

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 Truebenbach

Big Lake Schools 763-262-5218

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

Oscar Cooper, El Teca Barber Shop
763-207-8822

Becky Jacobs, Northstar Technology
Solutions 763-262-0729

Cory Laugen, State Farm
763-263-0513

Tom Obarski, Sherburne State Bank
763-271-7182

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

My late husband and I purchased our second home when we moved to Brainerd in 1995. Our realtor recommended using a home inspector, which we hadn't used when we bought our first home in southwestern MN. Since we were paying 4 times what we bought just 3 years earlier, it truly made sense to have an "expert" check things out. As it turned out, armed with the inspection report, we were able to have the owner escrow \$5000 for potential water issues in the basement, which we used within the first year!



BUSINESS OF THE MONTH: PROTECTION PLUS HOME INSPECTIONS, LLC



Owner Jonathan Hopkins had been a licensed building contractor for 25 years before he completed training with the prestigious American Home Inspector Training (AHIT) seven years ago. He received national certification four years ago.

“After growing up in Minneapolis, I was glad to move to Big Lake 16 years ago,” Hopkins noted. “I like it here! My inspections take me into the metro and even up north to inspect cabins! My advice for any homeowner is to never buy without first getting an inspection! It is often your largest purchase and using an experienced and qualified inspector will give peace of mind.”

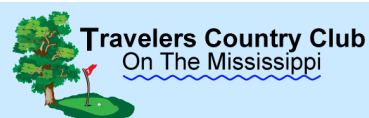
Hopkins can be emailed [here](#) or called at 763-501-8357. Check out his website [here!](#)

Hopkins was recently elected as President of the Midwest Association of Home Inspectors (MAHI) representing inspectors from IA, MN, WI and the Dakotas. He is also a member of the St. Paul Association of Realtors.



Chamber members will often see Hopkins working his second business, Prairie Fire Kitchens at Big Lake and Monticello Farmers Markets. His Honey BBQ Sauce won 1st place at MN State Fair in 2019 and 2nd place last summer along with a 2nd place award for his Peachy Pineapple Mango Salsa.

Travelers Country Club on the Mississippi (TCCOM)



TCCOM is an attractive planned community that is a seasonal home for snow-birds or a weekend retreat for families. Designed for rest, renewal & recreation, 299 lots, most with Park Model trailers, are nestled among shady oak trees with views of the Mississippi or an executive 9-hole golf course (which is FREE to members).

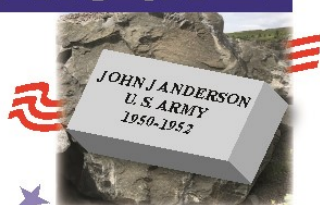
TCCOM provides country living situated along the banks of the Mississippi at a bend in the river. It lies between the towns of Clearwater and Clear Lake and is open from mid-April to mid-October. Incorporated in 1977, we offer a wide range of amenities and things to do including golf, fishing, swimming, boating, quilting and crafts, pickleball, tennis, social activities and much more. TCCOM is the best-kept relaxation and recreation secret in Minnesota.

Park Manager Tami Rangel indicated many of their members drive through Big Lake and they are looking forward to being involved in events in Big Lake. She can be reached at (320) 743-3133 or emailed [here!](#) Check out their website [here!](#)

★ FREEDOM ROCK® ★

Your Paver Tribute

will surround the **Big Lake Freedom Rock®** joining hundreds of other veterans honored in this unique way and leaving a permanent legacy in the community. *Spring 2022 dedication of new pavers.*



Residing at:
101 Lakeshore Drive
Lakeside Park,
Big Lake, MN
Free parking available

CONTACT PERSON FOR QUESTIONS

Your name: _____
 Email: _____ Phone or text: _____
 Address, where to send Recognition Certificate: _____

Please inscribe the paver as follows (print in UPPER CASE letters, 15 characters per line that includes punctuation and spaces. 4" x 8" grey paver, 3 lines of type. No rank or status will be included):

Name: _____
 Branch of Service: _____
 Dates of Service: _____

Return this form with your tax deductible contribution of \$100 per paver to Citizens for the Big Lake Freedom Rock®, 18174 221st Avenue N., Big Lake, MN 55309 or bring to Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake Street N., Big Lake, MN 55309

Checks made payable to: **City of Big Lake - Freedom Rock®**
Questions: Karen Blake 763-234-0369, blakd0178@gmail.com



If you're leaving your employer, do you know your 401(k) options?

At Edward Jones, we can explain options for your 401(k), including leaving the money in your former employer's plan, moving it to your new employer's plan, rolling it over to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or cashing out the account subject to tax consequences.

To learn more, call today.



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



Big Lake Community Fair

Saturday, April 23 2022

10 am– 1 pm

Big Lake High School

Free admission

Free entertainment

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 space & bike sponsor)

Silver Sponsor \$250: (includes booth space)

Bike or Scooter/Skateboard Combo Sponsor \$150

All Sponsors (except bike sponsors) receive a free 8 x10 area, recognition on the Chamber website, Facebook, ads and at Community Fair! Diamond, Gold and Platinum Sponsors receive additional recognition.

All proceeds go Big Lake High School Scholarships!

Sponsorships are due Feb 16

Booth registrations due by April 18.

Save \$25 if registered and paid by Mar 31

Go to www.biglakechamber.com Events Calendar for details & to register for booth space

Call 763-263-7800;

Email: info@biglakechamber.com



Big Lake
Chamber
 of Commerce & Industry

MEMBER AD

Finance your next vehicle with Minnco's

low auto rates!

as low as

2.24% APR*

Stop in, call, or apply online! We make it easy.

Minnco
 CREDIT UNION

www.minnco.com

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.





COMMUNITY FAIR BOOTH REGISTRATION



COMMUNITY FAIR: Reduced Booth Pricing

Cosponsored by Big Lake Community Education, all proceeds from the 2022

Community Fair will go to Big Lake High School Volunteerism Scholarships. Last year's Fair was able to donate 1 \$500 scholarship and the Chamber board matched it! This year we hope to donate 4 \$500 scholarships!



Booth costs are reduced because carpet and drapes will not be provided. Space between 8x 10 ft booth areas will be 3-6 ft. Chairs will be provided and a limited number of tables are available to those who request them. Early bird registrations for a \$25 savings are due March 31st. Premium space and electric is available for an added fee. Big Lake Women of Today has volunteered to help with registrations.

Entertainment is being planned for every 10-20 minutes. Caricatures will be available along with face painting by the Big Lake Ambassadors!

Sponsorships are requested for a postcard mailing promoting the event, purchasing t-shirts to give away, purchasing bikes, scooters and skateboards to give away and covering expenses.

Farmers Market will be held in the high school parking lot.

Community Fair Planning Committee members include Allen Berg, Heidi Dehmer and Tim Truebenbach of Big Lake Schools/Community Education, Corrie Scott of City of Big Lake, Nick Ellingson of Insurance Specialists Team and Cory Laugen of State Farm. Additional members are needed.

2022 Community Fair Booths

Saturday, April 23, 2022

Farmers Market in Parking Lot
10 am—1 pm
All Proceeds for BLHS Scholarships
Big Lake High School

BUSINESS NAME: _____

TYPE OF BUSINESS/ MAIN SERVICES: _____

PRIMARY CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Registration fee includes: Space for 8x10 area, two chairs & promotion of event. Spaces will be 3-6 ft apart. Set up times: 8:00 -9:45 am on 4/23.

- ◇ 6 PREMIUM Booth Spaces at entrance of gym door- for an additional \$50: first come basis only Available until April 14th
- ◇ Early Bird- \$25 Discount on registration if paid by March 31, 2022
- ◇ Sales of new, pre-packaged items will be allowed at your area.
- ◇ PLEASE NOTE: Open food is NOT permitted in any part of the gymnasium. If you wish to give samples, one complimentary food court table is available with a paid booth in the gymnasium

Food Court will be in the Atrium and is for FREE FOOD samples ONLY; sales is not permitted.

Booth Space:

Chamber member**: 1 booth @ \$125; additional booths @ \$50 each _____
(does not include electricity)

Non-Chamber member: 1 booth @ \$275 ; additional booths @ \$150 each _____
(does not include electricity)

Premium Booth Space ___x \$50.00 additional charge to booth fee. _____

Food Court Table (members) # of tables ___x \$50 (includes electricity) _____

Food Court Table (non-members) # of tables ___x \$125 (includes electricity) _____

Extra, Optional Items:

Electricity \$20 (one outlet per booth, first come, bring your own ext. cord) _____

8 ft table . Limited #. Available to first requests until gone. # of tables req. _____

\$25 discount if payment received by March 31, 2022 _____

Total Paid: _____

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 _____ Zip Code _____

Registration deadline is Monday, April 18, 2022

*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 BLCC&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**



United We Shiver
Freezing for a Cause

Are you brave enough? Are you crazy enough?
Do you care enough... to take the plunge?

United We Shiver is a plunge into frozen Big Lake with benefits going to YOUR nonprofit of choice! Do you have a favorite nonprofit that you want to support? This is the perfect opportunity to raise funds for them! So whether it's on your bucket list of things to do or your heart is just that big, register today and let the fun and fundraising begin!

Are you a part of an organization that wants to build camaraderie and employee engagement? When you put together a team of brave souls to raise funds and take the plunge, not only will it bring your employees closer together, the public will also see that your organization cares about the local community. This is a great opportunity to show how much you care.

When
Feb. 5th, 2022
12pm Family-fun Activities
2pm BBQ Rib Contest Judging
3pm Plunge

Where
Lakeside Park, Big Lake, MN

Cost
\$45 to register as a jumper.
Includes t-shirt and personal website



Email: info@sherburneunitedway.org

Website: sherburneunitedway.org/unitedweshiver/

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. You can register [here](#). All webinars are 9-10 am.

- January 13: Mission, Brand & Assessments
- February 8: Stress Management
- March 17: Healthy Eating and Breastfeeding Support
- April 12: Physical Activity
- May 19: Health Equity
- June 14: Tobacco Use and Exposure Reduction
- July 14: Sustainability and Evaluation

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.



Debbie's Cleaning Service



"BusyBee"

PREPARE FOR WINTER WITH A CLEAN HOME!

763-568-5558



Rep. Paul Novotny and Big Lake Chamber member was named last month to the Governor's Council on Justice Reinvestment, a new bipartisan, data-driven effort aimed at reducing recidivism and improving community safety. As former Sherburne County Sheriff's Deputy, his expertise will assist the Council in improving how people are treated after getting out of jail. [Read about it here!](#)



State Unemployment Payroll taxes: businesses have received double-digit increases in an effort to replenish its Fund. Chamber President & CEO Doug Loon says policymakers should instead use the \$1 billion in unspent federal funds and \$7.7 billion surplus.

The federal Supreme Court will hear an appeal requiring employees at large companies to be vaccinated or tested weekly on Jan. 7th. It will also hear arguments over a rule requiring employee vaccinations by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid that applies to a wide range of health care providers across the nation that receive federal Medicare or Medicaid funding. KSTP.com shared this: [read here.](#)

Center for Disease Control (CDC) is shortening the recommended time for isolation for persons exposed to COVID-19. People with COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days and if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), follow that by 5 days of wearing a mask when around others to minimize the risk of infecting others. The change is motivated by science demonstrating that the majority of transmission occurs in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after. Yesterday on Jan. 4th, CDC updated the recommended quarantine period for anyone in the general public who is [exposed to COVID-19.](#) [Read about the shorter isolation periods here!](#)



MN Chamber is hosting its **Session Priorities** on Monday, January 31 in St. Paul. More than 1600 business and public policy leaders across the state will attend. 2022 gubernatorial candidates will answer key policy issues as well as the 4 State Legislative Leaders and Governor Walz. Ticket price is \$199 but can be reduced in half if another Chamber member or guest comes along! For more information, [click here.](#) If interested, email Gloria [here](#) and the Chamber will bill you.

WorkForce Solutions Seminar is sponsored by the MN Chamber Foundation at the Best Western Premier Nicollet Inn in Burnsville from 11:15 am–3:15 pm on Jan. 31st. This session, designed for chamber, community and education leaders will provide highly valuable data on high demand careers in regions of the state, along with innovative approaches to driving solutions. Cost is \$50. Contact Gloria for more information.

Demand for health care workers is still surging in Central Minnesota, with [2,645 job vacancies](#) for Healthcare Practitioners & Technical & Healthcare Support workers in the second quarter of 2021. That was more than double the number of openings the previous year, and 700 more than the peak in 2016.





Has agreed to purchase London-based Croda’s bioindustrial business next summer for \$1.3 billion to better serve industrial manufacturers searching for “greener” ingredient solutions. Under the agreement, Cargill would gain nearly 1,000 employees around the world and production facilities spread across Europe and Asia, along with a strong technology portfolio that supports leading market positions in automotive, polymer and food packaging applications. Aligning with Cargill’s commitment to sustainability, more than two-thirds of the raw materials used to manufacture these solutions are bio-based and renewable. Cargill has 155,000 employees across 70 countries, working relentlessly to nourish the world in a safe, responsible and sustainable way and we are glad they are in Big Lake and Monticello. They combine 155 years of experience with new technologies and insights to serve as a trusted partner for food, agriculture, financial and industrial customers in more than 125 countries. Learn more [here!](#)



Lupulin Brewing Company won second place for its Boris v.1, the very first foeder-aged beer to come from Scribbled Lines at the 2021 Festival of Wood & Barrel-Aged Beers in Chicago in mid-Nov. They won 3 awards at the MN Craft Brewer’s Guild in Nov. Blissful Ignorance, after winning first place in 2019, was awarded second place. Barrel God Cuvée 2020/2021 Blend was the standout and earned first place in the Wood Beer category. Marketing & Artistic Director Marcus Paulsen won the Best Art & Design award again this year as he did in 2019. No competition was held in 2020.

Co-founder Jeff Zierdt is asking its supporters to contribute \$10 or more toward the [Minnesota Craft Beer Political Action Committee](#) (PAC) to help fight for more equitable laws for MN craft breweries. They want to raise \$25,000 before the legislative session begins later this month. Your Big Lake Chamber Board has supported their legislative changes these past 2 years. [CLICK HERE TO SUPPORT MN CRAFT BEER!](#)

Ad below is sponsored by



VOICE IN GOV’T-TIDBITS & RESOURCES

MINNPOST article identifies 6 things the State Legislature didn’t do in 2021, including raising taxes. [Read about it here!](#)

MINNESOTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MN Chamber offers 6 tips in attracting and keeping employees. Learn more [here!](#)

Human Resource Executive Offers new contribution limits and more in 2022 for HSAs, FSAs and 401(k)s. Check it out [here!](#)

INC. offers 5 ways to tell if an employee won’t make it in the first 90 days. [Read about it here!](#)

Big Lake Cheerleading is proud to announce that their Varsity Competition and Varsity Gameday cheerleading teams have been selected to compete at one of the nation’s most prestigious cheerleading competitions, the National High School Cheerleading Championship Orlando, FL!

Help support the Big Lake Cheerleaders as they prepare for Nationals. Funds raised will help offset the costs of Nationals for the Big Lake Cheerleaders. Every donation lowers the cost for these incredible student-athletes to be able to afford their trip, lodging, and registration.

HOW TO HELP THE CHEERLEADERS:



Sponsor National Shirts
www.tinyurl.com/NationalsSponsorship

Donate Today - GoFundMe
www.GoFundMe.com/BLCheerleading



For More Information Visit:
www.BigLakeCheer.com






January's Business After Hours

January's Business after Hours is scheduled for 5 pm on Thursday, January 20th at McPete's. To save enough room, please register [here!](#)


Attend our Meetings to Win Prizes!

At every Business after Hours and Membership Meeting, 2 names are drawn from our Network Box containing all of our members. Members who are present while their name is called win prizes valued at over \$400 which include:

 **AUTOSTOP** \$10 gift certificate
Body & Mechanical Repair




\$10 Gift Certificate

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




FREE Drink

Monticello Printing Certificate

 2 Color Ads, notepad & can koozie

More prizes are welcome!

 Free breadstick

January 18th Membership Meeting

Our **January Membership Meeting** will be held a week earlier than usual: Tuesday, Jan. 18th at Lord of Glory Lutheran Church. Several non-profit members (including Lord of Glory and Sherburne County Area United Way) will share their stories and goals for 2022. Please register [here](#) by Wed, Jan. 12th.

PREPAID MEMBERSHIP MEALS

Get a free membership meal when you prepay for the entire year! Hate the hassle of signing up for a membership meeting? Just \$105 covers all 8 membership meetings in 2022! And if we have an evening membership meeting, no extra cost to you!

All prepaid members are registered automatically every month. Email Gloria at info@biglakechamber.com if you would like an invoice!

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, Jan. 26th. 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	10	11 Board Meeting 12:30 McPete's and virtually	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13 Ambassadors Meeting noon	14	15
16	17	18 Membership Meeting 11:30 Lord of Glory and virtually. Register here!	19	20 Business After Hours 5 pm at McPete's. Register here	21	22
23	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Mark Your Calendar!

Thursday, February 17th at 5 pm: Business after Hours.

Tuesday, February 22nd at 11:30 am: Membership Meeting with non-profits at Saron Lutheran.

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

Saturday, August 20, 2022: Block Party at

