

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

*It was exciting to learn of owner Eric Petersen & McPete’s Sports Bar & Lanes winning the vote from our members for the 2020 **Member of the Year** award. See page 5 for photos of the celebration!*

McPete’s has generously donated staff time, their bowling lanes, mini-golf and facilities to thousands of kids and families at our Block Party for the past 11 years. Whatever was needed at that event, Eric was happy to provide it!

They have also donated and supported so many different non-profit organizations and youth groups in the Big Lake area. Congratulations to the owners and staff of McPete’s!

MEMBER OF THE MONTH: McPete’s

Twenty-three years ago Eric Petersen bought into McPete’s Sports Bar and Lanes where he had worked for 4 years during college. His partner Bob McDowell had been active in the Big Lake Commercial Club, which started the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce. McDowell also helped start Spud Fest.

“I joined the Chamber over 20 years ago,” reminisced Petersen. “It is important for businesses owners to work together on issues that we can’t do alone.”

In 2007 McPete’s doubled in size: doubling the lanes, bar and dining areas. They have around 28 full and part-time employees. Petersen proudly noted that 3 employees have been with Eric since he bought the business and 2 employees have worked for him at least 20 years.

McPete’s is truly an entertainment center with bowling, mini-golf, bean bags, pool, darts, arcades and volleyball.

“I’m looking forward to a better 2021,” Petersen added. “I truly appreciate the support from the community that we’ve had.”

In the back at left is Owner Eric Petersen, Heather, Angie & Debbie. Front at left is Stephanie, Becky, Paul & Chad.



CAREFREE CLEANING

Carefree Cleaning began in January 2017 and has been growing ever since. Owner Chad Hollister says, "Our growth has been mostly word of mouth and reputation. We work really hard and are scrupulously honest. We are looking forward to continuing to grow and evolve into a more complex company". You can email him [here](#) or call 763-248 8414. Check out his website [here!](#)

DAIRY2U--BIG LAKE

Dairy2U delivers local farm-fresh healthy foods right to your home/office once a week. Items include milk & butter, eggs, cheese, bakery goods, meat of all kinds, pizza, coffee, artisan ice cream, and many more! Shawn Quarberg will give you 20% off your first order and if you subscribe to weekly or bi-weekly delivery he'll give you 10% off all of your orders. Orders can be placed online [here](#) or you can call Shawn @ 612-237-9959 or email him [here](#). He is confident that once you start ordering from them, you will look forward to receiving your dairy products and all of the quality food items they carry for you!



Photo Credit © Copyright 27Wolf Photography

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
Like and follow our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/biglakefreedomrock>
www.Thefreedomrock.com

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
Rumsey, MN, 55303
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BRADY.BAGNE@SPMC.COM





CHAMBER PARKS CHALLENGE!

CHAMBER PARKS CHALLENGE



Sherburne County Area United Way
Chamber Parks Challenge
Big Lake, Elk River Area, Princeton Area
Chambers of Commerce

The Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with the Elk River Area Chamber of Commerce, the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce and Sherburne County Area United Way (SCAUW) are challenging our citizens to Visit Local Parks.

When families, young adults, seniors, neighbors, dog owners stop in at a local park from now through April 25th and send a selfie to SCAUW's Facebook page with the name of the park and #biglakeparkschallenge2021, they could win weekly prizes and become eligible for the Grand Prize valued at nearly \$800.

Check out [here](#) the interactive maps from the participating communities, including the City of Big Lake as well as other information!

With no photos submitted for the first week from the Big Lake Community, the prize of a \$20 gift certificate from ProFusion CBD and a gift bag from Old National Bank including a \$20 gift card for local pizza and other items will be awarded to 2 entries on Monday, April 12th. Other weekly prizes include a duffle bag with a yoga mat, hammock, water bottle, shaker and Bluetooth speaker from CentraCare Health and a seasonal Lakeside Park pass, beach towel, child's sand bucket and shovel from City of Big Lake. We thank our sponsors for their generosity.

The Grand Prize valued at nearly \$800 include a free seasonal parking pass at the City of Big Lake's Lakeside Park, a weekend camping with canoe rental and splash pad tickets from the City of Princeton, certificates for Debbie's Cleaning, Dakota's Doggy Care & Play It Again Sports.

Challenge your staff, neighbors, family and friends to explore our great parks! A traveling trophy will be awarded to Chamber with most entries and currently Princeton is in the lead.



Debbie's Cleaning Service
"BusyBee"



Feeling like you paid too much in taxes this year?

Contact your financial advisor today to learn about investing strategies that could benefit you.

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

Explore Your Local Parks & Win Prizes

April 1-25

Post a park selfie on SCAUW's Facebook page using the hashtag #princetonparkschallenge2021 #elkriverparkschallenge2021 #biglakeparkschallenge2021

Weekly Prizes! Huge Grand Prize!

For the full details: sherburneunitedway.org/events

SCAN ME



COMMUNITY FAIR!

May 8th

PLAN TO JOIN US AT THE BIG LAKE COMMUNITY FAIR MAY 8th

Community Fair Planning Committee is excited to announce our 2021 Big Lake Community Fair will be held on Saturday, May 8th from 10-1 pm at the Big Lake High School.

New this year is that all proceeds will go to the BLHS scholarships. The Food Court and Farmers Market will be held outside along with businesses, youth associations or non-profits wishing a less-expensive area.

Sponsorships are available at the Platinum, Gold and Silver Levels. Members can also donate to give away a bike to the youth who attend. State Farm is the first member to be a bike sponsor!

Early bird registration is Tuesday, April 6th for inside booths with final registration for booths inside and outside on April 21st. COVID-19 guidelines will be observed including masks inside the gym and 6-ft distancing. The registration form is below or sign up online [here!](#)

We thank our Silver Sponsors:



Carla & Brad Swanson

Cindy Lemm

2021 Community Fair
 Saturday, May 8, 2021
 10 am—1 pm
 Big Lake High School

With Farmers Market Outside

COVID guidelines will be observed inside, including masks

BUSINESS NAME: _____

TYPE OF BUSINESS/ MAIN SERVICES: _____

PRIMARY CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Registration fee includes: 8x10 draped booth, 1 8ft. draped table & two chairs, fully carpeted area inside gym, & promoting the event. Set up times: 8:00 -9:45 am on 5/8.

- ◊ 6 PREMIUM Booth Spaces at entrance of Fair- for an additional \$50: only available until April 6th (same day that Early Bird Discount ends)
- ◊ Early Bird- \$20 Discount on registration if paid by April 6, 2021
- ◊ Sales of new, pre-packaged items will be allowed at booths.
- ◊ PLEASE NOTE: Open food is NOT permitted in any part of the gymnasium. If you wish to give samples, we are offering one complimentary outside food court table with a paid booth in the gymnasium

Food Court will be located outside the gym and is for FREE FOOD samples ONLY; sales in the court will NOT be permitted

Booth Space:	Sub-total:
<input type="checkbox"/> Chamber member**: 1 booth @ \$200.00; additional booths @ \$125 each (does not include electricity)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Chamber member: 1 booth @ \$350.00 ; additional booths @ \$200 each (does not include electricity)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Premium Booth Space ___x \$50.00 additional charge to booth fee.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Outside Space (10x10) ___x \$50 (bring your own tables, chairs, tent if needed)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Outside Food Court Table (members) # of tables ___x \$75.00 (includes electric)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Outside Food Court Table (non-members) # of tables ___x \$125 (includes elect)	_____

Extra, Optional Items:

- Electricity \$20 (inside/out; one outlet per booth, limited, bring your own cord) _____
- Additional skirted table 4ft__6ft__8ft__ x \$30.00 (do not bring your own) _____
- Complimentary Outside Food Court table with paid booth for food samples _____

Full Payment Must Accompany This Registration Form
 Payment Information: Checks, Cash, or Visa/MasterCard accepted. Make checks payable and mail to: Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry, PO Box 241, Big Lake, MN 55309

Name on Card _____ Number _____ Expiration _____

Signature _____ Date _____ CVC _____

\$20 discount if payment received by April 6, 2021 (gym booths only) - _____

Total Paid: _____

Registration deadline is Wednesday, April 21st, 2021

*Your booth is NOT confirmed unless payment is received. A confirmation email will immediately be sent as soon as payment arrives. If you do not receive a confirmation email from the BLOC&I, we did not receive your info or payment. Please contact us if you do not receive it within one week of registration. **If you check member pricing, you must be up-to-date on your membership dues**

*Your booth is NOT confirmed unless payment is received. A confirmation email will immediately be sent as soon as payment arrives. If you do not receive a confirmation email from the BLOC&I, we did not receive your info or payment. Please contact us if you do not receive it within one week of registration. **If you check member pricing, you must be up-to-date on your membership dues**



OUR 2020 MEMBER OF THE YEAR!



Forty-four members and guests attended the Chamber's 2020 **Member of the Year** celebration on March 18th at Style Catering.



At left, Board Chair Monica Parrish of Meraki Property Management & Consulting LLC thanked the nominees for attending: Lupulin Brewing Company, McPete's Sports Bar & Grill and Old National Bank. Stacy from Style Catering was preparing the buffet line.



At upper right, award sponsor and Big Lake Mayor Paul Knier of Cabot Lodge Securities was happy to announce the winner selected by the members last fall: Eric Petersen of McPete's, for their 11 years of support with the Big Lake Block Party and numerous donations to other non-profits and youth associations (photo credit goes to Corrie Scott of City of Big Lake and a Planning Committee member).



In the photo at left, Stephanie & Eric Petersen are preparing to cut the cake donated by Old National Bank. At right Planning Committee members Naomi Jacobson of Riverwood Bank and Donna Clarksean of Old National Bank help members and guests sign in and buy 50:50 game tickets.



Silent auction items were donated by Ace Solid Waste, AutoStop, Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association, Big Lake Police Department, Cargill, Casey's, Coborn's, Kwik Trip, Loch Jewelers, Lupulin Brewing, Meraki Property Management, Minnco Credit Union, Monticello Printing, Old National Bank, Park Dental, PATRIOT News, Riverwood Bank, Lauri Robinson and Sherburne State Bank. Donors to our beer/wine/spirits table included Big Lake Community Food Shelf, Chamber staff, City of Big Lake staff, DATASuccess, Debbie's Cleaning, Lakes Liquor, Lupulin, PATRIOT News and Riverwood Bank.



Big Lake Community Fair

Saturday, May 8, 2021

10 am - 1 pm

Big Lake High School

Free admission

Free information on products

Free food

Free giveaways including bikes!

Buy locally-produced items at Farmers Market

Platinum Sponsor \$1000

Gold Sponsor \$500

Silver Sponsor \$250

Bike Sponsor \$100

All Sponsors (except bike sponsors) receive a free booth, recognition on the Chamber website, Facebook, ads and at Community Fair! Gold and Platinum sponsors receive additional recognition as donors of bikes.

Booth Registration is NOW OPEN!

Go to the Big Lake Chamber website for details.

Registrations due by April 21. Save \$20 if submitted by April 6

www.biglakechamber.com - 763-263-7800

info@biglakechamber.com



City of Big Lake Special Election



A special election is held from 7 am-8 pm on Tuesday, April 13th in Big Lake

for the open city council seat when Paul Knier was elected as mayor. Citizens are encouraged to vote at their precinct at City Hall, Public Works building and Saron Lutheran Church. Candidates are Ketti Green, Kim Nording and Donna Pouliot. Photo at upper left is Mayor Paul Knier encouraging members at the March membership meeting to vote.

Governor Needs to Give a Plan to Fully Open Businesses

In mid-March the Big Lake Chamber joined 90 other Chambers and trade associations requesting that Governor Walz present a plan to fully open businesses. An open letter to the editor was submitted to area newspapers.

MN Senate Approves PPP Tax Conformity



While several weeks ago the MN Senate approved federal tax conformity for businesses receiving PPP loans to mitigate their losses due to COVID, the DFL-led House and Governor Walz have not yet approved this and have proposed a lesser amount of support.

With a \$1.6 billion projected surplus, we do not need to tax our businesses that have been hit the hardest from COVID restrictions. Our State Representative Paul Novotny is supporting tax conformity. On your behalf, the Big Lake Chamber has written Governor Walz & House Speaker Melissa Hortman encouraging their support.

COVID-19 UPDATE



Sherburne County COVID cases: as of April 5, we've had 9828 confirmed cases compared to 8642 in late Feb, and 7617 in Dec. We have 86 deaths compared to 80 in late Feb, 77 in Jan. and 29 deaths in Nov. In spite of the vaccinations, the county's 7-day average count has climbed to 46.9 compared to 10.1 in late Feb, 30 on Dec. 30th, 92.6 on Dec. 9th and a high of 174 in mid-Nov. Average age remains the same as last month at 39. Big Lake's cases total 1900 compared to 1700 in Feb and Jan, 1500 in Dec, 547 in Nov, 244 in Oct. and 163 in Sept. Check it out [here!](#) 18,669 persons in Sherburne County have received at least one dose of vaccine and 11,688 have completed the series.

On Tuesday, March 30 all residents 16 and older are eligible for vaccine. Vaccines are available at CentraCare Health-Monticello, Coborn's and Sherburne County Courthouse.



GOVERNOR WALZ BUDGET REQUEST

Governor Walz released his supplemental budget proposal last month. Despite an improved budget forecast of a \$1.6 billion state surplus, \$1.8 billion in budget reserve and \$2.5 billion in federal funds, **the governor is still recommending permanent tax increases including:**

- o Fifth tier of 10.85% at \$1,000,000 for married joint filers.
- o Capital gains tax surcharge of 1.5% on capital gains and dividend income over \$500,000 up to \$1,000,000 and 4% on income over \$1,000,000.
- o Corporate rate increase from 9.8% to 10.8%.
- o Taxation of foreign earnings.

WORKPLACE MANAGEMENT

Late last month the Minnesota House passed legislation requiring employers to provide employees with at least one hour of paid sick and safe time for every 30 hours worked. New mandates hurt employers and employees with a worker shortage already reaching a crisis. Employers use benefit packages to attract and retain quality employees – without the state telling them to do so

XCEL NUCLEAR PLANT SURVEY

Xcel Energy is asking residents living in Sherburne County to complete a survey regarding the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant and local emergency preparedness actions.

You can fill out the 5-minute survey [here!](#)



April is Technology Workforce Month in Minnesota! Join the SciTech Internship Program and the Minnesota Technology Association explore how three women broadened their horizons by pursuing careers In tech. From app development to web and game design, you can learn more on Thursday, April 22 at 11 AM. For more information and to register, check [here!](#)

Rivers of Hope Great Outdoors Gala is April 16th from 7-8 pm. The program will be streamed virtually with the auction available online starting April 12th. Sponsors and items for auction are still accepted. For more information and to register, check [here!](#)



Sovran Earns Microsoft Gold Cloud Platform Cert



Gold Cloud Productivity
Gold Cloud Platform
Silver Small and Midmarket Cloud Solutions
Silver Collaboration and Content
Silver Datacenter



"Having the 'Gold Cloud Platform' certification gives us access to even more specialized training and additional support to serve clients better."

- Shonn Twight, Sovran vCIO

Sovran is proud to announce we have just earned the Gold Cloud Platform certification from Microsoft! This means we will have access to new skills and information about Microsoft Azure, the cloud platform, which directly benefits our clients.

Check out our latest blog to learn more about this certification, and find out how Sovran can help your business.

Read More: Sovran Earns Gold Cloud Platform Cert

Check out the article [here!](#)

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

Debbie's Cleaning Service

"BusyBee"

CHECK out our SPRING CLEANING SPECIALS!

BUZZ BUSYBEE at 763-566-5558



A leading KILLER of Teens

WHAT

TEEN (ages 16-20) COLLISION AVOIDANCE/ADVANCED DRIVING SKILLS & PARENT AWARENESS PROGRAM

WHERE

Advanced Driving Range at the MN Hwy Safety & Research Center, 1805 U.S. Hwy 10 S, St. Cloud MN

WHEN

Saturday May 15th, 2021 8:30 am to 12:30 pm Saturday June 19th, 2021 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Wednesday June 30th, 2021 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm Saturday July 24th, 2021 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Thursday August 5th, 2021 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Limited experience and poor decision making skills by teens lead to serious injuries and fatal crashes. In this fast paced, action packed, hands on class, teens will practice challenging maneuvers in specially equipped vehicles, on a closed course, under the coaching of professional instructors. Teens must be able to operate a vehicle independently and have a valid driver's license. Parents are required to attend a 2 hour parent awareness program and then they will have the opportunity to observe their teen. The cost of the course is \$150.00 per student.

Teens will experience:

- Obstacle/Collision Avoidance
- Reaction Time Limitations
- Skid Recovery
- Inattentive Driving
- Off-Road Recovery
- Hazard Recognition
- Real Teen Driving Risks
- Teen Driving Laws
- Additional Resources HELP

PROTECT YOUR TEEN FROM THE HAZARDS OF THE ROAD; by registering at www.mnsafetycenter.org or call 1-888-234-1294 for more information.

ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY
EDUCATION FOR LIFE

St. Cloud State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, marital status, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or status as a U.S. citizen - The Title IX coordinator at SCSU with regards to public assistance, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or status as a U.S. citizen - The Title IX coordinator at SCSU is Elyse Bergan. For additional information, contact the Office of Equity & Affirmative Action, (321) 308-5123, Admin. Services Bldg. Rm 102.



Announced business and non-profit relief for Big Lake and Sherburne County. Big Lake's CARES grants were \$690,384, CARES Community Support Grants were 552,219 and State Business Relief grants were \$478,510. Sherburne County awarded \$7.750 million in grants.

Both MN and IRS has extended 2020 tax filing until May 17th.

Human Resource Executive sites survey from Blackhawk Network indicating 86% of employees want recognition of workplace accomplishments, anniversaries and achievements but 40% aren't receiving it. Employee suggestions include bonuses, time off work, prepaid or gift cards, personalized cards or emails and being singled out at a company event or ceremony. Check it out [here!](#)



Join **MN Chamber Women in Business** for a virtual chat on April 14th at 10 am with ALLETE CEO Bethany Owen as they seek to deliver 100% carbon-free energy to their customers by 2050. Register [here!](#)

BIG LAKE TOWNSHIP • ORROCK TOWNSHIP • CITY OF BIG LAKE

2021 RECYCLING DAY

Saturday, May 15th

Town of Big Lake Maintenance Bldg.
20150 166th St. NW

ITEMS ACCEPTED

- Appliances/Gas Grills \$10/ea
- Exercise Equipment \$15/ea
- Tube Televisions/Monitors \$25/ea
- Rear Projection/Wood Console TVs \$50/ea
- Computers & Electronics \$5/ea
- Tires **REMOVED FROM RIMS**
 - Passenger \$6/ea
 - Tractor \$40/ea
 - **ADDN'L RIM FEE \$5/ea**
- Lawn Mowers **ENGINE DRAINED OF GAS & OIL PRIOR TO ENTERING** \$15/ea
 - **ADDN'L DRAINING FEE \$10/ea**
- CFL & LED Bulbs (LIMIT 20) \$1/ea
- Ballasts (LIMIT 10) \$1/ea
- Propane Tanks
 - 20# \$5/ea
 - 1# \$1/ea
- FREE ITEMS**
- Lawn Tractors/Snowmobiles & 2-cycle Engines **ENGINE DRAINED OF GAS & OIL PRIOR TO ENTERING**
 - **ADDN'L DRAINING FEE \$45/ea**
- Scrap Metal
- Vehicle Batteries

GATES OPEN
8 AM - 1 PM



CALL 763-263-8111 OR 763-241-8787



Cash OR Check ONLY
Checks Payable to: **"TOWN OF BIG LAKE"**
Non-Sufficient Funds checks will be charged a service fee of \$30. An invoice will be mailed.

RESIDENTIAL ONLY

- ONLY ITEMS LISTED WILL BE ACCEPTED
- DONATE GENTLY USED ITEMS TO LOCAL CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS
- DISPOSE OF WELL USED ITEMS IN YOUR TRASH
- CALL YOUR WASTE HAULER TO PICK UP LARGER WELL USED ITEMS

EVENT FORMS WILL BE MAILED

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Local Government Websites
www.BIGLAKETOWNSHIP.com
www.ORROCKTOWNSHIP.com
www.BIGLAKEMN.org

Construction/Demo Debris
Elk River Landfill: 763-441-2464
Vonco II Landfill, Becker: 763-262-8662

HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE
Stearns County Facility: GOOGLE "HHW FACILITY"

RECYCLING & DISPOSAL GUIDE
WWW.CO.SHERBURNE.MN.US/ZONING/SW/FACILITIES.PHP

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 SENIORS PLAN PROM MAY 1st



Big Lake Schools are planning the Grand March and a dance for Saturday, May 1, at Big Lake High School following all COVID-19 requirements from MN Dept. of Health. Only Big Lake juniors and seniors will be able to attend the dance. Guests from other districts or younger/older students will be allowed to attend Grand March. Tentatively, Grand March will take place from 1:00-4:00 pm and the dance will take place from 8:00-10:30 pm. Both Grand March and the dance will take place in the gym.

NATIONAL BOARD-CERTIFIED TEACHERS:

Big Lake Schools were happy to announce that 20 past and present teachers are National Board-Certified. Check it out [here!](#)



Check out our events at [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.



CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Take Home Storytime Fridays: The books will be available for checkout with a related craft kit, while supplies last. For ages 2-6. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Every Friday

During library open hours

Zoom a Story: 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, April 30

10:30 a.m.

We're going on a Bear Hunt: Look around the library for woodland friends, go around the tall grass and through the mud. Once all items are found, return to the desk for a special treat. For ages 2-12. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

During the month of April

During library open hours

TEEN EVENTS

Tree Dot Painting kit: Using just dots of paint provided in this kit, create a unique tree dot painting. Kit is available while supplies last. For ages 7 and up. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Wednesday, April 28

During library open hours

FAMILY EVENTS

Popcorn and a Movie: Patron Appreciation Popcorn Fridays return to the Big Lake Library. Checkout a DVD on Fridays during the month of April and receive a package of microwave popcorn-limit one per patron. For all ages. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Fridays in April

During library open hours



NOW OPEN Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2-6pm. We will continue to operate online program activities on Monday and Friday

Mark your calendars! On **June 19th, 2021** **The Wave is hosting its first ever golf scramble fundraiser** and silent auction. More details to come - stay tuned!

We are looking for **Wave Ambassadors** to help us in our next fundraiser. Commit to a one-hour task or take on one of the bigger tasks - whatever you can. Check out their website

[here!](#)



Old Nat'l Bank is named as one of the 2021 World's Most Ethical Companies by Ethisphere, a global leader in defining and advancing ethical business practices. This is the 10th consecutive year they have received the award and they are only one of five honorees in the banking industry. 135 honorees in 22 countries and 47 industries were honored. Check it out [here!](#)



Lupulin Brewing was pleased to announce last week their latest year-round beer, Tropical Fun Pants. Mango, pink guava and passion fruit bring big fruit flavors with a balanced sweetness and they believe this is the perfect anytime fun beer.

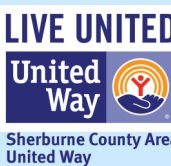


Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge announced that wildlife sanctuary is back in effect at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge. However, areas open year-round include the Oak Savanna Learning Center, Mahnomen and Blue Hill hiking trails, Prairie's Edge Wildlife Drive, fishing access points and designated canoe route. For more information, check it out [here!](#)



Chamber Board and staff express our deepest sympathy to the family of Jon Swanson of Minnco Credit Union and his coworkers on his sudden death Saturday, April 2nd. Jon volunteered on our Golf Scramble Planning Committee and recently attended both our 2020 Member of the Year celebration and our March membership meeting. Jon was an enthusiastic supporter of the business community in Big Lake and he will be missed.

Sherburne County Area United Way announced Kat Sarff as their new Executive Director upon the retirement of Joy Nadeau last October.



CITY OF BIG LAKE PRESENTS:

Movie

IN THE PARK(ING) LOT

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021
LAKESIDE PARK
FREE ADMISSION | FIRST COME FIRST SERVED
PARKING FROM 8:00PM-9:00PM
MOVIE STARTS AT DUSK: APPROX 9:00PM
(IF INCLEMENT WEATHER, MOVIE WILL BE RESCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, MAY 28)

ATTENDEES MUST FOLLOW ALL CURRENT CDC GUIDELINES

CONCESSIONS ON-SITE:
SMOKIN' J'S BBQ OFFERING BURGERS, SANDWICHES, FRIES, MINI DONUTS, AND MORE!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:
SHERBURNE WRIGHT CABLE COMMISSION, BIG LAKE SPUD FEST, & KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FOR DETAILS VISIT BIGLAKEMN.ORG



FREE FAMILY FUN FOR EVERYONE!



ECFE
in the PARK!



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

EACH EVENT WILL INCLUDE

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

Register Online: www.biglakecc.org

April's Business After Hours



April's Business after Hours is scheduled for 5 pm at Trail's. There is no cost but members are encouraged to register [here!](#)

Network Prize Drawing WINNER!

For the second month in a row, Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association (BELIA) was drawn as a winner of the network box prizes. In February no one was present at the membership meeting but in March, Lori Andreen of BELIA was able to claim the prizes valued at \$414.

Members who had their names drawn this year but were not present to win include Big Lake Community Food Shelf, Coborn's, Magic Mushrooms in the Crystal Garden and United Bus Sales.

More prizes are needed but current Network Prizes include:



4-pack of Works Plus Car Washes



Free Drink

April Membership Meeting



Join us for our April membership meeting at 11:30 am on **Tuesday, April 27th** at Big Lake Schools. Superintendent Tim Truebenbach and Director of Community Education and Communications Allen Berg will update us on their programs and services.

Registration is at 11:30 and the presentation begins at 12pm. Lunch costs \$15. and you can register [here!](#)



Photo to the left is from our March meeting in which City of Big Lake Administrator Clay Wilfahrt shared both residential and commercial growth this year. In the upper right photo, Big Lake Schools Superintendent encourages members to be a sponsor or sign up for a booth at the May 8th Community Fair.



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, April 21st. Full page ads can be added for only \$25 per month. Are you a new member? Ask the Chamber



APRIL 2021 CALENDAR

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 SPECIAL ELECTION: Big Lake Council Board Meeting 12:30 at McPete's & virtually	14	15 Business After Hours. 5 pm. Trail's. Register here!	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Membership Meeting 11:30 Big Lake Schools update & Community Educ. Register here!	28	29	30	

Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday, May 8th from 10-1 at Big Lake Schools: **Big Lake Community Fair**

Thursday, May 20th at 5 pm: **Business After Hours**

Tuesday, May 25th at 5:30 pm at Russell's: **Legislative Membership Meeting.**

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

Thursday in September: Golf Scramble