



The Big Lake Wave

October / November / December 2017

Photo Contest!!



The City of Big Lake is looking for new photos that define our beautiful city!

The City is currently developing a new website and we are inviting members of our community to submit photos to be displayed within the website as well as other marketing materials. The 1st place photo will not only be displayed on the City's home page, but will also be recognized during a regularly scheduled City Council meeting. In addition, the winning entry will be published in the Big Lake quarterly newsletter and on the City's Facebook page. Submission of a photo will release the photo to the City of Big Lake. The photo may be used on the City website, City Facebook page, and any other marketing material.

Developing the website will take up to 6 months. To encourage the photos to keep coming, the City will be selecting entries at random for prizes throughout the 6 months!

Be sure to capture what you love the most about the City of Big Lake and share it with us! All photos can be submitted to Hanna Klimmek, Community Development Director, at hklimmek@biglakemn.org.

Please Welcome the Big Lake Minnesota GreenCorps Member!

My name is Katie Stelzner. I have recently started serving in the City of Big Lake as a member of the Minnesota GreenCorps. The Minnesota GreenCorps is a program run by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and is under the wider umbrella of the national Americorps program. Minnesota GreenCorps is a statewide initiative to help preserve and protect Minnesota's environment while training a new generation of environmental professionals. As a GreenCorps member, I have been placed in the City of Big Lake to work on environmental sustainability in the community.

I will be serving in Big Lake until August 2018, and during that time I will assist the City in sustainability outreach and education. I hope to learn what aspects of environmental sustainability are most important to the residents of Big Lake, and then find ways to promote awareness of those issues within the community so that the natural resources of Big Lake will be preserved and protected for the future. I look forward to working with the city and its residents!



Big Lake City Council 2017

Mayor	Council Member	Council Member	Council Member	Council Member
Raeanne Danielowski	Dick Backlund	Seth Hansen	Duane Langsdorf	Mike Wallen
763-263-3801	763-260-0371	763-262-6282	763-263-7867	763-286-3842
rdanielowski@biglakemn.org	dbacklund@biglakemn.org	shansen@biglakemn.org	dlangsdorf@biglakemn.org	mwallen@biglakemn.org

Proposed Property Tax Levy 2018

The proposed Property Tax Levy for 2018 is \$4,189,238; the City's tax rate is anticipated to be 56.25%, which is a **decrease** of 2.37% over 2017 tax rate. This is due to an increase in the City's overall market value of approximately 8.15%. Below is a summary of estimated city property taxes based on the following home values:

Assessed Value	Estimated Annual City Property Tax
\$129,375	\$ 727.74
\$181,125	\$1,018.83
\$232,875	\$1,309.93
\$310,500	\$1,746.57

Mark your calendars! The 2018 Budget and Levy Public Input Meeting will be held on Monday November 28th at 6:00pm at Big Lake City Hall council chambers

**MONDAY NOVEMBER 28th
6:00PM**

What makes my property tax bill change from year to year?

- My property's value
- My neighbor's property value
- My city council, my county board, and my school board
- The state Legislature
- All of the above

Answer: All of the above

The decisions of your City Council, County Board, and School Board regarding the amount of tax dollars they need to deliver services may be the most obvious factor in your property tax bill. However, the value of your property, the total value of all the property in your community, changes in state programs, and changes in state laws that affect the tax system also play a role. Changes in any of these factors can make your tax bill go up in some years and down in others.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – PROVIDED BY THE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES

Q: Some of the local news coverage talks about city budgets and other coverage talks about city levies. Are they the same thing?

A: The property tax levy is the amount of money that the city (or other local government) decides it needs to collect from property owners in order to deliver services. Property taxes, however, are just part of the overall city budget. The budget includes both discretionary spending (for services the city is free to choose to provide) and non-discretionary spending (to meet obligations such as paying off debt). The budget includes all the dollars the city collects from various sources – fees, grants, revenue sharing, and property taxes.

Q: What do I get for my property taxes?

A: Local governments receive the money they use to deliver services from a few different sources: property taxes, fees, revenue sharing with the state, and grants. Property tax dollars pay for the services that everyone in the community – as well as visitors, commuters, and tourists – can access. This includes things like streets, police and fire services, parks, and libraries. Other services – like economic development programs to help businesses grow and develop, snowplowing, garbage removal, and recycling are also typically paid for with tax dollars.

Finance (Cont.)

Q: How does the city – or any local government – decide what services to provide?

A: City councils review the services they currently provide and think about what local preferences are and what population trends suggest about the kinds of services people will need. For example, one community might favor running its own pool while another does not see the need. Communities with lots of young families need to offer different kinds of services than communities seeing big increases in the number of senior residents. Sometimes cities have to provide certain services in order to comply with state or federal laws. Some common examples are requirements for testing drinking water and making public buildings accessible to people with disabilities.

Q: How does the city decide how much to collect in property taxes?

A: Cities look at their costs – like gasoline, road salt, salaries, and building repairs. They also determine the amount of money the city needs to provide the services residents expect and depend on. Councils then examine the dollars coming into the city from other sources – like fees people pay for building permits or to license their dogs, grants from state and federal governments, and state revenue sharing. Property taxes make up the gap between money coming in from non-tax sources and the money needed to run the city. Other local governments (e.g., counties, schools) go through a similar process to set their property tax amount.

Q: Are property taxes the only way that the city takes in money?

A: Cities have several sources of revenue, but the two largest sources are property taxes and state revenue sharing. Property taxes are collected from the owners of homes, businesses, and farms within the city. The sales taxes, income taxes, and gas taxes that we all pay to the state actually fund state aid dollars, such as local government aid and municipal state aid for roads. Some of these dollars are redistributed to cities through revenue sharing.

Cities also get money from a few other sources. One source of revenue is fees. Some examples of common fees that people pay to cities are for: dog licenses, building permits, use of the city park facilities, fines for failure to remove snow from sidewalk, and water and sewer services. Cities also get some money from grants. These come from the state or federal government and are used for very specific purposes such as a building or equipment improvement.

NORLAND PARK

The City of Big Lake has opened a new park in the Norland Park Subdivision, located at 20480 Nedd Street. The park is named Norland Park. A one-acre parcel was dedicated to the City of Big Lake by the developer when Norland Park Subdivision was platted into residential lots, and was designated to be used as a City park. These park improvements were funded from the Park Dedication Budget. The Park Dedication Budget is funded by a fee collected from each new residential, commercial or industrial unit. Park Dedication funds can only be used for the purpose of park improvement and/or construction, but cannot be used towards maintenance.



Note: Due to the install of new grass in this park, the area is fenced to allow access to the playground area only. Please stay out of the grass area until the fencing is removed.

October, November, & December events at the library:

Fridays, October 6, 13, 20, 27, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.: Friday Storytimes

Tuesdays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.: ECFE @ the Library

Thursday, October 12 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.: Snap Circuit Makerspace

Monday, October 23, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.: Adult Craft Program

Wednesday, October 11, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.: Adult Book Club

Wednesday, October 18, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.: Tech Time

Thursday, October 19, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.: The Skally Line: Oldtime Stringband Music and MN Stories

October

Fridays, November 3, 17, 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.: Friday Storytimes

Tuesdays, November 7, 21, 28, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.: ECFE @ the Library

Thursday, November 2, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.: Design a Harry Potter Potions Bottle with Jen Anfinson

Monday, November 13, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.: Teen Comic Book Club

Wednesday, November 15, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.: Tech Time

Monday, November 20, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.: Chris Ward: Harpist

Monday, November 20, 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.: Teen Holiday Ornament Craft

Wednesday, November 8, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.: Adult Book Club

Monday, November 27, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.: Adult Craft Program

November

Tuesdays, December 5, 12, 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.: ECFE @ the Library

Wednesday, December 6, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.: Teen Movie Night: 90's Throwback

Wednesday, December 13, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.: Adult Book Club

Monday, December 4, 2:00 – 6:30 p.m.: Make Your Own Holiday Gingerbread House

Monday, December 11, 3:30 – 4:15 p.m.: Explore Medieval Weaponry with the Royal Guard

Wednesday, December 13, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.: Tech Time

December

Some of our programs require preregistration, so please call us at 763-263-6445 or sign up at www.griver.org/events.

GreenCorps Updates

As the weather changes, so do environmental concerns. For example, with an unseasonably warm beginning to autumn, the natural environment poses some health and safety concerns for Minnesotans, such as bad air quality days and the survival of toxic algae in lakes and ponds. But these concerns are easily monitored and the City of Big Lake wants to keep its residents aware and prepared. If you are interested, you can sign up to receive email updates about seasonal changes, and how to keep yourself, your family, and your environment safe amidst changing weather. Email kstelzner@biglakemn.org, call at 763-307-6040, or sign up using this link <https://goo.gl/forms/Dy40URGZC7Zs2d6H2> to receive updates and information.

Big Lake Fire Department



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK ACTIVITIES

- ◆ The first week of October is Fire Prevention Week. Fire Dept. members will be making visits to area schools, meeting with students to talk about fire safety and educating them about what it's like to be a fire fighter.
- ◆ The Department's message comes together at one of the largest attended fire prevention open houses in the state. This event will be held on **Sunday, October 8, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** The open house is held at the Big Lake Fire Hall located at 20243 County Road 43, Big Lake, MN.
- ◆ Several outside agencies will have representatives on hand to answer questions regarding anything from natural gas leaks to medical questions. We will have a live kitchen fire demonstration as well as the "Jaws of life" for auto extraction. Stop by to see what your fire department has to offer and ask any questions about how the Department operates. Also each child will receive a free pumpkin and go on a ride in a fire truck!



SEASONAL REMINDERS

- ◆ The Department would like to remind residents this is the time of the year to change your smoke detector and carbon monoxide batteries.
- ◆ Have your furnace and flue pipes inspected if you burn wood, and have your chimney checked for any cracks or creosote buildup.
- ◆ If winter comes early and we experience heavy snow falls, please help us by shoveling out any fire hydrants that may be in front of your house or business.

**THANK YOU FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY,
AND TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR DEDICATION
AND COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY!**

City Office Closings and Meeting Changes

CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

- ◆ Friday, November 10th—Veteran's Day Observed
- ◆ Thursday & Friday, November 23rd/24th - Thanksgiving Holiday
- ◆ Monday, December 25th - Christmas Holiday
- ◆ Monday, January 1, 2018 - New Year's Holiday



CITY COUNCIL MEETING CHANGES:

- ◆ The 2nd Meeting in November (22nd) has been **cancelled** due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- ◆ The 2nd Meeting in December (27th) has **NOT** been cancelled. The Workshop will start at 5:00 p.m. and the Regular Meeting will start at 6:00 p.m.



Prescription Drug Take Program



October 28th is the 14th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. With this day coming, it seems like a great time to talk about the importance of properly disposing of prescription drugs. Most everyone who reads this article will have at some point been prescribed an opioid for pain, whether it's by a dentist or their doctor.



Some common opioids include; Morphine, Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, OxyContin, Percocet, and several others. If you do research on the volumes of these types of narcotics being prescribed in our country versus other countries, the results are staggering. The clear majority of these narcotics are never used, but rather find a home on a shelf in a medicine cabinet, in a drawer, or on a shelf. It is no secret that Minnesota, like all other states, is experiencing an opioid epidemic. In the United States, 90 people die every day from opioid overdoses. This epidemic has resulted in countless overdoses, and even deaths, some occurring right here in Big Lake. Many jurisdictions have declared opioid misuse a public health emergency.

While the strategies used to address this epidemic are many, one program the Big Lake Police Department implemented in 2014 was that of a prescription drug take back program. Unused narcotics can often find their way into forgotten locations or places they shouldn't be. It is our goal to work with our citizens to remove this source for narcotics. This program has proven to be highly effective. In 2016, the Big Lake Police Department took back, and disposed of 350 pounds (37 legal boxes) of prescription drugs.

The Big Lake - Becker Knights of Columbus very generously donated the funding to purchase a drop box to get this program off the ground. We have a drop box conveniently located in our lobby located at 790 Minnesota Avenue. Access to this drop box is available during business hours, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday thru Friday.

We are asking all our residents to check their homes for unused prescriptions (no liquids-no syringes), and bring them to the Big Lake Police Department for safe disposal.

As always, I welcome discussion and feedback about how we are doing in the community, or just the opportunity to visit with our citizens.

Joel D. Scharf, Chief of Police
jscharf@biglakepolice.com

Our new BLPD Phone Number: 763-251-2996

Municipal Liquor Store

OCTOBER NEWS:

- In October, Lake Liquors will be participating in the Minnesota Municipal Beverage Association and Coors Light annual food drive. They will also be working with Anheuser-Busch and promoting Michelob Light for Breast Cancer Awareness.
- Lake Liquor's **Fall WineFest** is scheduled for Friday, October 6, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Friendly Buffalo. The fall wine sale will be from Fri., October 6th to Sat., October 14th. They will be offering a 20% discount on regular priced wines in the store.



LIQUOR STORE

HOLIDAY HOURS:

- Thanksgiving Day: Closed**
- Christmas Eve: 11am - 4pm**
- Christmas Day: Closed**
- New Years Eve: 11am - 4pm**



Business Spotlight

Lupulin Brewing Company

Big Lake has been the home of Lupulin Brewing Company since 2014. Co-founders Jeff Zierdt and Matt Schiller had a goal of leading the regional craft beer market of Minnesota and they have done just that! You can now find Lupulin beer in 73 liquor store and draft accounts throughout Minnesota with more waiting!

Lupulin Brewing is a family owned and family run craft brewery that embraces what it means to be a part of a community. Lupulin Brewing is truly an amenity of the Big Lake community in the sense that they not only provide phenomenal beer but you can enjoy live music, plan to have lunch or dinner from the food truck you will likely see pulled up to the patio every weekend, join the run club or participate in the many 5k fundraisers, partake in yoga classes, enjoy paint and have a pint events, participate in open mic events, and the list goes on...

Join Lupulin Brewing for a day of fun on Saturday, October 14, 2017! First up, The Pumpkin Fest 5K starting at 8:30 a.m. Make sure to register! After the 5K, stay for Oktoberfest! Lupulin Brewing is excited to be hosting a traditional German Oktoberfest celebration at the brewery. Join Lupulin in the tents, on the patio, or in the taproom for the release of their German Marzen! The Elk River German Band will be playing from 3 – 6 p.m. and Sonder will be playing from 7 – 11 p.m. They will have a great selection of food to choose from including some good old German foods by the Food Trucks on site throughout the day!

Learn more about Lupulin Brewing Company by visiting their website at www.lupulinbrewing.com and follow their Facebook page by searching Lupulin Brewing Company!



Public Works

WINTER PARKING NOTICES

- **Snow/Ice on Sidewalks:** The owner or occupant of any premises within the City of Big Lake shall clean the sidewalks, in front of, and/or beside the premises, of snow and loose or melting ice within 24 hours after completion of any snowfall. If owner/occupant fails to clear their sidewalk within required time frame, the City of Big Lake or contractor will clear sidewalk and bill the property owner for all costs.
- **Snow Season Reminders:**
 1. Please keep in mind that property owners are responsible to clear snow around their mailbox. The City will consider making repairs to mailboxes only if the snowplow equipment “physically” hits the mailbox or post, and only if the mailbox conforms to City Ordinance installation requirements. Contact Big Lake Public Works at 763-263-2268 with mailbox complaints.
 2. To prevent damage to lawns, landscape, irrigation heads or other items that will get buried under snow along the curb or edge of the road, it is recommended that residents clearly mark these areas with reflective stakes.
 3. It is illegal to deposit snow on any City Street.



160 Lake Street North
Big Lake, MN 55309

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
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Twin Cities, MN

Dated Material

Postmaster: Time Sensitive Mail

Upcoming Events

**Legacy Foundation
Tree Lighting**

Monday, Nov. 27th
Program starts at 6:30 p.m.
Tree Lighting at 7:00 p.m.
Ice Rinks near Big Lake
City Hall
160 Lake Street North



The Legacy Foundation's Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held outdoors on the north side of City Hall on Monday, December 5th. Beverages and snacks to follow at the Carousel Works.

Please Keep Leaves out of Streets: Leaves and grass clippings, woody debris, and other waste materials left in the streets will flow directly into the storm sewer system. Storm sewers send water to some form of water body such as lakes, rivers or wetlands. Large quantities of leaves will clog or plug storm sewer inlets and piping. Clogged or plugged storm drains cannot move water as efficiently, which may cause localized flooding. Although fall street sweeping is a yearly maintenance program, your adjacent street may not be swept before leaves are washed into storm sewer system. Don't rake leaves into street for street sweeper pick-up. Leaves can be dropped off at the Big Lake Compost Facility located at 18041 198th Avenue, Big Lake, MN.



COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR!
City of Big Lake, MN

Citizens and Business Leaders are invited to join Mayor Raeanne Danielowski for coffee and casual conversation to exchange information and discover ways to work together to improve Big Lake and enhance the quality of life for all who live and work here.

Each month, Mayor Danielowski will serve as your host for Coffee with the Mayor events.

- ENJOY SPIRITED CONVERSATIONS
- RECEIVE CITY UPDATES
- DISCUSS ISSUES/CONCERNS
- ASK QUESTIONS
- OFFER COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS
- All while enjoying a fresh cup of coffee and a snack!

Please take the time to come out and help Big Lake become the best that it can be! There is no charge to attend these events. All are welcome!

HELD EVERY 2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH
9am to 11am at:
Coborn's Deli
711 Rose Drive, Big Lake, MN

