose colors and textures decorate the autumn landscape is scheduled on Sept 3rd from 10-noon at Oak Savanna Learning Center. You can register here! You can also email sherburne@fws.gov or call 763-389-3323 x 104.

Liz Fagen of RE/MAX Results featured a couple Chamber members on *The Faces of Big Lake* in June and July: Acting Big Lake Police Chief Sam Olson and Judy McVeigh of the Big Lake American Legion Auxiliary. You can read about them when you click on their names. Fagen continues to encourage people to nominate citizens to be featured. Check out their website. The link

to nominate someone is here.

Sherburne History Center's Genealogy Program

is scheduled for August 20 at 10:30 am at their offices in Becker.

Open Mic (minus the mic) Poetry Reading is August 25 at 2:00 pm.

Did you know? You can list your **Job Openings** on the Chamber website at no cost? **Promote your products or services** to other

members without a fee on our **Deals** page with a link to your website. For just \$150/year, you can promote your logo, name and website on the front page of our website. This is limited to 1 business per industry.







August's Business After Hours



August's Business after Hours is scheduled for 5 pm on Thursday, Aug. 18th at Please register here! Photo to the right is our July Business after Hours members enjoying Lupulin Beer at Music in the Park: Emma DiGallo of EDG & Associates, Linnai and Scott Driscoll of Driscoll Accounting and Becky and Jake Jacobs of Northstar Technology Solutions.



Attend our Meetings to Win Prizes!

At every Business after Hours and Membership Meeting, 2 names are drawn from our Network Box containing all of our members. Two of our newest members, Stacey Stanley of Edina Realty Heitz Gardner Group and Tami Rangel from Travelers Country Club on the Mississippi each won over \$400 in prizes earlier this year. Members who missed the opportunity to win the prizes from previous network opportunities include Cherrywood Advanced Living, Driscoll Accounting Services, Ember Coffee Company, Freedom Strategy Group, Howmet, Michelle Backlund, Monticello Times, Scouts, Sherburne History Center, Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home and Xcel Energy. Members who are present while their name is called win prizes valued at over \$400 which include:

\$10 Gift Certificate Massage



Massage and First Chiro Check GRE



FREE Drink



Monticello Printing Certificate



2 Color Ads, notepad

PATRIOT

More prizes are welcome!

Aug 30th Membership Meeting

Our August Membership Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 30th at 11:30 am at Carefree Country Club. Several non-profits members including Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association, Friends of the Big Lake Library, Options and SCORE will share their stories. Registration and lunch is at 11:30. Introductions and Committee Reports begin at noon.



Catered lunch by Ember Coffee Company includes butter croissant with choice of premium ham or smoked turkey, cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato, mayo, mustard, chips, pickle and locally-made cookie for \$15. Golf and tours available after the meeting. Please register here by Wednesday, Aug. 24th.





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 the 25th. 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!



AUGUST 2022 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	y Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Surracy	Monady	lacsaay	Wearlesday	inaroaay	Tirday	Saturaay
	1	2	3	4 Lupulin Beer 5:30-8:15 pm Music in the Park.	5	6
7	8	Board Meeting 12:30 McPete's and virtually	10	Ambassadors noon McPete's Lupulin Beer 5:30-8:15 pm Music in the Park	12	13
14	15	16 Office Closed	Block Party Committee noon McPete's	Business After Hours 5 pm Trails. Register here!	19	20 10-1:30. McPete's
21	22	23	Chamber Welcomes New School Staff at 2	25	26	27
28	29	30 Membership Mtg 11:30-1. Care- free Country Club. Register here!				

Mark Your Calendar!

Thursday, Sept 15th at 5 pm: Business after Hours

Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022: Golf Scramble starting at 10 am at Early registration ends Aug. 31st.



Golfers can <u>register here!</u>

Tuesday, Sept 27th Membership Meeting from 11:30-1 pm at Big Lake High School