



****MEDIA RELEASE****

BIG LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT



790 Minnesota Avenue, Big Lake MN, 55309

Incident Number: N/A

Date/Time: 4/21/2016

Lawn Parking

As spring arrives, the Big Lake Police Department begins to field a number of complaints related to parking of vehicles on lawns within our neighborhoods. Big Lake City Ordinance requires that all vehicles be parked on areas considered driveways, or specially designated for parking. Surfaces of these areas must be concrete, asphalt, or materials approved by the City Planner. Parking of vehicles on lawns or surfaces that do not meet City Code is a violation that can result in a parking citation costing \$25.

The Big Lake Police Department has begun issuing citations for violations of our lawn parking ordinance. We are asking our residents to work cooperatively with us, to utilize areas for parking your vehicles which meet City of Big Lake Code. Parking in conformance with City Code results in neighborhoods which are appealing in their appearance.

According the Big Lake City Planner Michael Healey, "The condition of neighboring properties has a very significant effect on the value of your own property. If your neighbor's house is decaying and there are cars parked at odd angles throughout their front yard, chances are it will immediately lower the value of your house by a minimum of \$10,000, potentially by a lot more. Most cities go to great pains to protect their residents' investments and keep property values stable."

The Big Lake Police Department will also begin a new process for parking ticket appeals. Beginning May 1, an appeal form can be picked up at the Big Lake Police Department, or downloaded at www.biglakepolice.com.