

Mission Statement

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

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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

Did you know that the county seat was originally in Big Lake until it was moved to Elk River in 1865, 9 years after the Territorial Legislature set the current Sherburne County boundaries? Imagine what would Big Lake look like if the county seat hadn’t been moved 150+ years ago...

MEMBER OF THE MONTH: Sherburne County

“Big Lake is a growing community that offers a great location to live, work, and play,” Assistant Sherburne County Administrator Dan Weber offered. “The population growth is driving the need for additional business and development growth. It has a great central location between the Twin Cities and St. Cloud while offering many parks and natural resources for residents to enjoy. We are proud to be a partner with the Big Lake Community.”

Named after Moses Sherburne, an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Minnesota Territory, Sherburne County celebrated 166 years late last month.

Sherburne County spans 431 square miles and has a population of more than 97,000, according to 2020 Census data. They offer economic development assistance/grants for businesses to start up, expand or relocate; grant programs to assist businesses and non-profits with COVID-related challenges; renewal/issuance of driver’s licenses; assistance to veterans in obtaining benefits; public safety/law enforcement in all unincorporated areas and cities of Zimmerman and Clear Lake; prosecution of individuals who break the law; road and infrastructure maintenance and improvements; and maintaining, growing and improving a network of parks and trails, along with other services.

“We recently opened a child-care center in the Government Center in Elk River,” noted Weber, “so parents who have business in our building can drop off their child with YMCA staff, (Continued on page 2)



Left is Sherburne County Administrator Bruce Messelt and Assistant Administrator Dan Weber sharing information on the County’s Entrepreneur Lab for businesses at last year’s Membership Meeting.



MEET YOUR NEW MEMBERS!



First Class Mortgage is more than just a company name. It's the way they do business. Whether you are buying a home or refinancing your existing mortgage, their dedicated team takes the time to understand your financial situation. They realize that each borrower has a different set of financial circumstances requiring a unique customized mortgage. From first contact to closing, everything they do is First Class. Locally-owned and operated out of Maple Grove, their five-star Google reviews and appreciative testimonials are no accident. With over 100 years of combined experience, their team is dedicated to satisfying their customers with a quick and easy loan process, constant communication and friendly interest rates. Their mortgage loan programs include: Conventional, VA Financing, FHA Loans, Jumbo Loans, First Time Homebuyer Loans, USDA Rural Housing Loans and Doctor Loans. For more information, contact Mortgage Consultant Nicole Fiksdal at 612-712-0642 or [email here](#).



Knight Barry Title Group issues title insurance and provide title related services to consumers, lenders, lawyers, developers, builders, and real estate professionals. They protect sensitive documents and information from real estate closings and disburse closing funds safely, securely and soundly. They enjoy supporting local communities! They began 168 years ago in WI and now operate in 5 states. They have recently established an office in Becker. Read more about them on their website [here](#). Contact Bailey at 320-253-8860 or [email her here!](#)



Member of the Month: Sherburne County (continued from page 1)

who will make sure their child is safe and has constructive activities to do while their parents are busy. And it's FREE!"

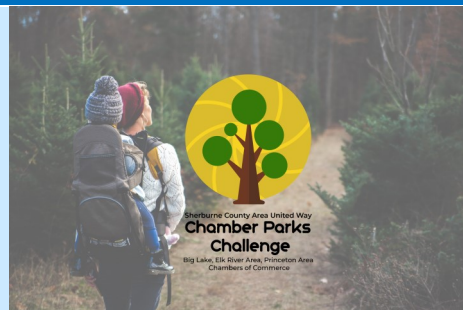
Sherburne County employs 733 full-time employees and 22 part-time employees plus on-call and temporary or seasonal employees.

The County's 2022 budget is slightly more than \$113.6 million. Of this, 48% is funded through the property tax levy. The remainder is covered through state and federal grants and fees for services. \$2.8 million covers capital improvement debt.

County Administrator Bruce Messelt concluded, "The Big Lake Chamber has always offered numerous engagement and volunteer opportunities, and it has given us a chance to get involved with the community in so many ways. We've always admired the innovative programs that the Chamber develops. If there is something that needs to be done to support the community, the Big Lake Chamber is there to assist."

CHAMBER PARKS CHALLENGE IN APRIL

The Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the Elk River Area Chamber of Commerce and the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce invite their citizens to participate in the April Parks Challenge. Citizens are encouraged to walk in any or all of the parks of the City of Big Lake or those listed on the Sherburne County Area United Way (SCAUW) [webpage here](#) from April 1-22. They should take a picture of themselves, their pets, their kids, their neighbor kids, a sign or unique feature of the park and upload the photo with the hashtag #biglakeparkschallenge2022 [here](#) along with the name of the park.



Each photo will be entered into a weekly drawing for prizes! Winners can receive a free season pass to City of Big Lake Lakeside Park worth \$72 along with other prizes. The more parks residents visit and submit photos, the more times they will be entered to win the Grand Prize, which includes another season pass to Lakeside Park, 3 hours of cleaning from Debbie's Cleaning Service and a weekend of camping at Princeton plus more!

The weekly prizes will be drawn on April 8th, 15th, and 22nd. The Grand Prize will be drawn on April 26th. The person that posts the picture will be the one entered into the drawing and not the people that are tagged, but they can always post their own photo.

The community with the most entries submit will receive the traveling trophy, sponsored by Majestic Creations. Big Lake won the trophy in 2021.



★ 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: _____ Phone or text: _____
 Email: _____
 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 until 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®, 1817/4 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: Big Lake, MN 763-254-2756, bls@bl123@gmail.com



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COMMUNITY FAIR PROVIDES GREAT EXPOSURE!



Cosponsored by Big Lake Community Education, Big Lake Community Fair on Saturday, April 23rd from 10-1 pm at Big Lake High School will give great exposure to businesses, employers and community groups.

Entertainment will be provided by BLHS Chamber Choir, Jazz Band, Treble Choir, Evolution Tae Kwon Do and Starz Dance. Caricatures by artist Bill Morgan will be available along with face painting by the Big Lake Ambassadors! Big Lake Robotics will demonstrate their robot. Attendees can participate in basketball challenge at our Gold Sponsor State Farm's booth. The Farmers Market will be held in the high school parking lot. At least 6 bikes and scooter/skateboard combos will be given away.

Sponsors, prizes for the basketball challenge and door prizes are still needed. Gold Sponsors include Custom Door Sales, Insurance Specialists Team, Liberty Bank and State Farm. Silver sponsors are Big Lake Spud Fest, FedEx Ground, Minnco Credit Union, Minnesota Limited, Park Dental and Wruck Sewer & Portable Rentals. Bike sponsors include our gold sponsors, Big Lake Spud Fest and Driscoll Accounting. Four more bikes can still be given away if we get more sponsors!

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

Early bird registrations for booths 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.

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 and Cory Laugen of State Farm. Additional members are needed.




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 March 16th
Gold, Silver & Bike Sponsorships due April 10th
Booth registrations due by April 18th.
 Save \$25 if registered and paid by Mar 31st
 Go to www.biglakechamber.com/EventsCalendar for details & to register for booth space
 Call 763-263-7800; Email: info@biglakechamber.com

2022 Community Fair Booths

Saturday, April 23, 2022

10 am—1 pm
Big Lake High School

Farmers Market in Parking Lot
All Proceeds for BLHS Scholarships

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.

- o 6 PREMIUM Booth Spaces at entrance of gym door- for an additional \$50: first come basis only Available until April 14th
- o Early Bird- \$25 Discount on registration if paid by March 31, 2022
- o Sales of new, pre-packaged items will be allowed at your area.
- o 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 BLCCA, 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**

Hello, Big Lake!



We're not the "new kid" in town anymore, but we're as eager as ever to make more friends. If you haven't met our talented team yet, stop by for a visit! We'd love to show you why almost 30,000 members depend on Minnco to meet their financial needs!



Enjoy **better loan rates**, **friendly service**, **powerful mobile and online banking**, **free billpay**, and *much more!*

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McPete's Sports Bar & Lanes

"Spring & Summer-2022 Beanbag Leagues" Now Forming

- ❖ TUESDAY EVENING 7:00 P.M.
- ❖ WEDNESDAY EVENING 7:00 P.M.
- ❖ THURSDAY EVENING 7:00 P.M.
- ❖ 2 PERSON TEAM.
- ❖ \$30.00 ENTRY FEE PER TEAM.



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eric@mcpetes.com

SIGN UP TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

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



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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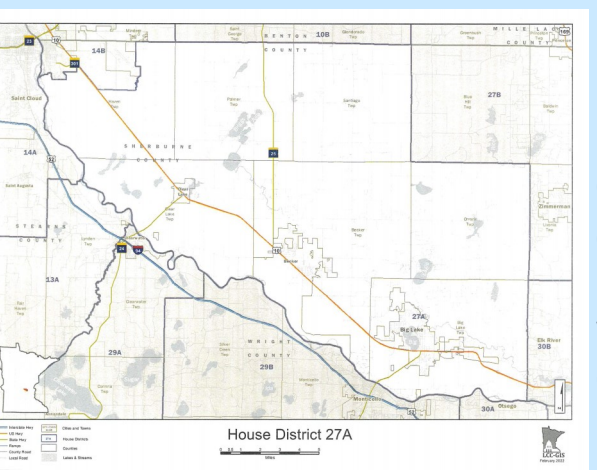
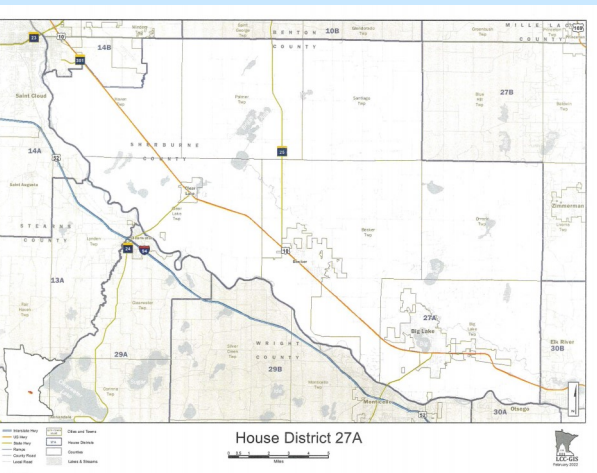


Senator Mary Kiffmeyer announced last month that she will retire from the State Senate at the end of the year and has endorsed fellow Senator Andrew Mathews' (R- Milla) candidacy for the newly drawn Senate District 27, serving City of Big Lake and Big Lake Township residents. Kiffmeyer was elected to the Senate in 2012 after serving in the State House from 2009-2011. She previously served as Secretary of the State from 1999-2006. During her time as Secretary of State, Minnesota had the highest voter turnout in the nation. We thank her for her work on business issues and commitment to help non-profits and residents in the area.

New District: Sherburne County released the maps below that move the City of Big Lake and Big Lake Township residents into a newly-formed Senate District 27 and House District 27A with Becker and Clear Lake and northwest townships rather than Elk River. Current representative in 27A is Shane Mekeland.



Sherburne County is offering a grant through March 31st to non-profits and other community organizations who help 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. Read about it [here!](#)



Central Mississippi Regional Planning Partnership is offering Place-making Microgrants on nature, culture or the arts up to \$3500. Learn more and access the application [here.](#)



Chamber Day at the Capitol will now be held in-person at the Capitol on Wednesday, April 20th. Cost is \$35. [Register here!](#)



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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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Big Lake, MN 55309
763-262-9988



Big Lake Schools STEM Night

The public is invited to learn more about STEM projects and programs at Liberty Elementary, Independence Elementary STEM, Middle School and High School Thursday, March 31st from 5-7:30 pm at the Middle School.



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!](#)



Summer Weekend Tournaments at Big Lake Schools include :

- Fastpitch Ice Breaker Tournament: May 20-22
- Youth Baseball Tournament: June 3-5
- Youth Baseball Tournament: June 10-12
- Youth Baseball Tournament: June 17-19

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!](#)

CHILDREN'S EVENT

We're Going on a Bear Hunt: Look over, around, under and through the library to find the items on the scavenger hunt sheet. Keep your eyes peeled for the bear hidden somewhere in the library! For ages 2-6.

Tuesday, March 1 to Saturday, March 26 During library open hours.

TEEN EVENT

Agamograph

Learn how to make a "moving" artwork, also known as a Lenticular. This program will be available in person or as a take & make. Social distancing measures will be in place at programs. Please stay home when sick. For ages tweens and teens. Limit 10. Reg; required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Wednesday, March 30

4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

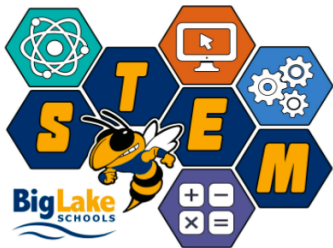
ADULT EVENT

Weaving Class

Joy of Exploration: SAORI Weaving with COMPAS Teaching Artist Chiaki O'Brien - SAORI Weaving provides the opportunity of freedom. Freedom to choose colors and textures while creating, to explore and much more! Chiaki will provide SAORI looms for participants to work on and she will facilitate and encourage students as they develop skills and enjoy SAORI Weaving process. The aim of the workshop is for participants to create one-of-a-kind piece of woven art! For ages teen and adults. Limit 9. Registration required.

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 763-262-7259 or s.pierce@biglakeschools.org



Options now has a monthly e-newsletter! They promote good things they are doing as well as legislation that is critical to their program. They also provide key information to help support their critical workforce shortage. [Here is last month's newsletter.](#) Sign up to receive the e-newsletter [here!](#)



Sherburne History Center is issuing a call for artists for its 2022 Sherburne Area Visual Arts Showcase (SAVAS). The show is scheduled for Monday, June 13, through Saturday, June 18, 2022 at the Sherburne History Center in Becker. Fine art and photography by adult artists from the local area (sorry, not quilts or crafts) will be featured.. There is no cost to participate, just a \$25 refundable deposit. Three awards with cash prizes are issued each year, and artists are welcome to sell their work if they comply with Minnesota tax rules. The show is open to the public during the History Center's regular business hours, as well as during their Tuesday evening Ice Cream Social. For more information, or to register as a SAVAS 2022 artist, call Mike at 763-275-2210 or [email him here!](#)



City of Big Lake's Music in the Park concert series is returning for a full season in 2022 to celebrate its 10-year anniversary! This free concert series is held on select Thursday evenings during the months of June- August and features a wide variety of live music and local food trucks. The concerts are held at Big Lake's scenic Lakeside Park located right off of Highway 10 and has drawn over 70,000 people from the surrounding areas including St. Cloud and the Twin Cities.

The Big Lake Farmers Market supports local farmers, crafters, and musicians and offers a variety of exciting programs that rely on sponsorships including the Power of Produce and Frequent Shopper programs, kids' activities, Music at the Market, Senior Day coupons, and our card reader. The Power of Produce incentive program provides kids ages 3 to 12 with \$2 tokens that can be spent on fresh fruits and vegetables at the market. In 2021 over 445 unique children participated and we reimbursed local farmers over \$2,700 in sales of their Minnesota grown produce. Each week, Music at the Market features live musicians. The Big Lake Farmers Market is proud to offer monetary compensation for each musicians' time and dedication to their passion. The market also invested in a card reader so that customers can use their debit-credit and SNAP-EBT cards to purchase goods from vendors who cannot afford this technology.

Both of these programs are funded through grants and sponsorships. Email Corrie Scott [here.](#)

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.



Member FDIC oldnational.com

Sign up for
FREE
smart thermostats

Installed by the **One-Stop Efficiency Shop**®,
sponsored by Xcel Energy

LEARN MORE →



cee
Center for Energy and Environment




March's Business After Hours


March's Business after Hours is scheduled for 5 pm on Thursday, March 21st at The Buff. 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



LUPIN BREWING FREE Drink
THE LAKES, MINNESOTA

Monticello Printing Certificate



PATRIOT 2 Color Ads, notepad & can koozie

March 26nd Membership Meeting

Our **March Membership Meeting** will be held Tuesday, March 29th at 11:30 am. Big Lake Police Department Community Room. City of Big Lake Mayor Paul Knier, Administrator Clay Wilfahrt, Community Development Director Hanna Klimmek will share updates, including the city's revolving loan fund. Lunch is \$15. Members can also attend virtually. Please register [here](#) by Wed, March 23rd.

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, Mar. 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	8 Board Meeting 12:30 Northstar Technology and virtually	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Business After Hours 5 pm at The Buff. Register here	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Membership Meeting 11:30 BLPD Community Room and virtual- ly. Register here!	30	31 Community Fair Early Bird Booth deadline. Regis- ter here		

Mark Your Calendar!

Thursday, April 21st at 5 pm: Business after Hours.

Saturday, April 23rd from 10-1: Community Fair at Big Lake High School. Cosponsor



Tuesday, April 26th at 11:30 am: Membership Meeting at Lupulin Brewing with Sherburne County.

Saturday, August 20th from 10-2 pm: Block Party at



Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022: Golf Scramble at

