

**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 952-392-8805

**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**

*As a part-time lay pastor who has officiated at funerals, I truly appreciate the work and the patience of funeral directors. I was blessed this past Christmas to officiate at a joint Spanish-English memorial service at Williams Dingmann in Big Lake for a young man who had died unexpectedly. The care that the staff took to meet the varying needs of grieving family members is truly remarkable.*



**BUSINESS OF THE MONTH:**



Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Homes opened their Big Lake location 3 years and became a member of the Chamber. “We always appreciate the work of the Chamber,” noted owner Doug Dingmann. “We are happy to be in Big Lake and involved in the community.

“We provide personalized memorial services as well as helping individuals pre-plan their funerals to ease that burden on their families,” continued Dingmann. “And we have our own crematory. For veterans, we work with the local American Legions, Veterans Administration and VA cemeteries and provide military honors and benefit information to spouses.”

Opened in 1873 and now as 4th generation of owners, Doug and his sister Deb Dingmann have locations in Avon, Becker, Clear Lake, Eden Valley, Long Prairie, Princeton, Sauk Rapids and St. Cloud.

Dingmann volunteers with the Sauk Rapids Fire Department, for the Knights of Columbus and in his church. He has brought a team of golfers to the Chamber’s Golf Scramble and this year his team took second place!

Pictured on left is Kyle Wahlin, Jamie Torborg, Mike Sand and Doug Dingmann.





# MEET YOUR NEW MEMBERS!

**BEAUDRY OIL & PROPANE** has been keeping families warm and businesses running since 1981, while the Beaudrys have lived and served in this community for over 100 years. Ken Beaudry and his family want to be part of what's next for this community and are proud to be members of the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce and Industry. We hope to help Big Lake Grow through our Fuels, Lubricants, and Propane divisions and know that we can be an affordable and safe option for your energy needs for years to come. We are proud to be members and hope you will call on us with your commercial or residential needs. J. Brian Calva can be reached at 763-633-1471 or emailed [here!](#) [Click here](#) to read more about them. Calva is a member of the Big Lake Economic Development Authority (BLEDA)



**NYSTROM RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT'S** Licensed Alcohol & Drug Counselors, Mental Health Professionals, and Psychiatry team work together to help patients struggling with Substance Use Disorders and co-occurring mental health conditions. Their treatment facility recently opened in Big Lake by the train station. Brian Teuber can be reached at 763-309-2021 or emailed [here](#). Their website can be accessed [here](#).



CITY OF BIG LAKE PRESENTS...

## 2021 HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST

- 1st Place: \$50 Gift Card to Lake Liquors
- 2nd Place: Lakeside Park Pass and City Swag

Voting will be open to the public this year and will be held between December 14 - 19, 2021. Find the link to vote on the City's Facebook Page and website at [www.biglakemn.org](http://www.biglakemn.org)

- OUTDOOR DISPLAYS ONLY
- OPEN TO ANY RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS LOCATED WITHIN BIG LAKE CITY BOUNDARIES
- FIRST PLACE WINNERS CANNOT WIN A PRIZE MORE THAN ONE CONSECUTIVE YEAR IN A ROW
- REGISTER FOR CONTEST ONLINE AT [BIGLAKEMN.ORG](http://BIGLAKEMN.ORG) OR BY TURNING IN BELOW REGISTRATION FORM TO CITY HALL BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021
- QUESTIONS? EMAIL [CSCOTT@BIGLAKEMN.ORG](mailto:CSCOTT@BIGLAKEMN.ORG)

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 By signing below, I agree to release my full name and address in all City publications of the Holiday Lighting Contest.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature Date



## Happy Thanksgiving

We thank you for the opportunity to work together and for making us feel at home in our community.



**Tim Suchy, AAMS®, CRPC®**  
 Financial Advisor  
 690 Humboldt Drive  
 Suite D  
 Big Lake, MN 55309  
 763-262-9988

[edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)  
 Member SIPC



MKT-9811B-A

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763-552-7370

613 Rose Dr. | Big Lake

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates are based on an evaluation of your credit history and other factors, so your rate may differ. Rate assumes a 0.25% discount for automatic recurring payments and a 0.25% discount for direct deposit to a Minnco checking account. All loans subject to approval. Rates are subject to change without notice. Payment example: \$25,000 auto loan for 60 months at 2.24% APR results in monthly payments of \$440.75.





**CHAMBER CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING  
AT BROWNS PARK**

**Monday, November 29, 2021**

**\$80 fee includes, tree, stand, electrical fees and hook-up and recognition sign or banner as well as removal and disposal of your tree.**

**Sponsors will be responsible for providing their own lights and decorations.**

**Only LED lights will be allowed.**

**Register by Nov 15th!**

**For more information, call 763-263-7800,**

**info@biglakechamber.com OR**

**www.biglakechamber.com/events/Details/**

**christmas-tree-decorating**





- Free Breakfast
- Take a walk through the Nativity Scene Gallery
- Participate in the all kids Kazoo Review
- Create a one of a kind keepsake ornament
- Bake Sale
- Looking for a gift?  
Bethlehem Boutique will specialize in low cost items—perfect for children to gift to loved ones complete with wrapping
- Help in the creation of greeting cards tie blankets for those in need

**Free Family Event**

# Breakfast in Bethlehem

Come and experience activities to learn about the true meaning of Christmas

**Saturday, December 4, 9 am – 12 pm**

Lord of Glory Lutheran Church  
15550 190th Ave NW, Elk River  
(Intersection of Hwy 10 & CR 15)

[www.lordofglorylutheran.org](http://www.lordofglorylutheran.org)



## HOLIDAY SOCIAL

**Thursday, Dec. 2, 2022 at 5:30 pm**  
Style Catering, next to City Hall



**Third Annual Member of the Year Winner Announced! Nominees:**

Edward Jones  
Minnco Credit Union  
Old National Bank



**Bring a fun wrapped gift for the Live Auction!**



**Donate beer, wine or liquor for our table!**



**Bid on Silent Auction Items! Consider donating an item!**

**Play Heads & Tails and 50:50 Pots!**

**PLEASE BRING ALL DONATIONS TO CHAMBER OFFICE BY Nov. 24!**

**Menu: Roast beef, a second meat entrée, seasoned baby red potatoes, vegetable, salad, homemade roll, coffee, water and cake!**



**BRING A GUEST!**

**Buy A Table for \$125 and get a free dinner ticket!**

Just \$25/person for dinner tickets.

Purchase a bundle at \$35 to include dinner, 1 50:50 ticket and 1 Heads or Tails ticket.



RSVP by 11/24!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS! HALLOWEEN PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT



**We thank all those who figured out the clues, went to our 16 participating members and submitted their photos!**

### WINNERS & Their Prizes Include:

**Most Creative Costume-Child:** Aaron & Stella Mismash winning \$25 VISA card from Great River Federal Credit Union, \$25 gift card from McPete's and a bag of books & videos from Friends of Big Lake Library.



**Most Creative Costume--Adult:** Chris & Teri Ningen winning \$100 cash from Big Lake Spud Fest



**Second Most Creative Costume:** Grace Gjerstad & Leia Hayes winning \$25 VISA gift card from Minnco Credit Union, \$20 gift card from Russell's and bag of books & videos from Friends of Big Lake Library



**Josh Bohnen, Kayla Harms and dog Harley** winning pet chip, install & registration from Big Lake Area Vet Hospital



**4-family Harms** winning \$20 in gift cards from Coborn's, \$25 gift card from Lupulin and Study Bible from Lord of Glory Church.



## RIBBON-CUTTING



We welcomed Liberty Bank to the community with our ribbon-cutting ceremony on 10/19!

Liberty Bank has been serving the financial needs of Central MN for 82 years with nearby banks in Monticello & St. Cloud.

In the photo starting at left is Gloria Vande Brake of the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce, Bre Clark of Liberty Bank, Yvonne Blum of Minnco Credit Union, Brenda Geldert of Options, Ralph Kiffmeyer of State Senator Mary Kiffmeyer, Hanna Klimmek of City of Big Lake, Tim Suchy of Edward Jones, Kellie Bossen of Sherburne County, Liberty Branch Manager Parker Friedman and Big Lake Mayor Paul Knier of Cabot Lodge Securities. This photo was taken by Jeff Hage of Monticello Times





# 2021 Member of the Year Voting Ballot

## 2021 MEMBER OF THE YEAR VOTING BALLOT



Chamber members have nominated these 3 members for the 2021 Member of the Year award, sponsored by Cabot Lodge Securities. Voting occurs throughout November and can be emailed to [info@biglakechamber.com](mailto:info@biglakechamber.com) or at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 30th. Only 1 vote per member is accepted. Nominations in alphabetical order and the reasons given are:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Edward Jones:** *Tim Suchy has helped the Board of Directors and many committees over the years and is always helping whenever he can.*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Minnco Credit Union:** *Minnco has been very supportive of the Chamber and its many activities.*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Old National Bank:** *Old National Bank makes a point to involve themselves in the many event throughout the year. They do a great job of creativity adding to any occasion!*

Contact & Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

The winner will be announced at our Thursday, Dec. 2nd Holiday Social starting at 5:30 pm at Style Catering, next to City Hall.



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

**Brian G Blanchard**  
CLU, ChFC, CASL

Medicare, Family,  
& Individual  
Health Insurance  
(763) 262-2141 Phone  
(763) 262-2142 Fax

[brian@odebenefits.com](mailto:brian@odebenefits.com)

*Shop Local*

## BIG LAKE WINTER FARMERS MARKET

NOVEMBER 20 • DECEMBER 18  
JANUARY 15 • FEBRUARY 19  
MARCH 19 • APRIL 16 • \*APRIL 23

\*Bonus market on April 23 at Big Lake High School in conjunction with Community Fair

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THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
BIG LAKE CITY HALL 160 LAKE STREET N

.....

LOCAL PRODUCTS | LIVE MUSIC | FREE PARKING

Questions? Contact Corrie Scott at 612-297-6331 or visit [biglakemn.org](http://biglakemn.org).



# 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. 9th.



## Debbie's Cleaning Service

**PREPARE FOR  
THE HOLIDAYS  
WITH A CLEAN  
HOME!**

**"BusyBee"**

**763-568-5558**



## WORKFORCE TRENDS & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

A free webinar on Workforce Trends and Employee Benefits is available Monday, November 8 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Employers face some of the toughest recruitment and retention challenges in years, and ensuring your company is positioned for success takes strategy and skills. Learn some of the most successful strategies for attracting top talent and retaining your current workforce including ensuring your employee benefits are competitive and attractive. [Register here!](#)

**Leadercast**  **Offers 9 Fearless Questions Every Leader Must Answer** in [this article and video](#). The questions include “What is most frustrating for your top performers?”, “Who are your top performers and what makes them top performers?” and “Who is ready to quit (or has already quit but hasn't left yet)?”

 **BOBPHIBBS® The Retail Doctor Bob** suggests independent business owners or sales persons consider creating their own brand. Check it out [here!](#)

**Human Resource Executive** suggests employers offering emergency savings options for employees [here!](#)

In another article, employers are recommended to offer flexibility to employees to reduce their stress level. Check it out [here!](#)

[In this article](#) the author suggests including persons with disabilities to fill labor force gaps.

[Here](#) are 4 ways that managers can reduce burnout of their staff.



## WAVES OF SOUND FUNDRAISER

Featuring



**DEUCES WILD**  
DUELING PIANOS

**December 2nd, 2021**

**7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

**-The Buff-**

**16722 198th Avenue**

**Big Lake, MN 55309**

**Tickets \$55**

**Ticket includes one free drink**

**BIG LAKE SCHOOL SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS**



The voters in the Big Lake School District area voted on or before a Special School Election on Nov. 2nd.

Superintendent Tim Truebenbach announced that evening that “today our community made a historic decision to restore and renew our current district facilities! The school bond referendum passed 1,011 to 776. The passage of this \$30 million bond referendum will allow us to enact a plan to restore and renew our school facilities for future generations while maintaining fiscal responsibility for our tax payers.”

Derek Nelson received the most votes to be elected to the school board. Derek is owner of Guardian Garments, one of our Chamber members. Congratulations Derek!



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

Attend our exciting fundraiser coming up December 2 with **Deuces Wild Dueling Pianos** at The Buff from 7 to 9 PM!\* The Eddy Family Foundation has generously offered a \$10K donor match fund! Please help us max out the fund!

*Tickets are on sale now.* \$55 per ticket (includes one free drink). Tickets can be purchased at Lupulin Brewing Old National Bank, The Youth Center or Online: fill out [this form!](#)

Can't make it to this event, but still want to support us and help us reach our \$10k donor match challenge? Consider donating to **The Waves Give to the Max!** This is a great way to support The Wave Youth Center, and help us #makewaves in our community! [Check it out here](#)

Please contact me if you have any questions! Gabriela Dillon, Executive Director  
W: (763) 275.9076; C: (763) 760.2367  
[director@thewaveyc.org](mailto:director@thewaveyc.org)



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

**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.

**Who's in the Library?**

Pick up a craft or activity sheet related to the visitor. For ages 2-12. No registration necessary. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library. November to December During library open hours

**Feasting Scavenger Hunt**

Hidden in the library are pictures of food items that might be on the table for your Thanksgiving feast. Find the items and return the scorecard to the desk for a chance in the prize drawing. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Monday, Nov. 1 to Saturday, Nov. 20 During library open hours

**PRE-TEEN - ADULT EVENTS**

**Quilling Class with Marilyn Dirkswager:** Learn the history of quilling as you design a one of a kind snowflake. This is an **in-person** program. For ages 10 and up. Limit 15. Reg. required. Sponsored by the Friends of the BLibrary. Wednesday, Nov. 10 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.





**The Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge** are pleased to announce that sandhill cranes may still be staging at the refuge as they prepare for their trip south. Thousands of sandhill cranes visit the Refuge on their way south for the winter. Photo credit goes to Bruce Ellingson. We feel incredibly lucky to have them visit and wanted to give you the opportunity to honor these amazing birds and support Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge. Please consider donating to the Sandhill Salute, a virtual fundraiser that highlights unique crane "talents" and provides a way to support refuge activities and programs, and the conservation of wildlife and wild places. [Here's the link!](#)



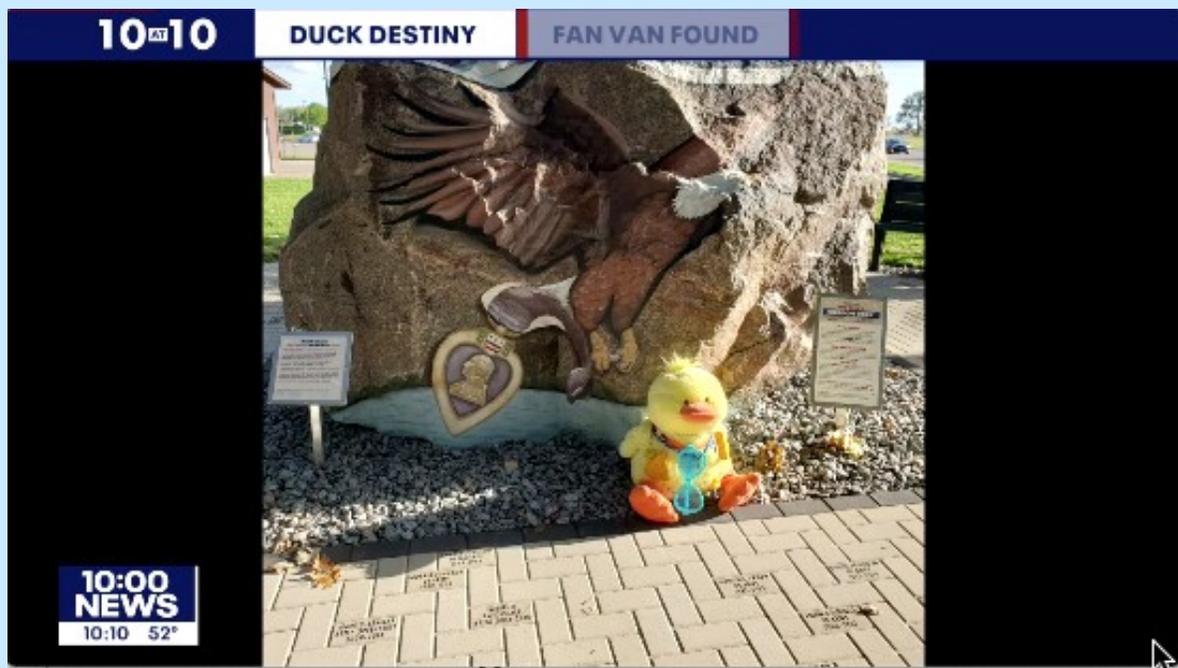
**Options, Inc.** celebrated Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) last month to commemorate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities to America's workplaces and economy. Options was among the employers, community organizations, state and local governments, advocacy groups and schools celebrating DEAM through events and activities centered around the theme of "America's Recovery: Powered by Inclusion."

### Big Lake

### ★ FREEDOM ROCK® ★

Citizens for the Big Lake Freedom Rock

Last month **Citizens for Big Lake Freedom Rock** reported that Channel Fox 9 featured Big Lake Freedom Rock as one of the stops of a Jeep convoy carrying Mr. Vanderquack going across the nation for a fundraiser for St. Jude's. [The news segment is here.](#) Donations are still being accepted to provide a cover for the rock.





## November's Business After Hours

November's Business after Hours is scheduled for 5 pm on Thursday, Nov. 18th at Trail's. You can register [here!](#) In the photo at right is Mindy Michals of Minnco Credit Union, Donna Clarksean of Old National Bank, Yvonne Blum of Minnco Credit Union, Becky Jacobs of Northstar Technology, Tim Suchy of Edward Jones and Kris Seefeld of Minnco Credit Union.



## Network Drawing Box Needs More Prizes

We had another winner of our Network Box drawing at the October Membership Meeting, who will be giving away the prizes in the future! Dan McElwee of St. Croix Valley Insurance won prizes at our September membership meeting when he attended the meeting virtually. 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, Cabot Lodge Securities, Casey's, CentraCare Health, Coborn's, DATASuccess, Freedom Strategy Group, JC's U Lock Storage, Kwik Trip, Lofgren Construction, Magic Mushrooms in the Crystal Garden, MN Senator Mary Kiffmeyer, Northstar Technology Solutions and United Bus Sales.

## Nov 30th Membership Meeting

Join us for our Tuesday, November 30th ANNUAL Membership Meeting at The Buff. The Chamber Board will present their Annual Report and members can vote on the 2021 Member of the Year winner! Members can attend in-person or virtually. Enjoy taco bar; cost for lunch is \$15. Please register by Nov. 23rd [here!](#)



Photo above is from our October Membership Meeting. At right Yvonne Blum of Minnco Credit Union informed the members of the upcoming Halloween Photo Scavenger Hunt. At left Big Lake Schools Superintendent Tim Truebenbach, Director of Community Education & Communications Allen Berg, Business Services Manager Angie Manuel. Building & Grounds Manager TJ Zerwas and Middle School Principal Mark Ernst shared updates about the school and the bond referendum.

### 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, Nov 24th. 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	8	9 <b>Board Meeting</b> 12:30 in-person and virtually	10 <b>Ambassadors Meeting</b> noon	11 	12	13
14	15 Office Closed Registration due for Christmas Trees	16 Office Closed	17 <b>Holiday Social Planning Committee</b> noon at City Large Conf.	18 <b>Business After Hours.</b> 5 pm at Trail's. Register <a href="#">here!</a>	19	20
21	22	23	24 Registrations due for Holiday Social	25 	26 Office Closed	27
28	29	30 <b>Annual Membership Meeting</b> 11:30 at The Buff. Register <a href="#">here!</a>				

**Mark Your Calendar!**

- Monday, November 29: Christmas Tree decorating at Browns Park. Registrations due Nov. 15th
- Thursday, Dec 2nd at 5:30 pm: Holiday Social & 2021 Member of the Year Award at Style Catering
- Saturday, April 23, 2022: Community Fair at Big Lake High School