



The Big Lake Wave

July/August/September 2014

The “Big Lake Wave” Returns!

Welcome to the first edition of the “Big Lake Wave” (the City of Big Lake newsletter) since 2012. The Big Lake City Council recently voted to reinstate the city newsletter as another way to communicate with Big Lake residents and businesses. Four times per year, beginning with this edition, the city newsletter will be mailed to all addresses within Big Lake city limits. The newsletter will also be available for download on the City’s Website at www.biglakemn.org. Other communication methods that the City of Big Lakes uses to communicate with residents and businesses are Big Lake City Council meetings (all of which are open to the public), City board and commission meetings (all are open to the public), the City Website, the City Facebook page, government cable channels 12 (Charter) and 15 (Windstream) and SWTV Channel 19. Elected officials are accessible in person, by phone and email (see contact information below) seven days a week. City staff are accessible by the same means Monday–Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm. We invite all residents and business representatives to become more involved with the community by communicating directly with your elected and appointed officials and City staff. Please call Big Lake City Hall at 763-263-2107. We look forward to hearing from you!

When is Election Day?



Tuesday, August 12, 2014

State Primary Election

Tuesday, November 4, 2014

State General Election

Polls open at 7:00am and close at 8:00pm. Find your polling place on page 3 inside!

What’s on the 2014 Ballot?



Federal

- U.S. Senator (Class II)
- U.S. Representative (District 6)

State Executive Officers

- Governor and Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- State Auditor
- Attorney General

State and State Judiciary

- State Representative (District 30A)



Sherburne County

- Commissioner (District 2)
- Attorney
- Auditor/Treasurer
- Recorder
- Sheriff
- Soil & Water District Supervisor (District 4)

School District

- I.S.D. 727 (three 4-year terms)

City of Big Lake

- Council Member (two 4-year terms)

Big Lake City Council

Mayor

Raeanne Danielowski

763-263-3801

cook113@aol.com

Council Member

Dick Backlund

763-262-9567

Richard.backlund@charter.net

Council Member

Nick Christenson

763-238-6670

blfd27@hotmail.com

Council Member

Seth Hansen

763-262-6282

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Council Member

Mike Wallen

763-286-3842

mike.wallen@ymail.com

Election Information

Municipal Election

Big Lake's municipal elections are nonpartisan and candidates run for their seats at large. Big Lake voters will elect two Council Members at the November General Election on November 4, 2014. Terms for these Council positions are four years beginning Jan. 1, 2015 and ending Dec. 31, 2019.

People interested in running for office in Big Lake must file an affidavit of candidacy. The filing period for affidavits of candidacy opens July 29, 2014 and closes Aug. 12, 2014. To file for office, an individual must meet the following requirements:

- Candidate must be an eligible voter
- Is, or will be on assuming the office, 21 years of age or older
- Maintained residence in the district from which the candidate seeks election for 30 days before the general election

Candidates must file an Affidavit of Candidacy and pay a \$2 filing fee with the City Clerk's office at City Hall, 160 Lake Street North, Big Lake, MN 55309. Office hours are 8am to 4:30pm (open until 5:00pm on August 12) Monday through Friday. For more information, contact City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, 763-263-2107, ext. 226. Packets of information for persons interested in filing will be available beginning in early July 2014.

When is the Filing Period for City Council Seats?

FILING OPENS: 8:00am on Tuesday, July 29
FILING CLOSES: 5:00pm on Tuesday, August 12

Affidavits of Candidacy will be available from the Big Lake City Clerk's Office starting July 2014.

Election Judges

In Minnesota, poll workers are called election judges. Election judges are paid officials who staff local polling places, carry out election procedures, and make sure that the rights of voters are protected. If you would like to

become an election judge, please contact City Clerk Gina Wolbeck at 763-263-2107, ext. 226, or by email at gina@ci.big-lake.mn.us. The Big Lake City Council must formally appoint election judges at least 25 days before an election.

State Primary & General Election

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.

Absentee Voting

You may vote early by using an absentee ballot, instead of voting in person at the polling place on Election Day. You may vote absentee by mail, in person, or by having a person you know pick up and deliver your ballot for you. Beginning with the August 12, 2014 Primary Election, any voter may vote absentee. Absentee 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 2014, ballots will be ready starting June 27th for the Primary Election; and September 19th 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: <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=889>.

Voter Registration

What are Voter Registration Requirements?



To register to vote you must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be at least 18 years old on election day
- Be a resident of Minnesota for 20 days
- Be 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.

How do I register to vote?

New this year: you can now register to vote **online** at <https://mnvotes.Sos.State.Mn.Us>. 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)

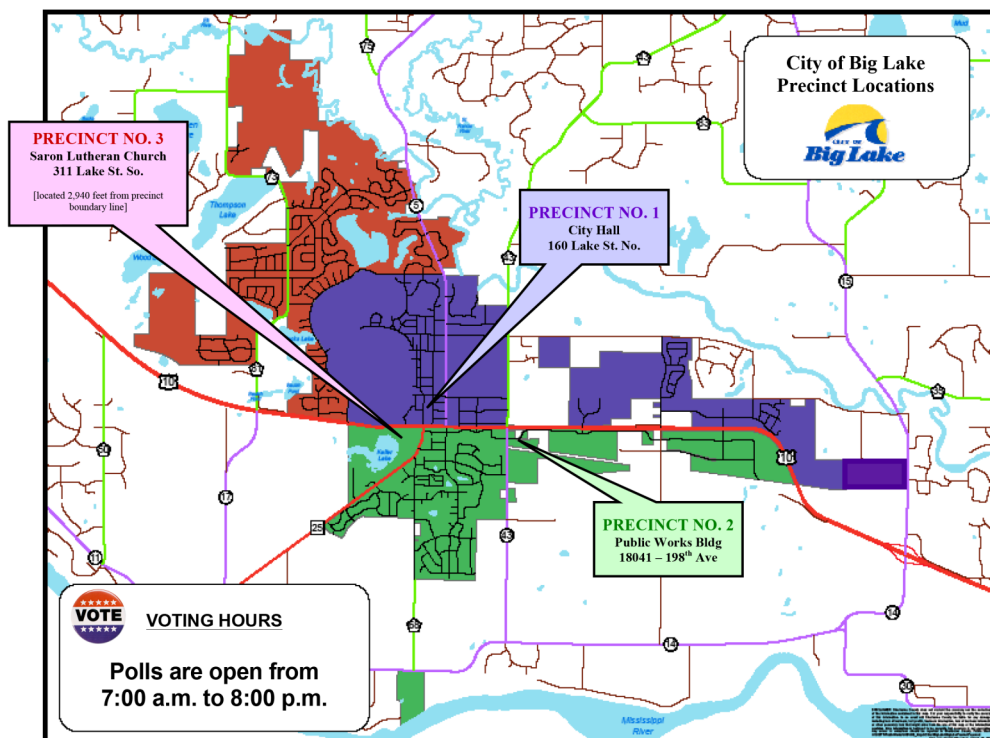
If you do not have an email address and one of the identification numbers above, you cannot register online. You may register to vote with a paper voter registration form.

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 5:00pm, Tuesday, July 22nd.
- The last day to pre-register to vote for the state general election is 5:00pm, Tuesday, October 14th.

New registrations can also be processed on election day at all polling locations.

Locate Your Polling Place



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 will 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 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 Street South

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

Big Lake Police Department

August 1st of 2012 I moved to Big Lake to assume the position of Chief of Police for the Big Lake Police Department. I had no idea what to expect, as we were new to the community and I was completely foreign to the department. Today, almost 2 years later looking back, I could not be more thrilled with having been given the tremendous opportunity to serve this vibrant community, and at the same time enjoy the lifestyle living in Big Lake provides.

For our first article for the City of Big Lake Newsletter, I thought I would give you a brief overview of the Big Lake Police Department. The Big Lake Police Department consists of 11 full time sworn police officers, and one part time police officer. In addition there are 2 full time Administrative Assistants who keep us running smoothly day to day. Our department is structured to provide the highest quality, modern, and most cost effective police services to our community possible. With that being said, here is an overview of how our staffing is allocated.



Big Lake Police Department 2013

As the Chief of Police, I also serve as the Emergency Manager for the City of Big Lake. I traditionally work a daytime shift, but do cover patrol shifts when we are short-handed, calls for service are heavy, or special events are taking place in the community. Sam Olson serves as second in command as the Lieutenant. Lieutenant Olson is assigned to a patrol shift, he coordinates day to day activities of the Patrol Division, as well as working the street. The department has 2 members assigned to the Investigative Division. Investigator Terry Nordquist is assigned as the General Investigator working in plain clothes and handling the front line cases coming in. Investigator Rich Berg serves in the position of Investigator Assigned to Patrol Services. This is a uniformed position, handling the overflow of case work from the General Investigator, covering patrol shortages and special events, managing the reserve Officer Program, and serving as the backup Officer during the day.

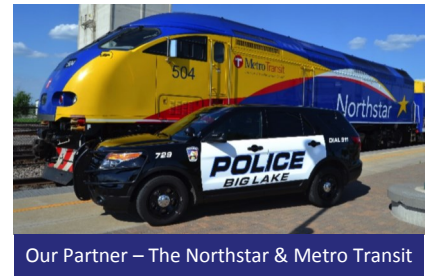
Laurie Morris and Tina Peterson are our Administrative Assistants, they “fight crime from the inside.” Laurie and Tina are responsible for assisting citizens with needs at the front

counter, managing records, coordinating records dissemination, transcription of reports and statements, and so much more I could not begin to list it all.

Within the Patrol Division, Patrol Officers Cindy Finch, Dan Sherburne, Chris Hoad, Todd Siebert, Eric Sonnenburg, Jesse Gilbertson, Sam Norlin, and Guy Chaffee staff the patrol shifts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The members of the Patrol Division are the backbone of your police department, being the frontline service providers to our citizens and visitors. Our Patrol Officers work 12 hours shifts which provide the best possible coverage for the community, yet allowing the department the flexibility to accommodate training and vacation needs. In 2013, our Officers patrolled 155,000 miles, covering our 70 miles of city roadways an average of 6 times per day, and responded to almost 8,000 calls for service.

The Big Lake Police Department has worked aggressively to interact with our citizens. I ask you to visit our webpage at www.biglakepolice.com and follow us on Facebook. Please join us at our Big Lake Police Community Picnic on August 6th at 6:30pm at Lakeside Park to learn much more about what we do. So much takes place within this department that I could never begin to cover it all in this first article. I look forward to future articles in which we can address specific topics in depth, to provide you a better perspective of the inner workings of your police department.

Since coming to the Big Lake Police Department, I have grown a strong appreciation for the quality of Officers and Administrative Staff working here, combined they provide over 110 years of service to our community. I can assure you this is the finest group of people I have ever had the pleasure to work with. I enjoy questions, comments, and interaction with our citizens and encourage you to contact me by email at: joel.scharf@ci.big-lake.mn.us, by Facebook messenger on our site, or at 763-263-2500. It's an honor to serve as your Chief of Police, Joel D. Scharf.



Our Partner – The Northstar & Metro Transit

Big Lake Fire Department

The Fire Department has responded to 74 calls for service as of June 10th. Calls are down slightly year-to-date mainly due to a very slow grass fire season with ample moisture and fast green up. The department has responded to three house fires this year; one in each of our coverage areas of the City of Big Lake, Big Lake Township and Orrock Township. These three areas equate to 59 square miles.

Fire fighters train three times a month to keep up on mandatory state requirements as well as reviewing the standard operating guidelines of the department. Training classes to date this year have been Flash over simulator “hot” box, engine pump operations, crash scene preservation with the Minnesota State Patrol, radio communications, coal bunker fires at the Sherco power plant in Becker and a live fire training burn at the old A&W/Lakeside drive-in. The time commitment from the fire department members is sometimes overlooked. These folks have full-time jobs and respond when their pager is toned out regardless of day of the week, time of the day to respond to any type of emergency call.

The Fire Department has a roster of 35 members. With that being said, between members retiring or leaving the department, we just finished an eight week process and hired on five new members (three males and two females). They started on June 1st, which puts our roster at 37 a slight cushion for expected upcoming retirements. Our staff consists of Chief of the Department, one Assistant Fire Chief, five Captains and 32 Fire Fighters.



Big Lake Fire Department—June 9, 2014

Finance Department

Sewer/Water Payment Notice



Attention Bill-Pay Customers!

As of August 1, 2014, we will no longer be accepting payments if you identify your account using a 9-Digit account number. Please update your Bill-Pay account information with the 13-Digit account number located in the lower left corner of your postcard statement.

The mailing address for payment is:

**City of Big Lake
160 Lake Street North
Big Lake, MN 55309**

If you have any questions, please call Utility Billing at 763-263-2107, Ext. 232.

City Budget Planning—Get Involved!

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 2015 and beyond; we're preparing preliminary budgets, examining the City's Capital Improvement Plan, and thinking about investment opportunities. If you're 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'd 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'll take some time to join in the conversation and get involved. See you there!



Public Works Department

What You Can Do To Protect Water Quality From Stormwater Runoff



Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater runoff from naturally soaking into the ground.

Why is stormwater runoff a problem?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, or wetland. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing and providing drinking water.

The effects of pollution

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people.

Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.

Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.

Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.

Debris – plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts – washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.

Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paints, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.

Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

Stormwater Pollution Solutions

Residential

Recycle or properly dispose of household products that contain chemicals, such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents and used motor oil and other auto fluids. Don't pour them onto the ground or into storm drains.

Lawn Care

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams and lakes. In addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams and lakes. Don't overwater your lawn. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler. Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Use organic mulch or safer post control methods whenever possible. Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams. Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects.

Pet Waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters. When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.

Construction

Erosion controls that aren't maintained can cause excessive amounts of sediment and debris to be carried into the stormwater system. Construction vehicles can leak fuel, oil, and other harmful fluids that can be picked up by stormwater and deposited into local waterbodies. Divert stormwater away from disturbed or exposed areas of the construction site. Install silt fences, vehicle mud removal area, vegetative cover, and other sediment and erosion controls and properly maintain them, especially after rainstorms. Prevent soil erosion by minimizing disturbed areas during construction projects, and seed and mulch bare areas as soon as possible.

Please contact the Big Lake Public Works Department at 763-263-2268 if you have further questions about stormwater runoff.

Building Inspections

Do I Need a Building Permit to Build a Shed in My Yard?

The answers to this common question are “yes and no”.

The type of permit depends on the size of the shed you are looking to add. Buildings 120 square feet or smaller require a ZONING permit. The purpose of a zoning permit is to assist the homeowner in locating where a small garden shed can be placed in the yard. Which zone you are located in will dictate where the building can be set in relation to property lines and the house. A permit application and site plan is required to apply for this smaller shed.

Buildings larger than 120 square feet require a building permit. Since the larger size building requires more construction details, in addition to the permit application and site plan, the property owner would be required to submit plans to the city. The plans would need to show the elevations of the structure. Also, a floor plan showing any door and window sizes is needed for the building inspector to ensure the building meets the minimum standards of the Minnesota State Building Code.

As with any projects around the house, if you have any questions, feel free to contact the Building Official at 763-263-5440.

Decks & Fences—Permits Required

Decks

- Require approval of a building permit;
- Must be drawn on a survey, aerial photograph, or site plan in the proposed location, to be submitted with the permit application;
- Are required to meet the same setbacks as the principal structure on the lot – generally, these setbacks are 5’ or 10’ from side property lines & 30’ from rear property line;
- May not be built over utility easements; and
- Do not typically count as impervious coverage on a lot.

Fences

- Require approval of an administrative permit;
- Must be drawn on a survey, aerial photograph, or site plan in the proposed location, to be submitted with the permit application;
- Are allowed as far forward as the front building line of your house or attached garage;
- May be built on the property line - make sure you aren’t digging post holes in your neighbor’s yard - although the City reserves the right to require fences to be placed outside of utility or other easements;
- Must face outward, meaning the “good” or non-structural side is what is seen from other properties; and
- May be up to 6’ in height.

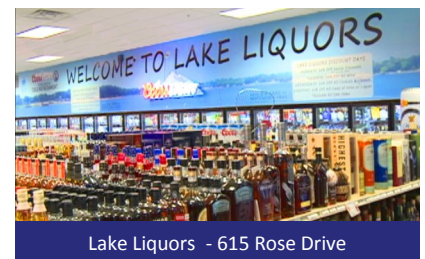
Municipal Liquor Store

Michelob Golden Light has a program called “Celebrating the Lakes of Minnesota with a Better World.” This program awards a \$50,000.00 Golden Grant to a winning lake. The money is used for conservation efforts. For 2014, they will pit lakes and regions against each other in a tournament style bracket through the summer selling season of July, August, and September. Consumers can go to Facebook to vote for their favorite lake. The lake with the most votes wins the \$50,000 “Golden Grant.” This year, Big Lake is one of the lakes in the competition. Please show your support and vote for Big Lake!

Lake Liquors is also a sponsor of Music in the Park and Spudfest. Lake Liquors will be open on the 4th of July, regular business hours, 9am–10pm.

In honor of the 4th of July weekend, there will be a tasting of Veteran’s Beer, both the lager and the Blonde ale on Thursday, July 3, from 4pm– 6pm. We will also be celebrating Schells Brewery’s 30th anniversary with a tasting on Friday, July 18th from 4pm–6pm.

Save the Dates: The last Friday in September (26th), we will be hosting our annual BeerFest from 5pm–7pm. Our fall WineFest is November 14, from 6pm–8pm. Watch for details. Please “Like” us on Facebook to see our schedule of tastings.



Lake Liquors - 615 Rose Drive



160 Lake Street North
Big Lake, MN 55309

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Twin Cities, MN

ECRWSS
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Dated Material
Postmaster: Time Sensitive Mail

Upcoming City Events

Movie in the Park

Friday, Sept. 12
Dusk (Approx. 8pm)
Lakeside Park
101 Lakeshore Drive

"Movie in the Park" is sponsored by the City of Big Lake, the Sherburne Wright Cable Commission, the Big Lake American Legion Post 147, the Big Lake American Legion Auxiliary, the Big Lake Knights of Columbus and the Elk River Lions Club.



Watch the City's Website and Facebook page for September's movie choice!

"Movie in the Park" is free of charge.

Big Lake Farmer's Market

Wednesdays *Through Oct. 8*
3pm-7pm
Lakeside Park
101 Lakeshore Drive

The fourth annual Big Lake Farmer's Market is held at Lakeside Park every Wednesday from 3pm to 7pm. This season, twenty vendors offer traditional items such as produce and plants, in addition to arts and crafts. Special events are scheduled weekly such as free face painting and expertise provided by the Master Gardeners of Sherburne County.



Dog Vaccination Clinic

Saturday, Sept. 6
9am-12noon
Township Hall
21960 County Road 5

Barrington Oaks Veterinary Hospital will provide vaccination services at this 9th annual event.



All dogs must be on a leash. Only healthy dogs will be vaccinated. A Dog License is required to be eligible for the discounted vaccinations. The \$10 license fee is valid for the lifetime of the dog. City and Township residents will be able to purchase a dog license onsite the day of the event.

Firefighter's Dance & Raffle

Saturday, Aug. 2
7pm-1am
Big Lake Fire Department
20243 County Road 43



The cost is \$10 at the door. Start the night with classic rock band "Grawlix" at 7pm. Then be ready to dance the night away with "Outside Recess" at 9pm.



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