

City of Big Lake Spring 2025 Newsletter



Big Lake Farmers Market Kicks off in June!

Summer is right around the corner, and so is the outdoor season for the Big Lake Farmers Market! The market is located at beautiful Lakeside Park every Wednesday from June through September and features vendors offering homemade and home-grown products including fresh fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, flowers, eggs, pork, beef, chicken, syrup, honey, salsa, pickles, jam, baked goods, crafts and more! Debit-credit and SNAP-EBT are accepted as well as the Market Bucks Match Program. Each week features free parking, food trucks, live music, and free kids activities!

The Power of Produce Program is returning again this season! Stop by the information booth to learn how your children ages 2-12 can receive a \$2 Power of Produce token to use on fruits and vegetables each week they attend the market. Be sure to follow us on Facebook for weekly updates and reminders. Questions? Contact Recreation and Communication Coordinator, Corrie Scott at 612-297-6331 or cscott@biglakemn.org.



Wednesdays | June-August | 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Wednesdays | September | 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Lakeside Park | 101 Lakeshore Drive

2024 City of Big Lake Drinking Water Report

View the City of Big Lake Consumer Confidence Report on the City's website at biglakemn.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=40. If you would like a paper copy of this report, you can contact City Hall at 763-263-2107.

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City Offices Closed

- ⇒ Monday, May 26 - Memorial Day
- ⇒ Thursday, June 19 - Juneteenth

Big Lake Police Department: Spring Traffic Safety



With warmer weather coming our way, residential areas of the City will likely experience increased foot traffic. The Big Lake Police Department would like to remind residents to take active measures to prevent theft from their property and motor vehicles. Below are some simple steps that can help prevent theft:

⇒ Always lock your motor vehicles when they are not in use.

- ⇒ Remove all valuables from inside your motor vehicle.
- ⇒ Do not leave the garage door opener in your vehicle if parked outside. If taken from the vehicle this may allow access into your garage/residence by the perpetrator.
- ⇒ Illuminate the exterior of your residence during overnight hours.
- ⇒ Invest in security cameras for the exterior of your residence.
- ⇒ Install motion detection lights at your residence.
- ⇒ Get to know your neighbors and watch out for each other’s property.
- ⇒ Report suspicious people, vehicles, or activities you witness in a timely manner to the Big Lake Police Department. Attempt to obtain the best physical/clothing description of the individual. Attempt to obtain the make/model/license plate of the suspicious vehicle.
- ⇒ Remove mail from your mailbox daily. If you are out of town, have a neighbor retrieve your mail or notify the post office.



The Big Lake Police Department is committed to protecting its residents. We encourage residents to take these active steps to deter theft at their property. Our top priority is for residents to feel safe in their community!

John Kaczmarek – Chief of Police

Music in the Park

Help us celebrate 13 years of music in 2025 at beautiful Lakeside Park!

Select Thursdays

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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

Find updates on the City’s Facebook page or at biglakemn.org.

- June 5: Rockin’ Hollywoods
- June 12: Tucker Baker Band
- June 19: No Music - Holiday
- June 26: Spud Fest at BLHS
- July 3: Shane Martin Band
- July 10: Sir Psycho
- July 17: Sawyer’s Dream
- July 24: Maiden Dixie
- July 31: Shirts and Skins
- August 7: Mick Sterling
- August 14: Stuck in the Middle



Flushable Wipes, Not so Flushable

Did you know that wet wipes may be labeled "flushable," even though they don't degrade in the system? Flushing them is like flushing a handkerchief or other item made of cloth. Minnesota's sewer systems and treatment plants were not designed to handle wipes. They gum up the system, clog pipes and pumps, and cost taxpayers and residents lots of money in additional maintenance costs. If you use wipes, be mindful of our system and put them in the trash, not the toilet!



Meet Investigator Tom Kucala with the BLPD



Tom Kucala has worked for the Big Lake Police Department for seven years. As an Investigator for the Big Lake Police Department, his job includes investigating cases that are typically higher level or that will occur over a longer period of time. This is because Patrol Officers cannot dedicate the time needed for these cases as their priority is to respond to calls for service. Tom also works with Health and Human Services in vulnerable adult and child protection cases and does background investigations for new hires at the Police Department. Other duties include maintaining the evidence room and submitting evidence to the lab when appropriate as well as working with surrounding police agencies in monitoring criminal activity that is crossing jurisdictions. Tom is also a Field Training Officer, Firearms and Less Lethal Shotgun Instructor, and he coordinates the Towards Zero Death program for the Big Lake Police Department.

Tom would like to remind the public that things don't always work out like they do on TV in 45 minutes or less. If the department submits evidence to the lab, it can take months before results come in. He wishes that there was a computer you can check all fingerprints and DNA to find a suspect like they do on TV, but that is not how it works in reality! His favorite part of his job is being involved in the bigger, more complex cases as he has learned a lot of new things due to this position. When Tom isn't at work you can find him chasing around his kids, and he also enjoys fishing, golfing, hiking, hunting and playing Xbox. He loves working in law enforcement and can't imagine doing anything else. Next time you see Tom around town, be sure to say hello!

Water Shutoffs Begin April 30, 2025

Beginning April 1, 2025, 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 30, 2025, your water service may be disconnected. Pay online at 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.

ECFE in the Park Returns in Summer 2025!



Join the Big Lake Early Childhood and Family Education Program for their annual ECFE in the Park series! This free event series takes place at various parks around the Big Lake Community on select Wednesdays from 10 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Families with children ages 0-5 and their siblings are welcome. Register your family at biglakece.com!

- ⇒ June 11: Liberty Playground
- ⇒ June 25: Wrights Crossing Park
- ⇒ July 9: Hudson Woods Park
- ⇒ July 23: Highline Park
- ⇒ August 13: Lakeside Park



Thoughts from Your Finance Department

Have you ever wondered about the costs of your City’s services? For a mere \$4.60 per day, residents and businesses are provided with award winning public service by the Building, Police, and Fire Departments as well as parks, trails and street maintenance provided by the Public Works Department, and a multitude of other services that contribute to a high quality of life. Below is a breakdown of the total cost per day for these exceptional city services that are provided by the various departments across the City of Big Lake. Join City staff and elected officials in July when we begin the process for the 2026 Budget. Please reach out to Finance Director Deb Wegel-eben at dwegeleben@biglakemn.org or 763-251-2974 if you would like to discuss the City’s Finances or Budget.

Cost per day to provide City Services



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: May 10 | July 12
September 13 | November 8



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: April 2 | June 4
August 6 | October 1 | December 8

Movie in the Park(ing) Lot Series

Movie in the Park is back this year bringing free, drive-in style movies to Lakeside Park! Parking starts an hour prior to the movie. Food Trucks include Hotdog Bar selling hot dogs, and nachos and Mason's Sno and More selling frozen treats. Thank you our sponsors: Sherburne Wright Cable Commission and Big Lake Spud Fest!



Friday, May 23

Moana 2

Parking from

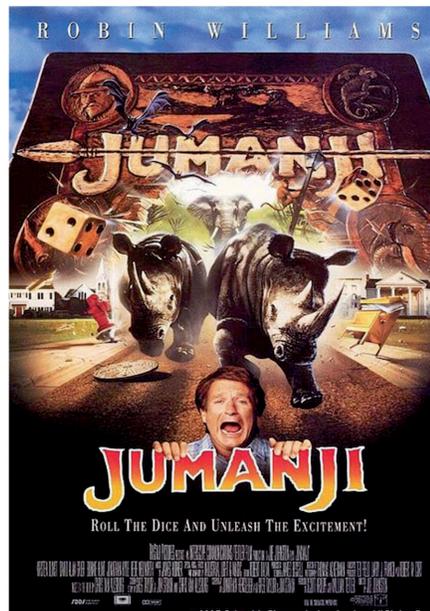
8 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Movie at Dusk

(Approx. 9 p.m.)

Reschedule Date:

May 30



Friday, September 5

Jumanji

Parking from

7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Movie at Dusk

(Approx. 8 p.m.)

Reschedule Date:

September 19

Do I Need a Permit For That?



Spring is in the air, and with that comes the inspiration for home improvement projects! Staff is often asked what kind of permits are needed for a variety of home improvement projects. Some examples of required permits are listed below:

Generally, Building permits are required for:

- ⇒ Any new structure
- ⇒ Alterations or additions
- ⇒ Basement finish or refinish
- ⇒ Demolition

- ⇒ Re-roofing or re-siding a building
- ⇒ Window and/or door replacement
- ⇒ Detached accessory buildings over 200 square feet (sheds)
- ⇒ Replacement or installation of a fireplace, furnace or air conditioner
- ⇒ Replacement or installation of a water heater or water softener
- ⇒ Retaining walls over 4 feet tall measured from the bottom of the footing
- ⇒ Swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas that are more than 24 inches deep or have 150 square feet of surface area except for temporary storable swimming pools that are only set up outdoors between April 1 and October 31 each year. Storable swimming pools do not require a permit but still must follow most of the same set-back rules as permanent swimming pools.

Generally, Zoning permits are required for:

- ⇒ One story, detached accessory buildings 200 square feet or less (sheds)
- ⇒ Fences, driveways and parking pad installations

Generally, Engineering permits are required for:

- ⇒ Lakeshore restoration
- ⇒ Right-of-way permits
- ⇒ Anything requiring the use of a skid loader

All of these permits can be found by visiting the City's website at biglakemn.org. Completed Building Permit applications can be directed to Building Technician Sandy Petrowski at 763-251-2980 or spetrowski@biglakemn.org. Completed Zoning Permit applications can be directed to Planning Technician Tara Kohl at 763-251-2971 or tkohl@biglakemn.org.

The City of Big Lake is Hiring!

Apply for the following positions today! Applications can be found on the City's website or at City Hall.

-Seasonal Lawn Care Employee

-Seasonal Park Attendant



Spring Photo Contest

Calling all photographers; amateur or professional! The City of Big Lake is inviting you to submit photographs that capture what you love the most about the community this spring season in the 2025 Spring Photo Contest! Winner will receive a Big Lake beach towel and swag bag.

Submission will release the photo to the City of Big Lake. The photo may be used on the City website, Facebook, and any other marketing material. Photos can be submitted to cscott@biglakemn.org by June 1, 2025.

City Staff Length of Service Recognition

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

- ⇒ Joe Brenteson: 10 years with the Streets and Parks Department
- ⇒ Gary Bautch: 5 years with the Streets and Parks Department
- ⇒ Carol Larson: 5 years with Lake Liquors



Lake Liquors Update



The liquor industry saw major changes in 2024 and the beginning of 2025. There has been growth in THC and cannabinoid products, an increase in ready-to-drink cocktails, a decrease in younger peoples consumption of alcohol, an increase in the cost of goods, and drastic changes in the economy overall. There are also potential new tariffs that may impact the liquor industry. Even with these changes taking place, Lake Liquors was able to transfer its budgetary goal to the City's General Fund. These dollars are poured directly back to the community and can be used to complete city projects, reduce tax rates for residents, or provide city services. This is all made possible through the customers who support local and shop at Lake Liquors!

This spring, Lake Liquors plans to continue monthly raffle items that you can register for onsite with or without making a purchase. Monthly beer, wine, and spirits specials will continue to be featured on Facebook, and weekly specials will also be available in-store. Spring and Fall wine sales are being planned and will be announced on Facebook and the City's website.

Discount Days:

- ⇒ Monday: Senior Discount (age 62+) - 10% off regular priced items
- ⇒ Tuesday: Wine Day - 10% off all 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, April 20: Closed for Easter Holiday
- ⇒ Monday, May 26: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Aquatic Invasive Species Treatments: Zebra Mussels in Big Lake

Due to the infestation of Eurasian Watermilfoil in Big Lake and Lake Mitchell, the City plans to chemically treat this invasive species again this summer. All treatment will be performed by a licensed commercial applicator. The method and chemicals used will be determined by the Minnesota DNR. There is no cost to the property owners on the lakes, but as a lakeshore landowner you may request that treatment does not occur adjacent to your property by contacting City Engineer Layne Otteson at lotteson@biglakemn.org or 763-251-2984 by June 1st.

The Big Lake Community Lakes Association (BLCLA) would also like the community to be aware of the presence of zebra mussels, an aquatic invasive species, in Big Lake and Lake Mitchell confirmed by the Minnesota DNR in October 2020. **Zebra mussels can:**

- ⇒ Clog irrigation intakes and other pipes so lake water irrigation systems may need to be cleaned occasionally.
- ⇒ Attach to boat motors and hulls. Consider keeping your watercraft on a lift so the motor is out of the water.
- ⇒ Attach to something to grow such as rocks, sticks, native mussels, swim rafts and ladders.
- ⇒ Reduce available food for larval fish and other animals. Over time, it can reduce the size of larger game fish.
- ⇒ Increase water clarity which may cause more growth of aquatic vegetation.

The BLCLA strongly encourages everyone to continue following the rules and recommendations of Clean, Drain, Dry and Dispose, and especially keeping watercraft, trailers and equipment 5 days dry before visiting a new body of water. The Minnesota DNR also suggests spraying items with high pressure and/or rinsing with very hot water. If you sell or move lake equipment such as docks, lifts, rafts, or pumps, it is recommended that the items be exposed to air for at least 21 days before using them in another lake.

Know the law. You may not:

- ⇒ Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug.
- ⇒ Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.
- ⇒ Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on any roadway.
- ⇒ Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached.
- ⇒ Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.
- ⇒ Release bait into the water.



Please do your part in preventing the spread of zebra mussels and other AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species).

Lakeside Park Passes

Seasonal parking passes for Lakeside Park are now available for purchase at Big Lake City Hall and Lake Liquors during regular business hours and online at the City's website. To obtain Resident rates, your address must be within the 55309 zip code. Either a seasonal or daily pass is required for parking from May 1 to October 31.

Resident Rates:

- \$10.00 - Vehicle Only Pass
- \$20.00 - Vehicle/Trailer Pass

Non-Resident Rates:

- \$30.00 - Vehicle Only Pass
- \$60.00 - Vehicle/Trailer Pass

Daily Rates:

- \$5.00 - Vehicle Only Pass
- \$20.00 - Vehicle/Trailer Pass

Code Enforcement Reminders



City staff would like to thank residents for the time and energy that was spent maintaining safe, passable sidewalks this winter. Now that we are transitioning to spring, please be aware that parking is not permitted on front lawns. Unfortunately, front yard parking continues to be a pervasive issue in the community, along with required issuance of numerous citations. If you're running out of parking space in your garage and on your driveway, consider various options; it might be time to clean out the garage, explore off-site storage locations, or construct a parking pad. Parking pads can be located in side and rear yards with receipt of a zoning permit. If you would like to learn more about this option, please visit the City's website at biglakemn.org and click on 'Departments,' then 'Planning and Zoning,' and then 'Zoning Applications & Information.'

If you see something, say something... to your neighbor. Residents are encouraged to work through any issues they have with one another before submitting a request or submitting a City Code violation. Greater communications between neighbors help build a stronger community and promote the kind of friendly, small-town atmosphere we have come to value.

Questions? Reach out to Community Development Department at codeenforcement@biglakemn.org or 763-251-2971. Be sure to contact the Police Department at 763-251-2996 with non-emergency safety concerns or issues with noise and loose animals, while it is happening.

No Soliciting Window Stickers

Door-to-door sales in the City of Big Lake require a permit 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 the Big Lake Police Department at 763-251-2996 or 911 to report the incident. All citizens have a right to prohibit a salesperson from approaching their door. Residents can purchase a "No Soliciting" window sticker from City Hall. It is illegal for a salesperson to solicit or peddle at a premise where this sign is posted.

NO
SOLICITORS
OR
PEDDLERS
ALLOWED

Spring Hydrant Flushing Notice



Spring Hydrant Flushing will take place over the week of April 7 - 18 between the hours of 7 a.m. – 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. To avoid this, turn on an outside faucet to clear the water line prior to doing laundry or cleaning.

Contact Water Superintendent Dan Childs at 763-251-8010 with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your patience during this process!

Big Lake Fire Department Spring Update



The Big Lake Fire Department would like to recognize its newly hired recruits who have completed their Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Hazmat and EMR training. The new recruits are Jacob Cihlar, Jacob Dietsch, Andrew Hawkes, Jesse Keller, and Collin Maki.

The Fire Department would also like to congratulate Nick Christenson, Mark Hedstrom, and Jeff Novak for 15 years of service! Their dedication to the community and the BLFD is greatly appreciated.

Spring has arrived! With a drier winter than normal, grass and wildland fires are at a higher risk. Please use caution when having recreational fires and grilling. This

is also a good time of year to check your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to replace batteries and make sure they are in good working order. Smoke detectors have a life expectancy of 10 years while carbon monoxide detectors usually last 7 years. After expiration they may not be working properly and can give a false alarm or not work at all.

In April the BLFD will be adding Tower 1, pictured above, to the department fleet. The BLFD members will be doing extensive training on this invaluable rescue apparatus to keep our community safe. Have a fun and safe spring!

Seth Hansen - Fire Chief



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 Marie Pflipsen at mpflipsen@biglakemn.org or 763-463-9638 for more information!



Spud Fest Returns June 26-29, 2025

Big Lake Spud Fest was created in 1972 and is celebrating its 53rd anniversary this summer! The festival helps to provide funds for summer youth recreation programs while bringing the community together! This year's festival will feature: Carnival Rides, Parade, Fireworks, Softball Tournament, Live Music, Beer Tent, BINGO, Big Lake Ambassador Coronation, Lakes Run, Pedal Pull, Car Show, ECFE at the Fair, Marketplace, Potato Pancake Breakfast, and more! Find information on this year's event schedule and how to volunteer for this year's festival at biglakespudfest.com.

ORROCK TOWNSHIP BIG LAKE TOWNSHIP CITY OF BIG LAKE

RESIDENTIAL RECYCLE DAY

Saturday, May 17, 2025 8 AM - 1 PM

Location: Town of Big Lake Maintenance Bldg. 20150 166th St. NW, Big Lake MN

RESIDENTIAL ONLY - NO COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTS

ONLY LISTED ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED

*****ABSOLUTELY NO GAS FRIDGES (CAMPER, ICE HOUSE, R/V)*****

(Cut out and Bring to Recycling Day)

ACCEPTED ITEMS	QTY	X	Cost		Total \$
APPLIANCES Stove/Microwave/Dishwasher/Freezer/Fridge/Washer Dryer/Water Heater/Water Softener/ Dehumidifier/Furnace/Window A/C / Gas Grills <i>(tanks are extra fee – see below)</i>		X	\$15/ea	=	\$
SMALL APPLIANCES – Vacuum/Carpet Cleaner Hand-held Power Tools		X	\$10/ea	=	\$
EXERCISE EQUIPMENT – Ellipticals/Stationary Bikes/Treadmills		X	\$15/ea	=	\$
TUBE TVS/MONITORS		X	\$25 ea	=	\$
REAR PROJECTION/WOOD CONSOLE TVS		X	\$50/ea	=	\$
PERSONAL ELECTRONICS – CPU/Laptop/Tablet/Printers/VCR DVD/Gaming Systems/Small Flat Screen Monitors & TVs		X	\$15 /ea	=	\$
PASSENGER VEHICLE TIRE - OFF RIM		X	\$5 /ea	=	\$
COMMERCIAL TRUCK TIRE - OFF RIM		X	\$25/ea	=	\$
TRACTOR TIRE - OFF RIM		X	\$75/ea	=	\$
TIRE ON RIM FEE – PER TIRE		X	\$15/per tire	=	\$
PUSH LAWN MOWER / SNOW THROWER/LAWN TRACTOR/SNOWMOBILE/2-CYCLE ENGINE - DRAINED		X	\$15/ea	=	\$
UNDRAINED EQUIPMENT FEE – PER ITEM		X	\$15/per item	=	\$
20# PROPANE TANK		X	\$10 /ea	=	\$
1# PROPANE TANK		X	\$1 /ea	=	\$
CFL BULBS/TUBES - LIMIT 20		X	\$1 /ea	=	\$
LED LIGHTS - LIMIT 20		X	\$1 /ea	=	\$
BALLASTS - LIMIT 10		X	\$1 /ea	=	\$
SCRAP METAL			FREE		\$0
VEHICLE BATTERIES			FREE		\$0
TOTAL			\$		
PAYMENT METHOD	CASH <input type="checkbox"/>	CHECK <input type="checkbox"/>			
CHECK #					

**** COMPLETE AS MUCH AS YOU ARE ABLE, PRIOR TO REACHING GATE ****

Payment must be in the form of **CASH** or **CHECK PAYABLE TO "TOWN OF BIG LAKE"**
Non-Sufficient Funds checks will be charged a service fee of \$30. An invoice will be mailed.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: Big Lake Township: 763-263-8111
 OR Metro Appliance Recycling: 763-241-8787**



160 Lake Street North
Big Lake, MN 55309

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #32324
Twin Cities, MN

Dated Material

Postmaster: Time Sensitive Mail

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 Geroux, Council Member
763-238-0182; kgeroux@biglakemn.org
- Ken Halverson, Council Member
763-286-8152, khalverson@biglakemn.org
- 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.

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:** April 9, 23 | May 14, 28 | June 11, 25
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)
- Planning Commission:** April 7 | May 5 | June 2
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)
- BLEDA:** April 14 | May 12 | June 9
(5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers)
- Parks Advisory Committee:** April 28 | May 19 | June 23
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

Connect with City of Big Lake

-  www.biglakemn.org
-  Like us on Facebook, facebook.com/BigLakeMN/
-  Follow the Police Dept. on Twitter @BigLakePolice



Big Lake Winter Farmers Market

Third Saturday
Big Lake City Hall
10 AM - 1 PM

November 16 | December 21
January 18 | February 15
*March 15 | April 19

*March Market at BLHS from 10 AM - 2 PM