

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

I’ve known our 2021 Member of the Year Tim Suchy of Edward Jones for at least 10 years. Tim was a leader at the Tracks for Success Business Network International (BNI) group that I attended. Tim’s encouragement for my application as your Executive Director 3.5 years ago was greatly appreciated. He will be missed as he attends his last Chamber Board meeting next week but I have no doubt that he’ll stay busy!

2021 MEMBER OF THE YEAR:



After a month of voting, members of the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry selected Edward Jones-Tim Suchy as their 2021 Member of the Year, shown on right of the photo below.

The member who nominated Tim said, “Tim Suchy has helped the Board of Directors and many committees over the years and is always helping whenever he can.” Tim has served on the Board of Directors for the past 6 years, as both Chair and Vice-Chair. He has served on the Finance Committee, Block Party Committee and served on the Golf Scramble Committee and regularly sponsored a team of golfers.

The last several years he helped get the Christmas Trees for Browns Park, spending most of “Black Friday” trimming them & placed them in the stands. He has sponsored many of our events.

Tim Suchy has been a financial advisor for Edward Jones in the Big Lake Office since 2014 and in financial services since 1985. He volunteers with the Big Lake Lions and has co-chaired their golf event.

In accepting the award at the Dec 2nd Holiday Social, Tim said it was an honor to volunteer on behalf of the Chamber.

The award was sponsored by Cabot Lodge Securities-Paul Knier, who is shown at left in the photo. Coborn’s donated the cake.

Other nominees for the 2021 Member of the Year award were Minnco Credit Union and Old National Bank.



The award photo was taken by Sandy Suchy, Tim’s wife.





MEET YOUR NEW MEMBERS!

DRISCOLL ACCOUNTING



Driscoll Accounting Services, LLC was founded by Scott and Linnai Driscoll in January, 2016. Previously, each had individual businesses in tax preparation and accounting, respectively, but decided to merge these businesses to create one company focused on small business bookkeeping and payroll. Both Scott and Linnai are Certified ProAdvisors for QuickBooks Online.

Scott has an extensive background in multiple roles ranging from production, engineering, sales, purchasing, and accounting. While pursuing his bachelor's degree in accounting, Scott opened a small business focusing on tax preparation for individuals and small businesses. He is currently focused on bookkeeping for clients in construction, real estate, medical, restaurant, retail, and personal service industries.

Linnai has worked in the accounting field since 1991. She specialized in system implementation, budgeting, and financial reporting. In 2007, Linnai created her own business as a bookkeeping consultant. Her clients include bars and restaurants, manufacturing, construction, non-profits, retail and personal service industries.

Check out their website [here](#) or email Scott [here!](#)

TRI WELLNESS at WORK WEBINARS

A Statewide Health Improvement Partnership collaboration between Stearns, Benton, and Sherburne Counties is offering local businesses a no-cost workplace wellness opportunity where businesses can learn about starting and maintaining an effective and sustainable wellness program.

This is a great opportunity for employers who are thinking about starting a wellness program, need help in specific areas, or want to network with other area employers around workplace wellness.

Anyone can participate but registration is required for this no-cost opportunity. For more information, For more information contact Kristy at Kristy.Heying@co.sherburne.mn.us. You can register [here](#)

All webinars are 9-10 am.

January 13, 2022: Mission, Brand & Assessments

February 8, 2022: Stress Management

March 17, 2022: Healthy Eating and Breastfeeding Support

April 12, 2022: Physical Activity

May 19, 2022: Health Equity



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

- **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 OR BY TURNING IN BELOW REGISTRATION FORM TO CITY HALL BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021**
- **QUESTIONS? EMAIL CSCOTT@BIGLAKEMN.ORG**

Contact Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

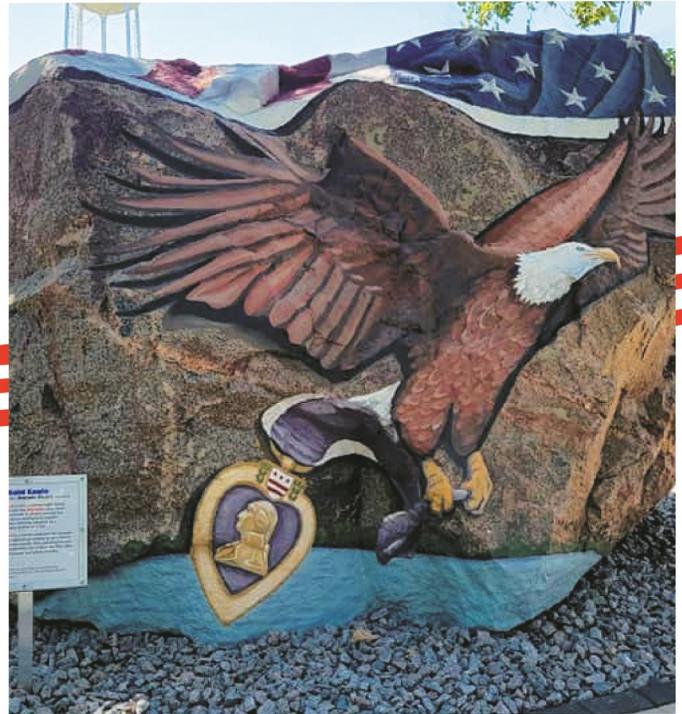
By signing below, I agree to release my full name and address in all City publications of the Holiday Lighting Contest.

Signature _____

Date _____

★ **Looking for a unique** ★
★ **Christmas present idea?**

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*Receive a beautiful certificate
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Call Karen Blake, **763 234-0369**,
blakk0178@gmail.com





Big Lake Community Fair

Saturday, April 23 2022

10 am– 1 pm

Big Lake High School

Free admission

Free information on products

Free food

Free giveaways!

Buy locally-produced items at Farmers Market

Diamond Sponsor \$5000: (logo included on postcard to 7800 residents)

Platinum Sponsor \$3000: (logo on 100 t-shirts)

Gold Sponsor \$500: (includes booth & bike sponsor)

Silver Sponsor \$250: (includes booth)

Bike or Scooter/Skateboard Combo Sponsor \$150

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

Sponsorships are due Feb 16

Go to the Big Lake Chamber website

Events Calendar for details & to register

Booth registrations due by April 14. Save \$20 if submitted by Mar 31

www.biglakechamber.com - 763-263-7800

info@biglakechamber.com



Big Lake
Chamber
 of Commerce & Industry

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*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.



CHRISTMAS TREE SPONSORS LIGHTS UP BROWNS PARK

Fifteen Christmas Tree Sponsors decorated their trees the week after Thanksgiving, brightening up the corner of Hwy 10 & 25.

Be sure to pass along your appreciation to:

- Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon
- Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Big Lake Police Department
- Cabot Lodge Securities—Paul Knier
- City of Big Lake
- Edward Jones
- Great River Federal Credit Union
- Great River Spine & Sport
- Minnco Credit Union
- Protection Plus Home Inspections
- Old National Bank
- Options Inc.
- Riverwood Bank
- Trail's Sports Bar & Grill
- Sherburne County Area United Way



Tim Suchy of Edward Jones spent time on Black Friday trimming the trees, placing them in the frames and getting them sturdy.

Jonathan Hopkins from Protection Plus Home Inspections drove his pick-up to get the trees. Lofgren Construction donated the use of their trailer to haul the trees. City of Big Lake's Streets, Parks & Fleet Superintendent Norm Michels & staff at Public Works provided electricity, extension cords, ladder and will remove the trees away in early Jan.

Big Lake Ambassadors helped decorate some of the trees.

SHOP LOCAL! For every \$100 spent at a local business, \$68 stays in our community!



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

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.



www.odebenefits.com

Brian G Blanchard
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& Individual
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When it comes to your to-do list, put your future first.

To find out how to get your financial goals on track, contact us for a complimentary review.



Tim Suchy, AAMS®, CRPC®

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Sherburne County Community Resource Recovery Non-Profit Grants provide up to \$20,000 for nonprofits who have suffered losses from the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible organizations provide county residents with housing services, food, childcare programs, employment opportunities and access to social and mental health services to help mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 public health crisis. Nonprofits must show at least a 20% financial impact directly related to COVID. [Click here for more information and to apply](#) before the deadline of Dec. 31.



MN Chamber Selected as the 2021's State Chamber of the Year by the National Council of State Chambers of Commerce in late November! The award recognizes the Minnesota Chamber for its innovative initiatives and best practices that advance the state's economy and provide exceptional services and results for their members. MN Chamber has over 2,300 members and has provided a voice – the collective voice – for businesses for more than 110 years .



SciTech is offering help to Find and Pay for STEM Interns. Small companies can build its future workforce, source great talent AND access a wage match to cover 50% of a college STEM intern's wages through the SciTech Internship Program.

- Employers receive a wage match of 50% of the intern's wages, worth up to \$2,500.
- SciTech is **free** for students and small employers.
- 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! Check it out [here!](#)



MN Dept of Employment & Economic Development (DEED)'s reported this week that through the second quarter of 2021, there were nearly 2,250 Retail establishments providing just over 36,000 jobs in the 13 counties of Central Minnesota, accounting for about 13.3% of total employment in the region. That means that one in every 7.5 jobs in the region is in Retail Trade.

The largest sectors in Retail in the region include General Merchandise Stores, which had 7,730 jobs at 146 stores; Food & Beverage Stores, which had 6,446 jobs at 238 establishments; Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers, which had 5,373 jobs at 375 dealerships; and Gasoline Stations, which had 4,687 jobs at 330 establishments.



Big Lake American Legion Auxiliary Unit 147 and Post sponsored Santa Day on Dec. 5th at The Buff. 198 children took a photo with Santa (former Legion Commander Wayne Harris) and were able to select a nice gift. Cookies, juice and coffee was also provided.



Jeff Zierdt of Lupulin was quoted this week in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal on the 40-50% higher prices of cans impacting their margins. Some of you may be able to read the article [here!](#) Big Lake Chamber Board supported their efforts in getting legislative approval to sell packs of canned beers from taprooms and removing other restrictions.

Lupulin is offering a free pour through Dec. 20th to anyone who brings in a toy to their Toys for Tots box!

Through New Year's Eve Lupulin is offering a free \$25 gift card when you purchase \$100 in gift cards, either here [Online](#) or in their taproom!

In time for holidays they are offering Lupulin Society memberships through Dec 31st. for exclusive brewery perks not available to the public. For more details, [click here](#).

Level 1 - \$1,000

Free growler or crowler 3-pack per month for 5 years. (\$2,520 value)
 10% off merchandise for 5 years
 Early access to limited bottle releases
 Invitation to annual private party with the entire Lupulin Brewing team
 100 member limit

Level 2 - \$2,000

Free pint of beer per taproom visit for 5 years
 Free growler or crowler 3-pack per month for 5 years. (\$2,520 value)
 10% off merchandise for 5 years
 Early access to limited bottle releases
 Invitation to annual private party with the entire Lupulin Brewing team
 50 member limit



The Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge are conducting their annual bird count Thursday, December 16. Home owners within 15 miles around the refuge are asked to clean and fill their feeders at least three days beforehand to encourage birds frequenting their feeders.

January's Business After Hours

January's Business after Hours is scheduled for 5 pm on Thursday, Nov. January 20th at McPete's. You can register [here!](#) There will be no Business after Hours in December.

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 Bar 10 (formerly Monty's Tropical Hideout), 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, Lord of Glory Lutheran Church, Magic Mushrooms in the Crystal Garden, MN Senator Mary Kiffmeyer, Northstar Technology Solutions and United Bus Sales.

Additional Prizes are needed.

Nov 30th Annual Membership Meeting

Members approved two new Board Directors at our November 30th Annual Membership Meeting at The Buff: Becky Jacobs of Northstar Technology and Tom Obarski of Sherburne State Bank. Tim Suchy of Edward Jones and Allen Snegosky of Sherburne State Bank attend their last Board meeting in Dec.

Board Chair Monica Parrish of Meraki Property Management & Consulting presented the annual Report. Vice-Chair Tim Suchy organized a trivia game around the history of Big Lake and presented the questions to members with Monica.



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, Dec. 29th. 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 Chamber's Holiday Social 5:30 Style Catering	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Board Meeting 12:30 Trail's and virtually	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 
26	28	28	29	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED	

Mark Your Calendar!

Thursday, January 20 at 5 pm at McPete's: Business after Hours. Register [here!](#)

Tuesday, January 25 at 11:30 am: Membership Meeting

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

Saturday, August 20, 2022: Block Party at

