

Mission Statement

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

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Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8 am - 2:15
Or by appointment

GLORIA'S GEMS

This week is the 57th year that our country has celebrated National Small Business Week. It was created in 1963 to recognize the importance of small businesses in our economy.

Today more than half of Minnesotans own or work for a small business. Small businesses create two out of every three new jobs each year.

Please support our small businesses and let the owners know how much you appreciate them!

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH:

Plant Manager Sandy Hesley has been with Vision Transportation (formerly Hesley Bus Company) for the past 25 years.

Vision serves students in Big Lake and Elk River and employs 50 staff, including part-time bus drivers.

“We are hiring now for next fall, “ noted Hesley. “Stay at home moms or dads can bring their preschoolers with them on the route. Drivers can choose either morning or afternoon routes or both!”

Vision has 22 buses, 5 smaller buses and vans. They also offer charter service to events. Businesses can hire them to take groups of employees to fun events for employee recognition or appreciation. Individuals have hired their vans to see Christmas lights in town!

While schools are conducting distance learning to stem the spread of coronavirus, Vision drivers and school food staff deliver food to specific stops. Photo at right demonstrates Food Monitor Danielle McClure and Driver Bill Beelm giving meals to Paisyn Caswell and her mom at Lake Ridge Park.



WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER



Mosford, Bartell & Co, PLC offers a broad range of services for business owners, executives and independent professionals. They've been around since 1976 and have 4 partners and 4 staff CPAs. Specializing in small to medium-size businesses in a variety of industries, Mosford, Bartell & Company provide outstanding service to their clients because of their dedication to their underlying principles. They offer business services, Quickbook services, tax services and individual services. With affordable rates, contact them for a free initial consultation at 763-295-4800 or checkout their website [here!](#)

April 22nd's Virtual Lunch & Learn

was hosted by State Senator Mary Kiffmeyer on key legislative issues and assistance for businesses and non-profits. Sharing the impact of the coronavirus with Kiffmeyer were Paul Knier of Cabot Lodge Securities, Raeanne Danielowski of JC's U Lock Storage, Jeff Zierdt of Lupulin Brewing, Becky Jacobs of Northstar Technology, John Henry & Todd Witte of Profusion CBD Wellness, Larry Spear of Russell's on the Lake, Cory Laugen of State Farm. Gloria Vande Brake of the Chamber and Jess Rosa of The Wave Youth Center.



Spring Photo Contest



Big Lake Residents are invited to submit pictures that they feel define the Big Lake community this spring season in the 2020 Spring Photo Contest!

Submission of a photo will release the photo to the City of Big Lake. The photo may be used on the City website, Facebook page, and any other marketing material.

Be sure to capture what you love the most about the City of Big Lake in the spring and share it with us! All photos can be submitted to Corrie Scott, Recreation and Communication Coordinator, at cscott@biglakemn.org by June 1, 2020.

Note: when submitting photos via email, make sure to select "Actual Size."

The bigger the picture the better!

Bullseye Properties is a licensed real estate brokerage 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, selling or leasing, our trained professionals have both expertise and understanding to ensure you get the best value.

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FEATURED LISTING:



For Sale: \$295,000

6,720 S.F.
171 Lake St N, Big Lake, MN

Great opportunity for owner occupied buyer. This building offers an abundance of natural light with excellent traffic exposure.



CHAMBER BINGO EXTENDED

CHAMBER'S BINGO CARD

Support one or more of our members impacted by the coronavirus pandemic by buying a \$25 gift card or even a \$200 gift card at one of these members below and donating it to the Chamber Bingo contest. This will encourage area citizens to **SHOP LOCAL**. The contest has been extended through June 30th and winners will be announced in early July.

Many of the retailers on the card have posts on the member deal section of the Chamber webpage [here](#).

Sponsors include DATA**Success**, City of Big Lake Mayor Mike and Shelly Wallen and Minnco Credit Union.

Print off some Bingo cards and share with your staff, family and friends.

One resident was going to use a portion of her federal stimulus check to purchase gift cards at area businesses.

Celebrate Small Business Week!



BINGO

Spend at least \$10 with any of our members impacted by the coronavirus pandemic from April 9- June 30, 2020. This includes purchases, take-out and gift cards. Place the receipts on the corresponding logos to create a bingo (5 in a row across, down or diagonal) to win a chance at a \$25 gift card to one of our members. Spend \$10 or more at all of our members to win a chance at \$200 in gift cards. Sponsors include DATA**Success**, Mayor Mike and Shelly Wallen and Minnco Credit Union.

Check out these members' deals on our website <https://biglakechamber.com> to see their hours, services and contact information. Note that some may have limited hours or closed temporarily.

Email photo or copy of receipts along with contact information to: info@biglakechamber.com or mail the receipts and contact information to Big Lake Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 241, Big Lake MN 55309 by July 3, 2020. Multiple entries may be submitted but each contestant can only win once.

Winners will be announced on our website and FB. Participants must be 18 years or older.

		PLAYER'S CHOICE of another member on this card!		
			Bob & Judy's Market 	
				PLAYER'S CHOICE of another member on this card!



Community Fair Rescheduled with the Block Party

The Community Fair has been rescheduled with the August 15th Tenth Annual Block Party from 10-2 pm at McPete's Sports Bar.



Big Lake Spud Fest held in late June as been cancelled for 2020.

Governor's Executive Orders to close non-essential businesses or services and ask Minnesotans to stay at home

has been extended through May 17th. Golf courses are now open and retailers can provide curbside services. Those who can work remotely are asked to continue to do so.

MN Unemployment Insurance is now able to take applications from self-employed and independent contractors whose income has been reduced by COVID-19. You can apply [here](#). This is funded by the federal CARES Act.

Small Business Administration (SBA) has made agricultural businesses including businesses engaged in the legal production of food and fiber, ranching, and raising of livestock, aquaculture, and all other farming and agricultural related industries eligible for new EIDL applications .

Thanks to Congress and President Trump, additional funding for SBA's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was granted and more applications were starting to be accepted on 4/27.

IRS Employee Retention Credit is also available for employers whose gross receipts are below 50% of comparable quarter in 2019. The refundable tax credit is 50% of up to \$10,000 in wages paid. Consult with your accountant and check it out [here](#).

Sherburne County property tax late penalties reduced.



Sherburne County Commissioner and Chamber member Raeanne Danielowski of JC's U Lock Storage announced on 4/21 that the Commissioners reduced penalties for late payment on business and personal property to 1% the penalty for unpaid taxes between May 16, 2020 and June 30, 2020; and 2% the penalty for unpaid taxes between July 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020.

The county's Revolving Loan Fund also waives application fees and deferment of payments to give small businesses throughout Sherburne County some relief.

Minnesota Chamber recently announced the new forecast from Minnesota Management and

Budget on 5/5 showing a deficit of \$2.426 billion for the remaining 14 months of the state's two-year

budget cycle – a difference of almost \$4 billion from the \$1.5 billion surplus forecasted in February. This

doesn't include the anticipated COVID-19 federal funds of \$2.187 billion. Tax revenues are expected to be \$3.611 billion (7.4%) lower than the February forecast. A key assumption in the forecast is that economic recovery begins in the third quarter, and real GDP growth turns positive in the fourth.

Legislative Bills: Minnesota Senator **Mary Kiffmeyer** announced that the Senate approved Economic Recovery Act

on 4/30 to financially help small businesses, provide full, retroactive conformity to Section 179 of the federal tax code, which will allow farmers and other small business owners to deduct large equipment purchases. It also included Charitable Gaming tax relief to keep more tax dollars in local communities.

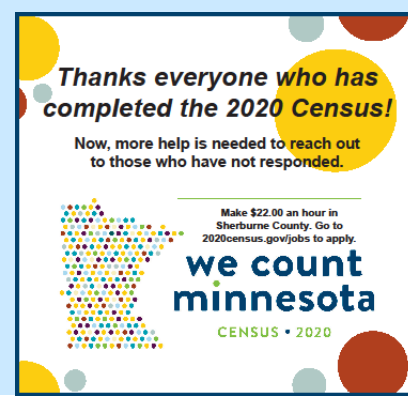
In mid-April the House defeated a bill supported by **Representative Paul Novotny** to end Governor Walz's peacetime emergency powers and begin the process of safely reopening Minnesota's economy by continuing social distancing and prioritizing health and safety, especially for the most vulnerable Minnesotans.

RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY COVID-19

Minnesota Chamber has a tool kit for small businesses impacted by coronavirus pandemic [here](#). This includes webinars, the Governor's Executive Orders, and links to federal and state assistance programs.

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has a Guide to Small Businesses [here](#) that is worthy reading. DEED is also asking input from businesses about safely returning all Minnesotans to work. [Here you can provide your input or feedback about safely returning to work.](#)

Please contact your banker for assistance. City of Big Lake Community Development Director Hanna Klimmek and Sherburne County Assistant Administrator are also available for questions.



CentraCare Supports Our Business Communities During COVID-19

As we work together in the fight against COVID-19, CentraCare understands the challenges our business communities face during these unprecedented times.

The well-being of your employees and business is a priority. As your community partner, we have created some helpful guidance to answer your questions and provide support if your business has been impacted by a COVID-19 outbreak.

How do I maintain a healthy workplace?

- Practice social distancing by ensuring employees maintain a 6-foot distance.
- If possible, encourage telework or staggered shifts to reduce the number of staff on-site.
- Identify where and how employees may be exposed to COVID-19 in your workplace, for example phones, workspaces and gathering spots such as vending machines or coffee stations.
- Provide resources for personal hygiene such as handwashing stations, no-touch soap, hand sanitizer and tissues.
- Provide education on COVID-19 prevention such as handwashing guidelines, social distancing and PPE usage if necessary.
- Cancel non-essential meetings and use technology for remote meetings.
- Additional guidelines can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html> or visit <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>.
- If you have COVID-related symptoms or believe there has been a workplace exposure to COVID-19 at your facility, please contact your local Public Health Department at:
 - Wright County Public Health Hotline: 763-682-7607
 - Sherburne County Public Health Hotline: 763-765-4156 or covid@co.sherburne.mn.us
 - Stearns/Benton Hotline: 320-656-6625 or 877-782-5683

What are some steps that I can take to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 if an employee is ill?

- If an employee exhibits COVID-19 symptoms such as a fever, cough or shortness of breath, they should be separated from co-workers and required to go home.
- Increase sanitization of work environment.
- Employees who are ill should follow the CDC guidelines to stay home, keep track of symptoms for 14 days and seek medical attention immediately if symptoms increase.
- Employees who are well but have a family member with COVID-19 should notify employer and follow CDC guidelines to self-monitor and stay home if symptoms arise.

Where do I find access to COVID-19 testing?

- Contact your current provider who will assess your condition and order your test.
- Call CentraCare Connect at 320-200-3200, 24 hours a day, to speak with a nurse who can assist you with a symptom check and help set up your test.

CentraCare Suggestions on Healthy Workplace page 2

How long does it take for test results to come back and what do the results mean for my employees?

- The test results for COVID-19 can take two to three days.
- If the test results are negative, employees should contact their employee health department to determine return to work date based on your business protocols.
- If the test results are positive, employees will be required to self-quarantine and will be contacted by either the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) or Public Health and receive further instructions from those agencies.

How do I know if COVID-19 is in my community?

- Local public health departments and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) are responsible for publicly reporting COVID-19 cases. CentraCare is dedicated to patient privacy and follows all applicable laws including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA).
- To learn more visit <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html#map1>

How do I establish visitor and employee screenings at my business?

- Conduct screenings each time a visitor or employee enters your business.
- Temperature screenings can be conducted with social distancing and proper hygiene.
- Consider verbal screenings using the following questions:
 - Have you had any of these symptoms since your last visit here or the last time you worked? Answer “yes” or “no.”
 - A fever of 100 F or higher?
 - A new cough?
 - Shortness of breath?
 - New sore throat?
 - New muscle aches?
 - If an employee answers “yes” to any of these questions or has a fever of 100 F with an oral thermometer they should be evaluated by employee health to determine if home monitoring is recommended or medical attention is needed.
- For additional guidelines, visit www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hospitalityfaq.pdf or www.cdc.gov.

How can employees protect themselves and their co-workers from COVID-19?

- Wash hands with soapy water for 20 seconds, multiple times a day. Use hand sanitizer often.
- Do not touch your nose, eyes or mouth.
- Stay home from work if not feeling well.
- Employees should stay home if they are sick.
- Cover nose and mouth with a tissue if coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects.
- Avoid large gatherings and practice social distancing at work and at home.
- Limit travel and follow the current CDC Traveler’s Health Notice for additional guidelines.
- For additional information on COVID-19 prevention, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>.

2ND ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE RESCHEDULED!

With the uncertainty of dine-in services opening up in time for our late May Golf Scramble, Golf Committee Chair Dr. Scott Schulz of Great River Spine & Sport and the Golf Committee opted to tentatively reschedule the 2nd Annual Golf Scramble to Thursday, September 17. Sponsors and teams are welcome from 10-5:30 pm at the Monticello Country Club.

While some of the sponsors have already signed up, many more are needed for a great day of fun and networking. In addition to Dr. Schulz, Committee members include Paul Knier of Cabot Lodge Securities, Hanna Klimmek of City of Big Lake, Tim Suchy of Edward Jones, Julie Evans of Insurance Specialists Team (IST) and Karah Hawkinson of Sherburne History Center.

For more information, you can contact any Committee member, email the Chamber office or sign up [here](#).



"FOR THE EARTH WILL BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF THE LORD AS THE WATERS COVER THE SEA."
HABAKKUK 2:14 (NIV)

PRAY GOD'S GLORY Across the earth

Big Lake and Monticello area churches are excited to invite you to the Big Lake/Monticello Drive-In Prayer Gathering!

In the current situation with regard to COVID-19, we cannot meet as usual to pray. So we are going to fill up the PARKING LOT at Imagine Movie Theater, and pray together via an online meeting! You will be able to connect by video on your smart phone, or call in for audio if you prefer.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  **BIG LAKE/MONTICELLO PRAYER**
Thursday May 7, 2020 | 7am-8am - come early!
Imagine Movie Theater Parking Lot - Monticello

We need to pray together, more than ever at this time. Start the National Day of Prayer off right, and continue on throughout the day as the people of our nation pray for God's glory across the earth.

If you are not local, or need to be at home or work, you are still welcome! Instructions for log-in will be provided prior to the event. Even if you are "technically challenged", this will be easy!

[SIGN UP HERE](#) For safety, this year it's BYOB - bring your own breakfast!

PARTICIPATING CHURCHES

Lord of Glory Lutheran Church	Monticello Covenant Church
Saron Lutheran Church	Resurrection Lutheran Church
Spirit Life Church	Quarry Church
Bridgeview Assembly of God	St. Henry's Catholic Church
Living Waters Church	New Life in Christ Ministries
Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church	Trinity Lutheran Church
Community United Methodist	

Reservations for the Prayer Gathering can be made [here!](#)

DISTANCE LEARNING CONTINUES



Last week Governor Walz continued distance learning for students through the remaining school year.

Spring athletics and fine arts were also cancelled. Big Lake High School is still considering how to celebrate and honor the graduating students.

The Wave Youth Center

Is closed, following Big Lake School's classroom schedule but social media posts occur daily. Check out Mental Health Monday, DIY Art/Craft Tuesday, Challenge/Tutorial Wednesday, BrainTeaser/Educational Thursday, and DIY Food Friday.



Curbside Pickup Available

Week of May 4: Tuesday 10:30-1 pm and Friday 11:30-4:30 pm

Week of May 11th: Monday 1-7, Tuesday 10-1, Wednesday 1-7,

Thursday 2-6, Friday 10-5 and Saturday 10-1.

We are receiving delivery 2 times a week, so items may be requested from other library branches in the Great River Regional Library system. The library buildings remain closed through May 18th.

Join the statewide book club, One Book, One Minnesota . More information can be found on the Big Lake Library Facebook page or www.griver.org

New hotline # is 1-833-GET-GRRL (1-833-438-4775 to renew your card, place holds, access databases and more.

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. They support programs such as Storytime, Winter and Summer Reading programs, Craft programs, Bookclub for Teens, Gingerbread House, Wednesday Crafts and Books at the school in Summer and lots of programs for all ages at our local library.

Follow and like us on FB. Register on the online library events calendar <https://griver.org/events/6/all/all/0/calendar/2019-12>



MONTICELLO HIGH SCHOOL & BIG LAKE HIGH SCHOOL

During these unprecedented times **WE ARE HERE FOR OUR GRADUATES!** Are you a business owner with a Monticello or Big Lake High School graduate working for you? A parent who has a graduate you'd like to recognize? Do you have a general **CONGRATULATIONS** message to the class of 2020?

Call us and we'll put it in this Lifetime Keepsake Edition!

This section will be distributed in the Monticello Times as listed below:

MONTICELLO HIGH SCHOOL Publishes June 4 • Deadline: May 22

BIG LAKE HIGH SCHOOL Publishes May 28 • Deadline: May 15

Tab Section	Full Color
Full Page (9.888" x 9.75").....	\$589
1/2 Page (4.888" x 9.75" or 9.888" x 4.75").....	\$379
1/4 Page (4.888" x 4.75").....	\$199
1/8 Page (4.888" x 2.25").....	\$109



Call or email Sue Emberland today!
763-271-6478
sue.emberland@apgecm.com

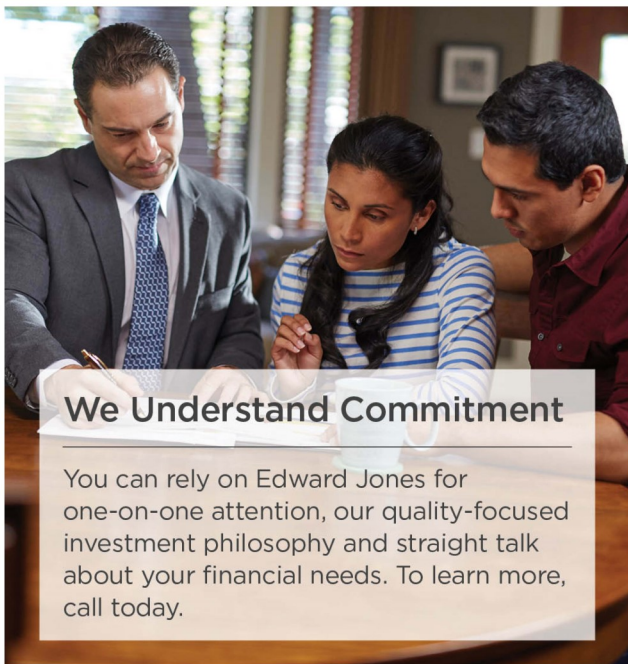
CHECK OUT OUR MEMBER DEALS on our webpage [here!](#)

OPTIONS in Big Lake is seeking donations for masks for their adults with disabilities to use now and when they reopen. To find out more, contact Brenda Geldert at brendageldert@options-inc.org.



CentraCare – Monticello Foundation created a Feed the Heroes fund for individuals interested in making monetary donations that will be used to purchase meals for our health care workers from our local restaurants who are also struggling at this time. “The idea for the Feed the Heroes fund came from our community partners,” said Karen Chatterton, CentraCare – Monticello Foundation development officer. “We are so fortunate to live and work in a community that supports each other. I know that donations will bring smiles and encouragement to our committed teams who give their all!” Visit centracare.com/monticellogives and make a donation to help us feed our dedicated health care heroes.

Lupulin Brewing is celebrating their 5th anniversary virtually in May! Their Taproom is still open and staff are filling growlers, canning crows, and getting customers delicious beer to-go. [Order ahead online HERE](#) or walk right in during business hours and place an order in-person. The total number of customers is currently limited to **5 at a time**. Any additional customers will be asked to wait outside. Please note that online orders take precedence over walk-ins. Hours are Mondays-Saturdays 2-8 pm and Sundays 1-5 pm.



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MKT-19526-A

CITY OF BIG LAKE PRESENTS:

Movie IN THE PARK

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2020
LAKESIDE PARK
FREE ACTIVITIES 7PM-9PM
MOVIE STARTS AT DUSK: APPROX 9:30PM
(IF INCLEMENT WEATHER, ACTIVITIES WILL BE RESCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 19)

ROCKET CONCESSIONS
TOMMY GUYER'S PETTING ZOO
FACE PAINTING
BOUNCE HOUSE
ROYAL PERFORMANCE CO.

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CLIMB THEATRE, SHERBURNE WRIGHT
CABLE COMMISSION, KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS, SPUD FEST, & KWIK TRIP

BIGLAKEMN.ORG





May's Business After Hours!

In keeping with social distancing, April's Business After Hours on **Thursday, May 21 starting at 5 pm** will be held at McPete's Sports Bar if their dine-in services are open or held virtually via Zoom. Enjoy "catching up" with your fellow Chamber members. Everyone must register [here](#) by 2 pm to receive the link include a Network Prize drawing with a value of \$335. All current members are entered into the drawing and members must be present to win. 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 May 26th Membership Meeting at The Buff..

Prizes at this time include:

\$25 gift certificate



Monticello Printing free address stamp

Chiropractic treatment at



\$25 gift card at



\$30 Gift Card at



May Membership Meeting

With dine-in services closed due to Governor's Executive Order to stem coronavirus disease, the Chamber's April membership meeting has been cancelled.

Join us for our May membership meeting at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, May 26th at The Buff, formerly Friendly Buffalo for a legislative update. Note the change in time. State Senator Mary Kiffmeyer and Representative Paul Novotny will update us on bills impacting our members. Registrations and social hour is at 5:30, dinner at 5:45 and the meeting starting at 6 pm. Registrations will be available in early May.

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 Wednesday, May 27th. 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	9
10	11	12 Board 12:30 City Council Chambers	13 Ambassadors via Zoom at noon	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Golf Scramble Committee at noon	21 Business after Hours 5 pm at McPete's. Register here.	22	23
24	25	26 Membership Meeting 5:30 pm at The Buff. Register soon!	27	28	29	30
31						

Mark Your Calendar!

Thursday, June 19 Business after Hours at 5 pm at Lupulin.

Saturday, August 15 from 10-2 pm at Mc Pete's: Block Party & Community Fair

Thursday, Sept 17 (tentative) Golf Scramble at 10 am at Monticello Country Club

Monday, October 19 at 6 pm Political Candidate Forum at Big Lake High School