



The Big Lake Wave

January / February / March 2017

Canine Bruno Has Arrived at the Big Lake Police Department

In September of 2016, the Big Lake Police Department announced plans to initiate a fundraising effort to restore our police canine program. The department last had a police canine in its toolbox in 2010, a retiring unit was not replaced at that time due to budget constraints. With the blessing of the Big Lake City Council, we set course with a goal to raise \$51,250 through donations and grants to fully fund the return of this valuable program without general fund tax dollars. With this, we began to work on many fronts to solicit donations to reach our goal. We foresaw this being a very long term process given the level of funding we needed to attain. As you may recall, Sergeant Matt Hayden was selected for our canine handler, and the name Bruno for our new four legged officer.

We now look back at the last 3 months with amazement at the outpouring of support for this program. In 3 months, we were able to secure over \$55,000 in funding launching this program into fast forward. This level of funding is necessary to purchase a squad car with equipment, canine Bruno, general canine equipment, and training for Sergeant Hayden and Bruno. So where are we today, just 3 short months later? Canine Bruno arrived from the Slovakia Republic (Europe) about 3 weeks ago, he is now at home with Sergeant Hayden and his family. Bruno is a beautiful German Shepard, his temperament is exactly what we were looking for in Big Lake, making him very approachable. Our squad car (2017 Ford Explorer) arrived 2 days ago, it is currently being outfitted at Audio Communications with all of the police and canine equipment necessary for its special passenger. **(Continued on page 7)**

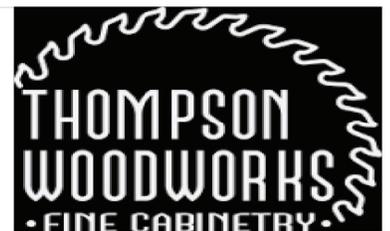


Meet Bruno

Local Business Spotlight



Thompson Woodworks and Manufacturing Inc.



Located in the Big Lake Industrial Park, Thompson Woodworks is producing hand crafted, high quality cabinetry that is included in many new construction and remodel projects throughout the State of MN.

Clay Thompson started this family owned and operated business in 1978 as a one-man shop. Mr. Thompson's one-man shop grew into a much larger business, which now employs a team of individuals who strive to meet customer expectations with every order.

At Thompson Woodworks, each project is worked on as a team through the design, drawing and into the production of the custom cabinets. Accuracy and quality throughout production is what makes Thompson Woodworks stick out amongst others.

To learn more, visit their website at www.thompsonwoodworks.com

Big Lake City Council 2017

Mayor	Council Member	Council Member	Council Member	Council Member
Raeanne Danielowski	Dick Backlund	Seth Hansen	Duane Langsdorf	Mike Wallen
763-263-3801		763-262-6282	763-263-7867	763-286-3842
rdanielowski@biglakemn.org	dbacklund@biglakemn.org	shansen@biglakemn.org	dlangsdorf@biglakemn.org	mwallen@biglakemn.org

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 City Water/Sewer payments only tab on right hand side of the homepage. 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, auto-mated 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, 2017*****

Beginning April 1, 2017, 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, 2017, 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, 2017.

Please contact the utility billing department if you have any questions 763.263.2107 x 232.

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 2017, adopted 12/14/16.

City of Big Lake, Minnesota General Fund Budget Summary Budget 2017

Revenue Budget

General Fund Revenues	2016 Budget	2017	2016-2017	
		Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Property Taxes	\$ 2,167,594	\$ 2,429,363	\$ 261,769	12.08%
Special Assessments	1,000	1,500	500	50.00%
Licenses & Permits	317,175	385,550	68,375	21.56%
Intergovernmental	398,435	403,493	5,058	1.27%
Charges for Services	715,194	696,833	(18,361)	-2.57%
Fines & Forfeitures	37,530	37,030	(500)	-1.33%
Investment Income	25,000	25,000	-	0.00%
Contributions/Donations	4,700	7,500	2,800	59.57%
Transfer In	345,000	300,000	(45,000)	-13.04%
Total - General Fund Revenues:	\$ 4,011,628	\$ 4,286,269	\$ 274,641	6.85%

Expenditure Budget

Service	2016 Budget	2017	2016-2017	
		Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
General Government				
Mayor/Council	\$ 36,052	\$ 34,948	\$ (1,104)	-3.06%
Planning	115,422	116,899	1,477	1.28%
Elections	13,000	3,900	(9,100)	-70.00%
Administration	528,871	558,458	29,587	5.59%
Other	26,350	26,100	(250)	-0.95%
Total General Government	719,695	740,305	20,610	2.86%
Public Safety				
Police	\$ 1,539,031	\$ 1,637,270	\$ 98,239	6.38%
Fire	312,124	324,216	12,092	3.87%
Building	216,720	217,906	1,186	0.55%
Total Public Safety	2,067,875	2,179,392	111,517	5.39%
Streets & Highways				
Engineering	\$ -	\$ 55,255	\$ 55,255	100.00%
Streets	627,521	582,876	(44,645)	-7.11%
Total Streets & Highways	627,521	638,131	10,610	1.69%
Culture & Recreation				
Parks	\$ 404,491	\$ 513,931	\$ 109,440	27.06%
BLCS	50,800	79,386	28,586	56.27%
Total Culture & Recreation	455,291	593,317	138,026	30.32%
Economic Development				
	\$ 141,245	\$ 135,123	\$ (6,122)	-4.33%
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$ 4,011,628	\$ 4,286,269	\$ 274,641	6.85%
Budgeted (Use) /excess of Reserves:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Unassigned Fund Balance - Projected	\$ 2,529,125	\$ 2,529,125		
Percentage of Expenditures:	59.01%	55.23%		



Building Department

Home Safety Checklist

Winter storms and cold temperatures can be hazardous. Stay safe and healthy by planning ahead. Prepare your home and cars. Prepare for power outages and outdoor activity. Check on older adults. Although winter comes as no surprise, many of us are not ready for its arrival. If you are prepared for the hazards of winter, you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall.

Many people prefer to remain indoors in the winter, but staying inside is no guarantee of safety. Take these steps to keep your home safe and warm during the winter months.

- Winterize your home:
 1. Install weather stripping, insulation and storm windows
 2. Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls
 3. Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks
 4. Keep snow from building up as much as possible to help prevent “ice damming”
- Check your heating systems
 1. Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly and ventilated to the outside.
 2. Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys
 3. Install a smoke detector. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year
 4. Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.
 5. Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies

Install a CO detector within 10 feet of **ALL** sleeping rooms to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries in the CO detectors and smoke detectors when you change your clocks in the fall and spring. Most homes have a flexible duct near the floor close to the furnace or water heater. Make sure that flexible duct is blocked or plugged. That duct is for bringing in outside air called “combustion air” for your furnace and water heater to function properly and safety.

Big Lake Public Library

Moving and Shaking at the Library



In the past, libraries have held a stigma of being for book lovers only. While we do still have an amazing selection of books, we have a lot more to offer that most people don't know about! The Big Lake Public Library is excited to host a series of events through out the spring of 2017.

Every Friday during February and March, the library will be hosting children's story times. Where children from ages 0-5 can come to hear a story and create a craft!

We also will be hosting the musical group Tres Mundos, teaching crafting classes for teens and adults. We will celebrate the history of Big Lake during National Library Week with fun, interactive crafts and displays.

As always, everything we offer is free and open to the public. For hours and information please call, visit us online, or just stop by during open hours!



www.griver.org/locations/big-lake



Public Works

Snow Season Reminders

- Please keep in mind that property owners are responsible to clear snow around their mailbox. The City will consider making repairs to mailboxes only if the snowplow equipment “physically” hits the mailbox or post, and only if the mailbox conforms to City Ordinance installation requirements. Contact Big Lake Public Works Department at 763-263-2268 with mailbox complaints.
- To prevent damage to lawns, landscape, irrigation heads or other items that will get buried under the snow along the curb or edge of the road, it is recommended that residents clearly mark these areas with reflective stakes.
- It is illegal to deposit snow on any City street.

Winter Parking

Parking is not allowed on any City street or roadway between November 1st and April 1st of every year, during the hours of 12:01 am and 8:00 am.

After a snowfall of two (2) inches or more, all streets in the City will be cleared of all motor vehicles for the purpose of snowplowing and/or removal.

If your vehicle should have mechanical failure and cannot be removed from the street during the required dates/times, please contact the Big Lake Police Department at 763-263-2500 and advise the officer on duty. This may help in avoiding a citation and/or your vehicle being impounded.

City Office Closings

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

- ◆ Monday, January 2nd - Observance of New Year’s Day
- ◆ Monday, January 16th—Martin Luther King Jr Day
- ◆ Monday, February 20th - Presidents Day



Chamber Expo!

The Big Lake Chamber of Commerce Business Expo...



Date: Sunday, March 5th
Time: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Location: Big Lake High School

Booths are available for rent. Registrations are due to the Chamber of Commerce by February 17th.
(Early Bird Discount - \$25 off by February 3rd)

763-263-7800
www.biglakechamber.com

Activities:

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



FREE ADMISSION

Fire Department

Department Training and Seasonal Reminders

- 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.
- Don't over load electrical circuits with supplemental heating equipment.
- Don't use propane heating units indoors where carbon monoxide build up can be fatal.
- We like to see residents adopt a fire hydrant, if there is one close to your property. Please help us help you and keep a 4 foot area clear of snow around it. The additional time it takes us to shovel it out uses up critical time when we need to access it for water to extinguish a fire.



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!

Miscellaneous

Congratulations!!



City Council Election Results

Mayor Elect:

Raeanne Danielowski

City Council Member Elects:

Seth Hansen & Dick Backlund



**New Council Members will be sworn in at the January 11, 2017 City Council Meeting.

Police Department

Canine Bruno Has Arrived (Cont.)

Sergeant Hayden and Bruno will begin training with Performance Kennels in late January. They will attend 4 weeks of narcotics detection training, return to work for four weeks, then return for 12 weeks of patrol dog school. The 12 week portion of the training will include; tracking, apprehension, agility, and obedience training. Sergeant Hayden and Bruno will be officially on patrol together in late May, we anxiously anticipate this time!

The Big Lake Police Department will host an open house in late February or early March for our generous donors and the public to meet Bruno, see the new canine squad, and meet his handler Sergeant Hayden. We will announce this date, time, and location in the very near future so stay tuned. As the Chief of Police, I cannot even begin to express enough gratitude to our local charitable organizations, businesses, and citizens who generously donated to this program and made it a reality for our department and community. Thank you!

We are so excited to watch this program develop for our department, and community. We also look forward to becoming a regional partner in canine programs. As always, I welcome discussion and feedback about how we are doing in the community, or just the opportunity to visit with our citizens.

Please feel free to stop by our office, call me at 763-251-2985, or email at; jscharf@biglakemn.org.

Joel D. Scharf – Chief of Police



Sergeant Matt Hayden and Bruno

Municipal Liquor Store



Happy New Year!! Thanks to all of our customers in 2016 for helping to make a profitable year. Please remember all of the profit from Lake Liquors goes back into our city!! At the end of 2016, we said good-bye to the liquor store manager, Jan Muehlbauer. Jan had been employed with the City of Big Lake for over 30 years.

We will be scheduling tasting on Fridays during the month of January with a special emphasis on Super Bowl weekend.

On February 17, 2017 we will be providing vendors for the craft beer and wine tasting for the Wildlife Refuge at the Friendly Buffalo.



On March 31, 2017, Lake Liquors will be helping the Big Lake Food Shelf with their annual fundraiser. Lake Liquors will be providing craft beer and wine vendors for this event. We will also have our annual spring wine sale coincide with this tasting.

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 Lisa at the liquor store at 763-263-3673 or email lmiller@biglakemn.org

You can also find us on Facebook and our website— www.lakeliqorsmn.com

10%



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

****Starting January 1st, 2017****

City Hall Core Hours:

Monday—Friday

8:00 am—5:00 pm

All other City Building hours stay the same as follows:

Public Works Hours: 7:00 am—3:30 pm

Police Department Hours: 8:00 am—4:30 pm

Monday—Friday

2017 Farmers Market

Call for Vendors!!



Every Wednesday from 3pm to 7pm at Lakeside Park
June 7th to September 27th

Make sure to fill out an application. ➤ City Website: www.biglakemn.org
City Hall

Application Deadline is Friday, May 5, 2017

There are two options for the fee:

1. Season - \$75
2. Weekly - \$10

(Make checks payable to "City of Big Lake" with "Farmers Market" in memo line)

Corrie Scott will be returning for another season as the Farmers Market Coordinator.
If you have any questions, contact Corrie at cscott@biglakemn.org or 763-228-1361.

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