



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

September 2021

- 1 - Ambassador meeting
- 2 - Government Relations Committee meeting
- 10 - Good Morning Alpena Breakfast; 7:00 a.m. ACC Student Commons Area; Sponsored DTE Energy
- 14 - Economic Development Board meeting
- 16 - Grub Crawl; 5:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m. all around Alpena

October 2021

- 6 - Ambassador meeting
- 7 - Government Relations Committee meeting
- 14 - Good Mid-Day Alpena Lunch; 11:30 a.m. Alpena Public Safety Facility; Sponsored Edward Jones of Alpena
- 20 - Shredder Day; 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 4344 M-32 West
- 26 - 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
 Brad Nicoll - Bradley J. Nicoll, PLC
 Janis Sahr - Thunder Bay Winery/Regalo Luxury Gifts
 Anna Soik - City of Alpena
 Adam Szydlowski - Besser Company
 Travis Weide - Lafarge



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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 2021

10th Annual Alpenopoly Grub Crawl

We are super excited to be able to host one of our most popular events after having to take a year off. The 10th Annual Grub Crawl will be held on Thursday, September 16, 2021 from 5:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m. We have new and returning locations who are eager to host the event. This year we are featuring a beach theme. We will have a photo booth, shuttles from Thunder Bay Transportation, and fun games at each location along with some fun photo ops at a few of the stops. We are once again looking for that favorite location and encourage all crawlers to vote for their favorite on their game board. Participating locations include:

**Court Yard Restaurant ~ Latitude; Tavern ~ North Country Candy
Nowicki's; Sausage Shoppe ~ Player's Pub ~ Pompeyo; Mexican Grill
Sneakers; Bar Grill & Arcade ~ The Bulldog ~ Thunder Bay Winery**

Your \$20 ticket consists of a bandana and gameboard and includes appetizers at each stop, drink specials, games & prizes, use of the shuttles and a chance to be entered into the prize drawing at the end of the night (which includes a \$150 Amazon Gift Card donated by Ramada Alpena). Tickets will go up to \$25 each after September 9, 2021. Tickets are on sale at the Chamber office.



Innovative Technology GMA - September 10, 2021

Strategic Plan Update

Advocacy

The Government Relations Committee is looking at options to increase potential new housing options in the City and Township. As census numbers indicate that our population is aging and fewer members of the community are working, it is important to have housing for potential working families. We are extending an invitation to local officials to brainstorm about various changes to make housing development easier.

The Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance is in the process of a staff change. They are currently searching for a new Government Relations Coordinator as Kirstie Sieloff has taken a new position, we wish her luck! In the meantime it is budget season at the State and we are working on various areas of importance for Northern Michigan such as housing, broadband, and childcare.

Exposure

This summer has been quite busy, we have given out lots of chamber member recommendations for places to eat, shop and visit. We also continue to offer sponsorship opportunities for various events.

Economic Development

The M-32 projects seem to be back in a forward moving direction. Mike has been working diligently with all parties and it seems some progress is being made. Mike is also involved in a number of other projects that are in various stages of development.

Military Support

The CRTC invited Chamber staff to participate in both the A-10 landing on M-32 earlier this month, and also the CRTC Community Day. Adam also attended Carl Hatala's retirement ceremony as he had been a point of contact for the base, an ambassador for many years, and was always a big help with the Red, White & Blue Review. We wish him well!

Education

Adam met with officials from APS this month and served on their Hall of Fame Committee. We are once again planning to help with their CTE program.

Our annual Leadercast event was very well received. Most speakers were on point with their helpful leadership tips. We look forward to hosting the event again in May 2022.

Savings

Staff received notice at our Leadercast event that our members who use Accident Fund Insurance would be receiving a record amount of dividends this year. Most checks have either been mailed or hand delivered.

CardConnect is currently offering all new clients a special with CardPointe: the perfect payments solution for any business. And the best part? If you sign up within the next 60 days you'll receive a FREE terminal or a \$200 statement credit. To find out more call 877.948.9733. Offer expires 10/16/21.



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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.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Miller Office Machines was established in January of 2000 by Bill Miller with the assistance and support of his family. Bill's background began with an Associate Degree in electronics and has been trained from manufacturers such as Konica-Minolta, Canon and Ricoh. Bill has over 35 years in the office equipment industry. In addition to the Lincoln Office, which now houses their service department and business offices, Miller Office Machines purchased the old Chemical Bank Building at 2708 US 23 in Alpena in June of 2018. They have expanded their Alpena location showroom to include a full line of office supplies and furniture in addition to Konica Minolta MFPs, full-service printing, and any of your other office needs. They are proud and thankful to be an authorized Konica Minolta Dealer since 2001. They firmly believe that their customer's satisfaction in them is number one and take extreme care in the staff they provide in making that possible. Anyone of their team will greet you with a smile and pleasant attitude whether on the phone or in person. They offer all of the personalized benefits of a small business but with big business efficiency. The biggest advantages of having Miller Office Machines as your service provider is that you have one vendor servicing all your equipment regardless of make, brand or model of copiers, fax machines, printers, typewriters, computers, dictators and paper shredders, office supplies, office furniture and all your full-service printing needs. Most recently they have purchased Alexander Business machines out of Oscoda after the Alexanders decided to retire. When you call Miller Office Machines you get their commitment of providing the finest professional service at a time when you need it most. Contact them at 989.736.7631 or 989.340.2100 or find them at 1420 N. Barlow Road, Lincoln or 2708 US 23 S., Alpena. You can also get more information at www.millerom.com.

Established in 1961, **W. G. Benjey, Inc.** continues to design and manufacture standard and custom machinery for a variety of industrial processes. From automotive production machines to woodworking equipment, W. G. Benjey, Inc. has been a proven leader in innovative designs and manufacturing processes for many customer. W. G. Benjey, Inc. is located in the northeast corner of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, on the shores of Lake Huron. Contact them today and let their design and manufacturing teams turn your concepts into reality! 800.269.9006. Construction was finished on their brand-new facility in August 2019. This new building, the sixth in the Benjey family, now houses the main offices and adds 13,000sq. ft. of shop floor space. This new space increases their machining area to 22,000 sq. ft., and along with the new equipment they have installed they greatly increased the types and scale of items that they can work on. Check out their website for more information, www.benjey.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.

Bohemian Bodyworks
by Erika Martineau, LMT
230 S. 3rd Ave.
Alpena, MI 49707
989.916.3326

Hungry Howie's Pizza
1132 W. Chisholm, Ste. B
Alpena, MI 49707
989.884.6700

VP Floors
124 W. Lake St.
Alpena, MI 49707
989.305.5144

Bell Fork Lift
3650 Eagle Parkway West
Gaylord, MI 49735
989.321.9099