

Mission Statement

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

Board of Directors

Chair: Tim Suchy

Edward Jones 763.262.9988

Vice Chair: 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 Tomfohrde, 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

Monday & Thursday 9 am -11 am
Tuesday & Wednesday: 8 am-10 am
Or by appointment

GLORIA’S GEMS

It was shocking to many long-time citizens last weekend when one of our founding Chamber members announced their closing after 40 years.



TRIBUNE PUBLISHING ITS FINAL EDITION
10-5-19

In an interview this week, Owner/Editor Gary Meyer and past Chamber Board member offered this advice to our members, “Get local and buy local whenever you can. One of the Chamber’s early mottos was to unite together to make Big Lake a better community.”

I greatly appreciated the help of the Tribune staff as we promoted our Block Parties, our Community Fairs and our ribbon-cutting events at new businesses or those celebrating anniversaries. For the past several years they’ve purchased a table at our Holiday Social.

Even as a newcomer to Big Lake in 2010, I looked forward to reading the Tribune every week to keep abreast of city, school and county news.

Thank you for your service to the business community. We will miss you.

Tribune staff and guests at 2017 Hawaiian Holiday Party: left: Debbie Johnson of Debbie’s Cleaning, Owner & Editor Gary Meyer, Graphic Designer Mary Mayer, Office Manager Shelley Berthiaume and her husband Scott.



TWO NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE CHAMBER!

The Chamber welcomes two new members:

Bullseye Properties specializes in residential and commercial real estate sales and leasing. They are experienced with single-family homes, town homes, condos, apartments, homeowner associations and retail/office/warehouse. With licensed realtors and trained professionals they can ensure you get the best value in your purchase or sale. [Check out their website here](#) or call 763-275-1515 or email mail@bullseye411.com. Their ad is below.



Protection Plus Home Inspections LLC-Jon Hopkins offers a unique education of the home their clients buy or sell and its current condition and areas of concern. A thorough inspection process and customized reporting system allows them to provide critical and impartial assessment on issues or potential problems. They provide an educational walk-through and point out the condition of the home including health and safety concerns, defects, and needed maintenance. Contact Jon at 763-501-8357 or email pphimn@gmail.com or [check out his website here!](#)




Bullseye Properties
Realty on Target for You!

Bullseye Properties is a licensed real estate company specializing in residential and commercial sales. We are experienced with: single-family homes, town homes, condos, apartments, homeowner associations, and retail/office/warehouse.

As licensed Realtors, we recognize the importance of protecting and maximizing your real estate investment. Whether you're buying or selling, our trained professionals have both expertise and understanding to ensure you get the best value.

- LOCAL EXPERTISE
- FRIENDLY SERVICE
- FULL MARKET ANALYSIS
- AREA COMPARABLE SALES
- INVESTOR NETWORKING

FEATURED LISTINGS:




OFFERED AT: \$227,500

4 BD 2 BA | 1,669 SQFT
9364 Goodrich Dr, Monticello, MN

Master Bedrooms, Walk-In Closet, New Carpet, Abundant Natural Light, Attached 2 Car Garage, Built in 2005




OFFERED AT: \$295,000

12 UNIT BUILDING | 6,720 SQFT
171 Lake Street N, Big Lake, MN

Great opportunity for owner occupied buyer. Upper floor has a nice open area that needs a build-out to suit.




OFFERED AT: \$422,000

4- PLEX BUILDING | 3,574 SQFT
807 5th Ave NE, Buffalo, MN

(3) Fully Leased 2 BD 1 BA Units and (1) 1 BD 1 BA Unit, Detached Parking Structure, New roofin 2018

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MEMBER FDIC

CHAMBER MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Chamber Ambassadors and Board of Directors will announce their first annual Chamber Member of the Year at our December 13th Holiday Social, sponsored by Cabot Lodge Securities-Paul Knier.



This award is truly member-driven. We want our members to nominate and vote on the nominations in the next couple of months. Nominations are due Thursday, Oct 31st and voting will occur in November.



Criteria

- Owner(s) and/or staff volunteer or support community organizations
- Is a Chamber member in good standing.

Nomination:

Please nominate your Chamber member by responding to these two questions:

- I would like to nominate _____.
- This member is deserving of the Member of the Year Award because (please include comments about your nominee's initiative, innovation, leadership, growth and/or staff motivation):

--PAUL KNIER



**Big Lake SPOOKTAKULAR
HAUNTED TRAIL 2019**

OCTOBER: Fridays & Saturdays; 11&12, 18&19, 25&26
730-1030pm, \$10 per Adult, \$5 children under age 10

Family Fun Day! (Non-scary)
Saturday October 19, 2019 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

This is a FREE event for children under age 10, Donations requested to keep this a free event

Sponsored by: The Big Lake Women of Today – We are a non-profit, volunteer organization.
Follow us on Facebook: Spooktakular Trail, For questions or to volunteer
Contact us via Facebook or biglakespook@gmail.com



The BUFF Presents...

**HALLWEEN
BASH**

SATURDAY 11-02-19
9pm - 1am

- Downstairs — Live Band: Jonah & The Whales
- Upstairs — DJ: Playing Top Dance Hits

No Cover Charge — Costume Contest

**THE FRIENDLY
BUFFALO**

MN Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka Fights for Businesses

At the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Executives (MCCE) Fall Conference in Brainerd late last month, MN Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka indicated to the 48 Chambers attending that many legislators have declared a war on the business community.



“We had bills for businesses to provide more paid leave to their employees, have higher minimum wages and higher gas tax,” he noted. “All would have been signed into law if the Senate hadn’t stopped them.”

He predicted the 2020 Legislative Session to include bills on marijuana, which he doesn’t support. He anticipates over \$4 billion in bonding requests for state buildings and regional community needs but hopes to fund only \$1 billion. The Senate will also address the misuse of funds by the Dept. of Human Services.

“Chambers need to be an advocate at local, state & federal levels for business & industry. We need business leaders running for office,” Gazelka concluded.

New Wage Theft Law

As of July 1, 2019, Minnesota employers are subject to criminal and civil sanctions for failure to timely pay all employees their wages when due.

While civil damages and penalties have long been available to unpaid employees, the new law adds criminal prosecution to the sanctions and creates a new written-notice requirement for all new hires.

Check the Minnesota Dept. of Labor and Industry website for more information, and call Smith, Paulson, O’Donnell & Erickson at 763-295-2107 if you desire any assistance.




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Tim Suchy, AAMS®, CRPC®
Financial Advisor

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OCTOBER 29th MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Join us for next membership meeting on Tuesday, October 29 starting at 11:45 am at Saron Lutheran Church.

Melissa Pribyl, RN, MSN, Community Health and Wellness Specialist, will present information on resiliency and stress management.

Registration and lunch is at 11:45 with the meeting beginning at noon. Please RSVP by October 24 [here](#). Photo at right includes members who attended our September meeting.

November Membership Meeting on Tuesday, November 26 at 11:45 at Lupulin will feature a presentation on Sherburne County and the regional labor force. Two new directors on the Board will be elected and the members will be asked to approve by-law revisions.



Maintenance Items Most Often Missed by Motorists



For more information, visit NewsRoom.AAA.com



© AAA 2014

AAA research conducted with AAA's network of Approved Auto Repair facilities

Let Us Give You a Fall Check Up

101 South Lake Street

Big Lake, MN 55309

(763) 263-7867

TRI WELLNESS AT WORK

...creating sustainable employee wellness programs in Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns Counties

Join our next Tri Wellness at Work Learning Collaborative for FREE to receive guidance, tools, and resources to customize your workplace wellness program.

EMPLOYERS WILL LEARN BEST PRACTICE STRATEGIES IN:

- Fundamentals of Workplace Wellness
- Healthy Eating
- Physical Activity
- Breastfeeding Support
- Tobacco Use and Cessation
- Lifestyle and Stress Management

"Whether you are just beginning a worksite wellness committee or have had one together for 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.

WHY WORKPLACE WELLNESS?

Employers offering a comprehensive workplace wellness initiative experience:

- Decreased absenteeism and health care costs
- Improved productivity
- Increased employee recruitment and retention
- Bolstered employee morale and commitment
- Improved time and stress management



This opportunity is made available by the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership at no cost to employers.

Apply here: <https://tinyurl.com/Tri-Wellness-at-Work>
Application Deadline: February 20th, 2020

Benton County

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

Sherburne County

Kristy Heying
(763) 765-4106
kristy.heyings@co.sherburne.mn.us

Stearns County

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

TWO NEW DIRECTORS NEEDED

In November Dr. Scott Schulz from Great River Spine & Sport and Superintendent Steve Westerberg of Big Lake Schools will have completed their terms on the Chamber Board and have decided not to re-run for another term. Schulz has served 5 years on the board and is Past Chair. Westerberg has served 3 years and has been Vice-Chair these last 2 years. We greatly appreciate their service to the Chamber.

City of Big Lake Community Development Director Hanna Klimmek has completed her 3-year term and is willing to run again. She has served as Secretary to the Board during her term.

The Board meets monthly from 12:30-1:45 and directors serve as board-liaison to one of the Chamber's 7 Committees, many of them short-term or focused around an event. If you are interested in serving or would like more information, please contact the office or a board member.

**Independence Elementary
STEM School**



We are looking to build our Community Connection program with organizations like yours!



How might you collaborate with us? Here are a few ideas!

- Become a partner with a specific classroom
- Speak to classes about your career and its relationship to STEM
- Donate items that could be used as student incentives
- Attend STEM days to present an activity or share your expertise
- Volunteer to read books or work with students
- Sponsor STEM projects
- Other ideas of your own

(please note that some partnership ideas may need prior approval by ISD 727)

For more information please contact k.thompson@biglakeschools.org



FOUR MORE BUSINESS PARTNERS ARE NEEDED!



Events



TEEN & ADULT EVENTS

Dark Tales of Mystery and Intrigue: an interactive program where audience members experience strange phenomenon and explore the relationship the phenomena has with the works of relevant authors. Limit 30. A Legacy event.

Wednesday, Oct 23 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Minnesota's Most Haunted Locations: learn about some of the most haunted places in Minnesota with Chad Lewis, paranormal researcher and author. Photos, eyewitness accounts, ghost lore and directions will encourage you to find your own ghost story. A Legacy event.

Monday, Oct 14 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Card Making: make dates more special for friends and family with hand-made cards. All supplies provided. Limit 15. Registration required.

Wed. October 16 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

FAMILY EVENTS

Halloween Book Bingo and Craft: enjoy a fun family game and craft night at the library, with a spooky theme. Costumes encouraged. For all ages. Limit 30. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Thursday, Oct 24 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

TECHNOLOGY EVENTS



Tech Time: get help with questions concerning your electronic device. Library staff will be available to answer questions one-on-one. For adults and seniors. No limit.


Thursday, October 17 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.


Business After Hours & Networking Prize Drawing


In addition to great networking, October's Business After Hours on **Thursday, October 17th starting at 5 pm at El Loro** will include a Network Prize drawing with a value of \$175. All Chamber members are entered into the Network Box. If the lucky winner isn't present, the business name will be placed back in the box and another business will be drawn at the October 29th Membership Meeting at Saron Lutheran Church. There is no charge but we ask you to [register here](#) to allow for adequate space.

Prizes at this time include:

Ticket to free drawing event  valued at \$35

 \$25 gift certificate

1/2 hour massage at 

\$30 Gift Card at 

Monticello Printing \$30 towards printing

 \$25 gift card



Members attending September Business after Hours included at left: Donna Clarksean of Old National Bank, Gloria Vande Brake of the Chamber, Tim Suchy of Edward Jones and Dorothy Moores of Old National Bank.

FUTURE BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

November 21 - Russell's On the Lake

All events begin at 5 pm

Chamber By-Law Changes

The Chamber Board of Directors has been reviewing our By-Laws and will be recommending revisions for more flexibility at the November membership meeting.

Amendments and revisions to the by-laws require two-thirds approval or 85 members at the meeting or prior to the meeting. All members will receive the Board-recommended changes in mid-November for review.



Oct. 17, 2019
10 am - 2 pm
Registration ends at 1:30pm
Lunch served 11:30am - 1pm
Elk River High School

If you or your family are in need, join us at this free, one-day, one-stop event for local resources, take home items, plus a free meal and services.

- Housing Assistance
- Childcare Resources
- Food Resources
- Employment Support
- Transportation



- Financial Services
- Veteran Services
- Human Services
- Resources for:
 - Brain Injury
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Sex Trafficking
 - Substance Use Prevention



- Personal Care Items
- Senior Services
- Mental Health Services
- Winter Clothing
- Haircuts



OPTIONS Inc.

OPTIONS INC CELEBRATES 40th ANNIVERSARY Oct 5th

Over 400 area citizens came out on a rainy Saturday to help Options staff, clients and board celebrate their 40th anniversary.

At the event Pizza Ranch restaurant in Elk River was named an Outstanding Disability Employer by the Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation (MOHR). They have hired numerous people with disabilities for the last 8 years and the award recognizes their partnership as a model for other businesses.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and the theme this year is "The Right Talent, Right Now." It celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates about the value of a workforce inclusive of their skills and talents.

Options provides job coaches and support. Contact Brenda or Stacie at 763-263-3684 if you are interested in hiring workers with disabilities.



Left: Cole Clark celebrates with Executive Director Brenda Geldert and Director of Employment Services and Quality Assurance Stacie Skalak.

Right: Strange Daze band including Guitarist Eric, former Options employee and drummer Justin, Singer Scott and Bass Guitarist Pixx performed at 40th year celebration.



It only takes **10 seconds** to form a first impression of your brand



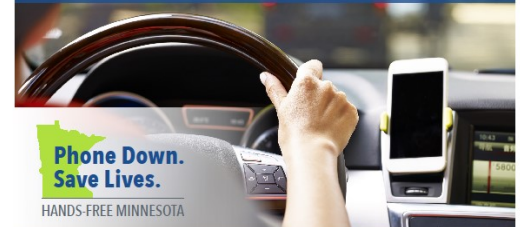
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763.295.4099

HANDS-FREE HOW TO FOR EMPLOYERS



Does the new law apply to my employees?

- ▶ **Yes, for all drivers - anytime - anywhere.**
Use voice commands or single-touch activation to make calls, text, listen to music, and get directions.

Should my organization update our traffic policy?

- ▶ **Yes. ALL employees must use their phones in a hands-free, one-touch manner.**
- Develop and communicate clear rules and regulations on the use of mobile phones.
- As an employer, you can be stricter than the law with your policy.

Can my employees use their phones while driving?

- ▶ **Yes, but only hands-free or one-touch activation mode.**
- ▶ **Can my employees use their phones for GPS?**
- ▶ **Yes.**
- One-touch or voice-activated mode.
- NO typing or scrolling while driving or part of traffic.

Does it matter if the phones are company issued or personal?

- ▶ **No. The law is hands-free regardless who owns the phone.**

Does the new law affect Commercial Vehicle Drivers?

- ▶ **No. The law remains the same for CMV drivers.**
- Hands-free.
- One touch.

Can my employees use their phone in an emergency?

- ▶ **Yes. Hands-free or hand-held when there is an immediate threat to life and safety.**

How can I make employees' phones hands-free compatible?

- Employees can use a single earphone that has a microphone.
- Pair their phone to their current Bluetooth system.
- Use an auxiliary cable to connect to their phone's earphone jack to the vehicle's car AUX jack.
- If the vehicle has a cassette player, purchase an adapter that fits into the cassette player.
- Provide holders that clip to the dash, vent or cup holder to make phone use hands-free.



MINNESOTA SAFETY COUNCIL

Member of the National Safety Council

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARCONIC-BLHS Apprenticeship



Human Resources (HR) Manager-MN Janelle Moll and HR Generalist Andrea Barrett of Arconic announced at the September BLHS Youth Apprenticeship and Career Fair that they will hire a youth apprenticeship this month. The student must be enrolled in BLHS's new Project Lead the Way Engineering Design and Development course. Eighty percent of Arconic's contracts are military and defense.

"We're excited to be partnering with BLHS to be one of the first in the nation to offer a paid apprenticeship in which the student will be working in engineering, quality control, machining and maintenance," smiled Barrett. "Our employees are able to receive 100% reimbursement of their college tuition and we have 20-25% pay differential for night and weekend shifts."



"The student will be exploring every department at Arconic for at least two weeks," noted BLHS Work-Based Learning Coordinator Wade Olson, who organized this event and coordinated the internship. "The student will truly learn everything about the business."

Big Lake High School (BLHS) hosted 38 businesses, non-profit organizations and governmental units at their third annual Youth Apprenticeship & Career Fair Thursday to 1170 eighth-12th grade students. Fifth graders from Independence STEM Elementary School also attended the event. Other Chamber members who participated included CentraCare Health, CentraCare-St. Benedict's Senior Community, City of Big Lake, Options Inc, and Wright Technical Center along with the Chamber.



Lupulin Brewing is celebrating their Oktoberfest this Saturday, Oct 12 and the festivities begin at noon with their Run for Beer 5K at 11 am. They will feature Salt Glaze Mugs and Das Boots from Germany. Mugs will sell for \$25 with two free



drink tokens, and Boots will be \$30 and a free fill of our 2019 Oktoberfest Märzen! All glassware is limited and will be first come first served! Six German-style beers will be on tap and they will sell Oktober Crowlers for the first time.

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Sandhill Crane Tours

October 17 & 23 from 6:30 am - 9 am at Oak Savanna Learning Center

Behind the gates tour with the potential to see thousands of staging Sandhill Cranes! As a group we will utilize a spotting scope to get a closer look at some of these magnificent birds. Binoculars are available to borrow.

Waitlist registrations are available for tours on October 19 and 26. **Reservations are required.** To complete a reservation, call 763-389-3323 or email sherburne@fws.gov with the names of all of the individuals in your party, email address and a phone number to reach you at. You may also visit the refuge website [here for more information.](#)

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 Monday, Oct 28th. 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!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Board 12:30 City Chambers	9 Ambassadors 11:30 at Friendly Buffalo	10	11	12
13	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15	16 Member/ Prospects Visits 10-noon. Call office for visit!	17 Business after Hours 5 pm @ El Loro Register here	18	19
20	21 Holiday Social Mtg 11 am at City Lg Conf. Room Marketing Chamber members 1:30 at City Lg Conf Room	22 Community Fair Mtg 11 City Hall Lg Conf Room Member/Prospects Visits 1-3 pm. Call office for visit!	23	24 Member/ Prospects Visits 10-noon. Call office for visit!	25	26
27	28	29 Membership Mtg 11:45 am @ Saron Lutheran Register here	30	31		

Mark Your Calendar!

Thursday, Nov 21 at 5 pm: Business after Hours at Russell's . [Register here!](#)

Tuesday, Nov. 26 from 11:45-1 pm: ANNUAL Membership Meeting at Lupulin with tour after mtg.

Friday, December 13 at 6 pm: Holiday Party at Carousell Works.

Saturday, April 4, 2020 from 8-11 am at Big Lake High School: COMMUNITY FAIR