



# City of Big Lake Summer 2023 Newsletter



## Outstanding Citizen of the Year: Nick Paine



Congratulations to Nick Paine, the recipient of the City of Big Lake’s third annual Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award! Nick has spent countless hours giving back to the Big Lake community. He is an active member of Big Lake Spud Fest and the Sherburne County Fair Board. Nick’s commitment to Big Lake is truly an inspiration and call to area residents to get involved and take pride in their community. Thank you for all that you do, Nick!

## Lawn Care Workshop at Lakeside Park

Learn all about growing a healthy lawn while saving your resources and money! Featuring speaker Jon Trappe from the University of Minnesota Extension covering topics including lawn care basics, water use management, technology for water use, and fertilizer strategies. Parking is free for these events and there will also be free hot dogs and door prizes. All Sherburne County residents are welcome! Check out the following dates at two convenient locations:

- ⇒ July 18 | 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. | Lakeside Park (101 Lakeshore Drive, Big Lake)
- ⇒ July 19 | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. | Becker City Park (10362 County Road 23, Becker)

## Big Lake Library Summer Reading

### FIND YOUR VOICE!



The Big Lake Library is offering a summer reading program for kids and teens from June 5 - August 5. You can use Beanstack, design your own reading goal, or pick up a tracking sheet at

your local library! Details can be found at [griver.org/kids/summer-reading-program](http://griver.org/kids/summer-reading-program). Register on Beanstack now: [griver.beanstack.org/](http://griver.beanstack.org/)

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## City Offices Closed

- ⇒ Tuesday, July 4  
Independence Day
- ⇒ Monday, September 4  
Labor Day

## Big Lake Night to Unite: August 1, 2023

Night to Unite is a national event held each year on the first Tuesday in August. This event gives residents the opportunity to build strong relationships with their neighbors and interact with their local police department, fire department, and elected officials. Routinely, the Big Lake Police Department receives tips from residents which aid in solving cases and leads to significant arrests. Building these strong relationships helps to ensure trust between residents and the police department which in turn makes our community a safer place!

Night to Unite gives citizens an opportunity to come together and form block parties. These can be as small as visiting on a neighbor's driveway or as large as blocking off your neighborhood street. Here are some ideas for your upcoming Night to Unite block parties:

- ⇒ Have a BBQ
- ⇒ Provide yard games for adults and kids to play
- ⇒ Invite the Police Department and Fire Department
- ⇒ Discuss crime prevention within your neighborhood
- ⇒ Get to know your neighbors

Office Manager Tina Peterson will be coordinating Night to Unite for Big Lake again this year. Coordinate your block party by contacting Tina at [tpeterson@biglakepolice.com](mailto:tpeterson@biglakepolice.com) or 763-251-2991. The Big Lake Police Department looks forward to spending time with you! Hope to see you on August 1, 2023, for Night to Unite.

*John Kaczmarek - Chief of Police*

## Business Spotlight: Options, Inc.



The City of Big Lake would like to recognize the positive impact Options Inc. has made in our community. Options is a private, non-profit organization that provides services for people with disabilities. They opened their doors in 1979 at Saron Lutheran Church in Big Lake supporting 9 adults. Throughout the years, their program has grown, including expanding services to facilitate employment and activities in the community. With growth came the need for a new larger building in 2006. Today, Options serves 240 people throughout Sherburne and Northern Wright Counties providing the opportunity for citizens to be a part of their community. Options partners with

businesses to offer work opportunities both at their facility and offsite. Examples of some of these opportunities include cooking classes, art, yoga, music, and volunteer opportunities. In May, Options opened Blackbird Coffee Co., a new venture that offers an opportunity for people to develop valuable work skills. Blackbird Coffee Co., open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., is located in the main lobby of the Sherburne County Government Center where you can purchase a fresh cup of coffee, baked goods, and coffee beans. You can also order online at [Blackbird-CoffeeCO.MN.org](http://Blackbird-CoffeeCO.MN.org). For more information on Options Inc. visit [optionsincmn.org](http://optionsincmn.org).



## Meet Recreation and Communication Coordinator Corrie Scott



Corrie began as an intern for the Big Lake Farmers Market in 2016. She was hired as a part time employee for the City of Big Lake in 2018 and promoted in 2019 when the Recreation and Communication Coordinator position was created. Some of Corrie's duties include coordinating City events and programs, updating the City's website and social media, processing Special Event Permits, acting as a liaison on various Committees throughout Big Lake including Spud Fest, overseeing volunteers, taking minutes for the Parks Advisory Committee and Economic Development Authority, and coordinating the Community Garden Program.

A few of the events Corrie coordinates include the winter and summer Farmers Market, Music in the Park, and Movie in the Park. One of her favorite parts about this position is being onsite at events and seeing area residents meeting their neighbors and supporting local artisans and farmers. She also enjoys having some days in the office to collaborate with her peers and organize future events and programs. Corrie graduated from Big Lake High School in 2011 and was a Big Lake Ambassador in 2009-2010. She moved to St. Cloud while attending college, but she has always found a sweet spot in her heart for the Big Lake community. When she is not at work you can find her attending festivals, concerts, or a local farmers market. She loves to travel with her friends and family, especially places that are warm like Arizona in the winter months! Next time you are at an event in Big Lake, be sure to say hello as Corrie is always up for friendly conversation!

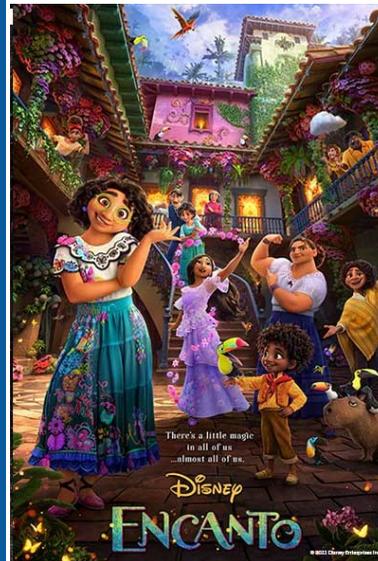
### Summer Photo Contest

Calling all photographers; amateur or professional! Submit your photos that highlight what you love about Big Lake for the 2023 Summer Photo Contest! Winners will receive a City of Big Lake beach towel and mug.

Submission of a photo will release the photo to the City of Big Lake. They may be used on the City website, Facebook page, and any other marketing material. Photos can be submitted to [cscott@biglakemn.org](mailto:cscott@biglakemn.org) by September 1, 2023.



### Movie in the Park September



**Friday, Sept. 15, 2023**

**Featuring: Encanto**

Free Drive-in style movie

First come first served

Parking 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

Movie at Dusk: 7:45 p.m.

Concessions Onsite:

Smokin' J's BBQ,

Mister Lemonade,

Grampa Steve's Kettle-corn, and

the Big Lake Ambassa-

dors selling glow sticks and candy bars.

Thank you to our sponsors: Sherburne Wright Cable Commission and Big Lake Spud Fest.

\*\* If there is inclement weather, the movie will be re-scheduled for Friday, Sept. 22, 2023.

View details and weather updates on Facebook.

# 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 2024 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!

## 2024 Financial Planning and Budget Calendar

Meeting Dates	Discussion Topics
June	Financial Management Plan review provided to departments
July	Meeting with departments regarding needs and Council work sessions
August	Council work sessions to review preliminary budgets continue
September	Council adopts Maximum Tax Levy
October-November	Council work sessions 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

### Music in the Park

Help us celebrate 11 years of music in 2023 at beautiful Lakeside Park!

Select Thursdays  
June - August  
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

- ⇒ Live Music
- ⇒ Free Parking
- ⇒ Food Trucks
- ⇒ Car Show

Find updates on the City’s Facebook page or at [biglakemn.org](http://biglakemn.org).

**Upcoming Music Schedule:**

- July 6: Shane Martin Band
- July 13: Thrillbillies
- July 20: Uncle Chunk
- July 27: Lady Luck
- August 3: Cate Fierro - Heart
- August 10: Humboldt Station

## Municipal Liquor Store

Lake Liquors would like to thank Lisa Miller for her years of service as Lake Liquors' Assistant Liquor Store Manager. Lisa has moved to Big Lake City Hall to continue her career as the Accounting/Deputy City Clerk. Lake Liquors is in the process of hiring and training new staff at the store. Please welcome them to the Big Lake community next time you are in!

Be sure to follow our Facebook page for updates on new products arriving in the store weekly. Not seeing what you need? We are happy to take requests and do our best to fill them. Thank you for making Lake Liquors part of your summer plans. Let us know how we can make your next special event stress-free.

### 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:

- ⇒ Tuesday, July 4th: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Monday, September 4th: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



## Dog Vaccination Clinic

Saturday, September 9, 2023 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Lions Park | 21960 County Rd. 5, Big Lake

All dogs must be on a short 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. One-year Rabies: \$10, DHPP: \$16, Lymes \$30

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

## Coffee with the Mayor

Enjoy free coffee and conversation with Mayor Paul Knier about happenings in the City of Big Lake. This series takes place on select Saturdays throughout the year at Ember Coffee Company from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

450 Jefferson Blvd, Big Lake, MN 55309

### Upcoming Dates:

July 8 | September 9 | November 11



## City Staff Length of Service Recognition

We would like to thank the following staff for their years of services to the community:

- ⇒ **Deb Wegeleben:** 10 years with the Finance Department



## Sherburne County 4-H Opportunities in Big Lake!



**STEM Exploration Day Camp:** Thursday, August 3, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Lakeside Park, Big Lake | Grades: K-6 | Cost: \$20 | Discover the world of engineering through hands-on aerospace and robotics projects! Learn about things that fly, make and design your own vehicles, and test out your designs with a fun-filled day of science and engineering activities! (Participation Minimum: 8, Maximum: 25). Payment can be made the day of Event.

**Fish like a Pro:** Wednesday, August 9, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Lakeside Park, Big Lake | Grades: 3-8 | Cost: \$10 | Join the Big Lake Bass team to learn how to fish like a pro! Learn the basics of baiting and casting through fun games at the lakefront. Then put what you learned to practice reeling in your catch off of the pier! (Participation Minimum: 10, Maximum: 30). Payment can be made the day of Event.

## Attention Big Lake Business Community: RLF Program

Did you know that the Big Lake EDA has established a Revolving Loan Fund Program? A Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) provides businesses with direct loans. As the RLF receives the principal and interest from outstanding loans, the money is made available to another borrower. RLF's are designed to lessen the high cost and short supply of capital for businesses by providing flexible loan terms that assist in providing financing. Contact Community Development Director Therese Haffner at [thaffner@biglakemn.org](mailto:thaffner@biglakemn.org) or 763-463-9638 for more information!

### Property Maintenance

Properties are required to maintain a certain level of appearance. Please be mindful of the following:

Lawns must be mowed on a regular basis and cannot exceed 12 inches or go to seed.

Yard waste (i.e. grass clippings, leaves, logs and brush) can be disposed at the Big Lake compost facility located at 18041 198th Ave. A key card is required to gain access to the site and can be obtained free-of-charge at City Hall. Compost facility details are provided on the city website.

Parking is not allowed in the front yard. If you are interested in installing a parking pad on your property, please consult the Planning & Zoning webpage or the Planning & Zoning Department at 763-251-2971 to learn about this option.

### Zoning Permits

Do I need a zoning permit for that? Zoning permits are required for the following residential improvements to ensure they are in compliance with the City Zoning Code:

- ⇒ Fences
- ⇒ Accessory structures (i.e. sheds, chicken coops, greenhouses) 200 square feet or less
- ⇒ Driveway expansion and replacement
- ⇒ Parking pads
- ⇒ Swimming pools and spas

Zoning permit applications and the zoning regulations associated with these improvements are available for download from the Planning & Zoning webpage or can be picked-up at City Hall. Contact the Planning & Zoning Department at 763-251-2971 with any questions.

## Building Permit Information

### When is a Permit Needed?

- Removal of underground fuel storage tanks
- Replace roofing or siding
- Replace windows/exterior doors
- Egress windows
- Finish basement
- Shed over 200 square ft.
- Garages
- Building additions/remodels
- New construction
- Gazebo over 200 square ft.
- Construct/replace porch or deck
- Demolition
- Retaining walls over 4 ft.
- Gas connection
- Gas appliance replacement
- Sewer and water connection

### No Permit is Needed for the Following:

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

**Questions?** Contact Building Official Mick Kaehler at 763-251-2936 or [mkaehler@biglakemn.org](mailto:mkaehler@biglakemn.org).

## Big Lake Fire Department: Recreational Fires



Summer is here and the Big Lake Fire Department knows that residents will be in full swing with outdoor activities. As your Fire Chief, I would like to offer two important safety topics to consider and discuss with family members and friends.

**Outside Flammables:** Summer is prime time for outdoor cooking. Whether you are using a gas or charcoal grill, please keep in mind the risks associated with both. Be sure to maintain a minimum of 10 feet from combustibles, house siding, deck railings, and patio furniture. If using a charcoal grill, deposit used coals into a metal container and add water to make sure the coals are completely out

before placing into your garbage. Never put used coals in a cardboard box or paper bag and place in your garage. Also, never grill indoors as the combustion creates large amounts of carbon monoxide and can be fatal. Lastly, please do not use flower pots or planters for an ash tray as these may contain peat moss which can easily start on fire and spread to a building structure.

**Water Safety:** Water-focused activities are easy to find in Minnesota; especially the opportunity to take a swim. This can be in a pool at your home or a natural body of water. Please don't over estimate your swimming ability and be sure not to leave young children unattended around water.

**General Updates:** The Fire Department will be seeking people for paid on-call fire fighter positions as the department loses members to retirement. Keep an eye out for hiring ads late this summer or early fall. The Big Lake Fire Department wants you to have a safe and enjoyable summer and we want to thank the community for their continued support. Feel free to reach out with questions or concerns at 763-260-6281 or [blfdmn1@gmail.com](mailto:blfdmn1@gmail.com).

*Seth Hansen - Fire Chief*





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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

**Ken Halverson, Council Member**

763-286-8152, khalverson@biglakemn.org

**Sam Hanson, Council Member**

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**Kim Noding, Council Member**

763-238-1875, knoding@biglakemn.org

**Paul Seefeld, Council Member**

612-801-7731, 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:** July 12, 26 | August 9, 23 | September 13, 27

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

**Planning Commission:** July 5, 19 | August 2, 16 | September 6

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

**BLEDA:** July 10 | August 14 | September 11

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

**Parks Advisory Committee:** July 24 | August 28 | September 25

(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 Farmers Market

LAKESIDE PARK

WEDNESDAYS | JUNE-AUGUST | 3:00-7:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS | SEPTEMBER | 3:00-6:00 PM