

City of Big Lake Summer 2024 Newsletter



2024 City of Big Lake Election Update

2024 Election Dates:

- ⇒ State Primary Election: Tuesday, August 13
 - ⇒ State General Election: Tuesday, November 5
- Polls Open at 7:00 a.m. and Close at 8:00 p.m.



Municipal Election:

- ⇒ Big Lake's municipal elections are nonpartisan and candidates run for their seats at large. City of Big Lake voters will elect one (1) Mayor (4-yr term), and two (2) Council Members (4-yr terms), at the November General Election on November 5, 2024. Terms for these seats will begin Jan. 6, 2025 and will end Dec. 31, 2028.
- ⇒ People interested in running for office in Big Lake must file an affidavit of candidacy. The filing period for affidavits of candidacy opens July 30, 2024 and closes Aug. 13, 2024. 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 \$5 filing fee with the City Clerk's office at City Hall, 160 Lake Street North, Big Lake, MN 55309. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday.

For more information, contact City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, 763-259-1973. Packets of information for persons interested in filing will be available beginning late July 2024.

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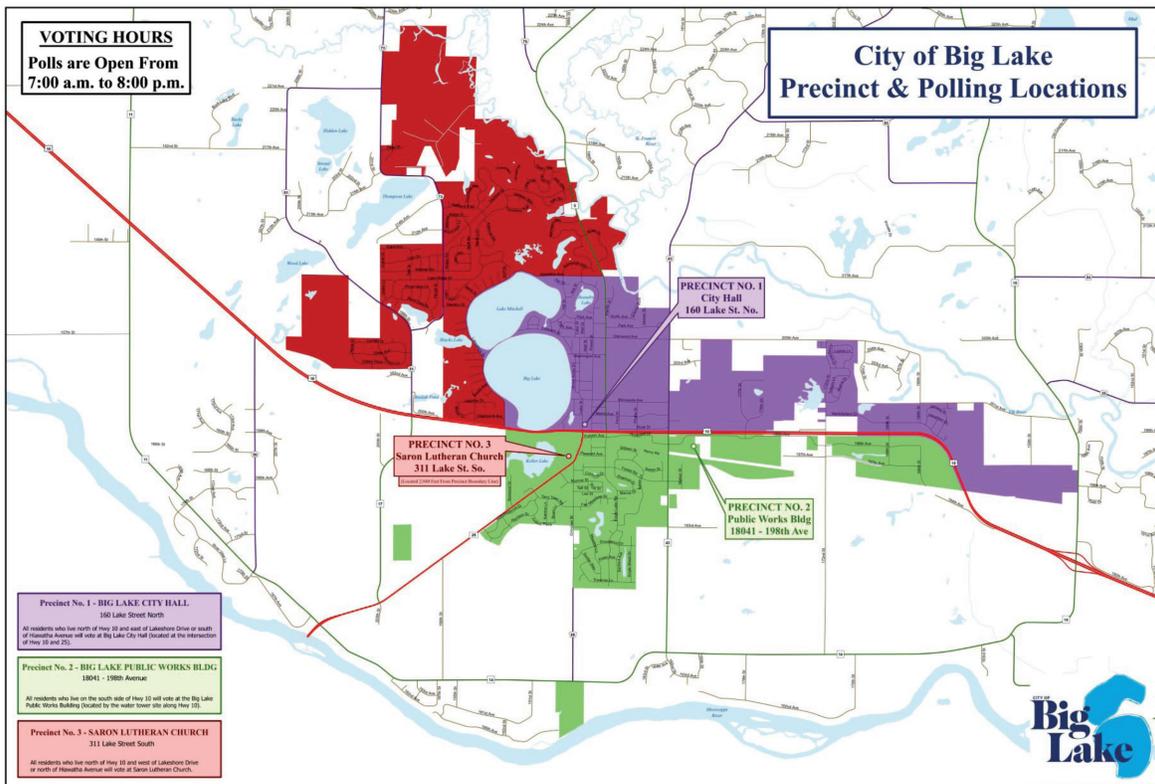
City Offices Closed

- ⇒ Thursday, July 4
Independence Day
- ⇒ Monday, September 2
Labor Day

2024 Election Information Continued

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.



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

- ⇒ **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). **Voter parking is in the North/Main parking lot.**

- ⇒ **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). **The voting entrance and parking is on the backside of the building this year.**

- ⇒ **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.

There are separate access points when entering and exiting the parking lot. Voters enter the parking lot on the north side of the church building, and must exit the parking lot on the south side of the building.

2024 Election Information Continued

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

⇒ **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 23.
- The last day to pre-register to vote for the State General Election is: 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 15.

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

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 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 2024, ballots will be ready starting June 28th for the Primary Election; and September 20th 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: www.sos.state.mn.us

Track Your Absentee Ballot: You can track the progress of your absentee ballot with the absentee ballot lookup tool at mnvotes.org. If there is a problem with your ballot, election officials will send a replacement.



Outstanding Citizen of the Year: Chad Ziegler

Congratulations to Chad Ziegler, the recipient of the City of Big Lake's fourth annual Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award! This program was established as a way to recognize and encourage volunteerism in our community.

Chad is an active member of Big Lake Spud Fest, the Sherburne County Fair Board, and he has hosted food drives and giving trees that give back to those in need. Chad's contribution to Big Lake is greatly appreciated and it is a call to area residents to get involved and take pride in their community. Thank you for all that you do, Chad!

Business Spotlight: LISI Medical Remmele



City staff would like to recognize the positive impact LISI Medical Remmele has made in the Big Lake community. LISI Medical is a division of LISI Group, a global industrial group specializing in the manufacture of high value-added assembly and component solutions for the aerospace, automotive, and medical industries. LISI acquired Remmele Medical Operations in Big Lake in 2016 and since that time has continued to grow locally. In 2017, LISI Medical-Big Lake constructed a 50,000 square feet addition and added approximately 60 new jobs. Today, LISI Medical employs nearly 300 people and manufactures spinal surgery products, minimally invasive surgical instruments, vascular devices and infusion devices.

LISI Medical continues to invest in their Big Lake facility and is currently constructing a 45,000 square feet addition to their building, bringing it to a total of over 150,000 square feet. The total project cost is \$23.5 million and is expected

to create 30 jobs within the first few years. The new addition is planned to be completed in November. LISI Medical was awarded \$450,000 from the Job Creation Fund and a \$550,000 loan from MN Investment Fund from the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development for the creation of new jobs and purchase of equipment to increase manufacturing of surgical instruments.

Thank you, LISI Medical for investing in Big Lake!

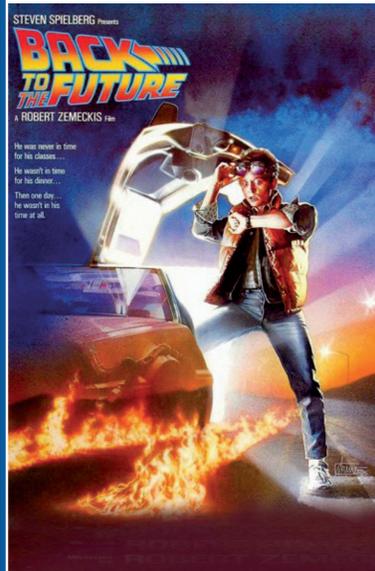
Summer Photo Contest

Calling all photographers; amateur or professional! Submit your photos that highlight what you love about Big Lake for the 2024 Summer Photo Contest! Winners will receive a City of Big Lake beach towel and swag.

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 by September 1, 2024.



Movie in the Park September



Friday, Sept. 6, 2024
Back to the Future

Free Drive-in style movie

First come first served

Parking 7 - 8 p.m.

Movie at Dusk: 8 p.m.

Food Trucks Onsite:
Brisbane's Revenge selling hot dogs, chicken, fries, and popcorn

-Mason's Sno & More selling tropical sno

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. 13, 2024.

View details and weather updates on Facebook.

Big Lake Fire Department: Recreational Fires



The Fourth of July and summer festivals are a great time to get together with family and friends. It's a time for parades, picnics at the park, backyard barbecues. The day is marked with fun activities and the grand finale is a dramatic display of loud bangs and splashes of colors in the sky. It's also a time to remember that fireworks can be dangerous. If not properly handled, fireworks pose risks that can be harmful or deadly.

Nearly 45 percent of fireworks injuries in Minnesota each year happen to children. Statistics show that toddlers to young adults run the greatest risk of being hurt or seriously injured by fireworks. Fireworks that explode or launch into the air are illegal in Minnesota. Yet, every year kids and adults alike will spend the holiday in the emergency room because they were not aware of the hazards that fireworks pose.

Our goal this year is to reduce these injuries by increasing fireworks safety awareness. Please consider distributing these safety tips in advance of our nation's birthday:

- ⇒ Use only Minnesota-legal fireworks. Aerial fireworks such as skyrockets, bottle rockets, helicopters and Roman candles that explode or shoot into the air are all illegal in Minnesota. Aerial fireworks pose dangers to the users and bystanders because the projectile travel path is unpredictable.
- ⇒ Point fireworks away from people and animals.
- ⇒ Extinguish and dispose of spent fireworks in a bucket of water.
- ⇒ Do not try to relight a dud.
- ⇒ No fireworks are totally safe. Sparklers cause the greatest number of fireworks-related injuries, which can burn as hot as 1,400 degrees.
- ⇒ Exercise caution around fireworks and supervise children. There is an average of 75 hospital visits each year in Minnesota due to fireworks injuries.

Enjoy your summer and be safe!

Seth Hansen - Fire Chief



Now Recruiting Police Reserves!

The City of Big Lake is currently recruiting Police Reserves! The Police Reserves are an extension of the Police Department. A Police Reserve is a non-sworn volunteer who assists the Police with certain emergencies or critical events, Spud Fest, Night to Unite, Music in the Park, and other community engagement activities. Applicants must be 18 years of age and live within 30 minutes of the City of Big Lake.

Visit the City of Big Lake for the Reserve Officer Application.

Meet Police Captain Sam Olson



Sam Olson started with the Big Lake Police Department as a Reserve Officer in 2000. In November 2003, he started part time as an officer and then in April 2004 he became a full time Police Officer. Currently, Sam holds the title of Captain of the department. One thing the public may not know about Sam is that he has held every position (title) at the Big Lake Police Department with the exception of Investigator and K9 officer! Sam truly loves his job and enjoys the challenges of assisting Chief Kaczmarek in keeping the department running smoothly. He says that there really is a great group of officers in Big Lake, which can make his job much easier at times! When Sam isn't working he enjoys spending time with his family. On his days off, you can either find him at the softball fields coaching girls' softball, ATV riding, golfing, or just hanging out with friends.

In addition to his service with the Police Department, Sam spent 23 years as a Big Lake Firefighter before retiring as Captain. Being a firefighter prior to becoming a police officer helped teach him to keep his cool in stressful situations. A good majority of Sam's time as a police Captain is spent in the office doing day-to-day duties, but he still tries to get out and patrol the City often and assist officers on calls when he is able. Sam wants the public to know that Big Lake truly is a great community to serve! Working in Big Lake makes it easy to come to work every day with a smile on his face. Next time you see Sam out and about, be sure to say hello.

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.

Music in the Park

Help us celebrate 12 years of music in 2024 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 or at biglakemn.org.

Upcoming Music Schedule:

- July 4: No Music - Holiday
- July 11: Shane Martin Band
- July 18: Sir Psycho
- July 25: Lady Luck
- August 1: Humboldt Station
- August 8: Cate Fierro Band
- August 15: True Villains



Where Can I Park During Music in the Park?

Parking at Lakeside Park is free during Music in the Park, but it is limited. Arrive early to ensure there is enough parking onsite available. Some Boat Trailer Parking will be available for regular vehicle use and this will be regulated by the Big Lake Police Department and Public Works representatives. Additional parking is available on Maple Lane and at Big Lake City Hall (160 Lake Street N). The Park and Ride parking lot is another option for parking and carpooling (198th Ave. & Co. Rd. 43 NW).

Remember that there is no street parking on Lakeshore Drive, Sherburne Avenue, or Euclid Drive. There is also no parking in private businesses parking lots (i.e. DG's Market, Willy's on the Water, Tootsie's Lakeside Pub, French Twist, Haven Books). Reminder not to jaywalk when crossing streets and highways. Stay safe and we'll see you at Music in the Park this summer!

Night to Unite: Neighbors Joining Together



Night to Unite is a national event that brings together our citizens and public safety to promote safer communities and address safety concerns. This year's Night to Unite festivities will take place on Tuesday, August 6, 2024.

Neighborhoods across the community celebrate with block parties, cookouts, and visits from the Big Lake Police Department, Big Lake Fire Department, and elected officials. Night to Unite has proven to be an effective, inexpensive, and enjoyable opportunity to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in pursuit of safer communities. Communities often benefit from this event as neighbors continue

to get to know each other, and residents feel more comfortable speaking to officers about safety concerns.

If you would like to host a gathering in your neighborhood and request a visit from the local Police and Fire Departments, register on the City's website by Friday, August 2, 2024.

Big Lake Police: Recreational Ways of Transportation



Recreational ways of transportation have evolved in recent years. The City of Big Lake takes pride in its ability to provide residents and visitors with ample opportunities to explore. In doing so, the City continues to focus on strengthening public safety and implementing safeguards to ensure that residents and visitors remain safe while enjoying the outside atmosphere that Big Lake provides.

Chapter 6, Section 640 of the Big Lake City Code defines Regulations of Specialty Vehicles, Operations of Electric Personal Assisted Mobility Devices, Motorized Foot Scooters, Medium Speed

Electric Vehicles, and more. Each of these are ways of exploring the Big Lake community. Provisions and restrictions in the City Code ensure that they are done lawfully and safely.

Recently, the Big Lake City Council approved amendments brought forward by the Big Lake Police Department during the May 8, 2024 Council meeting. Those amendments include adding Motorized and Electric-Assisted Bicycles as it pertains to their use. We find it vital to have provisions in place which align with Minnesota State Statutes regarding the use of Motorized and Electric-Assisted Bicycles within City limits. Adding these to the City code will enhance pedestrian and vehicle safety within our residential and City park areas.

Motorized and Electric-Assisted Bicycles defined by Minn. Stat. §169.011, subd. 45, and § 169.011, subd. 27, may be operated in the City pursuant to and in accordance with Minn. Stat. §169.222, subd. 6a, as it may be amended from time to time. No person shall operate a Motorized or Electric-Assisted Bicycle upon a sidewalk at any time, except when such operation is necessary for the most direct access to a roadway from a driveway, alley, or building. We hope you have a wonderful summer while enjoying our trails, parks, and lakes!

John Kaczmarek – Chief of Police

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 the Building Official at 763-251-2936.

Dog Vaccination Clinic & Nitrate Testing



Saturday, September 21, 2024 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Lions Park | 21960 County Rd. 5, Big Lake

All dogs must be on a leash with tight collars or harnesses. Only healthy dogs will be vaccinated. Cash payment required. Checks and card payments will not be accepted.

One-year Rabies: \$12, DHPP: \$18, Lymes: \$40

The Bordetella vaccine is not able to be offered at this event.

Thank you to Barrington Oaks Veterinary Hospital!

Free Nitrate Testing for Well Water

- ⇒ Allow water to run 5-10 minutes before filling a container with at least a 1/2 cup of water.
- ⇒ All samples should be kept cold.
- ⇒ You can bring more than one sample to compare water treatment process.

Thank you to Sherburne Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) & Minnesota Department of Agriculture!

Questions? Contact Big Lake Township at 763-263-8111.

Coffee with the Mayor

Enjoy free coffee and conversation with your 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 (450 Jefferson Blvd, Suite 1, Big Lake, MN) between 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Upcoming Dates:

July 13 | September 14 | November 9



Coffee with the Chief

Enjoy free coffee and conversation with Police Chief John Kaczmarek about happenings in the City of Big Lake. This series takes place on select Wednesdays throughout the year at Ember Coffee Company (450 Jefferson Blvd, Suite 1, Big Lake, MN) between 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Upcoming Dates:

August 7 | October 2 | December 4

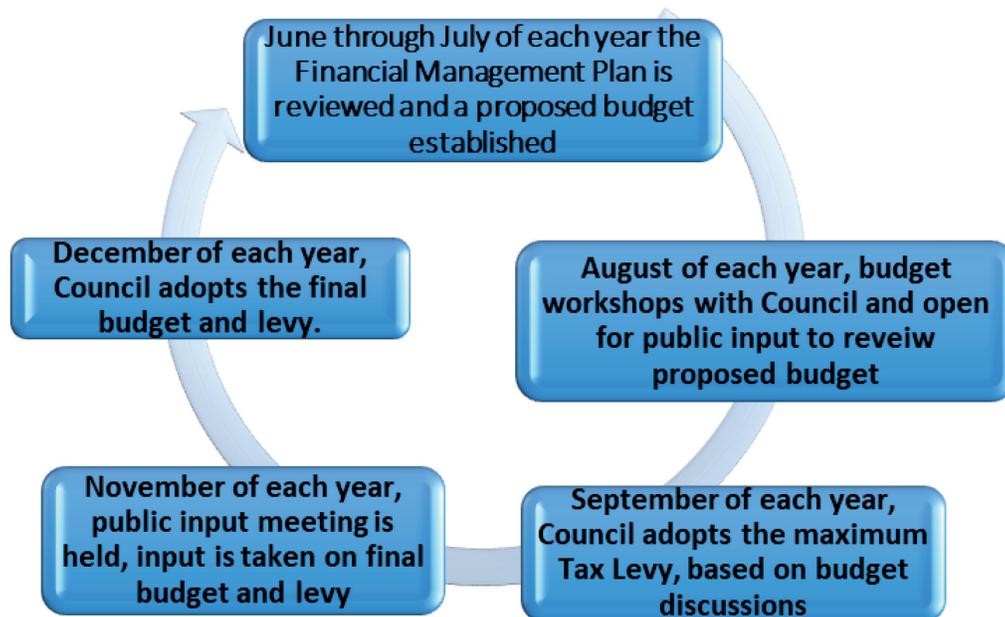
Thoughts from your Finance Department



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 2025 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 budget workshops will take place on Thursday, August 22, 2024 and Thursday, August 29, 2024. We hope you will take some time to join in the conversation and get involved. See you there!

2025 Financial Planning and Budget Calendar



Free Mattress Recycling Collection Event!

For Sherburne County Residents ONLY

Where: Vonco II Landfill 15301 140th Avenue SE, Becker, MN 55308

When: September 7, 2024 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For a list of accepted materials scan the QR code. Questions? Call 763-765-4450.



Municipal Liquor Store

Lake Liquors recently completed a cooler re-set with the goal of offering a wide selection of beers and ready to drink cocktails that match our customers’ needs and stays current on industry trends. If you have a request, please let staff know and we will do our best to fill it!

We are hosting more regular in-store tastings. To find out more about upcoming tastings and offers, follow Lake Liquors on Facebook. Thank you to our vendors that help make these tastings possible!

Stop into the store for a free Frisbee this summer! If you are interested in supporting local causes, we will also be collecting at will donations for a different cause each month. Thank you for supporting Lake Liquors and have a great Summer!



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.

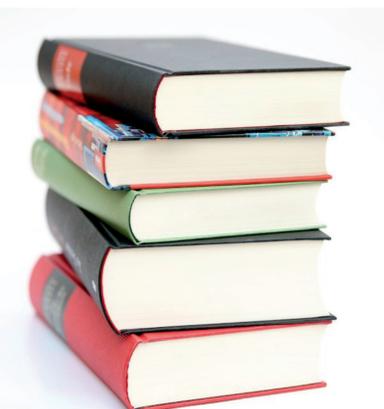


Holiday Hours:

- ⇒ Thursday, July 4th: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Monday, September 2nd: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Big Lake Chamber Block Party

Save the date for the 14th Annual Big Lake Block Party!
 Saturday, August 17, 2024 from 10 am – 1:30 pm at McPete’s
 Unlimited Bowling and Mini-golf | Entertainment
 Games | Music | Raffles
 Emergency Service Vehicles
 Concessions available for purchase
 Water Dodgeball at 1 p.m.
 Bicycles and Scooter giveaways
 Tickets go on sale in July | \$5 in advance | \$7 at the gate



Big Lake Public Library

Looking for free, family-friendly events this summer? Visit the Great River Regional Library’s Facebook page or website to see their list of events for all ages.

Some of their previous and upcoming events include the Summer Reading Challenge, Storytime at the Library, Book Sales, Book Clubs, and Schooled in Art!

Remember that if you live in Sherburne County, you can get a library card for free! With your library card you will have access to nearly 1 million items!



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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

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763-567-8335, shanson@biglakemn.org

Kim Noding, Council Member

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Paul Seefeld, 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

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 10, 24 | August 14, 28 | September 11, 25
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

Planning Commission: July 1 | August 5 | September 3
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

BLEDA: July 8 | August 12 | September 9
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

Parks Advisory Committee: July 22 | August 26 | September 23
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

Connect with City of Big Lake



www.biglakemn.org

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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