



Serving all of Northeast Michigan

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

## CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### November 2020

- 3 - Virtual Leadership Workshop Session 1
- 4 - Ambassador meeting
- 5 - Government Relations Committee meeting
- 6 - GMA - Economic Development Forecast, 7:00 a.m. at Art in the Loft
- 10 - Economic Development Board meeting
- 10 - Virtual Leadership Workshop Session 2
- 17 - Virtual Leadership Workshop Session 3
- 27 - Bolenz Jewelry Holiday Parade

### December 2020

- 2 - Ambassador meeting
- 3 - Government Relations Committee meeting
- 8 - Speed Networking
- ? - Chamber Board Strategic Planning

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 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 2020

### 2020 Citizen of the Year and Other Awards

We know that things have not gone as planned this year. We also know that things might not go as planned next year. The one thing we do know is that there are still deserving individuals out there to be nominated for the 2020 Citizen of the Year Award. We also know that there are businesses who deserve to be recognized for 2020 Business of the Year. But this is where we need your help to nominate these deserving individuals and businesses for these awards. You can find the nominations on our website, along with forms for Culture Change Agent and the Up and Coming Award. These awards will be handed out at the 2021 Annual Dinner on February 11. The theme will be "Joining Together for a Brighter Future", which can't be more fitting for these uncertain times.

### Military Support/CRTC Community Council

President & CEO Adam Poll recently met with Col. James Rossi and Mayor Matt Waligora regarding the restart of the Alpena CRTC Community Council. The Council has been on hiatus this year due to restrictions along with the leadership change at the CRTC. We are actively working to recruit core members for the Community Council and will be planning future events to raise public awareness of the CRTC activities. These will also include planning for Military Support Receptions and the Red, White & Blue Review which is planned for October 2021.

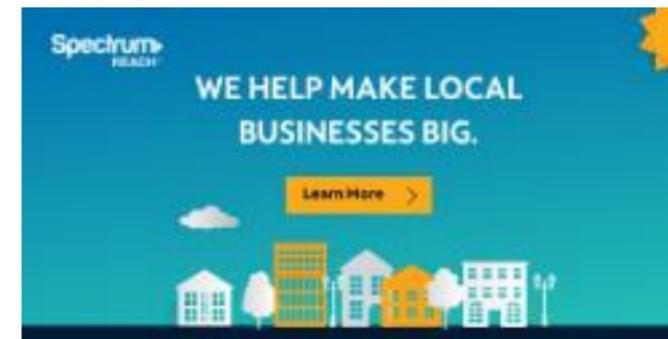
### Speed Networking

We had planned to have three Speed Networking events this year but our June event was postponed and then unfortunately cancelled. We are planning to go forward with our event in December, on the 8th. It will be from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at Art in the Loft. We currently have 13 spots available. Contact us to register.

### Bolenz Jewelry Holiday Parade

This event will go on as planned! The date is Friday, November 27 and the parade will start at 5:30 p.m. We are currently accepting registration forms which can be found at [alpenachamber.com](http://alpenachamber.com).

We are looking positively at 2021 and hope that you are as well. We are working on our 2021 event schedule with enthusiasm and will have it posted soon.



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# Our first and last GMA of 2020

## Friday, November 6 at Art in the Loft

### 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.

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority**  
400 Johnson St.  
Alpena, MI 49707  
989.356.2161

**Salvation Army of Alpena County**  
722 N. 2nd Ave. - Church/Office  
2321 US 23 South - Thrift Store  
Alpena, MI 49707  
989.358.2769

**Johnson & Wood LLC**  
2577 US-23 South  
Alpena, MI 49707  
989.340.1327

### Strategic Plan Update

#### Advocacy

Staff has been regularly meeting with the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance to make sure northern Michigan is represented and accounted for in the State's decision making processes. We continue to advocate utilizing a regional approach regarding COVID response. We recently hosted a roundtable with State Senator Jim Stamas who discussed with the Government Relations Committee the possibility of adding additional educational opportunities to the area.

#### Education

The Fall Leadercast event was held online this year. We received a grant to defray the costs of the event, and because of this we were able to offer the online event at a reduced price. Our Leadership Series Workshop event is coming up. In addition, we continue to provide helpful webinars and educational material in our weekly enotes. Adam has agreed to become a member of the Career & Technical Education Advisory Committee focusing on business, technology, digital media, and personal finance.

#### Exposure

Staff has continued to answer our memberships questions regarding assistance. We have also started to reach out to sponsors for next years events to ensure ongoing exposure opportunities. We recently held Shredder Day for our membership with a great deal of member participation (Thank you Michigan Confidential Document Destruction!).

#### Economic Development

Chamber staff continues to help with the last aspects of the Michigan ReStart Grant. In addition, we were able to set up a round table event with the Jason Allen, of the Michigan USDA Rural Development as well as the Rob Scott, of the US SBA to discuss existing and further economic development programs available and fourth coming.

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Northeastern Window & Door** opened in 1979 by Jim and Betty Smith as a small Window & Door Shop serving Northeastern Michigan. The store is now owned and operated by John Smith, Jim and Betty's son.

Jim and Betty Smith, and family, lived in the Metro Detroit area. Jim worked as a trim carpenter. They had family in Alcona County and wanted to get out of the city. Jim and Betty would come "Up North" on the weekends and Jim did side jobs when he was in the area. Jim had trouble locating materials for his jobs. He saw a need for a window and door supplier in Alcona County so he and his family relocated to Mikado in 1977 and opened Northeastern Window & Door in May 1979, on the corner of US 23 and Main Street in Harrisville. Jim sold windows, doors and trim. Jim became known as "Need trim, call Jim".

The store moved to its current location in 1982 and has grown to one of the largest retail stores in Alcona County. In 1984 True Value Hardware was added, in 2004 Just Ask Rental Center, and in 2010 the store added a full-service lumber yard. The store's success has been built from customer service and competitive pricing. John's children Joanna and John Jr. are actively involved in the business as the 3rd generation in the family.

In 1991 Denflo Distributors, their second location, opened in Alpena as a mastic vinyl siding distributor. The store has now expanded into a complex building material supplier now carrying lumber, roofing and many building related products. The Denflo name has changed to Northeastern Window & Door of Alpena. Their two great locations now serve northeast Michigan contractors and homeowners under the Northeastern Window & Door name.

You can find them at 1261 M-32, Alpena (989.356.2332) or 345 N. U.S. Highway 23, Harrisville (989.724.6393). You can see what they have to offer at [northeasternwindowdoor.com/](http://northeasternwindowdoor.com/).

**Valley's Canvas** is a locally owned company serving Northern Michigan. If you are in need of exceptional services for your canvas, downrigger, boat enclosure, electric trolling motor, carpet, or marine upholstery you can count on Valley's Canvas.

Don't let harsh elements ruin your boat. To ensure that your newly installed custom canvas will effectively protect your boat and last a long time, they use Sunbrella canvas and Gore Tenara Thread with lifetime thread warranty against rotting. Prolonged exposure to the water can take a toll on your boat. They use only quality materials to make sure your new upholstery will last a long time. They also custom cut new foam and custom fabricate seat bases if needed. If you can dream it, they can build it! At Valley's Canvas, they believe in using only superior materials in their projects. For their boat enclosures, they use Sunbrella fabrics and stainless steel tubing, fittings, and fixtures for the frames. Every enclosure is custom fabricated and fitted. The Tenara thread that they use on your boat enclosure will never rot.

Are you looking for a new or used Cannon downrigger? Or do you have one that needs to be repaired? They are factory trained and you will be pleased to know that they are an authorized Cannon service center. They sell and repair new and used Cannon downriggers. All their work is warrantied!

If you want your fishing experience to be convenient, quiet, and environmentally friendly, then get a Minnkota electric trolling motor! It will allow you to quietly get to where the fish are without scaring them away. It's also easy enough to use! Valley's Canvas is also an authorized Minnkota service center. They sell and repair new and used Minnkota electric trolling motors.

You can rest assured knowing that all their work is warrantied! Call them now for more details, 989.464.1191. Check them out online at [valleyscanvas.com](http://valleyscanvas.com).



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