

# City of Big Lake Winter 2023 Newsletter



## Inside This Issue

Finance Department	2
Liquor Store	4
Fire Department	4
Outstanding Citizen	4
Staff Spotlight	5
Ice Rinks	5
Flushable Wipes	6
Water Shutoffs	6
Community Fair	6
Community Gardens	6
Snow Season Reminders	7
Winter Farmers Market	8

## City Offices Closed

- ⇒ Monday, January 2 -  
New Year's Day Observed
- ⇒ Monday, January 16 -  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- ⇒ Monday, February 20 -  
Presidents' Day

## Development in Big Lake

The City of Big Lake experienced strong private investment in 2022! New development increases the tax base so that our residents and businesses pay less, which is why private development will continue to be a priority throughout 2023.

**Housing Development:** The City of Big Lake issued 26 single-family new construction building permits in 2022, which is lower than the past five years due to the fact that our buildable vacant lots have all been built upon. Prairie Meadows 3rd Addition received approvals for an additional 78 single family units. Other single-family housing developers have acknowledged that Big Lake is ready for new subdivisions and have started the process with planning and zoning; we hope to see their projects come to fruition in 2023!

Station Street Apartments completed their 3-phase, multi-family, market rate project adding a total of 105 housing units to the community. Marketplace Crossing is currently in construction and should be complete summer of 2023; adding 60 housing units of both market rate and affordable options.

**Commercial/Industrial:** Big Lake Car Condos continued their construction project in 2022, which will run into 2023. Both Premier Marine and Arrow Components completed their new construction projects in the industrial parks.

**Looking Forward:** Capstone Homes has their preliminary approval for their detached townhome concept consisting of 193 homes. Aeon will be moving forward with their senior affordable rental project, which will consist of 74 units for the 55+ active living community.

## Congratulations Council Members Elect!

**Council Members (4-year terms): Ken Halverson and Kim Noding**

Congratulations to Council Members Elect Ken Halverson and Kim Noding who will be sworn in at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers prior to the January 11, 2023 City Council Meetings.

# City Summary Budget Statement

The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2023 budget information concerning the City of Big Lake to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minn. Stat. Sec. 471.6965. The budget below is not complete; however, residents can request the complete budget by visiting City Hall or by contacting the Finance Director via email at [dwegeleben@biglakemn.org](mailto:dwegeleben@biglakemn.org). The City Council approved this budget on December 14, 2022.

## General Fund 2023 Adopted Budget

	2021	2022	2023
	Actual	Budget	Adopted Budget
<b>Revenues</b>			
Property Taxes	\$ 3,538,948	\$ 3,509,954	\$ 3,998,933
Special Assessments	5,167	2,000	3,000
Licenses & Permits	730,551	509,002	567,339
Intergovernmental	473,421	454,284	467,790
Franchise Fees	444,204	434,762	447,904
Charges for Services	283,444	271,887	264,585
Fines & Forfeitures	47,332	61,000	62,100
Investment Income	(138,686)	17,000	17,000
Contributions/Donations	16,103	3,000	4,500
Miscellaneous Revenue	19,740	1,000	2,500
Transfer In from other Funds	450,000	450,000	450,000
<b>Total - Current Year Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 5,870,224</b>	<b>\$ 5,713,889</b>	<b>\$ 6,285,651</b>
Prior year donations - Designed Fund Balance	7,906	10,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 5,878,130</b>	<b>\$ 5,723,889</b>	<b>\$ 6,295,651</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
<b>General Government</b>			
Mayor/Council	\$ 31,867	\$ 33,857	\$ 32,956
Planning	167,432	185,092	207,068
Elections	9,048	29,300	2,000
Administration/Finance	559,701	589,830	573,857
IT - Computer/Software	90,881	108,809	125,225
Big Lake Community Service Center/Library	64,962	67,409	67,407
Economic Development	97,040	113,737	164,375
Building	224,328	238,421	237,418
Engineering	86,329	100,898	104,564
Fleet/Equipment Maintenance	123,619	177,450	189,154
Streets	498,131	614,116	626,889
Parks	514,999	525,007	615,865
Police	2,093,778	2,227,942	2,460,670
Fire	309,717	289,248	325,120
Community - Recreation (other)	94,343	106,552	119,472
Transfers Out to other Funds	726,938	316,221	443,611
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 5,693,113</b>	<b>\$ 5,723,889</b>	<b>\$ 6,295,651</b>
Increase (Decrease) In Fund Balance	\$ 185,017	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Property Tax Levy Requirement to Fund This Budget</b>	<b>\$ 3,512,929</b>	<b>\$ 3,638,582</b>	<b>\$ 4,118,078</b>

Yearly Cost per Capita of 12,165 \$ 339

## Enterprise Funds 2023 Adopted Budget

	Adopted 2023 Budget			
	Water	Sewer	Storm Sewer	Liquor
<b>Sales and Cost of Sales</b>				
Sales- net Loyalty Program				\$ 5,279,726
Cost of Sales (COS)				(4,012,917)
<b>Gross Profit</b>				<b>\$ 1,266,809</b>
<b>Operating Revenues</b>				
Utilities Revenues	\$ 2,415,838	\$ 3,202,355	\$ 275,531	
<b>Total Gross Profit and Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 2,415,838</b>	<b>\$ 3,202,355</b>	<b>\$ 275,531</b>	<b>\$ 1,266,809</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Personnel	731,182	731,474	169,149	805,322
Professional Services	58,350	42,900	2,720	6,811
Operations	495,819	877,545	20,175	246,745
Depreciation	996,284	1,422,595	227,329	60,000
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>2,281,635</b>	<b>3,074,514</b>	<b>419,373</b>	<b>1,118,878</b>
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>134,203</b>	<b>127,841</b>	<b>(143,842)</b>	<b>147,931</b>
<b>Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)</b>				
Interest Earnings	6,000	2,000	3,000	10,615
Debt Service Interest and Charges	(83,943)	(236,046)	(39,641)	-
<b>Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)</b>	<b>(77,943)</b>	<b>(234,046)</b>	<b>(36,641)</b>	<b>10,615</b>
<b>Income (Loss) before operating Transfers</b>	<b>56,260</b>	<b>(106,205)</b>	<b>(180,483)</b>	<b>158,546</b>
Operating Transfer In (Out)	(278,000)	(180,000)	(55,000)	(485,000)
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (221,740)</b>	<b>\$ (286,205)</b>	<b>\$ (235,483)</b>	<b>\$ (326,454)</b>
<b>2023 Principal Debt Payment</b>	<b>\$ 661,338</b>	<b>\$ 1,145,600</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

## 2023 Financial Planning and Budget Calendar

The yearly budget schedule is listed below, please watch for information pertaining to the City’s 2024 budget and join us. Your feedback is welcomed!

Meeting Dates	Discussion Topics
June	Financial Management Plan review provided to departments
July	Meeting with departments regarding needs and discussion at Council workshops
August	Council workshops to review preliminary budgets continue
September	Council adopts Maximum Tax Levy
October-November	Council workshops on the budgets to find additional savings or services continue
November	Public Input Meeting regarding final levy and budgets for upcoming year
December	Council adopts final tax levies and budgets

## Municipal Liquor Store

In 2022, Lake Liquors contributed \$43,000 to the completion of Powell Park. Lake Liquors also transferred funds to the General Fund to help pay for City services and reduce the burden on taxpayers. This was made possible by the continued support from area residents! Next time you stop by the store, check out our new eco-friendly landscaping.

Save the date for Lake Liquors' Annual Spring Wine Sale happening April 2-8, 2023. Keep updated on details of the sale by following Lake Liquors on Facebook or checking the City's website. Note that staff works hard to stay up-to-date on trending products, and that requests are always welcome. Thank you for your support and please remember Lake Liquors when your spirits are low!

### 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:

- ⇒ Sunday, December 25: Closed
- ⇒ Sunday, January 1: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## Fire Department Winter Heating Safety Tips



As we are in the height of winter and temperatures continue to drop, there is a need to use various forms of heat sources in your home. The Big Lake Fire Department wants to remind the public to take precautions to keep their families safe. Remember to keep any flammable materials and children at least 3 feet away from heating equipment. This includes open fires, furnaces, and space heaters. Another tip is to keep your chimney clean. This can be done by a professional chimney sweep and can help keep harmful chemicals such as carbon

monoxide out of your home. It's vitally important to have properly functioning and installed carbon monoxide detectors in your home as well. On behalf of the Big Lake Fire Department, please be safe and have a happy winter season!

*Seth Hansen - Fire Chief*



## Outstanding Citizen Nominations Being Accepted

Do you know of someone making a positive impact in your community? Someone who's gone unrecognized for all the great things they have done and continue to do to make the City a better place? The City of Big Lake is accepting nominations for the 2023 Outstanding Citizen Award through May 1, 2023. You can find nomination forms at City Hall or on the City's website at [biglakemn.org](http://biglakemn.org).

## Meet Your Chief of Police: John Kaczmarek



John was hired as the Chief of Police for the City of Big Lake in September of 2022. Prior to his appointment as Chief, he worked for the Robbinsdale Police Department from 2006-2022. While with the Robbinsdale Police Department he held the positions of Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Detective, Patrol Sergeant, West Metro SWAT Operator, and Police Captain. As the Chief of Police, John is responsible for organizing, directing, and coordinating all police department activities for the City of Big Lake. His focus is to ensure that all members of the public are provided with exceptional, professional public safety services.

Don't be surprised if you see John out in the community actively responding to calls for service and enforcing traffic violations. He routinely takes part in patrolling the City of Big Lake as he strongly believes in leading by example. In John's words, "being the Chief of Police does not make me exempt from doing the duties of a police officer." John finds it very important as the Chief to have a vision and mission for the future, and to coordinate with others within the department. He truly enjoys being out in the community with his fellow officers and enjoys providing leadership through example and experience.

When John isn't working, you can find him spending time with family and traveling. He enjoys watching his fraternal twins grow up, as well as playing basketball and golf with his oldest son. When he has time, John actively participates in a basketball league as it helps to center him and relieve stress. Be sure to say hello to John as you see him out in the Big Lake community!

### Winter Photo Contest

Big Lake Residents are invited to submit pictures that highlight their favorite happenings in Big Lake for the 2022-2023 Winter 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 March 17, 2023.



### Ice Skating Rinks

Another warm start to winter and consistent heavy snowfalls means a late opening season for the community's beloved Ice Rinks. Public Works has begun the process of flooding the rinks and are hopeful they will be ready for public use by January!

#### Warming House Hours:

- ⇒ Monday - Friday: 3:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
  - ⇒ Sat. - Sun. & School Holidays: 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- \*Occasionally, due to poor ice condition or weather*



## “Flushable” Doesn’t Always Mean It Can be Flushed



Did you know that many products including wet wipes that are marketed as “flushable” don't degrade in the City's sewer system? Although these products sometimes make it through the private property owner’s sanitary sewer service line, they won't break down like toilet paper. This means that clumps of these sturdy, non-degradable products often plug sewer lines and lift stations which causes blockages and backups. If the product doesn’t fall apart like toilet paper, if it contains any cloth or mesh fibers, or if it continues to stay intact after being wet and used,

then please be mindful of the City's sewer system and place it in the trash, not the toilet!

## Water Shutoffs Begin April 15, 2023

Beginning April 1, 2023, the City of Big Lake will be mailing out notices to property owners for delinquent water bills. Only one notice will be given. If your account is delinquent on April 15, 2023, your water service may be disconnected. Pay online at [biglakemn.org](http://biglakemn.org) or by phone with Invoice Cloud at 866-342-9267. No longer want to receive the paper bill in the mail? Opt out of the paper bill to receive an email bill and also a 50¢ credit monthly.

## Big Lake Chamber Community Fair



Mark your calendar for the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce and Industry’s annual Community Fair on Saturday, March 18, 2023 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Big Lake High School! The City of Big Lake will be there offering prizes and answering questions.

- ⇒ Free Admission
- ⇒ Free Entertainment
- ⇒ Free Giveaways
- ⇒ Farmers Market Vendors



Booth registration is open! Scan the QR Code or visit [biglakechamber.com](http://biglakechamber.com)



## City of Big Lake Community Gardens

**Now accepting applications! Garden plots can be leased for \$30 from May - October. Plots are 10'x20' and located next to Public Works at 18041 198th Ave.**

**Interested in a plot? Contact Corrie Scott at [cscott@biglakemn.org](mailto:cscott@biglakemn.org) or 612-297-6331. Applications available at [biglakemn.org](http://biglakemn.org) and City Hall.**

# Sidewalk Snow Removal



Big Lake is a walkable community with many residents who 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.

With the safety of residents in mind, the City will send out Public Works staff after each snowfall to ensure that all sidewalks are being cleared in accordance with the City’s Snow Removal Ordinance. Property owners who are out of compliance will be billed for the service per the adopted

City Fee Schedule. Public Works will wait at least 24 hours after a snowfall of 2 inches or more before performing a scheduled sidewalk sweep.

The day before Public Works performs a sidewalk sweep, the City will make a post on its Facebook page. In addition to this, you can sign up to receive a text message or email alert the day before a scheduled sweep by scanning the QR Code or visiting the City website.

Questions? Contact Streets, Parks, and Fleet Superintendent Norm Michels at 763-251-8011 or nmichels@biglakemn.org.



## Snow Season Reminders

- ⇒ Please keep in mind property owners are responsible to clear snow around their mailbox. The City will consider making repairs only if the snowplow equipment *physically* hits the mailbox or post, and only if the mailbox conforms to City Ordinance installation requirements. Contact Big Lake Public Works at 763-263-2268 with mailbox complaints.
- ⇒ To prevent damage to lawns, landscape, irrigation heads or other items that will get buried under the snow along the curb or edge of the road, it is recommended that residents clearly mark these areas with reflective stakes.
- ⇒ It is illegal to deposit snow on any City street.



## Winter Parking

Parking is not allowed on any City street or roadway between November 1 and April 1 of each year during the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

- ⇒ After a snowfall of two inches or more, all streets in the City will be cleared of all motor vehicles for snowplowing and/or snow removal.
- ⇒ If your vehicle should have mechanical failure and cannot be removed from the street during the required dates/times, please contact the Big Lake Police Department at 763-251-2996 and advise the officer on duty. This may help in avoiding a citation and/or your vehicle being impounded.





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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:** January 11, 25 | February 8, 22 | March 8, 22  
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

**Planning Commission:** January 4 | February 1 | March 1  
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

**BLEDA:** January 9 | February 13 | March 13  
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

**Parks Advisory Committee:** January 23 | February 27 | March 27  
(6:00 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 Big Lake Police Department on Facebook



# Big Lake Winter Farmers Market

Third Saturday  
Big Lake City Hall  
10 AM - 1 PM

November 19 | December 17 | January 21  
February 18 | \*March 18 | April 15  
\*March Market at BLHS




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