



# The Big Lake Wave

January/February/March 2015

## Greetings From Your Mayor

As we say goodbye to 2014, we are enthusiastic for what 2015 will bring to our great community. In 2014, we welcomed several new businesses to Big Lake, including Lake Dental Care, Raymie's Pizza, Fudgin' Delicious Ice Cream & Hom Décor, Flour City Bending, Racks Sports Bar & Grill and Mischief Managed. The City issued forty-two new home permits in 2014 as opposed to twenty-one in 2013. We are certain that business and housing development will increase in 2015 as Lupulin Brewing and several more businesses will open their doors in 2015. Our efforts to become a "Yellow Ribbon City" will also continue in 2015 as we strive to support the service members, veterans and military families who reside or work in our community.

On behalf of the Big Lake City Council and City staff, I would like to thank you for choosing Big Lake as your home or your business location. Your contributions to this community do not go unnoticed. Please continue to help shape Big Lake's future by becoming actively involved at City Hall by attending meetings, by volunteering for a local organization or by attending local events such as Winterfest, the Farmer's Market, Spud Fest and the Legacy Foundation's Music in the Park. Another way to support your community is by "buying local". Realizing not everything can be purchased in Big Lake, buying local helps to 1) recirculate dollars within your community; 2) bring stability and diversity to the local economy; and 3) support the retention and expansion of local businesses and jobs.

The City Council is enthusiastic for Big Lake's future. We will continue to do everything we can to provide exceptional service while ensuring public safety and fiscal responsibility. We invite you to visit the City's Website at [www.biglakemn.org](http://www.biglakemn.org) and our Facebook page (search "City of Big Lake, Minnesota") for the latest City news. If you have a question or concern, please contact the City Council or City Hall by phone, email, the City Website, fax, Facebook, U.S. Mail, etc. We look forward to hearing from and working with you. We wish you a happy and blessed 2015.

*Sincerely, Raeanne Danielowski, Mayor*



Fudgin' Delicious Ice Cream & Hom Décor



Lake Dental Care



Mischief Managed

2014 Chamber Ribbon Cutting Photos Courtesy of Jennifer Edwards, [West Sherburne Tribune](#)

## Big Lake City Council 2015

Mayor Raeanne Danielowski 763-263-3801 cook113@aol.com	Council Member Nick Christenson 763-238-6670 blfd27@hotmail.com	Council Member Seth Hansen 763-262-6282 sethhansen1973@gmail.com	Council Member Duane Langsdorf 763-263-7867 dlautostop@izoom.net	Council Member Mike Wallen 763-286-3842 mike.wallen@ymail.com
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# Outdoor Fun

## The Ice Rinks Are Open

The City of Big Lake has completed preparation work on the ice rinks located adjacent to the City Hall parking lot. To ice skate on an outdoor rink is like remembering what it was like to be a kid. The awe, surprise and innocent joy is all there, just waiting for you to come out and play. So lace up your skates and enjoy the wonderful ice rinks available in the City of Big Lake!



### Warming House Hours

Monday – Friday	3:30pm – 9:00pm
Saturday & Sunday	12:00pm – 9:00pm
School Holidays	12:00pm – 9:00pm



*The warming house may be closed periodically due to inclement weather.*

## Outdoor Skating Tips



- Dress in layers and make sure to wear gloves/mittens.
- Have a good fitting pair of skates and lace them properly.
- Skate with the regular flow of traffic.
- Be mindful of other skaters.
- Bring a thermos of hot cocoa or apple cider.
- Bring a portable chair to sit and enjoy your hot beverage.
- Bring friends who won't laugh when you fall and with whom you can share your cocoa.
- HAVE FUN!



# Snow Removal Reminders

Property owners are responsible to clear snow around their mailbox. The City will consider making repairs to mailboxes only if the snow plow equipment “physically” hits the mailbox or post, and only if the mailbox conforms to City Ordinance installation requirements. If you have any questions about the mailbox policy, or to report a damaged mailbox, please contact Public Works at 763-263-2268.

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The City is not responsible for snow plowing damage to irrigation systems landscaping within the City right-of-way.

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State and local laws prohibit pushing or placing snow back into or across the street.

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If trash/recycling pick up day coincides with plowing activities, make sure your trash can and recycling bin are well behind the curb or in the driveway so the plow will not hit them or possibly be tipped over.

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Residents may find it less frustrating to wait until the plow trucks have plowed their street before cleaning the end of their driveway. Keeping in mind some streets may need more than one plowing. City plows are designed to discharge snow to the sides of the road and are not capable of skipping driveways.

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The City of Big Lake does not have a bare pavement policy. The City does not guarantee bare, dry pavement conditions after each snowfall or that streets will be totally free of ice and snow or driving hazards common to Minnesota winter weather. The entire Big Lake Snow & Ice Control Policy can be reviewed on the City's website.

# Winterfest - Saturday, February 7

**Noon-3pm**

Fun for the entire family!

**Winterfest**  
AND

Located @

**Lakeside Park**



Children can learn  
how to ice fish!

Live band!

snowmobile rides

**FISHING CONTEST**

**FUN GAMES PRIZES**

## Notices

### City Offices Closed to Observe Holidays



Thursday, January 1  
New Year's Day

Monday, January 19  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, February 16  
Presidents Day

### Chamber Expo Sunday, March 1

Time: 11:00am-2:00pm  
Location: Big Lake High School  
Admission: FREE!

Booths are available for rent.  
Registrations are due to the Chamber  
by February 20, or receive \$25 off if  
registered by February 6. Call the  
Chamber for details at  
763-263-7800.

#### Activities:

Vendor Booths, Local Entertainment,  
DJ and Food Court

### City Council Election Results



Congratulations City Council  
Member Elects:

MIKE WALLEN  
-and-  
DUANE LANGSDORF

New Council Members will be  
sworn in at the January 14, 2015  
City Council Meeting.

# Big Lake Police Department



Two questions that I commonly field are; “Why is the Big Lake Police Department driving Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV’s)?,” and “why do citizens see police vehicles idling unattended?” In this article I hope to give insight into both of these very valid questions, they are appropriate to our current weather. The capital purchase of squad cars and their equipment, fuel, maintenance, and insurance comprise about 9% of the total Police Department Annual Budget. Big Lake Police Officers patrol over 70 miles of streets in the City driving 160,000 annually. The average service life for a squad car in our department is about 115,000-125,000 miles, over a span of 6 years. Each squad car is assigned to 2 Officers, who work back to back on opposite shift rotations. This assignment schedule is a huge advantage as the Officers have ownership in a particular vehicle. Research shows assigned vehicles receive better care under this format leading to reduced maintenance expenses and increased life spans.

There has been a long history of law enforcement driving sedans such as the Chevrolet Caprice, Ford Crown Victoria, and Dodge Charger for police work, this includes



the Big Lake Police Department. Automotive manufactures historically have focused their engineering on the sedans for law enforcement as they are easily converted for this use from the civilian market.

Vehicles utilized by law enforcement have several requirements that citizens may not notice. Typically they contain a special service “police” package that includes; high performance suspension, speed rated-oversized tires, oversized brakes, heavy duty alternator, and other additions that make them more durable in challenging conditions. In the past, the SUV’s sold in the law enforcement market did not have these attributes. Ford changed all of that with their new police package Explorer. This vehicle not only comes with necessities of special service, but also with wiring already configured for radios, computers, and emergency lighting

from the factory. The current state bid price for a special service Explorer is about \$25,500, one of the most competitively priced police package vehicle on the market today.

The SUV’s provide many benefits to the Big Lake Police Department. First and foremost, they are all wheel drive. Our weather in this part of the country can be challenging at best. In the most recent snowfall, all three of our Crown Victorias were stuck in our parking lot. The all-wheel drive vehicles perform very well in difficult conditions, allowing us to continue operations in the most difficult of weather conditions. The vehicles have a higher profile, allowing officers to sit higher, making it easier to enter and exit their patrol cars. The rear compartment allows us to keep items in a heated space that would be frozen in the trunk, including; firearms, automatic external defibrillators, medical supplies, evidence collection supplies, and other essential items. The Ford Explorer has quickly become a favorite with our Officers, as well as many other departments. From a budget perspective the V6 Engine of the Explorer is less fuel thirsty than the traditional V8, making its fuel use more budget friendly. The SUV’s also have a stronger resale value when they are retired from use. Many of the items in a squad are temperature sensitive, requiring them to be warm to function properly. Foremost amongst these items are the automatic external defibrillators, these lifesaving items are with every officer on their shift and are utilized to restart a heart in cardiac arrest. But they must be warm to function. Also temperature sensitive are multiple other items including computers essential to most every aspect of the Officer’s duties. Another aspect necessary for the squad’s performance is that of a charged electrical system. If you look in a squad car, you will see the passenger compartment is full of electrical components including; computer, radio, radar, lighting controls just to name a few. These all draw electricity that will quickly deplete a squad’s battery when the vehicle isn’t running. With this being said, it is our practice not to allow vehicles to run for long periods of time unless the temperature makes it essential.

I hope this provides some insight into these two questions. 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

# Big Lake Fire Department

## Fire Chief Message

The Fire Department will spend the next three to four months conducting some of our annual mandatory training requirements. A short list of the classes that will be covered include: employee right to know, blood borne pathogens, respect in the work place and first responder EMT medical refresher. We spend the winter months on inside class room subjects as well as attending state sectional fire schools held at technical colleges across the state. Members who attend outside training classes share that information with the membership through in house training sessions. In closing, a reminder working smoke detectors save lives! Have you checked yours lately? I want to thank all the members of the Fire Department for all that you do. We do make a difference. *Sincerely, Fire Chief Paul Nemes*

## Tree Decorating

Every year, members from the Big Lake Fire Department help the Big Lake Senior Citizen group decorate their Christmas tree located in the Senior room at Big Lake City Hall. Ken Halvorson, Tyler Halvorson, Dylan Lancello and Sam Olson also brought pie and ice cream to share with the Seniors. Seniors were delighted with the tree and really enjoyed spending the afternoon with the firefighters. A special "THANKS" to those that came out to help!

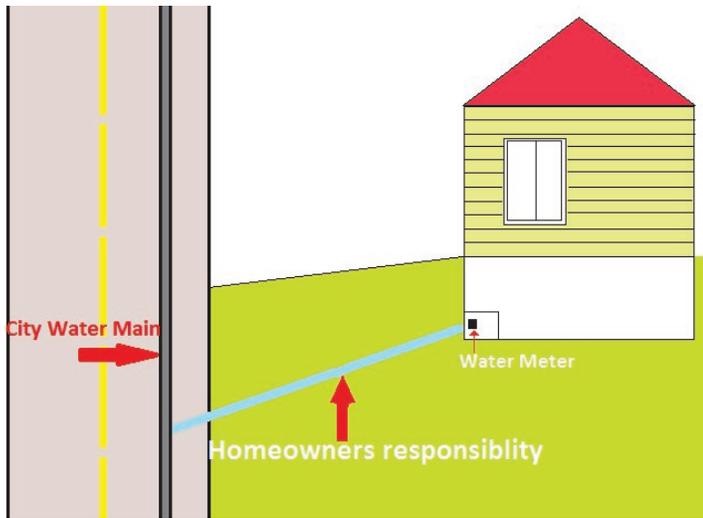


# Public Works Department

## Frozen Water & Sewer Service Lines

Cold weather brings with it a chance of pipes and water mains freezing and breaking. The risk is greater with longer stretches of extremely cold weather.

Due to continuous extreme cold weather in the winter of 2013/2014, the frost table was lower than previous years and this resulted in a large number of water/sewer service lines freezing though out the state, including 71 private water services in the City of Big Lake.



Property owners are responsible for the water/sewer service line between the dwelling and main in the street, while the City is responsible for the main. Nearly all the water service lines that froze in the winter of 2013/2014 were frozen between the main and dwelling. Remaining services froze within the dwelling due to lack of adequate heat. The City does not have the capacity to provide a service of thawing frozen service to residence. The City will assist in helping residents find a contractor, assist contractor, locate and prep water system.

Water/sewer lines are the responsibility of the resident/owner from the house/building to the main; the water shut off box (curb stop) is also owned by the property owner and is their responsibility to maintain it in proper working order. Owner is responsible for hiring and paying a

licensed plumber or other firm capable of safely thawing their service lines. Owner will assume all risk and liabilities of using a pipe thawing service.

To help prevent frozen service lines, here are a few tips and procedures that can be followed:

- Contact the City if you think your service line is frozen.
- Monitor water temperature. If the water temperature drops below 38 degrees Fahrenheit, leave a cold water tap running at a steady stream of about ¼ inch in diameter, (pencil-sized stream).

Make sure you run water until it is cold and then check the temperature. Water temperature should be around 45 degrees. If the temperature drops to 40 degrees or below, the frost may be getting close to your service line. Keep in mind the risk of frozen service lines could continue for several weeks and/or months, before the frost levels decrease and the risk of freezing has passed. Another indication that frost is getting close to your service line is if your neighbors or someone close by you freezes.

You may also experience a drop in pressure or discoloration in the water indicating that frost is getting close to your service line. Running your water at ¼ inch stream will amount to approximately 575-700 gallons per day, equaling a cost of approximately \$1.68 to \$ 2.35 per day.

This advice given is designed to reduce the risk of frozen service lines and is not a guarantee. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Big Lake Public Works at 763-263-2268.

# Finance Department

## City Budget 2015

Beginning Summer 2014, the City Council began working on the 2015 City Budget during public budget workshops held at City Hall. The 2015 Budget & Levy Public Input Meeting was held at City Hall on November 25, 2014. The City Council approved the 2015 City budget on December 11, 2014. The 2015 City Fee Schedule is posted on the City Website at [www.biglakemn.org](http://www.biglakemn.org).

## Water Shut Offs Begin April 16, 2015



Beginning **April 1, 2015**, 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, 2015, your water service may be disconnected.

To avoid disconnection, please make sure your account is current by April 1, 2015.

Please contact the utility billing department if you have any questions at 763-263-2107, ext. 232.

## Water & Sewer Payment Options

- 1) Payments may be made by check, cash or credit/debit card in person at Big Lake City Hall.
- 2) Mail a check to Big Lake City Hall at 160 Lake Street North, Big Lake, MN 55309.
- 3) Drop your check off at our drop box located on the Lake Street side of our north parking lot.
- 4) Make a credit/debit card payment on our website at: [www.biglakemn.org](http://www.biglakemn.org) – Click on the “Visa/Mastercard” logo, then choose the “Utility Payments” tab. Please **do not** use the Accounts Receivable tab to make water payments.
- 5) Set up a bill-pay account with your bank. Please use 160 Lake Street North as the mailing address and the 13-digit account number that is located in the lower left corner of your postcard statement. Please **do not** use your old 9-digit account number. It is no longer valid.
- 6) Use our “AutoPay” system. Your payment will be automatically deducted from your checking account on the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month. You will be required to fill out an AutoPay Authorization form and provide us with a voided check.

# Municipal Liquor Store

Lake Liquors completed another successful year thanks to all of our customers.

Starting in January, we will resume our Wine Of The Month and will feature Woodbridge wines for January.

For January, we will have Super Bowl sales, February will include Valentine specials, and in March we will feature sales for St. Patrick’s Day and March Madness basketball tournaments.

Make sure to “Like” us on Facebook to be updated on all of our tastings and special events.

Save the Date ... Our spring WineFest is scheduled for April 10, from 6 pm – 8 pm. Watch for details.



160 Lake Street North  
Big Lake, MN 55309

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## Big Lake Public Library

The Big Lake Public Library branch of the Great River Regional Library System is going strong through the winter months! Check out our website at [www.griver.org](http://www.griver.org) to discover all the things your library can do for you! With our cozy new seating areas, and friendly atmosphere, we are a great place to hang out on a chilly winter's day!

**We provide FREE:** Internet computers, Wi-Fi, books, DVDs, music CDs, databases, etc. (i.e. Chilton's Car Repair, Learning Express Library, etc.) and a study room. We also have a large meeting room available for public use, which is free for non-profits, and fee-based for other groups.

January 3<sup>rd</sup> - February 28<sup>th</sup> is our annual Winter Reading Program for adults. Sign up January 3<sup>rd</sup> for your chance to win one of several cool new 2015 GRRL mugs and other prizes!

### **More Upcoming Events:**

Monday, January 12, 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.: MOO! Family Story night.

Thursday, January 15, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.: Family Movie Afternoon.

Monday, January 26, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.: Exploring Genealogy, with Ariel Karst.

Fridays, February 6, 20, March 6, 20, 10:30 – 10:50 a.m.: Toddler Storytime (ages 18–36 mos.).

Monday, February 9, 3:00-3:30 p.m.: Valentine's Day craft for teens.

Thursday, February 12, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.: Family Movie Afternoon.

Fridays, February 13, 27, March 13, 27, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.: Preschool Storytime (ages 3-5).

Monday, February 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m.: Winter Reading Program Book Bingo (adults).

March (date TBD) Musician Mikko Cowdery – a free Arts & Cultural Legacy-funded concert.

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

As always, come by to say hi to the new manager, Terry, or to your wonderful library staff: Jenni, Mollee, Dee, and Janean. We are happy to help you with all your information needs!

## 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