

**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

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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 bought my townhome in Big Lake nearly 11 years ago after my late husband died, my realtor had tremendous patience. I wasn’t sure where I wanted to live in central Minnesota so we looked at homes from Albany, Cold Spring, St. Cloud area, Clearwater and Big Lake. Having previously lived on 9 acres outside of Brainerd, I knew I no longer wanted to mow an acre of lawn every week. So we looked at homes, townhomes and year-round lake homes. After the first 3 trips out with the realtor and my daughters, I did realize having a view was critical. One time we I believe we saw 6 homes in 3 hours, which included traveling 30 miles out! I’m sure the realtor wondered if I would ever buy a home...*



**MEMBER OF THE MONTH: CINDY LEMM**



Realtor Cindy Lemm has been guiding homeowners in their home-buying process for the past 30 years. After 28 years with Edina Realty, Cindy believes joining RE/MAX Results last year challenged her to being a better realtor.

“Being a realtor gives me a sense of purpose,” Lemm pondered. “I can’t imagine my life without it. I sell homes throughout central Minnesota, specializing in working with first-time home buyers, families and waterfront properties.

“While this last year with the pandemic perhaps slowed down the buying and selling process, buyers were still able to see homes (even virtually) before making offers. And with the tighter inventory, we have multiple offers. Interest rates are still good!”

Cindy has been a member of the Big Lake Chamber for over 10 years. She has sponsored a booth at the Business Expos/Community Fairs. “The Chamber is a wonderful place to meet people”, she concluded. “And businesses can’t find a better organization to be involved with.”



At right RE/MAX Results Realtor Cindy Lemm sold client Mary Becken’s townhome last fall



# MEMBER OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION!



## MEMBER OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

Thursday, MARCH 18, 2021

Social hour @ 5:30 pm; Dinner at 6:30 pm



*Congratulate the second annual 2020 Member of the Year winner!*

Nominees:



### ENJOY

- ◇ Silent Auction
- ◇ Table of Wines & Spirits
- ◇ Heads & Tails
- ◇ 50:50 Pots



Please consider donating an item for the silent auction and a bottle of beer, wine or spirits and bring to Chamber office by Wednesday, March 17

*Register on our March calendar of our website by 2/11. Limited to first 50!*



Save the date for the **2021 Rivers of Hope Great Outdoors Gala** on April 16, 2021. The program will be streamed virtually with the auction available online starting April 12th. Registrations and tickets will be available soon, so keep checking [www.riversofhope.org](http://www.riversofhope.org) for more information! We are excited to be planning and look forward to our *retreat to the Great Outdoors* in April.

We are currently looking for donations and sponsors for The Great Outdoors Gala! Visit our website at [www.riversofhope.org](http://www.riversofhope.org) or click [HERE](#) for sponsorship forms and benefits.

## YOUR CHAMBER BOARD

At their February meeting, the Board members approved a one-time voluntary 25% dues reduction for members who have a loss of income from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Music in the Park

The Board also approved a partnership with the City of Big Lake to provide volunteers to staff Music in the Park on Thursday evenings in June and July. Yvonne Blum of Minnco Credit Union has agreed to be a back-up to city staff. If you're willing to volunteer to help clean up after the band is finished, please let Gloria know. Sponsorships are available at the \$500, \$1000, \$2500 and \$5000. If you are interested becoming a sponsor, please email Corrie [here!](#)


### Sherburne County Area United Way Chamber Parks Challenge

The Board is joining with Elk River Area Chamber of Commerce, Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce and Sherburne County Area United Way for a 3-Chamber Parks Challenge. Visit local parks in April, send a selfie and potentially win weekly prizes such as a seasonal parking pass to Lakeside Park from the City of Big Lake, a gift basket from Old National Bank or a \$20 gift certificate from Debbie's Cleaning or Profusion CBD. Grand Prizes include a free seasonal parking pass at the City of Big Lake's Lakeside Park and a weekend camping with canoe rental and splash pad tickets from the City of Princeton. Challenge your staff to explore our parks. A traveling trophy will be awarded to Chamber with most entries. We thank our sponsors. See details below.



When it comes to your to-do list, put your future first.

To find out how to get your financial goals on track, contact your Edward Jones financial advisor today.





**Tim Suchy, AAMS<sup>®</sup>, CRPC<sup>®</sup>**  
Financial Advisor  
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edwardjones.com  
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**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

## Sherburne County Area United Way Chamber Parks Challenge April 1 - 25, 2021

Discover the parks in Princeton, Elk River and Big Lake and win prizes!

#### The Details:

- Walk any or all of the parks listed on the Sherburne County Area United Way website: [sherburneunitedway.org](http://sherburneunitedway.org)
- Take a selfie and use the hashtag of the city you're in, along with the name of the park
  - #princetonparkschallenge2021 #elkriverparkschallenge2021 #biglakeparkschallenge2021
- Post the selfie on the Sherburne Area United Way's Facebook page to be entered into a weekly drawing for gift certificates to local businesses and prizes! @sherburneunitedway
- Each time you visit a park and post a selfie with the one of the hashtags, you'll be entered to win the grand prize, valued at over \$100!





Photo Credit © Copyright 27Wolf Photography

# HEROES PROGRAM

NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES

1st responders, are an asset to every area in which you serve, and I want to give back to you and your families by offering our Heroes program for any of you looking for new home financing, or to refinance your current mortgage. Please call me today at 612-616-9629 if you would like assistance in finding the right loan program for your situation.

This program applies to all active, retired, and volunteers.

\*Thank you for your service\*

You can use the QR code to download our application and get started right away.



**BRADY SCOTT BAGNE**  
LOAN OFFICER  
NMLS# 1704073  
6897 139th Lane Nw, Suite 102  
Ramsey MN, 55303  
C - 612-616-9629  
BRADY.BAGNE@SPMC.COM





# YOUR VOICE IN GOVERNMENT



**Sherburne County** recently announced that they have a remaining fund balance of \$940,000 in federal CARES Act to help those impacted by COVID. The County Board will be discussing and staff will be discussing the best formula to distribute these funds at Tuesday March 2nd's County Board meeting.

**Biden Administration changes PPP rules** to help reach the smallest businesses effective early March. Several changes were made this week to the Paycheck Protection Program in an effort to reach minority-owned and businesses with less than 20 employees that may have previously missed out on accessing loans to help weather the coronavirus pandemic. Read in CNN Politics [here!](#)

 **The City of Big Lake announced candidates** who filed for the Special Election on April 13th to fill the vacant city council seat: Ketti Green, Donna Pouliot and Kim Nording.

**Virtual Chamber Week at the Capitol:** Join Chamber members across Minnesota March 1-4 at Chamber Week at the Capitol. This year is a completely virtual, multi-day event to fit your schedule. Join to hear a priority topic or favorite speaker. Register [here!](#)



Monday, March 1, 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.: Chamber Week at the Capitol Kickoff

Monday, March 1, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.: Vaccine distribution

Tuesday, March 2, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.: Economic recovery strategies – taxes; state spending; and business assistance

Wednesday, March 3, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.: Benefit flexibility

Thursday, March 4, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.: Connectivity and broadband



## COVID-19 UPDATE

**Sherburne County** COVID cases: as of Feb 23rd, we've had 8642 confirmed cases compared to 7617 on Dec. 30th with 80 deaths compared to 77 last month and 29 deaths in Nov. The county's 7-day daily average count is 10.1 compared to 16.9 last month, 30 on Dec. 30th, 92.6 on Dec. 9th and a high of 291 in mid-Nov. Average age is 39.5. Big Lake's cases totaling 1700 is same as last month compared to 1500 on Dec. 30th, 547 in Nov, 244 in Oct. and 163 in Sept. Check it out [here!](#) As of 2/23, 7408 persons in Sherburne County have received at least one dose of vaccine and 3230 have completed the series.

**Vaccine Connector:** The Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Connector is a tool that helps Minnesotans find out when, where, and how to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Register [here!](#) After you fill out a simple form, the Vaccine Connector will:

- alert you when you are eligible to receive a vaccine;
- connect you to resources to schedule a vaccine appointment; and
- notify you if there are vaccine opportunities in your area.



# Finding the right MSP

(Managed Service Provider)

shouldn't be  
a game of  
chance . . .



Contact  
the IT experts

651.686.0515

**SOVRAN**

Technology Solutions for Business

[www.sovran.com](http://www.sovran.com)

**The Central Mississippi Regional Planning Partnership** is encourage citizens and businesses to complete a survey that is being used to gather stakeholder input for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of engagement for the Framework 2030 project. If you haven't had the opportunity to complete the survey, they **strongly encourage** you to provide your perspective on the draft goals and strategies for future regional collaboration presented therein. You will have the opportunity to weigh in on the following topics: land use, economic growth, and interconnections. The more input received, the better the outcome! The survey and information about the Partnership and the Framework 2030 project can be accessed here: [Framework 2030 Round 2 Engagement Survey](#)

**Career Force announced the top 30 jobs** in demand in Minnesota, with 4 health care jobs in the top in the top 10. Check it out [here!](#)

**Human Resource Executive** Shares benefits that employees want. Paid time off ranked 1st of non-insurance benefits by 1500 employees in the US at 35%. Flexible and remote working options (27%) were second on the list of most-desired perks, while paid family leave (24%) came in third. Check it out [here!](#)

## MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)



is offering Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – Part 2: How to Create a Culture of Belonging Webinar Tuesday, March 9, 11 AM. Are you recruiting – or are committed to hiring – a more diverse workforce with talented people from traditionally underrepresented groups? What is your plan for making them feel welcome? What will it take to retain them? Learn successful strategies for how to build a company culture that creates a sense of belonging for all employees and the value of having a culture where every employee can bring their whole self to work. Register [here!](#) Webinar ID: 560-591-883.

**MinnPost reports that tax collections** for January were \$296 million more than state economists had predicted they'd be just 12 weeks ago, while November and December collections were up \$167 million from the November forecast. Taken together, the state has collected 3.5 percent more money in current taxes than was expected. See details [here!](#)



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

MARCH 1-31

**LOCALLY GROWIN'**

LIBRARY

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

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



**Minnco's  
March  
Match**  
*for Funds & Food*

While donations of food are always welcome, gifts of money are preferred because they allow food shelves to acquire **7x the amount of food!** Money also allows them to buy specific items which are out of stock.

**Stop by Minnco during March to help out others in need.**

During **Minnco's March Match**, financial gifts to local food shelves will be **matched by the Minnco Foundation, up to \$3,000!**



**Minnco**  
CREDIT UNION

**Minnco**  
FOUNDATION



**BIG LAKE SECONDARY STUDENTS RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING**

Big Lake Schools were happy to announce the tentative return of secondary students to in-person learning full-time beginning March 18th.

**SPUDInc 6709 Big Lake's Robotics** is seeking business partners for their 2020-21 Season. They are building a robot and competing virtually. Sponsorships are available for cash or in-kind at \$250, \$1000 \$2000 and \$5000. Please email [biglakerobotics@gmail.com](mailto:biglakerobotics@gmail.com)

**Big Lake Grad Party Committee** is seeking donations of food, prizes, gift cards, coupons and cash. Email [biglakegradparty@gmail.com](mailto:biglakegradparty@gmail.com)



Check out our events at [here!](#)  
**CHILDREN'S EVENTS**



**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.

**Take Home Storytime Fridays:** Fridays at the Big Lake Library are Take-Home Storytimes. For ages 2-6. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Every Friday During library open hours

**Zoom a Story:** Read a story with library staff via Zoom. This will be a quick 10-15 minute, hello song, story and good-bye song format with Big Lake Library staff. Craft and a selection of books will still be available at the library that day, while supplies last. Stop by the library for the Zoom login information. For ages 2-6.

Friday, March 26, April 30 & May 28 10:30 a.m.

**Dr. Seuss craft:** Help Dr. Seuss celebrate his birthday with a fun, Dr. Seuss inspired Take & Make craft! Available while supplies last. For ages 6 and up. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Tuesday, March 2 During library hours

**TEEN EVENTS**

**Galaxy Jar Take & Make:** Create a galaxy of your own with the supplies in the Take & Make kit. All supplies provided for this quick and easy craft, available at the Big Lake Library. While supplies last. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Thursday, March 25 During library open hours

**ADULT EVENTS**

**Shamrock Kit:** Using a basic gathering stitch, and the items from the provided kit, create a shamrock to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Some knowledge of sewing is necessary. While supplies last. For teens and adults. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Monday, March 8 During library open hours

**Easter Egg Decorating kit:** Who said decorating eggs was for kids? This Take and Make craft kit will provide the supplies for creating a decorated egg for display. While supplies last. For adults. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Monday, March 29 During library open hours



**NOW OPEN WEDNESDAYS**  
from 12-6pm. Mon, Tues,  
Thurs and Friday are virtual

**WHAT WE OFFER:** Peer-to-peer mentoring & adult-to-youth mentoring to support, assist, and develop:

- Life Skills, Vocational skills, Social skills, Academic skills and Relational skills

**We Promote** mental health through:

- Promoting healthy relationships, Education, Mindfulness, Meditation

**Big Lake Lions  
DRIVE-THRU**



DO NOT HAVE TO LEAVE YOUR CAR!



**MARCH 26, 2021**

Big Lake Lions/Township Park  
21960 - County Road 5

**4:00pm to 7:00pm**

**3 PIECES OF FRIED FISH**

*Baked Potato, Cole Slaw &  
Dinner Roll*

**\$10.00**

CASH OR CHECKS ONLY

All proceeds will go towards Big Lake HS  
Scholarships!

We collect old eye glasses – bring them with you.

**Debbie's Cleaning Service**

**"BusyBee"**

CHECK out our SPRING CLEANING  
SPECIALS!

BUZZ BUSYBEE at 763-566-5558



*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 [cscott@biglakemn.org](mailto:cscott@biglakemn.org) or 612-297-6331  
Attendees will be required to follow all current CDC and State guidelines.

**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.



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](mailto:blakk0178@gmail.com)

**Like and follow our Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/biglakefreedomrock>  
[www.Thefreedomrock.com](http://www.Thefreedomrock.com)

**Citizens for Big Lake Freedom Rock confirmed the artist is coming** late July-August to create the mural on the 10-ton rock at Lakeside Park. For more information on their pavers and how to support them, see their ad on the previous page.



**After 4 years of collaboration, Lupulin Brewing and Melvin Brewing of Wyoming cooperated to produce CoHoperation.**



**Farmers Market Sponsors Wanted!** Consider sponsoring the weekly events this summer at \$100, \$250, \$1000 or \$2000 level. Contact Corrie [here](#)



**Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge offers snowshoes.** You can snowshoe on service roads and venture off-trail through February 28. Hot Tip: Try snowshoeing the Prairie's Edge Wildlife Drive--but please don't block the entrance gate when you park. The refuge is offering free snowshoe checkout, based on availability. Sending your request by Thursday at 8 am [here](#)! Photo at right shows youth snowshoeing!



# 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



**FREE FAMILY FUN FOR EVERYONE!**



**ECFE in the PARK!**

**EACH EVENT WILL INCLUDE**

- FREE BOOK
- FREE COMMUNITY RESOURCES
- MUSIC, MOVEMENT, ART & MORE!

**2021 DATES & PARKS**

10-11:30 am

- JUNE 9- LIBERTY ELEM.
- JUNE 23- LAKE RIDGE
- JULY 14- SANFORD SELECT ACRES
- JULY 28- HIGHLINE
- AUG 11- WRIGHTS CROSSING
- AUG 25- LAKESIDE PARK

Register Online: [www.biglakecc.org](http://www.biglakecc.org)

## March's Business After Hours Cancelled

March's Business after Hours has been cancelled. Members are encouraged to attend the Member of the Year celebration. Register [here!](#)

## 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 and February but were not present to win include Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association (BELIA), Big Lake Community Food Shelf, Magic Mushrooms in the Crystal Garden and United Bus Sales.

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

## March Membership Meeting

Join us for our March membership meeting at 11:30 am on **Tuesday, March 30th**. City of Big Lake staff and Big Lake Police Chief Joel Scharf will speak.

Registration is at 11:30 and the presentation begins at 12pm. Lunch costs \$15.

Photo to the upper right is from our February meeting in which Sherburne County Administrator Bruce Messelt (at left) and Assistant Administrator Dan Weber shared county activities and encouraged businesses to check out the Entrepreneur Lab. To grow and manager your business, check out the services [here!](#)



### 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, March 24th. Full page ads can be added for only \$25 per month.



# MARCH 2021 CALENDAR

Sunday    Monday    Tuesday    Wednesday    Thursday    Friday    Saturday

	1 Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3 Office Closed	4 Office Closed	5	6
7	8	9 <b>Board Meeting</b> 12:30 City Council Chambers & virtually	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 <b>Member of the Year Celebration</b> 5:30 pm Style Catering. Register <a href="#">here!</a>	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 <b>Membership Meeting</b> 11:30 featuring City of Big Lake and Big Lake Police Department	31			

## Mark Your Calendar!

Thursday, April 15 at 5 pm: **Business After Hours** at Trail's

Tuesday, April 27th at 11:30 am Big Lake Schools **Membership Meeting.**

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

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

Thursday in September: Golf Scramble