

NOV-DEC 2022

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 952-392-8805

<u>Vice Chair:</u> Tim Truebenbach Big Lake Schools 763-262-5218

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

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

Becky Jacobs, Northstar Technology Solutions 763-262-0729

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:

One of the fun things I enjoy doing is attending fundraising events from our area nonprofits and religious organizations.

These are great events to support. And their causes truly make Big Lake a better place to live. If you have been blessed this year in any way, please consider supporting one or more of these great causes, both financially and with your time and skills.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH:

Big Lake Community Food Shelf (BLCFS) has served the FOOD SHELD Big Lake Community for the last 27 years. They offer on-line ordering and walk-in services, Mobile Food Shelf Delivery program, Tuesday Pop-up Pantry, Freebie Fridays along with cooking classes, monthly mass produce/food distributions, and Holiday food programs.

BLCFS has 5 part-time employees including their Executive Director Sandy McClurg, who has been here for 3.5 years. She previously served as the director of the Monticello Help Center. Along with 100 volunteers, they serve 45 families each week during their regular monthly service hours, 150 families each week on Freebie Fridays, and 40 families each week with Tuesday Pop-up Pantry.

This summer they were awarded a prestigious Transformative Funding grant of \$55,000 from the Initiative Foundation to make their food shelf space more efficient, safe and inviting. Total project costs will be \$170,000, including a large walk-in cooler/freezer and a major remodel of the current space, new shelving and office furniture. BLCFS anticipates a 25% increase in clients. The diagram below shows their plans.

BLCFS needs an additional \$50,000 to fully fund this project and are



implementing a fundraising campaign this month. McClurg explains, "The December Challenge is for both continuing services and the remodel project. This is our main fundraiser of the year and is critical to our ability to provide and expand our services.

(continued on page 2)



Member of the Month: BLCFS!

MEMBER OF THE MONTH: BLCFS (continued from page 1)

"The Big Lake community is extremely giving and supportive, exclaimed McClurg. "We have wonderful, hard-working volunteers, many generous individual donors, amazing financial support from area businesses, churches, and civic organizations, and great partnerships with our schools and fellow non-profits."

McClurg is a member of a new community group addressing homelessness in Big Lake. She is also a member of the Sherburne County Hunger Free Committee, and the local area Food Shelf Director's Group as well as volunteering at Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association's fundraisers.

"The Chamber is an excellent resource," concluded McClurg, "for networking with the community, gaining insight into what is happening in the community, and staying connected to the needs of the community. Becoming a member and attending meetings and social events is a great way to learn, make connections, and have fun at the same time!"



Happy Holidays

(763) 262 7666

We do have rooms available through the holiday season:

- King bedrooms
- Double Queen rooms
- Family Suite (up 6 people
- Jacuzzi rooms open.

If you need extra room for friends and family to stay, please give us a call.

We do accept blocks of rooms (dinner inclusive) for Holiday party if you would like to keep your rooms close to each other.





COMMUNITY FAIR MARCH 18

JOIN US AT COMMUNITY FAIR MARCH 18

The Big Lake Community Fair is scheduled for Saturday, March 18 from 10-1 pm at Big Lake High School.

Businesses, non-profits and governmental units will display their products and services in the gym while vendors with food samples will be in the cafeteria with the entertainment. BLHS Jazz Band will perform at 10:30; Starz Dance at 11:20 and Folklorico Rosa Quetzal at 11:45. The Winter Farmers Market will be in the atrium and by the auditorium.

Chamber members are encouraged to come out and sponsor a booth for just \$100 with early registration by Feb. 28th. Food court tables are just \$50 each. And first-time vendors are also only \$50.

Sponsorship opportunities include:

- Diamond Sponsor at \$5000 for postcard mailing in Feb.
- Platinum sponsor at \$3000 for 100 tshirts
- Gold Sponsors at \$500
- Silver Sponsors at \$250
- Bike or Skateboard/Scooter Sponsors at \$150





BIG LAKE COMMUNITY FAIR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023 Big Lake High School | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

DIAMOND SPONSOR \$5,000: LOGO INCLUDED ON POSTCARD TO 7,800 RESIDENTS
PLATINUM SPONSOR \$3,000: LOGO ON 100 T-SHIRTS
GOLD SPONSOR \$500
SILVER SPONSOR \$250

BIKE OR SKATEBOARD/SCOOTER SPONSOR \$150

All Sponsors (except bike sponsors) receive a free booth, recognition on the Chamber website, on Facebook, in newspaper ads, and at the Community Fair where there are up to 1,000 attendees! Diamond and Platinum Sponsorships are due February 15.

FIND OUT HOW TO BECOME A SPONSOR AT BIGLAKECHAMBER.COM OR BY CONTACTING INFO@BIGLAKECHAMBER.COM





BIG LAKE COMMUNITY FAIR

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023 Big Lake High School | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS, LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NON-PROFITS!

Free Admission | Food Samples | Giveaways
Entertainment | Job Opportunities
Farmers Market Vendors

REGISTER YOUR BUSINESS OR NONPROFIT BY SCANNING THE QR CODE OR VISITING BIGLAKECHAMBER.COM









GET A FREE GIFT CARD WITH A MINNCO HOME EQUITY LOAN!

When you take out a qualifying home equity loan with Minnco, you'll receive a gift card for \$75, \$150, or even \$250!* Visit www.minnco.com/personal/borrow/home-equity-loans or call the Big Lake office at 763-552-7370! But hurry, offer ends 12/31/22.



613 Rose Drive Big Lake, MN 55309

*All loans are subject to approval. Minnco membership required. See us for more details.





CI MEMBER OF THE YEAR!

MINNCO CREDIT UNION VOTED 2022 MEMBER OF THE YEAR!

Big Lake Chamber members learned that Minnco Credit Union was voted as the 2022 Member of the Year at our Holiday Social on Dec. 1st at Style Catering.

Ruby Sponsor Paul Knier of Cabot Lodge Securities and Mayor of Big Lake presented the Minnco award to Vice President of the Big Lake office Yvonne Olderbak. Below is Minnco staff with their cake: at left Anita Quaglia, Yvonne Olderbak, Mindy Michels and Kris Seefeld.

Chamber Vice Chair Tim Truebenbach of Big Lake Schools was Master of Ceremonies. Entertainment was provided by Joel Hagberg of Big Lake. Big Lake Citizen of the Year Ketti Green share her enthusiasm for volunteering. Greg and Ketti Green served as auctioneers during the Live Auction.

Emerald Sponsors who created beautiful centerpieces and fun items for our members and guests to take home were: Edina Realty-Heitz Gardner Group, Minnco Credit Union, Old National Bank, RE/MAX

Results-Liz Fagen, Riverwood Bank and 3 Sons Hardware.

The Chamber thanks our Holiday Social Planning Committee: Sandy McClurg of Big Lake Community Food Shelf, Corrie Scott of City of Big Lake; Stacey Stanley of Edina Realty Heitz Gardner Group; Yvonne Olderbak of Minnco Credit Union; Donna Clarksean of Old National Bank and Lori Ables from 3 Sons Hardware.





YOUR VOICE in GOV'T



Minnesota Management & Budget released MN's projected budget surplus of \$17.6 bil**lion** last week. Learn more from the House website here!

Minnesota Chamber is hosting their annual Session Priorities with Governor Walz and the House and Senate leaders on Wednesday, Jan. 4th in St. Paul. President and CEO Doug Loon will interview Gov. Walz and KSTP-TV 5 Eye Witness News Chief Political Reporter Tom Hauser will interview the Legislative Leadership Panel composed of Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman, House Minority Leader Lisa Demuth, Senate Majority Leader Kari Dziedzic and Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson. Hear about their plans for the upcoming Legislative Session and the state's huge budget surplus. Carpooling is available and registration is \$199. Check out the agenda and register here!

MN Chamber President and CEO Doug Loon and staff provided interesting statistics on MN's Economy during their Statewide Policy Tour. In 2023 MN will have the 2nd highest corporate taxes in the country and the 6th highest individual income taxes, as shown on the chart to the right. In the last 2 years, 27 states have reduced taxes with 25 states enacting income tax rate reductions to make their states more attractive for investment and talent.



MN Chamber is offering their members health insurance options that may reduce current premiums or offer benefits to obtain and retain current employees for small to mid-sized companies. Check it out here!



SAFEWISE ranks Big Lake as the 13th safest city in MN in 2022. We thank our officers and staff at Big Lake Police Department and the City Council for their work in keeping Big Lake safe. Read about it here!



MN Dept of Labor & Industry released its prevailing wage rates for state-funded construction and highway workers in Sherburne County and 4 area counties. General labor and flag persons are at \$37/hr. Check out other wage rates here!



BOBPHIBBS The Retailer Doctor Bob Phibbs suggests 50 things retail sales associates should avoid doing, including asking customers how they are doing. Read all 50

Human Resource In this article of Human Resource Executive, the author suggests ways to work **XECUTIVE** with disengaged employees or "quiet quitters". Read about this article here!

MEMBER ADS





CITY OF BIG LAKE PRESENTS...

2022 HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST

1st Place: \$50 Gift Card to Lake Liquors 2nd Place: Lakeside Park Pass and City Swag

Voting will be open to the public this year and will be held between December 13 - 18, 2022. Find the link to vote on the City's Facebook Page and website at www.biglakemn.org

- OUTDOOR DISPLAYS ONLY
- OPEN TO ANY RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS LOCATED WITHIN BIG LAKE CITY BOUNDARIES
- FIRST PLACE WINNERS CANNOT WIN A PRIZE MORE THAN ONE CONSECUTIVE YEAR IN A ROW
- REGISTER FOR CONTEST ONLINE AT BIGLAKEMN.ORG OR BY TURNING IN BELOW REGISTRATION FORM TO CITY HALL BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022
 - QUESTIONS? EMAIL CSCOTT@BIGLAKEMN.ORG







Ribs Cookoff

Only the BEST can BBQ in the Winter

Only the best and the bravest BBQers will compete in the United We Shiver BBQ Ribs Cookoff. Do you think you have what it takes to smoke the best ribs in the middle of winter? Do you think you can brave the cold and take home the top prize or the People's Choice Award?

When: Saturday, Feb 4th, 2023 Where: Lakeside Park, Big Lake, MN Fee: \$150

Only 10 team spots, so sign up quick!

Judged cash payouts for 1st, 2nd & 3rd places. Public rib tasting starts at 3 pm. The public will cast votes for the People's Choice

For registration and questions email: Keith.McCarty@outlook.com



This is a part of a larger event, United We Shiver, a frozen plunge benefiting local nonprofits. See last year's event: sherburneunitedway.org/unitedweshiver/



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Monthly Feature Monticello Times & Crow River News

Let us tell your story in these special Business Spotlight page feature. will run once a month in the pages of the Monticello Times or Crow River Net onticello-1st week, Albertville-2nd week, St.Michael-3rd week, and Big Lake-

Don't miss out on the opportunity to promote your business EVERY month!

Actual Ad Size 3.22" wide by 2" high only **\$4**5

<< 2x2

2x4 >>

Sue Emberland

Times CROWRIVER NEWS

Call TODAY to reserve your monthly ad space and schedule your article!

Actual Ad Size 3.22" wide by 4" high



CHRISTMAS TREES-

CHRISTMAS TREES LIGHT UP

Chamber members have "lit up" the corner of Hwy 10 & 25. Ten trees are in Browns Park. For the first time, 3 trees sponsored by Big Lake American Legion, Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and Edina Heitz Gardner Group are decorated in patriotic colors at Veterans Memorial Park, as seen to the left.



Tree sponsors at Browns Park include:

Big Lake Police Department

City of Big Lake

Great River Spine & Sport

Minnco Credit Union

Options, Inc.

Riverwood Bank

Sherburne County Area United Way

The Wave Youth Center (pictured with the youth decorating below left)

3 Sons Hardware

Trail's Grill & Sports Bar

Dr. Scott Schulz of Great River Spine & Sport organized the trees being picked up by Dave of the Sherburne County Sentence to Serve Program. Scott and Ryan Benjamin of Edina Realty set up the trees in their stands and sponsors decorated them after Thanksgiving. Options, Inc. provided hot cider and cookies on 11/28. Big Lake Ambassadors came out to help decorate. The City of Big Lake Streets' Public Works staff provides electricity and will remove the trees in early January.



Chamber members are encouraged to SHOP & EAT LOCAL! 68% of dollars spent locally remain in the community while paying for online gifts and products do not return to this community! Our local businesses also donate to various Big Lake youth programs and non-profit organizations.





NEW BOARD DIRECTORS



NEW BOARD DIRECTORS FOR 2023

Chamber members nominated and voted for 4 new Board Directors, who will start their new duties on January 1, 2023:

- 1. Scott Driscoll of Driscoll Accounting
- 2. Ryan Benjamin of Edina Realty
- 3. Stacey Stanley of Edina Realty Heitz Gardner Group
- 4. Marissa McKee of Sherburne State Bank

Directors leaving the Board include:

- 1. Hanna Klimmek of the City of Big Lake –serving 6 years and as Secretary and Treasurer.
- 2. Monica Parrish of Meraki Property Management & Consulting, serving 3 years and 2 years as Chair.
- 3. Cory Laugen of State Farm Insurance, serving 3 years and on the Golf and Community Fair Committees.
- 4. Allen Snegosky of Sherburne State Bank, serving 4.5 years as Finance and Governmental Affairs Chair.

Chamber members are encouraged to consider volunteering for the following Chamber Committees in

2023:

- 1. Ambassadors
- 2. Block Party
- 3. Community Fair
- 4. Golf Committee
- 5. Governmental Affairs
- 6. Holiday Social

Please email info@biglakechamber.com for more information or

if you would like to volunteer!





EDUCATION/YOUTH





YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP SIGNING DAY



Two Chamber members are mentoring youth apprentices from Big Lake High School and celebrated on Signing Day Tuesday, Dec. 13th.



BLHS student Shelby Baufield is in the photo at right with Big Lake Area Veterinary Hospital Sarah Chadwik, Shelby's dad and Workplace Coordinator Wade

Olson at the podium. She plans to study zoology or marine biology in college.



In the photo at left. BLHS Student Emily Lemire is seated center with her mom on the left and CentraCare-St Benedict Taryn Solberg at right. Emily plans to be an RN.



The Wave Youth

Center raised \$22,650 at their **Dueling Pianos** fundraiser last month plus the \$10,000 match from the Eddy Family Foundation. They want to raise \$300,000 to close on property Feb. 1st and prepare design work on their new building! At right is part of page 2 of their December newsletter. Learn more or donate

here!

Tips to Help Teens Cope With Holiday Stress

- Stick to household routines.
- Observe regular mealtimes and bedtimes whenever possible.
- Give teens some control over their schedule.
- Work out time for teens to celebrate with friends and
- discuss what festivities they can opt out of.

 Make room for down time and exercise.
- Make room for down time and exercise.
 Include quiet activities such as a movie night
- Get teens involved. Assign responsibilities for holiday parties; ask them to help with shopping, decorating or cooking.
- Encourage them to volunteer for a good cause such as a food bank or a toy drive.
- Manage gift expectations. Discuss a realistic gift list for your teen. Set a budget for their gifts for friends and family, and encourage them to make some of their presents.
- Limit social media and screen time. Too much time on social media or with video games can cause sensory overload and encourages temper flareups. Social media in particular can set kids up for unrealistic comparisons with others' holiday experiences.
- Take care of yourself. If you're overtaxed as a parent, your kids will sense it. Make time for self care and show holiday spirit with balanced expectations and activity levels







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

Winter Take & Make kit: Stop at the Big Lake Public Library for a fun winter themed kit. All supplies are provided in the kit to create the end product. While supplies last. For ages 3 to 6. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Tuesday, Dec. 27

During library open hours

Frosty Trees Scavenger Hunt: I spy...a tree! Search the library to locate the ten hidden trees. Find them all to earn a sticker and a chance at a fun prize. For ages 3 to 12. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Monday, Dec. 5 to Saturday, Dec. 17

During library open hours

FAMILY EVENTS

Winter Party with Paints & Poems: Have a poem written on demand. Enjoy poetry readings with drumming. Paint on your own canvas. Register today to reserve your canvas. Limit 30. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Central MN Arts Board, Wednesday, Dec. 21 4-5:30 pm; 6-7:30 pm

MEMBER NEWS



Sovran received the Cottage Grove Chamber's Small Business of the

Year award at right for their outstanding support and involvement. They were also nominated in October for Small Business of the Year for Dakota County Regional Cham-



ber.

RiverWood Riverwood Bank announced Mitch Reller was promoted to Business Banking Officer last month.

Friends of Sherburne Wildlife Refuge recorded their largest count of sandhill cranes on Nov. 8th at 29,256. The Friends' annual meeting is scheduled for Jan. 12th at 6:30 inperson or virtually.

Americas Best Value Inn features amenities such as a guest laundry facility, meeting facility, and business center. Guests are invited to wake up and enjoy their free coffee in the lobby and maintain their physical activity with an on-site fitness center. Whether you're traveling for business or pleasure, guests stay connected with free Wi-Fi available throughout the property.

Owner Saghir Abid and his staff are excited to meet you and show you their facility for your holiday guests and business consultants or contractors. Check out their website here or call 763-262-7666.

Lupulin Brewing Company is dedicating their Pours For a Purpose on Thursday evenings in December to Options Inc. They are also hosting a New Year's Eve Party in their new event space, The Stave. Live music, celebration, and all you can eat and drink from 7 pm-1 am, as they ring in the new year together. Limited number of tickets are available at \$100 each. Last month Lupulin won several awards at the 2022 Festival of Wood and Barrel-Aged Beers.



Three Chamber members were featured this quarter in Faces of Big Lake: Jack Merwin of Lupulin and Lori Andeen of Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association in October and Deena Woolhouse of Riverwood Bank last month. Read their stories here!

THREE DANCE ROOMS, LARGE LOBBY COMPETITIVE & NON-COMPETITIVE CLASSES AVAILABLE • TAP. JAZZ. BALLET. LYRICAL. POINTE. POM & ACRO-DANCE NEW Fall 2022 - Dance Cirque - Aerial Skills, Juggling, BECKER 12900 1ST ST. #101 • 763-350-5945 • BECKERST/

Did you know? Every member can promote their business, services or special event with a 1/4 page ad in the newsletter. Please submit it in jpg.

And 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.

Chamber of Commerce & Industry

December's Business After Hours

December's Business after Hours is scheduled for 5 pm on Thursday, Dec. 15th at one of our newest members, Willy's on the Water in the general dining area. Please <u>register here</u> by 3 pm on the 15th to save enough room! Photo to the right includes members attending the November Business after Hours: Raeanne Danielowski of JC's U Lock, Stacey Stanley of Edina Heitz Gardner Group and Becky Jacobs of Northstar Technology Solutions.





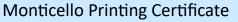
Attend our Meetings to Win Prizes!

At every Business after Hours and Membership Meeting, 2 names are drawn from our Network Box containing all of our members. Members who are present while their name is called will win prizes valued at over \$400 which include:

\$10 Gift Certificate



Massage and First Chiro Check







'

FREE Drink



2 Color Ads, notepad

PATRIOT

More prizes are welcome!

Jan. 31st Membership Meeting

Our **January Membership Meeting** will be held Tuesday, Jan. 31st at Willy's on the Water Meeting Room at 11:30 am. Please register here by 1 pm Thursday, Jan. 26th. Photos below left are Vice Chair Tim Truebenbach of Big Lake Schools presenting the annual report and Emma DiGallo of EDG & Associates sharing Marketing Tips at our November Annual Membership Meeting.





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 the next bimonthly's newsletter by Jan. 10th. 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!



NOVEMBER-JANUARY 2023

CALENDAR

Sunday	<u>Monday</u>	Tucsday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday Sa	turday
27	28 Christmas Tree decorat- ing, 3 pm. Browns Park	29 Membership Mtg 11:30-1 Lupulin Brewing	30	DECEMBER 1 Holiday Social 5:30 Style Catering.	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Ambassadors noon Willy's on the Lake	9	10
11	12	13 Board Meeting 12:30 McPete's and virtually	14	15 Business after Hours 5 pm Willy's on the Lake. Register here!	16	18
18	19	20	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22	23	24
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27	28	29	30	31
JAN 1	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Board Meeting 12:30 McPete's & virtually	11	12 Business after Hours 5 pm Lupulin. Register here!	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Community Fair Mtg 1:30 pm City Large Conf.	20	21
22	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Membership Meeting 11:30 Wil- ly's on the Lake. Register here!				

Mark Your Calendar!

Sept 14 from 10-4 pm Golf Scramble







Big Lake SCHOOLS