



September 25, 2021

EXPLORE

your Big Lake community

Published by the Patriot Newspaper in cooperation with the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce

City of Big Lake

*Welcome to Big Lake
from Mayor Paul Knier 2021*



Over the last year, the City of Big Lake has experienced a lot of change. With a new City Council, new school superintendent, many new City staff persons such as the Police Chief, and the transition of our beloved Music in the Park, the people of Big Lake have remained strong. As your Mayor, I am proud to say that your resiliency has not

only helped the community persevere, but to thrive in such an important time of growth!

This growth in the community can be attributed to the sense of safety the Police, Building, and Fire Departments offer as well as the quality of life offered by Big Lake's 19 city parks, over 20 miles of trails, and beautiful Lakeside Park. There is never a shortage of places to go or things to do when you have the opportunity to attend the Farmers Market, Movie in the Park, ECFE in the Park, Music in the Park, Spud Fest, Group Gardening Program, Graniteman Triathlon, and many other community get-togethers!

This sense of safety, quality of life, and all around sense of being at home couldn't be made possible without the people of Big Lake coming forward to make it happen. From the many volunteers within the community to the staff of the many local businesses and non-profits, you have made Big Lake a destination for new families to locate and current families to plant their roots. The proof is within Community Development where we have issued 78 single-family new construction permits year-to-date as well as provided pre-development approvals for a 60-unit market-rate/affordable housing rental project.

Your Big Lake City Council and City staff are very supportive of our local community organizations and businesses. We encourage

everyone to #KeepBigLakeStrong by enjoying Big Lake's many amenities and supporting local. Being thoughtful about "keeping it local" enhances the stability of our community. Although the past year has been filled with obstacles for many businesses, we are fortunate to recently welcome Big Lake Car Condos, Great River Federal Credit Union, Liberty Savings Bank, Trax Automation, Two Cute Boutique, and Style Catering. Look for more exciting development in the year ahead.

In an effort to keep Big Lake's image fresh, the Big Lake Economic Development Authority worked with Como Lakes Marketing Partners to complete a rebranding project in 2021. Keep an eye out on the City's website at www.biglakemn.org or on Facebook for the unveiling of this project and to learn about ways to Live Big right here in Big Lake!

Mayor, Paul Knier



MCPETES CO-OWNER ERIC PETERSON (LEFT) was introduced by Big Lake Mayor Paul Knier (R) and asked to give a short speech during Last March's chamber event. McPete's was named Member of the Year. (Archived Patriot Photo)



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From the Editor



I remember many years ago when I told a cousin (who lived in Bloomington) that I was in the process of building a house and moving to a new city called Big Lake.

That cousin looked at me and said, "That's where we go when we go up north!"

"Up north?" I thought to myself. Really? Big Lake is considered "up north" to you?

But then I remembered years before that I knew someone who had a girlfriend who lived in Monticello. I was living in Brooklyn Park at the time and I used to think the same way my cousin did – Monticello? That's way up north!

Ah, how times have changed.

Though some might still consider parts of Central Sherburne County as being "up north", it is considered one of the hottest counties in the state for people looking to set up residence. Populations in small communities have exploded and it doesn't hurt that Minneapolis and St. Cloud – two of Minnesota's most thriving cities – are connected by two major roadways, Hwy. 10 and Interstate 94.

What I like about the Big Lake area is that it still holds that small-town feel yet within a half hour or 45 minutes (even less in many cases), one can transport themselves to communities that have all the "big box" stores like the Walmarts, Targets, Costcos, Home Depots and Cub Foods. As a matter of fact, nearly all those amenities can be found just across the river right there in Monticello.

It always perplexes me when I hear people in Big Lake complain that the city doesn't have "anything" like a Target or a Home Depot or a bigger grocery store. Is the complaining a result of one's wish to be "better" than it's neighbors? To have the big stores so they can boast to others that their hometown has a Walmart?

Isn't it better to retain the small town, "up north" feel of

a small community and still only have to drive less than 15 minutes to Monticello to enjoy the luxuries of a big city like Maple Grove or St. Cloud? To tell you the truth, I like the fact that Big Lake and Becker and other smaller cities along Hwy. 10 have retained their small town feel. If one needs to get out and experience urban America, there it is just a few minutes drive away!

As a newspaper, the *Patriot* strives to bring that small town feel to its readers while providing important news stories and coverage of school functions, city goings-on and articles that enlighten and entertain. Our advertisers – your local merchants – are what sustain us and helps sculpt the City of Big Lake and its neighboring communities into a healthy and robust populace.

Big Lake may not have the resources like some neighboring communities but it sure has a lot to hang its hat on. Big Lake has a great beach and park right there at Lakeside Park. It has a boat landing, fishing docks, running and walking paths and a picnic area. Big Lake has great fishing and waterskiing on its waters and a skate park for the kids. Big Lake has numerous churches and places of worship and pastors and priests who endeavor to help others. Big Lake has great eateries and restaurants and a burgeoning grocery store and liquor store. Big Lake has beautiful housing opportunities in apartments, single-family homes and townhomes. Big Lake has a railway station that can help commuters who work downtown or wish to catch a Twins or Vikings game.

To keep one's community robust and healthy, be sure to frequent and shop locally to cultivate your hometown. Support the city and its officials who have the best of Big Lake in mind when governing (they live here too). Support your neighbors instead of complaining and lend a helping hand when you get a chance. Endorse your police and fire departments and attend community events. That's how you create pride and satisfaction for your city. That's how you give Big Lake its identity.

Not by putting a Walmart next to a corn field.

Let's keep Big Lake an "up north" community.

William B. Morgan
Editor

FRONT COVER PHOTO BY BILL MORGAN

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WEEKLY
SPECIALS





Big Lake is booming in development!

By Bill Morgan
Editor/Staff Writer

Big Lake has been seeing booming development in 2021 with several housing units going up, six new businesses arriving and four commercial/industrial operations completing projects.

"It's a fun time to be serving the City of Big Lake as we are experiencing quite a bit of development activity," said Community Development Director Hanna Klimmek.

Housing

As of mid-August, the city has issued 78 single-family building permits. The new, affordable Station Street Apartments will be completed in 2021 with 105 market rate rental units. The developer is Kuepers, Inc.

Sandhill Villas has received all the necessary approvals to develop 12 single-family homes in Big Lake. The developer is Jesse Hartung.

Wright's Crossing 3rd Addition received all necessary approvals to develop 31 single-family homes and



CONCEPT ART FOR BIG LAKE CAR CONDOS depicts a great community for car lovers.
(Photo taken from website.)

that addition is being developed and built by JP Brooks.

Norland Park's final plat #7 (last phase) received all necessary approvals to develop 18 single-family homes. Norland Park is being developed/built by Progressive Builders.

Marketplace Crossing Phase I received all preliminary approvals to develop 60 affordable/market rate rental units. The developer is CommonBond Communities.

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Commercial/Industrial

Liberty Savings Bank's building is complete, but as of this writing the bank is waiting on IT equipment to be delivered prior to opening its doors;

Nystrom & Associates, an in-patient rehabilitation facility is nearing completion near the Northstar train station;

Big Lake Car Condos' first phase is complete and their second phase (buildings 2-6) are currently under construction;

Great River Federal Credit Union is in the midst of construction and hopes to open soon.

New Businesses

Big Lake has seen numerous new businesses open their doors or finish construction while some are nearing completion. In 2021, Liberty Savings Bank, Big Lake Car Condos, Great River Federal Credit Union, Two Cute Boutique, Trax Automation and Style Catering have made Big Lake their home.



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Big Lake Public Library

The Big Lake Public Library is located at 790 Minnesota Street across from Independence Elementary School. The Big Lake Public Library is a part of the Great River Regional Library.

Library Hours: Mon. 1-6 p.m.; Tues. 10-2 p.m.; Wed. 1-7 p.m.; Thurs. 2-6 p.m.; Fri. 10-5 p.m. And Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Phone: 763-263-6445 • www.griver.org
Manager: Jeannette Burkhardt.

Big Lake Food Shelf

Location: City Hall Building, 160 Lake Street North, P.O. Box 501, Big Lake, MN 55309. Phone: (763) 263-2432 www.biglakefoodshelf.org or follow us on Twitter: @blcfs.

Hours: Every Monday & Thursday - 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Every Wednesday - 9 to 11 a.m.; 2nd Saturday - 9 to 11 a.m.

Monthly board meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at the Senior Center at City Hall. All meetings begin at 6 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

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Welcome from the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry!

Big Lake is a great place to live, work, shop and play! And 2021 has filled with activities for our members.

Our Member of the Year celebration was held in March 2021 as we congratulated Eric & Stephanie Petersen of McPete's Sports Bar & Lanes as the member-selected 2020 Member of the Year, sponsored by Cabot Lodge Securities—Paul Knier. McPete's has been a platinum sponsor of our Block Party for the past 11 years and has been generous to many non-profit and youth groups.

In April we joined with Elk River Area Chamber of Commerce, Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce and Sherburne County Area United Way to promote visiting our local parks with "selfies" entered by our residents. One of our residents won the Grand Prize worth over \$800. And through the efforts of our residents, Big Lake Chamber had the most entries and received the traveling trophy, which is on displayed at the City Hall window. We plan to promote this again spring 2022.

Big Lake Community Fair was held in early May at the Big Lake High School gym with the Winter's Farmers Market, Coborn's Food Market and other vendors outside. This event

helped our members share their products and services to area citizens and provide fun activities to those attending. Two \$500 high school scholarships will be awarded to students who are participate in community volunteerism. Our 2022 Fair will be held on Saturday April 23rd.

The Chamber advocated several legislative items including state conformity to federal tax waivers for businesses receiving federal SBA PPP loans/grants, reinsurance and no tax increases. Members were routinely informed on the latest resources, regulations and potential local, state and federal funding sources. We advocated for our businesses with our City Council, the Governor, State and Federal Legislators.

Our 11th Annual Block Party at McPete's Sports Bar & Lanes in August was successful with over 245 youth and parents able to enjoy mini-golf, bowling, fish bowl toss, toilet paper toss, Plinko, and the water balloon dodgeball sponsored by The Wave Youth Center. The Big Lake Lions sponsored a dunk tank with local celebrities which raised over \$270 for high school scholarships.

Our educational meetings

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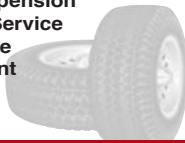




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CHAMBER from page 10

and networking are held in-person and virtually. We host a very successful and fun golf scramble in September to provide informal networking.

We will again sponsor a Halloween Photo Scavenger Hunt on October 30th. Check our Facebook page for updates. And our members will continue our Christmas Tree lighting in Browns Park in late November.

Everyone is encouraged to go to our webpage (www.biglake-chamber.com) and find reputable and reliable businesses and non-profits on our directory of members.

We also have a job listings page on our website that is free for all of our members and accessible to the general public. Check out our facebook page (www.facebook.com/biglakechamberof-commerce/) that is filled with events from our members and like us!

We refer dozens of people to our members who are seeking information about banking, construction services, food and entertaining, lodging, health services and personal services as well as city, school and community services. We provide welcome bags from our members to new residents and to new teachers.

We are thankful for the many volunteers from our members who participate in events throughout the year. Our events could not be accomplished without our volunteers and sponsors.

Businesses and non-profit organizations are encouraged to be a member of the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry. If you want more information, please email the office at info@biglakechamber.com or call 763-263-7800.

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CHAMBER from page 11

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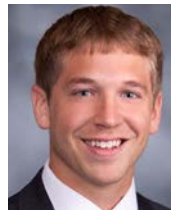
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Freedom Rock is a precious jewel of history

By Bill Morgan
Editor/Staff Writer

Adding to the natural and man-made beauty of Big Lake, Big Lake residents Karen Blake and Linda Paulson are seeing the fruits of their labor playing out in spectacular fashion at Lakeside Park.

Big Lake's Freedom Rock® is nearly complete and its dedication ceremony is set for Sept. 18 from 10 a.m. to noon. Artist Ray "Bubba" Sorenson has completed the artwork on the giant boulder and pavers are soon to be installed over the next several weeks.

The Big Lake Freedom Rock measures 10 ft. x 10 ft. and weighs more than 31 tons. It is a pink granite rock quarried out of Waite Park, Minnesota and was donated by Martin Marietta, Inc., transported to Big Lake's Lakeside Park by T.J. Potter Trucking, Becker and placed in the park by Landwehr Crane Service of St. Cloud one year ago.

"Hundreds of people have been involved in this project," said Karen Blake, "supporting Bubba's work as well as honoring their own beloved veteran by purchasing a paver. The Rock will tell Big Lake veteran stories, but the pavers surround the rock are donated from all over the U.S. representing

veterans living and deceased."

By the middle of August, city staff were digging out around the rock in preparation for the paver bed. Donated granite and sand will arrive from Plaisted Companies on the 19th, and benches will be also be set up on the 19th with the help of volunteers, Elk River Nursery's Beau Eid and crew will do the actual placing of the pavers on Sat., Aug. 21.



After the painting on the rock was completed by Sorenson, the rock was sealed with a special sealant by Rob Swanson's professional painting company, Two Guys Painting. They used a special sprayer, applied three coats and donated their time and talent to the project.

"I was honored to do it," Rob said. "It was a wonderful thing."

Sorenson's painting is decorated with a large American flag draping the boulder. On one side, he painted a Bald Eagle soaring through the sky with a Purple Heart medal in its talons. The Bald Eagle is a very common sight flying over the Big Lake and Eagle Lake skies. Minnesota ranks second to Alaska among the 50 states for the most nesting bald eagles. The bald eagle was officially adopted as the symbol of the United States in 1789.

The Purple Heart is a medal awarded for wounds received in action against an enemy or as a direct result of an act of an enemy. This painting honors all purple heart recipients, not only in the Big Lake community but all across this great country.

On another side of the rock, Sorenson

FREEDOM ROCK to page 18

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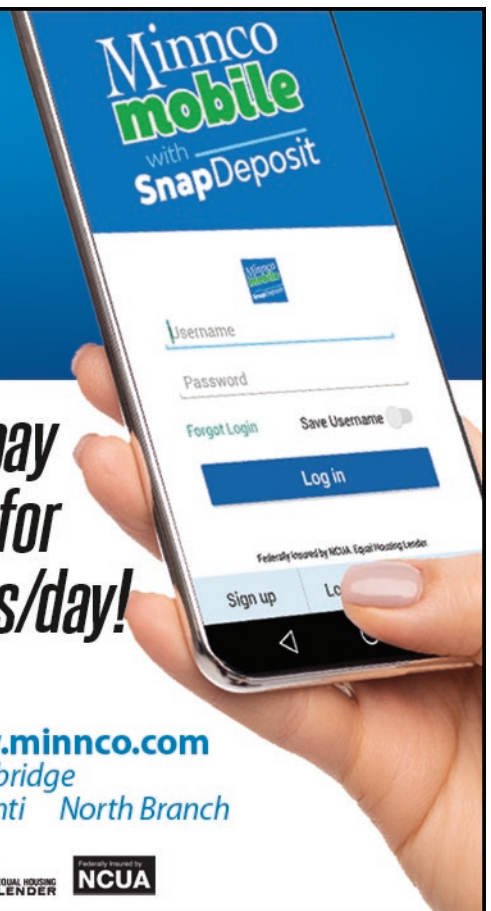
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FREEDOM ROCK from page 15

painted a soldier dealing with PTSD. The picture depicts a soldier's hand over his face expressing the silent suffering experienced when a life-threatening event occurs, as seen in combat. The image recognizes that some wounds that our veterans struggle with are not always visible.

The ashes from a Big Lake combat veteran are painted into the uniform of this symbolic soldier picture.

A folded flag is also shown on the rock and it represents the veteran's burial flag. The flag drapes the veteran's casket, then after the service, it is folded and presented to the family to honor the memory of the veteran's military service to our country.

Sorenson also painted a local sailor, Arthur Embretson, one of 306 lost sailors on the USS Cyclops when it sank near the North Carolina coast. The ship, cargo and its crew have never been located or recovered. The sinking of the Cyclops remains the single largest loss of life aboard a United States naval ship that is not directly involved in combat.

A memorial stone in Orrock Cemetery marks the life and death of Embretson, the only resident of Orrock and Big Lake Twps to give his life in the service of the United States in WWI.

The Big Lake American Legion is one of the few legions formed as a memorial legion. The post is called the Arthur Embretson Memorial Legion Post 147.

Also painted on this side of the Freedom Rock is a portrait of Stella Huso, Big Lake's longest living Gold Star mother. The history of Gold Star families dates back to 1928, recognizing families who lost a member while in service to the USA.

Stella's son, Wayne was a Big Lake High School graduate who joined the Army in May of 1968. He lost his life through hostile action in Vietnam in August of 1969 and is honored on the Vietnam Memorial wall in Washington, D.C.

Stella is now 102 years old this year and her family remains in allegiance to the American military, dating back to action in the Civil War. Stella joined the Arthur Embretson American Legion Auxiliary Post 147 in 1978.

In honor of women who have and are serving in the U.S. military, Sorenson painted three local Big Lake women surrounding Rosie the Riveter, who was used to motivate, represent and unite women during the WWII war effort.

Sara Seck

Sara graduated from high school in 2011 and enlisted January 19, 2011 in the Army National Guard. She chose the Army because it was the branch where she could be a medic and not be confined to a hospital setting. She knew in the National Guard she could grow in the field of medicine in



DEB JOHNSON OF BIG LAKE (not shown) was one of the volunteers who aided in placing pavers of veterans that will surround the Freedom Rock. (Inset): Artist Ray Sorenson (Photo by Deb Johnson).

civilian life as well as in the military.

Her training/schooling was at Fort Jackson, Fort Sam Houston, Fort Hood and Fort Irwin. She is currently deployed with the Task Force 1-194, and is a Sergeant in the Army with front line duties as a combat medic. She has been to Kuwait and Iraq. "Joining the military will always be one of the best decisions I have ever made. To be able to say that I wore one of the uniforms responsible for all of the blessings we have, is truly amazing."

Sara and her husband, who also served, moved to Big Lake in 2018 with their two dogs. They chose Big Lake because they love the small town atmosphere.

Dawn R. Perry

Big Lake resident, Dawn R. Perry joined the Women's Army Corp (WAC) in May 1975. She was in the first cycle of women to train at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. She was trained in multiple jobs (MOS's) and served in many states and Germany.

FREEDOM ROCK to page 19



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FREEDOM ROCK from page 18

Dawn served in Desert Storm in 1991 and in combat for Operation Iraqi Freedom from December 2003 to March 2005. She retired from the Army in December 2005.

Dawn saw many changes in her 22 ½ years of service - from being the only female in a battalion to being the first woman, who had served in combat to work at the Minneapolis VA hospital. She retired from there in 2019.

Dawn is proud of her military family, a father and four brothers who along with her, have a combined 100 years of military service to this country.

Ione Brown

Long time Big Lake resident Ione Brown was a WASP (Women's Airforce Service Pilot) during WWII. She was among the first American women trained to fly military aircraft. She belonged to a women's pilot organization, considered civil servants, so they were never fully incorporated into the armed forces.

Ione towed gliders out of Flynn Airport (corner of Hwy 25 and 200th street, also known as Airport Road to the locals) towing targets, testing planes and training pilots. The WASP's purpose was to free-up male pilots for combat roles.

In 1977, after the Air Force began training women to fly jets, congress passed legislation belatedly, giving the true pioneers, the WASPs, full military status.

Ione and her husband Bob had three children: Bob, Michael and Susan Brown-Hinrichs all graduates of Big Lake High School. Three of Ione's great grandchildren received their private pilot license by age 17. Two of them are attending University of North Dakota aeronautics program.

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Browns Park: 106 Lake Street North. Adjacent to City Hall along US Hwy 10. Gazebo, benches & flower garden.

Hidden River Park: 20774 Atlantic Blvd. Located in the Hidden Rivers Development along CR 5. Trail to river with overlook gazebo and benches.

Highline Park: 19200 Highline Drive. Located N of Highline Drive west of CR 5, and east of Highland Trail. Playground, picnic tables, ballfield, benches, and grills.

Hudson Wood Park: 16400 May Circle. Playground, benches, picnic tables, 6-hole disc golf.

Ice Rinks: 160 Lake Street N. Open seasonally. Warming house, ice skating rink, and benches.

Kellerwood Park: South of Hwy 10 and West of Hwy 25 along Keller Lake. Benches overlooking Keller Lake.

Lake Ridge Park: 4430 Pintail Street. Located east of CR 81 off of 206th Avenue. Playground, ballfield, benches, swings, and picnic tables.

Lakeside Park: 101 Lakeshore Drive. Located on the west side of Big Lake along US Hwy 10. Swimming beach, playground equipment, 3 volleyball courts, boat launch, fishing pier, dock, two park shelters, picnic area, grills, picnic tables, water fountain, skate park, restrooms, outside

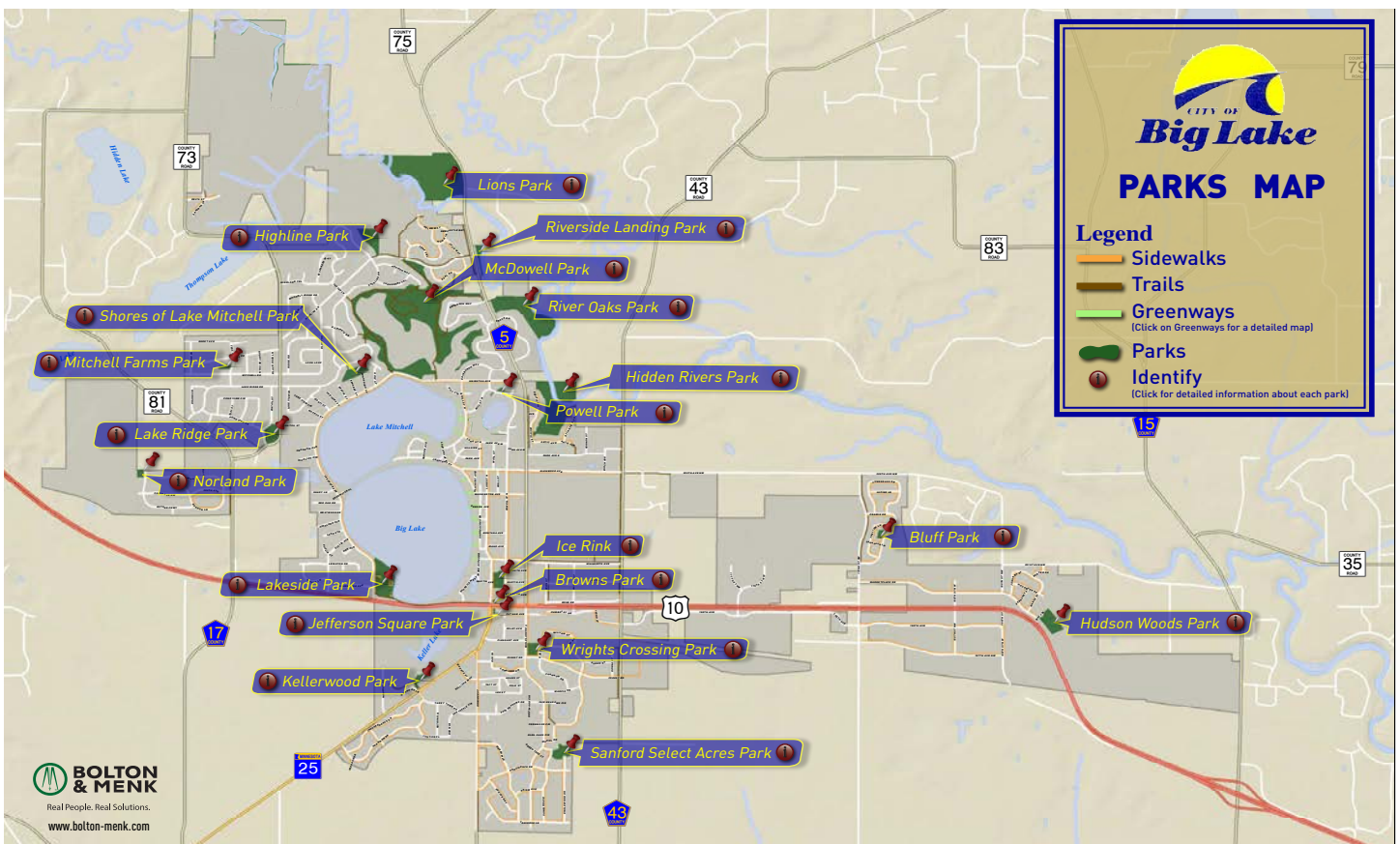
showers, and the site for Big Lake's Freedom Rock. Farmers Market and Music in the Park series take place at Lakeside Park in summer months. Special Notes: Lakeside Park Daily Parking Passes: Vehicle - \$5/day; Vehicle & Trailer - \$20/day available for purchase at Lakeside Park Kiosk; All cards accepted. Lakeside Park Seasonal Passes are available for purchase at City Hall, Lake Liquors or online at biglakemn.org: Vehicle Only - \$10 (city resident-55309 Zip Code); Vehicle & Trailer - \$20 (city resident-55309 Zip Code); Vehicle Only - \$30 (non-resident); Vehicle & Trailer - \$60 (non-resident); Parking/Driving Rules & Regulations: Vehicles, including motorcycles, must park/drive only in the designated areas. Beware of restricted parking areas (handicapped, boat trailer parking, no parking, etc.). Watch for children. Boating: Boats must remain 150 feet away from swimming area. Swimming: No lifeguard on duty. Swim only in the buoyed area. Pavilion Areas: There are two Park Pavilion areas available for rental at Lakeside Park. Visit biglakemn.org to find the park facility rental application. General Rules: No pets allowed. No glass containers. No keg beer. Place refuse in proper container. Be courteous to others.

Lions Park: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. daily. Located 3.5 miles N of Hwy 10 on Eagle Lake Rd. 36 acres built up to accommodate the entire community. Community building reserved on an "as requested" basis for non-profit groups. Bonfire ring, playground area, picnic tables and barbecue grills.

McDowell Park: North of Lake Mitchell. Trail system, prairie restoration plantings, and benches.

Mitchell Farms Park: 5415 Teal Street. Located N of Mitchell Road and W of Teal Street. Playground, benches, and swings.

PARKS to page 22



PARKS from page 21

Norland Park: 20480 Nedd Street. Playground, picnic tables, and portable toilet.

Powell Park: 1420 Powell Street. Located w of CR 5 and S of Hiawatha Avenue. Playground, benches and swings.

River Oaks Park: West of CR 5 and north of Grace Drive. Disc Golf Course, walking trails, picnic tables, restrooms, river, and parking.

Riverside Landing Park: East of CR 5, across from Highline Drive. This park provides access

to the Elk River. Trails overlooking the river.

Sanford Select Acres Park: Sanford Avenue and Eaglewood Drive. Remote car track, playground, zip line, picnic tables, parking, and portable restroom.

Shores of Lake Mitchell: 3211 Lake Ridge Drive. Located south of Lake Ridge Drive and north of Manitou Street. Playground, swings, benches, horseshoe pits, soccer field and basketball court.

Veterans Memorial Park: 10 Lake St. S. Located along the south side of US Hwy 10 at the intersection of Hwy 10/25. Veterans Memorial, benches, reader board, and flower garden.

Wrights Crossing Park: 514 Forest Road. Located S of Hwy 10 and N of Forest Rd. Playground, swings, park pavilion, benches, picnic tables, and volleyball court. There is one Park Pavilion available for rental at Wrights Crossing Park. Visit biglakemn.org to find the park facility rental application.

Hornet Hall of Fame honors BLHS graduates

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

Started in 2018, the Big Lake High School Hornet Hall of Fame will soon induct its 10th member, while the committee who selects the honorees has already turned its attention to seeking nominations for the 2022 inductees.

The Hall of Fame seeks to honor Big Lake graduates who "exemplify the characteristics of honesty, integrity, and strength of character expected of a mature adult (The Hornet Way)".

While the first class of inductees included four former students, each year the committee selects two former graduates who best fit the established criteria such as making a significant contribution to the community or serving in a position of leadership.

Because of COVID-19 implications last year, this year's class will combine the inductees from 2020 (Bill Miller - class of 1979 and Teresa Smock Potter - 2000) with this year's selections (Joe Kalla - 2012 and Bruce Jacobson - 1958).

According to committee member Loren Holthaus, a BLHS math teacher, the inductees are now honored at the Homecoming football game so the focus of the actual commencement ceremony each spring can remain on each year's graduates.

"It's worked well for us and it's fun to have them introduced before the entire crowd at the game," Holthaus says.

People interested in submitting a nomination or learning more about the Hall of Fame can go to the Big Lake Schools' website and click on the "community" tab. Nominations are accepted for consideration for the next year's inductees until March first, after which the committee members each receive a copy and complete a scoring rubric. Then, the committee convenes for the arduous task of selecting two recipients from the list of deserving candidates.

Past inductees into the Hornet Hall of Fame include 2018 inductees: Sam Olson (1991), Sarah Noble (1993), Christina Picha (nee Miller - 1979), Orville Sigurd Anderson (1938); 2019 inductees: Stanley Anderson (1943), Tom Wilts (1979).



YOUR 2021-2022 BIG LAKE AMBASSADORS are (back row) Sophie Gerou, Amara Obia, Emily Lemire, Aspen Erickson, (front) Chloe Miller and Kylie Johnson. Your Big Lake Ambassadors do a variety of community service and events throughout the year and earn a scholarship at completion. The Big Lake Ambassador Program is open to young women in grades 3-12. Applications will be accepted soon for our candidacy program SPUDSCHOOL. New royalty is crowned during Spudfest each year. For questions please contact biglakeambassadors@gmail.com. (Submitted Photo).



KEVIN THOMPSON (R) and Janell Houston of Big Lake's Data Success sponsored a hole at the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing this past year. (Submitted photo.)

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BROWNS PARK IN BIG LAKE brightened people's days and ushered in the feelings of Christmas with their 16 decorated trees from area businesses during the lighted tree event held by the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce last December. (Photo by Bill Morgan).

Small towns have their own heartbeat, no matter how many people come and go. – Mitch Albom

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Sherburne County Area United Way (SCAUW)

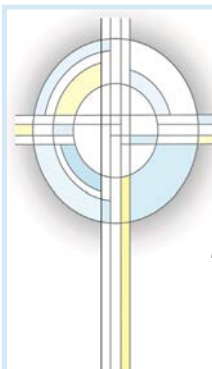
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311 Lake St S, Big Lake 763-263-2209, saron.org

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Township info.

BIG LAKE TOWNSHIP

www.biglaketownship.com

21960 County Road 5, Big Lake, located at Lion's Park 2.6 miles North of Hwy 10 on County Road 5 (Eagle Lake Road). U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 75, Big Lake, MN 55309
Phone: 763-263-8111, Fax: 763-263-3660
Email: townbiglake@gmail.com

Town Hall/Clerk's Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fridays 8 a.m. to 12 Noon

Township Meetings: 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at the Town Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Call the Town Hall to book a rental of the town hall building. To reserve Hall/Kitchen/Indoor Facilities, call 763-263-8111 or visit our website for more information. Garage area and park/pavilions/ballfields are open to the general public for use during park hours of 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. 7-days a week and can not be reserved.

Township Board Members: Bruce Aubol, Chairman; Dean Brenteson, Vice Chairman; Norm Leslie, Supervisor; Mark Hedstrom, Supervisor; Larry Alfords, Supervisor; Ken Warnecke, Treasurer; Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Clerk; Jayme Swenson, Deputy Clerk.

ORROCK TOWNSHIP

www.orrocktownship.com

Orrock Township, 26401 180th St NW
Big Lake, MN 55309

General Email: clerk@orrocktownship.com

Phone: 763-263-6411

Fax: 763-263-6419

Township Meetings

Third Thursday of each Month at 7:00 PM

Town Hall

26401 - 180th Street NW

Big Lake, MN 55309

Township Board Members:

Chairperson -	Bryan Adams
Vice Chair -	Paul Ellinger
Clerk -	Chris Weber
Supervisor -	Bob Hassett
Supervisor -	Greg Felber
Interim Supervisor -	Janine Arnold
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Big Lake area lakes

Big Lake/Lower Lake:

Lake Size: 251 Acres
Public Boat Access: Located on Southwest shore of lake off U.S. Hwy. 10 & Co. Rd. 73
Lake Notes: Specializing in Northern Pike and Bluegill. Walleye, Crappie and Sunfish also caught.

Lake Mitchell/Upper Lake:

Lake Size: 170 Acres
Public Boat Access: 1 on Northeast shore, 1 on Southeast shore of lake
Lake Notes: Specializing in Northern Pike and Bluegill. Walleye, Crappie, Largemouth Bass and Sunfish also caught. Connects to Big Lake.

Eagle Lake:

Lake Size: 381 Acres
Public Boat Access: Located on Northwest shore of lake off Co. Rd. 75
Lake Notes: Specializing in Crappie and Bluegill. Northern Pike and Smallmouth Bass also caught.

Lake Ann:

Lake Size: 184 Acres
Lake Notes: Specializing in Crappie and Bluegill. Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass and Sunfish also caught.
Ann Lake Map

Birch Lake:

Lake Size: 151 Acres
Public Boat Access: Located on West shore of lake off Co. Rd. 15 & 223rd Ave.
Lake Notes: Specializing in Crappie and Bluegill. Northern Pike, Walleye and Sunfish also caught.

Orono Lake:

Lake Size: 281 Acres
Public Boat Access: Located on West shore of lake
Lake Notes: Specializing in Crappie. Northern Pike and Bluegill also caught.

For further information, please contact the DNR at:
1-800-766-6000

Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association

bigeaglelakeboard@gmail.com

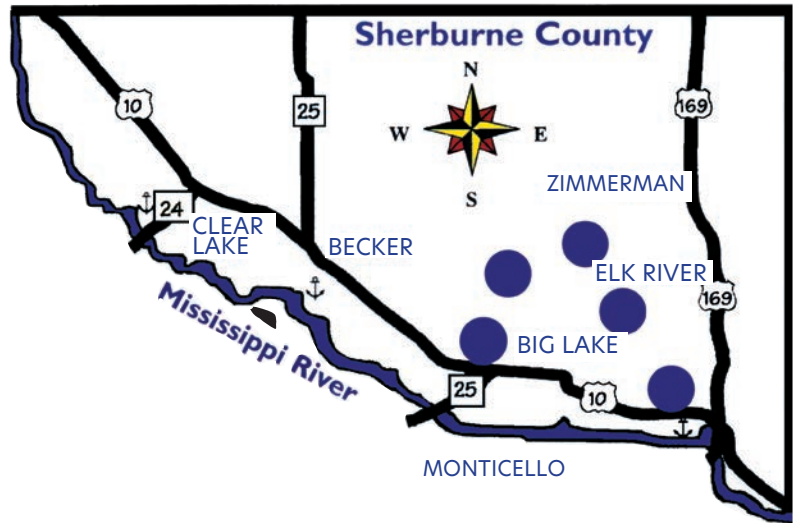
Your Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association (BELIA) Board members and representatives:

Eagle Shores: • Gordy Westerlind (VP) 763-263-1915; Bryan Adams 612-670-8762

Eagle Park: • Joanne Peterson 763-263-8727

Eagle Point: • Dan Boyle 763-263-2341; Kris Biser 612-201-4235; Kyle Nerison 612-599-2386

Majestic Ridge: • George Wallin (Treasurer) 763-263-0099;



Rustic Ridge: • Earl Rose (President) 651-429-8842; Dick Bittner 763-263-3054

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Big Lake Community Lakes Association

"Working together to protect and improve our area lakes, for the use and future enjoyment of all."

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 - Survey and identification
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 - Annual dock, lift and watercraft inspections
 - Paid inspections at Lakeside Park
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City of Big Lake

Big Lake City Hall

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www.biglakemn.org
Phone: (763) 263-2107 • Fax: (763) 263-0133
Hours: Monday - Thurs: 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Friday 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Big Lake Council Members:

Paul Knier, Mayor:
pknier@biglakemn.org
Ken Halverson, Council Member:
khalverson@biglakemn.org
Sam Hanson, Council Member:
shanson@biglakemn.org
Paul Seefeld, Council Member:
pseefeld@biglakemn.org
Kim Noding, Council Member:
knoding@biglakemn.org

The Big Lake City Council is comprised of elected officials consisting of a Mayor and four City Council Members, all of whom are elected at-large. All seats are four-year terms with City elections held on even-numbered years. The Mayor presides at City Council meetings and has equal voting rights with the Council Members.

City Council Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month beginning at 6 p.m. Workshops are also held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month beginning at 5 p.m.

Meetings are held in the Big Lake City Council Chambers located at 160 Lake Street North, Big Lake.



City Information

Big Lake is a growing community in Sherburne County. The 2016 State Demographer reports the City of Big Lake's population to be 10,604 and Big Lake Township's to be 7,386, totaling just under 18,000. The City of Big Lake is home to many beautiful natural amenities with our pride and joy being Lakeside Park. This park offers beach and boat access to Big Lake and Lake Mitchell, and provides numerous outside activities including a children's play area, volleyball courts, a basketball court, horseshoe pits, outdoor exercise equipment, a fishing pier, skate park, picnic areas, and is home to the Big Lake Farmers Market, Movie in the Park events, and the Big Lake Legacy Foundation's Music in the Park summer events.

Big Lake is roughly 45 miles away from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International airport and 28 miles from the St. Cloud Regional Airport. Our community is also the home to the most northern stop of the NorthStar Commuter Rail. This service will provide access from Big Lake, down to Minneapolis, stopping in Elk River, Ramsey, Anoka, Coon Rapids, Fridley and connecting to the Hiawatha Line (light rail) in downtown Minneapolis.

Snake River Church

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Pastor Steve Johnston

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Buffalo**

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The Wave Youth Center

763-275-9075
171 Lake St. N., Big Lake

Trail's Grill and Sports Bar

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726 Martin Ave., #116, Big
Lake

United Bus Sales Inc.

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Vision Transportation

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16676 197th Ave. NW, Big
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MUSIC IN THE PARK at Lakeside Park in Big Lake has long been a "go-to" place during the summer months over the last few years. Area bands entertain the throngs of visitors who bring their own seating and enjoy the warm weather, food and beverages with the lake nearby. (Submitted Photo).

Big Lake Fire Dept.



BIG LAKE FIRE DEPT

Location: 20243 County Road 43, Big Lake, MN 55309

Mail: Box 129, Big Lake, MN 55309

Phone: (763) 263-3456, Fax: (763) 263-7006

Fire Chief: Seth Hansen

Assistant Fire Chief: Mark Hedstrom

Captain: Tim Davis

Captain: Nick Christenson

Captain: Jeff Novak

Lieutenant: Kiel Rudberg

Captain: Chris Brizenka

Captain: Charles Stern

Lieutenant: Kevin Krueger

BIG LAKE POLICE DEPT

790 Minnesota Avenue, P.O. Box 417, Big Lake, MN 55309

Phone: Emergency: 911

Dispatch: 763-765-3500

Administration/Business: 763-251-2996

(M-TH, 7am-4:00pm; F, 7am - Noon)

Fax: 763-515-4701

www.biglakepolice.com

Chief of Police: Matt Hayen

The Big Lake Police Department has a dedicated staff of sworn, civilian, and reserve staff providing professional law enforcement services to the City of Big Lake.

The Big Lake Police Department works cooperatively with numerous agencies, community groups, and its citizens to provide to a high quality of life in our community.

BIG LAKE POLICE



**PRIDE
SERVICE
INTEGRITY**

The members of the Big Lake Police Department display Pride in the community we are entrusted to protect, provide Service with compassion and dignity, and exhibit the highest level of Integrity in all aspects of our lives.

Check us out on Facebook.com, Twitter and Nextdoor.com

790 Minnesota Ave.

Big Lake, MN

Chief of Police Matthew Hayen

763-251-2996 (7:30am-4:00pm)

records@biglakepolice.com

Learn about our department or access our online services at:

www.biglakepolice.com

Big Lake Police Dept.



FRONT ROW (SITTING) FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Office Manager Tina Peterson, Officer Tyler Hecht, Investigator Rich Berg, Officer Joe Kalla, Officer Todd Siebert, Investigator Nic Prigge, and Administrative Assistant Nicole Pearson. Back row (standing) from left to right: Chief Matt Hayden, Sergeant Sam Olson, Officer Sam Norlin, Officer Tim Mikelson, Officer Silas Reek, Officer Guy Chaffee, Sergeant Tom Kucala, and Officer Chris Hoard. Front: Bruno (K9). (Submitted Photo).

Chief Hayden ready to protect community

By Katie Cantin
Staff Writer

Matt Hayden was recently appointed as the new BLPD police chief. He's excited to step into this new role and be able to continue to serve the community.

Early Career

Matt Hayden didn't always think about pursuing a career in law enforcement. As a young adult, he got a job framing houses, following his interest in construction. It took only one summer for Hayden to realize it wasn't the right job for him.

Hayden's older brother, Mike, had always been interested in law enforcement, however. Mike is currently serving as a State Trooper in North Dakota. Matt, seeing his brother's passion for the industry, decided to pursue a career in the same field. He started working in security and found he really enjoyed it.

He first worked as a police officer for the Rogers Police Dept. Hayden stayed with Rogers for three years. He also worked for the Wright County Sheriff's Office before moving to the BLPD.

Big Lake Police

Hayden joined the BLPD in 2016. During his time at the department, Hayden helped to reinstate the canine program, as the department had not had a canine handler for about nine years. He also helped to get new badges for the police officers.

New Chief

The previous chief, Joel Scharf, left the force earlier this year for health reasons. Hayden, as the assistant chief, stepped in to be acting chief during the interim, and was eventually appointed as the chief by the city council.

Hayden is very excited about the new position. Over the last few years, he has been pursuing leadership opportunities within the department, hoping to help implement new ideas.

"I want to keep the department going in the right direction," Hayden stated. "The previous chief did a good job, and I want to keep it going in the same direction."

Hayden plans to do so by continuing to hire only the best, most professional men and women in the industry. The officers currently serving in the department set a high standard for any newcomers, Hayden attests.

Hayden says he's grateful to the community. Big Lake makes no secret of its support for the police department. It's very important that the officers feel that support every day. Hayden is glad to be in Big Lake and will hopefully serve the community for many years to come.

Big Lake Public Schools District 727

WELCOME TO BIG LAKE!

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Our destination school district is focused on individualized learning, employs high quality teachers and ensures our graduates are career and college ready. Additionally, Big Lake Schools has adopted cutting-edge education philosophies that are present in everyday work. These philosophies include Response to Intervention (RtI), Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), Q-Comp, and our behavior philosophy, the Hornet Way.

Diverse educational offerings paired with a wonderful community makes Big Lake Schools an excellent choice for your family!

For more information on Big Lake Schools, visit our website at www.biglake.k12.mn.us.

Comm. Ed. Office	763-262-2523
District Office	763-262-2536
Early Childhood	763-262-3233
Kids Club - Ind.	763-262-7168
Kids Club - Lib.	763-262-8284
Little Learners	763-262-3233



BIG LAKE HIGH SCHOOL: 763-262-2547

Big Lake High School welcomes more than 930 students in grades 9-12. It boasts a wide variety of educational and co-curricular activities that enable students to be successful in school and life.

Preparing students for college and career is Big Lake High School's number one priority. Students have a wide variety of class offerings to choose from that help focus career options and transition them to college.

Class offerings include:
More than 150 classes in 14 different focus areas
College in the Classroom (CIC)
Post-secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)
Online Classes
Classes through Wright Technical Center
Foreign languages
Project Lead the Way classes
AND MORE!



BIG LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL: 763-262-2567

The middle school is home to about 700 students in grades 6-8 and is physically located between Independence Elementary and the high school. The middle school's focus is to provide students with educational experiences that emphasize the instruction and overall well-being of learners. Teachers, administrators and staff take into account student learning, socialization needs and developmental diversity at Big Lake Middle School. Additionally, they understand that middle school years are critical years for developing appropriate behavior.

Big Lake Middle School offers many classes that supplement Minnesota's required core curriculum - this classes include:

Music Education, Band or Choir
Physical Education
Art & FACS

Media & Technology (Project Lead the Way)

The middle school promotes a welcoming and safe atmosphere for diverse learners. Students respect each other and staff, and promote a positive image in our community.



LIBERTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: 763-262-8100

Liberty Elementary is one of two elementary schools in the Big Lake School District. It is home to about 850 students in pre-kindergarten - second grade. Hours are 7:35 a.m. - 2:25 p.m. Liberty's focus is to prepare 21st Century learners with a solid elementary education that can be built upon in middle school and high school years.

The elementary school offers many classes that supplement Minnesota's required core curriculum - these classes include:

Fine Arts: Music/Art
Physical Education
Media & Technology

Liberty teachers believe that providing additional curriculum opportunities above and beyond the State's requirement is essential for developing well-rounded, global citizens.

Liberty is committed to providing a safe, nurturing envi-

BLSD 727

ronment that promotes an atmosphere for high academic achievement and personal growth.



INDEPENDENCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: 763-262-2537

Independence Elementary is one of two elementary schools in the Big Lake School District. It is home to about 900 students in third - fifth grade. Hours are 8:50 a.m. - 3:40 p.m. Indy's focus is to prepare 21st Century learners with a solid elementary education that can be built upon in middle school and high school years.

The elementary school offers many classes that supplement Minnesota's required core curriculum - these classes include:

- Music • Physical Education • Media & Technology

Indy teachers believe that providing additional curriculum opportunities above and beyond the State's requirement is essential for developing well-rounded, global citizens.

Indy is very proud of their school and their students - the school boasts a safe, caring and inviting environment where each student is valued for the person they are and the contributions they bring.



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Big Lake area events

OCTOBER 2021

Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association's Annual Wine/Beer Tasting at The Friendly Buffalo from 6:30pm-9pm October 1, 2021.

Youth Photography Contest

Sponsored by Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge with deadline October 8, 2021. Visit www.FWS.gov/refuge/Sherburne/visit/just_for_kids.html.

Veterans Dinner

In October provided by American Legion Post 147 & Auxiliary Unit 147 at Big Lake Township Hall

School Board Candidate Forum, October 7, 2021. Details TBD.

Fire Department Open House - October 10, 2021

11 am-2pm. Check the BLFD Facebook page for details

Saron Lutheran Church Chilli Cookoff

October 24, visit Saron.org for details

Spooktakular Trail - Women of Today

Spooktakular Trail will return in October, See the Spooktakular Trail Facebook Page for dates and times

Saron Lutheran Church Trunk or Treat

October 30, 2021, 3-5 p.m. Saron.org for details.

NOVEMBER 2021

Election Day - Vote! on 11/2

Special School Board election and Bond Referendum vote at city hall.

Big Lake Winter Farmers Market beginning November, every third Saturday of the month at Big Lake City Hall Nov. 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Big Lake City Hall.

Big Lake Chamber Tree Decorating, TBD

BLCLA Fundraiser

The Friendly Buffalo (TBD)

Veterans Program, November 10, 2021, 7 p.m.,

Saron Lutheran Church

Annual Community Thanksgiving Eve Service - Watch for more information in the *Patriot* Newspaper

DECEMBER 2021

Santa Day & Bake Sale at the Friendly Buffalo. Sponsored by Big Lake American Legion Auxiliary Unit 147 (TBD)

Big Lake Chamber Holiday Social

at Friendly Buffalo, TBD

Big Lake Winter Farmers Market Dec. 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Big Lake City Hall

Big Lake Chamber Holiday Tree Decorating Event at Brown's Park (TBD)

Community Tree Lighting Ceremony - (TBD) Watch the Legacy Foundation's Facebook page for future announcements

Cookie & Craft Sale - December 4, 2021

More information at www.saron.org

Lord of Glory will host it's 3rd annual Breakfast in Bethlehem On Saturday, December 4, 2021. Come and experience activities to learn about the true meaning of Christmas. Visit www.lordofglorylutheran.org to find out more or Contact Pastor Marty Mably (763-259-8168, pastormarty@lordofglorylutheran.org) for more information.

Christmas Tree Ornament Party -

For details go to www.sherburnehistorycenter.org

Holiday Lighting Contest - hosted by the City of Big Lake. This year they will allow the public to vote on their favorite displays.

Shopping with Santa - (TBD)

Sponsored by the Big Lake Lioness Club - Visit their Facebook page for more information

JANUARY 2022

Big Lake Winter Farmers Market Jan. 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Big Lake City Hall.

Community Garden applications open to the public.

FEBRUARY 2022

Big Lake Lions Ice Fishing Contest (TBD), at Lakeside Park

Big Lake Winter Farmers Market Feb. 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Big Lake City Hall

Senior Valentine Luncheon -

More details at www.saron.org

Moonlight Ski/Hike and Snowshoe Hike

at Oak Savanna Learning Center - More information at www.fws.gov/refuge/Sherburne/

MARCH 2022

Big Lake Women of Today Easter Egg Hunt at Lakeside Park Mar. 27 - Go to the Big Lake Women of Today Facebook page for more information

EVENTS Continued on Page 36



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EVENTS Continued from Page 34

APRIL 2022

Taste of the Red, White, and Brew Fundraiser - April 23
Big Lake High School, For details visit www.biglakefoodshelf.org

Big Lake Winter Farmers Market Apr. 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at
Big Lake City Hall

MAY 2022

Big Lake All City Garage Sale -
(TBD). Watch the *Patriot* Newspaper for details - Place your
garage sale ad by calling the *Patriot* at 763-275-0275

Big Lake Recycling Day -
Date TBD, 8am - 1pm at Town of Big Lake Maintenance Building.
Visit <https://www.biglakemn.org/286/Recycling-Day-Event> for
more details.

Memorial Day Service
at Big Lake Cemetery by American Legion and Legion Auxiliary
with free lunch after at Lions Park (TBD)

Elevier Women's Center Annual Fundraising Banquet - 7:00 p.m.,
Thursday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. - call 763-445-9650 to register

JUNE 2022

Big Lake Farmers Market
at Lakeside Park on Wednesdays from 3pm-7pm - Find more
details at www.biglakemn.org

Movie in the Park - Find more details at www.biglakemn.org

Music in the Park at Lakeside Park on Thursdays at 7pm - Find
more details at www.facebook.com/TheLegacyFoundationBigLake

Big Lake Spud Fest - June 23-26. Big Lake's annual (50th year
in 2022) community event including activities such as softball
tournament, a potato pancake breakfast, Spud Idol, Big Lake
Ambassador Pageant, parade, 8K run. For other information check
out www.biglakespudfest.com

Big Lake Lions Annual Potato Pancake Breakfast (TBD)

JULY 2022

Big Lake Farmers Market at Lakeside Park on Wednesdays from
3pm-7pm - Find more details at www.biglakemn.org

Music in the Park at Lakeside Park on Thursdays at 7pm - Find
more details at www.facebook.com/TheLegacyFoundationBigLake

Sherburne County Fair - Find more details at www.sherburnecountyfair.org

Team Liam 5K Walk/Run - Find more details at www.teamliam.org/5k-run

AUGUST 2022

Night To Unite - Aug. 2.

Graniteman Triathlon takes place in early August every year.
2022 event on Aug. 7. Find more details at granitemantri.com/graniteman-big-lake/

Big Lake Farmers Market at Lakeside Park on Wednesdays from
3pm-7pm - Find more details at www.biglakemn.org

Music in the Park at Lakeside Park on Thursdays at 7pm - Find
more details at www.facebook.com/TheLegacyFoundationBigLake

Movie in the Park - Find more details at www.biglakemn.org

Big Lake Annual Block Party at McPete's Sports Bar and Lanes -
Find more details at www.biglakechamber.com

Night to Unite - Go to www.biglakepolice.com for details

Big Lake Fire Department Dance - Check the Big Lake Fire
Department Facebook page for details

3rd Annual Tri Chamber Bowl Off - Find more details at www.biglakechamber.com



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EVENTS Continued to Page 37

SEPTEMBER 2022

Big Lake Farmers Market at Lakeside Park on Wednesdays from 3pm-6pm - Find more details at www.biglakemn.org

Ribs N Rides For the Ribbon - Check the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Facebook page for details

Dog Vaccination and Licensing Clinic - Check out www.biglakemn.org for details

Fall Wildlife Festival at Oak Savanna Learning Center - More information at www.fws.gov/refuge/Sherburne/

Taste of Terror 3rd Annual Haunted House - Big Lake Cheer Booster Club. Last two weekends of September. More info at TasteOfTerrorMN.com



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In the community

MEETINGS:

(If your organization/group is not listed in here and you would like to be please contact 763-275-0275 and we can get it in for next year's guide.)

AA OPEN MEETINGS

Mondays, 7pm at The Church of Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church, Big Lake, Big Book Study. Handicap Accessible. Questions? Contact: Rob 763-218-5328.

AA MEETING - SUNDAY NIGHT SOLUTIONS

6pm at Saron Lutheran Church - 311 Lake Street S, Big Lake. Rotating Forums. Contact: Rob 763-218-5328.

BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON - BIG LAKE

Since 9/11, thousands of Minnesotans have served our country. The Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon meets at 6:30pm on the third Monday of each month in the Community Room adjacent to the Big Lake Police Department and the Big Lake Library. A Yellow Ribbon Network unites communities to honor and embrace those affected by military deployments. We do this by creating awareness for the purpose of connecting Service Members, Veterans, and their families with community support, training, services, and resources. Individuals are always welcome to join us, whether you need assistance, are interested in helping, or perhaps just to find out who we are, what we do, and how we help.

BIG LAKE AL-ANON

Meetings held Mon., 7pm at The Church of Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church- 440 Lake Street N. (church basement) Contact Laurie at 763-218-5330. * No mail at this address *

BIG LAKE AMBASSADOR

"Empowering young ladies of Big Lake to be women of tomorrow through Community Service. To promote leadership, professional development and personal growth with an opportunity to earn an educational scholarship. Core Values - Honesty, Respect, Loyalty and Commitment." For information about the Ambassador program please email: biglakeambassadors@gmail.com or for the junior ambassadors biglakejuniorambassadors@gmail.com

BIG LAKE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Meets the first Tuesday of each month (March - Dec.) at 7 p.m. in the Senior Citizen Center at Big Lake City Hall. Please contact Kathy at 763-263-6093 for membership information.

BIG LAKE AMERICAN LEGION POST 147

Meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Big Lake Senior Center at Big Lake City Hall building 7 p.m. If you need a ride call Wayne Harris 763-242-4664. Membership information call Richard Wingard at 763-238-3073.

BIG LAKE/ BECKER MOPS

Mother's of Preschoolers Group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from Sept through May at Becker Baptist Church at 11951 Hancock Street in Becker. Our meetings run from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

BIG LAKE LIONS

Are looking for community minded people to join our organization. If interested in getting involved with our organization, please contact any Lion member or send a note to Box 128, Big Lake, MN 55309 or 763-263-2218.

BIG LAKE LIONESS

Meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Big Lake Township Lions Community Park 21960 County Rd 5.

BIG LAKE SR DINING SITE/MEALS ON WHEELS

Is looking for Volunteers! Help needed packing/serving lunches as well as driving routes in the Big Lake Area. For more information about volunteering or receiving meals contact 763-263-0058, leave a message.

BIG LAKE SENIOR CLUB

Many of you may not be aware that the City of Big Lake has provided us with a lovely room at city hall with kitchen facilities, dining tables and chairs, where we meet every Tuesday.

We play cards every Tues. 1 to 4 p.m. Come join us.

We would love to have you join us so if you are interested, please call Darlene Lanz 763-263-7134.

BIG LAKE WOMEN OF TODAY

Hold a monthly general meeting at Senior Activity Center located in the Big Lake City Hall the 3rd Thursday of the month @ 7p.m. If you are interested in coming to a meeting or a super fun event or maybe becoming a member please contact Natalie @ 612.518.3504 or find us at Facebook or www.biglakewomenoftoday.webs.com.

LIVING WITH PARKINSON'S UNDER THE AGE OF 60

If you or anyone you know is 60 or under and has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, you are welcome to join a newly forming group. We will be meeting the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8pm at Saron Lutheran Church in Big Lake. Specific topics will be scheduled along with open forum. Caregivers welcome! Any questions, please call Camille Johnson at 763-350-7401.

MOMS IN PRAYER

A group that meets weekly to pray for their children and the schools they attend. For information, visit the Moms in Prayer website at www.momsinprayer.org or contact Colene Stenberg at 763-263-6809 or stenbergjc@outlook.com

ORROCK SAND DUNES LIONS CLUB

We are a small but growing club who are proud to be a part of a global organization who believe that Kindness Matters! And when we work together, we can achieve bigger things! Whenever a Lions Club gets together, problems get smaller and communities get better! Please consider partnering up with us and supporting our cause, as we make it our mission to improve Orrock and the surrounding areas! Contact us at: osd.lions@gmail.com and [facebook.com/Orrock Sand Dunes Lions Club](https://www.facebook.com/OrrockSandDunesLionsClub)

RIVERS OF HOPE

Advocates for ending family violence. Rivers of Hope is a non-profit community based agency offering advocacy, support, education and referral services for victims of family violence. Rivers of Hope, working in partnerships with schools, law enforcement, social service agencies and the court system has been serving communities in Sherburne and Wright counties since 1989. Contact us at 763-295-3433 or 1-800-439-2642 email: info@riversofhope.org. Free and confidential. Phones answered 24/7.

IN THE COMMUNITY from Page 38

BIG LAKE COMMUNITY GARDENS

Do you love gardening but don't have a space to grow at home? Community garden plots can be leased for \$30 each from May to October. Plots are 10'x20'. The community gardens are located by public works at 18041 198th Ave., Big Lake, MN. Applications for 2022 will be made available in January at city hall and online at biglakemn.org. If you have further questions about the gardens, contact Recreation and Communication Coordinator Corrie Scott at cscott@biglakemn.org or call 612-297-6331.

BIG LAKE FARMERS MARKET

Lakeside Park Parking Lot Highway 10 (101 Lakeshore Drive), Big Lake. Wednesdays from June to Aug., 2021, 3 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays in September, 2021, 3 to 6 p.m. The Big Lake Farmers Market offers a variety of homemade and homegrown products including fresh produce, meats, eggs, breads, baked goods, canned goods, honey, homemade crafts and more! Parking is free during the market and each week features live music, food trucks and free activities for all ages! Stop by the information booth to find out how to make purchases with debit-credit or SNAP-EBT benefits. Contact Corrie Scott at cscott@biglakemn.org or at 612-297-6331 for more information on how to become a vendor, musician or volunteer.

BIG LAKE WINTER FARMERS MARKET

Third Saturday of the month from November to April from 10am to 1pm at Big Lake City Hall.

BIG LAKE MUSIC IN THE PARK

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 Thursdays 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. The city is excited to continue this successful program that has drawn over 70,000 people from all areas of the state including St. Cloud and the Twin Cities. Concessions open at 5 p.m. Parking is free. Find more information on the city's website and Facebook page at biglakemn.org.



BIG LAKE recently finished its rebranding project, which included adopting this new city logo. (Submitted photo.)

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Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

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Monday Worship: 6pm
For other worship schedules
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263-6274
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office@bridgeviewchurch.org

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440 Lake St. N., Big Lake Mass
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Sunday: 8:30 and 10:30 am
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month, all Masses will be at the
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2nd and 4th Sunday of the
month, all Masses will be at the
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www.MyRiversideChurch.com or
www.Facebook.com/MyRiversideChurch
info@myriversidechurch.com

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2209. www.saron.org.
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contemporary service
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Confirmation Wednesdays
God's Grub (free community meal)
second Sunday each month 4:30
- 6:30p.m.
www.saron.org
www.facebook.com/Therefugeyouthbiglake

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Pastor Steve Johnston
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

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(763) 262-5433
Pastor Jim Herzing
Services: Sunday 9:45 a.m.
info@spiritlifechurchmn.org

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www.elkriverucc.org

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Big Lake is 2nd Amendment Dedicated City

By Katherine Cantin,
Staff Writer

Earlier this year, the Big Lake City Council unanimously declared that Big Lake would be a 2nd-amendment dedicated city. The decision came after several individuals spoke during the open forum time of previous meetings asking the council to consider such a declaration. The resolution included four clauses, which are as follows:

1. The City Council hereby expresses its intent to uphold and protect the 2nd Amendment rights of the residents of Big Lake;
2. The City Council hereby declares Big Lake as a "2nd Amendment Dedicated City";
3. The City Council hereby declares its intent to oppose, through legal means, any

infringement on the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms;

4. The City of Big Lake, City Council does hereby take full consideration of the Constitutional rights of City of Big Lake citizens to keep and bear arms when making decisions appropriating City of Big Lake resources.

Many Big Lake citizens supported this decision, including those forementioned who voiced their opinions at open forum. J. Brian Calva and Tim Underbakke both made comments on Facebook in support of the decision.

"Adopting any resolution to validate an existing constitutional right should not be controversial," said Calva. "It is simply restating a truth. Reasonable

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PETTING ZOO



BIRD HOUSE

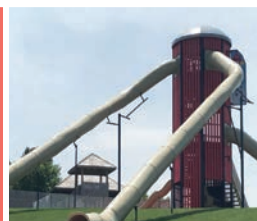


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Supt. Truebenbach excited to be in Big Lake

By Katherine Cantin,
Staff Writer

Tim Truebenbach was hired as Big Lake's new superintendent last year during the height of the pandemic. Now, looking forward to a perhaps more normal school year, Truebenbach is excited to get to know the community he serves.

Early Career

Truebenbach was raised in Gaylord, Minnesota in a family of educators. His father was a teacher and coach, and his mother was a teacher's aid and recess supervisor.

"I idolized my dad," Truebenbach said.

Following his father's interests, Truebenbach played lots of sports while in school under his dad's coaching, and Truebenbach continued to follow his dad's footsteps after graduation. He attended St. John's University to pursue his elementary education degree.

His first job was as a paraprofessional in St. Cloud, followed by a position teaching fifth grade in Lakeville. Then he moved to



TIM TRUEBENBACH
was hired as the new
superintendent during
spring of last year. (Photo
by Katherine Cantin.)

Robinsdale to continue teaching middle school.

Meanwhile, Truebenbach decided to pursue further education. While he worked, he took classes at St. Mary's University to earn his Master's degree in the hopes of becoming a school principal. He was excited to accept an assistant principal position at Melrose High School when the opportunity opened up. Later, he became the principal for the Melrose Middle School.

"It was a brand new middle school, and so it was a great opportunity," Truebenbach said.

After helping to get the middle school going, Truebenbach accepted a position as the principal at the Isanti Middle School. While he worked there, he also served as the Director

of Teaching and Learning at the Minnesota Center. Truebenbach began working towards his doctorate and towards his superintendent's license. After gaining the license, he accepted a position as superintendent in Milaca.

Coming to Big Lake

When the position opened up in Big Lake, Truebenbach watched it eagerly.

"I'd been to the school a few times," Truebenbach said, describing how he would attend his daughters' swim meets at the school. "Even pulling up in the parking lot, you can tell it's a great school."

Truebenbach said he was especially moved when, washing his hands in the bathroom, he saw the school's symbol, the Hornet, on the soap dispenser. He got the impression that the students, staff, and community of Big Lake had a lot of school spirit.

Truebenbach said he saw a lot of potential for growth in Big Lake, as well. Enrollment (pre-pandemic) was going up, and the economy in the city was growing too.

"Enrollment drives what the school can offer," Truebenbach said.

Enrollment is linked to the amount of funding the school can receive from the state.

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"I wanted to be a part of that," said Truebenbach, excited about the possibilities there are with a growing school and the opportunities to find new and better ways of bringing education to the students.

So when Truebenbach was offered the job as superintendent last year, he was thrilled to accept, even in the midst of the hectic COVID-19 crisis.

Goals for the District

Truebenbach's first and most important goal is finding the best way for the schools to navigate the pandemic. And after that, he wants to become more aggressive about finding and implementing excellent programs for his schools.

"I felt that, for the last couple years, education has had to play defense," Truebenbach said. "Now, I want to play offense."

Truebenbach is especially excited about Big Lake's apprenticeship programs, which gives teenage students the opportunity to learn real-life, career-oriented skills while still in high school. He has high hopes for the future of the program, and thinks that it will pair well with the new Big Lake Online program that was implemented last year, as it will give students to work during the school day and take classes online when they have time.

"They don't need to be limited by the school day," Truebenbach said.

Around mid-year, Truebenbach also hopes to implement a new strategic plan for the school, especially after the elections take place in November to fill the recently vacated school board position and to approve or disapprove the referendum.

Finally, Truebenbach says he is looking forward to meeting the community he is serving, as well. He enjoys interacting with the parents and students of the school district, and hopes to get to know everyone better. He says he's already gotten to make some friends with the swim parents as they pass his office on the way to the pool!

Family

Truebenbach takes a lot of pride in his family. He's been married to his wife, Elisa, for 23 years.

The couple has four kids. Lisa, the oldest, is a theater major and choreographer, who had the opportunity recently to perform in a production of Chicago.

Chloe, the next oldest, is currently a junior at Carlton University, and is excited to take a semester in Italy.

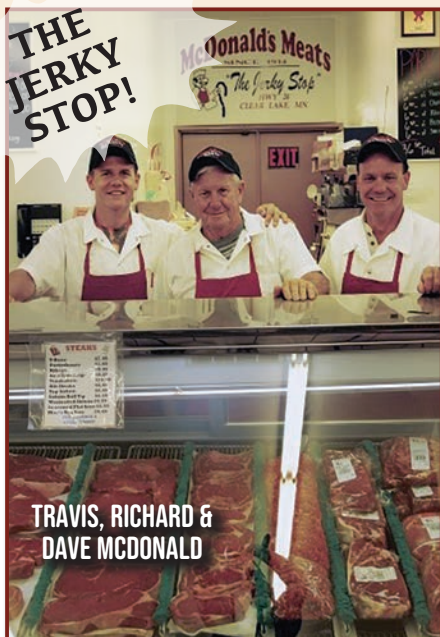
Henry, 18, is a freshman at St. John's University, Truebenbach's alma mater, and is studying communications.

Truebenbach's youngest, Laney, is 16. She is excited to get her driver's license and get an after school job as she attends PSEO classes.

Truebenbach loves to talk about his family with community members, not only because he's a proud dad, but because he wants them to know he's going through the same things they are. He's also trying to raise teenagers during the pandemic, and he knows firsthand the struggles involved. He invites anyone who has questions or who just wants to get to know him to come and have a cup of coffee.



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people can disagree on whether to own a gun or not but resolving to agree with a constitutional fact is like saying, 'I agree we should be able to vote.' If you live in the United States it's simply how it is."

Underbakke agreed, stating, "When the Federal government actively supports a Constitutionally protected right's destruction, it is the moral duty of local government to ensure that right is preserved."

Not everyone was of the same opinion, as demonstrated by an individual going by the name Zaske JA on Facebook, who said, "Those who propose such 'sanctuary' laws/resolutions are building their case entirely on

a tightly held and inaccurate belief that common-sense gun safety laws such as universal background checks, high-capacity magazine bans, assault weapon bans, red flag laws are a violation of the rights guaranteed within the 2nd Amendment are unconstitutional. What is disturbing is these so-called "2nd Amendment sanctuaries" are merely a coordinated effort supported by politically motivated, national groups."

Other individuals hope that the county adopts a similar decision, as stated by several individuals who would like the county Sheriff to be involved in the situation.

"For the County Commissioners to ignore a

resolution and to discount this resolution wanted and relied upon by so many county voting residents, to uphold a US Constitutionally-backed right is highly concerning," said Jay Bob on Facebook. "Sherburne County Commissioners, please follow suit! Don't ignore this!"

Orrock Twp. also recently considered a similar resolution, although, since the township has no police force and relies upon the county sheriff to police the area, this adoption would have been symbolic in nature. However, the motion proposed by Board Member Gregg Felber did not receive a 2nd, and therefore failed.

This sense of safety, quality of life, and all around sense of being at home couldn't be made possible without the people of Big Lake coming forward to make it happen.
— Big Lake Mayor Paul Knier

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