

**Mission Statement**

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

**Board of Directors**

Chair:

Vice Chair: Tim Truebenbach  
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Options, Inc. 763-263-3684

Treasurer:

Scott Driscoll, Driscoll Accounting  
763-221-2803

Oscar Cooper, El Teca Barber Shop  
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Becky Jacobs, Northstar Technology  
Solutions 763-262-0729

Marissa McKee, Sherburne State Bank  
763-271-7182

Yvonne Olderbak, Minnco Credit Union  
763--552-7309

Benjamin Ryan, Edina Realty  
763-339-7119

Stacey Stanley, REAL Brokerage  
763-443-1943

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:**

*One thing that you can't say about Big Lake is that it's an "old boys" network that doesn't allow room for new businesses to come and thrive. This was strongly evident when fellow Chamber members selected relatively-new Minnco Credit Union as its 2022 Member of the Year!*



**MEMBER OF THE MONTH:**

Minnco Credit Union opened its Big Lake Office June 2020. They will shortly open their 7th location in Princeton and have nearly 100 employees. The Big Lake Office has 5 full-time employees and 2 part-time staff.



They offer checking, savings and credit card options for individuals along with auto and toy, student, home equity/mortgage and personal loans. For businesses they offer loans as well as checking, savings accounts and credit cards.

Vice President of the Big Lake Office Yvonne Olderbak has been in the credit union industry for 24 years, starting in her home town of Owatonna.

“We feel very honored to be named the Chamber’s Member of the Year,” Olderbak exclaimed. “This community has been so welcoming since day one of opening our doors. Both the City of Big Lake employees and Chamber members have been great to work with and lots of fun getting to know them. I love the small town feel of Big Lake!”

Yvonne was elected to the Chamber Board May 2020 and re-elected to a 3-year term in January 2022. She volunteers on the Golf Scramble Committee, the Holiday Social Committee and has staff volunteering on the Block Party. They’ve sponsored the Community Fairs, the Block Party, and Christmas Tree decorating.

Minnco has been an annual master sponsor of the Golf Scramble. Photo below left includes clockwise Yvonne Olderbak and Mark Faydo of Minnco and Becky and Jake Jacobs of Northstar Technology.



Yvonne advises, “Relationships are what helps build business. The Big Lake Chamber offers so many opportunities to gather and meet people. My team and I have found that so valuable, plus the events are a lot of fun!”



**BIG LAKE AMBASSADORS:** The Big Lake Ambassador Scholarship Program is a non-profit organization run by volunteers. They work as a team to provide young women with fun, educational and encouraging opportunities. Throughout the year they fundraise for their program as well as those in our community of Big Lake that are in need of positive help. They've assisted the Chamber at the Community Fair, the Block Party and Christmas Tree decorating.

The Big Lake Ambassador Scholarship Program seeks to reward four very special young women and two young girls who have excelled in the classroom, been active in extracurricular activities and worked to help the community. Judging is based on characteristics such as personality, academics, poise and speaking ability. No talent or swimsuit contest is held.

Who is eligible?

- Young women who are looking for the experience of a lifetime!
  - Senior Candidates: Must be in 9th-11th grade and a resident of Big Lake.
  - Junior Candidates: Must be in 6th -8th grade and a resident of Big Lake.
  - Little Miss Candidates: Must be in 3rd -5th grade and a resident of Big Lake.
- \*Note that although this program is for the girls, families are very much involved.



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- ◊ King bedrooms
- ◊ Double Queen rooms
- ◊ Family Suite (up 6 people
- ◊ Jacuzzi rooms open.

If you need extra room for friends and family to stay, please give us a call.

We do accept blocks of rooms (dinner inclusive) for special celebrations if you would like to keep your rooms close to each other.



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# COMMUNITY FAIR

## MARCH 18

### JOIN US AT COMMUNITY FAIR MARCH 18

The Big Lake Community Fair is scheduled for Saturday, March 18 from 10-1 pm at Big Lake High School.

Businesses, non-profits and governmental units will display their products and services in the gym while vendors with food samples will be in the cafeteria with the entertainment. BLHS Jazz Band will perform at 10:30; Starz Dance at 11:20 and Folklorico Rosa Quetzal at 11:45. Big Lake Robotics will demonstrate their latest robot. Attendees can receive a free caricature, compliments of REAL Brokerage. The Winter Farmers Market will be in the atrium and by the auditorium.

Exhibitors with job openings will have a dedicated area at the registration area to identify their job posts with signage.

Chamber members are encouraged to come out and sponsor a booth for just \$100 with early registration by Feb. 28th. Food court tables are just \$50 each. And first-time vendors are only \$50.

Sponsorship opportunities include:

- ◆ Diamond Sponsor at \$5000 for postcard mailing in Feb.
- ◆ Platinum sponsor at \$3000 for 100 t-shirts
- ◆ Gold Sponsors at \$500. Currently Liberty Bank is our only Gold Sponsor.
- ◆ Silver Sponsors at \$250 include Casey's, Edina Realty-Ryan Benjamin, HealthSource Chiropractic of Elk River, Minnco Credit Union and Realty Group-Brad & Carla Swanson.
- ◆ Bike or Skateboard/Scooter Sponsors at \$150 include Liberty Bank & Edina Realty-Ryan Benjamin

Diamond, Platinum, Gold & Silver receive a free booth, recognition in newspaper ads, website, Facebook and at the event.





## BIG LAKE COMMUNITY FAIR

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023**  
Big Lake High School | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS, LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NON-PROFITS!**

Free Admission | Food Samples | Giveaways  
Entertainment | Job Opportunities  
Farmers Market Vendors

REGISTER YOUR BUSINESS OR NONPROFIT BY SCANNING THE QR CODE OR VISITING [BIGLAKECHAMBER.COM](http://BIGLAKECHAMBER.COM)




Turn dreary into **dreamy.**



The price of homes may have returned to earth, but with mortgage rates double what they were a year ago, buying a new home remains difficult. Stop looking for the “perfect” house and remake your current home into what you need. A **Home Equity Loan** or **Home Equity Line of Credit** from Minnco are great ways to transform your home from drab to fab. **Talk to one of our lenders, or apply online at [minnco.com](http://minnco.com)!**

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Loans are subject to approval. Rates and terms are based on an evaluation of your credit and other factors. Minnco membership required. See a lender for more information.



## VOLUNTEERISM SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE SOON!

Last December the Chamber Board of Directors approved 14 \$500 Volunteerism Scholarships that will be available to high school seniors residing in the Big Lake school district for the 2022-2023 school year. Applications will be available next Wednesday, February 15th at the Big Lake High School Counselor's office. The due date is March 17th.

Students are asked to volunteer an average of 2 hours/month in their middle school - high school. A letter of recommendation is requested from the non-profit, religious or group that they are volunteering at. Students can be home-schooled, participate in an on-line program or attend a private or public high school.

All proceeds from the Big Lake Community Fair go to the volunteerism scholarships. Last year 2 students received scholarships. We are so thankful for the support of our Community Fair sponsors and exhibitors so that 14 \$500 scholarships is possible.

## CHAMBER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Chamber members are encouraged to consider volunteering for the following Chamber Committees in 2023:

1. Ambassadors
2. Block Party
3. Community Fair
4. Golf Committee
5. Governmental Affairs
6. Holiday Social

Please email [info@biglakechamber.com](mailto:info@biglakechamber.com) for more information or if you would like to volunteer!

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**Four Big Lake Chamber members attended MN Chamber's Session Priorities last month** with 1600 other business representatives to



hear the DFL Legislature and Governor Walz share their priorities. Photo at right includes Nicole Novotny of Guardian Angels, Rep. Paul Novotny of Elk River area, Sherburne County Administrator Bruce Messelt, County Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski of JCs U Lock Storage, J. Brian Calva of Beaudry Oil and Gloria Vande Brake of Chamber.

**Minnesota Chamber Women in Business is offering a workshop on recreational marijuana and Potential Workplace Impacts March 1st in Maple Grove.** [Register here!](#)

**Gov. Walz signed a bill this week passed by DFL state legislators that restricts utilities to be 100% carbon-free by 2040.** Republicans attempted to modify or eliminate the moratorium for nuclear facility construction but were unsuccessful. MN Chamber testified that MN ranks 16th highest in the nation for commercial electrical costs and 12th highest for industrial. This compares to 20 years ago, when Minnesota ranked 34th for industrial prices and 28th ten years ago.

**MN Chamber testified against SF2/HF2, the 24-week paid leave mandate,** sharing how the proposal's expansiveness (24 weeks of leave or 44% of a working year) and expensiveness (\$1 billion tax increase) would impede Minnesota's competitiveness and growth. This mandate applies to ALL employers, no matter if you have just one employee and will cost employers .7% payroll tax to fund the program. [Learn more here!](#)

**Tax conformity bill** was signed by Walz last month. [Read about it here](#)

**MN Housing is seeking input on its 2023-2026 Housing Plan.** [Click here to take the survey!](#)



**Alpha News** reported that **20,000 Minnesotans left** in 2022 for other states, primarily Florida and Texas. Despite this domestic migration loss, MN's estimated population increased by 5,721 from last year, or less than 1%. According to the Census data, this was mostly driven by 11,617 more births than deaths, as well as a net increase of international migration, with 14,194 people coming to Minnesota from foreign countries. [Read about it here!](#)

Another article in Alpha News toots a new study conducted by the libertarian-leaning [Committee to Unleash Prosperity](#), that **Minnesota ranks among the worst states in the Union when it comes to government benefits disincentivizing people from work.** [Read more here!](#)



**DEED Economic Trends reports** an average hourly MN private sector wage of \$32.81 in 2021, ranking eighth highest among the states. MN wage growth showed a 5.7% increase in Nov. 2022 compared to last year. [Click here to learn more!](#)

Big Lake

★ **FREEDOM ROCK** ★

Citizens for the Big Lake Freedom Rock

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**Saturday, April 22**  
**7:30-9:30 p.m.**

Limited seating – order today!



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scan the code  
or call for tickets  
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**763 234-0369**

Questions: [Lindapaulson@tds.net](mailto:Lindapaulson@tds.net) or  
[blakk0178@gmail.com](mailto:blakk0178@gmail.com)

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- Give "Thank You" Tickets to a Veteran
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**BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

Monthly Feature of the Monticello Times & Crow River News

Let us tell your story in these special Business Spotlight page feature.

Each of the 4 areas will run once a month in the pages of the Monticello Times or Crow River News community newspapers, Monticello-1st week, Albertville-2nd week, St. Michael-3rd week, and Big Lake-4th week.

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 the Monticello Times or Crow River News paid papers 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!

Don't miss out on the opportunity to promote your business EVERY month!

Actual Ad Size 3.22" wide by 2" high only \$45<sup>00</sup> Month

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Monticello Times CROW RIVER NEWS



## BIG LAKE HIGH SCHOOL NAMES TRIPLE "A" WINNERS



Georgia Morris and Isaiah Prom were recently awarded the Academics, Arts, and Athletics Award, commonly known as the Triple 'A' Award. They have a 3.0 or higher-grade point average and participate in League-sponsored athletic and fine arts activities.

Georgia is involved in band, jazz band, choir, one act play, poetry out loud, the spring musical, cross country, and track. Isaiah has been involved in band, jazz band, cross country, and baseball. Georgia and Isaiah will be recognized at the Region 8AA Triple "A" Banquet on March 5th at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd.



**Kindergarten Registration Night**  
Tue, Feb 21st  
4:00-6:30pm  
Open House  
Welcome Class of 2036!



[Learn more about The Wave's building project or donate here!](#)

The graphic below was in their February newsletter.

### TRADE TUESDAY

We are excited for another visit with Holly Baker from **Groom My Friend** here in Big Lake as our Trade Tuesday special guest on February 21st. Holly is no stranger to some of our students as they went to her salon and participated in the creative grooming of her furbabies! Now, she will come to The Wave and share more about her trade, how she got into it, and of course, share photos and even bring her beloved "Bonnie" with who Holly is competing in national creative grooming competitions!



**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

<b>Story Time</b>	Pre-schoolers	2/17/2023	10:30 - 11:00 am.
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Children, with a favorite adult, enjoy books, 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 Friends of Big Lake Library.

<b>Tiny Tot Tuesday</b>		2/28/2023	10:30—11:30 AM
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This is a drop-in, self-directed time for parents/caregivers to 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 provided. For ages 2-6. Limit 10. Registration required.

### ADULT EVENTS

<b>BOOK CLUB</b>	2/15/2023	5:30 PM—6:30 PM
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Anxious People by Fredrik Backman. Read the monthly book selection and join the group for discussion. If you have not read the book, join the group anyway. Registration required.



Thanks to a generous donation from **CentraCare Foundation**, CLIMB theatre will return to The Wave for eight sessions of Programming. This hour-long interactive, arts-integrated program will strengthen and exercise students' accountability, resiliency, empathy, advocacy, and self-regulation skills. CLIMB's programming allows participants to explore real-life situations delivered and facilitated by CLIMB Resident Artists. Their work together will culminate in a collaborative work of art that will be shared with the community. We are excited to have them back again on March 2, 9, 22, April 5, 12, 27, May 4, and 11.







## Options' Director of Employment Services & Quality Assurance



**Stacie Skalek** was featured their Dec. newsletter. [Read about it here](#). She has served as a Chamber Ambassador these last 5 years. Lupulin presented \$732 to Options during December's Pour for A Purpose events on Thursday evenings.



**El Teca Barber Shop's owner Oscar Cooper and Chamber director was featured a few months ago in Voyage Minnesota.** He credits Chamber Board and Sherburne County. [Read about it here!](#)



**Liberty Bank CEO Mark Bragelman** will be awarded the District 742 (St. Cloud) Local Education and Activities Education (LEAF) first Distinguished Alumni Award on Feb. 11th.

Mark graduated from Apollo High School and St. Cloud State University. He organized the Liberty Block Party, served on City Council, and was recognized by St. Cloud Mayor in 1995 and 2015 with a "Mark Bragelman Day". He has worked at Liberty for the past 48 years and CEO for the past 20 years. [Read more here!](#)

**Many Chamber members** were featured these last few months in Faces of Big Lake: **Lori Andreen of Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association; John Kaczmarek of Big Lake Police Department; Tina Peterson of Big Lake Police Department; Lenette and Bruce Brown of Big Lake School Board, Big Lake American Legion and Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon; Teresa Smock- Potter of Big Lake Schools; Mayor Paul Knier of Cabot Lodge Securities; Matt & Elisa Berry of Ember Coffee; Jeff Zierdt of Lupulin; Jack Merwin of Lupulin; and Deena Woolhouse of Riverwood Bank.** [Read their stories here!](#) Liz Fagen of RE/MAX Results started the positive website of Faces of Big Lake to feature local people making an impact on the Big Lake community.

**Sherburne County is requesting input on their Parks** for the next 10-20 years. [Fill out the survey here!](#)

**Did you know?** Every member can promote their business, services or special event with a 1/4 page ad in the newsletter. Please submit it in jpg.

And 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.

[Reserve Your Lupulin Comedy Ticket Here!](#)

**LUPULIN BREWING**  
BIG LAKE, MINNESOTA

**RODERICK MCDANIEL**

**FRED MADRIGAL**

**HOST: SHANNON MUGRAGE**

**THURSDAY**  
**Feb. 9TH 2023**  
**SHOWTIME: 7:00PM**

**STAND UP**

**FREE SHOW**

570 Humboldt Dr, Ste 107 Big Lake, MN

## February's Business After Hours



**February's Business after Hours** is scheduled for 5 pm on Thursday, Feb. 9th at Trail's Grill and Sports Bar. Please [register here](#) by 3 pm on the 9th to save enough room! Photo below includes members attending the January Business after Hours at Lupulin: at left Marcus Cooksey & Megan Rahn of Ace Solid Waste, Yvonne Olderbak of Minnco, Donna Clarksean Old Nat'l Bank, Molly Schroeder of The Wave Youth Center, Stacey Stanley of REAL Brokerage, Michelle Jakubowski of Old National Bank, Jeff Zierdt of Lupulin, Linnai & Scott Driscoll of Driscoll Accounting, Sue Emberland of Monticello Times, Gloria Vande Brake of Big Lake Chamber, Ryan Benjamin of Edina Realty, Mayor Paul Knier of Cabot Lodge Securities and Mitch Reller of Riverwood Bank.



## 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 will win prizes valued at over \$400 which include:

\$10 Gift Certificate



Massage and First Chiro Check



FREE Drink



Monticello Printing Certificate

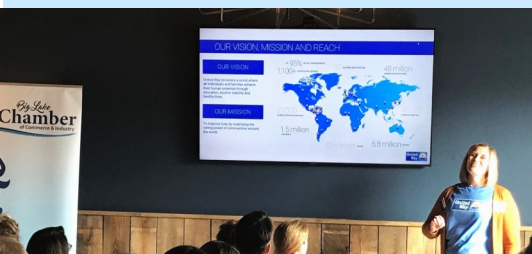


2 Color Ads, notepad



## February 28th Membership Meeting

Our **February Membership Meeting** will be held Tuesday, Feb. 28th at 11:30 am. [Please register here](#) by 3 pm Thursday, Feb. 23rd. Photo below left is Sherburne County Area United Way Executive Director Kat Sarff sharing their mission and encouraging participation in United We Shiver Feb 4th, which raised \$40,000 for local non-profits. Photo below right is Big Lake Schools Superintendent Tim Truebenbach encouraging members to sponsor or exhibit at the March 18th Community Fair.



### 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 the next bimonthly's newsletter by Mar. 10th. 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
<b>JAN 1</b>	2	3	4	<b>5</b>	6	7
8	9	<b>10 Board Meeting 12:30</b> McPete's and virtually	11	<b>12 Business after Hours 5 pm</b> Lupulin.	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	<b>26 Community Fair Mtg 1:30 pm</b> City Large Conf.	27	28
29	30	<b>31 Membership Mtg 11:30</b> Willy's	<b>FEB 1</b>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	<b>9 Business after Hours 5 pm</b> Trail's. <a href="#">Register here!</a>	10	11
12	13	<b>14 Board Meeting 12:30</b> Northstar Tech & virtually	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 	<b>28 Membership Meeting 11:30.</b> <a href="#">Register here</a>	<b>MARCH 1</b> Community Fair sponsors due.	<b>2 Ambassadors 11:30.</b>	2	4
5	6	7	8	<b>9 Business after Hours 5 pm</b>	10	11
12	13	<b>14 Board Meeting 12:30</b> McPete's and virtually	15	16	17	<b>18 Community Fair 10-1 pm</b> <b>BLHS</b>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	<b>28 Membership Meeting 11:30</b>	29	30		

**Mark Your Calendar!**

March 18 from 10-1 pm **Big Lake Community Fair.** [Booths can register here!](#)

August 19 from 10-1:30 **Block Party**



Sept 14 from 10-4 pm Golf Scramble

