



235 West Chisholm Street
Alpena, MI 49707
989.354.4181
www.alpenachamber.com

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CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For ribbon cuttings and event details, contact the Chamber at 989.354.4181 or visit www.alpenachamber.com.

November 2018

- 1 - Government Relations meeting, 7:30 a.m.
- 2 - Good Morning Alpena event, Ramada Alpena, 7:00 a.m. breakfast, 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. program, \$9 per person, advanced registration required, sponsored by Northland Area Federal Credit Union
- 7 - Ambassador meeting, 8:00 a.m.
- 7 - Italy Trip presentation, 6:00 p.m. Holiday Inn Express
- 13 - Economic Development Board meeting, 7:30 a.m.
- 23 - Bolenz Jewelry Holiday Parade, registration forms now available at www.alpenachamber.com
- 30 - NMCA Agenda Setting Day

December 2018

- 5 - Ambassador meeting, 8:00 a.m.
- 6 - Government Relations meeting, 7:30 a.m.
- 14 - Chamber Board of Director's meeting and strategic planning

* register by contacting the Chamber: info@alpenachamber.com or 989.354.4181

2018 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson: Cindy Limback, RE/MAX New Horizons
Past Chairperson: Ryan Fairchild, Omega Electric
Vice Chairperson: Brian VanWormer, Employment Services Inc.
Secretary/Treasurer: Eileen Budnick - mBank

Directors: Tom Berriman - Alpena Public Schools/AHS; Kevin Burr - Burr Auctions; Bruce Duncan - Thunder Bay Therapy; Pat Gerow - R.S. Scott and Associates; Rose Nowak - Better Living Massage Center and Spa; Adam Poll - City of Alpena; Shawn Shankie - Days Inn; Diane Shields - MidMichigan Health



Nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

CHAMBER NOTES

Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce

By serving its members, the Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce actively champions economic development and the advancement of the community's quality of life.

November/December 2018

A Message From Economic Development Director, Jim Klarich

A few weeks ago, we were asked to move a number of boxes that we had in storage to another location. The boxes had been in there a very long time and were not labeled well. I loaded them in my truck, moved them to our building and started the tedious process of going through them. I found old loan records, meeting minutes, strategic plans, and other economic development documents dating back to as early as the 1970's. There was correspondence about the sale of property to the Besser Company for their expansion on US 23 North, the development of the North Industrial Park, the development of the Commerce Drive Industrial Park, and lots of small business loan files.

It quickly became quite clear to me that this organization has served as the launching pad for hundreds of jobs and businesses and, in my estimation, no single organization in Alpena has had the same impact on our area's economic health, ever. Our economic development efforts focus on the creation and expansion of economic ladders throughout the area by attracting external investments, and enabling and encouraging internal investments which provide for the overall growth of our economy and trade area. The focus is on growth in employment opportunities and our industrial, commercial, and service industries.

Economic growth is achieved through mature business support ecosystems. Our EDC is the only EDC in our region and one of only two EDCs in Northern Michigan delivering Small Business Development Center programming complimented by two federally funded small business loan programs. Through that partnership our area consistently leads the way in small business starts, the number of clients served, and client contact hours. On average, we support ten new business starts and \$1.5M in capital formation in Alpena County annually with additional starts throughout our multi county service territory.

Next up is business attraction, in which we are well versed. We understand the metrics used by developers and site selectors, real estate, sites, and site development. We are the only EDC in Northern Michigan with this capability and our efforts are both proactive and reactive. Projects that utilized this expertise include Meijer, Redwood Realty, Amerilodge Group, Dollar General, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Northland Credit Union, Haglunds and others. Every community possesses assets on which it's economy can grow. We are rich in varied industry, we're a center for regional health care and post-secondary education, we have abundant natural resources, business support systems, infrastructure, ports, rail service, and quality of life. Our intention is to grow and promote these assets and construct additional investment platforms. Our EDC is the only EDC in Northern Michigan that manages three industrial parks, all corresponding land sales, and has independent land holdings.

Our development efforts are also wrapped around the creation of sense of place which helps direct investments to strategic locations. The former Alpena Power Company site is a good example. In order to fully maximize the potential of downtown, we need more density. The hotel was a good first step and adding additional residential opportunities will only help solidify downtown's continued growth and success. Our EDC maintains high level working relationships with many other organizations and agencies at the local, state, and national levels. The relationships include direct lines of communication with government entities, state legislators, the Governor's office, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and most state agencies. These partners recognize the strength of our vision and are always ready if we need their help.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Medilodge of Green View 1234 Golf Course Road Alpena, MI 49707 989.356.1030	Bradley J. Nicoll, PLC 313 N. 2nd Avenue Alpena, MI 49707 989.785.4900	D&M Collision 2685 Pearl Road Alpena, MI 49707 989.356.4867
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As we continue to grow in membership we are able to accomplish more. We appreciate all of our members

So, what does all of this mean? We have built an enormous amount of capability in strategic places and we're seeing the results of that. We're going to keep moving forward and we're going to move Northeast Michigan forward in a way that is sustainable and healthy.

Currently in the works... In addition to what you see below, we are also currently working on creating a job description and then hiring for a **BRAND NEW CHAMBER POSITION!** We will be hiring a Director of Membership (splitting our Director of Events position out of the Member Services role) position to help us grow our organization, therefore providing **MORE VALUE** for you! Stay alert to our various publications for more information as we progress through the hiring process.

Please Vote: 2019 Chamber Board of Directors/Officers

It is that time of year again where we ask for our members to vote on our incoming Board of Directors. Chamber bylaws require that the membership votes on changes to the Executive Board, and incoming Board members. Contact the Chamber (jkrawczak@alpenachamber.com, 989.354.4181) to cast your vote. A non-response is considered a YES vote. The deadline to vote is 5:00 p.m. on November 9, 2018. Please reach out to us with any questions you have.

2019 Board Changes (the ones you are voting on)

Chairperson: Brian VanWormer, Employment Services Incorporated

Past Chairperson: Cindy Limback, ReMax New Horizons

Vice Chairperson: Eileen Budnick, mBank

Secretary Treasurer: Diane Shields, MidMichigan Health (also starting a new three-year term as her initial position on the Board was to replace someone who resigned midway through a term)

General Board Member: Anna Soik, City of Alpena

General Board Member: Adam Szydowski, Besser Company

2019 Returning Board Members (these don't require your vote - this is just for your information)

Tom Berriman - Alpena Public Schools/Alpena High School

Kevin Burr - Burr Auctions

Bruce Duncan - Thunder Bay Therapy

Pat Gerow - R.S. Scott and Associates

Rose Nowak - Better Living Massage Center and Spa

Shawn Shankie - Days Inn

We also wish to thank our outgoing Board Members who will finish their term at the end of 2018. Thank you for your years of service and support! As always, they may be off the Board but will certainly not be forgotten!

Ryan Fairchild - Omega Electric and Sign Company

Adam Poll - City of Alpena

End of Year 2018 and Planning for 2019

As we move into the last two months of 2018, we will be spending time closing out 2018 - preparing reports on our scope of work and successes, evaluating how well we achieved our strategic goals, and wrapping up loose ends on projects. We will also be spending time planning and preparing for 2019. We will have a strategic planning session with the Board in early December, will be drafting a budget, looking to surveys we conducted to find ways to improve our work in 2019, and talking about what most needs our attention going forward.

You can play a role! If you have suggestions for us to consider - work improvements, increased value to our members, topics for us to consider for our strategic goals, etc., please let us know. We listen and pay attention all year to see what our members need from us, and have a Board that represents our members well, so we seem to do a good job at making decisions on our scope of work that make a real impact for our members and community, but we also welcome input in the process. Should you have any input for us, please do not hesitate to reach out to Jackie at the Chamber with your comments.

Although we cannot guarantee every suggestion is incorporated into our work immediately, or ever, we do consider all suggestions through the scope of our mission and available resources.

Thank you for your continued support and input into our scope of work.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Friends Together is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization whose sole purpose is to help people in Northeast Michigan during and after a cancer diagnosis. They offer an average of 25 group support opportunities each month, educational events throughout the year, and a thriving transportation & lodging program that removes common barriers to treatment. They maintain a fully staffed, stand-alone office in downtown Alpena at 105 Prentiss Street.

No one needs to face cancer alone. Friends Together has proudly walked beside hundreds of people along their cancer journey.

While Friends Together is pleased at what they can accomplish, they are more proud of the community! Donations and grants make it possible for Friends Together to support and help those among us with cancer. They are able to help our neighbors because of the generosity of the donors and the tireless efforts of their volunteers. Together with those in the community, they make a positive difference.

In all likelihood, each of us will experience cancer during our lifetime. Together as friends we learn and share. We support and encourage. Whether you are the patient or the loved one, Friends Together is here to support you.

Contact Friends Together at 989.356.3231 if you or someone you know has been touched by cancer or join one of their free cancer support groups.

Trina Gray opened the doors of **Bay Athletic Club** in 2006 with the mission of creating a happier and healthier community. Over the past 12 years, thousands of people have been positively impacted by the variety of services this world-class facility offers.

The club prides itself on being inclusive and creating a space where all ages, fitness levels and walks of life can feel comfortable and get results. All new members meet with a personal trainer to go over goals, an action plan catered to their life and a workout they can start doing instantly. Members always have access to refresher appointments to keep their workout exciting and results happening!

Bay Athletic Club also offers nearly 50 group fitness classes a week, two locations, a women's fit retreat, childcare and a variety of fun, results-driven signature programs like Body Beauty Strength Training for women, Urban Challenge, the 21 Day Slimdown and Thinner Winner.

Work safer,
smarter, together.

Take advantage of discounts for being a member of the Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce.

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A signature program that has gained international attention is The Corporate Fit Challenge. This program was designed to help workplaces overhaul bad nutrition and fitness habits as a team. When employees are healthier, work performance goes up, sick days go down and team camaraderie skyrockets. So much of our life is spent at work. This program brings health and happiness to professional life, which we all know goes beyond the workplace, to our homes and families. Hundreds of businesses have had massive success with the Corporate Fit Challenge and continue to do them annually. For more information on The Corporate Fit Challenge and/or Bay Athletic Club email Kelly@BayAthleticClub.com or visit their website at www.BayAthleticClub.com.