



Serving all of Northeast Michigan

235 West Chisholm Street
Alpena, MI 49707
989.354.4181
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.

July/August 2021

4th of July

This year the 4th of July Parade will host a new route due to the Bagley Street detour. The parade will begin at Besser Company on Johnson Street. Parade participants will arrive at Besser Company via the APlex entrance on Woodward Ave. The parade will take the following route: starting at Besser Company and traveling southeast on Johnson St., to W. Oldfield St. to Ninth Ave., follow Ninth Ave. to Chisholm St., follow Chisholm then turning left on Second Ave. to Fletcher Street, turning left to the large parking lot on the right just before the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The parade will also start a bit later this year due to it being on a Sunday. **The parade will begin at 1:00 p.m.**

We are also excited to announce that we have reached the fireworks fundraising goal of \$23,000! You can expect to have another amazing show this year thanks to all who made donations and bought bracelets!



CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2021

- 1 - Government Relations Committee meeting
- 4 - H.P.C. Credit Union 4th of July Parade at 1:00 p.m.; Fireworks at dusk
- 7 - Ambassador meeting
- 13 - Economic Development Board meeting
- 16 - Good Morning Alpena Breakfast; 7:00 a.m. Depot on Fletcher Street; Sponsored by Lappan Agency

August 2021

- 4 - Ambassador meeting
- 5 - Government Relations Committee meeting
- 11 - Leadercast: Shift - 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at ACC
- 24 - Chamber Board meeting

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
 Past Chairperson: Eileen Budnick - mBank
 Secretary/Treasurer: Nick Brege - Alpena Community College

Directors:

- Julie Allen - Holiday Inn Express & Suites
- Gretchen Kirschner - Builders First Source
- Andy Lappan - Lappan Agency
- Brad Nicoll - Bradley J. Nicoll, PLC
- Janis Sahr - Thunder Bay Winery/Regalo Luxury Gifts
- Anna Soik - City of Alpena
- Adam Szydowski - Besser Company
- Travis Weide - Lafarge



Accident Fund offers group workers' compensation insurance discounts to members of your chamber of commerce.

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

Mark Your Calendars: Grub Crawl - September 16!

Strategic Plan Update

Advocacy

Effective June 22, all COVID restrictions from the have been lifted! This means, capacity in both indoor and outdoor settings will increase to 100 percent and the state will no longer require residents to wear a face mask, whether vaccinated or not.

The Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance met and are proposing funding for rural housing, broadband and childcare. The Alliance is also working with legislators to get as many people back to work as possible which includes supporting legislative effort to end the extra unemployment supplements on July 15.

Adam has begun attending Congressman Bergman's Broadband Committee to further broadband efforts in rural northern Michigan and will continue to represent Alpena and the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance.

Exposure

Our "Night with the Chamber" event was a great success with over 300 in attendance. We have received many compliments on the evening. After the 4th of July Parade fell back into our hands we sought assistance and are happy to report that H.P.C. Credit Union made a five year commitment to host the parade. We will still assist them this year, especially with the new route that has to be taken due to the Bagley Street detour. We look forward to working on a number of events for the fall.

Economic Development

Mike is currently involved in a number of economic development projects. He and Adam have both attended many meetings with various developers to that end. Some of the proposed projects on M-32 have met some roadblocks that may derail the projects due to environmental issues and ballooning material costs.

Labor shortages are something we hear about daily in dealing with business owners. From laborers to truck drivers, to food service workers and all points between, willing workers are in short supply which is forcing up the price to attract them further adding to the cost of doing business and, of course and prices to the final consumer.

Military Support

Chamber and CRTC staff held a public Community Council meeting on May 9th. This meeting focused on operation Mobility Guardian and the continuing Restriction of Movement missions going on at the base. CRTC staff noted that they had additional operations scheduled throughout the summer including Northern Strike.

Savings

We have partnerships with Accident Fund Insurance Company and CardConnect credit card processing services. Both of which our members qualify for. There are also other insurance discounts, ask your agent if you qualify for any of these discounts as a chamber member.



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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Alpena Farmers' Market is now open outside at Mich-e-ke-wis Park located at 1302 South State Street. Open every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays beginning in July.

Founded in 1978. Selling locally grown produce, baked goods, grass fed beef, eggs, mushrooms, plants, artisan breads, cut flowers, maple syrup, honey and arts and crafts from Alpena, Alcona, Montmorency, Presque Isle, and Oscoda counties.

The Friends of the Farmers Market offer nutritional assistance programs including EBT, Double Up Food Bucks, Senior Project Fresh, WIC Project Fresh, and the Market Sprout Program along with other special events throughout the season.

A new Market event this year is the MidMichigan Health Save-A-Life Saturday on July 10th from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Health screenings, Lions Club Kidsight Vision Screening, CPR and their new AED will be demonstrated, BP checks, and covid vaccines available.

Northland Area Federal Credit Union Grow Sports Day (10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) will take place with a Community Rummage Sale and Antiques Day (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) on July 31st. Donated sports equipment will be given away at booths where local sports groups will be represented. Rummage sale and antiques booths will also be set up with proceeds from booth fees and donated items to go to area youth sports.

Kids Day at the Market will be September 18 with free activities including live music, FFA hayrides, a bounce house, face painting, vegetable tasting, cider and doughnuts and a fire truck. The Friends of the Alpena Farmers' Market sells beautiful large hardy mums on September 4th and 11th to raise money for this event.

Other programs include Live Music Program, Market Sprouts, Senior Transportation Program, Guest Chefs Programs, Locavore Dinner, and a scholarship program. You can find out more about these at alpenafarmersmarket.com or by calling J.B Cook at 989.255.9372.



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.

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4270 US 23 N
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Colburn Outfitters
114 W. Chisholm St.
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