

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



Many of us were devastated to hear Governor Walz's last Executive Order closing inside-dining at our restaurants and bars until Dec. 18th. Sherburne History Museum is also closed.

With only 2 days notice prior to the temporary closing, many businesses immediately lost revenue from excess inventory as well as hoped Christmas sales to offset sales losses this spring and summer. And their employees have less income before Christmas!

Our December Business of the Month immediately stepped up and promoted ordering take-out of our local restaurants and bars on her Facebook page. While they can easily cook meals on their own, Raeanne wanted “to support the local small businesses in their time of need. I love this community and I want to see our small businesses make it!” she exclaimed.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH: JC’s U LOCK STORAGE

Raeanne & Erv Danielowski have owned JC’s U Lock Storage in Big Lake for 26 years and have been business owners in Big Lake for 43 years. When Erv first suggested building rental storage units, Raeanne wondered if they would even get any renters! Now they have 75 units of various sizes, and occupancy has been nearly full capacity. They pride themselves on offering good value for the rental price.

“I joined the Chamber to give our business more exposure,” Raeanne noted, “and to help businesses voice their concerns to local, state and federal elected officials. Some businesses can’t vote for elected officials where they pay property taxes, so being involved in the Chamber helps raise common concerns.”

Raeanne is a Chamber Ambassador and has been a long-time member on the Big Lake Spud Fest board, the Big Lake American Legion Auxiliary, Big Lake Lions and more recently on the boards of Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and Options Inc. She was elected to the Big Lake City Council for 4 years and as Mayor for 6. She has been serving as Sherburne County Commissioner for the past 2 years.

“I’d love to see more businesses involved in the Chamber,” Raeanne concluded. “The Chamber provides great value for your investment.”

Photo at left was taken with other Chamber Ambassadors, Hanna Klimmek of City of Big Lake, Raeanne, Stacie Skalek and Brenda Geldert of Options.



MACARLUND PLAZA TOWNHOUSE ASSOCIATION



Macarlund Plaza Townhouse Association is a 30-member owners association located on Riverview Dr in Monticello, north of Liberty Bank. The association was built in 1983 and offers a great location within the city limits of Monticello. Carol Stice is the managing agent and can be reached at 612-203-0744 or email at macarlundplazahoa@gmail.com.

PAUL NOVOTNY



Paul Novotny was elected first in a special election in February of 2020 and re-elected to a full term November 3rd. On December 3rd he was elected as an assistant minority leader. Paul has joined the Big Lake Chamber to connect with the local business community. His wife Nicole serves on the Elk River Chamber Board of Directors. Paul retired from his 33+ year career in Law Enforcement on May 28th, 2020. During his career Novotny served in many different assignments including Patrol Sergeant, Investigative Sergeant and Firearms Instructor for the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office. He has been involved in coaching youth sports, teaching firearms safety, and is an active private pilot. Paul can be contacted at his office email Rep.Paul.Novotny@house.Mn or his cell phone 763-238-5731.



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

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
Attendees will be required to follow all current CDC and State guidelines.



INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE Branch Support Opportunities

At Edward Jones, our commitment to our associates has made us one of the nation's leading financial services firms. We seek an individual to support the Financial Advisor through client service, office administration and client development functions.

Position Information
Branch Office Administrator Trainee
Hours:
Full-time
Location:
Edward Jones
690 Humboldt Drive, Suite D
Big Lake, MN 55309
Job Code:
Job# 50957BR

To be considered for this position, submit a resume online at: careers.edwardjones.com

FORTUNE Magazine MARCH 2019
For the 20th year, Edward Jones was named one of the "100 Best Companies to Work For" by FORTUNE magazine and the Great Place to Work. The firm ranked No. 7 overall. These 20 FORTUNE rankings include top-10 finishes for 16 years and consecutive No. 1 rankings in 2002 and 2003.*

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FORTUNE 100 BEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR

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LOTS OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN BROWNS PARK!

For the 4th Annual Christmas Tree Decorating at Browns Park south of City Hall, the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry has 16 tree sponsors. Last year we had 10 trees, 9 trees in 2018 and 4 in 2017.

Dr. Scott Schulz of Great River Spine & Sport, originator of the program and 2019 Member of the Year says, “I’m thrilled that we have 16 sponsors of the Chamber’s trees. Four years ago we had 4 and it has grown steadily since.

“In addition to our sponsors, I want to thank Tim Suchy of Edward Jones for his time & effort in making additional tree stands and with his son Luke, put them up and repositioned them after a strong wind the first weekend. Big Lake ‘Do It Best’ Lumber donated the wood and materials for the stands. Chad and Heather Lofgren of Lofgren Construction donated a dump trailer that Jonathan Hopkins of Protection Plus Home Inspections and Tim used to get the trees and deliver them.”

The 16 sponsors making the corner of Hwy 10 & 25 festive include:

- Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon
- 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
- Edward Jones
- Great River Federal Credit Union
- Great River Spine & Sport
- Howmet Aerospace
- Minnco Credit Union
- Old National Bank
- Options Inc
- Protection Plus Home Inspections
- Riverwood Bank
- Sherburne County United Way



SHOP LOCAL TO SAVE LOCAL



6 WAYS TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES

WRITE A POSITIVE REVIEW	\$0.00
TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY	\$0.00
FOLLOW THEM ON SOCIAL MEDIA	\$0.00
ENGAGE WITH THEIR POSTS	\$0.00
GIVE THEM A SHOUTOUT	\$0.00
SIGN UP FOR THEIR NEWSLETTER	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$0.00



LOCAL BUSINESSES OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT

.....

LOCAL SPORTS & PROGRAMS LOCAL EVENTS LOCAL NON-PROFIT ORGS



Who we buy from now will decide who's standing later

LET'S MAKE SURE ALL THE SMALL BUSINESSES WE LOVE ARE ON THAT LIST

WHAT'S NEW

Abba is launching a *new Women's Center*, a pregnancy medical clinic, where future ultrasounds and pregnancy testing will be offered, along with expanded support services at no cost.



- ◆ **New location:** Landmark Plaza: 19022 Freeport St. NW, Suite E, Elk River, **expected re-open January 11, 2021.**
- ◆ Packing and moving the week of December 14-20.
- ◆ We sold our current property; closing date is December 23, 2020. We will need to move out, shut down our Client Services for 2-3 weeks until we can move into our new space.

STUDENT REAL SPOTLIGHT

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE IN APPRENTICESHIP LEARNING

Kaitlyn is enrolled in a work-based learning experience with Big Lake Area Veterinary Hospital. They reached out to the Big Lake High School work-based learning coordinators to inquire about hosting a student. We worked in partnership to develop a training plan and Kaitlyn has been working for them since September! We asked Kaitlyn a few questions about her apprenticeship experience.

What is your favorite part of your job?
My favorite part of my job is the animals and all the people I work with. They have been great and are always willing to answer my questions; the work environment is so friendly.

What is one important thing that you learned about veterinary sciences?
One important thing that I learned is restraining. It is very important to know how to restrain every animal so that no one gets hurt.

What are your plans for after graduation?
My plan is to hopefully do my generals at Anoka-Ramsey community college and then look for a college with a good veterinarian program.

What advice would you have for underclassmen considering youth apprenticeships?
Do it! You get to learn about the job by actually doing the job. It's a great experience and you get paid. You also get to leave school early everyday!

What Kaitlyn's mentor had to say:
Kaitlyn is growing in her skills and using your best judgment when approaching animals. She is responsive to constructive criticism. We are impressed with her growth and expect to see continued improvement. She is continuing to grow in her ability to anticipate her team's needs. Kaitlyn does a great job collecting and returning pets to their owners; she is very friendly and professional.



Kaitlyn Avila
Veterinary Science



Big Lake Area Veterinary Hospital, PA.

To learn more about work-based learning at Big Lake High School and how it can benefit your organization and our students, please contact Wade Olson at w.olson@biglakeschools.org or Matt Vogel at m.vogel@biglakeschools.org

Big Lake SCHOOLS



The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce presents their 2021 Session Priorities on

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 from 4-5:30 pm in a new virtual format. This year's event will include influential connections to Governor Tim Walz, Legislative Leaders Senator Paul Gazelka, Senator Susan Kent, Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman and Representative Kurt Daudt along with 33 new freshmen legislators. The Minnesota Chamber's Blueprint for Economic Recovery will be reviewed. Register by Thursday, Dec. 17th for only \$60 if we have 5 join us or \$75 after the 17th. Contact Gloria at info@biglakechamber.com if you are interested.

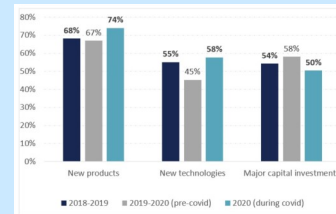
Remember to File for PPP Loan Forgiveness if you received PPP this year and used it payroll and appropriate expenses. Check out the simpler form for those receiving less than \$50,00 [here!](#)

2021 Business Benchmarks from Minnesota Chamber compiles key indicators that define the state's business climate compared to other states. These indicators identify the state's strengths as well as areas for improvement for Minnesota to compete in the global economy. Although Minnesota is not in the top 10 tax rates in every category, corporate and individual income taxes and overall state and local burdens remain a major concern. We currently ranked 49th in entrepreneurship start-up rates based on population. Check it out [here!](#)



2020 Snapshot - Grow Minnesota! Visits Even during COVID, half of

the businesses visited are planning for growth through capital investments. An even higher percentage are innovating by adding new products and services, and/or adding new technologies. You can get the 4-page report [here!](#)



BOBPHIBBS® Suggests looking for lessons in leadership style during the pandemic from Ralph Lauren's Patrice Louvet: 1) take care of your team first; 2) build your brand on quality that will last; and 3) lead by example through core values. Read the article [here!](#)



Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) reports that we rank first in the nation in its five-year business survival rate (2015-2020), based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The state's rate was 55.3% compared to the national rate of 50.0%.

The Minnesota Trade Office (MTO) has created a free online course from 9-11 am on Feb. 16 & 23 entitled "Starting A Successful Export Business" for Minnesota residents that would like to learn more about starting an export business for specific regions to the Latin American region. Check it out [here!](#)

COVID-19 UPDATE

Sherburne County COVID cases: as of Dec. 9th, we've had 6746 confirmed cases (an increase of 3833 in just the last month) and 55 deaths compared to 29 deaths in Nov. The county's 7-day daily average count is 92.6 compared to a high of 166 last month. Nov.'s cases were 5 times that of Oct.'s. Big Lake's cases total 1300 compared to 547 in Nov., 244 in Oct. and 163 in Sept. Check it out [here!](#)

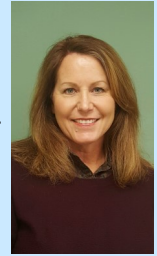


MEMBERS ELECT AND RE-ELECT BOARD DIRECTORS

Members of the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry have elected Superintendent Tim Truebenbach of Big Lake Schools as a new director to the Board for a 3-year term starting in January. Truebenbach joined the school this summer after being superintendent with Milaca’s school for 5 years. He also served on the Milaca Chamber of Commerce board for several years. “I’m honored to serve,” noted Truebenbach.



Members also approved the re-election of Brenda Geldert of Options Inc and Allen Snegosky of Sherburne State Bank as directors to the Board. Geldert has served as treasurer and currently is secretary of the board and Allen chairs the Governmental Affairs and serves on the Finance Committees.



At their December meeting, the Board thanked outgoing Board chair Paul Knier for his 2.5 years of years of service on the board and serving as chair in 2020. Knier becomes the Big Lake mayor in January.



Cory Laugen of State Farm Insurance will serve as Chair in 2021 along with the re-elections of Monica Parrish of Meraki Property Management & Consulting as Vice-Chair, Geldert as Secretary and Hanna Klimmek of City of Big Lake as Treasurer.

2020 MEMBER OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION IN EARLY 2021

Unfortunately with Governor Walz’s November Executive Order closing inside dining at bars and restaurants and cancelling meetings to stem the spread of COVID-19, the Chamber Holiday Social in which the 2020 Member of the Year is announced had to be cancelled.



However, the Chamber wants to celebrate our 2020 winner at a celebration in early 2021. We thank our nominations for the patience and appreciate Cabot Lodge Securities-Paul Knier as sponsor of the award.



Our nominations include:



Debbie’s Cleaning Service

“BusyBee”

Need some help before or after the Holidays?

Buzz Debbie at 763-568-5558 today!





BIG LAKE MOVES TO DISTANCE LEARNING



Last week Big Lake Schools moved to distance learning 2.0 for all of their students, including elementary.

Parent Support: the University of Minnesota Extension Center for Family Development is offering a free text messaging program that supports parents called U Got This! Parents can sign up to receive two text messages a week on topics of health and nutrition, developmental affirmations, parenting and school engagement, mental health and well-being, and financial capability. Check it out [here!](#)



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. Limit 15. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Friday, December 11 & 18

10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Hour of Code takes place during Computer Science Education week and introduces millions to computer science and computer coding. The challenge is to "demystify" coding and broaden the participation in the computer science field. Pick up your Hour of Code resource bookmark and Binary Math Take and Make kit from the Big Lake Library, while supplies last. For ages 6-12. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Thursday & Friday, December 10th & 11

All Day

TEEN EVENTS

Take & Make Ornament Create a new ornament for your tree or as a gift, using the supplies provided in the Take & Make kit. For teens and adults. While supplies last. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Friday, December 11

10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

ADULT EVENTS

Create a holiday poinsetta flower, using supplies provided in the Take & Make kit. For adults. While supplies last. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Monday, December 14

1:00 pm to 7 pm

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Tuesdays, December 15 & 22

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, December 11 & 18

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.



**CELEBRATES
ONE YEAR!**

Programs are offered virtually. See calendar below!

Sign up at www.thewaveyc.org to get access to these virtual options

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
30 Pick up your December Activity Box	1 Snowflake Decorations	2 Highlights from Home	3 ZOO Day @ the Virtual Zoo!	4 Game: Virtual Guess Who
7 Holiday Crafts	8 Virtual ASL Lesson	9 Happy 1st Birthday to The Wave	10 Zoom Mini Games	11 Game: At Home Bowling
14 Homemade Gift Ideas	15 Virtual Golf Lesson	16 Learn Car Basics	17 Winter Trivia	18 Hot Chocolate Bar
21 Holiday Scavenger Hunt	22 Craft: Snow Globes	23 Movie Watch Party	24 Merry Xmas	25 Merry Xmas
28 Holiday Recap on Zoom	29 DIY Fidget Spinner Making	30 Career Day	31 New Years Resolutions	1 Happy NYE!



OLD NATIONAL BANK is giving away \$15,000 to one Minnesota nonprofit and thirty others will receive \$5,000. People can vote [here](#) once a day every day for your favorite 501(c)3 until December 17. Vote for your favorite non-profit!



The City of Big Lake was selected by the editor of the League of MN Cities magazine to highlight its efforts and experience in providing CARES Act grants to local businesses. This article will be included in their Jan-Feb issue.

Lupulin Brewing won three awards in the 2020 U.S. Open Beer Championship, one of the top 3 beer competitions in the USA. Breweries from Luxembourg to Louisiana sent in more than 6,000 beers representing over 140 different styles for the 2020 U.S. Open Beer Championship. Lupulin will also be featured in *Pints North*, a book about Minnesota Craft Beer by Katelynn Regenscheid. If you have a “difficult to shop for” family member or friend on your Christmas list, consider their online store. Items include beer to-go (pick up in taprooms only) , snacks, glassware, face masks, leashes, stickers, hats, hoodies and other clothing and much more. Click [here](#) to check it out and they will even ship your merchandise in the continental states! Anyone is welcome to join them on a 4.5 mile run every Wednesday evening at 6 pm around the lake although some turn around "by the birdhouses"--you can enjoy a free pour or soda on the house afterwards!



Eagles Nest Nature Store at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge has unique items at its online store. You can pick it up at the curb or they will ship. Check it out [here!](#)



Senior Kindness Project
DECEMBER 3RD - DECEMBER 18TH, 2020

Guardian Angels SENIOR SERVICES | Physical Therapy

GIFT KINDNESS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!
Share a card, uplifting note, encouraging letter, or small gift to the Seniors at Guardian Angels!

Drop off hours: M-Th 8 AM-6:30 PM & F 8 AM-5 PM
Zimmerman Physical Therapy: 26025 3rd St E #100 Zimmerman MN 55398
Ramsey Physical Therapy: 7876 Sunwood Dr NW Ramsey MN 55303



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



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



January's Business After Hours!

January's Business After Hours on **Thursday, January 21 at 5 pm** will be held at Trail's Bar & Grill. To allow for ample seating, everyone must register by 3 pm on the 21st [here](#). A drawing from the Network Prize box will be conducted with prizes totaling \$215. 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 Jan. 26th 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:

Pet exams and engraved tag at Big Lake Area Vet Hospital



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

January Membership Meeting

Join us for our January membership meeting at 11:30 am on Tuesday, Jan. 26th at one of our newest members, Style Catering at Carousell Works. 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 last summer. Style Catering will be serving Chicken Wild Rice Hotdish, homemade bread and dessert. Lunch costs \$15. Please register [here](#) by noon on Tuesday, Jan. 19th.



Photo to the left is from our October 2020 meeting at Monty's Tropical Hideout. Board member Yvonne Blum of Minnco Credit Union is sharing the success of our Halloween Photo Scavenger Hunt.

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, Dec.28th. Full page ads can be added for only \$25 per month.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Board Meeting 12:30 City Council Chambers & virtu- ally	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25  Office Closed	26
27	28	29	30 	1  Office Closed		

Mark Your Calendar!

Winter 2021: 2020 Member of the Year celebration

Thursday, January 21 at 5 pm: Business After Hours at Trails. Register [here!](#)

Tuesday, January 26 at 11:30 am Membership Meeting with Traci Leffner of Sovran at Style Catering.

Register [here!](#)

April-May: Big Lake Community Fair

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