

Mission Statement

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

Board of Directors

President: Tim Suchy
Edward Jones 763.262.9988

Vice President: Steve Westerberg, Big Lake Schools 763.262.5218

Treasurer: Brenda Geldert, Options, Inc. 763.263.3684

Secretary: Hanna Klimmek, City of Big Lake 763.251.2979

Ken Geroux , Ken Geroux Construction 763.263.6878

Paul Knier, Cabot Lodge Securities 763-263-1716

Scott Schulz, Great River Spine & Sport 763.260.8401

Allen Snegosky, Sherburne State Bank 763-271-4919

Karen Tomfordhe, Insurance Specialists Team (IST) 763-244-3735 x302

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

Tuesday & Wednesday
8 am - 10 am
And alternate Fridays
Or by appointment

GLORIA'S GEMS

I want to thank all the members, the Board and Committee volunteers for their help this past year.

For members, we greatly appreciate your membership and sponsorship of our events. Our events such as the Vendor Fair, Block Party, and Holiday Social could not be accomplished without you.

The Board of Directors has provided a smooth transition in staffing this year and has provided valuable guidance. The Ambassadors as well as the Board joined me as I've met many of our members and non-members. The Governmental Affairs Committee guided the Chamber during the Political Forum and on issues impacting the business community of Big Lake. The Block Party Committee and Holiday Social Committee ensured organized events. Your volunteer efforts are deeply appreciated.

CHAMBER'S 30th ANNIVERSARY

Holiday Social

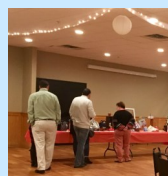
Almost 50 members and their guests joined us in celebrating the thirty years that Big Lake Chamber has been in existence at our Holiday Social on December 14th at Friendly Buffalo.



President Tim Suchy reviewed the Chamber's history, activities from 2018 and plans for 2019. The Big Lake High School Chamber Choir performed and led a sing-along with the members. Mark Hedstrom from



Spinning Sound entertained the members and led spirited bidding for wrapped live auction items. Thirty silent auction items were also purchased by members.





COMMUNITY FAIR

March 3rd


Big Lake Community Fair March 3, 2019 from 11-2 pm at Big Lake High School.

The Planning Committee re-named the former Vendor Fair to reflect the many activities that are available at this event such as the business and non-profit booths, youth performances, bounce house, petting zoo, free food samples, and more!

Please consider hosting a booth to promote your products and services, upcoming events, and potential job opportunities. This is a great opportunity for the community to get to know your organization. Last year, one of the business participants received 5 employment applications at the Fair and 3 more the following week!

Sponsorships are available at \$1000 for platinum, \$700 for petting zoo sponsorship, and \$500 for gold sponsors. All sponsors receive a free booth along with additional publicity & recognition in the West Sherburne Tribune, on the Chamber website, and at the Community Fair.

Registrations and payments received by Tuesday, February 5th receive a \$20 Early Bird Discount!



2019 Community Fair
Sunday, March 3rd, 2019
11 am—2pm
Big Lake High School

BUSINESS NAME: _____

TYPE OF BUSINESS/ MAIN SERVICES: _____

PRIMARY CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Registration fee includes: 8x10 draped booth, 1 8ft. draped table & two chairs, fully carpeted area, and advertising for Community event. Set up times: 3-4:30 pm on 3/2 and 9 am on 3/3

6 PREMIUM Booth Spaces at entrance of Fair- for an additional \$50
 Only available until February 5th, 2019 (same day that Early Bird Discount ends)
 Early Bird- \$20 Discount on registration if paid by February 5th, 2019
 Sales of new, pre-packaged items will be allowed at booths. PLEASE NOTE: Open food is NOT permitted in any part of the gymnasium. If you wish to give samples, we are offering one complimentary food court table with a paid booth in the gymnasium
 Food Court is for FREE FOOD samples ONLY; sales in the court will NOT be permitted

Booth Space:	Sub-total:
<input type="checkbox"/> Chamber member**: # of booths ___ x \$200.00 (does not include electricity)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Chamber member: # of booths ___ x \$350.00 (does not include electricity)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Premium Booth Space ___ x \$50.00 additional charge to booth fee.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Court Table (members) # of tables ___ x \$75.00 (includes electricity)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Court Table (non-members) # of tables ___ x \$125.00 (includes electricity)	_____

Extra, Optional Items:

<input type="checkbox"/> Electricity \$20 (one outlet per booth, limited availability, bring your own cord)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional skirted table 4ft ___ 6ft ___ 8ft ___ x \$30.00 (do not bring your own)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Company name on sign in booth \$10.00 (Or bring your own for no charge)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Complimentary Food Court table with paid booth for food samples (does not include electricity)	_____

Full Payment Must Accompany This Registration Form

Payment Information: Checks, Cash, or Visa/MasterCard accepted. Make checks payable and mail to:
 Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry, PO Box 241, Big Lake, MN 55309

Card Number _____ Expiration _____ CVC _____

Signature _____ Date _____

\$20 discount if payment received by February 5th, 2019 _____

Total Paid: _____

Registration deadline is Friday, February 15th, 2019

*Your booth is NOT confirmed unless payment is received. A confirmation email will immediately be sent as soon as payment arrives. If you do not receive a confirmation email from the BLCC&I, we did not receive your info or payment. Please look for your email and contact us if you do not receive it within one week of sending your registration.
 If you check member pricing, you must be up-to-date on your membership dues

CHAMBER'S JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Find out about what the Big Lake Township and the City of Big Lake are planning for the new year and what has been accomplished in 2018 at our Tuesday, January 29th membership meeting at Big Lake Township's Lions Park. Meeting begins at 11:45 and lunch will be \$15. [Register](#)



GOLF SCRAMBLE

Building Community Connections

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019 FROM 9-5 PM
MONTICELLO COUNTRY CLUB
1209 GOLF COURSE RD, MONTICELLO MN



SPONSORSHIPS

Master Sponsor: \$625 for sponsorship of event & includes green fees, cart, light breakfast & dinner for 4 golfers)



Classic Sponsor: \$200. Includes sponsorship of a golf hole with signage. You are encouraged to have a game or event at your golf tee box.

Dinner Sponsor: Receives signage at table at start time and also at the dinner buffet.

Beverage Cart Sponsor: (2): \$450. Your company logo on carts



Driving Range Sponsor: \$200. Signage at the driving range. Can have table set-up to greet golfers the day of the tournament.

Putting Contest Sponsor: Donate prize.

Party Cart: \$200. Party Cart will be decorated to theme of the Golf Scramble & have sponsor's logo on signage on the cart. Sponsor can also provide prizes.



*** All sponsors will be recognized in Big Lake Chamber Newsletter, Facebook, & Big Lake Chamber Website and Special Recognition at the Awards Dinner.



SCHEDULE

9 am Registration & Continental Breakfast

10 am Shotgun

3 pm Social Hour

4 pm Awards Dinner

GOLFERS

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

HOLE IN ONE \$20,000 PRIZE sponsored by 

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

Early Bird by April 20th: \$80 each or Team of 4 at \$300

Register or sponsor at www.biglakechamber.com/events and search for golf.

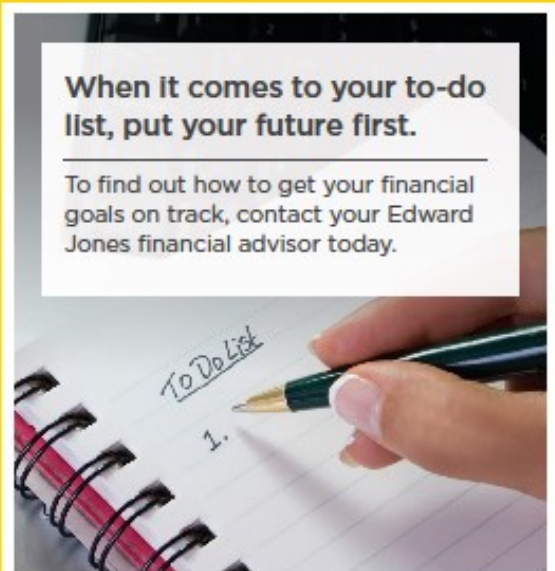
After April 20th: \$90 or \$360 per Team of 4

JOBS

Several new job postings are on our Chamber website. [Check them out here!](#) Members can also add their listings.

When it comes to your to-do list, put your future first.

To find out how to get your financial goals on track, contact your Edward Jones financial advisor today.



Tim Suchy, AAMS®, CRPC®

Financial Advisor
690 Humboldt Drive
Suite D
Big Lake, MN 55309
763-262-9988

www.edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones
SERVING CLIENTS SINCE 1919

Create & Connect Studio hosting Business After Hours

Members are encourage to visit the studio **Thursday, Jan 17th from 4:30-6 pm** for our Business After Hours event. Find out about upcoming yoga classes. Let your creative talents flow as you paint a 3x3 canvas tile to add to their Wall of Art. Or simply connect with other members as you network! Appetizers and mixers will be available; BYOB. Grand Opening activities are planned for the entire weekend. There is no charge but please [register here](#) to help our host plan for a great event!



Create & Connect
STUDIO



·SAVE THE DATE·
February 9th, 2019 at 12:00pm

BIG LAKE LIONS
LITTLE HOLE
ICE FISHING CONTEST

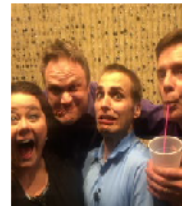
LittleHoleOnBigLake.org

FREE KIDS FISHING DERBY
Held before the Main Event
From 10:00-11:30am



the **BOUNCE BACK™ PROJECT**
presents...

3rd Annual
wanna come out & play?



THE PEABODY PLAYERS
all things comedy



FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019
AT 8:00 PM

LOCATION:
River City Extreme
3875 School Blvd.
Monticello, MN

COST:
SAVE NOW with online registration
\$10 each or \$70 table of 8
\$15 at the door (cash only)

REGISTER TODAY:
Go to [CentraCare.com](#), click on "Classes & Events" and enter the search term "bounce"

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN US?

- » Sharing laughter with others is healthy & strengthens relationships
- » Bounce Back™ promotes "Purpose" – a notion that we all belong to something bigger than ourselves. In this case, we are all part of our larger community and gathering together and meeting new people is so healthy!

- » Light snacks will be served
- » Cash bar available
- » Share kindness! Bring a food shelf donation (canned goods, personal hygiene items)

BOUNCEBACKPROJECT.ORG



**Wednesday, February 27, 2019
from 11-3:30**

Join our Governmental Affairs Committee as we head to the Capital at the MN Chamber's Business Day at the Capitol. The morning includes being briefed on pertinent issues impacting businesses in the morning and meeting with our state legislators in the afternoon. Your voice makes a difference. Registration is due February 20th and the fee is \$65. [Register here!](#)



BUDGET SURPLUS

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce reports that the state's general fund is **projected to have a surplus of \$1.544 billion** for the two-year budget cycle beginning July 1, 2019. The projected surplus for the following two years (Fiscal Years 2022-23) is \$456 million. This is the sixth consecutive legislative session that will convene with a budget surplus. In addition, \$491 million were added to the budget reserve for a record-breaking fund of more than \$2 billion.



Extra revenue doesn't mean the state should spend more. The **2019 Minnesota Business Benchmarks report** shows that Minnesota's taxes rank among the highest in the nation. Tax burdens remain a competitive concern for many of Minnesota's private-sector employers:

- Our income-tax rates for individuals and businesses that pay taxes on their personal returns are fifth highest in the nation.
- Our corporate tax rate is third highest in the nation.
- Our overall state and local taxes per-capita are ninth highest in the nation.

With the state's two-year budget projected to be at \$48 billion and spending growing at \$2 billion/year, MN Chamber Director Doug Loon suggests that as we meet with our legislators and newly-elected Governor Tim Walz, this surplus can be used to best position Minnesota for a strong economic future.



Sign up TODAY!

Parks Advisory Committee Opening

VOLUNTEER!

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

The City of Big Lake has TWO (2) vacancies on the Parks Advisory Committee. The Parks Committee meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm and serves in the following capacities:

1. As a liaison between city government and the community;
2. As a resource for new and existing neighborhoods, groups, and civic organizations seeking information concerning the Big Lake park system;
3. Assist city government in setting open space, land acquisition and development policies;
4. As a body to make recommendations to the City Council relating to specific parks, trails (jogwalks, and open space development); and
5. Assist City Council in researching a variety of funding sources for the Capital Improvement Program and related park development.

Application Submittal
Big Lake City Hall
160 Lake Street North
Big Lake, MN 55309

Attn: Mike Goebel, Public Works Director
763-263-2268
mgoebel@biglakemn.org

Any City resident interested in serving on the Parks Advisory Committee may apply to City Hall by a letter addressed to the City of Big Lake. Please describe your reason(s) for applying as well as your employment and/or educational background which may be relevant to the position. Letters of Application should be mailed to or dropped off at Big Lake City Hall. Applications will be accepted until the vacancy is filled.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES



announced in its December Wage and Hour Bulletin that the Minnesota minimum wage rates will be adjusted for inflation beginning Jan 1, 2019 at \$9.86 for large employers of \$500,000 or more in annual gross revenues and \$8.04 for other businesses. The training rate of \$8.04 may be paid to employees younger than 20 years old for their first 90 days of consecutive employment. And the youth rate of \$8.04 may be paid to employees younger than 18 years. This change is a 2.16% increase.

Ambassadors Meeting

Join us on Wednesday, January 9th at 11:30 at Friendly Buffalo!



LAKE CLEAN UP DAY

The popularity of Big Lake and Lake Mitchell comes with some seasonal garbage. Take pride in your community and help keep our lakes beautiful this winter season!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Meet at Lakeside Park
(101 Lakeshore Drive, Big Lake, MN)

Hot beverages and snacks for volunteers.

January 20th, 2019 ~ 1:00pm – 3:00pm
(If inclement weather permits, we will reschedule for Jan. 27th)

February 24th, 2019 ~ 1:00pm – 3:00pm
(If inclement weather permits, we will reschedule for March 10th)

Dress for the weather.
Warm clothes and water resistant boots are recommended.

If you have access to sleds or four wheelers contact Corrie Scott at cscott@biglakemn.org or 612.297.6331.



Schedule of Events



Storytimes: help develop early literacy skills! For ages 0 to 6. Limit 20. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Every Friday, starting January 4th: 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

ECFE Storytimes @ the Library: Join us as we sing songs, do movement activities, create fun crafts, and read books. For ages 0-6 and their families. Limit 30.

Tuesday, Jan. 29: 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

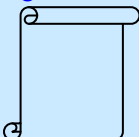
Friends of the Big Lake Library: Make a new "friend" or two while supporting your local library branch. The Friends sustain us by organizing the twice annual book sale, sponsoring reading programs, and contributing money towards the purchase of furniture and supplies. Come in on the first Monday of every month to volunteer your time to a wonderful library support group!

Monday, Jan. 7: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Winter Reading Program For adults.

Wednesday, Jan. 2 - Thursday, Feb. 28

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten: 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.



MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Anytime Fitness wants to let all Chamber members know of their special promotion and new online sign up opportunity. With their New Year's Special through Jan 12, you can join for FREE plus pay nothing until February 2019! Make an appointment by emailing biglake@anytimefitness.com or joining online [here](#) and identifying Big Lake location. Let others know and they hope to see you in the club so they can assist with your life long resolutions for better health! This special is also available on our [Member Deals](#) section of our website!



Rivers of Hope is seeking volunteers to provide childcare for children while their mothers participate in a support group. The group meets in Monticello on Tuesday evenings from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Responsibilities include engaging with and tending to the needs of the children. This is a great opportunity to build your resume or get volunteer experience! Rivers of Hope provides services to victims of domestic violence living in Wright and Sherburne counties. Contact them at 763.295.3433. [Click here for more information.](#)



The Big Lake Lions Club is having their 16th annual **"Little Hole on Big Lake" ice fishing contest** on February 9th, 2019 and are seeking monetary donations as well as donated items, which are used as prizes for the contest. The contest has grown to an average of 800 participants, over 100 of them being children under the age of 16. The proceeds will go to the Big Lake Scholarship Program to help high school students continue their education. Over \$6000 was given in scholarships in 2018.



Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) will host Annual Meeting Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at the Oak Savanna Learning Center. Social Time & Dessert Bar will be at 6:15 PM along with activities, prize Drawings and the Eagle's Nest Nature Store will be open. Business meeting begins at 7 pm.



Earlier this month, Lupulin Brewing announced the release of **Gotland Christmas Ale**, based on a traditional Swedish holiday beer recipe and features lots of orange and spices. This holiday collaboration beer brewed with Burgsviks Bryggeri (Gotland, Sweden) is only available on draft locally. Next spring, Lupulin has been invited to Gotland to brew a collaboration beer with Burgsviks Bryggeri that will be released at a Fourth of July celebration at Almedalen, Gotland put on by the American Chamber of Commerce in Sweden.

VOLUNTEER FOR A CHAMBER COMMITTEE in 2019

In addition to its Board of Directors, the Chamber has seven Committees that members can be involved. Several of these are short-term Committees around a specific event while others advise the Board on specific issues. Please consider volunteer for one of the following and email your interest to info@biglakechamber.com:

Ambassadors

Block Party

Economic Development

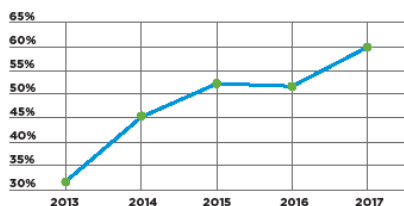
Golf Scramble

Governmental Affairs

Holiday Social

Community Fair

Rise of High-Deductible Coverage Provides Opportunity for a **HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT**



The percentage of Minnesotans who receive employer health coverage and are enrolled in high-deductible plans has nearly doubled since 2013 according to an article published in October in the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*. A high-deductible insurance plan provides the opportunity to benefit from having a Health Savings Account (HSA).

HSAs are a way for individuals with high-deductible health plans to save for medical expenses that are not covered by insurance. However, an HSA can do more than pay medical expenses; it can also serve to supplement your retirement savings.

CALL US TODAY TO LEARN MORE.

RiverWood BANK



888-751-5120 | RiverWoodBank.com

HSA eligibility requirements apply. See a banker for details. Tax and penalty may apply for non-qualified purchases with HSA funds. For HSA specific information, you are encouraged to consult your tax or legal professional. MEMBER FDIC

Advantages of a **HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

- Funds accumulate year to year
- Personal account no matter where you work or if you retire
- Earn a competitive interest rate
- Tax savings:
 - Contributions are pre-tax or tax deductible
 - Earnings are non-taxable
 - Qualified distributions are tax-free



Winter Farmers Market

Saron Lutheran Church • 3:00-6:00pm

311 Lake St S, Big Lake, MN 55309 • 2nd Friday of month

November 9 • December 14* • January 11

February 8* • March 8 • April 12*

*Senior Days: Seniors 55+ receive \$3 coupon

Debit/Credit & Snap/EBT Accepted
Market Bucks Match Program
Live Monthly Musicians
Free Kids Activities
Vendor Products:

Homemade and homegrown produce, baked goods, meat, eggs, syrup, honey, tea, salsa, pickles, jam, crafts, and more!

www.biglakemn.org

Questions? Contact Corie at 612.277.6331 or corie@biglakemn.org.

BOARD RE-ELECTS OFFICERS



At their December 11th Board meeting, the members re-elected their current officers for a one-year term through December 31, 2019. Tim Suchy of Edward Jones will remain as President, Steve Westerberg of Big Lake Schools as Vice-President, Brenda Geldert of Options Inc as Treasurer and Hanna Klimmek of the City of Big Lake as Secretary. Thank you Tim, Steve, Brenda & Hanna for continuing to serve the business community in these duties.

The Board also approved the 2019 budget and Goals & Action Plan, which includes adding a golf scramble, continuing governmental affairs activities and organizing an Economic Development Committee. Membership dues will remain the same but the Board encourages members to join one of our Committees and support our events to add additional revenue to the Chamber.

Looking to start or strengthen your wellness program??

Join Tri Wellness at Work! With support from the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP), we are looking for motivated employers that want to strengthen their workplace culture and offer more opportunities for employees to make healthier choices.

We will be working with our next group of employers from March-September 2019 in the Tri Wellness at Work: Learning Phase where we will cover best practices for workplace wellness. After the Learning Phase, employers have the opportunity to join past participants to continue the networking experience and stay updated in the Tri Wellness at Work: Network! Through the two groups you will receive:

- Ideas, tools and templates to implement sustainable workplace wellness efforts.
- Guidance in gaining leadership support, developing a wellness team and goal setting.
- Networking opportunities with other local businesses to share ideas and lessons learned.
- Assistance from our workplace wellness experts to help bring the concepts to your business.

If you are an employer ready to make changes in your workplace - we're ready for you.
Best of all - there's no cost for your organization!

To JOIN: Contact your local public health representative listed to the right.

You may also apply online at <http://tinyurl.com/TriWellnessProgram> between now and February 22, 2019. **Employers must be located in Benton, Sherburne or Stearns Counties.** Space is limited and an application to join is required so contact us soon!

Contact Information

Benton County
Jennifer Lezer
(320)968-5275
jlezer@co.benton.mn.us

Sherburne County
Kristy Heying
(763) 765-4106
Kristy.heying@co.sherburne.mn.us

Stearns County
Jennifer Wald
(320) 656-6503
Jennifer.wald@co.stearns.mn.us



This effort is supported by the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership, MDH.

"The Tri Wellness program should be the go-to program for any company wanting to get a running start at a cohesive wellness program. You will walk away with a wealth of knowledge and resources as well as many group contacts. The time spent will far exceed your return on investment."

-Heather VanZee, HR Partner,
Midwest Machinery Co.

Since 2015,
37 employers
in Central MN have
strengthened their
wellness programs
through
Tri Wellness at Work!

"Whether you are just beginning a worksite wellness committee or have had one together for a years... the information offered through this program is so organized and informative. It's definitely worth the time!"

-Kayla Miller, Director of Wellness
Guardian Angels of Elk River, Inc.

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, January 23rd. 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!

SHERBURNE WILDLIFE REFUGE

Valentine's Moonlight Ski and Hike

Saturday, February 16

6 pm - 8 pm

Oak Savanna Learning Center

Skis not provided. Event will be a luminary hike if inadequate snow.



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Chamber Board Meeting 12:30 at City Council Chambers	9 Ambassadors 11:30 @ Friendly Buffalo	10	11 Winters Farmers Market 3-6 pm @ Saron Lutheran	12
13	14	15	16 Golf Committee meeting noon @ Trails. Community Fair Committee 3 pm @ City Hall Conf.Room	17 Business after Hours 4:30 @ Create & Connect Studio. Register here!	18	19
20 Big Lake CleanUp Day 1 -3 pm @ Lakeside Park	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Membership Mtg at 11:45 at Big Lake Township Lions Park. Register here	30	31		

Mark Your Calendar!

February 26: Membership Mtg at 11:45 am

February 27: Business Day at the Capitol

March 3--Big Lake Community Fair

May 23-- Golf Scramble at Monticello Country Club at 9 am