

# The Big Lake Wave

January / February / March 2019



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Snow Removal Information	Pg. 1
Water/Sewer Information	Pg. 2
City Budget	Pg. 2
Employment	Pg. 3
Library Events	Pg. 3
Lake Liquors	Pg. 4
Snow Season Reminders	Pg. 4
Building Dept. Information	Pg. 5
Business Spotlight	Pg. 5
Fire Department	Pg. 6
Police Department	Pg. 6
Misc. Information	Pg. 7
City Contact Information	Pg. 8

### City Offices Will be Closed in Observation of the Following Holidays:

- ◆ Tuesday, January 1 - New Year's Day
- ◆ Monday, January 21 - Martin Luther King Jr Day
- ◆ Monday, February 18 - Presidents Day

Happy New Year



## Tis the Season! Snow Removal

The City of Big Lake would like to remind all residents and business owners of the snow removal ordinance:



### Section 550 - Sidewalks

**550.01 Clean Walks Required.** The owner or occupant of any premises in the City shall clear the sidewalk in front of or beside the premises, of snow and loose or melting ice within twenty-four hours after the completion of any snowfall.

The City received numerous complaints about un-shoveled sidewalks during the winter of 2017-2018 and we have updated our enforcement policy to more effectively keep our streets safe. Big Lake is a walkable community and many residents, especially children and those with physical handicaps who cannot drive, rely on the sidewalk system to safely navigate their neighborhoods and to access community resources. It only takes one snowy/icy sidewalk section to force pedestrians into the road where their safety is compromised.

If a sidewalk is found to be out of compliance with the ordinance, the City's authorized contractor will clear the sidewalk and the property owner will be sent a bill. The bill will include a \$163 administrative fee as well as the cost of the contractor's hourly rate. The City's authorized contractor will be performing a *sweep* of the City's sidewalk system following any snow event that drops at least two inches of snow on the City or any series of snow events that leads to over two inches of accumulation. The authorized contractor will clear any snowy sidewalks that he encounters and the property owners will be billed accordingly. The City will always provide notice on its website and Facebook page before a *sweep* takes place and the City will always wait at least 24 hours after the snow has stopped before sending out the authorized contractor to perform a *sweep*. Please note that property owners must shovel their sidewalks even if less than two inches of snow has fallen. In addition to the automatic *sweeps* after heavy snowfalls, the City will also be sending out its authorized contractor to respond to complaints about un-shoveled sidewalks after any snow event.

You can learn more about the ordinance and you can sign up to receive text or email notifications the day before the City's authorized contractor is going to perform a *sweep* by visiting this webpage: <http://www.biglakemn.org/486/Sidewalk-Snow-Removal>.

If you have any additional questions regarding the ordinance, please call City Planner Michael Healy at 763-251-2977.

**\*\*\*WATER SHUT OFFS WILL BEGIN APRIL 15, 2019\*\*\***

Beginning April 1, 2019, 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 15, 2019, your water service may be disconnected.

Pay online at [www.biglakemn.org](http://www.biglakemn.org) or by phone with PSN at 877-885-7968. **PSN**  
 No longer want to receive the paper bill in the mail? Opt out of the paper bill to receive an email bill and also a .50¢ credit monthly.

## City Budget

Your City's Finance Department kicks into high gear during the summer months preparing for the upcoming year and beyond by preparing final budgets, examining the City's Capital Improvement Plan, and thinking about investment opportunities. Below you will see the Summary Budget for 2019, adopted 12/12/18.

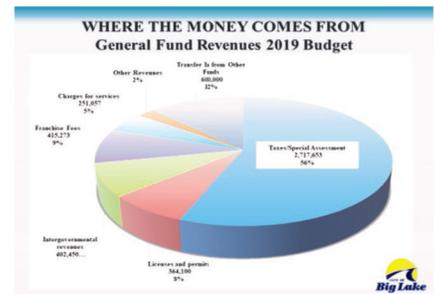
Please contact Deb W. at 763-251-2974 or [dwegeleben@biglakemn.org](mailto:dwegeleben@biglakemn.org) if you have any questions.

### City of Big Lake, Minnesota General Fund Budget Summary Budget 2019



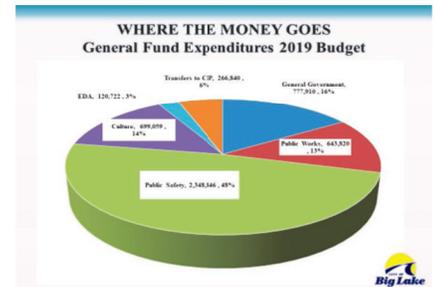
#### Revenue Budget

	2018 Adopted Budget	2019 Adopted Budget	2018-2019	
			\$ Change	% Change
<b>General Fund Revenues</b>				
Property Taxes	\$ 2,726,289	\$ 2,717,153	\$ (9,136)	-0.34%
Special Assessments	1,500	500	(1,000)	-66.67%
Licenses & Permits	501,725	364,100	(137,625)	-27.43%
Intergovernmental	388,784	402,450	13,666	3.52%
Franchise Fees	392,000	415,273	23,273	5.94%
Charges for Services	242,744	251,057	8,313	3.42%
Fines & Forfeitures	41,350	46,525	5,175	12.52%
Investment Income	25,000	31,500	6,500	26.00%
Contributions/Donations	3,000	6,000	3,000	100.00%
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	7,000	7,000	100.00%
Transfer In	375,000	600,000	225,000	60.00%
<b>Total - Current Year Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 4,697,392</b>	<b>\$ 4,841,558</b>	<b>\$ 144,166</b>	<b>3.07%</b>
Prior year donations - Designed Fund Balance		15,640	15,640	100.00%
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 4,697,392</b>	<b>\$ 4,857,198</b>	<b>\$ 159,806</b>	<b>3.40%</b>



#### Expenditure Budget

	2018 Adopted Budget	2019 Adopted Budget	2018-2019	
			\$ Change	% Change
<b>Service</b>				
<b>General Government</b>				
Mayor/Council	\$ 33,570	\$ 33,773	\$ 203	0.60%
Planning	160,791	172,160	11,369	7.07%
Elections	20,800	3,400	(17,400)	-83.65%
Administration/Finance	743,674	725,891	(17,783)	-2.39%
IT - Computer/Software	-	77,786	77,786	100.00%
<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>958,835</b>	<b>1,013,010</b>	<b>54,175</b>	<b>5.65%</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>				
Police	\$ 1,770,852	\$ 1,871,602	\$ 100,750	5.69%
Fire	267,469	269,617	2,148	0.80%
Building	207,594	195,566	(12,028)	-5.79%
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>2,245,915</b>	<b>2,336,785</b>	<b>90,870</b>	<b>4.05%</b>
<b>Streets &amp; Highways</b>				
Engineering	\$ 57,435	\$ 60,636	\$ 3,201	5.57%
Streets	609,702	616,485	6,783	1.11%
<b>Total Streets &amp; Highways</b>	<b>667,137</b>	<b>677,121</b>	<b>9,984</b>	<b>1.50%</b>
<b>Culture &amp; Recreation</b>				
Parks	\$ 487,070	\$ 543,931	\$ 56,861	11.67%
BLCSC	65,625	64,383	(1,242)	-1.89%
Community - Recreation (other)	95,665	101,745	6,080	6.36%
<b>Total Culture &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>648,360</b>	<b>710,059</b>	<b>61,699</b>	<b>9.52%</b>
<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>\$ 177,144</b>	<b>\$ 120,222</b>	<b>\$ (56,922)</b>	<b>-32.13%</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 4,697,392</b>	<b>\$ 4,857,198</b>	<b>\$ 159,806</b>	<b>3.40%</b>



Budgeted (Use) /excess of Reserves: \$ - \$ - \$ -  
 Unassigned Fund Balance - Projected \$ 3,054,570 \$ 3,054,570  
 Percentage of Expenditures: 65.03% 59.36%

#### Taxes Help Maintain Our Quality of Life:

For the safety of our community it costs \$1.20 per day, less than the cost of an expresso.

For the maintenance of the wonderful parks and lakes it costs \$0.4 per day, less than the cost of an ice cream cone.

For the great crew that keeps our streets in order it costs \$0.20 per day.

Based on Home Value of \$119,000. For tax cost: \$127.

# Public Works Position Opening!

Your City of Big Lake Public Works Department is accepting applications from individuals age 18 and older for permanent part time employment. Hours vary with maximum up to 25 hours per week and may include weekends and evenings, flexible hours. Pay range is \$15.00 to \$20.00 per hour.

Minimum Qualification: Valid Minnesota Driver's License.

Applications are available at: Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake St N, Big Lake, MN 55309 between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or available online at [www.biglakemn.org](http://www.biglakemn.org). If you have any questions, please call Public Works Director Mike Goebel at 763-251-8010. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

## Parks Committee Opening!

Any City resident interested in serving on the Parks Advisory Committee may apply to City Hall by letter addressed to the City of Big Lake. Please describe your reason(s) for applying as well as your employment and / or educational background which may be relevant to the position. Letters of application should be mailed to or dropped off at: Big Lake City Hall, Attention: Mike Goebel, Public Works Director, 160 Lake St N, Big Lake, MN 55309. Applications will be accepted until vacancies are filled.

## Great River Regional Library—Event Schedule

### January

- ⇒ Storytime - Fridays (4, 11, 18, 25) @ 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- ⇒ Adult Friends of the Big Lake Library - Monday Jan. 7 @ 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- ⇒ ECFE @ the Library - Tuesday Jan. 29 @ 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

### February

- ⇒ Storytime - Fridays (1, 8, 15, 22) @ 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- ⇒ Adult Friends of the Big Lake Library - Monday Feb. 4 @ 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Author Event - Meet Brian Freeman - Monday Feb. 4 @ 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Colorful Heart Art Class - Monday Feb. 11 @ 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Yoga Storytime - Tuesday Feb. 19 @ 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- ⇒ Duct Tape Class - Wednesday Feb. 20 @ 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Great Creative Art Night - Monday Feb 25 @ 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- ⇒ ECFE @ the Library - Tuesday Feb. 26 @ 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

### March

- ⇒ No events scheduled yet



For more information, go to the GRRL website at [www.griver.org](http://www.griver.org)

## Municipal Liquor Store

Thank you for supporting your liquor store and making 2018 a successful year. Remember ALL profits from the store stay in the Big Lake community to help pay for projects and reduce the tax burden on residents.

2018 saw some changes to Lake Liquors. We have a new store layout with different shelving. The shelving is lower and has new signage in each section. We also created an expanded warm beer section for new craft beers. We continue to improve the point-of-sale system to make for a better customer experience. The store will continue to evolve as trends and customer needs change.

### Discount Days:

- ◇ Mondays: Senior Discount (age 62+) - 10% off regular priced items
- ◇ Tuesdays: Wine Day - 10% off regular priced wines

In addition to our discount days, we have created deep case discounts on many of your favorite spirits. We also offer case discounts on wine and spirits every day. Customer requests are welcome.

We will be having our Spring Sale from March 29 - April 6. We will kick off the sale with a fundraiser for the *All Night Class Party* on Friday, March 29 at the Friendly Buffalo.



### *Holiday Hours:*

*Monday, December 24 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

*Tuesday, December 25 - Closed*

*Tuesday, January 1 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

## 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 1 and April 1 of every year, during the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.**

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 763-251-2996 and advise the officer on duty. This may help in avoiding a citation and/or your vehicle being impounded.



## 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 alarm. 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.

Change batteries in the CO alarms and smoke alarms 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 *not* 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.

## Business Spotlight



Did you know that right in your backyard is a 150,000 square foot plant that manufactures Aerospace and Defense, Radar, Fluid Management, Space and Missile Systems? Meet Arconic, formerly known as Remmele Engineering! The Big Lake plant is one of three facilities in Minnesota, located off Hwy 10. They employ 150 individuals from managers to machinists, deburrs and assemblers who manufacture mid to large size parts, mostly out of aluminum, for Military and Aerospace OEM customers. Arconic partners with the area’s technical schools as well as Big Lake High School on programs to encourage careers in STEM and manufacturing. Arconic is a \$13B global company that was a spinoff from ALCOA in November 2016. Check out their website: [www.arconic.com](http://www.arconic.com) to learn more!

## Fire Department

- Your Big Lake Fire Department has been able to purchase a set of battery operated auto extrication equipment. This set replaces the previous set that is over 30 years old. We were able to purchase this equipment due to generous donations from the community. Also, a large sum of the contributions came from the BLFDRA through proceeds from their annual fire department dance. We have been so fortunate to be able to place an order for a new 3,000 gallon tender truck that is supposed to be delivered by April, 2019 which will be replacing the current tender from 1988.
- The 2018 Fire Department Open House was a huge success! Once again, Pete Ahrens graciously donated pumpkins to be given away in "Pete's Pumpkin Patch". Pete is a retired BLFD firefighter and his hard work and generosity was greatly appreciated!
- For the first time, we demonstrated how to use a fire extinguisher. This exhibit was a great success and everyone learned a lot. Your fire department would also like to thank all the other organizations for their safety displays and demonstrations. The next open house will be in October 2019. All are welcome!
- Your BLFD has hired 6 new recruits. They started training in September and will be doing their training two nights a week for the next 6 months. We are excited to have them join our team.
- We have started a duty officer program, on a limited basis. This program was created to help with coverage on holidays and weekends when coverage may be light. The program was implemented to ensure there is someone that would be in command to respond to any fire calls.



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!

## Police Department—Nextdoor.com



**Nextdoor**

In our ongoing quest to enhance engagement with our residents, The Big Lake Police Department has joined a new social media platform called Nextdoor.com. Our goal with this new tool will be to communicate with specific neighborhoods, and most importantly, to enable neighbors to communicate with one another. This is a trusted platform which allows neighbors to work together to build stronger, safer, and happier communities. We currently have 1,050 Big Lake residents interacting on Nextdoor.

Nextdoor is the world's largest communications platform for neighborhoods. On Nextdoor, neighbors create private online communities that help build stronger and safer places to call home. Building connections in the real world is a universal human need. That truth, and the reality that neighborhoods are one of the most important and useful communities in our lives, has been a source of inspiration and a guiding principle for Nextdoor since it was founded. Today, Nextdoor supports more than 210,000 neighborhoods around the world who are using it to:

- Find a trustworthy babysitter or recommended house painter.
- Spread the word about a lost dog.
- Organize a neighborhood watch group or quickly get the word out about a break-in.
- Share information during a natural disaster.
- Receive information from local public agencies.
- Find a new home for an outgrown bicycle.
- And..... Communicate with their law enforcement partners.



The Big Lake Police Department encourages you to join and explore Nextdoor to communicate with their neighbors about block parties (National Night Out), suspicious activity, and other concerns in your neighborhood. It is our intention to build online neighborhoods throughout your City. You will also receive information that we push out city wide, and to specific neighborhoods. We will update neighborhoods on possible criminal activity happening in your area and other items of interest. We also rely on you to help be our eyes and ears of this great community! Nextdoor is free, and it's easy to sign up. If you have any questions, please reach out to Chief Scharf at: [jscharf@biglakepolice.com](mailto:jscharf@biglakepolice.com).



# Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

June 5 - September 25, 2019

Lakeside Park, 101 Lakeshore Drive, Big Lake, MN

## Call for Vendors!

Looking for somewhere to sell your homemade and homegrown products? Contact the Big Lake Farmers Market at 612.297.6331.

*Debit/Credit Accepted*  
*Snap/EBT Accepted*  
*Free Parking*  
*Power of Produce*  
*Weekly Music*

[cscott@biglakemn.org](mailto:cscott@biglakemn.org)  
612.297.6331

**Hey There!** Your City of Big Lake is collecting readership data about the Big Lake Wave Newsletter. Our target audience involves everyone who receives the quarterly newsletter. If you participate in the short survey, you will be entered into a drawing for a chance to WIN a prize from the City of Big Lake. The survey results will teach us how we can better provide information to our residents. We will **not** spam you in any way! All information is used specifically for our research. If you would like to participate in the survey, please contact Trisha Lindahl at 763-251-2971; email [tindahl@biglakemn.org](mailto:tindahl@biglakemn.org); come into City Hall or mail the bottom survey to City Hall: 160 Lake St N, Big Lake, MN 55309, Attention: Trisha Lindahl.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number or Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Do you read the City Newsletter? Yes  No

\*What do you like reading in the newsletter?

\*Would you like to receive the newsletter monthly vs. quarterly? Yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Would you be interested in receiving an email newsletter vs. in the mail? Yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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

Big Lake Wave is published quarterly by your City of Big Lake to update residents and businesses on city government news.

### City Council

Mayor Seat - Vacant

Mike Wallen, Acting Mayor/ Council Member

763-286-3842, mwallen@biglakemn.org

Dick Backlund, Council Member

763-260-0371, dbacklund@biglakemn.org

Seth Hansen, Council Member

763-262-6282, shansen@biglakemn.org

Paul Knier, Council Member

612-817-6758, pknier@biglakemn.org

### Contact the City

Phone..... 763-263-2107

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

### View Meetings

Live on Channel 180, 6:00 p.m.

On-demand video link at city website

**City Council:** Jan. 9, 23 | Feb. 13, 27 | March 13, 27  
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

**Planning Commission:** Jan. 2 | Feb. 6 | March 6  
(6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers)

### Connect with Big Lake City



www.biglakemn.org



Like us on Facebook, facebook.com/City of Big Lake, MN



Follow the Police Dept. on Twitter @BigLakePolice



### Winter Farmers Market

Saron Lutheran Church • 3:00-6:00 p.m.  
311 Lake St S, Big Lake, MN 55309 • 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of month

November 9 • December 14\* • January 11

February 8\* • March 8 • April 12\*

\*Senior Days: Seniors 55+ receive \$3 coupon

- Debit/Credit & Snap/EBT Accepted
- Market Bucks Match Program
- Live Monthly Musicians
- Free Kids Activities
- Vendor Products:

Homemade and homegrown produce, baked goods, meat, eggs, syrup, honey, tea, salsa, pickles, jam, crafts, and more!

www.biglakemn.org

Questions? Contact Corrie at 612.297.6331 or cscott@biglakemn.org

**LAKE CLEAN UP DAY**

The popularity of Big Lake and Lake Mitchell comes with some seasonal garbage. Take pride in your community and help keep our lakes beautiful this winter season!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Meet at Lakeside Park  
(101 Lakeshore Drive, Big Lake, MN)

Hot beverages and snacks for volunteers.

**January 20, 2019 ~ 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
(If inclement weather permits, we will reschedule for Jan. 27)

**February 24, 2019 ~ 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
(If inclement weather permits, we will reschedule for March 10)

Dress for the weather.  
Warm clothes and water resistant boots are recommended.

If you have access to sleds or four wheelers contact Corrie Scott at cscott@biglakemn.org or 612.297.6331.

**Big Lake Chamber**  
of Commerce & Industry

**Big Lake Community Fair**

**Sunday, March 3, 2019**

**11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Big Lake High School**

*Free admission*

*Free entertainment*

*Free food*

*Free giveaways*

**Booth Registration is NOW OPEN!**

Go to the Big Lake Chamber website for details. Registration Forms due by February 15. www.biglakechamber.com - 763-263-7800