

# City of Big Lake Fall 2021 Newsletter

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## City Offices Closed

- ⇒ Thursday, November 11 - Veterans Day
- ⇒ Thursday, November 25 - Thanksgiving Holiday Observed
- ⇒ Friday, November 26 - Thanksgiving Holiday
- ⇒ Friday, December 24 - Christmas Holiday
- ⇒ Friday, December 31 - New Year's Eve

## Big Lake Branding Project Unveiled



The City of Big Lake is unveiling a new community brand and design identity. This update reflects the positive growth seen recently as more residents and businesses have made the community their home. The new Big Lake brand celebrates both the physical and emotional aspects that allow our community to thrive. The logo's illustration of Lake Mitchell and Big Lake signifies the physical beauty of our community, while the

new motto of "Live Big!" describes what residents and visitors can expect. With great housing stock, phenomenal jobs, beautiful nature, and many amenities within a short drive, rest assured that whatever you are looking for, you can find it here.

The City has worked hard to support a thriving business ecosystem that prioritizes business growth and has a track record of efficiently removing obstacles to allow expedited expansion. In addition, there is available land for development and a well built-out infrastructure to support new and existing businesses as they grow. Businesses can create their future here in Big Lake and the City is here to help.

The new brand will help to differentiate Big Lake from neighboring communities because it highlights our greatest asset, the people who live and work here. Big Lake has great people – a strong workforce, engaged citizens, and strong education including an apprenticeship program. By highlighting these resources, we can continue to build a thriving community.

The brand and marketing tools were developed by Como Lake Marketing Partners and the City is unveiling the new brand design starting October 1, 2021 on its website and at City Hall. More long-term updates to equipment and permanent structures throughout the City will be staggered in the near and long-term future.

# Proposed Property Tax Levy 2022

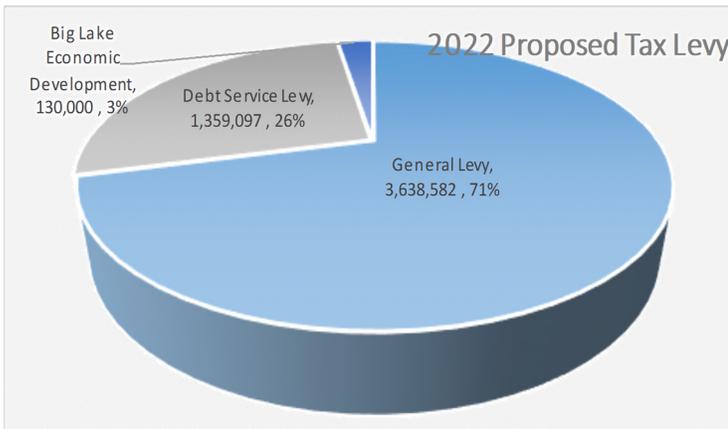
The proposed Property Tax Levy for 2022 is \$5,134,729 . The City’s tax rate is anticipated to be 48.77%, which is a decrease of .78% over the 2021 tax rate. This is due to an increase in the City’s overall net tax capacity of approximately 8.13%. With the decrease in the City Tax rate and new construction, most residents will see an 8% or less increase in the City’s portion of the property taxes, however the average increase in home values is 7%. Below is a summary of estimated City property taxes based on the following home values (assuming 7% increase in home value), if the home values did not increase, the City’s portion of the property tax would be approximately the same as 2021. **Mark your calendars!** The 2022 Budget and Levy Public Input Meeting takes place on **Monday, November 29th at 6 p.m.** in the Big Lake City Hall Council Chambers.

## What makes my property taxes change each year?

- a. My property’s value
- b. My neighbor’s property value
- c. My city council, county board, and school board
- d. The state legislature

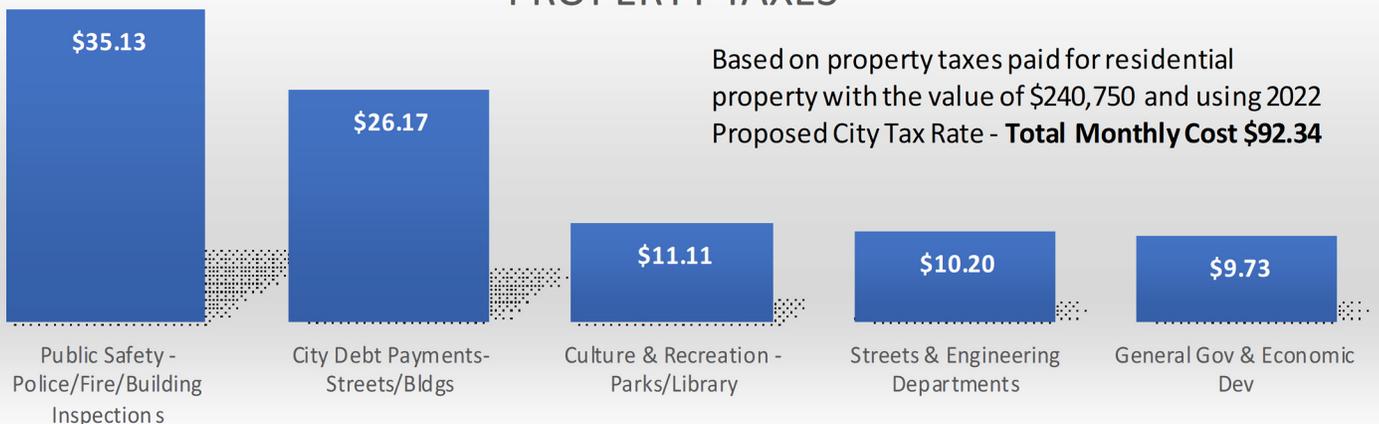
**Answer: All of the above**

Assessed Value (with 7% Increase)	Estimated Annual City Property Tax	Estimated Annual increase for City Property Tax	Estimated Monthly increase for City Property Tax
\$187,250	\$817.00	\$53.00	\$4.00
\$214,000	\$960.00	\$61.00	\$5.00
\$267,500	\$1,246.00	\$75.00	\$6.00
\$321,000	\$1,532.00	\$89.00	\$7.00



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.

## MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD COST FOR CITY SERVICES FROM PROPERTY TAXES



# League of Minnesota Cities Frequently Asked Questions

**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 doesn't see the need. Communities with lots of young families need to offer different kinds of services than communities seeing increases in the number of senior residents. Sometimes cities have to provide certain services in order to comply with state or federal laws. Some common examples are requirements for testing drinking water and making public buildings accessible to people with disabilities.

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

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

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

**A:** Cities have several sources of revenue, but the two largest 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. Another source of revenue for cities 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 which come from the state or federal government and are used for very specific purposes such as a building or equipment improvement.

## Municipal Liquor Store

Lake Liquors would like to thank the community for their support and understanding during these challenging times. Staff is working hard to provide a quality selection and great customer service under stressful conditions. Customer requests are welcomed, but please know that distributors are continuing to have rolling outages. Because of this we are still experiencing shortages mainly in the pop, beer, and spirits categories. Be sure to mark your calendar for the annual Fall Wine Sale in-store from Sunday, November 14 through Saturday, November 20 and follow us on Facebook for more details as the dates move closer.

### Discount Days:

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

### Regular Store Hours:

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



### Holiday Hours:

- ⇒ Thursday, November 25: Closed
- ⇒ Friday, December 24: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Saturday, December 25: Closed
- ⇒ Saturday, January 1: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## 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. Big Lake is a walkable community and many residents, especially children and those with physical handicaps rely on the sidewalk system to safely navigate their neighborhoods and access community resources. It only takes one icy sidewalk section to force pedestrians into the road where their safety is compromised.

The City will be sending out its authorized contractor after each snowfall this winter to ensure that all sidewalks are being cleared in accordance with the ordinance. The contractor will clear all sidewalks that are not in compliance with the ordinance, and the property owners will be billed for the service per the adopted City Fee Schedule. The City will always wait at least 24 hours after a snowfall of two inches or more before a sidewalk sweep.

The day before the contractor is sent out to "sweep" the City and clear the non-compliant sidewalks, the City will make a public announcement via Facebook. In addition to this, you can sign up to receive a text message or email alert prior to a scheduled sweep. Sign up for alerts at [www.biglakemn.org/list.aspx?ListID=268](http://www.biglakemn.org/list.aspx?ListID=268).

Questions? Contact Planning Technician Megan Pavék at 763-251-2971 or [mpavek@biglakemn.org](mailto:mpavek@biglakemn.org).

## Winter Parking Reminders from Public Works

Keep in mind that parking is not allowed on any street or roadway between November 1st and April 1st. If your vehicle has a mechanical failure and cannot be moved contact the Big Lake Police Department to avoid a citation or impound. Property owners are responsible to clear around their mailbox and State and Local laws prohibit pushing or placing snow into and/or across the street or roadway. Thank you for helping to keep our community safe and beautiful this winter season!

## Meet Your Planning and Zoning Department



**Lucinda Spanier: City Planner**

Lucinda has worked for the City of Big Lake for about a year. Her position includes assisting land owners, developers, appraisers, builders and real estate professionals with interpretation of City ordinances and policies (regulations) related to land development. She also reviews land development proposals to ensure they conform with these regulations. Development proposals could be as small as an addition to a house and as large as a neighborhood. Lucinda's favorite part of her job is working with other development professionals and contributing positively to the built environment. When not at work, Lucinda enjoys being outdoors whether it's hiking, playing tennis, skiing or just being out on the water.

**Megan Pavek: Planning Technician**

Megan has worked for the City of Big Lake for a little over two months. Her position involves reviewing, processing, and issuing all zoning permits for the City of Big Lake. Zoning permits include sheds, fences, pools, driveways, chicken coops, and parking pads. She is also the main contact for all code enforcement. Her goal is to always communicate efficiently with property owners and ultimately reach an understanding. Megan's favorite part of her position is working with residents and helping them through a project from beginning to end. In her free time, Megan enjoys painting, drinking coffee, making bagels, and spending time outdoors.



### Fall Photo Contest

Big Lake Residents are invited to submit pictures that highlight their favorite happenings in Big Lake for the 2021 Fall 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](mailto:ccscott@biglakemn.org) by November 30, 2021.



### Holiday Lighting Contest

Once again the City is hosting the Holiday Lighting Contest, and this year, we want you to decide the winners! Below are details on this year's event.

1st Place: \$50 Gift Card to Lake Liquors

2nd Place: Lakeside Park Pass and City Swag

Area residents can vote for their favorite lighting display online between December 14 - 19, 2021 and winners will be announced on December 20, 2021 on the City Facebook Page and at [biglakemn.org](http://biglakemn.org).

⇒ Outdoor displays only.

⇒ Open to any residential address located within Big Lake City Boundaries.

⇒ First place winners cannot win a prize more than one consecutive year in a row.

⇒ Register for the contest by Monday, December 13, 2021. Registration forms can be found at City Hall or online at [biglakemn.org](http://biglakemn.org).

## Holiday Safety Tips from the Big Lake Police Department

As we move into the holiday season, we can never be too prepared to keep an eye out for criminal activity. You never know when the Grinch will be looking for the right opportunity to steal your presents! The Big Lake Police Department would like to remind the community to be vigilant during the holiday season. Here are some tips to keep your home and family safe.

### Holiday Shopping:

- ⇒ Lock your car doors, even if you are at home
- ⇒ Secure valuables in the trunk of your car or somewhere they are not visible
- ⇒ Keep receipts with you and not inside the shopping bag
- ⇒ Park in areas that have adequate lighting when shopping at night
- ⇒ Bring someone with you when shopping rather than going alone
- ⇒ Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you
- ⇒ Stay off your cell phone when walking through parking lots
- ⇒ Avoid carrying large amounts of cash
- ⇒ Report suspicious activity to law enforcement immediately!



### Home Safety:

- ⇒ Arrange to have packages delivered to a neighbor if you are not home to receive them as packages left on porches, doorsteps, or apartment hallways are an easy target
- ⇒ Always lock your home doors and windows, even if you are only gone a few minutes
- ⇒ Do not keep large displays of holiday gifts visible in your home; put them somewhere where a person cannot see them looking through a window or door
- ⇒ Have at least two light timers set at different times – makes it appear someone is home
- ⇒ Create an up-to-date home inventory of personal items including make, model, serial number, and photos
- ⇒ Make arrangements with a friend or neighbor to collect your mail while you are away – overstuffed mailboxes are a sure sign no one is home

From all of us at the Big Lake Police Department, we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

*Sam Olson - Sergeant*

## Fall Hydrant Flushing



Fall hydrant flushing is scheduled to begin on Monday, October 18 and will continue thru October 29 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. During this process you may experience a drop in water pressure and deposits from water lines may create a yellowish to brownish discoloration of water in homes near flushing areas. While this water is safe for drinking, it may discolor laundry. Please contact Water Superintendent Dan Childs at 763-251-8010 with any questions or concerns you may have.

## Fire Prevention Week and the Fire Department Open House



With fall upon us, the Fire Department is gearing up for Fire Prevention Week when members visit schools, host station tours and meet with children to promote and teach fire safety. This takes place the week of Monday, October 4 and ends with the annual Fire Department Open House on Sunday, October 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event will have free

pumpkins for kids, a kids water-ball activity, demonstrations on a sprinkler trailer, auto extraction using the jaws of life, and representatives onsite from CenterPoint Energy, Connexus Energy, Red Cross, the Department of Natural Resources, Big Lake Police Department and Sherburne County Sheriff's Department.

Fall is also a good time of year to change your smoke detector batteries. There should be a smoke detector on each level of your house and outside of each sleeping area. It is important to have your heating equipment checked. If you burn wood, have the flue pipe checked and/or cleaned. Summer has been busy for the Fire Department with call outs and scheduled training classes. Five new members have completed their first year of intense training involving about 160 hours of their time before responding on calls; we are proud to have them trained and onboard. The Fire Department would like to thank the residents of the Big Lake community for their continued support.

*Seth Hansen - Fire Chief*

## Manufacturing Month



City Council has formally considered and accepted your Big Lake Economic Development Authority's recommendation of proclaiming October 2021 as Big Lake Manufacturing Month! In recognition of the critical importance of manufacturing in Minnesota's economy, "Manufacturing Week" has evolved into, "Manufacturing Month." The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and manufacturing industry associations are hosting both virtual and in-person

events to mark the month. You can find a statewide schedule at [www.careerforcemn.com/2021-manufacturing-month-events](http://www.careerforcemn.com/2021-manufacturing-month-events). October will be a great time to present the many career opportunities in the manufacturing industry. City staff will be actively posting on the city website and social media platforms throughout the month of October to raise public awareness of the importance of manufacturing, to highlight the impact of the industry in this region, and to honor Big Lake manufacturers.

## Chamber Halloween Scavenger Hunt



Save the date for the annual Big Lake Chamber Halloween Scavenger Hunt on Saturday, October 30. Match clues to corresponding Chamber members and take a picture in your costume at each location you visit. Prizes will be awarded for the most members visited and the most creative costumes. Find details on the Scavenger Hunt at [biglakechamber.com](http://biglakechamber.com) or on the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry Facebook page!



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Big Lake, MN 55309

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The Big Lake City Newsletter is published quarterly to update Big Lake residents and businesses on city government news.

### City Council

Paul Knier, Mayor

612-817-6758, [pknier@biglakemn.org](mailto:pknier@biglakemn.org)

Ken Halverson, Council Member

763-286-8152, [khalverson@biglakemn.org](mailto:khalverson@biglakemn.org)

Sam Hanson, Council Member

763-567-8335, [shanson@biglakemn.org](mailto:shanson@biglakemn.org)

Kim Noding, Council Member

763-238-1875, [knoding@biglakemn.org](mailto:knoding@biglakemn.org)

Paul Seefeld, Council Member

612-801-7731, [pseefeld@biglakemn.org](mailto:pseefeld@biglakemn.org)

### Notify Me

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

### Contact the City

Phone: 763-263-2107

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

### View Meetings

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

**City Council:** October 13, 27 | November 10, 29 | December 8 (6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

**Planning Commission:** October 6 | November 3 | December 1 (6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

**BLEDA:** October 11 | November 8 | December 13 (6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

**Parks Advisory Committee:** October 25 | Nov. 22 | Dec. 27 (6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers)

### Connect with City of Big Lake

 [www.biglakemn.org](http://www.biglakemn.org)

 Like us on Facebook, [facebook.com/BigLakeMN/](https://facebook.com/BigLakeMN/)

 Follow the Police Dept. on Twitter @BigLakePolice



# Big Lake Winter Farmers Market

Third Saturday  
Big Lake City Hall

160 Lake St. N, Big Lake, MN  
10 AM - 1 PM

November 20 | December 18

January 15 | February 19

March 19 | April 16 | \*April 23

\*April 23 Market at BLHS

 [biglakemn.org](http://biglakemn.org)  
[cscott@biglakemn.org](mailto:cscott@biglakemn.org) 