



**Alpena
Area**
Chamber of
Commerce

Serving all of Northeast Michigan

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

CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 2021

- 5 - Ambassador meeting
- 6 - Government Relations Committee meeting
- 11 - Economic Development Board meeting
- 14 - Good Morning Alpena Breakfast; 7:00 a.m. sponsored by Northland Area Federal Credit Union
- 15 - Front Door Sales Event at Perch's starting at 10:00 a.m.

June 2021

- 2 - Ambassador meeting
- 3 - Government Relations Committee meeting
- 3 - Good Mid-Day Alpena Event; 11:30 a.m. sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
- 4 - Fireworks Fundraising, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Chamber office
- 9 - Night with the Chamber; APlex, doors open at 5:30 p.m.
- 22 - Chamber Board meeting
- 22 - Last Chance Fireworks Fundraising Sales Event, TBD

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

2021 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson: Diane Shields - MidMichigan Health
Vice Chairperson: Tom Berriman - Alpena Public Schools/AHS
Past Chairperson: Eileen Budnick - mBank
Secretary/Treasurer: Nick Brege - Alpena Community College

Directors:

Julie Allen - Holiday Inn Express
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.

May/June 2021

Summer is on its way!

Summer is nearly upon us and we are all looking forward to warmer weather and the return of outdoor events. With the warmer weather, as well as continued workplace changes, our members can start to see some return of normal operations. We are certainly looking forward to more gatherings this summer, like the annual fireworks show, which we are currently fundraising for. Work on the parade is coming along and it's great to see others are planning for numerous summer events.

As we were unable to host our Annual Dinner in February, we are planning "Night with the Chamber" for June 9th. This will be an opportunity to socialize, gather and exchange ideas in one room. Seating will be limited but our hope is to see as many of you in person as allowed. This past year has been very different for all of us and this will give us a chance to say thank you for sticking with us. This event will be casual with a short program, heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served and cocktails will be available for purchase. Contact us for reservation information and ticket price.

Good Morning Alpena breakfasts and Good Mid-Day Alpena lunches are back! Our next breakfast will be held on May 14th at Art in the Loft and with the topic "Generations in the Workplace". These events are fun and great to network at.

In addition to events our work in advocacy and economic development continues. We continue to send the message that Northeast Michigan is a great place to do business and to live and that message is being heard. There has been tremendous interest from developers in our region, and very soon we expect to announce several new developments.

All of us here are excited for the busy summer months in Alpena to begin.

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.

Ken Robb Construction LLC
1040 Highland Ct.
Alpena, MI 49707
989.255.0868

Energy Sciences Resource Partners, LLC
3500 W. 11 Mile Road, Suite B
Berkley, MI 48072
248.792.9287

Join us Wednesday, June 9 for Night with the Chamber

Strategic Plan Update

Advocacy

The Alpena Chamber has signed on to the Reopen Michigan Safely campaign led by the Michigan Chamber. We were already involved through Northern Chamber Alliance but were asked to join individually as well. MIOASHA is attempting to move forward with permanent COVID rules which this campaign is opposed to.

We maintain work with the Alliance regarding other efforts as well. Adam has been assigned to the topic of broadband and will be researching what methods/funding could be utilized to enhance broadband in our region. He has also been appointed to represent the Alliance on Congressman Bergman's Rural Connectivity Advisory Committee.

Education

We are working with APS on various programs and assisting where possible. We continue to provide educational resources in our weekly enotes regarding COVID protocols and other general business development.

Exposure

We are in the process of planning 2021 events and attempting to provide as many exposure activities for our members as possible. We are holding events that are allowable under current COVID regulations. Last month we held a GMDA and this month we will host a GMA.

In addition we are planning an event on June 9th called "Night with the Chamber". There will be limited number of seats available but it will be a night of networking with a short program.

Fireworks fundraising is in full swing and we are planning bracelet sales events. Staff is also reaching out to potential partners to take over organization of the 4th of July parade. If you are interested please contact us.

Economic Development

Mike has been very busy and he continues to work with developers regarding various economic development projects.

This is a good time to clear up a commonly held misconception. We get at least one call a week, usually more, from entrepreneurs seeking cash grants from Target. There is a belief that Target sits on a pot of "free" money to be given to those seeking to start a business or buy a commercial building. This is not the case. Target does have money; however it is to make loans. This money is available to lend to startups and existing businesses under certain circumstances. Contact Mike for more information.

Military Support

Chamber and CRTIC staff are working to hold a public Community Council meeting on May 9th. This meeting will be online due to recent COVID numbers. The meeting will focus on the topic of the Mobility Guardian exercise which is a larger operation than Northern Strike this year.

Savings

We continue to work to offer savings opportunities through our various partners.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

SpruceRidge Vineyards was established through a passion for growing grapes and creating remarkable wines. Their small, family operated Estate Winery brings this passion to life through their wonderful wines - all grown with care in beautiful Northeastern Michigan. SpruceRidge is one of the first 100% estate wineries in the northern corner of Michigan. Currently they feature seven different wines that are sure to please any palate.

You can find their wine at a variety of stores across Northern Michigan from Indian River all the way down to Midland and along the shoreline. They also ship via UPS to 44 states across the country in addition to pick up and delivery locally in the Alpena area. They are continuing to grow their estate wine selection and are looking forward to the opportunity to participate in local events this year when gatherings are once again allowed.

You can find them online at www.spruceridgevineyards.com or contact them at 989.727.1103.

TJ Hoes State Farm is the most recent in a line of State Farm agents in Alpena, following Judy Burns and Neil Seabase. After working for State Farm in a different role for five years, TJ's office opened in 2019 and is located in the long time State Farm office at 1013 S. State Ave. in Alpena. State Farm offers over 100 different insurance and financial service products including home, auto, life, health, and business insurance. TJ is also a registered investment advisor who works with individuals to plan for retirement, as well as setting up retirement programs for small businesses.

TJ's office is staffed by long time Alpena residents, along with providing both part-time and full-time internships to local high school and college students. His office believes in community involvement and giving back, with recent involvement with the Huron Humane Society and Friend's Together. TJ Hoes State Farm is always happy and eager to consult insurance and financial service needs with anyone, as well as employment and internship opportunities! Contact them at 989.356.4862.



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