



The Big Lake Wave



January / February / March 2018

Winter Farmers Market

This winter, the City of Big Lake is holding the first ever Winter Farmers Market! The season began on December 22nd at Saron Lutheran Church with ten vendors in attendance. There are still four markets to go! The market will return on January 19th, February 23rd, March 23rd, and April 20th from 3-6 pm at Saron Lutheran Church here in Big Lake!

Many of the vendors from the 2017 summer season have returned for the winter market. Returnees include Popcorn Patty, Cat Tail Farms, Kenya Letourneau, and Grace's Goodies, just to name a few. The winter market also attracted some new faces like Carla and Dave of Iron Shoe Farm who are selling eggs, meat, and microgreens.

Similar to the summer market, the City is partnering with community organizations to provide education and entertainment opportunities. Great River Regional Library and Big Lake Community Education will be at the market with some fun activities, and we are working with the Big Lake Food Shelf and the Sherburne County Master Gardeners to schedule even more. February 23rd will be Kids Day at the market so be sure to bring your family along for some fun!

The market is a great way to support local businesses and individuals, make memories with your family and friends, and just have a great time! We hope to see you at the market in the coming months!

Direct any questions to the Winter Market Coordinator, Katie Stelzner at kstelzner@biglakemn.org or 763-307-6040.

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 homepage 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 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.

Big Lake City Council 2018

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

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GO GREEN
opt out of
paper bills

You don't have to
when you pay Big
Lake water bills
electronically

View bills online, too!

Make an immediate payment,
schedule a payment or set up
Auto-Pay for the amount of
your bill or a fixed amount.

Please opt out of receiving
paper bills to keep cost down.
50¢ off per month discount



Go to www.BigLakeMN.org

→ Pay
→ View Bill
→ View Balance Due

Click on the City Water/Sewer payments only tab on right hand side of the homepage. You will go to our payment processor's website where you should register and make your payment. Future payments are just 3 easy steps. You can also view your bill online.



Download "PSN Payments"

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→ View Balance Due

Go to the App Store or Google Play to download the app. Register online to set up your password before using the app.



Call 1-877-885-7968

→ Pay
→ Hear Balance Due

On your first call, you will set up your payment account. After that, automated phone payments are 4 simple steps.

*You don't have to pay to view your bill online.
FREE services!*

We chose Payment Service Network to provide electronic payment and billing services. They are a Madison, Wisconsin company which has achieved Level 1 Certification by the credit card industry. They specialize in providing services to municipalities and utility companies. All PSN services are performed in the United States.



Sign up and utilize the new electronic online payment and billing services to help avoid late fees and water shut off.

→ → *****WATER SHUT OFFS WILL BEGIN APRIL 16, 2018***** ← ←

Beginning April 1, 2018, the City of Big Lake will be mailing out notices to property owners for delinquent water bills. There will only be one notice given. If your account is still delinquent on April 16, 2018, your water service may be disconnected.

In order to reconnect your service, you will be required to pay the entire outstanding balance on your account *plus* an additional \$120.00 reconnection fee. To avoid disconnection, please make sure your account is current by April 1, 2018.

Please contact the utility billing department if you have any questions 763.263.2107.

City Budget Information

The City's Finance Department kicks into high gear during the summer months preparing for the upcoming year and beyond by preparing preliminary budgets, examining the City's Capital Improvement Plan, and thinking about investment opportunities. Below you will see the Summary Budget for 2018, adopted 12/13/17.

City of Big Lake, Minnesota General Fund Budget Summary Budget 2018

Revenue Budget	2017	2018	2017-2018	
	Adopted Budget	Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
General Fund Revenues				
Property Taxes	\$ 2,429,362	\$ 2,726,289	\$ 296,927	12.22%
Special Assessments	1,500	1,500	-	0.00%
Licenses & Permits	385,550	501,725	116,175	30.13%
Intergovernmental	403,494	388,784	(14,710)	-3.65%
Franchise Fees	380,000	392,000	12,000	3.16%
Charges for Services	298,863	242,744	(56,119)	-18.78%
Fines & Forfeitures	37,000	41,350	4,350	11.76%
Investment Income	25,000	25,000	-	0.00%
Contributions/Donations	7,500	3,000	(4,500)	-60.00%
Insurance Proceeds & Dividends	18,000	-	(18,000)	-100.00%
Transfer In	300,000	375,000	75,000	25.00%
Total - General Fund Revenues:	\$ 4,286,269	\$ 4,697,392	\$ 411,123	9.59%

Expenditure Budget	2017	2018	2017-2018	
	Adopted Budget	Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
General Government				
Mayor/Council	\$ 34,949	\$ 33,570	\$ (1,379)	-3.95%
Planning	116,899	160,791	43,892	37.55%
Elections	3,900	20,800	16,900	433.33%
Administration	558,457	743,674	185,217	33.17%
Other	26,100	16,950	(9,150)	-35.06%
Total General Government	740,305	975,785	235,480	31.81%
Public Safety				
Police	\$ 1,637,271	\$ 1,770,852	\$ 133,581	8.16%
Fire	324,216	267,469	(56,747)	-17.50%
Building	217,906	207,594	(10,312)	-4.73%
Total Public Safety	2,179,393	2,245,915	66,522	3.05%
Streets & Highways				
Engineering	\$ 55,255	\$ 57,435	\$ 2,180	3.95%
Streets	582,876	609,702	26,826	4.60%
Total Streets & Highways	638,131	667,137	29,006	4.55%
Culture & Recreation				
Parks	\$ 513,931	\$ 565,785	\$ 51,854	10.09%
BLCSC	79,386	65,625	(13,761)	-17.33%
Total Culture & Recreation	593,317	631,410	38,093	6.42%
Economic Development				
	\$ 135,122	\$ 177,144	\$ 42,022	31.10%
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$ 4,286,269	\$ 4,697,392	\$ 411,123	9.59%
Budgeted (Use) /excess of Reserves:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Unassigned Fund Balance - Projected	\$ 2,849,785	\$ 2,849,785		
Percentage of Expenditures:	60.67%	59.68%		



Building Department

Home Safety Checklist

Winter storms and cold temperatures can be hazardous. Stay safe and healthy by planning ahead. Prepare your home and cars. Prepare for power outages and outdoor activity. Check on older adults. Although winter comes as no surprise, many of us are not ready for its arrival. If you are prepared for the hazards of winter, you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall.

Many people prefer to remain indoors in the winter, but staying inside is no guarantee of safety. Take these steps to keep your home safe and warm during the winter months.

- Winterize your home:
 1. Install weather stripping, insulation and storm windows
 2. Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls
 3. Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks
 4. Keep snow from building up as much as possible to help prevent “ice damming”
- Check your heating systems
 1. Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly and ventilated to the outside.
 2. Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys
 3. Install a smoke detector. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year
 4. Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.
 5. Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies

Install a CO detector within 10 feet of **ALL** sleeping rooms to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries in the CO detectors and smoke detectors when you change your clocks in the fall and spring. Most homes have a flexible duct near the floor close to the furnace or water heater. Make sure that flexible duct is blocked or plugged. That duct is for bringing in outside air called “combustion air” for your furnace and water heater to function properly and safety.

Big Lake Public Library

Winter Reading Program: Tuesday, January 2 to Wednesday, February 28

Friday Winter Storytimes: Fridays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 & March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 10:30 to 11:00 am

ECFE Storytimes: Tuesdays, February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1 at 11:15 am to 12:15 pm

Adult Book Club: Wednesdays, January 10 & February 14 at 4:30 to 5:30 pm

Big Lake Winter Farmers Market: Friday, February 23 & April 20 at 3:00 to 6:00 pm

Needle Felting With Stacy: Monday, January 8 at 4:30 to 6:30 pm

Lego Makerspace: Thursday, February 8 at 4:00 to 4:45 pm

Valentines Adult Craft: Monday, February 12 at 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Winter Reading Teen Book Bingo: Thursday, February 15 at 4:00 to 5:00 pm

MN’s Most Haunted Locations with Chad Lewis: Wednesday, February 21 at 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Intro to Couching with Jen Anfinson: Thursday, February 22 at 4:00 to 5:30 pm

Winter Reading Adult Book Bingo: Monday, February 26 at 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Locally Growin’!: March 1 through March 31

Friends of the Big Lake Library: Mondays, March 5, April 9, & May 7 at 2:00 to 3:30 pm

Cynthia Stupnik—Clearwater History & the Art of Historical Writing: Monday, March 5 at 5:30 to 6:30 pm



Public Works

Snow Season Reminders

- 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 Department at 763-263-2268 with mailbox complaints.
- To prevent damage to lawns, landscape, irrigation heads or other items that will get buried under the snow along the curb or edge of the road, it is recommended that residents clearly mark these areas with reflective stakes.
- It is illegal to deposit snow on any City street.

Winter Parking

Parking is not allowed on any City street or roadway between November 1st and April 1st of every year, during the hours of 12:01 am and 8:00 am.

After a snowfall of two (2) inches or more, all streets in the City will be cleared of all motor vehicles for the purpose of snowplowing and/or removal.

If your vehicle should have mechanical failure and cannot be removed from the street during the required dates/times, please contact the Big Lake Police Department at 763-251-2996 and advise the officer on duty. This may help in avoiding a citation and/or your vehicle being impounded.

Local Business Spotlight

Options, Inc.

The City of Big Lake has been the home of Options, Inc. since 1979. Options has been in their current building since 2006.

As one of Big Lake’s largest employers, Options is a license Day Training and Habilitation program serving 250 adults with intellectual disabilities or with related conditions such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or traumatic brain injury. Options is committed to empowering and supporting adults with disabilities in living and working in the mainstream of community life.

Since 1979, Options has provided a dependable and motivated workforce for 90 companies throughout Central Minnesota; Options aspires for the number of partnerships to continue to grow! These companies continue to partner with Options because they are able to save money, fill high-turnover positions with long-term dedicated workers, and enhance diversity in the workplace. When a business works with Options, the business pays for the finished product (e.g., production work) or the work time utilized (e.g., janitorial work); saving downtime, payroll deductions, fringe benefits expenses, and other overhead costs. This and more is covered by Options!

To learn more, visit the Options, Inc. website at www.options-inc.org or call 763-263-3684.



Fire Department

Department Training and Seasonal Reminders

- With the closing of another year, the fire department has completed all the mandatory testing of equipment including pumps, ladders, fire hose, and air quality on the compressors that fill the air bottles the firefighters breath from.
- All fire department members have completed a fit for duty physical, which includes blood work, lung function level, hearing, and EKG. Since the leading cause of fire fighter death is heart attack, prevention, and identifying issues before they happen is essential.
- Over the next four months, the department will focus on inside class room training and complete some of the mandatory state required classes including hazardous material refresher, blood born pathogens, employee right to know, and work place environment. The department will review shale oil transported by rail, response times, and any new information or lessons learned from rail accidents, from spills and/or explosions in the last year.
- Don't over load electrical circuits with supplemental heating equipment.
- Don't use propane heating units indoors where carbon monoxide build up can be fatal.
- We like to see residents adopt a fire hydrant. If there is one close to your property, please help us help you by keeping a 4 foot area clear of snow around it. The additional time it takes us to shovel it out uses up critical time when we need to access it for water to extinguish a fire.



The Fire Chief and Fire Department Members 'THANK YOU' for your continued support and wish you and your families a safe and happy New Year!

Municipal Liquor Store



Happy New Year!! Thanks to all of our customers for making 2017 a success. Remember all profits from Lake Liquors go back to our community.

We will be open from 11am to 4 pm on New Years Eve.



Our store hours are Monday-Saturday 9am-10pm and Sunday 11am-4pm.

On Friday, March 23rd we will be hosting the Spring Wine Event at the Friendly Buffalo from 6pm-8pm. We will be working to support the Big Lake Food Shelf.

You can also find us on Facebook 'Lake Liquors' and our website— www.lakeliqorsmn.com

Police Department



Canine Bruno—The First Year

In 2017, we were able to secure over \$65,000 in funding, ensuring this program’s return and success. The cost to implement a canine program from scratch is large. But with that, we exceeded our goal and were able to put these funds to great use, funding a 2017 Ford Police Explorer with equipment, Canine Bruno, canine equipment, training for Sergeant Hayden and Bruno, and several other unanticipated expenses.

We wanted to provide the community and our supporters an update as to where our program is today. Sergeant Hayden and Bruno attended and graduated from 16 weeks for training in with Performance Kennels (Buffalo MN) in late January. This training was comprised of 4 weeks of narcotics detection training, and 12 weeks of patrol dog school. The 12 week portion of training included: tracking, apprehension, agility, and obedience training. We are proud to announce that Bruno passed his testing in West Fargo for Detector Dog Certification, taking 1st Place in Vehicle Searches. Sergeant Hayden and Bruno officially started patrolling together in late May.

Since taking to the streets, Sergeant Hayden and Bruno have participated in many narcotic searches, with that having several finds which have led to prosecution. In addition, our canine team has participated and assisted in searches for suspects, and missing or vulnerable persons in multiple jurisdictions. At the same time, Sergeant Hayden and Bruno have served as ambassadors to our department, participating in many community events which allow the public to meet our newest 4-legged officer. As the Chief of Police, I cannot even begin to express enough gratitude to our local charitable organizations, businesses, and citizens who generously donated to this program and made it a reality for our department and community. Thank you so much!

Please watch in the coming year, for events our canine team will be present at. They love the interaction with our community members. We are so excited to watch this program continue to develop for our department, and community. We are also excited to be a regional partner in canine programs. As always, I welcome discussion and feedback about how we are doing in the community, or just the opportunity to visit with our citizens. Please feel free to stop by our office, call me at 763-251-2985, or email at jscharf@biglakepolice.com

Joel D. Scharf – Chief of Police



City Offices Closing

City Offices Will be Closed in Observance of the Following Holidays:

- ◆ Monday, January 1st - New Year’s Day
- ◆ Monday, January 15th—Martin Luther King Jr Day





160 Lake Street North
Big Lake, MN 55309

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Vendor Fair

Sunday, March 4, 2018

11 am– 2 pm

Big Lake High School

- Free admission*
- Free entertainment*
- Free food*
- Free giveaways*

Booth Registration is NOW OPEN!
Go to the Big Lake Chamber website for details.
Registration Forms due by February 16th.
www.biglakechamber.com - 763.263.7800

2018 Summer Farmers Market Call for Vendors!



Every Wednesday at Lakeside Park
June 6th - August 29th from 3-7pm
September 5th - September 26th from 3-6pm
Free Parking, EBT/Snap and Debit/Credit Accepted, Power of Produce Program

Make sure to fill out an application → City Website: www.biglakemn.org
City Hall

There are two payment options:

1. Season - \$75
2. Weekly - \$10

(Make checks payable to "City of Big Lake" with "Farmers Market" in memo line)
Corrie Scott will be returning for another season as the Farmers Market Coordinator
If you have any questions, contact Corrie at cscott@biglakemn.org or 763-228-1361

Big Lake City Hall

Address: 160 Lake Street North, Big Lake, MN 55309

Phone: 763-263-2107

Web: www.biglakemn.org

Facebook: City of Big Lake, Minnesota