

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

After hearing someone talk about their online purchases for their Christmas gifts, I want to encourage everyone to dedicate \$50, \$100 or a portion of their Christmas shopping dollars to Shop Local. We have great members that donate to local youth programs and non-profit organizations whereas ordering online will not likely return any dollars here. Gift cards are a good option as well as giving to a needy cause.

The Shop Local sign above is located in front of the Chamber’s Christmas Trees at Browns Park at the northeast corner of Hwys. 10 & 25.



MEMBER OF THE MONTH:

Best Western Plus Chelsea Hotel was pleased to announce that they received the Chairman’s Award last month, the company’s highest honor for outstanding quality standards. Only 5% of the 2100 properties receive this ranking in respect to cleanliness and maintenance inspections.

They have 51 rooms with pool, spa, business center, meeting room and full hot breakfast daily. They have a larger number of corporate guests than other locations.

General Manager Perry Sloneker has been with Best Western Plus when they first opened at their current location 19.5 years ago. Within months they became Big Lake Chamber members.

“When we can, we live to give back to the communities that we serve, “ noted Sloneker.





Find out who the Member of the Year Winner is!

The Chamber 's Holiday Party is next week Thursday, Dec. 12th at 6 pm at Carousell Works. Big Lake High School Chamber Choir will provide entertainment and BL School Board member Mark Hedstrom will MC the evening. The first annual Member of the Year winner, sponsored by Cabot Lodge Securities-Paul Knier, will be announced from these nominations:



--PAUL KNIER



A Catered Event is providing a delicious buffet. Members will be able to participate in a silent auction, a live auction with wrapped gifts, table of wine & spirits and 50:50 pots. Donations are accepted through Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 11th. Contact the office if you haven't registered!



Season's Greetings
During this holiday season, we wish you all the best.

Tim Suchy, AAMS®, CRPC®
Financial Advisor
690 Humboldt Drive
Suite D
Big Lake, MN 55309
763-262-9988

www.edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

CITY OF BIG LAKE PRESENTS...

2019 HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST

1st Place: \$50 Gift Card to Lake Liquors
2nd Place: Lakeside Park Pass and City Swag
Judging Held Between December 12 - 19, 2019
Winners announced on December 20, 2019 on the City Facebook Page and 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
- MUST REGISTER FOR CONTEST BY TURNING IN BELOW REGISTRATION TO CITY HALL (160 LAKE ST. N, BIG LAKE, MN 55309) OR BY EMAILING FORM TO CSCOTT@BIGLAKEMN.ORG BY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019

Contact Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____
By signing below, I agree to release my full name and address in all City publications of the Holiday Lighting Contest.

Signature _____ Date _____

NEW MEMBER OPENING NEXT WEEK: The Wave Youth Center

After months of planning and perhaps years of dreaming, one of the Chamber's newest members, The Wave Youth Center is opening next Monday, Dec. 9th to the youth. They will provide mentoring, academic help, mental health and relational, life and social skills.



They are hosting a parent Q&A tomorrow Dec. 6 from 5-6:30 pm. They open next Monday, Dec 9th from 2-6 pm for the youth. Their hours are Mon-Friday 2-6 pm except for Wednesdays when they close at 5:30 for church education. They are still raising funds and seeking volunteers!

Kudos to Chamber Director Ken Geroux Construction and his crew for a great job on the remodeling!



In the photo on the left, Chamber Director and City Council member Paul Knier of Cabot Lodge Securities held the ribbon while The Wave Youth Center President and Founder Molly Schroeder cut it. Seated behind Molly is Sherburne County Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski of JC U Lock Storage, Big Lake Police Chief Joel Scharf, City Councilwoman Rose Johnson and Chamber member and neighbor Sandy McClurg of Big Lake Community Food Shelf. Behind Paul is donor Susie Case, Karen Blake from Citizens for Big Lake Freedom Rock, Hanna Klimmek of City of Big Lake, Naomi Jacobson of Riverwood Bank along with Brenda Geldert of Options, Center directors Jess Rosa and James Pionk and youth.

TERNING & COMPANY HOST OPEN HOUSE

With a name change and new staff, Terning & Company owner Erin Nebben and staff are hosting an open house Tuesday, Dec. 10th from 2-5 pm. All members are invited. The Chamber Ambassadors thanked them as they renewed their membership.



In the photo below on the left is Chamber Ambassador Naomi Jacobson of Riverwood Bank, Rachel Skistad, Jacque Lange, Erin Nebben, Virginia Bruns, Kaitlyn Nebben, Heidi Lehto and Chamber Ambassador Monica Parrish from Bullseye Properties.



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



Let us help you make the right impression with custom apparel. **AST Sports**
Visit us to enter your business card for a chance to win \$20 in FREE apparel for your company!

TEN SPONSORS DECORATE CHRISTMAS TREES

Dr. Scott Schulz of Great River Spine & Sport again lead the Chamber's Christmas Tree decorating at Browns Park south of City Hall. Two additional sponsors helped decorate Christmas trees again this year, a 25% increase over last year and a 40% increase over the 4 trees in 2018.

Big Lake Ambassadors helped the sponsors decorate Monday evening. Options staff provided cider and cookies. We are grateful for Ken and his crew from Ken Geroux Construction for their hours building tree stands, picking up the trees, trimming them and installing them.

Sponsors include:



--PAUL KNIER



In the first photo to the left Old National Bank employees decorated their tree with \$ signs.



Below to the left, Great River Spine & Sport used multiple strings of colored lights.

Below Options Inc decorated their tree patriotically.




2019 Christmas Tree Ornament Festival

Saturday, December 7
10:00 am - noon
Sherburne History Center
10775 27th Ave SE - Becker

Crafts - Snacks - Santa

Live Music by the Land of Lakes Choirboys

www.sherburnehistorycenter.org Sherburne History Center

January Membership Meeting

Join us for our January membership meeting on Tuesday, January 28th at 11:45 at Big Lake Township Hall. Staff and elected officials from Big Lake Township and the City of Big Lake will present key issues in 2020. A delicious lunch will be offered. [Register here!](#)

At our November membership meeting in the photo below, Luke Greiner, Department of Employment and Economic Development's regional analyst for central and southwestern Minnesota, shared data on who will be the members' next employees. At right Pastor Marty Mably of Lord of Glory Church shared an upcoming event on Dec. 7th!



Shop Local

BIG LAKE WINTER FARMERS MARKET

November 16 • December 21
January 18 • February 15
*March 21 • April 18
*MARCH MARKET LOCATED AT HIGH SCHOOL 9AM-12PM

THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

BIG LAKE CITY HALL
160 LAKE STREET N, BIG LAKE, MN

 
www.biglakemn.org

Questions? Contact cscott@biglakemn.org or 612-297-6331



Saturday, December 7 | 9:00am—Noon

Free Breakfast | Nativity Scene Gallery | Kids Kazoo Revue
Keepsake Ornament Craft | Stable Sweets Bake Shoppe
Tie Blanket Service Project | Bethlehem Boutique



15550-190th Ave NW, Elk River (Intersection of Hwy 10 & CR 15)
Find us on Facebook at Lord of Glory Lutheran Church under events or
www.lordofglorylutheran.org

ELECTION FOR NEW STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Representative Nick Zerwas has resigned from the Minnesota House of Representatives, effective tomorrow, Dec. 6th. Zerwas indicated he wanted to spend more time with his wife and three-year-old son.

He represented the Big Lake Township and the cities of Big Lake, Elk River and Otsego along with areas of Sherburne and Wright Counties. After serving on the City of Elk River City Council for 6 years, he served as state representative for 7 years. Last month he received Legislator of the Year award at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) MN conference.

He has supported conservative business issues and the Big Lake Chamber wishes him well in his future endeavors.

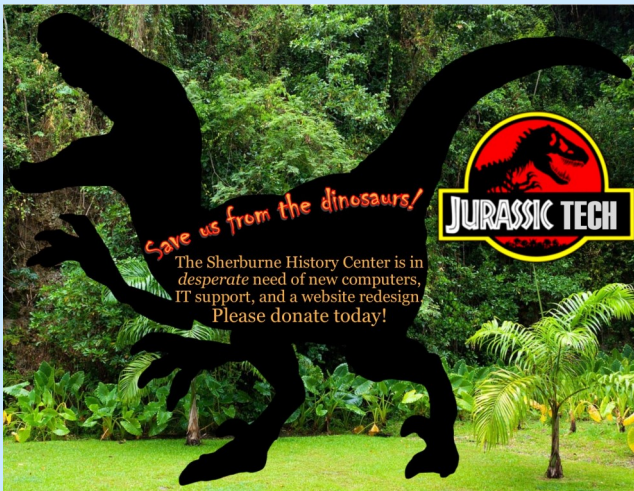
Big Lake City Clerk Gina Wolbeck indicates that his seat (HD 30A) will have a Special Election Tuesday, February 4th with the filing period for this seat ending next Tuesday, Dec. 10th. She notes that if more than one candidate files for a particular party, a Special Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, January 14th.

SESSION PRIORITIES COMING FEBRUARY 11

MINNESOTA
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
GROWING MINNESOTA

Minnesota Chamber's 2020 Session Priorities is Tuesday, February 11 at the RiverCentre in St. Paul from 4:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. Business attendees hear directly from the Governor and House and Senate leadership on key issues they will focus on in 2020.

Big Lake Chamber members will join with Elk River Chamber and our local state representative and State Senator Mary Kiffmeyer. Seats are available on a first-come, first serve basis at \$150 each. Contact the office if you are interested in attending.



Sherburne History Center is seeking donations for new computers. Donate [here!](#)

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.



(763) 275-1515 | 35 Lake Street South, Ste. #300, Big Lake, MN 55309 | www.bullseyeproperties.com

FEATURED LISTING:



OFFERED AT: \$159,900

2 BD 2 BA | 1,669 SQFT
1139 Ridgestone Pl, Buffalo, MN

1235 s.f., Vaulted Ceilings,
End Unit Townhome, Central Cooling,
Attached Garage, Built in 2003

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge hosted its annual fall Adopt-a-Road program. 20 volunteers cleaned up approximately 14 miles of refuge roads!



Lupulin Brewing announced last month the return of Hero Hazy IPA, their collaboration with Mankato Brewery, and brewed for the first time here in Big Lake! This beer was originally brewed in 2018 to bring attention to Men's Health and Cancer Awareness during the month of November. The inspiration behind this beer is Jonathan Zierdt, close friend to Mankato Brewery founder, Tim Tupy, and the brother to Lupulin Brewing co-founder, Jeff Zierdt. Jonathan Zierdt lost his battle with cancer after 5 years in March 2019, during this time he used his illness to bring awareness to men's health issues and his foundation, the Jonathan Zierdt Cancer Fund. Pictured below are Tupy, Jeff and Jonathan.



Events



Preschool Storytime: Children, with a favorite adult, enjoy books, songs, rhymes and movement activities while building language and early literacy skills through reading, singing, talking and playing. Craft project included. For ages 2+. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Every Friday, except Dec. 20 & 27 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

ECFE at the Library: ECFE and the library are partnering to host a weekly circle time! Join us as we sing songs, do movement activities, create fun crafts, and read books. For ages 0-5 and their families. Limit 30. Registration required.

Tuesday, Dec. 10 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Middle School Book Club: Come discuss a favorite book or awesome character, make new friends and get some free snacks after school. Suggested titles/theme will be posted in the library each month. Pick from the list or read one of your own choices that fit the theme. Graphic novels and audio books are also encouraged. For 8-12. Limit 30. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Thursday, Dec. 5 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Yoga Storytime: Movement enhances early learning. Get stretchy with us. Sing and read, move and be still. Please wear comfortable clothing. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to participate with their children. For ages 3-6. Limit 20. Reg. required.

Friday, Dec 6 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

Holiday Scavenger Hunt: I spy...a gift! Search the library to locate the ten hidden gifts. After finding all 10, come to the desk for a candy cane. For ages 3-12. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Monday, Dec. 2 to Saturday, Dec. 21 During library open hours

Winter Make/Take craft night: Bring the family for a crafty night out. This is a self-directed craft session. All supplies provided. For ages 3-12. Limit 20. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Monday, Dec. 16 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Follow them and like them on FB. Events can be found and registration can take place on the online library events calendar <https://griver.org/events/6/all/all/0/calendar/2019-12>

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

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.

"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.

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.heyng@co.sherburne.mn.us

Stearns County

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

Business After Hours & Networking Prize Drawing

In addition to great networking, January’s Business After Hours on **Thursday, January 16 starting at 5 pm at Trail’s Grill & Sports Bar** will include a Network Prize drawing with a value of \$260. Winners were drawn at the January Business after Hours and the November Membership Meeting, although the second winner returned the prizes for someone else to win. 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 January 28th Membership Meeting at Big Lake Township Hall. There is no charge but we ask you to [register here](#) to allow for adequate space.

Prizes at this time include:

\$25 gift certificate



Chiropractic treatment at



\$30 Gift Card at



Monticello Printing \$30 towards printing



\$25 gift card



Chamber members attending the November Business after Hours at Russell’s included at left: Dr. Scott Schulz of Great River Spine & Sport, Karen Blake of Citizens for Big Lake Freedom Rock, Sheila Marquis of Shore View Townhomes Association, Chamber Executive Director Gloria Vande Brake, Linda Paulson of Citizens for Big Lake Freedom Rock, Paul Knier of Cabot Lodge Securities and Tim Suchy of Edward Jones. Our server drew the winning network prizes name of Edward Jones who was happy to receive his prizes.

WANTED: A used camera with zoom and lighting capabilities. Email details to info@biglakechamber.com



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 Thursday, Dec. 26th. 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 Christmas Tree Decorating 5:15 pm at Browns Park	3	4	5 Holiday Social Reserva- tions due!	6	7 Events @ Saron Lutheran, Lord of Glory Church & Sherburne History Center
8	9	10 Board 12:30 City Chambers	11	12 Holiday Social Com- mittee noon Holiday Social 6 pm at Carousell Works	13	14
15	16	17	18 Golf Committee noon @ Trails	19 Member/Prospects Visits 11-1 pm. Call office for visit!	20	21
22	23 Member/ Prospects Visits 10-noon. Call office for visit!	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25  OFFICE CLOSED	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Mark Your Calendar!

Thursday, January 16 Business after Hours at 5 pm at Trail's. Please register [here](#).

Tuesday, January 28 Membership Mtg at 11:45 at Big Lake Township Lions Park. Register [here!](#)

Saturday, March 21 from 9-noon Community Fair at Big Lake High School

Thursday, May 21 Golf Scramble at Monticello Country Club