

### Mission Statement

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

### Board of Directors

Chair: Paul Knier

Cabot Lodge Securities 763-263-1716

Vice Chair: Monica Parrish  
Meraki Property Management &  
Consulting 763-275-1515

Secretary: Brenda Geldert  
Options, Inc. 763-263-3684

Treasurer: Hanna Klimmek  
City of Big Lake 763-251-2979

Yvonne Blum, Minnco Credit Union  
763--552-7309

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

Cory Laugen, State Farm  
763-263-0513

Allen Snegosky, Sherburne State Bank  
763-271-4919

Tim Suchy, Edward Jones  
763.262.9988

Executive Director: Gloria Vande Brake

info@biglakechamber.com  
160 Lake Street N  
P.O. Box 241, Big Lake, MN 55309  
763-263-7800

### Office Hours

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

## GLORIA'S GEMS

*Domestic violence in families can often be hidden for years from family, friends and neighbors. Statistically 80% of abuse incidents go unreported in MN. Yet its impact on those verbally, physically or sexually abused can be detrimental for years.*

*Like other non-profits members, Rivers of Hope had to delay their fall GALA fundraiser until next spring. While they were able to receive Sherburne County CARES funds, they still need to raise funds for operating expenses. Nov 19th is Minnesota's Give to the Max. Please consider supporting Rivers of Hope & other non-profit members.*



## **MEMBER OF THE MONTH:**

Rivers of Hope was founded as a non-profit organization in 1989 concerned about domestic violence in families but particularly how it impacted children. Their first office was in Elk River and they moved to Monticello as they expanded services to both Sherburne and Wright Counties. They have 8 full-time and 2 part-time staff working with adults, teens and children along with 3 volunteers “manning” the Crisis Line.

In addition to working with family or domestic violence, they also provide services for intimate partner violence, teen dating violence and bullying on a personal nature. Violence can be physical, emotional, sexual, even financial, or a combination of these. The abuser uses a pattern of behaviors and tactics to gain and maintain power and control over a current or former intimate partner or children.

Speaking at the Chamber's October membership meeting, Executive Director Teresa McNamee indicated that their monthly caseload has increased 50% this year. And she noted, “75% of employed victim survivors are harassed by their abusers at work. Please contact me for resources about workplace safety.

“I'm thankful for the local support we have for our programs,” McNamee concluded. Check out their website is [here!](#)



## Great River Federal Credit Union (GRFCU)



The Big Lake branch of Great River Federal Credit Union will open summer 2021. CRFCU was originally chartered in 1948 as The Machinists Federal Credit Union, serving the needs of the employees of the refrigerator factory, Franklin Manufacturing. In 1999 their name changed as they were not only serving the needs of the Trade and Labor Union workers but employees from over 80 employer groups in the state of Minnesota, where the Great River begins. In April of 2001 they became a community credit union to include the tri-county area of Benton, Sherburne and Stearns counties. Their goal is to continue to expand their footprint in central MN and to provide exceptional service to their members, whether it is in-person or through their convenient online and mobile options. Business Banking Operational Specialist Maddie Orr can be reached at 320-202-7362 or at [morr@greatriverfcu.org](mailto:morr@greatriverfcu.org). Check out their website [here!](#)



Chamber members joined GRFCU at their ground-breaking on 10/27. At left: Chamber Chair Paul Knier of Cabot Lodge Securities, Executive Director Gloria Vande Brake, Chamber Ambassador Becky Jacobs of Northstar Technologies, Chamber Ambassador Naomi Jacobson of Riverwood Bank, Community Development Director Hanna Klimmek, GRFCU Business Banking Operational Specialist Maddi Orr, GRFCU CIO Derek Rudolph, GRFCU CAO Rebecca Nelson, GRFCU CRO Shelly Janorschke-Nagel, GRFCU President/CEO Brant Hicks, GRFCU Board Chairperson Mark Skaj, Chamber Board member Tim Suchy of Edward Jones, GRFCU Board member Austin Ruehle, Board member Yvonne Blum of Minnco Credit Union, Chamber Ambassador Dan Weber of Sherburne County



*Shop Local*

# BIG LAKE WINTER FARMERS MARKET

November 21 • December 19  
January 16 • February 20  
\*March 20 • April 17

\*MARCH MARKET IN CONJUNCTION WITH COMMUNITY FAIR AT BLHS

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



## Happy Thanksgiving

We thank you for the opportunity to work together and for making us feel at home in our community.

## 2020 MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

The Chamber Board is proud to announce member-submitted nominations for the **2020 Member of the Year** award. Cabot Lodge Securities-Paul Knier will sponsor the award along with dinner tickets for 2 at our December 3rd Holiday Social at The Buff. Nominations along with the reason given for the nomination are:



**Lupulin Brewing Company:** *"In thinking of what member/business gives back to the community, I think of Lupulin and their generosity to local causes and supporting them with fundraising."*

**McPete's Bar & Lanes:** *"McPete's has donated their space for the Annual Block Party since the beginning. This years block party was very successful even tho we worked through COVID. Hosting the block party is not an easy task, but the entire crew with McPetes is all hands on! We appreciate that McPetes is part of the Big Lake Community and the Chamber!"*

**Old National Bank:** *"Old National Bank is always quick to be involved in the various Chamber events. They add a lot to any endeavor."*

One vote per member will be accepted. Please submit your vote to [info@biglakechamber.com](mailto:info@biglakechamber.com) by Wednesday noon, Nov. 25.

## REGISTER FOR 2020 HOLIDAY SOCIAL DEC 3rd

Members, coworkers and guests are welcome to attend our 2020 Holiday Social at 6 pm on Thursday, Dec. 3rd at The Buff.

Please consider donating a silent auction item, a wrapped item for the Live Auction and/or a bottle of wine, liquor or beer. You can register [here!](#)



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Bring a Guest!**



**HOLIDAY SOCIAL**  
**Thursday, December 3, 2020 at**  
**Social hour @ 6 pm**



**Please consider donating:**

- \* An Item for Silent Auction
- \* A Bottle of Wine or Spirits for our Table
- \* A wrapped gift for our Live Auction!



## BILL INCLUDES SECTION 179 CONFORMITY

On Thursday, October 15, the Legislature passed a bill to conform to section 179 expensing effective for tax year 2020 providing **\$208 million in tax relief for small businesses** and farmers over the next three years. The Minnesota Chamber has advocated for this law change for the past three sessions and we are pleased it has been accomplished.

## ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON GATHERINGS

Governor Walz announced that effective Friday, Nov 12 at 10 pm all social gatherings of more than 10 persons of more than 3 households are prohibited to stem the increases in COVID-19. Venues such as bars, restaurants and event centers can host celebrations except from 10 pm- 4 am and they must have a COVID-Preparedness Plan. Starting Nov. 28th groups are limited to 50 people until Dec. 11th at 10 pm when they are restricted to 25. Occupancy is restricted to 50% capacity with a maximum of 150. Check out Executive Order 20-96 [here!](#)



Says the impending fallout from social distancing is not an “if it will happen” but rather a “when it will happen?” Do not worry – they suggest this cure!

Think GREAT is positioning businesses to administer the **C<sup>3</sup>URE for Social Distancing™**.

1. **Cohesion** – unite the key leadership team
2. **Connection** – develop everyone to think and act as leaders
3. **Communication** – unify your team with the shared language of success

## COVID-19 UPDATE

**Sherburne County** COVID cases: as of Nov 10th, we’ve had 2914 confirmed cases (an increase of 1600 in 1 month) and 29 deaths (an increase of 13). The county’s 7-day daily average count is 131 compared to 12.6 last month. Big Lake’s cases total 547 compared to 244 in October and 163 in September. Check it out [here!](#)

## ELECTION RESULTS!

Over 100 people attended or watched via Zoom the Chamber's **Political Candidates Forum** on Monday, October 19th at the Big Lake High School Auditorium. 19 candidates from 6 local races shared their priorities and answered questions. DATA**Success** owner Kevin Thompson moderate the forum.

While 1977 absentee ballots in Sherburne County have yet been counted as of 11/10 according to MN Secretary of State, following are the winners as of this date:

- Big Lake Township: Bruce Aubol, Dean Brenteson and Mark Hedstrom
- Big Lake Mayor: Paul Knier
- Big Lake Council: Sam Hanson, Ken Halverson and Paul Seefeld
- Big Lake School Board: Lori Kampa, Tony Scales and Amber Sixberry.
- State Representative District 30A: Paul Novotny
- State Senate District 30: Mary Kiffmeyer
- US Representative District 6: Tom Emmer



The Chamber thanks Sherburne Wright Cable Commission (SWCC) for recording the forum and publishing it on City of Big Lake Cable TV Channel 180 and the volunteers who helped make the evening a success. All the candidates also deserve our thanks for their willingness to serve the community.

In the photo above, Senate District 30 candidates Mary Kiffmeyer and Diane Nguyen respond to questions posed by moderator Thompson.



At left Big Lake School Board candidates Barbara Chaffee, Tony Scales and Amber Sixberry listened to Lori Kampa's priorities.



Below left City of Big Lake Council candidates Getti Green, Sam Hanson, Ken Halverson, Paul Seefeld listened to Alan Heidemann present his priorities.



# You *are* Invited

**Celebrating MN's Startup Community**  
Launch Minnesota's 1st year

Join us and state leaders as we  
showcase our state's startup ecosystem

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**Wednesday, November 18th, 2020**  
3:00-4:00 p.m.

**LIVE STREAMED PROGRAM**

<b>3:00-3:15 p.m.</b>	State of the State
<b>3:15-4:00 p.m.</b>	Panel discussions with our Launch Minnesota Network and Startups





## **LOTS OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN BROWNS PARK!**

On Monday, Nov 30th 16 sponsors will decorate their trees in Browns Park. Last year we had 10 trees, 9 trees in 2018 and 4 in 2017.

We thank the 16 sponsors of the trees at Browns Park and they are listed below. The photo below to the right is of Great River Spine & Sport decorating their tree last year!

 **CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING  
AT BROWNS PARK**



**November 30 2020 at 5 pm**

**We Thank Our Sponsors!**

- Anytime Fitness
- Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Big Lake Police Department
- Cabot Lodge Securities-Paul Knier
- Citizens for Big Lake Freedom Rock
- City of Big Lake
- Create & Connect Studio
- Edward Jones
- Great River Federal Credit Union
- Great River Spine & Sport
- Minneo Credit Union
- Old National Bank
- Options Inc
- Protection Plus Home Inspections
- Riverwood Bank
- Sherburne County United Way



GIFT MORE  
THOUGHTFULLY.

*Give the gift of*  
**LOCAL**  
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

**PLEDGE**  
TO PUT YOUR MONEY  
WHERE YOUR HOME IS!

Artwork from freepik.com

**FIRST HALLOWEEN PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT**

The first Halloween Photo Scavenger Hunt was successful with 15 participating members and 9 entries of costumed photos who matched clues with a random listing of members. 7 of the 9 submissions went to all 15 members, 1 member went to 4 locations and 1 member went to 1 location.

We thank the members in the graphic below who participated, chatted with the groups and often offered candy and promotional items. Families enjoyed the challenge of matching clues and seeing if they won any prize. We thank those who offered prizes including:

- \$100 cash from Big Lake Spud Fest
- \$100-value Paver at Freedom Rock donated by Citizens for Big Lake Freedom Rock and given to those who came to site and registered.
- \$95 value certificate for pet exam, fecal exam and dog tag from Big Lake Area Vet Hospital
- \$50 Gift Certificate to McPete's from Big Lake Police Department
- \$50 Gift Certificate to Trail's from Big Lake Police Department
- \$55 value Study Bible from Lord of Glory Church and bag of books from Friends of Big Lake Library
- \$25 VISA gift card from Minnco Credit Union & Aluminum Water Bottle & Carabiner clip from PATRIOT Newspaper
- \$25 VISA gift card from Minnco Credit Union
- \$25 Gift Card & Sweatshirt from Trail's
- \$25 Gift Card from Trail's

The Robinson family in the first photo at Old National Bank won the Most Creative Award and \$50 Gift Certificate to McPete's. Second photo is the Big Lake Ambassadors at Big Lake Spud Fest in Big Lake Township/Lions Park.



**Debbie's Cleaning Service**

**"BusyBee"**



Need some help before the Holidays?

Buzz Debbie at 763-568-5558 today!



**HALLOWEEN PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT**  
4-6 pm on Friday, Oct 30, 2020

**CLUES & PARTICIPATING CHAMBER MEMBERS**

Match a clue with one of these participating members. Take a Photo of your family or group at each member you visit. Email your photos to info@biglakechamber.com TONIGHT to win a **great prize!**

Prizes Awarded: Most Members Visited & Most Creative Costumes

Prizes include: \$100 Cash, \$100 Paver at Freedom Rock (register at that location), Pet Exam & Engraved Pet Tag, Study Bible, Four \$25 Gift Cards and other great items!

CLUES

1. Blazing with bucks and dough, but not the kind that hunters know!
2. What do you think this park is named after--the king of the jungle or a club that has served the community since 1972. Find the park and have your picture taken with some princesses and spuds!
3. Make sure to follow the correct one to find this business.
4. The more you buy, the more REWARDS you get and you can even order online and pick-up curbside!
5. Park by the lake and come to where our customers can listen to the loons while eating & enjoying their favorite beverage!
6. For this photo-op...Meow, meow, ruff, ruff!
7. Not the tallest building in town but definitely has the most stories!
8. At the corner of 10 and 15 you will find many people under the big cross on the hill!
9. Look for our yellow and blue pumpkins, matching school colors and our logo!
10. Here you can TAP into your creative side, but not with your typical crafts. Look for our emblem on the west patio fence!
11. To protect and to serve, that's what we do...visit those who walk the Thin Blue Line and take a photo too!
12. Big Lake is home of a brand new 31-ton rock! Rocks are often found near lakes and this one even celebrates your freedom!
13. Come visit your Good Neighbor, we'll be there!
14. Although we're located east of town, our clients work throughout the community!
15. EXTRA! EXTRA! Mythical Creatures Spotted in Browns Park!

PARTICIPATING CHAMBER MEMBERS:

- State Farm
- Big Lake Library
- Citizens for Big Lake Freedom Rock
- Lapulin
- Options Inc
- PATRIOT Newspaper
- Old National Bank
- Big Lake Police Department
- Russell's On the Lake
- Trail's Grill & Sports Bar
- Coborn's Superstore
- Minnco Credit Union
- Big Lake Area Veterinary Hospital
- Lord of Glory Church
- Big Lake Spud Fest





## BIG LAKE SCHOOLS MOVES TO DISTANCE LEARNING



Big Lake Schools will move to distance learning for their middle and high school students and hybrid learning for Liberty Elementary School beginning Nov. 16th while Independence STEM Elementary will move to hybrid learning on Nov. 11th. This is planned to be effective until Dec. 23rd.

For more information, check it out [here!](#)



### Hours:

M, T, Th 1:00-6:00  
 Wednesday 11:00-6:00  
 Friday 1:00-5:00

### Important Dates:

- Nov. 16th: Personal Mission Statements
- Nov. 17th: Game: Guess What!
- Nov. 18th: Make a banner
- Nov. 19th: GIVE TO THE MAX DAY!!
- Nov. 20th: Day at the Zoo.. virtually!
- Nov. 23rd: Game: Thanksgiving Theme
- Nov. 24th: Thanksgiving Craft!
- Nov. 25th: Thanksgiving Movie Day
- Nov. 26th - 27th: CLOSED
- Nov. 30th: Mario Kart Tourney

### The Wave is open for study hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1:00pm to 3:30pm and Wednesday from 11:00am-3:30pm for study hours. This is a time for students to come do their school work, study with peers and have a quiet space to work. Then, starting at 3:30pm we will resume normal scheduling and programming.

Thursday, November 19th is **Give to the Max Day!** This year, please consider donating to The Wave Youth Center. The Wave is helping to provide a safe space for youth in our community and we cannot do it without your support



Check out our events and hours at [here!](#)



### CHILDREN'S EVENTS

**Take Home Storytime Fridays:** Books will be on display for checkout, a related craft kit will be available for pickup. For ages 3-6. While supplies last. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Friday, November 6, 13, 20, 27 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### TEEN EVENTS

**Take & Make Candy Tree:** Get creative with the Take and Make kit from the Big Lake Library. Create a candy tree with the supplies provided. For teens. While supplies last. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Friday, November 13 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Take & Make Penguin craft:** Pick up a Take and Make kit from the Big Lake Library, and create something fun! For teens. While supplies last. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Wednesday, November 18 1:00 to 7:00 p.m.

### ADULT EVENTS

**Take & Make Snowperson:** Using the supplies provided in the Take and Make kit, create a cute snowperson for your winter decorations or as a gift for someone special. For adults. While supplies last. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Monday, November 16 During library open hours

### FAMILY EVENTS

**Tootsie Tuesdays:** Show your library card for a tasty treat!

Tuesdays, November 3, 10, 17, 24 During library open hours.

**Popcorn & a Movie Patron Appreciation Fridays:** Receive a package of popcorn on Fridays when you borrow a DVD from our extensive collection. For all ages. Limit 1 package of popcorn per checkout. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Friday, November 6, 13, 20, 27 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### 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.





**RiverWood Bank** announced last month that after 20 years of service, Nancy “Patsy” Klang has retired from the Big Lake Branch. She plans to enjoy her 3 children and 7 grandchildren. Patsy pens in their fall newsletter...*"I will miss my customers; they are my second family. I like to smile, laugh, hug, or cry with them, I took an interest in them, and we all showed respect by caring for each other. My motto is and was the customer standing in front of me is my favorite, so so many favorites! I have been fortunate and blessed to make RiverWood Bank as a team member for 20 years. Thank you to my customers for being on this journey with me. God is good!!"*



**Big Lake Spud Fest** has announced to all the Sports & Youth Organizations that have helped during Spud Fest in the past..." We know that everyone is having issues with fund-raising this year. The Spud Fest Gambling organization has some money that we would like to donate to the groups that have helped us in the past with Spud Fest. We need you to complete a grant request and return it by November 15th. Please find the necessary forms on our website by clicking on this link [here!](#) We will compile all requests and donate what we are able to with the funds that we have. It is our mission to help support and contribute to the youth of Big Lake.



**Lupulin Brewing's** November Pours for A Purpose honors the JZ Cancer Fund in memory of co-founder Jeff Zierdt's brother Jonathan who died of cancer in 2019. Hero Hazy IPA, originally brewed in 2018 to bring attention to Men's Health and Cancer Awareness during the month of November, represents friendship, awareness and never surrendering to the fight against cancer. Lupulin encourages everyone to "become aware, get tested, and live longer." They will be honoring Jonathan's memory with "Hero Cards" again this year, as well as donating 50% of proceeds from crowlers and draft pours in taproom to JZ Cancer Fund.



**Big Lake Community Food Shelf** received 940 packages of LED bulbs last month for their clients from Xcel Energy. Xcel Energy offers three low-income energy efficiency programs in Minnesota: Home Energy Savings Program, Low-Income Home Energy Squad, and Multi-Family Energy Savings.



## November's Business After Hours!

November's Business After Hours on **Thursday, November 19th at 5 pm** will be held at a location to be determined next week. To allow for ample seating, everyone must register by 3 pm on the 19th [here](#). A drawing from the Network Prize box will be conducted with prizes totaling \$120. 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 Nov. 24th Membership Meeting at Style Catering/Carousell Works. Dr. Kristi McAlpin from the Big Lake Area Vet Hospital was at our September membership meeting and won prizes worth \$335 from the Network Box. Members who had their names drawn previously but were not present to win include Angell's Construction, Big Lake Community Food Shelf, Big Lake Library/Friends of Big Lake Library, Coborn's, Freedom Strategy Group, and Trail's.

More prizes are needed but current Network Prizes include:

4-pack of Works **Plus** Car Wash at



Address Stamp from Monticello Printing

Free drink at



\$20 Trails Gift Card donated by Mayor Mike & Shelly Wallen

## November Membership Meeting

Join us for our November membership meeting at 11:30 am on Tuesday, Nov 24th at one of our newest members, Style Catering at Carousell Works. Members will vote on Board members. Registration is at 11:30 and the presentation begins at 12pm. Traci Leffner, President of Sovran will speak. Sovran has been providing professional IT services, comprehensive protection and the latest technology products on the market for over 25 years. They joined the Chamber this summer. Another one of our newest members, Style Catering will be serving Chicken Wild Rice Hotdish, home-made bread and dessert. Lunch costs \$15 and members and guests are asked to reserve by Nov. 17th. Registration begins at 11:30 am, lunch at 11:45 and the meeting starting at noon. Lunch is \$15. Please register [here](#) by noon on Thursday, Nov. 17th.

### 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. 17th Full page ads can be added for only \$25 per month.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 <b>ELECTION DAY!</b>	4	5	6 Office Closed	7
8	9	10 Board 12:30 Council Chambers Holiday Social 3 pm City Large Conf. Room	11 <b>VETERANS DAY!</b> Office Closed	12 Office Closed	13 Office Closed	14
15	16	17	18	19 Business after Hours 5 pm at . Register <a href="#">here.</a>	20 Office Closed	21
22	23	24 Membership Mtg 11:45-1 pm at Style Catering/Carousell Works. Register <a href="#">here!</a>	25	26 <b>THANKSGIVING DAY!</b>  Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29	30 Christmas Tree Decorating at 5 pm					

**Mark Your Calendar!**

Thursday, December 3 at 6 pm Holiday Social at The Buff. Register [here!](#)

Tuesday, January 26 at 11:30 am Membership Meeting

Saturday, March 20, 2021 from 9-noon Community Fair at BLHS with Winter Farmers Market

Saturday, August 21, 2021 from 10-2 pm Block Party at McPete's