

The Big Lake Wave

July | August | September 2020



Inside This Issue

Chamber Happenings	3
Music in the Park	3
Lake Liquors	4
Finance Department	4
Code Enforcement	5
Dog Vaccination Clinic	5
Movie in the Park	5
Police Department	6
Fire Department	7
Building Permits	7
Drinking Water Report	8-11
City Contact Information	12

City Offices will be Closed:

- ⇒ Friday, July 3 - Independence Day Observed
- ⇒ Monday, September 7 - Labor Day

Meetings and events outlined in this newsletter are subject to change. To view the most current COVID-19 updates, go to biglakemn.org/541/COVID-19-Updates.

2020 Election Information

2020 Election Dates:

- ⇒ State Primary Election: Tuesday, August 11, 2020
 - ⇒ State General Election: Tuesday, November 3, 2020
- Polls Open at 7:00 a.m. and Close at 8:00 p.m.

City of Big Lake Filing Period for City Council Seats

City of Big Lake Voters will elect the following at the November 3, 2020 General Election:

- ⇒ One (1) Mayor (4-yr. term)
- ⇒ Two (2) City Council Members (4-yr. terms)
- ⇒ One (1) City Council Member (Special Election to fill remaining 2-yr. term)

Filings Open on – Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Filings Close on – Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Affidavits of Candidacy and Candidate information packets will be available from the Big Lake City Clerk's Office starting Tuesday, July 28, 2020.



State Primary and General Election Information for Voters

When voting at the Primary Election

The State, Legislative, and Federal Offices are arranged in partisan format. On the partisan formal ballot, a voter must vote for candidates of only one political party. Voting outside of a political party will result in a spoiled ballot. None of the votes cast on a spoiled ballot are counted. Voters must adhere to the instructions advising the number of candidates that votes can be cast for under each office. County and Judicial Offices are non-partisan positions on this ballot.

When voting at the General Election

Voters have the option to vote for any Office(s) and are not restricted to one political party. Voters must adhere to the instructions advising the number of candidates that votes can be cast for under each office.

2020 Election Information (cont.)

Voting Locations for City of Big Lake Residents (see map below)

⇒ **Precinct 1:** Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake Street North

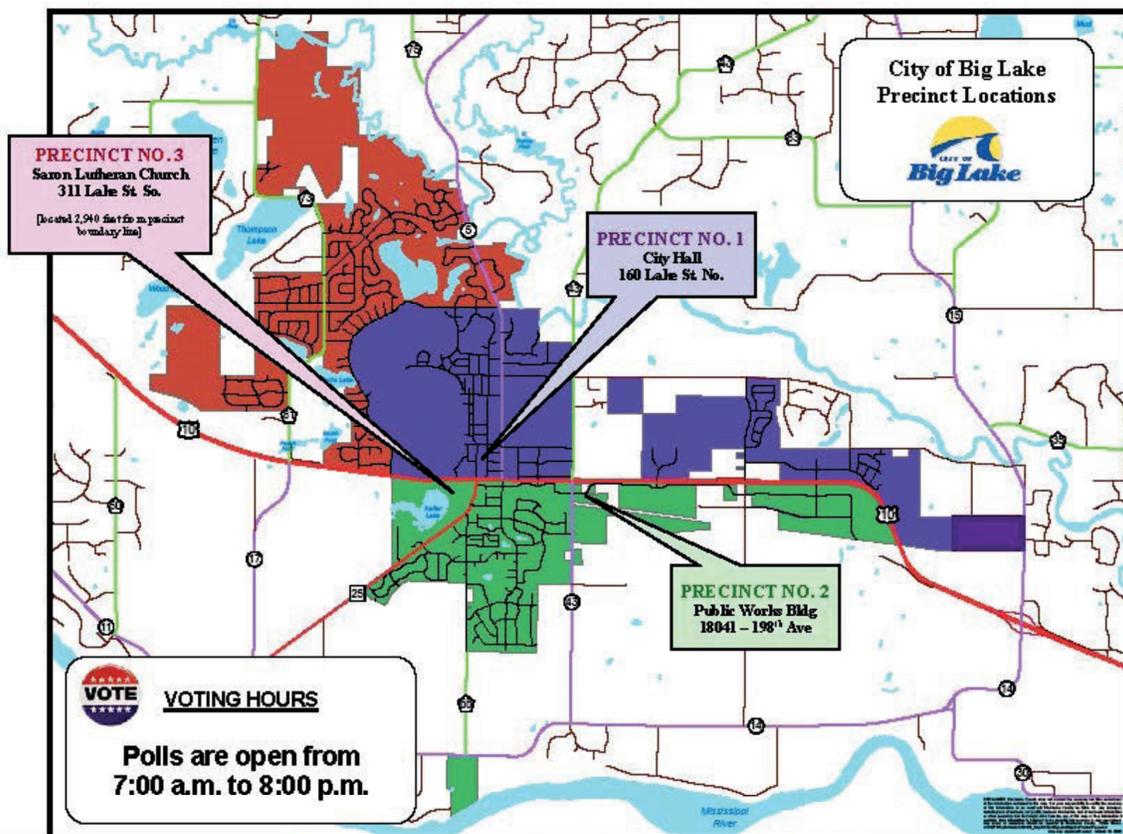
All residents who live on the north side of Hwy 10, east of Lakeshore Drive and south of Hiawatha Avenue vote at Big Lake City Hall (located at the intersection of Hwy 10 and 25).

⇒ **Precinct 2:** Big Lake Public Works Building, 18041 198th Avenue.

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

⇒ **Precinct 3:** Saron Lutheran Church, 311 Lake Street South

Residents who live west of Lakeshore Drive and north of Hiawatha Avenue vote at Saron Lutheran Church.



Registering to Vote

⇒ **Online:** You can now register to vote online. To register online, you must:

- Be eligible to register and vote in MN.
- Provide an email address.
- Provide your identification number (MN issued driver's license, MN Identification card, or provide the last 4 digits of your SSN).
- <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us>

⇒ **Paper:** Paper Voter Registration Application forms can be filled out and mailed or delivered to the Sherburne County Auditor's Office located at 13880 Business Center Drive NW, Elk River, MN 55330.

- The last day to pre-register to vote for the State Primary Election is: 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 21st.
- The last day to pre-register to vote for the State General Election is: 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 13th.

⇒ New Registrations can also be processed on Election Day at all polling locations.

2020 Election Information (cont.)

Absentee Voting: You can vote early by using an absentee ballot, instead of voting in person at the polling place on Election Day. You can vote absentee by mail, in person, or by having a person you know pick up and deliver your ballot for you. Any voter may vote absentee. Absentee applications and ballots are available at the Sherburne County Auditor's Office. The Auditor's Office will be open extra hours for voting by absentee ballot. Please call 763-765-4351 for information on dates and times.

Dates Absentee Ballots Become Available: Absentee ballots are available 46 days before an election. In 2020, ballots will be ready starting June 26th for the Primary Election and September 18th for the General Election.

Military and Overseas Absentee Voting: Voters in the military and citizens living outside the United States use a different process to vote absentee. Access information from the MN Secretary of States Website at: sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-from-military-or-abroad/.

Track Your Absentee Ballot: You can track the progress of your absentee ballot with the absentee ballot lookup tool at mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx. If there is a problem with your ballot, election officials will send a replacement.

Great River Regional Library



The Big Lake Public Library is now open for reservation and curbside pickup! Call 763-263-6445 to make reservations today. Find more information at griver.org.

Chamber Golf Tournament & Block Party



Save the date for the Big Lake Block Party on Saturday, August 15 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and youth ages 3 and over. Be sure to register for the Big Lake Chamber Golf Tournament on September 17, 2020 by visiting biglakechamber.com. All are welcome!



Legacy Foundation Music in the Park

Live Music at Lakeside Park

Thursdays | 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

July 2: Outside Recess

July 9: Shane Martin

July 16: Lady Luck

July 23: Band 51

July 30: Rockin' Hollywoods

August 6: The Plott Hounds

August 13: ThrillBillies

Thank you to Options, Inc. for sponsoring Music in the Park 2020!

#KeepBigLakeStrong

The City of Big Lake would like to thank the community for continuing to support local businesses. Patronizing local businesses helps to keep Big Lake strong. If you are a local business owner in need of assistance, you can reach out to Community Development Director Hanna Klimmek at hklimmek@biglakemn.org or 763-251-2979.

Municipal Liquor Store

As things change, Lake Liquors' goal is to provide a safe working environment for staff while providing quality service for customers. Lake Liquors asks that customers continue to practice social distancing and limit the use of cash as much as possible. Please understand that hours, shopping conditions, staffing, and procedures may change due to COVID-19 updates. Keep in mind that while new items are brought in weekly, staff is happy to take customer requests. Thank you for helping Lake Liquors to pour profits back into the Big Lake community!

Discount Days:

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

Store Hours:

- ⇒ Monday - Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Sunday: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Independence Day and Labor Day hours to be determined



Thoughts from your Finance Department



While the summer months can be a relaxing and leisurely time for many, the summer season is when the City's Finance Department really kicks into high gear. As we move into July, our staff starts looking forward to 2021 and beyond; we're preparing preliminary budgets, examining the City's Capital Improvement Plan, reviewing the City's Long Term Financial Plan and thinking about investment opportunities. If you are not familiar with the City's annual budget planning process, we encourage you to reach out to staff and attend our budget workshops during the

summer and fall months. We want to hear your opinions about service levels and spending choices, and we would like the opportunity to respond to your concerns. The City's website will be updated throughout the summer with information regarding upcoming budget workshops. We hope you will take some time to join in the conversation and get involved. See you there!

2021 Financial Planning and Budget Calendar

Meeting Dates	Discussion Topics
June	Financial Management Plan Review provided to department directors
July	Meeting with departments regarding needs and Council work sessions
August	Council work sessions to review preliminary budgets
September	Council adopts Maximum Tax Levy
October-November	Council work sessions on the budgets to find additional savings
November	Public Input Meeting regarding final levy and budgets for 2021
December 9, 2020	Council adopts final tax levies and budgets for 2021

Welcome Big Lake's 2020 Code Enforcement Intern



My name is Jack Johansen and I am the new summer Code Enforcement and Planning Intern for the City of Big Lake. I am currently a graduate student at the University of Iowa and am excited to learn more about the City and community members. Having grown up down the road in Rogers, I have had a long appreciation for this part of the northwest Twin Cities.

The City of Big Lake is encouraging residents that notice a violation to first discuss the issue with the neighbor in question. By doing this we aim to create dialogue that will strengthen the tight bond that connects our community. To report a code violation, go to biglakemn.org and select 'Report an Issue' at the bottom of the page.

As summer goes into full swing, we should keep the Long Grass and Weeds Ordinance in mind to preserve the community's appearance and mitigate possible reports. Yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, and logs/brush can be disposed of at the City's Compost site, which is behind the public works building at 18041 198th Ave, Big Lake, MN 55309. Access cards for the facility can be obtained at City Hall.

Dog Vaccination Clinic

Saturday, September 12, 2020 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Lions Park | 21960 County Rd. 5, Big Lake

All dogs must be on a leash. Only healthy dogs will be vaccinated. Dog licenses are required for Township residents and can be purchased for \$20 at the event. Cash payment required. Checks and card payments will not be accepted. Prices are expected to be similar to 2019 prices below:

One year Rabies: \$10, Canine DHPP: \$16, Canine Lymes \$30

Thank you to Barrington Oaks Veterinary Hospital! Questions? Contact Big Lake Township at 763-263-8111.

Summer Photo Contest

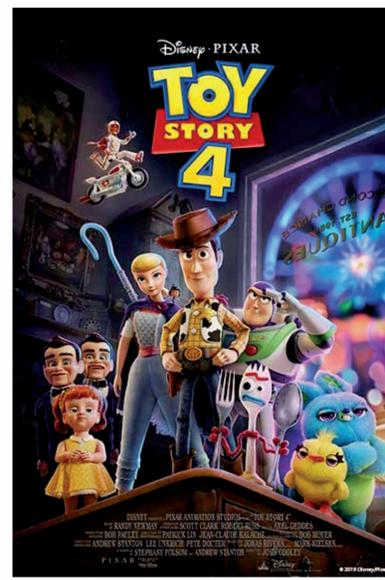
Big Lake Residents are invited to submit pictures that they feel define the Big Lake community this summer season in the 2020 Summer Photo Contest!

Submission of a photo will release the photo to the City of Big Lake. The photo may be used on the City website, Facebook, and other marketing materials. All photos can be submitted to Corrie Scott, at ccscott@biglakemn.org by September 4, 2020.



Movie in the Park

Friday, September 18 | Toy Story 4: Movie in the Park is back at Lakeside Park offering free Activities from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. and Featuring Toy Story 4 showing at



Dusk (approx. 7:30 p.m.) Reschedule Date: September 25. Activities featured:

- ⇒ Raptor Center
- ⇒ Bounce House
- ⇒ Face Painting

Thank you to our sponsors: Big Lake Spud Fest, Big Lake Knights of Columbus, and the Sherburne Wright Cable Commission.

A Message from the Big Lake Police Department



How Does Your Big Lake Police Department Measure Up to Recent Challenges?

There is no doubt that over the past couple of weeks, our society has experienced extreme challenges stemming from the recent in-custody death in Minneapolis. With this in mind, I have been asked by several people how our department trains, and prepares to ensure nothing of this nature occurs in our community. Here is a list of what we do:

Community Engagement: Our department focuses on building long standing, genuine relationships in our community, with all members. While not everything a police department does is popular (enforcement), our members treat people with the respect and dignity they deserve. You will struggle to find a community event our officers are not present at, seizing the opportunity to interact with all. At the same time, we maintain a very strong social media presence, reaching over 11,000 people with each Facebook Post we make.

Policies: Our department has robust policies related to Impartial Policing, Use of Force, Care and Custody of Prisoners, Arrest, Conduct Unbecoming an Officer, and every other topic that should be covered. All of our policies are derived from the International Association of the Chiefs of Police, they are reviewed frequently and updated accordingly.

Training: We invest heavily in training for our officers to ensure their safety, ensure the highest quality of service and decision making, build expertise, and build future leaders. All of our Officers are regularly updated on mental health crisis, de-escalation tactics, use of force, positional asphyxia, excited delirium, and the list is endless.

Accountability: The Big Lake Police Department was amongst one of the first to implement a body camera program, in conjunction with our in-squad video system. This has proven over the past years to be invaluable in collecting evidence, protecting our officers from false allegations, and giving clear accountability to our officers' conduct. All officers, including the Chief, wears a body camera to capture recordings according to our policy.

Our Officers: Everyone in our department will adhere to the standards we set, which are set high. Our strength is our staff. We work very hard to hire just the right officer, and we work very hard to retain them once they are here. This is an incredibly challenging time in law enforcement across the nation. We work diligently to ensure our officers mental and physical wellness are amongst our highest priorities.

Your Big Lake Police Department is reflective of our community's values. As the Chief, I am accountable directly to the City Administrator and City Council. We are reflective of our community and at the same time, directly accountable to our leadership. Our profession is under intense scrutiny at this point in history, as it should be. We work tirelessly to ensure that our standards and performance are set as high as can be attained. I am incredibly proud of our officers and staff, and the amazing work they do everyday for our community. As always, I enjoy the opportunity to visit with our residents, please feel free to reach out anytime at 763-251-2985 or jscharf@biglakepolice.com. Thank you! #BLPDHereToServe

Joel D. Scharf - Chief of Police



Big Lake Fire Department Outlines Backyard Fire Safety

Your Big Lake Fire Department has been very active over the last several months and as our community grows, we can anticipate this trend continuing. We need your help as multiple recent calls for service have been related to personal campfires. Please remember to never leave your campfire unattended, do not have a fire on a windy day, and always drown your fire out when you are done. By following these steps, you can prevent a campfire from turning into a grass-fire or house-fire.

Due to Covid-19, the annual Fire Dance has been cancelled this year, but please look for our Raffle this Fall! The Big Lake Fire Open house is scheduled for Oct 11, 2020 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Exhibits will include the Big Lake Police Department, CentraCare Ambulance, Xcel Energy, Connexus Energy, DNR and many more. There will also be a helicopter landing, canine demonstration, firefighter exhibits and fire truck rides. This event is family friendly and all are welcome!

Thank you for supporting your Big Lake Fire Department. Remember to follow us on Facebook!

Seth Hansen - Fire Chief

Building A Safe Campfire



Build campfires away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, rotten stumps, logs, dry grass and leaves.



Start with dry twigs and small sticks. Remember - a good firebuilder never needs gas or kerosene to start a fire.



Keep the campfire small. A good bed of coals or a small fire surrounded by rocks gives plenty of heat. Use an existing fire ring.



Add larger sticks as the fire builds up. Avoid using hatchets, saws, or breaking branches off trees. Dead and down wood burns easily.



Never leave a campfire unattended. Even a small breeze could quickly cause the fire to spread.



Put the big pieces on last, pointing them toward the center, and pushing them into the flames. Use wood no larger than the diameter of an adult wrist.

Putting Out Your Campfire

If your campfire is not "dead out", wind can rekindle the embers and start a wildfire. Follow these steps.



Keep plenty of water handy and have a shovel for throwing dirt on the fire if it gets out of control.



Stir the remains, add more water and stir again. Be sure all burned material has been put out and cooled. Smaller pieces of wood are easier to put out than large logs.



Be sure your match is out cold. Break it so you can feel the charred portion before carefully discarding it.



Feel all materials with your bare hand. Make sure that no roots are burning.



Drown the fire with water. Make sure all embers and sticks are wet. Move rocks - there may be burning embers underneath.



Campfires may be banned if wildfires are likely. Watch for signs and obey them.

Building Permit Information

When is a Permit Needed?

- Fences
- Driveways and sidewalks
- Patio slabs
- Curb cuts
- Storage sheds
- Removal of underground fuel storage tanks
- Replace roofing or siding
- Replace windows/exterior doors
- Swimming pools
- Egress windows
- Finish basement
- Replace/install sheetrock
- Garages
- Building additions/remodels
- Signs
- New construction
- Gazebo
- Construct/replace porch or deck
- Demolition
- Retaining walls
- Gas connection
- Gas appliance replacement
- Sewer and water connection
- Chicken Coops

No Permit is Needed for the Following:

- Paint
- Wallpaper
- Carpet/linoleum/tile
- Decorative landscaping
- Tree planting (except when in the boulevard)

Questions?

Contact the Big Lake Building Department with questions at 763-251-2936 or Irutledge@biglakemn.org.

2019 City of Big Lake Drinking Water Report

Making Safe Drinking Water

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: six wells ranging from 178 to 230 feet deep, that draw water from the Mt. Simon, Mt. Simon-Hinckley, Mt. Simon-Red Clastics and Mt. Simon-Fond du Lac aquifers. Big Lake works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources. Contact Dan Childs, Water Superintendent, at 763-263-2268 or dchilds@biglakemn.org if you have questions about Big Lake's drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water. 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.

Big Lake Monitoring Results

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2019. We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health. Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage Basics of Monitoring and testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html>).

How to Read the Water Quality Data Tables

The tables below show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables. We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date. We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Definitions

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

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

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.

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.

MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

N/A (Not applicable): Does not apply.

pCi/l (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/l}$).

ppm (parts per million): One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

PWSID: Public water system identification.

Monitoring Results - Regulated Substances

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Action Level	90% of Results Were Less Than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	1.5 ppb	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	0 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0.3 ppm	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Nitrate	10 ppm	10.4 ppm	4 ppm	2.30 - 4.00 ppm	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (04/13/17)	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.06 ppm	N/A	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposit.
Gross Alpha	0 pCi/l	15.4 pCi/l	6.4 pCi/l	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL or MRDL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	N/A	80 ppb	11.3 ppb	10.40 - 11.30 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N/A	60 ppb	2.5 ppb	2.40 - 2.50 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Chlorine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.8 ppm	0.72 - 0.94 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.6 ppm	0.52 - 0.64 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.

Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable)

Fluoride: If your drinking water fluoride levels are below the optimal concentration range of 0.7 to 1.2 ppm, please talk with your dentist about how you can protect your teeth and your family's teeth from tooth decay and cavities. For more information, visit: MDH Drinking Water Fluoridation (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/fluoride.html>).

Monitoring Results – Unregulated Substances

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water. Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The meaning of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

The following table shows the unregulated contaminants we detected last year, as well as human-health based guidance values for comparison, where available. The comparison values are based only on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations or the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. They may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impossible for water systems to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant).

A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little or no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions - like a fetus, infants, children, elderly, and people with impaired immunity – may need to take extra precautions. Because these contaminants are unregulated, EPA and MDH require no particular action based on detection of an unregulated contaminant. We are notifying you of the unregulated contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

More information is available on MDH's A-Z List of Contaminants in Water (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html>) and Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html>).

Contaminant	Comparison Value	Highest Average Result or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results
Manganese	100 ppb	1.07 ppb	N/A
Group of 6 Haloacetic Acids (HAA6Br)	N/A	2.63 ppb	2.44 - 2.82 ppb
Group of 9 Haloacetic Acids (HAA9)	N/A	3.72 ppb	3.09 - 4.35 ppb

Some People Are More Vulnerable to Contaminants in Drinking Water

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. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people or their caregivers should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (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.

Drinking Water Sources

Minnesota's primary drinking water sources are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water. Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and commercial and residential properties.

- **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

1) How Big Lake is protecting your drinking water source(s); 2) Nearby threats to your drinking water sources; and 3) How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at Source Water Assessments (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa>) or call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lead in Drinking Water

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk. Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get in your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system. Big Lake is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the plumbing materials used in private buildings. Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

1. **Let the water run** for 30-60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has not been turned on in over six hours. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.

- You can find out if you have a lead service line by contacting your public water system, or you can check by following the steps at: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home>
- The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.

2. **Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.

3. **Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.

- Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to get a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample: Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (<https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam>) The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.

4. **Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run.

- Read about water treatment units: Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html>)

Learn more:

- Visit Lead in Drinking Water (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html>)
- Visit Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>)
- Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html>).



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

City Council

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Paul Knier, Council Member

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Scott Zettervall, Council Member

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Notify Me

Looking for updates on events, meetings, jobs, or emergency alerts? Sign up for text or email alerts at: biglakemn.org/list.aspx.

Contact the City

Phone: 763-263-2107

Summer Hours: (Memorial Day - Labor Day)

Mon. - Thurs.: 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Fri.: 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Regular Hours: Mon. - Fri.: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

View Meetings

Live on Channel 180 | On-demand video link at city website

City Council: July 8, 22 | August 12, 26 | September 9, 23

(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

Planning Commission: July 1, 15 | August 5, 19 | September 2

(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

BLEDA: July 13 | August 10 | September 14

(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

Parks Advisory Committee: July 27 | August 24 | September 28

(6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers)

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Big Lake Farmers Market
 Wednesdays | June - August | 3-7 p.m.
 Wednesdays | September | 3-6 p.m.
 Lakeside Park

Free parking | Local products | Food trucks | Live music

biglakemn.org
cscott@biglakemn.org