

Mission Statement

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

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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: Honoring our Veterans!



Last month on Memorial Day we honored men and women who died for our freedom. Next month we celebrate the many freedoms we often take for granted. I’m very appreciative of the work that the Citizens for Big Lake Freedom Rock have done to honor our local men and women who gave their time, expertise and lives for us!

MEMBER OF THE MONTH:

Last September Big Lake became the fourth city in Minnesota to sponsor a Freedom Rock painted by internationally-known artist Bubba Sorenson. Bubba’s goal is to honor veterans in each state and he personalizes each one, using local veterans. Big Lake Freedom Rock is featured on [his webpage here!](#)



For more than ten years, Karen Blake and Linda Paulson have organized veteran-focused events at their local church in Big Lake. Karen has visited the majority of the Freedom Rocks in Iowa. “We did not have a blueprint to know how to proceed,” Karen remembered, “ but we just knew we wanted a Freedom Rock® in Big Lake.”

Linda added, “We knew we would need the approval, support and encouragement of all the veteran organizations in Big Lake and we hoped to inspire the business community as well.” The pair visited each organization and joined the Big Lake Chamber in 2019 and the American Legion Auxiliary #147, spreading the word about the project. The local newspapers also published updates on the project.

No government funding or large corporation donations covered the costs but the group was confident the funds would come. A quarry donated the 31-ton rock and the group started

(continued on page 3)



Above Linda Paulson and Karen Blake were excited when the rock came to Lakeside Park in 2020. Above right Bubba Sorenson painting the Big Lake Freedom Rock summer 2021 (submitted photos).





Big Lake Community Lakes Association (BLCLA) is a non-profit organization seeking to protect and preserve the quality of Big Lake and Mitchell Lake now and for the future. Composed of area citizens and lake owners, BLCLA focuses on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species through educational efforts. President DaCota Weinzetl encourages everyone interested in protecting and protecting our lakes to join for the nominal fee of \$50/year. More volunteers are needed to talk to boat owners at Lakeside Park this summer and early fall, once they've completed online training and a background check. You can learn more from their [website](#), call DaCota at 763-568-9514 or email him [here!](#)



Pillar to Post Home Inspections offers three exclusive Home Inspection Packages that allows their clients to select a range of services. The individualized report is available immediately upon the completion of the home inspection. As part of America's largest home inspection company, owners Craig and Pam Erickson seek to communicate effectively, knowledgeably, efficiently, and openly about the condition of a home. They also offer radon testing, mold testing, sewer scope and water testing. Learn more on [their website](#). You can call them at 763-332-5600 or [email them](#).

Ribbon-cutting Events: Chamber Board and Chamber Ambassadors conducted 3 ribbon-cuttings in the past several weeks.

Ember Coffee Company's ribbon-cutting at right includes owner Elisa Berry and sons, Gloria Vande Brake of Chamber, Yvonne Blum of Minnco Credit Union, Ralph Kiffmeyer of State Senator Mary Kiffmeyer, owner Matt Berry, Hanna Klimmek of City of Big Lake, Brenda Geldert of Options, Donna Clarksean of Old National Bank, J. Brian Calva of Beaudry Oil, Sherburne County Commissioner and owner of JC's U Lock Storage and Mayor Paul Knier of Cabot Lodge Securities.



Edina Realty Heitz Gardner Group's ribbon-cutting photo below left includes Superintendent Tim Truebenbach of Big Lake Schools, Stacey Stanley & Angie Gardner of Heitz Gardner Group, Hanna Klimmek of City of Big Lake, Donna Clarksean of Old National Bank, Jennifer Baysinger of Heitz Gardner Group and Yvonne Blum of Minnco Credit Union.



Knight Barry Title Company's ribbon-cutting photo at right includes Carol Hanson of PATRIOT News, Gloria Vande Brake of Chamber, Knight Barry Title Company employees Jodi Bach, Amy Kemmerer, Becky Fiedler, Marlo Olson, Bailey Bussmann (cutting the ribbon), Stacey Stanley of Edina Heitz Gardner Group and Shelly Muske of Knight Barry Title Company.



BINGO PRIZES & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Volunteers and Bingo prizes are still needed to have a successful Big Lake Spud Fest next week, June 23-26. Consider donating some of your logo-promotional items for Bingo prizes as well as volunteering for a variety of needed duties through the event. Chamber members can also be a sponsor with a donation of \$50-\$1000. Businesses can also sponsor one of the bands, the fireworks on Friday night, the Tator Toss bean bag tournament or the softball tournament that runs all week-end. The Chamber office is collecting Bingo prizes and selling Spud Fest buttons for only \$2. Email Gloria [here](#) if you would like your items picked up. See the list of Spud Fest activities and sign up to volunteer [here!](#)

Member of the Month (continued from page 1)



selling \$100 Patriotic pavers to be placed around the rock. This gave people all over the U.S. a way to honor their veterans by dedicating a paver to them. They installed and dedicated more than 200 pavers at the dedication last year and plan to install another 100 in a couple months.

Linda noted, “This project has been totally faith-based and continues that way today.” Karen added, “There have been many fascinating service stories shared and miracles happening when people gave their time, money, talent and use of equipment to make this project a reality. The project has been supported by hundreds of people in Big Lake and central MN. Our high school football team dug out the foundation area and volunteers got the area at Lakeside Park level.”

“Phase II of Freedom Rock is to provide a shelter,” continued Linda, “to protect the rock from the weather and provide an area for lighted and comfortable viewing and reflection. We’re thankful to Structural Buildings, Bogart, Pederson and Connexus in helping us. We want to create a beautiful rest stop for tourists and home town folks to show all the veterans and their families that we appreciate them. The concept of ‘Freedom’ and the men and women who fought and died for it is something we want to **ever honor and never forget.**”

Watch for the Freedom Rock entry in Spud Fest parade next Saturday June 25 as they honor local **veteran** potato farmers and farm workers. They will continue selling pavers and asking for donations until the shelter is completed. They have names of area veterans who would like a paver but don’t have the

funds to purchase their own. Keep informed on their Facebook page [here](#). You can call Karen Blake at 763-234-0369, [email her](#) for more information or visit City Hall for an order form. Photo at right shows 3 WWII vintage airplanes that flew over Big Lake after last September’s celebration.





ONLY \$150 TO SPONSOR A BOOTH AT BLOCK PARTY!

Businesses and non-profits can share their products and services at the Big Lake Block Party on Saturday, August 20th from 10-1:30 at McPete's for just \$150. Other sponsorships are also available as noted below. This is one of the Chamber's largest fundraisers is the Big Lake Block Party and we are able to keep our dues down because of your support.

For just \$5 each youth and adults can participate in unlimited bowling and mini-golf, the Scouts inflatable gun range, Plinko games, fishbowl, tossing games and lots of activities at our booths. New this year is free haircuts offered by El Teca Barbershop!

Below is the registration form. Members can also purchase tickets [here!](#) Volunteers are needed to join our Committee and volunteer at the event. Committee members include Dr. Kristi McAlpin of Big Lake

Area Vet Hospital, Amber Digiovanni of Minnco Credit Union, Allen Snegosky of Sherburne State Bank, Bill Blackhurst of Scouts and Dan McElwee of St. Croix Valley Insurance.



Saturday, August 20th, 2022 from 10 am-1:30 pm.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Platinum Sponsor \$1,000 (includes bike sponsor for cash sponsor) Premiere logo recognition on all marketing materials. Includes 10 passes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gold Sponsor \$500 (includes bike sponsor for cash sponsor) Prominent logo recognition at inflatables and on marketing materials. Includes 6 passes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Silver Sponsors \$250 Significant logo recognition. Includes 4 passes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hole in one Contest Sponsor \$250 (Maximum 2 Sponsors) Prominent logo recognition and contest table on Mini-Golf hole. Includes 4 passes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bowling Lane Contest Sponsor \$250 (Game Ideas on Backside) Prominent logo recognition at bowling lane. You choose a game with prizes. Includes 4 passes. Must bring a small table.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carnival Game Sponsor \$150 (Game Ideas on Backside) Just like the old time bazaars. You choose a game with prizes. Includes 2 passes. Must bring a table and tent if needed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bronze Sponsors \$150 Name recognition at bowling lanes. Includes 2 passes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bike Sponsor \$150 Sponsor a bike that the youth register to win!
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Sponsor \$50 Name recognition at Mini-Golf course.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am interested in volunteering at the Block Party Wear your company shirt and mingle!

(PLEASE CHOOSE ONE BELOW)

I would like Sponsor passes I am not interested in Sponsor passes

Here's your invitation to participate. Sign up today! Due by July 28th
 You do NOT have to be a Chamber member to participate. All are welcome!
 All logos must be emailed to info@biglakechamber.com for marketing materials by July 28th

****Participating sponsors are required to bring their own tents and tables****

If you wish to have a booth or sell tickets at the event for your own organization, a minimum \$150 sponsorship is required!

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Payment information: Checks payable to Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry, P.O. Box 241, Big Lake, MN 55309

Name on Credit Card _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVC: _____

Total credit card charge _____ Zip Code of Card _____

Phone # _____ Email address _____

Office Phone: 763-263-7800 Email: info@biglakechamber.com

FOOD PROVIDED BY

BIG LAKE BLOCK PARTY Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022 10-1:30 pm
 McPete's Entertainment: Platinum Sponsor
 590 Humboldt Drive, Big Lake

- Ambulance & Police Vehicles
- Face Painting by Big Lake Ambassadors
- Games/Activities including Plinko, Toss, Fishbowl
- Scouts Inflatable BB Gun Range
- FREE Haircuts!
- Drawing for bikes, Scooters & Skateboards!

WATER BALLOON DODGEBALL

GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS: El Teca Barbershop, Starz Dance Studio

BIKE SPONSORS: Big Lake Area Veterinary Hospital, Minnesota State Senator Mary Kiffmeyer, Minnco Credit Union, Sherburne State Bank

COMMUNITY SPONSORS: Park Dental

Registration is \$5 for adults and children 3 and older.
 SAVE TIME at the event by prepaying your registration on the August Events Calendar at biglakechamber.com



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*APR is Annual Percentage Rate. Rate shown is current as of 5/13/2022, and is for an A+ borrower with two .25% discounts for Minnco relationships, for a 2018 or newer model. Loan is subject to approval and rate varies based on individual credit and term. Payment ex: \$10,000 loan for 60 months at 3.74% APR=\$183/month. Offer valid on new and used toys and is subject to change. Minnco membership required.

**90 days deferred payments based on credit approval. Interest will continue to accrue during deferral period.



GOLFERS & SPONSORS NEEDED FOR SCRAMBLE!

Both golfers and sponsors are needed for the Chamber's 4th Annual Golf Scramble Thursday, Sept 15th at Monticello Country Club. The theme is "Team Up with the Chamber" and golfers and sponsors are encouraged to wear their favorite sports gear. Registration and a continental brunch starts at 10 am with the putting contest at 10:30 and shotgun at 11. Phillips Wine & Spirits will again offer a free drink ticket during social hour. Old National Bank is our dinner sponsor, catered by Von Hanson's Meats.

Golfers can receive \$20,000 if they get a Hole in One, sponsored by Insurance Specialists Team. Prizes will be awarded to the golfers who have closest to the pin, longest putt and longest drive. For just \$40, golfers can purchase a "Swanny Pro Package" which includes a mulligan, a putting mulligan, a power drive and a ball toss. A Pro will also be available to swing on a difficult hole.

More teams are needed this year so please invite the golfers you know to come! Proceeds from this event helps keep member dues down.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the Committee members: Chair Dr. Scott Schulz of Great River Spine & Sport, Paul Knier of Cabot Lodge Securities, Tim Suchy of Edward Jones, Julie Evans of Insurance Specialists Team, Yvonne Blum of Minnco Credit Union and Cory Laugen of State Farm.



4th Annual GOLF SCRAMBLE

THURSDAY, SEPT 15, 2022
MONTICELLO COUNTRY CLUB
1209 GOLF COURSE RD, MONTICELLO MN

"TEAM UP With The Chamber": Wear Your Favorite Sports Gear!

SPONSORSHIPS

Dinner Sponsor:  OLD NATIONAL BANK
Your bank. Fit life.

Golf Ball Sponsor: \$1000 with your logo on 30 dozen golf balls and a team of golfers

Master Sponsor: \$625 for sponsorship of event & includes green fees, cart, light brunch & dinner for 4 golfers

Classic Sponsor: \$200. Includes sponsorship of a golf hole with signage. Host a game or event at your golf tee box.

Beverage Cart Sponsor (2): \$450. Company logo on carts

Driving Range Sponsor: \$200. Signage at the driving range

Party Cart: \$200. Party Cart will be decorated to theme of the Golf Scramble & have sponsor's logo on signage on the cart. Sponsor can also provide prizes.

Brunch Sponsor:

Social Hour FREE drink 

Snack Sponsor: 

*** All sponsors will be recognized in Big Lake Chamber Newsletter, Facebook, & Big Lake Chamber Website and Special Recognition at the Awards Dinner.

SCHEDULE

10 am Registration & Continental Brunch

10:30 Putting Contest

11 am Shotgun start

Social Hour

Awards Dinner

HOLE SPONSORS

Beaudry Oil Company
Lake Liquors
Lupulin Brewing Company
Minnco Credit Union
Minnesota Limited
Monticello Country Club
Sherburne State Bank
State Farm-Cory Laugen



GOLFERS

Enjoy games such closest to pin, longest putt & longest drive.

HOLE IN ONE PRIZE:  \$20,000 Hole in One

Team with Lowest Score receives \$200 to use at Pro Shop

Early Bird by Aug 31st: \$80 each or Team of 4 at \$320

After Aug 31st: \$90 each or Team of 4 at \$360

BUY Swanny Pro Package of a mulligan, a putting mulligan, a power drive and a ball toss for \$40

Register at www.biglakechamber.com/golf-scramble



Chamber Legislative Successes! This past legislative session, the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with other Chambers and the Minnesota Chamber advocated for businesses by contacting state legislators, Governor Walz, and local elected officials on following bills that passed:

1. Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund Replenishment. Interest on the depleted fund from COVID expenditures was costing \$30,000/day. Employers had already received double and triple percent increases in the \$10,000-28,000 range for the first quarter of 2022. With the bill passed and signed, employers should check their UI account and use any credits they have.
2. Health Care Reinsurance to assist small business owners and individuals in keeping health care premiums at a reasonable level. Approved for 5 more years and funded for 3.
3. Growler Bill allowing breweries such as Lupulin Brewing Company to increase its growler sales and sell 4 and 6-packs. The Chamber supported Lupulin's amended ordinance at the June 8th City Council meeting. [Here is the link](#) on the bill.

Frontline Worker Pay: eligible workers have until July 22nd to apply if they worked at least 120 hours between March 15, 2020-June 30, 2021 in 19 industries. They could not have received more than 20 cumulative weeks of unemployment insurance. Nearly 400,000 applicants applied in the first week. All approved applicants will receive an equal payment this fall up to a maximum of \$1500. Please register and view this information at www.frontlinepay.mn.gov



Minnesota Chamber presented the graph at right last month at their Statewide Policy Tour which compares MN to other states. While we remain 3rd highest in the nation on corporate income taxes and 5th highest on individual taxes, the work of Sherburne County EDA and City of Big Lake Economic Development Authority has helped MN in its 1st place ranking of businesses surviving 5 years. Unfortunately, our start-ups in MN rank one of the lowest at 48th in the nation.



MN Chamber's Manufacturing Conference is scheduled for October 13 but early registration is due July 15th. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

MN Chamber's Women in Business Conference is scheduled for August 2nd at Mystic Lake. Learn more and register [here!](#)



CHAMBER'S FIRST VOLUNTEERISM SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

At Big Lake High School graduation a couple weeks ago, the first two winners of the Chamber's Volunteerism Scholarships were informed that they will receive \$500 to continue their education.

Miranda Segner has been commuting from Maple Lake. She plans to go to NDSU for a career in the medical field. She has volunteered as a coach at volleyball camps, a camp counselor through 4-H, worked at parish festivals at her church, volunteered through National Honor Society, packaged food at Feed My Starving Children, set up triathlons at the local beach, and cleaned ditches.



Raelyn Wilcox has lived her entire life in Big Lake. She plans to attend Drake University and major in Clinical and Medical Health Sciences and minor in Criminology. She has volunteered at the elementary school with her previous teacher. She helped students on their work, print papers, grade papers, and help with projects. Her favorite time was helping the younger students with projects and getting to see their creative side.



With our successful 2022 Community Fair and our partnership with Big Lake Community Education, the Chamber will be awarding at least 12 \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors throughout the Big Lake area. Next year's seniors should contact the high school counseling office in early 2023 for an application form.



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For the low cost of only \$45.00 a month, your 2 column by 2" ad (2 column by 4" for \$80.00) runs in both paid newspapers EVERY month with a special 1/2 page article featuring YOUR business running once in the cycle at no additional cost. All in full color!

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Monticello Times // Crow River News
763-271-6478 | sue.emberland@apgecm.com

Monticello Times CROW RIVER NEWS



**BIG LAKE
MUSIC IN THE PARK
2022 SCHEDULE**

Summer Concert Series
Lakeside Park
Thursdays | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

June 2: Rockin' Hollywoods | 50's - 80's Rock

June 9: Sweet Siren | Rock, Pop, Country

June 16: Mick Sterling: Born to Run | Springsteen Tribute

June 23-26: Celebrate Spud Fest's 50th at BLHS!

June 30: Thrillbillies | Country, Southern Rock

July 7: Shane Martin Band | Modern Country, Rock

July 14: Lady Luck | Rock, Pop, Country

July 21: Maiden Dixie | Country, Rock

July 28: Band 51 | Rock, Pop, Country

August 4: Humboldt Station | 70's - 90's Rock, Country

August 11: Cate Fierro: Amy | Amy Winehouse Tribute

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Facebook or visit
biglakemn.org for updates



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Free parking
Live music
Debit-credit accepted
Snap-EBT & Market Bucks
Power of Produce Program
Free activities weekly

Every Wednesday from June - August from 3pm - 7pm
Every Wednesday in September from 3pm - 6pm
Lakeside Park
101 Lakeshore Dr., Big Lake, MN

Questions? Contact Corrie Scott at 612-297-6331 or visit
biglakemn.org for more information.



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BLHS YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP & CAREER FAIR



All businesses, non-profits and governmental units are invited to attend the 5th annual **Big Lake High School Youth Apprenticeship & Career Fair** on Thursday, Sept. 22nd. Educate your future employees on your services, products and great working environment.

The Fair is an opportunity to provide EXPOSURE to the many career options in today's market. Businesses are asked to educate students about what happens within their walls. What kinds of careers are available, the benefits of such career and the pathways to those careers. Businesses might bring signage, photo displays, brochures, and promotional items (of course kids love freebies).



Please take a moment to watch [this video](#) invite! [REGISTER HERE.](#)



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 EVENTS

Storytime 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. Social distancing measures will be in place at programs. Please stay home when sick. For ages 2-6. Limit 20. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Friday, June 17 & 24 and July 8, 15, 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Nature Explorer Camp: Join our Nature Explorer Club for fun craft make & takes, activities, and experiments. A new Explorer Camp Kit will be available each month during the Summer Reading Program. For ages 5-12. While supplies last. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Tuesdays, July 5, and Aug. 9 During library open hours

FAMILY EVENT

Dollipops: Dollie and Pop are sisters who have traveled all the way from Sweet Tart City to bring you on a magical and musical road trip that is sure to get kids (and their parents!) moving, grooving, and making memories from classic beach tunes to current Hollywood and pop hits, Limit 30. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Big Lake Library.

Thursday, June 23 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

BIG LAKE
ECFE IN THE PARK
2022

Dates and Parks
10:00-11:30
June 8 Lake Ridge
June 22 Hudson Woods
July 13 Sanford Select
July 27 Highline
Aug 10 Wrights Crossing
Aug 24 Lakeside

Register Online: biglakece.com

FREE FAMILY FUN

- FREE BOOK
- FREE COMMUNITY RESOURCES
- MUSIC, MOVEMENT, ART AND MORE



June's Business After Hours



Travelers Country Club
On The Mississippi

June's Business after Hours was scheduled for 5 pm on Thursday, June 16th at Travelers Country Club on the Mississippi. Tours and golf were available.

Photo to the right is our May Business after Hours and includes at left Scott & Linnai Driscoll of Driscoll Accounting, Brad Kwallek from First Bank, Jennifer Baysinger of Edina Realty Heitz Gardner Group, Lorenzo and host of El Loro Mexican Restaurant, Stacey Stanley from Edina Realty Heitz Gardner, Sue Emberland of Monticello Times, and Kris Seefeld & Anita Quaglia from Minnco Credit Union



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. Two of our newest members, Stacey Stanley of Edina Realty Heitz Gardner Group and Tami Rangel from Travelers Country Club on the Mississippi won over \$400 in prizes. Members who missed the opportunity to win the prizes from previous network opportunities include Driscoll Accounting Services, Ember Coffee Company, Freedom Strategy Group, Howmet, Michelle Backlund, Monticello Times, Scouts, Sherburne History Center and Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home. Members who are present while their name is called win prizes valued at over \$400

which include:



\$10 Gift Certificate



Massage and First Chiro Check



FREE Drink



Monticello Printing Certificate



2 Color Ads, notepad

Aug 30th Membership Meeting



Our **May Membership Meeting** will be held Tuesday, August 30th at 11:30 am at Carefree Country Club. Several non-profits members will share their stories Registration and lunch is at 11:30. Introductions and Committee Reports begin at noon. Catered lunch will be \$15. Please register [here](#) by Wednesday, Aug. 24th.

Photo at right is MN State Senator Mary Kiffmeyer, State Rep. Paul Novotny and State Senator Andrew Mathews sharing legislative updates at our May membership meeting.



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 June 28th. 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
12	13	14  Board Meeting 12:30 McPete's and virtually	15	16 Business After Hours 5:30 pm at Travelers Country Club on the Mississippi.	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 	24 	25 
26 	27	28	29	30		

Mark Your Calendar!

Thursday, July 21st at 5 pm: Business after Hours

Thursday, August 18th at 5 pm: Business after Hours

Saturday, August 20th from 10-1:30 pm: Block Party at



Tuesday, August 30th from 11:30-1 pm at Carefree Country Club (no meetings in June or



July). [Register here!](#)

Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022: Golf Scramble at

