



# The Big Lake Wave

April/May/June 2016

## It's Almost That Time of Year Again...

### Welcome Back Big Lake Farmer's Market!



Come and join us at the Big Lake Farmer's Market on opening day, Wednesday, June 1st, 2016, from 3-7 p.m. at Lakeside Park. Our market is open every Wednesday until September 28<sup>th</sup>. We have 7 confirmed vendors for the 2016 Season, with more vendor applications pending.

Our vendors are offering fresh and delicious items, such as healthy fruits and vegetables, colorful cut flowers and perennials, herbs, homemade jellies, salsa, breads, pickles, granola, pies and handmade crafts. We will also have a great selection of chicken, beef, and eggs.



Farmer's Market food tastes better, simple as that. But that's not the only reason you should start hitting up your weekly market as much as you can. Whether you care about your health or the health of the planet, there are dozens of reasons to support local farmers. When you buy local foods from your Farmer's Market, you're supporting less-toxic food production and could even save a farm or two, all while getting the best-tasting food you can find!

Access additional information on the Big Lake Farmer's Market at 763-263-2107, from social media, or on the City Website at [www.biglakemn.org](http://www.biglakemn.org)



### 2016 Farmer's Market Vendors (As of April 1st)

- Ly Lee Vue
- Linda Bergsten
- Warnke Farm
- Mary Ann Peterson
- Bob & Judy's Farm Market
- Mister Lemonade
- Cat Tail Farm



## Big Lake City Council 2016

Mayor Raeanne Danielowski 763-263-3801 cook113@aol.com	Council Member Seth Hansen 763-262-6282 sethhansen1973@gmail.com	Council Member Duane Langsdorf 763-263-7867 dlautostop@zoom.net	Council Member Scott Marotz 612-490-4742 smarotz@hotmail.com	Council Member Mike Wallen 763-286-3842 mike.wallen@ymail.com
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# Building Permit Information

## Deck, Fences and Docks - Permits Required

### Decks

- Require approval of a building permit;
- Must be drawn on a survey, aerial photograph, or site plan in the proposed location, to be submitted with the permit;
- Are required to meet the same setbacks as the principal structure on the lot – generally, these setbacks are 5’ or 10’ from the side property line and 30’ from the rear property line;
- May not be built over utility easements; and
- Do not typically count as impervious coverage on a lot.

### Fences

- Require approval of an administrative permit;
- Must be drawn on a survey, aerial photograph, or site plan in the proposed location, to be submitted with the permit application;
- Are allowed as far forward as the front building line of your house or attached garage;
- May be built on the property line - make sure you aren't digging post holes in your neighbor's yard - although the City reserves the right to require fences to be placed outside of utility or other easements;
- Must face outward, meaning the “good” or non-structural side is what is seen from other properties; and
- May be up to 6’ in height.

### Docks

- Do not require a permit;
- Must be set back 10’ from the side property line; and
- Any portion of the dock below the ordinary high water level of the lake is regulated by the County and/or Department of Natural Resources.

## Do I Need a Building Permit to Build a Shed?

The answer to this common question is both “YES and NO”....

The type of permit depends on the size of the shed you are looking to add. Buildings 200 square feet or smaller require a ZONING permit. The purpose of a zoning permit is to assist the homeowner in locating where a small garden shed can be placed in the yard. Which zone you are located in will dictate where the building can be set in relation to property lines and the house. A permit application and site plan is required to apply for this smaller shed.

On the other hand...

Buildings larger than 200 square feet require a building permit. State Code requires this size building meet the minimum standards of the code including a “non-combustible floor”. Generally speaking, wood framed floors are not permitted in this size building. When applying for a shed greater than 200 square feet, the applicant must submit a permit application, two complete sets of plans including a section detail drawing, and a site plan showing the location of the proposed shed. These plans would need to also show the elevations of the structure. City code also requires the shed match the existing house.



As with any projects around the house, if you have any questions feel free to contact the Building Official at 763-251-2936

# Big Lake Spud Fest (June 23rd - 26th)



The Big Lake Spud Fest was born here in 1972. The founders of the festival were looking for a means to provide funds for summer youth recreation programs and an event for Big Lake and surrounding areas that promoted a strong sense of community and sharing.

*Some events planned for this year are:*

**THURSDAY, JUNE 23** – TEEN NIGHT with a Spud Derby, Carnival and Spud Talent Contest.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 24** – Pork Dinner by the Big Lake Knights of Columbus, Softball Tournament, Lakes Run, Face Painting by the Big Lake Ambassadors, Carnival, Bingo, Beer, Live music by GOOD FOR GARY and last but not least FIREWORKS by Northern Lighter Pyrotechnics at dusk.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 25** – Softball Tournament, Spud Run Motorcycle Ride, PARADE, Carnival, Bingo, Beer, Big Lake Ambassador Coronation, and Live music by TWO MILE FINAL!

**SUNDAY, JUNE 26** – Softball Tournaments, 1-Mile Fun Run, Potato Pancake Breakfast by the Big Lake Lions Club, Smitty's Amateur Fiddlers Contest, Carnival, Bingo, Beer, and the Kid Power Pedal Pull.

*WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP WITH THIS COMMUNITY EVENT? VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! [www.biglakespudfest.com](http://www.biglakespudfest.com)*

## Miscellaneous Information

### City Offices Closed to Observe Holidays

Monday, May 30th  
Memorial Day

Monday, July 4, 2016  
Independence Day



### Movie in the Park Friday, June 17th Friday, August 26th



Lakeside Park  
Movie Begins at Dusk!

**FREE \* FREE \* FREE**

### Music in the Park Thursdays 7-8:30 pm all Summer!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Band</u>
6-2-16	Rockin' Hollywoods
6-9-16	Diamond Back
6-23-16	Lady Luck
6-30-16	Shane Martin
7-7-16	Platinum FM
7-14-16	Outside Recess
7-21-16	Band 51
7-28-16	Brooke Lynn
8-4-16	Bob and the Beach Combers
8-11-16	2 Mile Final
8-18-16	Georgia Clay
8-25-16	Brat Pop Radio

# Big Lake Police Department



## Our Staff

Your Big Lake Police Department is a full service public safety 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 attract and retain, our level of technology and equipment, and the wide array of capabilities we possess. Our department has seen some changes in staffing over the past 3 years. As we sit today I am incredibly proud of the staff that provides your police services. In this newsletter article, I will provide an introduction to each of our full time staff members, and the assignments they carry in addition to their regular assignments.

**Lieutenant Sam Olson** (Serving Since 2003) serves as second in command of the department. Lt. Olson oversees all aspects of the Patrol Division, works patrol shifts, and serves as the Assistant Emergency Manager for the City of Big Lake. Lt. Olson is also a Captain with the Big Lake Fire Department, his commitment to public safety runs deep. **Investigator Rich Berg** (Serving Since 1997) is a General Investigator, who handles an investigative case load in addition to many other responsibilities including; property and evidence management, fleet management, facilities management, oversight of missing persons reports, and intake on vulnerable adult and child maltreatment cases. **Investigator Terry Nordquist** (Serving Since 1995) is also a General Investigator who handles computer crimes, sexual assault cases, and a wide array of other case types. Investigator Nordquist also handles all Information Technology Management in the department, saving dollars on these services which would otherwise have to be contracted out to an IT Vendor. Our two Investigators pick up a large case load from the Patrol Officers, allowing them to continue focusing on their duties.

Our Patrol Officers provide frontline services to our community. In the Patrol Division we first have **Officer Cindy Finch** (Serving Since 2002) who handles crime free housing issues, manages our CERT Team, and serves as a Field Training Officer. **Officer Chris Hoard** (Serving Since 2006) oversees our Reserve Officer Program, serves as a Field Training Officer, and Use of Force Instructor. **Officer Todd Siebert** (Serving Since 2007) oversees management of our dangerous dog registration and tracking program. **Officer Sam Norlin** (Serving Since 2011) is a Drug Recognition Expert, and serves as a Field Training Officer. **Officer Guy Chaffee** (Serving Since 2014) serves as a Firearms Instructor, and department armorer. **Officer Nic Prigge** (Serving Since 2015) serves as a Field Training Officer. **Officer Joe Kalla** and **Officer Matthew Hayen** are new to the department within the past year, their future assignments await them.

Our Police Specialists “fight crime from the inside.” **Police Specialist Laurie Morris** (Serving Since 2000) and **Tina Peterson** (Serving Since 2003) provide customer service, compile reports, transcribe reports and statements, maintain data bases, disseminate information to partnering agencies, and hold a host of other assignments that allow us to function to the high degree we do.

Finally as your **Chief of Police** (Serving Since 2012), I oversee day to day operations of the department, manage human resources, oversee and formulate a budget, work patrol shifts, and serve as the Emergency Manager for the City of Big Lake. Every day more demands are placed upon police departments to address a growing level of issues that arise in our society. The staff of the Big Lake Police Department are up to this challenge, they amaze me every day with the quality of work and dedication they provide our residents and visitors. Combined, they hold a total of 124 years of service and experience to the citizens of Big Lake. As always, I welcome feedback and enjoy visiting with our residents, feel free to contact me at any time by phone, 763-251-2985 or by email at [jscharf@biglakemn.org](mailto:jscharf@biglakemn.org).



Chief Joel Scharf, Rich Berg, Laurie Morris, Tina Peterson, Jordan Berg, and Christian Batres.

# Big Lake Fire Department

## Fire Chief Message

A recap of the Fire Departments' 1st Quarter: Our members have compiled well over 600 combined hours of training and refreshers during the first 3 months on hazardous materials, crude oil transport, fire ground safety, employee right to know and blood borne pathogens of the year. Along with our scheduled training, members also attended state sectional schools held at technical colleges around the state for additional training to improve their skills and knowledge.

## Fire Recommendations



The Department wants to remind residents to be very careful with recreational fires. Please tend to the fire until it is out. Have a close water source ready and to avoid a citation. You can only burn natural wood. **NO** construction material or household trash. We are concerned that this may be a very busy spring grass wildland fire season with the lack of snow and early warm windy conditions. Please help us by doing your part and be safe with recreational fires. Any other fires require a permit from the DNR.

**On behalf of the Big Lake Fire Department, thank you for your continuing support and have a safe summer.**

Fire Chief Paul Nemes  
763-263-3456  
biglakefire@biglakefd.org



# Municipal Liquor Store

## Lake Center Liquors Activities

- Lake Liquors will be hosing a Wine and Craft Beer Tasting for the Sea Devil's Swim Team. The event will be held on Friday, April 22nd from 6pm - 8pm at the Friendly Buffalo Event Center.
- In April 2016, we will be partnering with The Sherburne County Substance Use Prevention Coalition. Big Lake youth will be implementing Sticker Shock at Lake Liquors, just before Prom and Graduation.
- Just a reminder...plan in advance for your spring and summer celebrations. Kegs and large orders should be ordered a week in advance.
- Lakeside Park passes are available at the liquor store. This means you can purchase your pass after City Hall business hours and on Saturdays.



- Open on Memorial Day 9am - 4pm.
- Lake Liquors is a proud sponsor of Music in the Park and Spudfest.
- We will continue to schedule tasting events. "Like" us on Facebook to receive our tasting schedules.
- Please remember our weekly discount days. On Mondays, we offer a 10% discount to senior citizens 62 or older. Tuesdays, 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.
- Please check out our new webpage at [www.lakeliqorsmn.com](http://www.lakeliqorsmn.com)

# Community Development

## Welcome to our new City Planner!

Salutations! My name is Michael Healy and I am proud to be serving as Big Lake's new City Planner. For the past several years, Big Lake has employed a part-time consultant planner. However, as the economy has recovered and development has picked up again, the increased workload has made it more cost-effective to hire a full-time staff planner.



City Planner Michael Healy

To give some background about myself, I am originally from Joliet, Illinois but have lived in Minnesota since 2005. I hold a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Prior to accepting this position, I was a housing intern at the City of Ramsey and have previously held internships at the City of Afton and the City of Columbus.

I think it's safe to say that many people do not know exactly what a city planner does, so I'll use this last paragraph to give a brief overview of my profession. A big part of my role is to function as sort of a "village wise man" on land use and quality of life issues to help the City achieve its short-term and long-term development goals. I am expected to be familiar with civil engineering, architecture, real estate development, as well as human behavior and advise the Planning Commission and City Council on these topics to aid them in their policymaking. I am also expected to facilitate community engagement to help our City leaders gauge the will of the community. Finally, I administer the zoning code which is the set of rules that have been put in place to ensure that our community has consistent standards to keep property values stable. I review plans and issue permits and I assist the Police Department in doing code enforcement when we receive complaints from residents about properties that aren't being properly maintained.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have! My direct line is 763-251-2977 and my email address is [Mhealy@biglakemn.org](mailto:Mhealy@biglakemn.org).

## Local Business Spotlight

### Flour City Bending, Inc.

Have you seen a bike rack that looks like the one on the right? If you have, chances are, it was made in Big Lake, Minnesota! Flour City Bending, Inc. is a metal fabricating company that specializes in pipe and tube bending. Behind the walls of their building in the Big Lake Industrial Park, there are 16 people who make handrails, retail display racks, climbers for power poles, hockey net frames (used in the Big Ten Hockey Conference), agricultural equipment, office furniture, etc. With such a diverse range of product made at Flour City Bending, Inc., it is likely you see it everyday!



Michael Flesch, President, moved Flour City Bending, Inc. from Becker, MN to the Big Lake Industrial Park in December of 2014 due to the need for expansion as his business was growing. His current building in Big Lake will offer him more opportunity for growth in the event he needs it. It is likely he will as he is currently working on an ISO Certification, which is a tool that Flour City Bending, Inc. can use to add credibility by demonstrating their product meets the expectations of their customers. This certification will broaden their client base and Mr. Flesch is hoping to acquire the certification by the end of 2016.

If you would like to know more about Flour City Bending, Inc., please visit their website at [www.flourcitybending.com](http://www.flourcitybending.com). Now you can say you know what happens behind the walls at Flour City Bending, Inc. as you drive by their well-kept building on HWY 10!

# Water and Sewer Payments



## Water Shut Off Notice

Beginning in April 2016 the city will be mailing out notices for delinquent water bills. There will only be one notice given. If your account is still delinquent on 4-22-16, your water service may be disconnected. Please contact the utility billing department if you have any questions. 763-263-2107 Ext. 232.

## Water and Sewer Payment Options



The City offers many ways to pay your utility bill:

- **ON-LINE:** Please visit our website at: [www.biglakemn.org](http://www.biglakemn.org) – Directly below the “Visa/Mastercard” logo on the right hand side of the home page click on “CITY WATER/SEWER PAYMENTS ONLY”. You will be connected to PSN, our payment processing provider. PSN accepts payments using a credit/debit card, a checking account, or a savings account. There is no fee for this service. Also, if you would like to opt out of your postcard billing, PSN offers an **email** bill option.
- **PHONE:** Please call PSN at 877-885-7968. There is no fee for this service.
- **AUTO PAY:**
  - ⇒ Through PSN – After you have set up your on-line account with PSN, follow the prompts to set up an automatic payment. You may choose the date and amount of your payment. Your balance is still due on the 10th of every month.
  - ⇒ Through the CITY OF BIG LAKE: Please fill out an authorization form at City Hall. Your full balance will be automatically deducted from your checking account on the 10th of every month.
- **BILL PAY:** Please use 160 Lake Street North as the mailing address and the full 13-digit account number that is located in the lower left corner of your postcard statement. Do not use your old 9-digit account number. It is no longer valid.
- **MAIL:** Mail your check to City of Big Lake at 160 Lake St N., Big Lake, MN 55309 (No cash please).
- **DROP BOX:** Our utility payment drop box is located on the Lake Street side of City Hall’s north parking lot (No cash please).
- **IN PERSON:** We accept check, cash or credit/debit card at the City Hall office located at 160 Lake St N. Hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm M-F.

If you have any questions about these payment options please call Utility Billing at 763-263-2107 ext. 232.

## Big Lake and Mitchell Lake Update

There is Eurasian Watermilfoil in Big and Mitchell Lakes. To manage their growth, the Big Lake Community Lake Association and the City of Big Lake plan on chemically treating these invasives in the spring or early summer of 2016. The areas to be treated will be determined this spring. All treatment will be performed by a licensed commercial applicator specializing in this type of work. The method and chemicals used will be approved and determined by the MN Department of Natural Resources. We will treat the maximum allowed by the DNR. There is no cost to you but as a landowner on the lake, you may request that control does not occur adjacent to your property. **If you are requesting that treatment does not occur adjacent to your property, please call Mike Goebel at 763-263-2268 by April 15, 2016.**

# Code Enforcement in Big Lake

## Maintaining our Community Standards

The City of Big Lake recently adopted new standards for code enforcement, a move designed to improve the program's consistency so residents know what they can expect when they make a complaint to the City. Three City Departments handle code enforcement, the Police Department, the Community Development Department, and the Public Works Department. Each department handles a different aspect of the program. The Police Department deals with noise, animals, blight, and inappropriate parking on lawns. The Public Works Department handles unkempt grass and unshoveled sidewalks. The Community Development Department handles all other complaints that relate to violations of the Big Lake zoning code. In the past, each City Department has received their complaints separately, something that has made it very difficult to track enforcement efforts. The new policy calls for all complaints to be submitted to one common point, Administrative Assistant Trisha Lindahl. Trisha will log all of the complaints in our system and make sure that the appropriate department is notified of the need for an investigation and possible enforcement action. We are also establishing an option for making **anonymous complaints**. The City realizes that many residents may have been deterred from making legitimate complaints in the past due to needing to leave their name and contact information, even with the City's assurances that this information would not be shared. Residents who wish to be notified when their complaint has been investigated will continue to have the option of sharing their contact information.



Properties that are found to be in violation of the City's code will be issued a warning letter. After 14 days of non-compliance, the City will issue a second warning letter. After another 14 days of non-compliance, the Police Department will be issuing a citation with an administrative fine. Property owners who fail to pay their fines will have them assessed and added to their property taxes.



Most of our residents already know that they can complain to the City if a property's grass is not being maintained or if a noisy party has gotten out of hand. What some may not know is that residents also have the right to complain about junk and blight in their community. Junk and blight do not just affect the host property but actually lower the property values of neighboring properties as well. What's more, junk and blight often spread since the lowered property values make neighboring property owners less willing to invest in their own properties. The following are some of the most common junk and blight issues that the code enforcement program is designed to help address:

- Vehicles and trailers parked on lawns and other non-approved parking pads.
- Inoperable, unregistered, or junk automobiles being stored outdoors.
- Campers, boats, snowmobiles, and other trailers parked on grass or non-approved parking pads.
- Accumulation of debris that is stored outdoors such as junk, construction debris, vehicle parts, and machinery.
- Vacant lots that are being used for storage regardless if the owner has given permission.

# Code Enforcement in Big Lake, (Continued)

Structures such as carports are in violation of a number of provisions of the City's Zoning Ordinance, as shown below:

- *1020.07 Subd. 1. Garage structures shall be constructed with four (4) walls and a roof. Carports shall not be permitted in any Zoning District.*

- *1001.02 Definitions.*

*Carport. A canopy constructed of metal or other material supported by posts either ornamental or solid and having one or more sides open.*

- *1020.07 Building Materials.*

*All accessory building larger than 120 square feet shall be constructed with a design and exterior materials that are compatible with the general character of the principal structure on the lot.*

- *1030.05 Subd. 13. Surfacing.*

*All areas intended to be utilized for parking space and driveways shall be surfaced with asphalt, concrete or other surface materials approved by the City Engineer.*



For any questions on carports in the City of Big Lake, contact City Planner Michael Healy at 763-251-2977 or [mhealy@biglakemn.org](mailto:mhealy@biglakemn.org).

Big Lake's code enforcement program is almost 100% complaint-based, so we depend on our residents to help us maintain our community's standards. If you see something that you know does not belong, please say something. Please try to be as specific as possible in your complaint and make sure to include the property's address. Complaints can be made to Trisha Lindahl in person at City Hall or by phone at 763-263-2107. They can also be sent by mail to 160 Lake Street North, Big Lake MN 55309 or emailed directly to Trisha at [tlindahl@biglakemn.org](mailto:tlindahl@biglakemn.org).

## Peddler/Solicitor Permits

- Door-to-door sales in the city of Big Lake require a permit from the City. Transient Merchants, Peddlers who sell merchandise, and solicitors selling services door to door all require either a permit or a registration from City Hall. If you are visited by a door-to-door salesperson, ask to see their City of Big Lake issued permit. If the salesperson does not have the required permit, call 911 to report the incident. Any information you can provide to the police will be helpful (vehicle license number, make and color of vehicle, etc.). The Police will attempt to contact the seller and inform him/her of the permit requirements.
- All citizens have a right to prohibit a salesperson from approaching their door. Post a "No Peddler/Solicitation" sign at your door. It is illegal for a salesperson to Solicit or Peddle at a premise where this sign is posted.
- Remember—A solicitor may not remain on your property after you have asked him/her to leave.



## Avoid Lead Contamination in Water in Minnesota

Water systems have been involved in monitoring water within households since the implementation of the federal Lead and Copper Rule in the early 1990s.

Lead is unusual among waterborne contaminants in that it is rarely present in water at its source. Instead, it works its way into water on the way to people's faucets through the home. Lead in a water system's distribution pipes can dissolve into the water as it passes through. Lead service lines, connection water mains to people's houses, is another source. Inside the home, lead pipes and solder may contribute to lead contamination, especially since water often sits idle in these pipes while families are asleep or away from home at work and school.



While Minnesota's communities have had relatively few issues with lead contamination, a number of U.S. cities have had prominent lead contamination problems in recent years.

### Problems Elsewhere

A change in chemical treatment had a major effect in Washington, D.C., in the early 2000s, causing corrosion in pipes and the subsequent discovery of lead levels in the city residents' water that was at least 83 times higher than the action level of 15 parts per billion. The issue was addressed with corrosion-control treatments to the water to prevent the leaching of lead in water from mains and fixtures, although problems have continued in the city.

In 2014 the city of Flint, Michigan, temporarily switched its water source from Lake Huron, supplied by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, to the Flint River, an inland source that can cause greater challenges for treating water than water that is from the Great Lakes. Flint treated the river water to make it safe, but the water reaching people's homes was corrosive. Water that's corrosive can allow water in lead service lines – which connect water mains to household plumbing – to absorb lead from the lead service lines and plumbing. The result can be significantly higher levels of lead in the water that people drink.

### The Situation in Minnesota

In Minnesota, if a water system goes to a different source of water, even a new well, Minnesota Department of Health engineers will review the plans for treating the water and also examine corrosion – control methods that could be necessary to ensure that the water does not absorb materials such as lead and copper from pipes in the distribution system.

To avoid unintended consequences from source or treatment changes, any such changes by a water system require review and approval from the Minnesota Department of Health before they take effect; often, pilot studies are required as part of the review and approval. A new source of water and/or treatment change also brings about changes in the monitoring frequency required for the system for examining lead levels in the water.



MDH engineers also review water quality reports, which follow each round of sampling by a system. Based on these reports, engineers may issue recommendations to address any possibility that the water has the potential to absorb materials, which could include lead, from service lines and household plumbing.

# Water Quality, (Continued)

In addition, MDH has a statewide system for laboratories to report blood-lead levels in patients; such reporting could trigger an immediate visit from a nurse. Lead can come from many sources besides water, and the biggest threat in Minnesota continues to be the nearly one million homes in the state that contain lead paint.

Minnesota's service connection fee (collected by water systems from customers and passed on to the Minnesota Department of Health) allows the state to pay for all compliance sampling, which assists in MDH's ability to promptly respond to drinking water quality issues across the state. The Health Department is able to see the sampling results before the water systems do; if there is a problem, MDH notifies the system, which can quickly begin corrective actions. Many states do it the opposite way: testing and data collection are done locally and reported to the state. The method in Minnesota allows for another early-warning system for contaminants in drinking water.

Any system in exceedance of the action level for lead must, among its corrective actions, provide ongoing public education to its customers.

## Big Lake Public Library

### April, May, & June events at the library:

*The 2016 Summer Reading Program "Read for the Win!" is from June 13 to August 13 for ages 0 to 12*

**Fridays, April 1, 15, & 29, 10:30 – 11:15: Preschool Story Time**

**Fridays, April 8 & 22, 10:30-10:50: Toddler Story Time**

**Monday, April 11, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.: Needle Felting Spring Birds (for Adults)**

**Thursday, April 21, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.: Phil Lancaster presents: Riders on the Orphan Train**

**Friday, April 22, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.: Karaoke (for ages 10 to 16)**

**Monday, April 25, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.: Spring Flower Making (for adults)**

**Monday, May 2, 4:00 -6:00 p.m.: Advanced Needle Felting: Hedgehogs (for Adults)**

**Thursday, May 12, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.: Ask a Master Gardener**

**Thursday, May 19, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.: Love that Pinterest! (for Teens & Adults)**

**June 1-30: Tape Line Challenge! (for little ones up to age 5)**

**June 1-30: Name That Game! (for ages 6 to 12)**

**June 1-30: Brain Games (for Teens)**

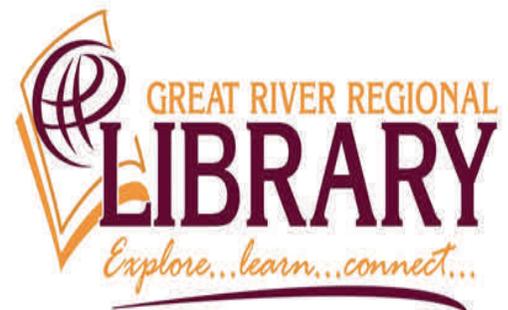
**Monday, June 6, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.: Old MacDonald Had a Banjo! (for Families)**

**Monday, June 13, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.: 'Family Comedy Magic Show with Nathan Stockwell**

**Wednesday, June 15, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.: Movie Afternoons (for Families)**

**Monday, June 20 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.: Wii Olympics (for Teens)**

**Thursday, June 23, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.: Make-N-Take Thursdays (for ages 3 to 8)**



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: "Recycled Robots" coming in July!!**

# Consumer Confidence Report

## 2015 City of Big Lake Drinking Water Report

The City of Big Lake is mandated (required) to send out by US Postal Service, a detailed Drinking Water Report annually. Previously, the City was required to publish the report in the local newspaper. Once the City's population exceeded 10,000 residents, the requirement changed to sending the report out by mail. The report is being included in this edition of the City Newsletter which is mailed to all City residents and businesses. In the future, this information will be sent out annually in the 2nd Quarter edition of the newsletter.

PWSID: 1710002

### City of Big Lake 2015 Drinking Water Report

The City of Big Lake is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2015. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

#### Source of Water

The City of Big Lake provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: six wells ranging from 178 to 230 feet deep, that draw water from the Mt.Simon-Fond Du Lac, Mt.Simon-Red Clastics, and Mt. Simon-Hinckley Aquifers.

The Minnesota Department of Health has made a determination as to how vulnerable our systems' source(s) of water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it on line at [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa).

Call Big Lake Public Works Department 763-263-2268 if you have questions about the City of Big Lake drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

#### Results of Monitoring

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2015. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

Key to abbreviations:

MCLG—Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL—Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MRDL—Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.

# Consumer Confidence Report, (Continued)

MRDLG—Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

AL—Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

90th Percentile Level—This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only 5 samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

pCi/l—PicoCuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

ppm—Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

ppb—Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

N/A—Not Applicable (does not apply).

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2015)	Average/Result*	
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l) (04/16/2013)	0	15.4	N/A	4.9	Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (ppm) (04/06/2011)	2	2	N/A	.07	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.82-1.1	1.08	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	0	60	4.1-4.4	4.4	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10.4	10.4	2.5-4.5	4.5	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
TTHM (Total trihalo-methanes) (ppb)	0	80	9-11.5	11.5	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

\*This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

Contaminant (units)	MRDLG	MRDL	****	*****	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	.1-.7	.63	Water additive used to control microbes.

\*\*\*\*Highest and Lowest Monthly Average.

\*\*\*\*\*Highest Quarterly Average.

# Consumer Confidence Report, (Continued)

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm) (07/25/2013)	1.3	1.3	.37	0 out of 20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) (07/25/2013)	0	15	1	0 out of 20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. City of Big Lake is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 during normal business hours.

## Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

*Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

*Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

*Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

*Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

*Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

***Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.***

# Big Lake Clean Up Day Form (Cutout and Bring to Clean Up Day)

## Annual Clean-Up Day

**Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**TOWN OF BIG LAKE, ORROCK TOWNSHIP, & CITY OF BIG LAKE ONLY (Bring Proof of Residency)**  
 Location of Collection Center: 20150 166th St., Big Lake Township Maintenance Bldg.

### COMPLETE FORM & CHECK BEFORE REACHING GATE

You can pay for your items with Cash OR Check  
 Make Checks Payable to "Town of Big Lake"

Please Circle Where You Live

BIG LAKE TOWNSHIP    ORROCK TOWNSHIP    CITY OF BIG LAKE

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gate fees:** Misc. Vehicle load OR single axle trailer \$20.

Misc. Vehicle load AND single axle trailer \$40.

Misc. Vehicle load and double axle trailer OR moving van \$60.

### ALL TIRES MUST BE OFF RIMS

CAR & TRUCK TIRES \_\_\_\_\_ X \$4.00 Each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SEMI TRUCK TIRES (20") \_\_\_\_\_ X \$6.00 Each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TRACTOR TIRES \_\_\_\_\_ X \$7.00 Each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**AIR CONDITIONERS, DEHUMIDIFIERS, DISH WASHERS, DRYERS, FREEZERS, FURNACES, HUMIDIFIERS, MICROWAVES, RANGES/STOVES, REFRIGERATORS, WASHERS, WATER HEATERS, WATER SOFTENERS.**

Quantity of Appliances \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 Each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total  
 AMMONIA GAS REFRIG. & A/C \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25.00 Each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TELEVISIONS, STEREOS, COPY MACHINE, ALL-IN-ONE MACHINE, FAX, VCR, DVD, COMPUTER CPU/TOWER, COMPUTER MONITOR, COMPUTER PRINTER

Quantity of Electronics \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 Each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

BOX SPRING, MATTRESS, STUFFED LARGE CHAIR, RECLINER, SOFA

Quantity of furniture \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 Each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

There are no additional charge to vehicle load for: BATTERIES, SCRAP IRON, OIL FILTERS, PROPANE GAS CYLINDER, & SMALL ENGINES

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ITEMS TO BE ACCEPTED

-ENGINES Must be completely drained of oil & gas with all drain plugs pulled and fill caps removed.

-SNOWMOBILES must have seats, tracks, hoods removed before entering the gate.

-LIMITED amount of carpet, pad, and demolition debris accepted.

-TIRES must be removed from all lawn mowers, bikes, trailers, motorcycles, etc. tires, general waste then scrap metal. Appliances and Electronics are last.

PLAN TO UNLOAD YOUR OWN ITEMS - VOLUNTEERS ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU ONLY.

THESE ARE THE GATE PRICES-NO OTHER PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED PRICES APPLY.

**NO OVERSIZED ITEMS ALLOWED = I.E. SLIDE IN CAMPERS, BOATS, TRAILERS, TRUCK TOPPERS.**

### MATERIALS NOT ELIGIBLE OR ACCEPTED

- Cardboard or other curbside recyclables.
- Household (9v, AA, AAA, C or D) batteries OR Appliance(phone) batteries.
- Engines containing fuel and/or oil
- Commercial Construction or Demolition Materials.
- Household Garbage.
- Pressurized Tanks.
- Oil, Oil Containers or Chemical Drums.
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs.
- Commercial Business Equipment.
- Weed & Bug Killers.
- Oil Based Paints, Strains or Solvents.
- Liquid Latex Paint in Containers.

---NO COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTS --- RESIDENTS ONLY ---  
 ---QUESTIONS: CONTACT THE TOWN CLERK AT 763-263-8111---



160 Lake Street North  
Big Lake, MN 55309

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Twin Cities, MN

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# ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED!



## Big Lake Community Clean-Up Day

**Saturday, May 7, 2016**  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location of Collection Center: ¼ mile north of  
US Highway 10. 20150 – 166<sup>th</sup> Street, Big Lake  
Township Maintenance Building



**Volunteers Needed** - Please call...  
Big Lake Township: 763-263-8111 *-or-*  
Big Lake City Hall: 763-263-2107

Forms can be picked up at City Hall  
or downloaded from the City website.

**Please Join in the Effort to Help  
Keep OUR Community Clean!**

## ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED!

In Minnesota, poll workers are called election judges. Election judges are paid officials who staff local polling places, carry out election procedures, and make sure that the rights of voters are protected.

Serving as an election judge is a chance to learn about elections, and is a great service to the community!

Contact Big Lake City Clerk Gina Wolbeck if you are interested in serving as an Election judge for the 2016 elections...

763-251-2973; gwolbeck@biglakemn.org

## COMMUNITY GARDEN!

Do you long to be planting and weeding and harvesting this summer...but don't have space to put a garden? **HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!**

The City of Big Lake has begun accepting applications from City residents interested in leasing a garden plot. The plots will be 10' x 20' and will be located near the public works building next to the water tower along County Road 43. Plots will be leased on a first come, first serve basis, and will be leased at a reasonable \$25.00 annual fee to help cover the cost of water and other garden expenses.

Applications can be picked up and/or submitted to Big Lake City Hall at 160 Lake Street North. Forms can also be accessed from the City website ([www.biglakemn.org](http://www.biglakemn.org)).

Contact Public Works Director  
Mike Goebel at **763-263-2268**  
with any questions relating to the  
Community Garden.



## 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