

The Big Lake Wave

October / November / December 2019



Fall Photo Contest



Do you love taking pictures? Here is your chance to be featured on the City of Big Lake's social media pages, City newsletter, etc.

We are inviting residents to submit photos that define Big Lake in the fall months!

Be sure to capture what you love the most about the City of Big Lake in the fall and share it with us! All photos can be submitted to Trisha Lindahl at tlindahl@biglakemn.org by November 29, 2019. All submissions will be entered into a drawing.

Note: when submitting photos via email, make sure to select "**Actual Size**". The bigger the picture the better!

**submission of a photo will release the photo to the City of Big Lake. The photo may be used on the City website, City Facebook page, and any other marketing material.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Proposed Property Tax Levy | Pg. 2-4 |
| GreenCorps Member | Pg. 4 |
| Liquor Store Information | Pg. 5 |
| Library Events | Pg. 5 |
| Code Enforcement | Pg. 6 |
| Business Spotlight | Pg. 6 |
| Police Department | Pg. 7 |
| Fire Department | Pg. 7 |
| Misc. Information | Pg. 8 |
| Contact Information | Pg. 8 |

City Hall Offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- Monday October 14, 2019 - Closed for Staff Training
- Monday, November 11, 2019 - Veteran's Day
- Thursday & Friday, November 28 / 29, 2019 - Thanksgiving Holiday
- Tuesday December 24, 2019 - Christmas Eve - **Open 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
- Wednesday December 25, 2019 - Christmas Day
- Wednesday January 01, 2020 - New Year's Day



Shop Local

BIG LAKE WINTER FARMERS MARKET

November 16 • December 21
January 18 • February 15
March 21 • April 18

THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

BIG LAKE CITY HALL
160 LAKE STREET N., BIG LAKE, MN

www.biglakemn.org
Questions? Contact escott@biglakemn.org or 612-297-6331

Proposed Property Tax Levy 2020

The proposed Property Tax Levy for 2020 is \$4,565.953; the City’s tax rate is anticipated to be 51.22%, which is a **decrease** of 1.21% over the 2019 tax rate. This is due to an increase in the City’s overall market value of approximately **10.09%**. With the decrease in the City Tax rate and new construction, instead of a 10.09% increase most residents will see only an 8% or less increase. Below is a summary of estimated city property taxes based on the following home values:

| Assessed Value | Estimated Annual City Property Tax | Estimated Annual increase for City Property Tax | Estimated Monthly increase for City Property Tax |
|----------------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| \$162,000 | \$ 709.33 | \$51.25 | \$4.27 |
| \$216,000 | \$1,008.06 | \$66.86 | \$5.57 |
| \$270,000 | \$1,306.80 | \$82.48 | \$6.87 |
| \$324,000 | \$1,605.53 | \$98.09 | \$8.17 |

**TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 26th
6:00 P.M.**

Mark your calendars! The 2020 Budget and Levy Public Input Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Big Lake City Hall Council Chambers.

Taxes Help Maintain Our Quality Of Life



For the safety of our community it costs \$1.15 per day, less than the cost of an espresso



For the maintenance of the wonderful parks and lakes it costs \$0.43 per day, less than the cost of an ice-cream cone



For the great crew that keeps our street in order it costs \$0.25 per day

MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD COST FOR CITY SERVICES FROM PROPERTY TAXES

Based on property taxes paid for residential property with the value of \$216,000 and using 2020 Proposed City Tax Rate - Total Monthly Cost \$84.45



Proposed Property Tax Levy 2020 (Continued)

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

- a. My property's value
- b. My neighbor's property value
- c. My City Council, my County Board, and my School Board
- d. The State Legislature
- e. 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.

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.

Proposed Property Tax Levy 2020 (Continued)

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.

Welcome—New Minnesota GreenCorps Member

Hi! My name is Tom Wyatt-Yerka and I will be working with the City of Big Lake under the Minnesota GreenCorps program through August 2020. The GreenCorps is a program of the national AmeriCorps service program and is administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to help preserve and protect our natural resources while also training the next generation of environmental professionals. For background information on myself, I grew up in Marshall, Minnesota and graduated from the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities last year. I love our state and want to be a part of ensuring that we can all benefit from our natural resources!

During my time in Big Lake, I will be working with staff and volunteers in order to determine which aspects of environmental sustainability are most important to our community. From strengthening our community garden and farmers market programs to making it safer and easier to bike around town, there are exciting things ahead for the city. With your help, we can be a leader and model for the rest of the state to follow. I hope to see you around town!

Municipal Liquor Store

Please let staff know if there are customer requests. We continue to rotate and bring in new products weekly. Thank you for helping us pour profits back into your community!

Discount Days:

- ◇ Monday: Senior Discount (age 62+) - 10% off regular priced items.
- ◇ Tuesday: 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.

Fall Wine Sale is November 15 - 23. The tasting event will be held at the Friendly Buffalo on November 15 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Join the *Lake Liquor Loyalty Club* to earn points towards \$ discounts and other savings. Sign up at Lake Liquors.

Holiday Hours are as follows:

- ⇒ November 28 (Thanksgiving Day) - Closed
- ⇒ December 24 (Christmas Eve) - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- ⇒ December 25 (Christmas Day) - Closed

Regular Store Hours:

- Monday—Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Visit our website
www.biglakemn.org

Great River Regional Library—Event Schedule

October

- ⇒ Fall Craft Event - Wednesday, Oct. 2 @ 4:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Middle School Book Club - Thursday, Oct. 3 @ 4:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Storytime - Fridays (4, 11, 18, 25) @ 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- ⇒ Friends of Big Lake Library Book Sale - Oct. 4, 5, 7
- ⇒ Crafty Adults Group - Wednesday, Oct. 9 @ 2:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Linda Pacel Teaches Acrylic Painting - Thursday, Oct. 10 @ 5:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Minnesota's Most Haunted Locations - Monday, Oct. 14 @ 6:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Card Making Make & Take - Wednesday, Oct. 16 @ 5:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Tech Time - Thursday, Oct. 17 @ 2:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Dark Tales of Mystery and Intrigue - Wednesday, Oct. 23 @ 5:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Halloween Book Bingo and Craft - Thursday, Oct. 24 @ 4:30 p.m.



For more information,
go to the GRRL website
at www.griver.org

November

- ⇒ International Games Week - Monday-Saturday, Nov. 4-9
- ⇒ ECFE at the Library - Tuesday, Nov. 5 @ 11:15 a.m.
- ⇒ Turkey Bingo/Craft - Thursday, Nov. 14 @ 4:30 p.m.

December

- ⇒ Holiday Scavenger Hunt - December 2 - 20
- ⇒ ECFE at the Library - Tuesday, December 10 @ 11:15 a.m.

Hours of Operation:

- Monday** 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday** 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday** 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday** 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Friday** 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday** 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Sunday** Closed

Code Enforcement - Sidewalk Snow Removal

Winter is quickly approaching and the City wants to make sure you have ample time to plan for keeping your sidewalk free of ice and snow. If you are not able to shovel or snow blow your own sidewalk this winter, you will need to contract with a snow removal service, work out an agreement with a neighbor, or find some other way to ensure compliance with the City's Sidewalk Ordinance.

The City received numerous complaints during the winter of 2018 regarding sidewalks which were not being consistently cleared of snow. 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 access community resources. It only takes one snowy/icy sidewalk section to force pedestrians into the road where their safety is compromised. This is a friendly reminder to all residential, commercial, and industrial properties that have a public sidewalk they are responsible for keeping clear of ice and snow.

The City will be sending out its authorized contractor after each snowfall during the winter of 2019-2020 to ensure that all sidewalks are being cleared in accordance with the ordinance. They will be clearing sidewalks that are out of compliance with the ordinance and those properties will be billed the full amount authorized by the City's fee schedule. The City will always give residents at least 24 hours before sending out its authorized contractor.

The day before the authorized contractor is going to be sent out to "sweep" the City and clear any unshoveled sidewalks, the City will make an announcement on its website and Facebook page. In addition to this, you can sign up to receive a text message or email alert the day before a scheduled sweep. Visit the following link to sign up to receive an alert: www.biglakemn.org/list.aspx?ListID=268

If you have any questions, please contact Trisha Lindahl, Building Permit Technician/Administrative Assistant at 763-251-2971 or tlindahl@biglakemn.org.

Sidewalk Ordinance: Section 550

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 (24) hours after the completion of any snowfall**. After 24 hours, the City or its authorized contractor will clear the snow, serve a notice, and bill the property owner for the cost of the snow removal. The 2019 fee schedule sets the fee for each violation at: **\$163 administrative charge + the contractor's hourly rate for time spent at the property**. If the fee is not paid, it will be added to the property taxes as an assessment.

Business Spotlight

Ice-O-Metric Contracting, Inc.



The City of Big Lake is the home of Ice-O-Metric Contracting, one of Minnesota's most experienced insulated panel, cold storage, and food processing construction firms!

Brothers Zac and Nate Scott started Ice-O-Metric in 1999. After several years working on industrial construction projects and realizing they could provide a better, faster service, and a broader range of facility products than competing firms, they established Ice-O-Metric Contracting.

Together, they have built a reputation for getting tough projects done—on time and on budget, without interrupting their customers' business operations.

For more information, visit their website at www.iceometric.com.



Police Department - Use of the Return to Duty Program

In 2018, the Big Lake Police Department enrolled in the Return to Duty (RTD) program. The objective of this program is to return surplus items from the U.S. Military, to civilian law enforcement purposes. Officer Guy Chaffee is our program manager. He has become keenly astute in navigating this program, finding items which not only have strong monetary value, but strategic purposes within our department and community. Under the terms of the program, the items are allocated to the Big Lake Police Department, free of charge. We bear the responsibility of transporting the item here. After one year it becomes our property, at which time we can sell it or continue to utilize it.

Since 2018, Officer Chaffee has been successful with his acquisitions. Below is a brief overview of items we currently have and are utilizing:

- 2 - 850 Polaris Sportsman 4-wheelers (500 miles, 300 miles on them respectively)
- 900 Polaris 4 seat RAZR (1,300 miles on it)
- 2009 Chevrolet Suburban
- Backup generator for the Police Department (8 hours on it)
- Night vision optics for our officers
- 19 foot McKee boat (Allocated to Big Lake Fire)
- 19 foot Parker boat (City of Big Lake)
- And the list goes on!



These items have many great purposes for our department including community policing tools, patrol vehicles and emergency response off road in our parks, bike trails, and other public areas.

I've heard concerns on a few occasions about local tax funds being utilized to purchase ATV's we have. I am proud to say the only funds we have expended were for transportation and maintenance. 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 me at; jscharf@biglakepolice.com.

Joel D. Scharf - Chief of Police

Fire Department

- ⇒ The Big Lake Fire Department Open House will be Sunday, October 13, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. There will be a kitchen fire demo, fire extinguisher demo, fire truck rides, root beer floats and lots of fire safety information.
- ⇒ We would like to thank everyone that came out to the Big Lake Fireman's Dance in August. It was a great success and we appreciate all of the businesses and organizations that helped support us.
- ⇒ We have a new tender truck arriving in a couple weeks.
- ⇒ Fall is fast approaching. Please remember to bring all yard waste to the compost site. It is against ordinance to burn yard waste.



The Fire Chief and Fire Department Members 'THANK YOU' for your continued support and wish you and your family a safe winter!



Example of what the tender truck looks like



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

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

City Council

Mike Wallen, Mayor

763-286-3842, mwallen@biglakemn.org

Seth Hansen, Council Member

763-262-6282, shansen@biglakemn.org

Rose Johnson, Council Member

763-558-5669, rjohnson@biglakemn.org

Paul Knier, Council Member

612-817-6758, pknier@biglakemn.org

Scott Zettervall, Council Member

763-234-6802, szettervall@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 on City website

City Council: Oct. 9, 23 | Nov. 13, ~~27~~ | Dec. 11, ~~25~~
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

⇒ City Council Meeting Changes:

- ◆ The 2nd meeting in November (27) has been **cancelled** due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- ◆ The 2nd meeting in December (25) has been **cancelled** due to the Christmas Holiday.

Planning Commission: Oct. 02 | Nov. 06 | Dec. 04
(6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers)

BLEDA: Oct. 14 | Nov. 12 | Dec. 09
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

Parks Advisory Committee: Oct. 15 | Nov. 12 | Dec. 09
(7:00 p.m. at Public Works Building)

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

CHAMBER CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING AT BROWNS PARK

Late November 2019

\$80 fee includes, tree, stand, electrical fees and hook-up and recognition sign as well as removal and disposal of your tree.

Sponsors will be responsible for providing their own lights and decorations. Only LED lights will be allowed.

For more information or register by Nov 11th call 763-263-7800, info@biglakechamber.com OR www.biglakechamber.com/events/Details/christmas-tree-decorating

City of Big Lake's 3rd Annual Holiday Lighting Contest 2019

2 Residential Winners
1st Place: \$50 Gift Card to Lake Liquors
2nd Place: Seasonal Lakeside Park Pass and City Swag Bag

Judging Will Be Held Between December 12th – 19th, 2019
Winners will be announced on December 20th, 2019 on the City Facebook Page and Website at www.biglakemn.org

Contest Rules:

- Outdoor Displays Only
- Open to any residential address located within the Big Lake City Boundaries
- First place winners cannot win a prize more than one consecutive year in a row
- Must Register for contest by turning in below registration to Corrie Scott at cscott@biglakemn.org by Wednesday, December 11th