



Serving all of Northeast Michigan

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

CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2020

- 1 - Ambassador meeting
- 2 - Government Relations Committee meeting
- 14 - Economic Development Board meeting

August 2020

- 5 - Ambassador meeting
- 6 - Government Relations Committee meeting
- 25 - Chamber Board meeting

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

2020 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson: Eileen Budnick - mBank; Vice Chairperson: Diane Shields - MidMichigan Health; Past Chairperson: Brian VanWormer - Employment Services Inc.; Secretary/Treasurer: Tom Berriman - Alpena Public Schools/Alpena High School

Directors: Julie Allen - Holiday Inn Express; Nick Brege - Alpena Community College; Gretchen Kirschner - Builders First Source; Janis Sahr - Thunder Bay Winery/Regalo Luxury Gifts; Anna Soik - City of Alpena; Adam Szydlowski - Besser Company; Travis Weide - Lafarge

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.

July/August 2020

A Message from Economic Development Director Mike Mahler

The first six months in the economic development seat has been interesting. There was the pre-pandemic world and the post-pandemic world. While there have been many changes around the office the commitment to support economic development remains unchanged. In that spirit, I have been busy. Here's a brief summary:

- All in for Alpena was created in early/mid-May as a fundraising program to help small businesses throughout Alpena in the form of grants. Target administered the funding and provided the grant awards to the recipients. Over \$45,000 was raised from mostly local donors and 32 grants were awarded funds through this grassroots effort. The 32 recipients represent 243 jobs within our community. Special thanks to the volunteer committee made up of non-profit organizations and to the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan Team for establishing and tracking the donations to the fund and of course to the many that donated to this worthy cause.
- Target is involved in coordinating two proposals for consideration in a new federal program through the Department of Defense. This new program seeks to fund construction of infrastructure improvements that enhance quality of life for active duty military personnel. With the outstanding support from CRTC leadership led by Colonel John Miner, we are hopeful our two Alpena projects will make the cut. One project involves the City and the other involves NOAA.
- We were delighted to see the groundbreaking take place for the new patient tower for MidMichigan Health. That investment in our community is priceless in terms of quality of life and promoting economic development within the region.
- I am currently in conversation with multiple developers on potential projects in and around Alpena. Interest in new development looks promising.
- Anecdotally many businesses owners I have spoken with have told me very encouraging stories on how things have gone since the reopening of the economy began. This coupled with the developer interest leads me to believe the economy will recover quickly assuming nothing crazy happens with the pandemic or the political unrest in our country.
- The MEDC Business Support Team is very interested in arranging 30 minutes virtual calls for any business that is having issues they would like help in solving. Anything from staffing and training, to supply chain challenges, to finding funding sources and anything in between. The MEDC is a great resource. They are aware of many programs and have relationships across the state that might be helpful for you. Please feel free to reach out to me if you would like me to arrange one of these calls. Send me an email at mmahler@alpenachamber.com.

Business retention and expansion are key elements of Target's mission.

In the meantime, be well!

Mike Mahler
Economic Development Director

Our next Good Morning Alpena Breakfast will be held Friday, September 11, 2020 at Art in the Loft

Strategic Plan Update

Advocacy

Staff has been meeting regularly with the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance in order to make sure our area is receiving the resources that we need. The Alliance played a key role in advocating for the governor to open up Northern Michigan businesses before the rest of the State, and an Alliance member was present with the Governor when she made the announcement. Through the Alliance we have continually been advocating for assistance for our businesses in northern and rural Michigan. The PPP program still has funding available, and the EIDL program was recently refunded by the federal government.

Education

We have been working with membership to keep them informed of the everchanging situation. We have the goal of connecting our members to the best sources of information, but not overwhelming them non-relevant information. We are continuing to update our web page as needed with new information on various programs as well as webinars and other educational material.

Exposure

We are continuing to answer members questions about various programs and are looking for new ways to create value for our membership. We are hoping to restart live events in September.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

As we continue to grow in membership we are able to accomplish more. We appreciate all of our members, both new and returning.

S & B Striping

8795 French Rd.
Alpena, MI 49707
989.464.2317

City of Alpena 4th of July Fireworks

The traditional City of Alpena 4th of July fireworks will move forward as scheduled. The event is made possible by tremendous community support, the Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce, and the LaFarge Alpena Plant. As in the past, the show will be fired from Mich-e-ke-wis Park near the water plant. Those in attendance are required to comply with social distancing guidelines and encouraged to wear masks when possible. Ideal vantage points may be in your vehicle near Mich-e-ke-wis, near the City Harbor or from a boat on the water. City parks will remain open for pedestrians with appropriate social distancing. City staff will be on hand to make sure that everything goes smoothly, and residents can enjoy this important celebration of our nation's independence while providing for the safest experience possible for all. If you have questions please contact the City Manager's office at 989.354.1711 or the Fire Chief at 989.354.1840.



Accident Fund offers group discount rates to members of your chamber of commerce.

FIND AN AGENT
AccidentFund.com/Groups

 **AccidentFund**
Insurance Company of America
Part of the AF Group

* IA, KS, MO, NC, TN, TX and WI do not allow for the 5% up-front discount due to state filings.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

McDonald Auto Supply Inc. has been locally owned and operated since 1923 and are proud of serving and delivering to this community for 97 years. They began flying the NAPA flag in 2007 and couldn't be happier to be a part of the NAPA Auto Parts family. Their counter staff has 100+ years combined parts lookup experience. They offer a full line of replacement parts and related supplies and a complete automotive Machine Shop.

McDonald Auto Supply's Machine Shop was born in 1983 with the goal of providing the Alpena area with quality and affordable machine shop services. In 37 years since, our shop has continued to achieve that goal. From the area's first dedicated flywheel grinder to thermal engine cleaning, to accurate automotive machining data and technology sources to the latest in computer engine component balancing, super abrasive surfacing capabilities and more, McDonald Auto Supply Machine Shop has been looking ahead to give our customers the best in automotive machine work. They continue to learn the latest techniques and update their shop with modern and reliable machinery and tooling to keep up with the latest in engine designs and demands.

McDonald Auto Supply is located at 126 W Washington Ave., Alpena and you can reach them at 989.356.4544 or 800.824.7403. Find them online www.mcdonaldautosupply.com or www.facebook.com/mcdonaldautosupplyinc/.

At **Wolf Family Dentistry**, they understand how important the mouth is in allowing us to eat, speak, and express emotions. Dental decay and gum disease can result in pain and further complications. Preventing problems before they occur is the most convenient and economical way to maintain good oral health. Their practice philosophy is firmly rooted in the belief that their patients deserve the highest quality treatment, as well as preventive care, in a warm and caring environment.

They take pride in their ability to provide you with the highest quality treatment in a warm and caring environment. In order to serve you better, both Dr. Wolf, Dr Kendziorski and their staff participate in frequent continuing education programs that increase skills and maintain knowledge of the latest developments in the dental profession. Your overall health and comfort are very important to them. They welcome your ideas and suggestions regarding the office and services. Your input allows them to make changes necessary to provide you with the best service possible.

Striving to make your visit as comfortable as possible they make every attempt to understand your medical history, needs, and concerns. They also provide you with a treatment plan that ensures you receive maximum oral health benefits while taking into consideration the framework of your personal budget.

Set up an appointment with them today to experience the excellent dental care for which Wolf Family Dentistry has a reputation, 989.354.2108. They are located at 320 Long Rapids Plaza, Alpena. You can also find a list of their services at www.wolffamilydental.com.



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