



# The Big Lake Wave

August / September 2015

## Greetings From New City Administrator Clay Wilfahrt!

For the past nearly three and a half years, my wife Amber and I have been raising our family in Big Lake. We have spent that time developing friendships and enjoying the amenities of the community. I spend a lot of time on the lakes in the area trying to catch fish with friends. Amber and I enjoy taking our kids to many of the parks in the City. I've spent much of my time involved in the community and have served on the Sherburne County United Way Board and the Big Lake Planning Commission. Amber and I both volunteer for our church, Mary of the Visitation, in a number of capacities. We have grown to appreciate all of these wonderful aspects of our community.

About a year ago, while I was working 30 miles south of Big Lake, my family and I considered moving out of town. We looked at homes in communities south of us, but ultimately, we decided we couldn't leave our friends and community and decided to stay despite the long commute. We enjoy the access Big Lake offers to the Twin Cities and also the outdoor activities a short car ride away. We treasure the active community we can be a part of. Our community is full of generous and caring people. When we thought about leaving, we realized that Big Lake was our home.



Two months ago, I started working as the City Administrator for Big Lake. I sought the job with some experience in City Administration, an extensive background in local government, and a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and passion for our community. I have been working for two months with a group of people who share that passion. Our City staff is one of the most caring and compassionate I've ever encountered.

With that staff, and with the support of the elected and appointed officials of the City, we will seize opportunities for improvement everywhere we can. We will look at opportunities for offsetting costs to taxpayers like the solar garden that will generate over a million dollars in revenue in the next 35 years. We will find efficiencies in staffing like when we recently restructured our Economic Development Manager and Planning Consultant to a Community Development Director and City Planner. The change will add approximately 1,400 hours of staff time for an additional budget of \$5,000 in 2016. We will use those hours to work with developers to determine what will stimulate commercial and residential growth.

We have a staff and elected and appointed officials who care a great deal about the community, and that passion is contagious. We know that if we start sharing the great qualities of Big Lake with others, we can convince more people to realize that Big Lake is their home!

If you would like to talk to me about what you like about Big Lake, or what we can be doing to help others appreciate our community, contact me at [clay.wilfahrt@ci.big-lake.mn.us](mailto:clay.wilfahrt@ci.big-lake.mn.us).

### 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	bifd27@hotmail.com	sethansen1973@gmail.com	dlautostop@izoom.net	mike.wallen@ymail.com

# Building Department

## GARDEN SHEDS - PERMITS ARE REQUIRED

The City of Big Lake recently amended the City Code to match the new Minnesota State Building Code regarding utility sheds. The new rule exempts any shed 200 square feet or smaller from getting a building permit. In the past, the size was limited to 120 square feet or smaller.

However, City Code requires the owner of the property to get a zoning permit for small sheds 200 sq. ft. and smaller. The purpose of the zoning permit is to make sure these small sheds are not placed within any easements or encroach any of the required building setbacks.



To obtain a zoning permit for any shed 200 sq. ft. or smaller, the applicant must provide a site plan which shows the

“proposed” size and location of the shed. Fill out a permit application form, and submit it for review by city staff.

## CARPORTS

Carports, similar to the one pictured below, are not allowed in the City. The ordinance reads that "Carports shall not be permitted in any Zoning District." The ordinance definition of a carport is "a canopy constructed of metal or other material supported by posts either ornamental or solid and having one or more sides open." Additionally, please keep in mind that automobiles must be parked on a paved or finished surface.

If you have questions about types of accessory structures allowed in the City or parking regulations, please contact City Hall at 763-263-2107.



## Miscellaneous



### BIG LAKE BLOCK PARTY

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
McPete's Sports Bar and Lanes  
590 Humboldt Dr., Big Lake.  
\$5 per person at the door.

For more information, check out our facebook page:  
Big Lake Chamber of Commerce,  
or go to [www.biglakechamber.com](http://www.biglakechamber.com)

### Consumer Energy Assistance

*Help Ease the Worry of Paying Your Heating Bills  
Don't get left in the cold, apply today.*

The Energy Assistance Program at Tri-CAP may be able to help you pay your heating bill this winter. Beginning October 1 through May 31, the Energy Assistance Program helps eligible households pay for winter energy services. If you live in Benton, Morrison, Sherburne, or Stearns County, call Tri-CAP at 320-251-1612 or 888-765-5597 to learn more and apply. Or visit us online at [www.tricap.org](http://www.tricap.org) and find out if we can help reduce your stress of staying warm this winter.

# Dog Vaccination Clinic

## DOG VACCINATION CLINIC City/Township of Big Lake

The 10<sup>TH</sup> Annual Big Lake Dog Vaccination Clinic will be held **Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Lions Community Park, 21960 County Road 5 (garage). Barrington Oaks Veterinary Hospital, Elk River, will provide vaccination services at this event.

All dogs must be on a leash. Only healthy dogs will be vaccinated. A Dog License is required to be eligible for the discounted vaccinations. The \$10.00 license fee is valid for the lifetime of the dog. City and Big Lake Township residents will be able to purchase a dog license on site the day of the event.

Discounted prices are only good at the Vaccination Clinic on the day of the event.

Vaccination prices for the 2014 clinic:  
One year Rabies (\$10) Canine DHPP (\$14) Canine Lymes (\$26)  
PRICES COULD CHANGE FOR THE 2015 CLINIC

Cash and Checks allowed for Payment. Credit Cards are not accepted for payment of vaccinations or licenses.



Contact Information:  
City Hall      Town Hall  
763-263-2107   763-263-8111

## Miscellaneous

City Offices Closed in  
Observance of the  
Labor Day Holiday

MONDAY  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2015



Open every Wednesday

until September 30

Hours are 3—7 pm

at Lakeside Park

\*\* FREE Parking \*\*

\*\* FREE PARKING \*\*  
For music in the park

7-8:30PM Thursdays - June, July, August  
LAKESIDE PARK | Big Lake, MN

**2015 SCHEDULE**

2-7-15	Bob & the Beach Combers (Winterfest)
6-4-15	Rockin' Hollywoods
6-11-15	Urban Myth
6-18-15	2 Mile Final
6-25-15	Beau Lastavich w/Ivy Stone
7-2-15	Platinum FM
7-9-15	Shane Martin
7-16-15	Outside Recess
7-23-15	Lady Luck
7-30-15	Brooke Lynn
8-6-15	Bob & the Beach Combers
8-13-15	Mitch Gordon & the Unleaded Band
8-20-15	Band 51
8-27-15	Brat Pack Radio

# Big Lake Police Department

## Citizens Police Academy



The Big Lake Police Department is a full service department, which provides professional police services to our residents and visitors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are very proud of the quality of staff we retain, our level of technology and equipment, and the wide array capabilities we possess. One of my priorities as the Chief of the Big Lake Police Department, has been to provide a transparent and educational view to our citizens of the operations within our department, and the activities which take place in the City of Big Lake. Over the past three years, we have found the use of Facebook, Twitter, [www.biglakepolice.com](http://www.biglakepolice.com) and media releases to be an excellent way to accomplish much of this and allow us to interact freely with our community.

In an effort to take this concept to the next level, a new component, which has been a department goal, will be the addition of a CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY for the residents of our community who would like a hands on view of what we do. Citizen Police Academies have proven incredibly insightful in many communities, so in late 2015 we will be bringing the program to the residents of Big Lake.

It is anticipated that our Citizens Police Academy will run from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. one night per week, for 4 weeks. We are working to keep the program moving quickly, yet covering a large variety of topics in one hour blocks to include;

- Administration-Hiring-Budget-Operations-Complaint Process.
- Patrol Division-Patrol Tactics-Patrol Equipment.
- Technology within the Department.
- Traffic Enforcement-DWI Enforcement-Drug Recognition Expert.
- Officer Safety-Firearms-Use of Force.
- Investigations Division-Investigation Types-Evidence.
- Department Programs-Reserve Officer and Community Emergency Response Team.
- Ride along opportunity with an Officer from the department.



Reserve Officers: Cody Siebert, Aaron Lee, Justin Boster and Austin Sable



Officer Cindy Finch and Investigator Rich Berg

All blocks of instruction, will be completed by various members within the department, allowing you to meet and interact with our staff. We anticipate a class of 25, and very much look forward to allowing our community to have an inside view of our operations.

Watch for the application process, dates, and times in the West Sherburne Tribune, and on our Facebook and Twitter Pages. The application process will include: application, background check, and final acceptance into the program.

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](mailto:joel.scharf@ci.big-lake.mn.us)

# Big Lake Fire Department

## Fire Department Information



## Calls for Service

The Fire Department has been busy with calls for service during the second quarter of the year with structure fires running above normal.

## SAVE THE DATE... Annual Open House!

We are continuing to plan for our annual open house on Sunday, October 11th. We will be offering a wide variety of safety related displays including the kitchen fire simulator. We will focus on home fire safety topics to reduce the number of structure fires. Food will be served along with the very popular pumpkin give away provided by one of our very dedicated members, Pete Ahrens.

## Personal Protective Gear

Fire Fighters were recently fitted with new personal protective firefighting gear. One thing you will notice is the new look. We went away from the tan color and back to the traditional black gear.

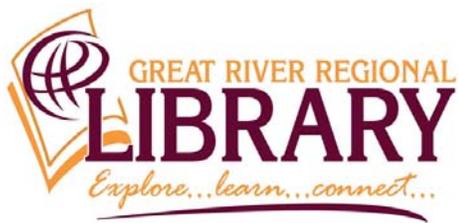
Myself, along with the rest of the firefighters, would like to thank the City and Township for their support and proper funding of this department.



## Department Volunteering

“Thank you” to all Big Lake Fire Personnel who volunteered their time during the Sherburne County Fair. The Department has provided EMS and Fire Suppression for all grand stand events for a number of years. A special THANKS to Fire Fighter Nick Christenson for organizing this volunteer opportunity.

# Great River Regional Library



The Big Lake Public Library branch of the Great River Regional Library System has some fun things going on this August and September. 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 seating areas, and friendly atmosphere, we are a great place to hang out!

**We provide FREE:** Internet computers ~ Wi-Fi ~ Books ~ Study room ~ Wi-Fi ~ DVD's ~ Music CD's, Databases, etc. (i.e. Ancestry, Chilton's Car Repair, Learning Express Library, Pronunciator (language learning), etc.). We also have a large 75-person meeting room available for public use, which is free for non-profits, and fee-based for other groups.

**We Come to You:** look for us at the *Big Lake Farmer's Market* and at *school open houses* this fall.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY...

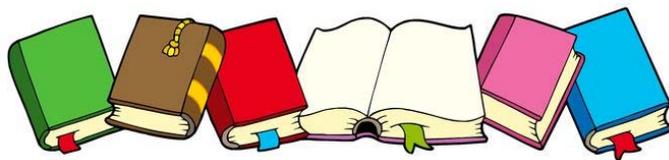
### August

- **Monday, August 3, 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.**  
Family Story Night.
- **Wednesday, August 5, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.**  
Summer Watercolor Painting Class for beginners, for teens and adults.
- **Saturday, August 8:** The last day of the Summer Reading Program. Bring all of your finished slips in by today to get prizes and Dairy Queen Certificates.
- **Thursday, August 13, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.**  
Make –n –Take a craft.
- **Monday, August 17, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.**  
Teen Battle of Music-Show off your music knowledge at the library. Food and prizes are involved!
- **Thursday, August 20, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**  
Family Movie Afternoon (Titles to be announced in the library)

### September

- National Library Card Sign-up Month. Come in and sign up for that library card!
- **Saturday, September 26, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Bread Making with Carol.
- **Monday, September 28, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.**  
Needle-felted Pumpkins craft class for adults.

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).



**Upcoming:** Look for story times and our Friends Fall Book Sale coming up in October.

As always, stop in at 790 Minnesota Avenue to say hi to manager, Terry, or to your wonderful library staff: Jenni, Mollee, Dee, Janean, and Mary. We are happy to help you with all your information needs!

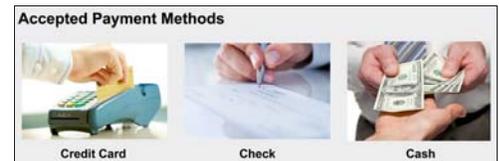
# Water and Sewer Payments

## LAWN IRRIGATION



- Please keep in mind, that if you have been watering your lawn this summer, your water bill will reflect the increase in water usage.
- If you would like to estimate how much your bill may increase by watering your lawn, check your water meter before an irrigation cycle, and again after the cycle. This will provide an estimate of gallons of usage.
- Each 1,000 gallons cost \$3.36.

## CITY OF BIG LAKE NOW ACCEPTS PAYMENTS ONLINE



We are excited to announce that residents can now make eCheck payments through our Web Store on the City of Big Lake Website! Residents can make payments online from any computer, laptop, tablet, phone, etc., any time of the day.

Additional forms of payment include any credit or debit card issued by Discover, VISA and MasterCard.

Payment will be processed on a secure site, powered by RevTrak. Visit [www.RevTrak.com](http://www.RevTrak.com) to learn more about our new online payment processor.



# Municipal Liquor Store



Please remember to vote for  
Big Lake in the

**"Michelob Golden Light Draft \$50,000.00  
Celebrate Your Lake Contest"** on Facebook.  
Also, like us on Facebook to be informed of our  
tasting schedule!

## OCTOBERFEST



During the month of September, Lake  
Liquors will be celebrating Octoberfest  
every Friday night with a different craft  
brewery represented during our Happy  
Hour tasting, 4 pm - 6 pm.

\*\*\*\*\*

## SAVE THE DATE—FALL WINE FEST!

Lake Liquors Fall Wine Fest  
Friday, November 13, 6 pm - 8 pm  
at the Friendly Buffalo





160 Lake Street North  
Big Lake, MN 55309

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

Dated Material

Postmaster: Time Sensitive Mail

# Events



**MOVIE IN THE PARK**

**Friday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Movie starts at Dusk (approx. 8 p.m.)

**LOCATION: LAKESIDE PARK**  
(Movie will be cancelled if inclement weather)

Concessions will be for sale from the Legacy Grill!

**A Big Lake Community Event Jointly Partnered by:**  
**The City of Big Lake -and- The Sherburne Wright Cable Commission**

**Things to Bring...**  
Blankets ♦ Chairs ♦ Warm Clothes ♦ Items to pass the time (balls, Frisbees, etc.) ♦ Your Appetite (concessions will be for sale)

This movie is brought to you by the financial support of the following sponsors:

**Big Lake American Legion  
Big Lake American Legion Auxiliary  
Big Lake Knights of Columbus  
AMVets  
Big Lake Spud Fest**

Watch your City Government Channels at Charter Channel 100 Wednesday, Channel 10

A Special THANK-YOU to the Sherburne Wright Cable Commission for providing the movie screens and equipment at no charge!

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Big Lake Parks & Trails Master Plan

*"Come and provide input on community wants, needs, issues or concerns regarding Big Lake's parks and trails"*

**When:**  
Tuesday, August 11, 2015 & Tuesday September 15, 2015  
Both Meetings are from 7:00 - 8:30 pm

**Where:**  
Big Lake City Hall  
160 Lake Street North

**Why:**  
To update the existing 2005 parks and trails master plan and promote increased opportunities for non-motorized transportation

**How:**  
The update will be fully funded by a Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) Grant

**In addition:** please visit the City of Big Lake web page [www.biglakemn.org](http://www.biglakemn.org) or Facebook: City of Big Lake, Minnesota, to complete the online Parks & Trails Survey (hard copies are also available at City Hall)




For Information Please Contact *Joel Odens or Josh Shields @ (952) 890.0509*

## 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