



# The Big Lake Wave

October / November / December 2016

## State General Election Tuesday, November 8, 2016

Polls open at 7:00am and close at 8:00pm. There are three precincts in the City of Big Lake as described on the precinct map on page 2.

### Who can vote in Minnesota?

You must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old on Election Day
- A resident of Minnesota for 20 days
- Finished with all parts of any felony sentence
- You can vote while under guardianship unless a judge specifically has revoked your right to vote
- You cannot vote if a court has ruled that you are legally incompetent



## Chamber of Commerce Political Candidate Forum



The Big Lake Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Political Candidate Forum on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Big Lake High School Auditorium. A Candidate Meet n' Greet will start at 6:00pm and the Forum will start at 6:30pm.

Candidates invited to participate in the Forum include those running for Big Lake City Council, Big Lake School Board, US Representative District 6, State Senator District 30, and State Representative District 30A.

All citizens are encouraged to come out and hear what the candidates have to say and where they stand on issues that will impact our community. The public will be able to submit questions for the candidates during the Forum. The Forum will be videotaped by the Sherburne Wright Cable Commission and will play back on the Chamber Website, and government channels 180 (Charter customers) and 15 (Windstream customers).

Contact the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce with any questions at 763-263-7800 or by email at [info@biglakechamber.com](mailto:info@biglakechamber.com).

## Big Lake Mayor and City Council Candidates

City of Big Lake residents will elect one Mayor and two City Council Members at the November 8<sup>th</sup> General Election. The following City of Big Lake residents have filed for office to fill these seats:

### ONE MAYOR SEAT

- ◆ Raeanne Danielowski

### TWO CITY COUNCIL SEATS

- ◆ Chad Gerth
- ◆ Richard (Dick) Backlund
- ◆ Scott Marotz
- ◆ Seth Hansen
- ◆ Paul Seefeld



## Big Lake City Council 2016

Mayor	Council Member	Council Member	Council Member	Council Member
Raeanne Danielowski	Seth Hansen	Duane Langsdorf	Scott Marotz	Mike Wallen
763-263-3801	763-262-6282	763-263-7867	612-490-4742	763-286-3842
<a href="mailto:cook113@aol.com">cook113@aol.com</a>	<a href="mailto:sethhansen1973@gmail.com">sethhansen1973@gmail.com</a>	<a href="mailto:dlaustostop@izoom.net">dlaustostop@izoom.net</a>	<a href="mailto:smarotz@hotmail.com">smarotz@hotmail.com</a>	<a href="mailto:mike.wallen@ymail.com">mike.wallen@ymail.com</a>

# Vote By Absentee Ballot

## VOTE EARLY (Absentee)

In Minnesota, you can vote early with an absentee ballot starting 46 days before Election Day (started Sept. 23rd).

- ◆ **Vote Early By Mail** - To vote by mail, apply to have an absentee ballot mailed to you. You do not need to be registered to apply. Applications can be obtained from the web address listed below in the yellow box.
- ◆ **Vote Early in Person** - You can vote early with an absentee ballot at the Sherburne County Government Center located at 13880 Business Center Dr. NW, Elk River, MN. If you are not registered, you can do so in person if you show proof of residence.
- ◆ **Vote From Military or Abroad** - Serving in the military or living abroad? Have an absentee ballot sent to you wherever you are in the world! Contact the Sherburne County Auditors Office at 763-765-4351 or apply online at: <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/UocavaRegistration/UocavaStep1.aspx>
- ◆ **Track Your Absentee Ballot** - You are able to find out where your absentee or mail ballot is in the process through the MN Secretary of State Election Website: <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx>

Additional Information on Absentee Voting is available on the MN Secretary of State Website:

<http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/>

## Or ~Vote on Election Day!

Polls open from 7am to 8pm

### Precinct # 1 Big Lake City Hall -160 Lake St. No.

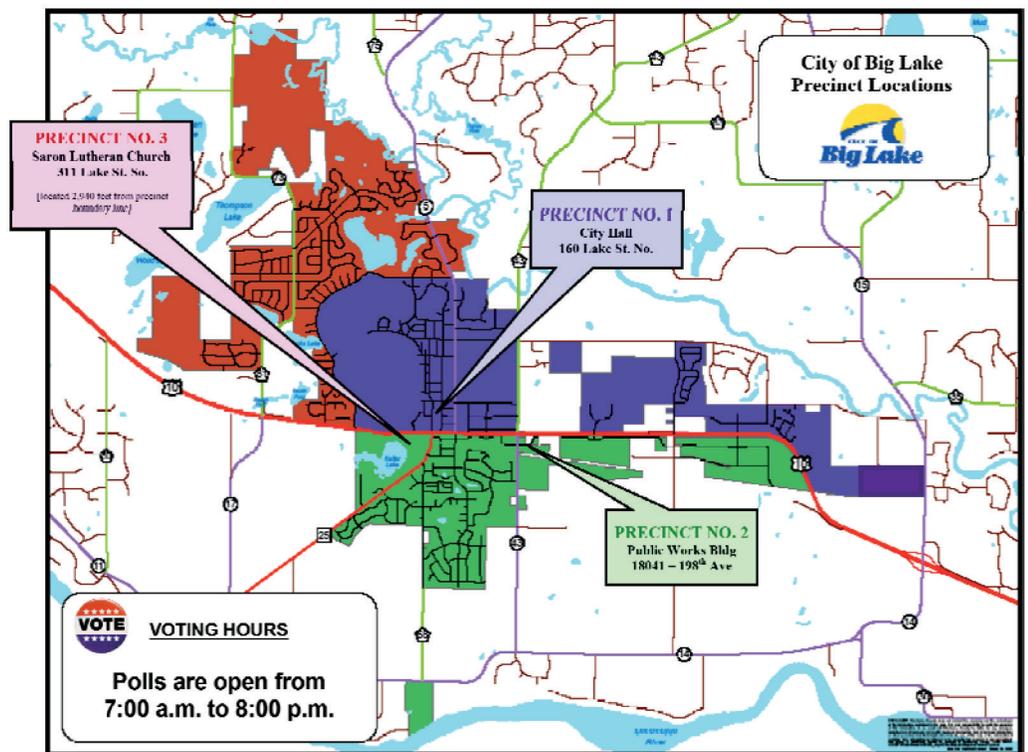
All residents who live on the north side of Hwy 10, and east of Lakeshore Drive -or- south of Hiawatha Avenue will vote at Big Lake City Hall (located at the intersection of Hwy 10 and 25).

### Precinct # 2 Public Works Building 18041 – 198th Ave.

All residents who live on the south side of Highway 10 will vote at the Big Lake Public Works Building (located by the water tower site along Hwy 10).

### Precinct # 3 Saron Lutheran Church—311 Lake St. So.

All residents who live on the north side of Hwy 10, and west of Lakeshore Drive -or- north of Hiawatha Avenue will vote at Saron Lutheran Church.



## PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY 2017

The proposed Property Tax Levy for 2017 is \$4,048,718; the City's tax rate is anticipated to be 57.875%, which is an increase of only 0.02% over 2016 tax rate. This is due to an increase in the City's overall market value of approximately 3.93%. Below is a summary of estimated city property taxes based on the following home values:

Assessed Value	Estimated Annual City Tax
\$125,000	\$ 741.52
\$150,000	\$ 889.82
\$225,000	\$1,334.73
\$300,000	\$1,779.64

### 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.

**MONDAY  
NOVEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>  
6:00PM**

### Mark your calendars!

The 2017 Budget and Levy Public Input Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at Big Lake City Hall Council Chambers.

## 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.

**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 many 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.

# Finance Cont.

## 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.

# Public Works Department

## 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.
- **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 2 inches or more, all streets in the City will be cleared of all motor vehicles for the purpose of snowplowing and/or removal, until all streets are plowed.
  - ⇒ If your vehicle should have mechanical failure and cannot be removed from the street during required dates/times, please contact the Big Lake Police Department at 763-263-2500 and advise the officer on duty. This may help in avoiding a citation and/or your vehicle being impounded.
- **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.

**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 198<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Big Lake, MN.





## 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 9, 2016 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 extrac-tion. Stop by to see what your fire department has to offer and ask any questions about how the Department operate.s 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 11th - Veteran's Day
- ◆ Thursday & Friday, November 24th/25th - Thanksgiving Holiday
- ◆ Monday, December 26th - Christmas Holiday
- ◆ Monday, January 2nd, 2017 - New Year's Holiday



### CITY COUNCIL MEETING CHANGES:

- ◆ The 2nd Meeting in November (23rd) has been cancelled due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- ◆ The 2nd Meeting in December (28th) has been cancelled due to the Christmas Holiday.



## EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO RESTORE CANINE PROGRAM

Canine Programs are an integral part of many law enforcement agencies, their abilities provide aspects and enhancements to law enforcement activities and community relations in ways no other can. The Big Lake Police Department enjoyed a canine program for several years, the last serving canine ended in 2010. A number of changing dynamics in our community have placed us in a position in which we find restoring the canine program both a necessity, and benefit to our community. Our case for restoring a canine program includes:

- **Narcotics Detection:** Our region, and state for that matter, are experiencing a dramatic return of narcotics such as methamphetamine, and heroine. A police canine has the ability to locate narcotics which would otherwise likely escape officer detection. In addition, research has shown that a canine unit can serve as a deterrence to narcotic activity in the community they patrol.
- **Tracking:** Our department is frequently called upon to locate missing and vulnerable persons. A police canine can accelerate and increase the likelihood of locating a missing person. These persons often include those who have gone missing due to mental health or medical conditions. A police canine can also successfully locate, and take into custody those who have committed a crime and fled from the scene. A police canine was recently credited with locating the suspect and child in a child abduction and murder from Watkins MN.
- **Community Policing:** A police canine is the ultimate ambassador for a department to the community they serve, everyone from children, to adults love to interact with their department's four legged officers. Our department is heavily invested with interaction throughout our community, a canine would be a welcome addition to our efforts.



Officer Matthew Hayen

Conceptual Canine Squad

In moving forward with this program, Officer Matthew Hayen has been selected to serve as our canine handler. He holds a special interest in police canines, his experience will serve this program well into the future. Officer Hayen has already selected a name for his new partner, it will be Bruno.

The police department budget for 2017 was submitted for approval several months ago. With that, our proposed 2017 can be adjusted between line items, but not elevated. To accommodate yearly costs, cuts were made in several areas for 2017 to sustain the canine program, but the startup costs will need to be funded externally through fundraising efforts. The costs are estimated to be \$51,250, which includes the canine, training, equipment, and a squad car. The Big Lake Police Department is working aggressively to raise funds to make this program a reality. The department is selling T-Shirts at the Big Lake Police Department for \$20.00 each. We are also seeking donations from organizations, businesses, and individuals interested in participating. We have also submitted several grant applications. Donations can be made directly to the Big Lake Police Department, or tax free donations to the Big Lake Legacy Foundation, which is a 501c3 charitable organization. Donations to the foundation can also be made conveniently through [www.gofundme.com/blpdcanine](http://www.gofundme.com/blpdcanine). The support for this program at the time of the writing of this newsletter has been amazing.



We are excited at the prospect of making this valuable program a reality for our department and community. We also look forward to becoming 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.

**Joel D. Scharf , Chief of Police**

[jscharf@biglakemn.org](mailto:jscharf@biglakemn.org)

# Business Spotlight

## INDUSTRIAL MOLDED RUBBER PRODUCTS

Located in the Big Lake Industrial Park, **Industrial Molded Rubber Products (IMR)** is a leading manufacturer of custom molded rubber goods and rubber covered rollers. IMR is certified by the International Standards Organization (ISO) for their quality system. IMR's molding capabilities include prototyping, material compounding, tooling, production runs, rubber to metal bonding and rubber to plastic bonding. Their strengths are based on a history of taking on projects that others have thought to be too difficult. IMR also manufactures all types and sizes of rubber covered rollers. They are a complete custom shop and are experts in the elastomers field.

The employees at IMR are the main reason the company is successful. IMR employs around 40 people. About half are from the Big Lake area, with some who have been with the company for 30+ years. There are also employees who followed the company 10 years ago when they moved from Plymouth to build the facility in Big Lake. IMR strives to make their company a great place to work for, for its diverse group of people.

Industrial Molded Rubber Products always likes to remind people, when looking for a job, whether a new one or because it's time for a change, consider your local manufacturers and businesses. Save time on your commute by driving down the block and working with people from your neighborhood. People are always surprised by the remarkable work being done in the big buildings in the Big Lake Industrial Park. IMR is always looking for great people to come join their family.



INDUSTRIAL MOLDED RUBBER PRODUCTS

## 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 a breast cancer fundraiser where they will be conducting a silent auction for a golf bag.
- Lake Liquors will be providing a wine and craft beer tasting for the Eagle Lake Association which is scheduled for Friday, October 7th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Friendly Buffalo.

- Lake Liquor's **Fall WineFest** is scheduled for Friday, October 28, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Friendly Buffalo. The fall wine sale will be from Fri., November 13th to Sat., November 21st. They will be offering a 25% discount on all wines in the store and if you purchase a case or more (mix and match) you will receive a 30% discount. Advanced tickets are available at the liquor store for \$20.00. Tickets will be \$25.00 at the door. Door prizes will be given away at 7:30 p.m.



### LIQUOR STORE HOLIDAY HOURS:

**Thanksgiving Day: Closed**

**Christmas Eve: 9am - 4pm**

**Christmas Day: Closed**

**New Years Eve: 9am - 10pm**





160 Lake Street North  
Big Lake, MN 55309

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Twin Cities, MN

Dated Material

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# Upcoming Events

## Legacy Foundation Tree Lighting

**Monday, Dec. 5th**  
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

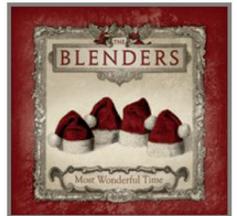


The Legacy Foundation's Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held outdoors on the north side of City Hall on Monday, December 5th. Beverages and snacks to follow at the Carousel Works.

## Legacy Foundation Blenders Concert

**Sunday, Dec. 4th**  
**4:00pm**  
**Big Lake**  
**High School**  
**601 Minnesota Ave.**

The Legacy Foundation's "Christmas with the Blenders" concert will be held in the Big Lake High School auditorium on Sunday, December 4th at 4:00pm. Tickets are on sale now at Klein Bank and RiverWood Bank.



## COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR!

Residents 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 lives of all its residents.

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!

Please take the time to come out and help make Big Lake the best it can be!

There is no charge to attend these events. All are welcome to attend!

Held Every 2nd Saturday of the Month

Oct. 8th	9:00 - 11:00 AM
Nov. 12th	Coborn's Deli
Dec. 10th	711 Rose Drive
	Big Lake, MN
	763-251-2968



## Big Lake City Hall

Address: 160 Lake Street North, Big Lake, MN 55309  
Phone: 763-263-2107  
Web: [www.biglakemn.org](http://www.biglakemn.org)  
Facebook: City of Big Lake, Minnesota

