

Mission Statement

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

Board of Directors

Chair: Cory Laugen, State Farm
763-263-0513

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

Allen Snegosky, Sherburne State Bank
763-271-4919

Tim Suchy, Edward Jones
763.262.9988

Tim Truebenbach, Big Lake Schools
763-262-5218

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

Several weeks ago I drove a neighbor and her cat Tabby for an annual check-up and shots at Big Lake Area Veterinary Hospital.

As requested with the new COVID guidelines, we waited in the car with Tabby until the technician picked him up, assuring my neighbor that Tabby would be fine without her. Within 15 minutes, a staff member called regarding treatment suggestions and my neighbor was able to pay the bill from the car.

After chatting with each other for another 20 minutes, Tabby was returned to her owner and my neighbor mentioned how happy she was that BLAVH was in town to provide services for her pet as she used to travel 30 miles away!

MEMBER OF THE MONTH: Big Lake Area Veterinary Hospital

Dr. Kristi McAlpin is co-owner of Big Lake Area Veterinary Hospital (BLAVH) and St. Michael Veterinary Clinic with Dr. Shawn Dutton. BLAVH opened in 1997 and they have 4 doctors, 4 receptionists, 4 veterinary technicians and 2 veterinary assistants.

“Growing up I always wanted to be a pediatrician, “Dr. Kristi reminisced. “In college I realized I wanted to be an advocate for animals and be a veterinarian.

“We see only small animals, mostly dogs and cats. In addition to wellness exams and shots, we perform surgery, x-rays, dental care, internal medicine and euthanasia services.”

BLAVH has hosted students in the Big Lake High School REAL’s work-based learning program and are a business partner in Independence STEM Elementary School.

“I’m passionate about what I do and love to share that, “noted Dr. Kristi. “ We joined the Chamber in 2012 to make a stronger voice in the community. I’ve also learned a great deal from other business owners and their services. And I’ve made many friends from the Chamber.”



Photo at left is Dr. Kristi encouraging a youth to toss a ball and win a prize at last summer’s Big Lake’s 10th Annual Block Party. In addition to her annual sponsorship, Dr. Kristi is chair of the Block Party Planning Committee.





YOUR VOICE IN GOVERNMENT



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. KSTP's Tom Hauser will interview Governor Tim Walz, Legislative Leaders Senator Paul Gazelka, Senator Susan Kent, Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman and Representative Kurt Daudt. Individual cost is \$75 or \$60 if we have 5 or more members participating. Contact Gloria at info@biglakechamber.com by Wednesday noon Jan. 6th to register or if you have questions.

MN State Senator Mary Kiffmeyer and Representative Paul Novotny announced that the Legislature approved a \$216 million emergency relief bill a couple weeks ago for 3 programs:

- o Direct relief payments: \$88 million is allocated for businesses in industries that were directly impacted by the executive order, including bars, restaurants, and gyms. These businesses will receive a check mailed directly to them, with no need to apply. Assistance will be broken down as follows:
 - Businesses that are down 30% in revenue and have 0-20 employees will receive a \$15,000 check
 - Businesses with 21-100 employees will receive \$25,000
 - Businesses with 101 employees or more will receive \$35,000-45,000.
- o Small business grants: \$14 million is approved for small business relief grants available through DEED. These grants are aimed at businesses like movie theaters and convention centers.
- o County-distributed relief: \$114.8 million in relief grants will be distributed to counties based on a per capita formula. Funding must be distributed by March 15.

All relief funds must be used to support payroll expenses, rent, mortgage payments, utility bills, and other similar expenses that occur in the regular course of business. The bill also extends existing unemployment insurance benefits for an additional 13 weeks.



Sherburne County's 2021 Business Relief Funds of \$1.87 million can provide \$5,000 to businesses with 50 or less employees that will receive direct aid from the State and \$10,000 to businesses or non-profits that do not receive direct aid. Funds may be used for rent or mortgage payments, payroll for current employees, working capital and operational costs such as inventory and utility payments. Applications are due Jan. 22. For more information on the grant program, how to qualify, and how to apply, click [here](#).

COVID-19 UPDATE

Sherburne County COVID cases: as of Dec. 30th, we've had 7617 confirmed cases compared to 6746 on Dec. 9th with 63 deaths compared to 55 three weeks ago and 29 deaths in Nov. The county's 7-day daily average count is 30 compared to 92.6 on Dec. 9th and a high of 168 last month. Big Lake's cases total 1500 compared to 1300 on Dec. 9th, 547 in Nov, 244 in Oct. and 163 in Sept. Check it out [here!](#) Sherburne County Public Health held its first COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic on Saturday, December 26th, vaccinating 80 EMS (fire, law enforcement) school nurses and public health staff.



Human Resource Executive reports that employers can require vaccinations with certain limitations, according to Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Check it [here](#) along with the direct link to EEOC guidelines!

TNLT Talent Management & HR suggests ways to “Go From Covid-Secure to Litigation-Safe” in an article on 12/22. With over 1150 national COVID-related litigation cases against employers regarding infections at work, privacy issues, injuries and discrimination, they have recommendations for your consideration. Check it out [here!](#)

Congressman Tom Emmer reports that the federal stimulus package includes \$28 billion for vaccines and distribution and sends hundreds of billions more to reenergize the Paycheck Protection Program, helping employers and employees struggling to stay afloat under COVID-19 restrictions. This legislation supports childcare providers to help parents eager to return to work and provides \$85 billion in funding for schools and universities so they can safely reopen for in-person learning. \$600/person will also be distributed to citizens.

BOBPHIBBS® the retail doctor suggests customer service tips for your staff and customers including having a message of hope, encouraging risk-taking and focusing on relationships. Check it out [here!](#)

MINNESOTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is offer a Minnesota Supplier Match Virtual Roundtable on Wednesday, Jan. 20th from 10-11:15. Cost is \$30 and you can register [here!](#)

GROWING MINNESOTA

MN & US UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Unemployment Rate	Seasonally Adjusted		Not Seasonally Adjusted	
	November 2020	October 2020	November 2020	November 2019
Minnesota	4.4%	4.6%	3.9%	2.8%
U.S.	6.7%	6.9%	6.4%	3.3%

Source: MN DEED. For more information, check it out [here!](#)

2021 Technology Trends From SOVRAN

Register For Lunch & Learn
Jan. 6, 2021 | 1:00-2:30 PM

Shonn Twight
Sys Admin

You're invited to the 2021 Technology Trends virtual Lunch & Learn. Register [here!](#)

Big Lake FREEDOM ROCK®

Purchase a Tribute Paver—Honor a Veteran

A beautiful, colored certificate, perfect for framing, will be sent to you when you order a paver. It makes a great keepsake or gift.

Once the mural is painted, the pavers installed, the rock will be dedicated and you will receive an invitation to the event. We are anticipating that the money will be raised and the artist will be painting our rock in 2021.

**DREW A BLAKE
U.S. NAVY
1977-1981**

This is a wonderful opportunity to leave a **permanent family legacy** that will be admired by visitors from all over the United States.

Contact: Citizens for the Big Lake Freedom Rock®, to get your \$100 paver included in the historic exhibit.
Questions: Karen Blake 763 234-0369, blakk0178@gmail.com
Like and follow our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/biglakefreedomrock>
www.Thefreedomrock.com



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



Start Your New Year Off Right at
Little Learners Preschool !!

- At Little Learners We....
- ★ Learn how to be a friend
 - ★ Practice self-help skills
 - ★ Explore outdoor classroom
 - ★ Express Creativity
 - ★ Prepare for Kindergarten!



Register at
biglakece.com

SOVRAN

Presents
"Know Your Tech" Educational Series
Featuring



Acronis
This month, we host
Samantha Carver &
Mark Hammer of
Acronis as they take
us through a Cyber
Protection Showcase!

Tuesday, Jan. 19 | 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Register: bit.ly/sovrans-cyber

MN ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR



Angie Charboneau-Folch has been named this year's recipient of the Minnesota Assistant Principal of the Year for all middle and high schools. She is now eligible to be considered for the National Assistant Principal of the Year honors. Angie has been an administrator for 15 years, the past 10 at Big Lake High School. She shares that positive student relationships have been a key focus in her work. Staff members noted that Angie's leadership in training have created an inclusive environment for all students and staff. Last April, Angie was named the Central Division Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year.

Big Lake Schools plans to return elementary students back for in-classroom learning on Jan. 19th. Winter youth sports practices will resume Jan. 4th.



FOR 2021:

1. Learn something new!
2. Participate more.
3. Set personal goals.
4. Challenge yourself.
5. Take a step back from social media.

Check out the schedule for January!

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
		30 Pick up your January Activity Box		1 Happy New Year! 
4 Trivia	5 2021 Goal Setting!	6 Virtual Escape Room	7 How are you? Check in with us on Zoom!	8 Rainbow Craft
11 Virtual ASL Lesson	12 Pen Pal Activity	13 Kitchen Skills	14 How are you? Check in with us on Zoom!	15 Basic First Aid
18 Minute To Win It Games	19 Make cloud dough	20 Pencil and Paper Games	21 How are you? Check in with us on Zoom!	22 Brain Teasers and Word Puzzles
25 Among Us	26 How to tie different knots!	27 Origami	28 How are you? Check in with us on Zoom!	29 Meet us at the rink! <small>for some skating and other winter fun!</small>

Color of each date: **Blue** = Instructions Online **Green** = Video **Red** = Zoom

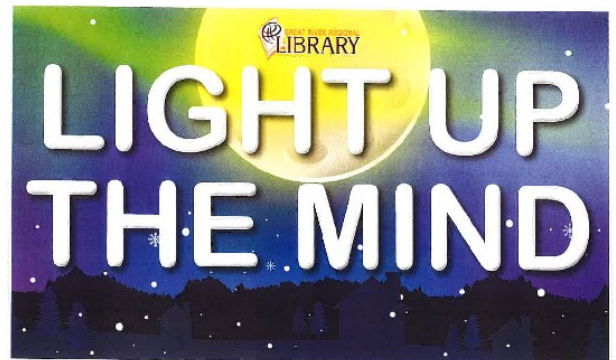


Check out our events at [here!](#)

New Hours: Monday: 1-6p; Tuesday: 10a-2p
No Change: Wed: 1-7; Thur: 2-6p; Fri: 10-5; & Sat: 10-1



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.



January 2 - February 27 Adult & Teen Winter Reading Program

Light up your mind with great books and make reading a habit this winter!



Win prizes and virtual badges by registering at your library or online at giver.beanstack.org



Lupulin Brewing received mention in the Beer Travelers Guide of Best IPAs in 2020 Their "Hooey, Year Two-ey" has received this honor for the second straight year. They are also planning a new bi-weekly entertainment for Jan. 7 and 21 at 7 pm called Jindo Jam, Bingo with a Beat! It's a family-friendly game of music, skill and luck that combines name-that-tune with bingo. Play at home, on their patio and even against your family and friends in other communities! Learn more information [here](#) and to play, click [here](#)!



Xcel Energy Community Relations and Economic Development Manager Mark Osendorf reported in the 12/26 PATRIOT Newspaper that Xcel Energy has dedicated \$20 million to short- and long-term relief for COVID-19 to support local non-profit organizations and communities. They plan to reduce carbon emissions 80% by 2030 by expanding wind and solar energy, continuing to deliver carbon-free nuclear energy by extending operations at the Monticello Nuclear Plant for another 10 years, and build a new, efficient natural gas plant in Becker to ensure reliability and grid support for our customers. Citizens can comment on their plan [here](#) with a reference to docket 19-368.



suggest checking out their website [here](#) for sightings and photos of birds in the last month.

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.



Happy New Year
As the calendar turns the page, we wish you the very best in the year ahead.

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763-262-9988

edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Elevier
WOMEN'S CENTER

**Opening February 2021
New Location | New Services**

We exist to support the value and dignity of human life with a holistic approach to reproductive health. Providing free educational, material, emotional and spiritual support services; and reproductive health consultative and (future) medical services.

- Empowering women in unexpected pregnancy situations
- Evidenced based Education and Services
- Consultation, Classes, and Support Services
- Free onsite lab quality Pregnancy Tests
- FUTURE onsite Ultrasound with professional Medical Staff
- Trained supportive Patient and Client Advocates
- Professional Referral Services
- All Services are provided free of charge

 **24hr helpline**
(763) 441-7777

Elevier Women's Center
19022 Freeport St. NW, Suite E
Elk River, MN 55330
office@elevier.org
www.elevier.org | (763) 634-1238

Affiliated with  Abba



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. Dr. Kristi McAlpin from the Big Lake Area Vet Hospital was at our September membership meeting and won prizes 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 Big Lake 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 located next to City Hall. 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, Jan. 25th. 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	9
10	11	12 Board Meeting 12:30 City Council Chambers & virtu- ally	13	14	15	16
17	18  n Luther King, Jr. AL HOLIDAY * JANUARY 16 Office Closed	19	20	21 Business After Hours 5 pm Trails. Register here!	22	23
24	25	26 Membership Meet- ing 11:30 Style Ca- tering. Register here!	27	28	29	30
31						

Mark Your Calendar!

Winter 2021: 2020 Member of the Year celebration

Thursday, February 18 at 5 pm: Business After Hours.

Tuesday, February 23 at 11:30 am Membership Meeting at Big Lake Schools.

April-May: Big Lake Community Fair

Saturday, August 21 from 10-2 pm: Big Lake Block Party at McPete's