

Big Lake City Staff & Elected Officials

City Council

Mayor: Paul Knier

Council Members:

Ken Geroux

Ken Halverson

Kim Noding

Paul Seefeld

City Staff

Administration:

City Administrator Hanna Klimmek

City Clerk Gina Wolbeck

Community Development:

Community Development Director Marie Pflipsen

Planning Technician Tara Kohl

Building Permit Technician Sandy Petrowski

Finance:

Finance Director Deb Wegeleben

Accounting Technician Julie Rathmanner

Payroll/Deputy City Clerk Lisa Miller

Engineering:

City Engineer Layne Otteson

Public Works Department:

Streets, Parks, Fleet Superintendent Norm Michels

Water and Wastewater Superintendent Dan Childs

Recreation & Communication Coordinator Corrie Scott

Police Department:

Chief of Police John Kaczmarek

Captain Sam Olson

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Seth Hansen

Assistant Chief Mark Hedstrom

City Hall Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

Connect with City of Big Lake

Phone: 763-263-2107



www.biglakemn.org



facebook.com/BigLakeMN/

Frequently Requested Numbers

Big Lake Post Office	763-263-2642
Big Lake Food Shelf	763-263-2432
Great River Regional Library	763-263-6445
Chamber of Commerce	763-263-7800
Public Works Department	763-263-2268
Lake Liquors	763-263-3673
Fire Department <i>Non-Emergency</i>	763-260-6281
Police Department <i>Non-Emergency</i>	763-251-2996
Big Lake Township Hall	763-263-8111
Orrock Township Hall	763-263-6411
Metro Transit/Northstar Rail	612-373-3333
Big Lake Schools (District 727):	
District Office:	763-262-2536
Community Education	763-262-2523
High School	763-262-2547
Middle School	763-262-2567
Independence Elementary	763-262-2537
Liberty Elementary	763-262-8100

City Offices Closed:

Labor Day
Veterans Day
New Year's Day
Thanksgiving Day
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Day after Thanksgiving
Presidents' Day
Christmas Day
Memorial Day
Early close on Christmas Eve
Independence Day



New Resident Guide

Updated January 2025



Welcome to Big Lake!

Located a short drive northwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Big Lake was originally called Humboldt until year 1867. Big Lake was established to harvest ice in both of the area lakes. Due to the immense amount of ice Big Lake produced, timely transportation became a necessity which led to the creation of a railway station in 1871.

Big Lake is also known for its annual summer festival, Spud Fest, and has been a popular destination for quick escapes from the cities for summer recreation.

That same proximity now allows residents to commute to the Minneapolis/St.

Paul urban area for work while enjoying the natural beauty of a “beyond the suburbs” community. Big Lake’s population is an ideal workforce—prosperous, family-oriented, and highly educated.

Big Lake is populated primarily by young families with a median age of 28 years. Big Lake prioritizes quality of life by actively enhancing community cohesiveness, cultural events, parks and natural resources, technology advancements, and financial transparency. It also supports a robust partnership with the Big Lake School District.



Choosing a school district is one of the most important decisions parents will ever make. We believe the decision

to enroll in Big Lake Schools is one that will benefit your children for a lifetime.

- ⇒ Comprised of a high school (9-12), middle school (6-8), intermediate school (3-5), and primary school (early childhood-2)
- ⇒ Total student population averages around 3,200
- ⇒ District has a campus feel with three of the four buildings within walking distance of each other
- ⇒ Student activities compete in the Mississippi 8 Conference
- ⇒ Founded in 1900
- ⇒ Pride colors are blue and gold
- ⇒ Mascot is Buzz, the hornet

City Hall Meetings

City Council

Consists of a Mayor and four (4) Council Members that meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Planning Commission (*acts in a purely advisory manner to the City Council in all zoning issues and applications except for administrative permits*)

Consists of seven (7) members that meet on the 1st Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Big Lake Economic Development Authority (*advises City Council on matters related to Economic Development within the city*)

Consists of seven (7) members that meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Parks Advisory Committee

Consists of seven (7) members that meet on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at various parks or in the Council Chambers.

Pet Licenses

- ⇒ Dog licenses are no longer required by the City.
- ⇒ Pot-bellied pigs are required to be registered with the City.
- ⇒ Chickens are allowed within City limits. A permit is required for the chicken coop. Questions? Contact the Planning Technician at 763-251-2971.



Park Facility Rentals

Looking for a place to hold your upcoming picnic, birthday party, or family gathering? Park Shelters are available for rent at Lakeside Park and Wright's Crossing Park for \$30 per day, per shelter. Contact Recreation and Communication Coordinator Corrie Scott at 612-297-6331 or visit the City website to check for availability and apply to rent a park shelter.

Peddlers - Solicitors

- Door-to-door sales in the City of Big Lake require a permit from the City. Transient Merchants, Peddlers who sell merchandise, and solicitors selling services door-to-door all require a permit or a registration from City Hall. If you are visited by a door-to-door salesperson, ask to see their City of Big Lake issued permit. If the salesperson does not have the required permit, call 911 to report the incident. Any information you can provide to the police will be helpful (vehicle license plate number, make and color of vehicle, etc.). The police will attempt to contact the seller and inform him/her of the permit requirements.
- All citizens have a right to prohibit a salesperson from approaching their door. Post a "No Peddler/Solicitation" sign at your door. It is illegal for a salesperson to solicit or peddle at a premise where this sign is posted.
- Remember—A solicitor may not remain on your property after you have asked him/her to leave.



Big Lake Compost Facility

Caring for your lawn and garden doesn't have to produce expensive waste. Sherburne County residents are encouraged to bring their unwanted grass clippings, leaves, and other small brush to the local compost site. Yes, Big Lake has a compost site located off of County Road 43 and 198th Ave (behind the Public Works building). A key card is required to enter the compost site.

- ⇒ You can obtain a key card at any City Hall located in Sherburne County (Big Lake, Becker, Zimmerman, Elk River, Clear Lake). Each city has their own compost site. The key card works for all sites.
- ⇒ Your first key card is free. Any additional or replacement cards cost \$10.00 each.



Community Education



Big Lake Community Education is dedicated to building a strong community by offering life-long learning experiences through cultural, educational and recreational opportunities. Explore class and program offerings by visiting biglakece.com or calling 762-262-2523.

Community Gardens

Do you love gardening, but don't have a space to grow at home? Community Garden plots can be leased for \$30 from May to October. Plots are 10' x 20'. The Community Gardens are located by Public Works at 18041 198th Avenue, Big Lake, MN.



If you have questions about the garden, please contact Recreation & Communication Coordinator at 612-297-6331 or cscott@biglakemn.org.

Big Lake Community Food Shelf

The Big Lake Community Food Shelf exists to provide food supplies for families in-need residing in the Big Lake community and to direct them to other services that may be helpful.

Serving Hours:

- Mondays & Thursdays: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.



Visit blcfs.org for more information on news and events such as: food assistance, Project H.E.A.L., Cooking Matters, Freebie Fridays, seasonal extras, local resources, volunteer positions and how to donate. Contact the Big Lake Community Food Shelf with any questions at 763-263-2432 or director@blcfs.org.

Lake Liquors Hours of Operation:

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



Lake Liquors is a municipal liquor store owned and operated by the City of Big Lake. Check out the Lake Liquors Facebook page and webpage at biglakemn.org to stay up to date on specials and events.

Big Lake Police Department

The 17 members of the Big Lake Police Department are proud to provide a full range of professional and modern police services to the nearly 12,000 residents of the City of Big Lake as well as Big Lake's visitors. Contact their non-emergency line at 763-251-2996 or visit their offices at 790 Minnesota Ave, Suite 100, Big Lake, MN 55309.



The Police Department is a Prescription Drug Drop Box Location Syringes, fluids, drug paraphernalia, or medications being disposed of by commercial medical facilities NOT accepted.

Big Lake Fire Department

The Big Lake Fire Department proudly serves the people of Big Lake, Big Lake Township and Orrock, Minnesota. Their office hours vary, but firefighters are always on call. You can reach the Big Lake Fire Department at 763-260-6281 or blfdmn1@gmail.com.



Big Lake Recycling Day Event

The City of Big Lake, Big Lake Township, and Orrock Township jointly host an annual Recycling Day Event. The event is held on the third Saturday each May from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Big Lake Township Maintenance Facility located at 20150 166th Street, Big Lake, MN 55309. Questions? Call Metro Appliance Recycling at 763-241-8787 or Township of Big Lake at 763-263-8111.

Big Lake Farmers Market

Summer Farmers Market:

- ◇ Lakeside Park
- ◇ Wednesdays | June - August | 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- ◇ Wednesdays | September | 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Winter Farmers Market:

- ◇ November - April at Big Lake City Hall
- ◇ Third Saturday of each month | 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Follow Big Lake Farmers Market on Facebook and Instagram for updates on market vendors and activities. Interested in becoming a vendor? Contact Corrie Scott at 612-297-6331 or cscott@biglakemn.org.

Music in the Park

- ⇒ Lakeside Park
- ⇒ Thursdays | June - Aug.
- ⇒ 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Food Trucks



Questions? Contact Corrie Scott at 612-297-6331 or cscott@biglakemn.org.

Movie in the Park

- ⇒ Lakeside Park
- ⇒ Fridays in May & September*
- ⇒ Movie begins at dusk
- ⇒ Free admission



*Note: Check out the City website at biglakemn.org for information on specific movie dates.

Big Lake Spud Fest

Big Lake Spud Fest was established in 1972. The founders of the festival were looking for a means to provide funds for summer youth recreation programs and an event for Big Lake and surrounding areas that promoted a strong sense of community and sharing.



- ◆ Takes place annually over the last full weekend in June (Thursday to Sunday).
- ◆ Featured events include carnival rides, bingo, pork chop dinner by the Big Lake Knights of Columbus, potato pancake breakfast by the Big Lake Lions Club, softball tournament, lakes run, fireworks, parade, fiddlers contest, kids power pedal pull, live music, beer gardens, and so much more!
- ◆ Great way to get involved in the community! Visit biglakespudfest.com to view the event schedule and sign up for volunteer opportunities.

City Ordinances

Long Weeds and Grass Ordinance: Section 510

510.02 A Nuisance. Any weeds or grass growing upon any lot or parcel of land, including the lands between the curb line of the street or alley and the property line of private properties to a height greater than one foot, or which are about to go to seed, are hereby declared to be a nuisance and dangerous to the health, safety, and good order of the City; excluding storm sewer holding ponds, storm sewer drainage areas, surface water drainage areas, wet lands, shoreline vegetation, nature preserve and other unplatted property.

Snow Season Reminders:

- ◇ Please keep in mind that property owners are responsible to clear snow around their mailbox. The City will consider making repairs to mailboxes 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 Department at 763-263-2268 with mailbox complaints.
- ◇ To prevent damage to lawns, landscape, irrigation heads or other items that will be 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.
- ◇ If you have a fire hydrant on/by your property, help the local Fire Department by shoveling a clear path and 3 feet around the hydrant.

Winter Parking Restrictions:

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

After a snowfall of two (2) inches or more, all street in the City will be cleared of all motor vehicles for the purpose of snowplowing and/or 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 you to avoid a citation and/or your vehicle being impounded.

Sidewalk Ordinance: Section 550

550.01 Clean Walks Required. The owner or occupant of any premises in the City shall clear the sidewalk in front of or beside the premises, of snow and loose or melting ice within twenty-four (24) hours after the completion of any snowfall.

Learn more about the ordinance and [sign up to receive text or email notifications the day before the City performs a sweep](http://biglakemn.org/486/Sidewalk-Snow-Removal) by visiting biglakemn.org/486/Sidewalk-Snow-Removal.

If you have any questions regarding the ordinance, please contact Streets, Parks, and Fleet Superintendent Norm Michels at nmichels@biglakemn.org or 763-251-8011.

Recreational Fires:

Section 540 Open Burning. The burning of dried leaves and other yard waste is hereby prohibited within the City. Recreational fires shall be permitted without a permit but must follow the guidelines set forth by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

- ⇒ Burn only natural wood
- ⇒ Shall not exceed 3 feet in diameter by 3 feet in height



Building Department Facts

In general, a permit is required for most construction projects where something is being built, repaired, replaced or remodeled. You do not need a permit for projects where only painting, wallpapering, and/or carpeting are being done. If you are not sure if you should obtain a permit, please call the inspection line at 763-251-2971. Permit applications are available at City Hall or by visiting our website at biglakemn.org.

General Building Permits:

The following building permits are required (residential/commercial):

- ◆ Addition/Porch
- ◆ Basement Finish
- ◆ Deck
- ◆ Demolition
- ◆ Excavation/Filling
- ◆ Garage
- ◆ Mechanical (HVAC)
- ◆ New Construction
- ◆ Plumbing
- ◆ Remodel
- ◆ Shed (over 200 square feet)

Same-day Permits:

The following permits are issued over the counter at City Hall.

- ◆ Underground sprinkler systems
- ◆ Furnace and/or Air Conditioner replacement
- ◆ Roofing and/or siding
- ◆ Window and/or door replacement
- ◆ Water heater and/or water softener replacement
- ◆ Fireplace

Zoning Permits:

The following zoning permits are required:

- ◆ Shed (200 square feet or under)
- ◆ Fence
- ◆ Driveway
- ◆ Parking Pad
- ◆ Pergola
- ◆ Swimming Pools/Hot Tubs
- ◆ Land Alteration (Engineering Permit)

Call before you Dig!

The State of Minnesota and the Big Lake City offices require residents to call before digging. Metro call: 651-454-0002 or 800-252-1166 www.gopherstateonecall.org

Call two (2) business days before you dig—Have the following information ready when you call: Your Name, Phone Number, Street Address, Dig Location, Nearest Intersection, Type of Work, Start Date, Time, “Use the phone before you Dig”.



FOR RENT

Rental Housing License

The City of Big Lake requires multi-family and single/two-family rental housing to be licensed. Licenses are issued every one to two years. The purpose of the rental licensing program is to protect the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Big Lake.

Multi-Family

Registration is every year and inspections are every two (2) years. Questions regarding the multi-family housing registration? Contact Sandy Petrowski at 763-251-2980.

Single & Two-Family

Registration is every two (2) years. There are no inspections required at this time. Questions regarding the single & two-family housing registration? Contact Sandy Petrowski at 763-251-2980.

Utility Providers

Please contact the individual service providers below who provides service in your area.

Water/Sewer

- ⇒ The City of Big Lake provides water and sewer.
- ⇒ Setting up new service - Contact Utility Billing at 763-251-2969
- ⇒ Change of ownership - Contact Utility Billing at 763-251-2969
- ⇒ Billing/Customer Service - Contact City Hall at 763-263-2107
- ⇒ Phone payment - Contact Invoice Cloud at 844-916-0913
- ⇒ Pay monthly bill online at www.biglakemn.org
- ⇒ If you do not receive your bill by the end of the month contact City Hall offices at 763-263-2107
- ⇒ Due date is always the 10th of every month

- ⇒ There are many options to pay your utility bill: phone, online, mail, drop box or walk into City Hall
- ⇒ Save 50¢ a month when you sign up for e-bill. You can sign up by creating an account with Invoice Cloud at www.biglakemn.org
- ⇒ For instructions on how to register or make a payment on Invoice Cloud go to biglakemn.org/DocumentCenter/View/3988/Invoice-Cloud

Electric

- ⇒ Connexus Energy - 763-323-2650
- ⇒ Xcel Energy - 800-895-4999

Natural Gas

- ⇒ Center Point Energy Minnegasco - 800-245-2377
- ⇒ Xcel Energy - 800-895-4999

Cable TV/Phone/Internet

- ⇒ Charter Communications - 855-488-5417
- ⇒ Windstream - 844-872-5440
- ⇒ Frontier Communications - 877-498-3644

Garbage Haulers/Recycling

- ⇒ Ace Solid Waste, Inc. - 763-427-3110 www.acesolidwaste.com
- ⇒ Bircham Sanitation - 763-441-3572
- ⇒ Curbside Waste, Inc - 763-504-2872 www.curbsidewasteinc.com
- ⇒ LRS of Minnesota - 320-251-6726 www.lrsrecycles.com
- ⇒ Republic Service - 320-252-9608 www.republicservices.com
- ⇒ Waste Management - 320-253-6491 www.wm.com

Utilities - How to Save Energy • and Money! • Each Month

All of the electric and natural gas providers in Big Lake offer income based energy savings programs to all of their customers

Home Energy Audits, Energy Rebates, Rebates for Efficient Appliances & Programmable Thermostats, and Low-Cost DIY Energy Efficiency Upgrades are all available for **little or no cost to you.**

Xcel Energy: www.xcelenergy.com/programs_and_rebates; 800-895-4999; inquire@xcelenergy.com

Connexus Energy: www.connexusenergy.com/save-money-and-energy; 763-323-2650; info@connexusenergy.com

CenterPoint Energy: www.centerpointenergy.com > Residential > Save Energy & Money; 800-245-2377