

Mission Statement

“Committed to the success of the Big Lake business community through information, communication, cooperation and support for all.”

Board of Directors

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Becky Jacobs, Northstar Technology Solutions 763-262-0729

Cory Laugen, State Farm
763-263-0513

Allen Snegosky, Sherburne State Bank
763-271-4919

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 grandkids always looked forward to coming from the Cities for our Spud Fest parade and rides. As they grew older, I was able to volunteer at the Bingo tent, parade and clean-up. Working with other volunteers is truly rewarding and many hands and sponsors are needed! If you have an idea, would like to help out or sponsor something, please email them [here!](#)



BUSINESS OF THE MONTH:

Big Lake Spud Fest is celebrating its 50 years this June 23-26.



Created in 1972 the Big Lake Civic & Commercial Club President Bob McDowall and others wanted to provide funds for summer youth recreation programs with an event for Big Lake and surrounding areas that promoted a strong sense of community and sharing. This group later established the Chamber. Since then and thanks to the volunteers, sponsors and customers of their pull tabs and meat raffles, they have continued to donate funds to youth program and community organizations.

The first Spud Festival was held on the grounds of Citizen Bank, now Old National Bank on the east side of town. They offered 14 rides, 25 concessions, a softball tournament at the elementary school and gave away 3 tons of potatoes in 20-pound sacks, provided by area potato farmers. Seventeen years later, according to *The Big Lake History* book, they also offered potato country cook-off, spud wrestling, fiddler’s contest, a parade with 5 area high school bands and a firemen’s water fight. Big Lake Lions have played a key role in continuing this community festival.

Chairperson Raeanne Danielowski exclaimed, “We have some exciting events coming for our 50th celebration! The Craft & Vendor

(continued on page 6)



Left is a poster of a previous Spud Fest when it was held at the High School.

At right, Nick Paine & Jason Lankki with Big Lake Ambassadors on the Spud Fest float greeted trick-or-treaters at the Chamber’s Halloween Photo Scavenger Hunt in 2020.





MEET YOUR NEW MEMBERS!

Arvig Media is a full-service marketing agency offering a wide variety of services including web design, SEO, social media marketing, and so much more! Account Executive Eric Hanson works with many of the area businesses on their websites, online marketing and social media. "My most highly held professional goal is helping businesses surpass their goals, and knowing I had some part of them getting there. At Arvig Media we create stunning, custom websites for your business. A great website on its own, however, is like a beautiful home built out in the woods, with no roads leading to it. At Arvig we build the roads and then the street signs and billboards on those roads that lead to your custom built website." Eric can be reached at 320-493-4364 or emailed [here!](#)



Ember Coffee Company is a locally-owned coffee shop serving hand-crafted espresso drinks, brewed coffee, local pastries and decadent hand-scooped ice cream. Started by Matthew and Elisa Berry, their vision is to create a "living room" for Big Lake—a place to connect with friends, have a casual business meeting, and create a culture that cultivates creativity and good works. Aside from serving the best coffee in town, Ember will offer a special room for parents with small children to meet for playdates. There will also be a co-working space for working professionals and conference room available for reservation. Ember Coffee plans to open their doors in spring. [Check out their website](#) or [email them!](#)



Edina Realty Edina Realty Heitz Group has evolved into **Edina Realty Heitz Gardner Group!** They have helped over 1,000 families in the Big Lake and Metro Areas find their dream home. They believe buying and selling real estate is not a do-it-yourself endeavor--you need home pricing experts, skilled negotiators, and networking powerhouses on your side. With 35+ years of experience with their extensive training – their clients always win! Their team includes Shirlee Heitz, Angie Gardner, Jennifer Baysinger and Stacey Stanley! [Email them](#) or call 763-262-0123.



Did you know? You can list your **Job Openings** on the Chamber website at no cost? [Promote your products or services](#) to other members without a fee on our **Deals** page & Logo links. For just \$150/year, you can promote your logo, name and website on the front page of our website. This is limited to 1 business per industry.



FEBRUARY FOOD DRIVE
FEBRUARY 1-28

Join RiverWood Bank as we collect items for our local **FOOD SHELF.**

DONATION IDEAS: Canned and boxed goods, baby food, peanut butter, soups, laundry soap, dish soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper, other personal care items, and cleaning supplies are welcome.



Donations will be delivered during March Food Share Month.



RiverWoodBank.com



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 Volunteerism Scholarships!

Diamond & Platinum Sponsorships are due Feb 16th

Gold, Silver & Bike Sponsorships due March 31st

Booth registrations due by April 18th.

Save \$25 if registered and paid by Mar 31st

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

Call 763-263-7800;

Email: info@biglakechamber.com



COMMUNITY FAIR SCHOLARSHIPS & BOOTH REGISTRATION

FAIR PROCEEDS: VOLUNTEERISM SCHOLARSHIPS



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! Eligible seniors who volunteer an average of 2 hours/month throughout their middle and high school are encouraged to apply. Students must complete the BLHS Scholarship Application, describe in the short statement his/her volunteer service and what they learned from it and attach one letter of recommendation from the group they volunteered at. Students at BLHS and those who are home-schooled or attend private school with the Big Lake School District are encouraged to apply. Applications are available at the Big Lake High School Counselors' Office and are due March 4th. Scholarships will be announced at graduation and funds provided to the higher education agency once an acceptance letter has been submitted.

Early bird registrations for booths at our April 23rd Community Fair will receive a \$25 savings if submitted by March 31st. Exhibitors can [register online here!](#) Big Lake Women of Today has volunteered to help with registrations.

Entertainment provided by BLHS Chamber Choir, Jazz Band, Treble Choir, Evolution Tae Kwon Do and Starz Dance is being planned for every 10-20 minutes. Caricatures will be available along with face painting by the Big Lake Ambassadors!

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**



Big Lake
Chamber
 of Commerce & Industry

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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.





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.

- 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

Big Lake Spud Fest (continued from page 1)

Show will be 2 days. We'll have a Push-Pedal-Pull. While we can't bring back the spud wrestling due to liability issues, we are looking at other things. And we will have the fireworks Friday evening and parade Saturday morning.

"We're revamping our website," continued Danielowski, "to make it more user-friendly. This event is truly community-based. We truly appreciate everyone's involvement. Consider being a sponsor, putting a float together and volunteer with your staff, family and neighbors!"

Spud Fest Founder Bob McDowall's daughter Denise McDowall has been volunteering these last several years, carrying on the family legacy.



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



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MN Chamber's Session Priorities



J. Brian Calva of Beaudry Oil & Propane, Big Lake Chamber Executive Director Gloria Vande Brake, Rep. Paul Novotny and Nicole Novotny of Guardian Angels attended the MN Chamber's Session

Priorities on Jan. 31st. Senator Mary Kiffmeyer attended virtually. House and Senate Leaders and Gov. Walz responded to questions about their priorities for the session. Photos were taken by Calva.



Big Lake Chamber Board supports the replenishment of the Unemployment Insurance

Trust Fund deficit of \$2.73 billion from the state surplus of \$7.7 billion or unspent federal relief funds. If not restored to solvency by March 15, employers will see UI payroll taxes skyrocket with double digit increases. MN Senate has a bill going through their Committee.

Other MN Chamber Legislative Priorities. With historic and recurring budget surpluses and the state budget set at 12% growth, policymakers need to take a serious look at Minnesota's tax and spending patterns.

Minnesota is flush with cash, including:

- \$7.7 billion budget surplus
- \$1.15 billion in unspent federal funds
- \$2.66 billion in budget reserves

Lower tax burdens to make Minnesota more competitive.

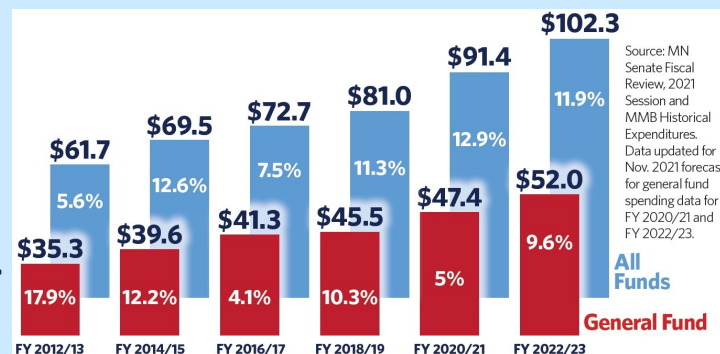
- Lower uncompetitive tax rates to encourage economic growth
- Adopt tax incentives to encourage innovation, investment and productivity
- Adopt remaining federal conformity for hard-hit industries

Enact workforce strategies to ensure a talented pipeline for the future, including:

- Workforce payroll tax refunded for customized training
- "Productivity incentive"
- Support for the Page Constitutional Amendment

Enact no new mandates or regulatory burdens on employers.

- Allow businesses to recover from COVID-19 without imposing further rules, regulations and restrictions
- Give employers autonomy to make appropriate, responsive decisions for their workplace and changing economic conditions
- Require timeliness, accountability and predictability in environmental review and permitting process
- Prevent increases on health care and energy costs





Big Lake Cheerleading Coaches Derek & Kaylene Nelson were interviewed Tuesday,

Feb. 8th by Fox 9 Good Day TV prior to their cheerleaders competing this weekend at Walt Disney World in Florida. Guardian Garments, one of our members, is owned by the Nelsons.

Big Lake Community Education is looking for financial sponsors to help pay for licensing, costumes and sets for its upcoming musical, "Shrek The Musical", performing April 29-May 1st. Sponsors will be recognized in the playbill. For more information email Allen [here!](#)



Winter Weekend Tournaments at Big Lake Schools include :

Boys Youth Basketball Tournament: Feb 26-27

Note: date subject to change!



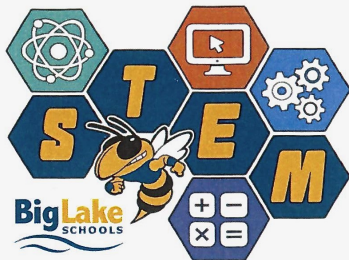
Hours: Mon 1-6p; Tues 10a-5p; Wed 1-7p; Thur 1-5p; Fri 10a-5p; Sat 10a-1p.

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.

Call for Community Partners!

Independence Elementary STEM School is looking to team up with community businesses. The goal is for our students to learn from community organizations and companies, while serving and supporting our community.



If this sounds interesting, please reach out to **Scott Pierce** at **762-262-7259** or s.pierce@biglakeschools.org

Storytime-Tuesdays or Fridays: Children, with a favorite adult, enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement activities while building language and early literacy skills through reading, singing, talking, and playing. For ages 2-6. Limit 20. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library. Feb 11, 15, 18, 22 & 25, Mar 1 & 4 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Tiny Tot Tuesdays: Parents/caregivers explore and play with their little ones. Activities that help to build early literacy and school readiness will be set up around the Community Room down the hall from the library. Supplies are provided. Limit 10. Registration required. Tuesday, Jan. 25 and Feb. 22 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Library Lovers Scavenger Hunt: Find all the hidden hearts. Once all the hearts are found, enter for a chance to win a new book! For ages 3-12. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Monday, Feb 7 to Saturday, Feb 26 During library open hours

Tiny Art Show: Art kits include a 3x3 canvas, 3 paint colors and 1 brush. Return the completed piece to the Big Lake Library by April 1 for display in the Tiny Art Show starting April 15. For all ages. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library. Tuesday, March 1 During library hours.



Lupulin Brewing Company celebrates GAME NIGHT

Tuesdays / 6-9PM. Join them every Tuesday night for **Game Night!** This event is open to all ages, bring your family, friends, neighbors, whoever, and play some board games! Even better? Your first pour is on them if you come to play! The event space will be set up with some board games to play, and customers can bring your own games as well. Free **Pub Trivia** on Wednesdays at 7 pm is scheduled through the rest of the year: answer questions about movies, music, history, tv, geography, superheroes, and more to win some fabulous prizes!

- 1st Place will win a LBC \$50 Gift Card
- 2nd Place will win a LBC \$25 Gift Card

Everyone who plays will receive a \$1 off each of their beers for the evening!

VOICE IN GOV'T-TIDBITS & RESOURCES (continued)

DEED's Career Force offers these online resources for health care training and employment:

[Find health care employment in Minnesota now](#)

[Learn about free Certified Nursing Assistant \(CNA\) training for Minnesotans](#)



Reuters reports that Turkey's inflation hit 36% last month [Read about it here!](#)

TLNT Article on When Mental Health Struggles Disguise Themselves as Work Struggles give ideas on working with staff who are struggling. [Read about it here!](#)

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
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Lakeside Park,
Big Lake, MN
Free parking available

CONTACT PERSON FOR QUESTIONS

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

Please insert 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: _____
 Dates of Service: _____
 Branch 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, 100 Lake Street N., Big Lake, MN 55309
 Checks made payable to: City of Big Lake - Freedom Rock[®]
 QUESTIONS: Karen Blake 763-264-9245, kbk66117@gmail.com

Action today for a bright tomorrow.

Please join us in supporting our local food shelf
Feb. 28-April 10

We are accepting non-perishable food items and cash donations for our local food shelf as part of the MN FoodShare March Campaign.

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Center for Energy and Environment




February's Business After Hours


February's Business after Hours is scheduled for 5 pm on Thursday, February 17th at Lupulin Brewing. To provide adequate seating, 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. Last month members who missed the opportunity to win the prizes include Gazelle Painting, Howmet, Monticello Times and Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home. Members who are present while their name is called win prizes valued at over \$400 which include:

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

 **"BECKERS" Beauty by the Lake** \$10 Gift Certificate
Book appt online: beckersbeautybythelake.com 763-516-5177

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



LUPULIN BREWING FREE Drink

Monticello Printing Certificate



PATRIOT 2 Color Ads, notepad & can koozie

February 22nd Membership Meeting

Our **February Membership Meeting** will be held Tuesday, Feb. 22nd at Saron Lutheran Church. Several non-profit members including Big Lake Spud Fest, Citizens for Big Lake Freedom Rock, Elevier's Women Center, Guardian Angels, Saron Lutheran and The Wave Youth Center will share their stories and goals for 2022. God's Grub will provide a buffet of favorite hotdishes. Please register [here](#) by Wed, Feb. 17th.

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 the 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, Feb, 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 OFFICE CLOSED	8 Board Meeting 12:30 McPete's and virtually	9	10 Ambassadors Meeting noon Trails	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Business After Hours 5 pm at Lupulin's. Register here	18	19
20	21 Office Closed 	22 Membership Meeting 11:30 Saron Lutheran and virtually. Register here!	23 Office Closed/ Working Remotely	24 Office Closed/ Working Remotely	25	26
27	28 Office Closed/ Working Remotely					

Mark Your Calendar!

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

Tuesday, March 29th at 11:30 am: Membership Meeting with City of Big Lake Mayor & Dept. Heads

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



Saturday, August 20, 2022: Block Party at



Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022: Golf Scramble at

