



The Big Lake Wave

January / February / March 2016

THE BIG LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS MOVED!

NEW LOCATION: 790 MINNESOTA AVENUE

Over the past 15 years, our Big Lake Police Department has been located in several different locations. Each move has been a baby step towards our final destination, a modern and professional public safety facility that will proudly serve our needs well into the future. From 2003 through 2012 the department was located at 121 Lake Street North, affectionately known as the old police building. In 2012, the department moved to City Hall and occupied space previously used by the Building Department. Between October of 2012, and December of 2015 the Police Department was housed between two locations. The Offices for Records, Investigations, Lieutenant, and Chief of Police were located in City Hall. Operations for the Patrol Division and our Reserve Officers were located at 790 Minnesota Avenue. The working space at these two locations was professional and served well, but had limitations. Having our department members working from two locations had logistical challenges. The backbone of the Police Department are the patrol officers. Having their working location separate from other operations made for a somewhat disjointed working environment for all members.



The City of Big Lake acquired the commercial building at 790 Minnesota Avenue in 2013 at a bargain price. This facility was modern in its construction, layout, and infrastructure. The building was originally purchased and utilized as a home for the Big Lake Public Library. Also occupying space were the Police Department and a tenant leasing a large portion of the space. At the end of 2015, this lease expired opening a new opportunity for this area. As the Chief of Police, I submitted a proposal to relocate all Police Department operations to 790 Minnesota Avenue and vacate City Hall. This was a win-win for all involved as constraints on space at City Hall were also present for City Staff. The timing for this relocation and build-out was also well set, as the vacant Police Department building at 121 Lake Street was sold, leaving a funding source that would not rely on general fund tax dollars.



Laurie Morris & Tina Peterson



Staff members from the Police Department worked collectively to design a floor plan and working spaces which would serve the department and our citizens efficiently and in a cost effective manner. This entire project was accomplished within a budget of \$65,000 and required only the addition of a few walls while utilizing all current wall configurations.

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Big Lake City Council 2015

Mayor	Council Member	Council Member	Council Member	Council Member
Raeanne Danielowski	Nick Christenson	Seth Hansen	Duane Langsdorf	Mike Wallen
763-263-3801	763-238-6670	763-262-6282	763-263-7867	763-286-3842
cook113@aol.com	bdfd27@hotmail.com	sethansen1973@gmail.com	dlautostop@izoom.net	mike.wallen@ymail.com

Never Write Another Check?



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.



Go to www.BigLakeMN.org

→ Pay
→ View Bill
→ View Balance Due

Click on the pay bill link. 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"

→ Pay
→ 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 online to view your bill online.
FREE services!*

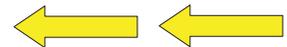
We chose Payment Service Network to provide electronic payment and billing services. They are a Madison, Wisconsin company which has achieved Level 1 Certification by the credit card industry. They specialize in providing services to municipalities and utility companies. All PSN services are performed 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, 2016*****



Beginning April 1, 2016, 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, 2016, 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, 2016.

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 2016.

If you're not familiar with the City's annual budget planning process, we encourage you to reach out to staff and attend our budget workshops during the summer and fall months. We want to hear your opinions about service levels and spending choices, and we'd like the opportunity to respond to your concerns. The City's website will be updated throughout the year with information regarding upcoming budget workshops – we hope you'll take some time to join in the conversation and get involved.

City of Big Lake, Minnesota				
General Fund Budget				
Summary Budget 2016				
Revenue Budget		2015-2016		
	2015 Budget	2016 Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
General Fund Revenues				
Property Taxes	\$ 2,053,268	\$ 2,167,594	114,326	5.3%
Special Assessments	2,000	1,000	(1,000)	-100.0%
Licenses & Permits	288,350	317,175	28,825	9.1%
Intergovernmental	639,056	398,435	(240,621)	-60.4%
Charges for Services	635,900	715,194	79,294	11.1%
Fines & Forfeitures	30,400	37,530	7,130	19.0%
Investment Income	5,000	25,000	20,000	80.0%
Contributions/Donations	11,000	4,700	(6,300)	-134.0%
Transfer In	275,000	345,000	70,000	20.3%
Total - General Fund Revenues:	\$ 3,939,974	\$ 4,011,628	\$ 71,654	1.8%
Expenditure Budget		2015-2016		
Division/Category:	2015 Budget	2016 Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
General Government				
Mayor/Council	\$ 50,564	\$ 36,053	\$ (14,511)	-40.2%
Planning	90,885	115,422	24,537	21.3%
Elections	-	13,000	13,000	
Administration	473,082	528,871	55,789	10.5%
Other	22,000	26,350	4,350	16.5%
Total General Government	\$ 636,531	\$ 719,696	\$ 83,165	11.6%
Public Safety				
Police	\$ 1,442,379	\$ 1,539,031	\$ 96,652	6.3%
Fire	222,050	312,124	90,074	28.9%
Building	193,688	216,720	23,032	10.6%
Total Public Safety	\$ 1,858,117	\$ 2,067,875	\$ 209,758	10.1%
Streets & Highways	\$ 592,639	\$ 627,521	\$ 34,882	5.6%
Culture & Recreation				
Parks	\$ 408,422	\$ 404,491	\$ (3,931)	-1.0%
BLCS	57,300	50,800	(6,500)	-12.8%
Total Culture & Recreation	\$ 465,722	\$ 455,291	\$ (10,431)	-2.3%
Economic Development	\$ 124,315	\$ 141,245	\$ 16,930	12.0%
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$ 3,677,324	\$ 4,011,629	\$ 334,304	8.3%



Community Development

Welcome to our new Community Development Director!

Greetings! My name is Hanna Klimmek. I am proud to be serving as Big Lake's Community Development Director. Since my start date on November 16, 2015, my calendar has been filled with getting to know the Big Lake community. I have had the pleasure of meeting so many awesome individuals and am excited to share their enthusiasm in creating opportunities that are for the greater good of the City. There's a shared vision as to what we'd like to accomplish and it's simply the fact that we want the City of Big Lake to continue to be a place where people live, work, and play. The Big Lake Community Development Department is excited to be a part of this!



Hanna Klimmek,
Community Development
Director

Recently, I've been enjoying visiting local businesses and touring their facilities. It's been so much fun to learn what's happening on the inside of these buildings we drive by every day! I have many more to meet and am looking forward to it. My role with the local, business decision makers is to support their needs and assist them in any way possible to keep them here and allow them to grow with the Big Lake community.

Please stay tuned as the Big Lake Community Development Department will be spot-lighting businesses in upcoming newsletters! Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have! My direct line is 763-251-2979 and my email address is hanna.klimmek@ci.big-lake.mn.us.

Big Lake Public Library Events

JANUARY

Mon. 11, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m: Mollee Makes: Bottle Cap Necklaces! (for Teens)

Thur. 14, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m: Make-n-Take Thursdays (for Kids)

Fri., 15 & 29, 10:30 to 10:50 a.m: Toddler Story Time

Fri. 15, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Japanese Quilting Class (for Teens & Adults)

Wed. 20, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m: Coloring for Stress Reduction! (for Adults)

Thur. 21 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m: 'Birth of a Garden', by Sher. Cty. Master Gardeners

Friday, 22, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m: Preschool Story Time

Mon. 25, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Basic Book Folding Class (for Teens & Adults)

FEBRUARY

Thur. 4, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m: Make-n-Take Thursdays (for Kids)

Thur. 4, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m: Mollee Makes: Valentine's Craft (for Teens)

Fri. 5 & 19, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m: Preschool Story Time

Fri. 12 & 26, 10:30 to 10:50 a.m: Toddler Story Time

Mon. 22, 5:30 to 7 p.m: Winter Reading Program Book Bingo (for Teens & Adults)

Wed. 24, 4 to 5:30 p.m: Coloring for Stress Reduction! (for adults)

Thurs. 25, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m: 'From Dirt to Delish', by Sher. Cty Master Gardeners

Mon. 29, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m: Canvas Book Bag Craft (for Adults)

MARCH

Fri. 4 & 18, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m: Preschool Story Time

Wed. 9, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m: Irish Performer Mikko Cowdery!

Fri. 11 & 25, 10:30 to 10:50 Toddler Story Time

Fri. 11, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m: Mollee Makes: Spring Origami (for Teens)

Mon. 14, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m: 'Keep on Rising Up', with George Maurer (for Teens & Adults)

Thur. 24, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m: Altered Spoons Art Class (for Adults)

Wed. 30, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m: Crafting with Jenni (for Adults)

Some of our programs require preregistration, so please call us at 763.263.6445 or sign up at www.griver.org/events.

Upcoming:

"Riders on the Orphan Train" national program coming in April!



Department Training and Calls for Service

- 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.
- The fire departments total calls are on track to be about the same as 2014 however, the number of preventable fires had a substantial increase over 2014. With that being said, we experienced no civilian deaths; only a few minor injuries and no injuries to our members, which speaks well for the training and mind set of our members life safety is number one.



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!

City Office Closings

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

- ◆ Friday, January 1st - New Year's Day
- ◆ Monday, January 18th—Martin Luther King Jr Day
- ◆ Monday, February 15th - Presidents Day



Chamber Expo!

THE BIG LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS EXPO...



DATE: **Sunday, March 6th**
TIME: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Big Lake High School

Booths are available for rent. Registrations are due to the Chamber of Commerce by February 19th
(Early Bird Discount - \$25 by February 6th)

763-263-7800
www.biglakechamber.com

Activities and Entertainment:



- Vendor Booths
 - Local Entertainment
 - DJ Activities
 - Food Court
- FREE ADMISSION

City of Big Lake Compost Facility Update and Rule Changes

New Rules:

- Due to the Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine in adjacent counties and site/staff limitations, no out-of-Sherburne County wood waste and yard wastes will be allowed to be deposited at the Big Lake Compost Facility.
- Commercial and/or For Hire wood waste and yard waste operators will still be able to utilize the Big Lake Compost Facility, however, they shall not deposit wood or yard waste that were not generated within Sherburne County. Verification of where material originated from may be required.
- Sherburne County residents can still use the Big Lake Compost Facility at no charge. One gate pass will be issued at no charge and any additional gate cards will be \$5.00 per card. There is no renewal date on resident gate cards. Non-Sherburne County residential use is not allowed (no gate passes available).
- Commercial and/or For Hire Operators will be charged an annual fee of \$500.00 for the first gate card and \$250.00 for any additional gate cards. Commercial and/or For Hire gate cards renewal date is January 1st, regardless of what time of year it is purchased. Commercial and/or For Hire Operators will be issued a sticker that must be placed on the vehicle windshield.

Update:

In the early summer, the City of Big Lake will be blacktopping the Compost Facility yard. This is being done to improve the usability of the facility. Big Lake's Compost Facility will need to be closed during this construction period. The estimated date the Big Lake Compost Facility will be closed is late winter, early spring. A sign will be placed at the entrance stating the Compost Facility is closed. It is estimated the facility will be closed one month. During the time the Compost Facility is closed, you may use compost facilities in Elk River, Zimmerman and Becker. Sherburne County residents, Commercial Operators, and For Hire Operator's gate cards will work at all four sites. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the rules and regulations at each site.

Compost Sites Locations:

Big Lake – 18041 198th Ave, Big Lake
763-263-2268

Elk River – 19000 Proctor Ave, Elk River
763-635-1000

Zimmerman – call for directions
763-856-4666

Becker – call for directions
763-261-4449



Big Lake Compost Facility Site - Before Construction

Miscellaneous

Continued from front page....

The Big Lake Police Department opened its doors December 21st in its new facility. Features of this newly renovated location include: a large work room for patrol; individual offices for staff members; records area; an interview room; indoor heated parking for squad cars; a conference room and evidence processing. In addition, there is joint access to the Cargill Room, a large community space used jointly with the Big Lake Library for: meetings, training, educational programs, and our emergency operations center in times of crisis. The floor plan allows for portions of the department to be grouped together including: patrol, investigations, and administration. The new lobby allows for controlled access to the building, thus enhancing the safety of our staff in the building. A large piece of protective glass was repurposed from the old police building for the front counter, saving over \$10,000 in associated costs. The Big Lake Police Department is incredibly proud of this new facility. This building was done in a very cost effective manner, and will serve the department well into the future. A huge thank you to the Big Lake City Council and our residents for providing this upgrade, and the investment in our future. **Please join us February 11th from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. for an open house, we invite you to see our new facility.** 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 joel.scharf@ci.big-lake.mn.us



Safety reminder from the Fire Department

With the very warm weather, the ice conditions may never reach what we normally take for granted in this part of the region. Please use extra caution, this winter, if you plan to venture out on the ice. No one plans to go swimming this time of year! Please enforce this with your children as well... **NO ICE IS 100% SAFE!**

Municipal Liquor Store



Happy New Year!! Thanks to all of our customers in 2015 for helping to make a profitable year. Please remember, all of the profit from Lake Liquors goes back into our city!! During the month of January, we will be busy cleaning and reorganizing the store. We will be open regular business hours (9 am – 10 pm) on Martin Luther King Day.

In February, we will have beer specials that will reflect a Super Bowl theme. We will be open regular business hours on President's Day. We will also be a part of the Big Lake Lions fishing contest which is scheduled on February 20.



During the month of March, we will be presenting and tasting wine and craft beer for the annual Big Lake Food Shelf event, which is scheduled for Friday, March 11, at the Marketplace Banquet Center at The Friendly Buffalo. We will also have Irish beers and Irish whiskeys on sale for St. Patrick's Day. At the end of the month, we will also have beer specials for March Madness.



WEEKLY DISCOUNT DAYS: On Mondays, we offer a 10% discount to senior citizens', 62 or older. Tuesdays, there is a 10 % discount on wines, and Wednesdays we offer a 10% discount on cordials. We also offer a 10% discount on case buys of liquor and wine. If you have any questions, please contact Jan or Lisa at the liquor store.

10%



160 Lake Street North
Big Lake, MN 55309

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
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Permit #32324
Twin Cities, MN

Dated Material

Postmaster: Time Sensitive Mail

New... Direct Dial City Phone Numbers

Administration:

City Administrator, Clay Wilfahrt 763.251.2968
City Clerk, Gina Wolbeck 763.251.2973

Finance:

Finance Director, Deb Wegeleben 763.251.2974
Accounting Clerk, Tamara Lantz 763.251.2983
Finance Assistant, Stacey Fox 763.251.2982
Finance Assistant, Julie Rathmanner 763.251.2969

Community Development:

Comm. Dev. Director, Hanna Klimmek 763.251.2979
Building Official, Mick Kaehler 763.251.2936
City Planner, _____ 763.251.2977
Admin. Assistant, Sandy Petrowski 763.251.2980
Admin. Assistant, _____ 763.251.2971

Police Department:

Police Chief, Joel Scharf 763.251.2985
Lieutenant, Sam Olson 763.251.2986
Investigator, Rich Berg 763.251.2987
Investigator, Terry Nordquist 763.251.2988
Police Specialist, Laurie Morris 763.251.2989
Police Specialist, Tina Peterson 763.251.2991

Public Works:

PW Director, Mike Goebel 763.251.8010
PW Foreman, Frank Anderson 763.251.8011
Admin. Assistant, Cathy Lindberg 763.251.8012

Municipal Liquor Store:

Liquor Store Manager, Jan Muehlbauer 763.251.1527
Asst. Liquor Store Mgr, Lisa Miller 763.251.1528



TO REACH THE RECEPTION DESK AT VARIOUS CITY BUILDINGS PLEASE CALL:

City Hall 763.263.2107
Police Department 763.263.2500
Fire Department 763.263.3456
Public Works 763.263.2268
Liquor Store 763.263.3673

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