

Mission Statement

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

Board of Directors

Chair: Monica Parrish

Meraki Property Management & Consulting 763-275-1515

Vice Chair: Tim Suchy, Edward Jones
763.262.9988

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

Cory Laugen, State Farm
763-263-0513

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

Allen Snegosky, Sherburne State Bank
763-271-4919

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

When I first joined the Chamber 2 1/2 years ago, City of Big Lake’s Community Development Director Hanna Klimmek was an invaluable resource as I learned about the business community and sought not to duplicate our services. Since I had been an economic developer 30 years ago for a city in SW MN, I recognize the unique challenges she faces.

As a Chamber Board member, Hanna has been both our secretary and currently is our treasurer. She helps out wherever she can, serving on the Ambassador and Golf Scramble Committees. And I greatly appreciate her willingness to welcome and register those attending our monthly membership meetings.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH: City of Big Lake

The City of Big Lake was incorporated 122 years ago and has been an honorary member of the Chamber. They have 71 full and part-time employees.

Community Development Director Hanna Klimmek has been with the City for the last 5 years, managing several departments and directly supervising 6 staff.

“I really enjoy being part of the cycle of a project--from the beginning at the concept or idea stage through construction and finally their opening,” Hanna exclaimed. “And I enjoy going to the businesses, honoring them with public official visits and thanking them for being a part of the Big Lake community.”

Minnesota Cities magazine featured Hanna and the City of Big Lake in their January/February magazine on last year’s nearly \$550,000 grant program to 33 businesses and non-profits impacted by COVID-19. You can read the article [here!](#)

“I encourage any Chamber member to get involved--the more you put into the Chamber, the more you’ll get out of it,” Hanna concluded. “And for those businesses and non-profits who aren’t members, check us out!”

Photo at right is a Business Retention & Expansion Visit last year at Options Inc. From left to right is Options Director of Employment Services & Quality Assurance Stacie Skalek, City Administrator Clay Wilfahrt, Community Development Director Hanna Klimmek, Options Executive Director Brenda Geldert, Past Chamber Board Chair and now Mayor Paul Knier of Cabot Lodge Securities and Big Lake Economic Development Authority (BLEDA) Vice-President Ken Geroux of Ken Geroux Construction.



Sierra Pacific Mortgage has a proven track record of providing industry-leading yet practical home financing. They understand that each customer's situation is unique, and work with them to find solutions that support long-term financial security. Their primary goal is to make the mortgage lending process as efficient and cost-effective as possible. They offer competitive rates and with in-house processing, underwriting, and closing, Brady Bagne's team guarantees the highest level of integrity and customer satisfaction. Brady, along with his wife and three children, enjoys fishing, grilling, going to his kids' sporting events, being a volunteer firefighter, and a active member of my community. Contact him [here!](#)



City of Big Lake Bicycle Advisory Committee held a ribbon-cutting at its first Bike Fix-It Station at Big Lake Train Station on Jan 12th. Pictured from left to right is Roger Zeman, Sponsor CentraCare Community Health & Wellness Specialist Melissa Pribyl, Recreation & Communications Coordinator Corrie Scott, Community Development Director Hanna Klimmek, Chamber Executive Director Gloria Vande Brake and Collen Zeman.



Call for Artists

\$25 Exhibitor Deposit
Free Admission
Sales Welcome

Prizes for Audience Favorite,
Committee Award, and
Educator's Award

June 14-20, 2021
Fine art and photography
exhibition at the Sherburne
History Center, Becker

Setup Monday, June 14
Teardown Monday, June 21

2D and 3D fine art
and photography
(sorry, no crafts)

For more information or
to register, contact:

Barb 320-743-2952
blabla10@frontiernet.net


Mike 763-262-4433
mbrubaker@sherburnehistorycenter.org




Big Lake

*** FREEDOM ROCK® ***

**Purchase a Tribute Paver—
Honor a Veteran**




Certificate of Recognition
The individual whose name has been placed on a piece of
YOUR NAME HERE
will receive a complimentary Freedom Rock®
paver.



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.



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



YOUR VOICE IN GOVERNMENT



Virtual Chamber Week at the Capitol: Join Chamber members across Minnesota March 1-4 at Chamber Week at the Capitol. Legislators need to hear from our businesses as they make critical decisions on helping or hindering our economy's recovery from COVID-19. You can join any or all of the programming. Each day will feature a priority topic with Mon, March 1st Vaccine Distribution; Tues. Business Assistance Tax; Wed. on Benefit Flexibility and Thur. Connectivity/Broadband. Registration is just \$35. Contact Gloria for details.

Governor Walz's budget released a couple weeks ago will increase Minnesota's business tax rate 15%, becoming the second highest in the entire nation. He is proposing a 10% increase to the top tax bracket, creating a fifth tier that would give Minnesota the third-highest income tax rate in the nation. Capital gains tax and regressive taxes on cigarettes and vaping products will also be increased.

MN Needs To Conform to federal tax law regarding the federal Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans to business. If PPP loan proceeds are used for qualifying costs and 60% of the loan proceeds are used for payroll costs, then the federal government will forgive the loan. Unless Minnesota conforms to federal tax law, these forgivable loans will be taxed in Minnesota.

The Minnesota Chamber is also watching House DFL's priorities including retroactively mandating paid leave, workers' compensation presumptions, unemployment insurance benefits and other protections for workers.

Our State Legislators announced their Committee assignments:

Senator Mary Kiffmeyer is: 1) chair of the State Government Finance and Policy and Elections; 2) Vice Chair Redistricting; 3) Finance; 4) Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy and 5) Transportation Finance and Policy. You can contact her at 651-296-5655 or sen.mary.kiffmeyer@senate.mn

Representative Paul Novotny serves on 1) Human Services Finance and Policy; 2) Judiciary Finance and Policy; and 3) Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy. You can reach him at 651-296-4237 or via email at rep.paul.novotny@house.mn



COVID-19 UPDATE

Sherburne County COVID cases: as of Feb 1st, we've had 8400 confirmed cases compared to 7617 on Dec. 30th with 77 deaths compared to 63 last month and 29 deaths in Nov. The county's 7-day daily average count is 16.9 compared to 30 on Dec. 30th, 92.6 on Dec. 9th and a high of 291 in mid-Nov. Average age is 39.6. Big Lake's cases total 1700 compared to 1500 on Dec. 30th, 547 in Nov, 244 in Oct. and 163 in Sept. Check it out [here!](#) As of Jan. 21st 2568 persons in Sherburne County have received at least one dose of vaccine and 602 have completed the series.



Minnesota Trade Office is offering Online Digital Tools To Help You Grow Your Exports, Sales, Brand & Business virtually on Tuesday, Feb 9th from 10-11 am. Discover opportunities to receive funding through state and federal grants to use for this program and other export-related activities. There is no charge and you can check it out [here!](#)



MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) reports that Health Care and Social Assistance is the largest industry in Central Minnesota, accounting for 49,131 jobs in the region in 2019 – that’s more than one in every five jobs in the region. The vital health care industry has a higher concentration of employment in the region than the state, so it was cause for concern when the rapidly changing economic conditions in the first half of 2020 pushed health care employers to shed over 2,100 jobs in the region. Not only was employment down in the second quarter of 2020, so were openings in the this industry, long championed as recession proof.



MN Chamber’s 2021 Leaders Lab is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to engage Minnesota’s developing business leaders (approximately late 20s to 30s). Check it out [here!](#)

Join Women in Business Feb 23 from 10-11:30 to virtually discuss education in Minnesota and whether or not students are “future-ready.” They will explore how Minnesota stacks up nationally, what the data says, and why it matters to the business community. Did COVID-19 change anything for better or worse? What changes can put students’ long-term success at the forefront of education policy. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Business North reports that a recent survey of Minnesota tourism and hospitality businesses conducted by Explore Minnesota, Hospitality Minnesota and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis documented desperate circumstances across the industry. Nearly two-thirds of 681 respondents reported business to be significantly lower compared to 2019. More than three-quarters of respondents noted overall negative financial health and stressed the urgent need for conditions to improve. Half of the respondents signaled that they can remain solvent under current conditions for no more than six months. Geographically, the Twin Cities metro area and southern Minnesota regions reported the worst business levels, followed by central Minnesota. Check out the article [here!](#)

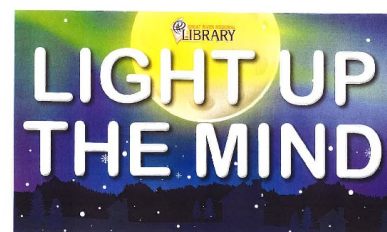
The Bounce Back Project presents ...

STAY IN & PLAY!

Feb 5 @ 7PM - FB Live
facebook.com/BBPMN

Comedy + Games + Prizes + Improv

Fun for the WHOLE Family!



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 griver.beanstack.org

Thanks to the St. Cloud Branch of the library for supporting the Winter Reading Program.



Big Lake Chamber

of Commerce & Industry

MEMBER ADS

100% OF YOUR DONATION
GOES DIRECTLY TO
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL
PUBLIC LIBRARY!

MARCH 1-31

LOCALLY
GROWIN'



<https://griver.org/locally-growin>

ASK OUR STAFF HOW YOUR DONATION
SUPPORTS LIBRARY SERVICES & PROGRAMS!

Dreaming Up the
Ideal Retirement
Is Your Job. Helping
You Get There Is Ours.

To learn more about why Edward
Jones makes sense for you, call
or visit my office today.



Tim Suchy, AAMS®, CRPC®
Financial Advisor

690 Humboldt Drive Suite D
Big Lake, MN 55309
763-262-9988

edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



6th Annual Big Eagle Lake 'Ice-Out Contest'
2021
Entry Fee: \$10

Name	
Email Address	
Best Phone	
'Ice Out' Date Best Guess	
\$10 Entry Fee Due by 2/6/2020	To enter: Please see 'options to enter' below

Everyone has a bit of 'cabin fever' this time of year so here is a friendly challenge for Friends of Big Eagle Lake. Please share this contest with friends and family, anyone who enjoys the lake. This is a contest where you make your 'best guess' as to when the ice will finally be off, COMPLETELY, from Big Eagle Lake.

*This year we have opted for a 50/50 split with BELIA.
Thank you for your support of Big Eagle Lake, every little bit helps!*

Rules and Details

- You must be at least 18 years of age to participate in the contest.
- Deadline for all entries to be received: **Saturday, February 6th 2021.**
- Multiple entries are encouraged.
- Options to enter:**
 - Register online at www.BELIA.org and click on 'Upcoming Events'. Pay Pal or credit card are accepted.
 - OR - Send this form along with your \$10 per entry check made out to 'BELIA' to:
BELIA
c/o Andreans
22658 County Road 5 NW, Big Lake, MN 55309
* Checks will be deposited after February 5th
- Winner(s) will be determined based on the date closest to the **first** 'Ice-Out' date without going past the date. If there are multiple winners, the winnings will be split evenly between the winners.
- BELIA Board Members will determine when the ice has left the lake and an email will share the actual ice out date. Winner(s) will be contacted individually.

As always, thank you for your support of Big Eagle Lake.

Here is a hint © : http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ice_out/index.html?year=median



Shop Local

BIG LAKE WINTER FARMERS MARKET

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

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 escott@biglakemn.org or 612-297-6331
Attendees will be required to follow all current CDC and State guidelines.



BLHS Principal Dockendorf on Health Care Roundtable



Big Lake High School Principal Bob Dockendorf represented Big Lake well as he enthusiastically participated in DEED's Health Care Roundtable last week. He suggested employers recruit high school students for health care and other in-demand positions like how high school students are recruited for college sports opportunities. CentraCare also participated. Check out his talk [here!](#)

K-5 students returned every day to their classrooms on Jan. 19th while Middle and High School students returned later that week on a hybrid model, alternating in-classroom with distance learning. Winter sport practices and games also resumed. The school has its own COVID-19 Dashboard on its webpage. Check it out [here](#).



Hours: Mon 1-6p; Tues: 10a-2; Wed 1-7; Thur:2-6; 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.

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

Winter Reading Program continues until Saturday, February 27.

February is "I Love to Read" month.

CHILDREN EVENTS.

Zoom a Story: Join us for a 10-15 minute, hello song, story and good-bye song format. Stop by the library for craft, login, and books. For ages 2-6.

Friday, February 26 10:30 a.m.

Heart Scavenger Hunt: Search the library for the hidden hearts. Once all the hearts are found, return to the desk for a tootsie roll treat. For ages 3 to 12.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

During the month of February

During library open hours

Origami Take and Make kit: Create a hat with the origami supplies provided, while supplies last. For ages 6-12. Sponsored by the Friends of the BL Library.

Friday, February 26

During library open hours

TEEN EVENTS

Cactus Take & Make: Create a unique craft, while supplies last. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Wednesday, February 17

During library open hours

Painted Planet Take and Make: Pick up the kit of paint, ping pong ball and battery-operated tealight to create your own painted planet. For ages 7 and up.

Wednesday, February 24

2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

TEENS & ADULTS EVENTS

Shadow/Tracing Box Kit: Create your own mini version of a shadow or tracing box using the provided supplies in the kit. Finished boxes could be a special Valentine's gift for someone special or add sparkle to a room. Limit 12. For ages teens and adults. Sponsored by the Friends of the BL Library.

Thursday, February 4

2:00 to 5:00 p.m.



NOW OPEN WEDNESDAYS from 12-6pm. Join us for studying, indoor and outdoor activities.

CLIMB THEATRE returns on Feb. 4th and 18th for 5-minute Master Classes to virtually learn a new skill.

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

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
				29 Pick up your January Activity Box
1 Bingo	2 Craft	3 Build Snowmen	4 CLIMB Theatre	5 Wave Crossword Puzzle
8 Trivia	9 DIY Stress Balls	10 Science Experiment	11 Heart Themed Games and Treats	12 Valentine's Craft
15 Pom-Pom Craft	16 To My Future Self :	17 Family Feud Game	18 CLIMB Theatre	19 Mini Zoom Games and Check In
22 Sketching	23 Question Game	24 Scavenger Hunt	25 Balloon Games	26 Presentation and Journal Questions!

The color of each date means:

In Person
Red =
Zoom @ 4pm
Green =
Video
Orange =
Online
Instructions





The Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association (BELIA) will be holding a fundraiser Saturday, February 13^h from 1-4 PM. Smokin' Pulled Pork and Hot Dogs will be served to those ice fishing and others who want to support a healthy Big Eagle Lake. Look for a tall green and black BELIA flag on the ice north of Big Lake off of County Road 75. They will accept "orders to go".

Lupulin Brewing has announced a partnership with Blake's Hard Cider of Michigan to provide its customers a unique and craft collaboration. This experience is created by combining Lupulin Brewing's CPB Chocolate Peanut Butter Porter with Blake's Hard Cider's Triple Jam for a decadent "PB & Jam" beverage. Customers can also play Jindo Thursdays February 4th and 18th at 7:00pm. To learn more about Jindo click [here!](#) To play Jindo, click [here!](#)



Big Lake

*** FREEDOM ROCK® ***

Citizens for Big Lake Freedom Rock were featured in the national American Legion Auxiliary's February magazine. The full-page article included a photo of founders Karen Blake and Linda Paulsen with the rock at Lakeside Park. Check out [here](#) their appreciation of Big Lake's support on page 18. For more information on their pavers and how to support them, see their ad on page 2.



Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge's Photography Club

is accepting new members to virtually join them at 7 pm on Feb. 10th. Check it out [here!](#)

You can also check out Sherburne NWR website [here](#) for sightings and photos of birds in the last month.




**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 

SOVRAN



Secure Your Business In 2021

2021 has begun! Are you still dealing with:

- Lingering IT issues
- Windows 7 end-of-life
- Worries about password security
- Questions about the cloud

Check out our latest blog to find out how you can take action and protect your business:

sovrان.com/blog/secure-your-business-in-2021



Business After Hours Cancelled

With the current Governor's Executive Order restricting the number of households to 2 per table for social events, our Business After Hours are cancelled until these restrictions are lifted. Our virtual Business after Hours in January had 5 attending.

Network Prize Drawings

Names of two members from our Network Prize box will be drawn at our network meetings. Prizes currently total \$414. 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 next network meeting. Members who had their names drawn in January but were not present to win include Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association (BELIA) and Magic Mushrooms in the Crystal Garden.

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



3 Color ads at



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

February Membership Meeting

Join us for our February membership meeting at 11:30 am on **Tuesday, February 23rd** at one of our newest members, Style Catering located next to City Hall. Sherburne County Administrator Bruce Messelt will update us on county activities and Assistant County Administrator Dan Weber will discuss the Entrepreneur Lab and the county's business relief grants.

Registration is at 11:30 and the presentation begins at 12pm. Lunch costs \$15. Please register [here](#) by noon on Tuesday, Feb. 16th.

Photo to the upper right is from our January virtual meeting in which Traci Leffner and Shonn Twight of Sovran presented on technology considerations for remote work.



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

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	1	2	3	4	5 CentraCare Bounce Back 7 pm FB Live	6
7	8	9 Board Meeting 12:30 City Council Chambers & virtu- ally	10 Ambassadors 11:30 Virtually	11	12	13  Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association 1-4 Pulled Pork & Hot Dog Feed
14 	15 Office Closed 	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Membership Meet- ing 11:30 Style Ca- tering. Register here!	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26	27
28						

Mark Your Calendar!

Winter 2021: **2020 Member of the Year celebration**

Wednesday, Feb 24-Friday, March 5: Office Closed with Gloria on vacation.

Thursday, March 18 at 5 pm: **Business After Hours** if COVID restrictions are loosened.

Tuesday, March 30 at 11:30 am **Membership Meeting** at Big Lake Police Department Community Room with presentation by City staff and Big Lake Police Department.

April-May: **Big Lake Community Fair**

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