



Alpena  
Area  
Chamber of  
Commerce

Serving all of Northeast Michigan

235 West Chisholm Street  
Alpena, MI 49707  
989.354.4181  
[www.alpenachamber.com](http://www.alpenachamber.com)

# 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.

September/October 2020

### 2020 Events; and More...

To say this year has been abnormal is an understatement. We were able to hold our first ever January GMDA and we couldn't have been happier with the results. We kicked off a Speed Networking series in January that was very popular. The 2020 Annual Dinner - "Rockin' & Rollin' into the Future" showed us just how supportive you are of our efforts by selling out with 700 people in attendance. And we were able to continue our partnership with CRTC and held a Community Council meeting in February. We think the year started off amazing!

Things went a little sideways from there. The Governor declared Michigan a State of Emergency and the closures began. We were forced to cancel our March GMA, April GMDA, Leadercast Spring: Positive Disruption, May GMA, June GMDA and Speed Networking event, July GMA, September GMA, October GMDA and we postponed the Red, White & Blue Review to October 2021. Things are not looking good for our annual Grub Crawl, which is currently in limbo, along with Leadercast Fall: Ripple Effect. We are still hoping our November and December events will go on as planned and that we can begin planning for 2021 events soon, without restrictions.

Not to worry though, the extra time that we have been given has been put to good use. We have been able to assist Target Alpena administer several grant programs to benefit businesses in our region to the tune of over \$3.5 million in assistance spread over a five-county area. In addition, we have been able to assist our members in obtaining additional assistance available for businesses impacted by COVID.

We have also been researching for ways to make 2021 better than ever since so much has been missed this year. New programs, new events and new partnerships are in store for us and you.

With all this craziness we want to remind you that our main goal is still our MEMBERS. We are here for you, whether you have questions, ideas, or just need an ear. We want you to know that we are still working for you at the local, state and national level.

### CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### September 2020

3 - Government Relations Committee meeting  
8 - Economic Development Board meeting

#### October 2020

1 - Government Relations Committee meeting  
7 - Ambassador meeting  
21 - Shredder Day - 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at MCDD, 4344 M-32  
27 - Chamber Board meeting

For ribbon cuttings and event details, contact the Chamber at 989.354.4181 or visit [www.alpenachamber.com](http://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 Member Shredder Day

Michigan Confidential Document Destruction is proud to offer this FREE service to Chamber Members. You may bring up to five boxes of documents (paper case size or smaller) for shredding for free. Additional boxes will be \$5 each. You may also bring one hard drive to be shredded for free (please remove from computer), additional hard drives will be \$10 each. No advanced registration required, just show up!

Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2020

Time: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Location: Michigan Confidential Document Destruction, 4344 M-32, Alpena

# Have you received outstanding customer service lately?

## Send us your experience/story to [info@alpenachamber.com](mailto:info@alpenachamber.com).

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

**Midwest Diesel Service**  
7230 M-32 West  
Alpena, MI 49707  
989.379.1109

**Living Hope Church**  
1499 M-32 West  
Alpena, MI 49707  
989.358.0338

**Next Level Painting and  
Log Home Maintenance**  
4632 Werth Road  
Alpena, MI 49707  
989.358.0338

## Strategic Plan Update

### Advocacy

We have been regularly meeting with the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance to make sure Northern Michigan is represented and accounted for in the State Government. The Alliance continues to advocate that our region be treated independently from other areas of the State as our region is unique, this has led to the easing of some restrictions in our region.

### Education

We continue work to provide our members with the most recent updates from both the U.S. Chamber and the Michigan Chamber. This includes sharing webinars and other instructional material from these sources as well other helpful information. Information seems to be changing daily during this unprecedented time and we are working hard to keep our members informed of these changes and up to date on beneficial programs available to them.

### Exposure

We continue to work for the greatest exposure possible for our members. Staff has been referring business to our membership with the many phone calls and visitors we receive daily. Even with the pandemic tourists are still coming to Alpena and want to take part in all we still have to offer

### Economic Development

The Chamber has partnered with Target Alpena in administering the Michigan Restart Grant Program. We were able to push \$3.5 million out to local small businesses in a five county area to assist them with COVID-19 related issues. Mike is also continuing to work with developers regarding projects in the area.



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

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Orchard Adult Foster Care** began in 2002, quite by accident. A family member fell and broke her arm, and although it was not a terrible tragedy, she had no children to care for her - no one to check on her. With no good options, her nephew Leo, and his wife Pam, knew it was time to help. They took her into their own home - a centennial farm in a settlement named 'Orchard'.

Pam realized the care homes in the area were not able to live up to the family's desire for friendly care in a beautiful and bright environment. Pam and Leo knew that they could do a better job. In the spring of 2002, Pam and Leo added on to their own home and opened a six-bed adult foster care home called Orchard AFC.

In 2010, their daughter Mickey and son-in-law Randy, residents of Chicago moved back to Orchard to help in the business. After "helping" for five years, they purchased the business in 2015, changing the name to Orchard Manor AFC. Their motto is "family helping family," and that also extends to their staff and residents. Their mission is providing a clean, beautiful, bright, and cheerful home - a family style home. We cater to your family member's physical and emotional needs and they have a sense of belonging with our family - exactly what your family deserves.

Many elderly people cannot live at home alone, so they invite them into their beautiful home extension, giving their family peace of mind that their loved one is getting the personal attention they deserve.

Orchard Manor Adult Foster Care is located at 5555 E. Metz Hwy., Posen. Please call us at 989.766.2661.

**GreenStone Farm Credit Services** is committed to providing agriculture and rural America with consistent credit and financial services, today and tomorrow. In addition to their team of industry experts assisting local farms with the financial resources they need to continue feeding the world, GreenStone also provides flexible lending options for individuals who want to live on or own a piece of the great outdoors. They offer a range of country living solutions such as flexible home construction financing, DIY loans, country home mortgages or recreational land loans. Whether you're looking to grow the number of acres you farm, build your dream home or purchase hunting land to escape to, GreenStone has the tools and team to get you there.

As a member-owned cooperative, GreenStone is dedicated to serving the communities they live and work in throughout Michigan and northeast Wisconsin. And because GreenStone is owned by the hardworking people they support, they proudly return a portion of their net earnings back to their members each year in the form of patronage. In March of 2020, they were honored to give back just under 50 percent of their net earnings, equaling \$100 million, to their members and over the last 15 years they have paid back a total of \$500 million through their Patronage program.

They invite you to learn more about GreenStone's commitment to their 25,000 members, the communities they serve and their mission of providing rural America and the agriculture industry with financial resources and reliable credit by stopping in one of their 36 locations throughout Michigan or northeast Wisconsin. To find a branch near you or learn more, call 800.444.3276 or visit [www.greenstonefcs.com](http://www.greenstonefcs.com).



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

**FIND AN AGENT**  
[AccidentFund.com/Groups](http://AccidentFund.com/Groups)



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