



The Big Lake Wave

October / November / December 2018

State General Election Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. There are three precincts in the City of Big Lake as described on the precinct map on page 2.

Who can vote in Minnesota?

You must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old on Election Day
- A resident of Minnesota for 20 days
- Finished with all parts of any felony sentence
- You can vote while under guardianship unless a judge specifically has revoked your right to vote
- You cannot vote if a court has ruled that you are legally incompetent

Chamber of Commerce Political Candidate Forum

The Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry is hosting a Political Candidate Forum on Monday, October 22 at the Big Lake High School Auditorium. A Candidate Meet n' Greet will start at 6:00 p.m. and the Forum will start at 6:30 p.m.

Candidates invited to participate in the Forum include those running for Big Lake City Council, Big Lake School Board, U.S. Congressional District 6, U.S. Senate, State Representative District 30A, and Sherburne County Commissioner District 2.

All citizens are encouraged to come out and hear what the candidates have to say and where they stand on issues that will impact our community. The public will be able to submit questions for the candidates during the Forum. The Forum will be videotaped by the Sherburne Wright Cable Commission and will play back on the Chamber Website and government channel 180 (Charter customers).

Contact the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry with any questions at 763-263-7800 or by email at info@biglakechamber.com.

Big Lake City Council Candidates

City of Big Lake residents will elect two City Council Members at the November 6 General Election. The following City of Big Lake residents have filed for office to fill these seats:



TWO CITY COUNCIL SEATS

- ◆ Mike Wallen
- ◆ Rose Johnson
- ◆ Joe Doyle
- ◆ Duane Langsdorf
- ◆ Paul Knier



Big Lake City Council 2018

Mayor	Council Member	Council Member	Council Member	Council Member
Raeanne Danielowski	Dick Backlund	Seth Hansen	Duane Langsdorf	Mike Wallen
763-263-3801	763-260-0371	763-262-6282	763-263-7867	763-286-3842
rdanielowski@biglakemn.org	dbacklund@biglakemn.org	shansen@biglakemn.org	dlangsdorf@biglakemn.org	mwallen@biglakemn.org

Vote By Absentee Ballot

VOTE EARLY (Absentee)

In Minnesota, you can vote early with an absentee ballot starting 46 days before Election Day (started Sept. 21).

- ◆ **Vote Early By Mail** - To vote by mail, apply to have an absentee ballot mailed to you. You do not need to be registered to apply. Applications can be obtained from the web address listed below in the yellow box.
- ◆ **Vote Early in Person** - You can vote early with an absentee ballot at the Sherburne County Government Center located at 13880 Business Center Dr. NW, Elk River, MN. If you are not registered, you can do so in person if you show proof of residence.
- ◆ **Vote From Military or Abroad** - Serving in the military or living abroad? Have an absentee ballot sent to you wherever you are in the world! Contact the Sherburne County Auditors Office at 763-765-4351 or apply online at: <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/UocavaRegistration/UocavaStep1.aspx>
- ◆ **Track Your Absentee Ballot** - You are able to find out where your absentee or mail ballot is in the process through the MN Secretary of State Election Website: <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx>

Additional Information on Absentee Voting is available on the MN Secretary of State Website:

<http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/>

Or ~Vote on Election Day!

Polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Precinct # 1 Big Lake City Hall – 160 Lake St. No.

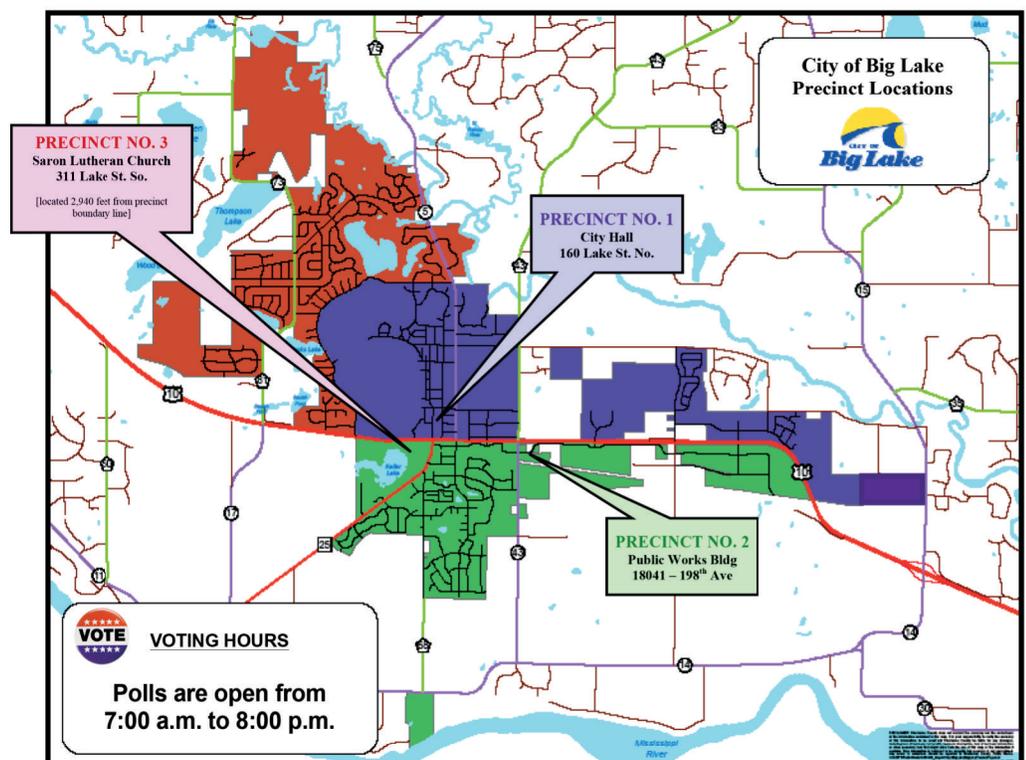
All residents who live on the north side of Hwy 10 and east of Lakeshore Drive -or- south of Hiawatha Avenue will vote at Big Lake City Hall (located at the intersection of Hwy 10 and 25).

Precinct # 2 Public Works Building 18041 – 198th Ave.

All residents who live on the south side of Highway 10 will vote at the Big Lake Public Works Building (located by the water tower site along Hwy 10).

Precinct # 3 Saron Lutheran Church—311 Lake St. So.

All residents who live on the north side of Hwy 10 and west of Lakeshore Drive -or- north of Hiawatha Avenue will vote at Saron Lutheran Church.



Proposed Property Tax Levy 2019

The proposed Property Tax Levy for 2019 is \$4,332,484; the City's tax rate is anticipated to be 52.99%, which is a **decrease** of 3.33% over 2018 tax rate. This is due to an increase in the City's overall market value of approximately 9.07% increase. Most residents will see only a 4% or less increase. Below is a summary of estimated city property taxes based on the following home values:

Mark your calendars! The 2019 Budget and Levy Public Input Meeting will be held on Tuesday November 27 at 6:00 p.m. at Big Lake City Hall Council Chambers.

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 27
6:00 P.M.**



Assessed Value	Estimated Annual City Property Tax	Estimated Annual Increase for City Property Tax
\$163,605	\$ 747.63	\$36.58
\$218,140	\$1,062.62	\$44.64
\$272,675	\$1,377.61	\$52.70
\$327,210	\$1,692.60	\$60.76

What makes my property tax bill change from year to year?

- My property's value
- My neighbor's property value
- My City Council, my County Board, and my School Board
- The State Legislature
- All of the above

Answer: All of the above

The decisions of your City Council, County Board, and School Board regarding the amount of tax dollars they need to deliver services may be the most obvious factor in your property tax bill. However, the value of your property, the total value of all the property in your community, changes in state programs, and changes in state laws that affect the tax system also play a role. Changes in any of these factors can make your tax bill go up in some years and down in others.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – PROVIDED BY THE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES

Q: Some of the local news coverage talks about city budgets and other coverage talks about city levies. Are they the same thing?

A: The property tax levy is the amount of money that the city (or other local government) decides it needs to collect from property owners in order to deliver services. Property taxes, however, are just part of the overall city budget. The budget includes both discretionary spending (for services the city is free to choose to provide) and non-discretionary spending (to meet obligations such as paying off debt). The budget includes all the dollars the city collects from various sources – fees, grants, revenue sharing, and property taxes.

Q: What do I get for my property taxes?

A: Local governments receive the money they use to deliver services from a few different sources: property taxes, fees, revenue sharing with the state, and grants. Property tax dollars pay for the services that everyone in the community – as well as visitors, commuters, and tourists – can access. This includes things like streets, police and fire services, parks, and libraries. Other services – like economic development programs to help businesses grow and develop, snowplowing, garbage removal, and recycling are also typically paid for with tax dollars.

Proposed Property Tax Levy 2019 (Cont.)

Q: How does the city – or any local government – decide what services to provide?

A: City Councils review the services they currently provide and think about what local preferences are and what population trends suggest about the kinds of services people will need. For example, one community might favor running its own pool while another does not see the need. Communities with lots of young families need to offer different kinds of services than communities seeing big increases in the number of senior residents. Sometimes cities have to provide certain services in order to comply with state or federal laws. Some common examples are requirements for testing drinking water and making public buildings accessible to people with disabilities.

Q: How does the city decide how much to collect in property taxes?

A: Cities look at their costs – like gasoline, road salt, salaries, and building repairs. They also determine the amount of money the city needs to provide the services residents expect and depend on. Councils then examine the dollars coming into the city from other sources – like fees people pay for building permits or to license their dogs, grants from state and federal governments, and state revenue sharing. Property taxes make up the gap between money coming in from non-tax sources and the money needed to run the city. Other local governments (e.g., counties, schools) go through a similar process to set their property tax amount.

Q: Are property taxes the only way that the city takes in money?

A: Cities have several sources of revenue, but the two largest sources are property taxes and state revenue sharing. Property taxes are collected from the owners of homes, businesses, and farms within the city. The sales taxes, income taxes, and gas taxes that we all pay to the state actually fund state aid dollars, such as local government aid and municipal state aid for roads. Some of these dollars are redistributed to cities through revenue sharing.

Cities also get money from a few other sources. One source of revenue is fees. Some examples of common fees that people pay to cities are for: dog licenses, building permits, use of the city park facilities, fines for failure to remove snow from sidewalk, and water and sewer services. Cities also get some money from grants. These come from the state or federal government and are used for very specific purposes such as a building or equipment improvement.

City Office Closings and Meeting Changes

CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

- ◆ Monday, October 8 - Closed - Staff Training
- ◆ Monday, November 12 - Veteran's Day Observed
- ◆ Thursday & Friday, November 22 / 23 - Thanksgiving Holiday
- ◆ Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve - **open 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
- ◆ Tuesday, December 25 - Christmas Holiday
- ◆ Tuesday, January 1, 2019 - New Year's Holiday

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CHANGES:

- ◆ The 2nd meeting in November (28) has **NOT** been cancelled. The Workshop will start at 5:00 p.m. and the Regular Meeting will start at 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ The 2nd meeting in December (26) has been **cancelled** due to the Christmas Holiday.



Winter Notices

- **Snow/Ice on Sidewalks:** The owner or occupant of any premises within the City of Big Lake shall clean the sidewalks, in front of, and/or beside the premises, of snow and loose or melting ice within 24 hours after completion of any snowfall. If owner/occupant fails to clear their sidewalk within required time frame, the City of Big Lake or contractor will clear sidewalk and bill the property owner for all costs.



- **Snow Season Reminders:**

1. 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 at 763-263-2268 with mailbox complaints.
2. To prevent damage to lawns, landscape, irrigation heads or other items that will get buried under snow along the curb or edge of the road, it is recommended that residents clearly mark these areas with reflective stakes.
3. It is illegal to deposit snow on any City Street.

Business Spotlight



LISI MEDICAL Remmele Big Lake is part of LISI Group; a 241 year old French company. Today LISI Group employs nearly 11,000 people in 14 countries, with three divisions focusing on the aerospace, automotive, and medical sectors. LISI Group is a publicly traded company in Europe, with the combined LISI Divisions creating annual sales of more than \$1.9 billion in 2017. LISI MEDICAL division has 5 facilities globally with three in the USA: Big Lake & Coon Rapids, MN, and one in Escondido, CA, and two in France: Neyron, and Herouville Saint-Clair.

The Big Lake facility manufactures medical components and assemblies for minimally invasive surgeries, surgical robotics, dental surgeries and implants, and bone and skeletal repair. All of Big Lake’s products are used to help sick or injured people get back to full health.

LISI is a very green company. The Big Lake expansion features a lot of large windows for natural light, something not normally seen in a machine shop building. All fluids, oils and manufacturing wastes are recycled. The Big Lake building construction was conceived with an environmental goal of zero net ground addition/extraction. Crews extracted 3 million square yards of dirt, but none left the site, and none was brought in.

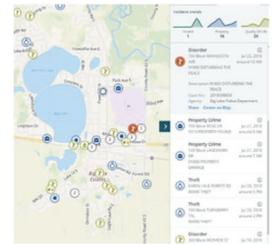
LISI is a growing company and is always in need of good people with a variety of skillsets. Experienced machinists can start right away. LISI also needs people with skill sets suited to: administration, engineering, light assembly, quality and inspection, shipping/receiving, maintenance, finance, sales and many others. LISI offers training, apprentice programs, and a very competitive compensation and benefits program. LISI MEDICAL and all of its employees, in Big Lake and across the globe, are very proud of the work they do and all of the people they’ve helped.

Big Lake Police Department

BLPD Goes Live with Online Services

As our society becomes continually more integrated with internet-based services, the Big Lake Police Department strives to be on the cutting edge of the rapidly expanding technology. Your Big Lake Police Department recently went live with a whole host of new services that can be accessed online at www.biglakepolice.com. This new technology allows our residents to undertake the following services at their convenience;

- **Interactive Crime Map:** View our calls for service in real time, sign up for crime alerts in your neighborhood, and view specific crime trends in your community in this map-based format. This new tool takes transparency of crime and calls for service to a whole new level.
- **Make a Police Report:** This new platform allows our citizens to file a police report online, with the option to request an officer to contact them, or just document what took place and receive a report number.
- **Request Police Reports:** Requests for police services can now be undertaken online with an interactive data request form.
- **Appeal a Parking Citation:** Disagree with a parking citation we issued you? File an appeal online and receive a timely response to your request.
- **Request Residential Security Check:** Are you going to be away from home for an extended period? Feel free to request a residential security check and our staff will check on your home while you're away.
- **Neighborhood Concern—Crime Tip:** Do you want to report something taking place in your neighborhood or provide a crime tip? You can do so anonymously or leave your name.



Please check us out online, or as always, we are one call away! To request an officer or make a police report, call us on 763-765-3595. 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 or email me.



Joel D. Scharf, Chief of Police
jscharf@biglakepolice.com

Our new BLPD Phone Number: 763-251-2996

Municipal Liquor Store

OCTOBER NEWS:



- In October, there will be Breast Cancer Awareness specials all month long. Donations will be made to several charities.
- Big Lake Association Wine/Beer tasting events will be held at the Friendly Buffalo:
 - ⇒ October 5 - 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
 - ⇒ November 9 - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

- Fall Wine Sale will be November 9 - 17.
- Weekly Specials:
 - * Mondays: 10% discount for seniors 62 or older
 - * Tuesdays: 10% discount on wine
 - * We also offer a 10% or more discount on solid case buys of wine or spirits.

LIQUOR STORE HOLIDAY HOURS:

- Nov. 22 - Thanksgiving Day:
Closed
- Dec. 9: Closed—Inventory
- Christmas Eve: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Christmas Day: Closed



Big Lake Fire Department

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK ACTIVITIES

- ◆ The first week of October is Fire Prevention Week. Fire Department members will be making visits to area schools, meeting with students to talk about fire safety and educating them about what it's like to be a fire fighter.
- ◆ The Department's message comes together at one of the largest attended fire prevention open houses in the state. This event will be held on **Sunday, October 7, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** The open house is held at the Big Lake Fire Hall located at 20243 County Road 43, Big Lake, MN. Several outside agencies will have representatives on hand to answer questions regarding anything from natural gas leaks to medical questions. We will have a live kitchen fire demonstration as well as the "Jaws of life" for auto extraction. Stop by to see what your fire department has to offer and ask any questions about how the department operates. Also, each child will receive a free pumpkin and have an opportunity to go on a ride in a fire truck!
- ◆ The BLFD has recently hired 6 new recruits. They started class Sept. 19 and will be doing their training two nights a week for the next 6 months. We are excited to get them trained and happy to have them join our team.

SEASONAL REMINDERS

- ◆ The Department would like to remind residents this is the time of year to change your smoke detector and carbon monoxide batteries.
- ◆ Have your furnace and flue pipes inspected if you burn wood, and have your chimney checked for any cracks or creosote buildup.
- ◆ Burning of leaves and brush is **not** permitted in City limits.
- ◆ If winter comes early and we experience heavy snow falls, please help us by shoveling out any fire hydrants that may be in front of your house or business.

**THANK YOU FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY,
AND TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR DEDICATION
AND COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY!**



Public Works Employment

Public Works Permanent Part-Time

Public Works is now accepting applications from individuals age 18 and older. Hours will vary with a maximum of up to 25 hours per week and may include weekends and evenings. Flexible hours. Pay range is \$15.00 - \$20.00 per hour.

- Minimum Qualifications: Valid Minnesota Driver's License

Applications can be found at www.biglakemn.org and submitted electronically via online/email, or at City Hall during business hours of Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Open until filled.

Storm Water Information

What is an Illicit Discharge?

The answer is anything that enters our storm water system that is not clean water. Typically, if it is dumped on the ground or enters the curb line or storm sewer pipes, it is considered an illicit discharge. Illicit generally means illegal.

Our storm sewer systems carry water directly to our lakes, rivers, and wetlands. This water does not go to a treatment plant before entering our surface water. To maintain drinkable, fishable, and swimmable water and to prevent pollution from entering our waterbodies, only storm water should enter a storm sewer system. If anything else, such as oil, chemicals, or sediment, enters the system it is usually an illicit discharge.

The State required the City to pass an ordinance to prohibit illicit discharges and connections. Big Lake City Code and the State storm water permit are the regulatory mechanisms the City uses to regulate and prohibit the discharge of non-storm water into street, curbs, pipes, ponds, wetlands, streams and lakes. Additionally, the City's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) has illicit discharge components integrated throughout the document.

Everyone needs to follow the rules including construction sites, schools, and the City. City staff is required to identify, investigate, respond and eliminate any discharge to the storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of storm water. This basically means that if City staff sees something looking illicit, they need to determine:

- What is it?
- Where is it coming from?
- Who is the responsible party?
- How do we stop it?

Some examples of likely illicit discharges are:

- Fluids from vehicles
- Eroding soils into waterway or street
- Grass clippings on gutter or street
- Leaves raked into gutter or street
- Erosion from construction sites
- Dumping concrete on the ground
- Dumping any hazardous material on the ground
- Plumbing cross connections
- Sanitary sewer connection to a storm sewer



Often times when we find an illicit discharge all that is needed is an explanation followed by an immediate clean up response. It typically is a one time discussion. We prefer to keep it at the discussion level and don't want to elevate it to an enforcement action.

If you have any questions you can contact: City Engineer Layne Otteson, P.E. at 763-251-2984 or lotteson@biglakemn.org.

Other related storm water resources:

- ◇ www.epa.gov/npdes/national-menu-best-management-practices-bmps-stormwater#ill
- ◇ https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php?title=MCM_3_Illicit_Discharge_Detection_and_Elimination
- ◇ www.sherburneswcd.org

Building Permit Reminders

There are a few things to keep in mind if you are having work done to your property:

- ⇒ Permits are required for many things including reroofing, residing, window / door replacements, building a deck, interior remodels and more. See a complete list on the City's website www.biglakemn.org.
- ⇒ Building permits and inspections help to ensure building projects meet minimum safety and building protection requirements.
- ⇒ A licensed contractor or homeowner can pull permits. Make sure to apply in advance as some applications require review and can take a few days to weeks.
- ⇒ Certain permits are available same day (over-the-counter). These are found on the City's website.

If you have any questions regarding permits, please call the inspection line (Trisha Lindahl) at 763-251-2971; tlindahl@biglakemn.org or visit the City's website www.biglakemn.org.



Sustainability Task Force

This volunteer group, made up of Big Lake residents, is dedicated to environmental preservation and education. With the assistance of City staff, these volunteers promote and staff environmental education opportunities for Big Lake residents. They also work with community organizations and businesses to make Big Lake a more environmentally sustainable city. Interested in joining? Contact Corrie Scott at cscott@biglakemn.org or attend one of the upcoming meetings. The meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Big Lake Council Chambers located within City Hall at 160 Lake St N, Big Lake, MN 55309.

Big Lake Bicycle Advisory Committee

This volunteer group is made up of Big Lake residents and community leaders that advocate for a more bike-able City. With the help of City staff, the Bicycle Advisory Committee is presenting an educational campaign and proposed infrastructure improvements to the City of Big Lake and its residents. If you are interested in joining this committee, contact Corrie Scott at cscott@biglakemn.org or attend one the upcoming meetings. The meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in the Big lake Council Chamber located within City Hall at 160 Lake St N, Big Lake, MN 55309.



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

Misc. Information

Please Keep Leaves out of Streets: Leaves and grass clippings, woody debris, and other waste materials left in the streets will flow directly into the storm sewer system. Storm sewers send water to some form of water body such as lakes, rivers or wetlands. Large quantities of leaves will clog or plug storm sewer inlets and piping. Clogged or plugged storm drains cannot move water as efficiently, which may cause localized flooding. Although fall street sweeping is a yearly maintenance program, your adjacent street may not be swept before leaves are washed into the storm sewer system. Don't rake leaves into the street for street sweeper pick-up. Leaves can be dropped off at the Big Lake Compost Facility located at 18041 198th Avenue, Big Lake, MN.



COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR!

City of Big Lake, MN



Citizens and Business Leaders are invited to join Mayor Raeanne Danielowski for coffee and casual conversation to exchange information and discover ways to work together to improve Big Lake and enhance the quality of life for all who live and work here.

Each month, Mayor Danielowski will serve as your host for Coffee with the Mayor events.

- ENJOY SPIRITED CONVERSATIONS
- RECEIVE CITY UPDATES
- DISCUSS ISSUES/CONCERNS
- ASK QUESTIONS
- OFFER COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS
- All while enjoying a fresh cup of coffee and a snack!

Please take the time to come out and help Big Lake become the best that it can be! There is no charge to attend these events. All are welcome!

HELD EVERY 2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH
9am to 11am at:
Coborn's Deli
711 Rose Drive, Big Lake, MN

**Legacy Foundation
Tree Lighting**

Monday, Nov. 26

Program starts at 6:30 p.m.

Tree Lighting at 7:00 p.m.

**Ice Rinks near Big Lake
City Hall**

160 Lake Street North

Beverages and snacks to follow at the Carousel Works.



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

