

**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**

*The November 2nd Big Lake School Special Election has 2 very important issues for its area citizens: a \$30 million bond referendum projected to have no new taxes and electing a new school board member among 5 candidates.*

*See page 2 for more information. Join us at the Forum tonight, Oct 7th.*

*But most importantly, review the information and VOTE! It is easy to ignore special elections but it is vital for citizens to vote.*



**BUSINESS OF THE MONTH:**

While Meraki Property Management & Consulting, LLC opened for business just last year, partners Monica Parrish & Jen McDonough have over 30 years of experience in the Property Management industry, specializing in managing multi-family apartment buildings.



They manage a variety of rental properties including single family homes, duplexes, associations and apartments. Their full scope of management services include rent collections, advertising and leasing vacant homes, handling resident communications, overseeing maintenance, and financial reporting to rental owners.

“We joined the Chamber,” noted Parrish, “to build connections and to be part of this business community.” Parrish serves as the



Chamber Board Chair. She received her Pastoral credentials last year and she writes for the PATRIOT newspaper. She is pictured with McDonough in the photo at left.

“There is something special about this lake-centered community. My family enjoy living and working here!” exclaimed Parrish.



**BIG LAKE SCHOOL SPECIAL ELECTION FORUM**



The Big Lake School Board has approved asking the voters to support a \$30 million referendum for various deferred capital projects in a special election on Nov 2nd. Projects could include roofs and ventilation systems, and renovations to educational spaces including career and technical education, special education, and other instructional spaces. The school has indicated this will result in \$0 increase in taxes as the Liberty School bond will be paid off on Feb. 1st, 2022. School Superintendent Tim Truebenbach, Director of Community Education & Communications Allen Berg, Business Services Manager Angie Manuel and Building & Grounds Manager TJ Zerwas will present information about the referendum to-night, Oct 7th beginning at 6:30 in the high school auditorium.

Additionally, 5 candidates (Chelsey Hancock, Alison Krueger, Derek Nelson, Ashley Schabilion and Connie Stegora) are vying for the 1 school board seat and will be presenting their priorities. Questions can be submitted at the Forum.



**BIG LAKE SCHOOLS BOND REFERENDUM & BOARD SPECIAL ELECTION CANDIDATES FORUM**

Thursday, October 7, 2021 from 6:30-9pm  
Big Lake High School Auditorium

- 6:30-7:15 pm Bond Referendum Presentation and Q&A
- 7:15 School Board Candidate Forum
- Chelsey Hancock
- Alison Krueger
- Derek Nelson
- Ashley Schabilion
- Connie Stegora

Questions will be accepted from audience OR  
email your question to: info@biglakechamber.com by Wed noon, Oct 6th

Please vote at the polls on Tuesday, Nov 2nd from 7 am-8 pm at Big Lake City Hall (all precincts) OR early in-person at the School District Office weekdays from 7:30 am - 3:30 pm beginning September 17.



**Hours:** Mon 1-6p; Tues: 10a-2; Wed 1-7p; Thur:2-6p; Fri: 10-5p; Sat: 10-1p

**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!](#) Social distancing measures will be in place at programs. Please stay home when sick.



**Mixed Nuts Comedy Show:** This performance is an adrenaline driven comedy with uproarious audience participation. Fun for the whole family. Limit 30. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Saturday, Oct 9 10:30-11:10

**Glass Mosaic with Laura Rupercht:** All supplies provided, at this IN-PERSON program, to create a glass mosaic to take home. For ages 10 and up. Limit 15. Registration required. A Legacy event.

Monday, Oct 11 5-8 pm

**Make Your Own Halloween Bag:** Supplies included in this Take & Make kit. Kits available while supplies last. For ages 6 to 12. Limit 12. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Wednesday, Oct 20 1 pm



**OPEN** Monday through Thursday 3:30 - 7 pm and Friday 3:30-6 pm.

**The new Executive Director is Gabriela Dillon.** She welcomes anyone to visit her and check out the facility during her office hours 11 -3 pm Monday-Friday.

## BUSINESSES & PRIZES NEEDED

Businesses & members are needed to participate in our 2nd Annual Halloween Photo Scavenger Hunt on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 30th. You are encouraged to set aside a space either inside or outside your business for a photo opportunity for young adults, children or families in Halloween costumes. Please feel free to offer candy, promotional or educational items in that area. This is a great way to welcome area citizens to your business.

All participating businesses will be listed in FB posts and on our webpage, along with clues for that business. Photos are then taken and submitted to the Chamber's email that day to win prizes for the Most Businesses Visited and Most Creative Costume! Last year we had 15 businesses participate!

The photo to the right is last year's winner of the Most Creative Costume: the Robinson Family at Old National Bank. They won a \$50 gift card to McPete's, donated by Big Lake Police Department. The adults in costume below were joined by Big Lake Ambassadors at Big Lake Spud Fest's float and they won \$25 gift card and a sweatshirt from Trail's.

Prizes are also needed. Please contact the office if you are interested in participating or providing a prize.



## HALLOWEEN PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT

Saturday, Oct 30, 2021

**COME OUT for a scavenger hunt with families and friends  
in your Halloween Costumes!**

Match clues with a list of Chamber members published on [www.biglakechamber.com](http://www.biglakechamber.com) and the Big Lake Chamber Facebook page at noon on 10/30. Take a Photo of Your Group at each member you visit and email the photos to [info@biglakechamber.com](mailto:info@biglakechamber.com) that evening to win a **great prize!**

**Prizes Awarded: Most Members Visited & Most Creative Costumes**

You could win GREAT PRIZES!



## 2021 MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS



All members are encouraged to nominate the 2021 Member of the Year by Friday, Oct 29th. Voting will occur in November. The award, sponsored by Cabot Lodge Securities-Paul Knier, will be announced at the Chamber's Holiday Social on Thursday, Dec. 2nd at Style Catering, next to City Hall. The winner receives a beautiful award and 2 free tickets to the Social. Previous winners include Great River Spine & Sport--Dr. Scott Schulz in 2019 and McPete's--Eric Petersen in 2020.

### Criteria

- \* Owner(s) and/or staff volunteer or support community organizations
- \* Is a Chamber member in good standing.

### Nomination:

Please nominate the deserving Chamber member by emailing [info@biglakechamber.com](mailto:info@biglakechamber.com) and responding to these two questions:

- \* I would like to nominate \_\_\_\_\_.
- \* This member is deserving of the Member of the Year Award because (please include comments about your nominee's initiative, innovation, leadership, growth and/or staff motivation): \_\_\_\_\_

## Free Veteran Dinner

for Veterans, Active Military and Guest.



Saturday, October 9, 2021

11am-2pm (or until gone)

Big Lake Township Hall ~ Lion's Park  
21960 Co Rd 5

\*Indoor Seating\*  
(Rain or Shine)



- ★ Free Parking at Lion's Park
- ★ Dinner will be catered by The Pork Chop Guys
- ★ See our Facebook page for more information

Sponsored by... Big Lake American Legion Post 147,  
Big Lake American Legion Auxiliary Unit 147

**BIG LAKE AMERICAN**

**LEGION AUXILIARY**

**Soup and Sip**

**Saturday, Oct 23 at 4:30 pm at**

**Please consider cash donation, gift card or silent auction item!**





# BOARD DIRECTOR POSITIONS OPEN

## 4 BOARD DIRECTOR POSITIONS OPEN!

The Chamber Board will have 4 director positions starting Jan 1, 2022 for the members to approve on or before our Annual Membership Meeting on Nov. 30th. The terms of Oscar Cooper of El Teca Barber Shop, Yvonne Blum of Minnco Credit Union and Tim Suchy of Edward Jones have expired and Allen Snegosky of Sherburne State Bank has announced his resignation due to work obligations.

The Board meets monthly and directors are asked to join 1 Committee as well as promote the Chamber to businesses they associate with.

After serving for 2 terms (6 years) as well as being Chair and Vice-Chair, Tim Suchy would like to see other members serve and so will not be re-running. Oscar Cooper & Yvonne Blum have agreed to run, leaving the need for 2 new Board members.

If anyone is interested in being on the Board, please contact a Board member or Gloria by Nov. 1st



### You're Retired. Your Money Isn't.

To learn about the different options for your retirement accounts, call my office today.



**Tim Suchy, AAMS\*, CRPC\***  
Financial Advisor [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)  
Member SIPC  
690 Humboldt Drive Suite D  
Big Lake, MN 55309  
763-262-9988



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## MANUFACTURING MONTH!

October is Manufacturing Month and we want to recognize our member manufacturers: Cargill and Howmet Aerospace.

According to Sherburne County 2020 Profile, manufacturing is the 2nd largest employer behind agriculture. DEED Regional Analyst Luke Greiner reported late last month that the average annual manufacturing wage is more than \$57,500, well above the region's overall average of \$48,500. Current manufacturing openings are over 1700 in central MN.

## MN OWES \$1 BILLION IN UNEMPLOYMENT



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Doug Loon is urging Governor Walz, DEED Commissioner Steve Grove and lawmakers to spend the one-time new federal funds of \$2.6 billion to pay off \$1.1 billion unemployment trust fund deficit to the federal government and avoid another financial hit to businesses. "The Chamber has recommended using American Rescue Plan Act funds to address this deficit," Loon told The Center Square in a statement. "We are obviously concerned that Minnesota employers – many of whom are still seeking workers or are still recovering from the pandemic's economic hit – are going to have to weather another significant cost to restore the Trust Fund to its required reserve levels." Interest costs are at 2.27%. [Check it out](#) in this article.

**MN Chamber** also presented their legislative update which identified our Representative Paul Novotny and Senator Mary Kiffmeyer as supporting all business-related bills such as reinsurance and PPP tax conformity. Thank you both for your commitment to help our communities grow. Read about it [here!](#)

## U.S. DEFICIT AT \$2.7 TRILLION

Finance & Commerce reported that U.S. deficit rose to \$2.7 trillion in August, which is less than last year's \$3.13 trillion. [Read about it here!](#)

## UNEMPLOYMENT & LABOR FORCE STATS



DEED announced Minnesota's unemployment rate improved slightly and dropped one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.8% in August due to people moving out of unemployment and into employment, according to numbers released today by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Minnesota's labor force participation rate held steady at 67.8% in August. These stats are better than the national unemployment rate of 5.2% and the labor force participation rate at 61.7%. The St. Cloud Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has a 2.1% increase from last August, the lowest in the state and considerably lower than Mankato SMA's 4.8% and Mpls-St Paul SMA at 3.8%.



**Vaccinations:** MN Chamber is offering resources on President Biden's mandate in early September dictate "that all employers with more than 100 workers require them to be vaccinated or test for the virus weekly, affecting about 80 million Americans." [Check it out here!](#)



**SBA EIDL Loans** were revised early last month to increase the maximum loan to \$2 million from \$500,000 and extend the deferment period for 24 months. [Check it out here!](#)

**US Deficit Rose to \$2.7 trillion** in August according to Finance & Commerce. [Read about it here!](#)



SciTech Internship Program is offering small businesses to build its future workforce, source great talent AND access a wage match to cover 50% of a college STEM intern's wages. Employers receive a wage match of 50% of the intern's wages, worth up to \$2,500. At least 200 wage matches are available on a first-come, first-hire basis. Industries include tech, biotech, engineering, manufacturing, energy, aerospace, ag and more! [Find out more here!](#)



**Suggests quarterly performance check-ins** or engagement instead of annual reviews. Read about it [here!](#)



**Retail Doctor Bob** advised employers to consider their employees as assets rather than cost centers. Check it out [here!](#) In [this article](#) he offers 15 ways to increase profits.

**TLNT** suggests in [this](#) article that training and development could be behind the Great Resignation!

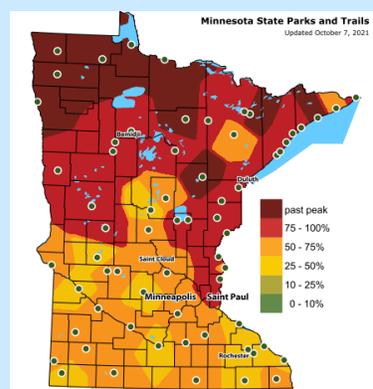


**Suggests Ways to Slow Down** females leaving the labor force [here](#). In [this](#) article they suggest ways to bring women back that may have left the labor force during COVID to take care of children or elders.

**MN Dept of Natural Resources** updates its fall colors map weekly. Check it out [here!](#)



**Branch Office in Big Lake** opens Friday, Oct 8. Stop in and chat with Branch Manager Presten Bean. Grand opening will be announced soon!





**The City of Big Lake** has unveiled a new community brand and design identity. According to a recent press release, this update to its brand reflects the positive growth the community has seen as more residents and businesses have made the community their home. Big Lake has a history of being a popular location for summer recreation. Today, the area is considered a prosperous community beyond the metro's northwest suburbs that is home to a family oriented, highly-educated population. It is consistently ranked as one of the safest communities in the state. The new Big Lake brand celebrates the physical and attitudinal aspects that allows the community to thrive. The logo's illustration of the two lakes signifies the physical beauty of the community, while the new motto of "Live Big!" describes what residents and visitors can expect. "You can Live Big in Big Lake," explained Mayor Paul Knier and one of our members, Cabot Lodge Securities. "We have great housing stock, phenomenal jobs, beautiful nature, and many amenities within a 15-minute drive. Whatever you want you can find it here."



**Cargill** announced late last month that as demand for bio-based industrial solutions continues to grow, they entered into an agreement to acquire Arkema's epoxides business which includes a facility located in Blooming Prairie, MN. After closing, the investment will give Cargill end-to-end production capabilities in bio-based plasticizers and polyols and enable the company to better serve its industrial customers with nature-derived alternatives to traditional petroleum-based additives.

**SOVRAN** reminds our members that VMware announced late last month that there are currently 19 security patches, some of which are very high on the danger scale. Members' VMware servers should be patched as soon as possible for the vulnerability identified as CVE-2021-22005. Contact Traci at [tleffner@sovrn.com](mailto:tleffner@sovrn.com).



**Lupulin Brewing Company** was excited to receive 2 bronze medals from the U.S. Open Beer Championship 2021 with their chocolate peanut butter CPB and their B.A. Doppelbock, a Barrel-Aged German Lager-style beer. This lager won the gold medal in 2020. Only 6 breweries from MN won medals among the 8000 beers submitted across the globe. They are also offering \$1 beers any Friday night during the school year to teachers, counselors, administrators, janitors, teacher aides, cooks, nurses who provide their school ID/badge to show their appreciation for everything they do!



**Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge** announced changes to its hunting policies. Check it out along with the opening of service roads to biking and hiking [here!](#)



## October's Business After Hours

October's Business after Hours is scheduled for 5 pm on Thursday, Oct. 21st at El Loro You can register [here!](#) Last month we had members attending Business after Hours representing Big Lake Schools, Minnco Credit Union as well as a guest.

## Network Drawing Box valued at \$400

We had a winner! Dan McElwee of St. Croix Valley Insurance was attending our September membership meeting virtually when his name was drawn from the box. Members who had their names drawn this year but were not present to win include Big Lake Area Veterinary Hospital, Big Lake Community Food Shelf, Big Lake "Do It Best" Lumber, Casey's, CentraCare Health, Coborn's, DATASuccess, Freedom Strategy Group, Lofgren Construction, Magic Mushrooms in the Crystal Garden, MN Senator Mary Kiffmeyer, Northstar Technology Solutions and United Bus Sales.

Current Network Prizes are valued at \$400 and include:

**GREAT RIVER** Massage and First Chiro Check  
SPINE & SPORT

 FREE Drink

 and Monticello Printing Certificates

**PATRIOT**

Color Ads

## October 26th Membership Meeting

Join us for our October Membership Meeting at 11:30 am on **Tuesday, October 26th** at Big Lake Middle School. Speakers include Superintendent Tim Truebenbach, Director of Community Education & Communications Allen Berg, Business Services Manager Angie Manuel and Building & Grounds Manager TJ Zerwas. They will be sharing information about the \$30 million bond referendum having no increase in taxes on the Nov. 2nd Special Election ballot.

Registration is at 11:30 am. Introductions and Committee Reports begin at noon. Pasta Bar lunch by Chartwells costs \$15 and you can register [here!](#)



Photo at left is from our September Membership Lunch with Central MN Council on Aging Mary Bauer sharing resources for the aging population.

### 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, Oct 27th. Full page ads can be added for only \$25 per month. Are you a new member? Ask the Chamber how to redeem your free full page ad!

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 <b>Big Lake Schools Special Election Forum.</b> 6:30 at Auditorium	8	9
10	11	12 <b>Board Meeting</b> 12:30 in-person and virtually	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 <b>Business After Hours.</b> 5 pm at El Loro. Register <a href="#">here!</a>	22	23
24	25	26 <b>Membership Meeting</b> 11:30 at Big Lake Middle School. Register <a href="#">here!</a>	27	28	29	30 <b>Halloween Photo Scavenger Hunt</b>
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**Mark Your Calendar!**

Tuesday, November 2nd: Big Lake Schools Special Election at City Hall (all precincts) from 7 am- 8 pm. Remember to **VOTE!**

Thursday, November 18th at 5 pm: Business After Hours

Tuesday, November 30th at 11:30: Membership Annual Meeting

Late November: Christmas Tree decorating at Browns Park.

Thursday, Dec 2nd at 5 pm: Holiday Social & 2021 Member of the Year Award at Style Catering

Saturday, April 23, 2022: Community Fair at Big Lake High School