



The Medicine Laker

Volume LXX Issue #10

October 2024

From Our Mayor

By Chris Heim, Mayor

Hello neighbors

I'm writing this letter the morning after losing our dear friend and neighbor, Chris Klar. He was a remarkable person who deeply loved this city and dedicated his life to caring for our community. Chris was eagerly anticipating the street paving in the coming weeks, and he was beaming with excitement to host a Halloween display at Jevne Park, marking the inaugural event at our new pavilion. He was a special man from a special family, and I feel profoundly grateful to have called him a friend for so many years.



As I reflect on his passing, I'm also confronted with the massive void this leaves in our community. Chris was our dedicated Public Works Superintendent, and the many contributions he made will be hard to replace. In the coming weeks, we will be meeting to develop a plan to honor his life and determine how best to move forward as a city. I ask for your thoughtful patience, welcome your ideas, and deeply appreciate your support during this difficult time.

KEY UPDATES

Road paving: Our roads will be paved in the coming weeks, featuring new designs with a median at the entrance and raised sidewalk crossings. While the final layer of asphalt and speed humps will be added in the spring, we will be applying striping for the walking lanes this fall to enhance pedestrian safety. As we enjoy our smooth, newly paved roads, please be mindful of your speed and drive with care!

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From the Mayor... *continued from Page 1*

Facebook: The Community Club's Facebook page is intended for sharing information about community events and uplifting messages from our neighbors. Since this platform does not reach everyone in our community, it is not suitable for official city business, and city officials are legally discouraged from responding to city-related questions or debates here. For any matters related to city operations, I encourage you to reach out to your city officials or attend our City Council meetings, where we can have fully informed and inclusive discussions. We start each Council meeting with an Open Forum specifically for residents to ask questions and bring up ideas. As your elected officials, we are here to serve you and welcome all topics and discussions—just not through Facebook. For official city updates, we will be using our new website's email distribution and The Laker.

Laker transitioning to digital-only: This is a reminder that the December issue will be the last printed version of The Laker. Moving forward, we will distribute The Laker through our email service and post it on our website. To receive city email updates, please sign up by accessing our city website at www.cityofmedicinelake.com. Scroll to the bottom of our homepage and enter your information. Also, please review the separate article from Ruth Hovey that provides additional information on the Laker.

I close this letter with heartfelt honor, love, appreciation, and respect for Chris Klar. He will be missed, but never forgotten!

Medicine Lake Cares! Fundraiser for Second Harvest Heartland *by Paul Samson*

Just a "heads up" that for the Sixth Time, the City of Medicine Lake Community Club is organizing a fundraiser, Medicine Lake Cares!, to assist Second Harvest to provide food for the hungry in our communities. The fundraiser will run from November 15 to December 15. A new twist this year is "**match the match**". Several residents have agreed to match the first \$12,500 raised to achieve our total community goal or \$25,000. This \$25,000 will then be matched by another generous corporate donor to make **\$50,000** for Second Harvest. I believe this to be a powerful use of donation dollars. More details to follow! Thank you.

City Water Connection Information *by Paul Samson*

I'd like to share information I have gathered regarding connecting your home to the city's mainline water system. I've been advised to mention that while I believe the information below is accurate, you need to personally verify all this information prior to selecting a contractor because you alone (not me or the City) are responsible for hiring a contractor and for any work performed by a contractor. I have gotten information/bids from the following:

J. P. Schmitz & Sons:	763-286-1995 JPschmitz1961@aol.com
Highview Plumbing:	952-933-8600 Office@highviewplumbing.com
Brothers Underground:	763-250-5272 service@brosunderground.com
Twin City Sewer & Water:	612-366-0471 tcswmn@gmail.com

Note: In most cases the contractor quote includes excavating a hole to access the curb stop, connecting the water line to the curb stop, running the water line from the curb stop into the home, connecting the water line to the water meter, making the plumbing connections from the meter for whole house city water use, disconnecting your well from the domestic service lines, reconnecting your existing well to outside spigots and patching any damaged concrete where the water line comes into house. The quote generally does not include all the approximately \$5000 in fees associated with connecting to City water. Contractors can install the water line and meter now and cap it so you can continue to use your existing well if you choose.

Costs: I hesitate to give cost estimates, because every home and every install is unique. But from what I've heard, the best contractor quotes for complete water installation start at \$6500 for the most simple/shortest runs to \$8500 for simple/longer run installs plus fees. With the approx. \$5000 in

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fees, the “all-in” costs in this example would be approx. \$11,500 to \$13,500. I have not heard of a quote for a more complicated/longer run install. If your home has an unusually long run, severe elevation changes or other unique property attributes, expect to pay more (maybe substantially). And pricing is dynamic. If a contractor is busy, expect their quote to be more.

Some of the other contractors listed are viable options. (Get quotes because pricing is dynamic)

Highview Plumbing: (Primarily plumbers that sub out the lateral drilling) Highview has completed (some partially) around 10 of the initial installs in Medicine Lake. A resident told me Highview is very professional and they are pleased with the workmanship. And because Highview are plumbers, they provided valuable information to the driller to optimize where the waterline should come into the house. I was never able to get a quote from Highview. I know they are currently very busy and that may change. Based upon information I have received, if Highview would have given me a quote, it most likely would have been substantially more than J. P. Schmitz.

J. P. Schmitz & Sons. (Primarily lateral drillers that sub out the plumbing) Based upon cost, service, quality of work, and availability, I am going with J. P. Schmitz & Sons. John Schmitz is the owner of this family run company. John does all the emergency water service work for Plymouth. I have personally met with John and was impressed. J. P. Schmitz recently did 3 installs on 15th Ave North and the property owners are happy. John’s typical install will be an upgraded 1 1/4 “ CTS pipe (the same size as 1” ID iron pipe). John’s claims their directional boring equipment can hit an area within a 1 foot target into your basement or crawl space. John also felt that if work is done now, most homes will not require dewatering. He is currently scheduling 2- 3 weeks out but you may be able to get on the schedule when he does another home in your neighborhood. (He has pending installs on Kaiser and Peninsula Road). In some cases, the boring will be done one day and the plumbing hookup in the house the next day. John will also reconnect the existing well pipes to outside spigots. The quote I received did not include any of the approx. \$5000 in fees.

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In some cases, Highview quotes have included all fees except the \$4336 City fees.) say in some cases you may have to coordinate the directional boring with a plumber and an excavator.

Brothers Underground: Brothers Underground seems like a qualified contractor. Apples to apples, their quote to me was over double the quote from J. P. Schmitz. They are currently scheduling work a few weeks out. They do include the cost of the meter in their quote, but all other fees are extra.

Twin City Sewer & Water: Twin City Sewer told me their equipment is limited to a 50-foot horizontal run. So, I was not able to consider them. They have hooked up one house on the Peninsula.

Other: Here are contractors that may be able to do installs. I don't have any information on them except to say in some cases you may have to coordinate the directional boring with a plumber and an excavator.

Mayers Directional Underground Utilities:	763-634-0244 and 612-490-0115
Triple E Water and Sewer LLC:	763-207-8068
Direct Bore, Inc.	612-940-2330
New Look Contracting, Inc :	763-241-1596

So, for me, based upon what I know now and my timeline, J.P. Schmitz is the best choice for price, communications and scheduling. But every property and situation are different. So, verify all information with your contractor.

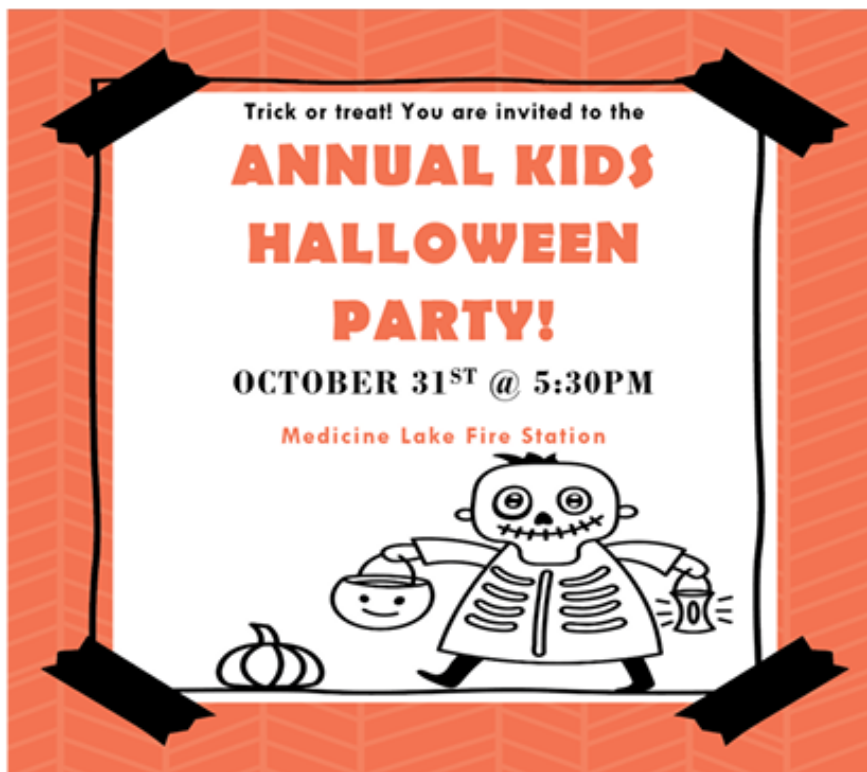
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And once you choose a contractor, there is a process to follow to get permits (including the ML "Right of Way Permit") a water meter and coordinating street use rules and access. (Perhaps another article to cover these points.)

Feel free to email or call me if you have any questions. I'm willing to help you in any way I'm able.

Good luck! Paul



New this year...
Bring non-perishable items for PRISM and get entered into a drawing for cool prizes



Got Laker News?

Submit to news@cityofmedicinelake.com
by the **15th of the month**
to make the next issue!



The Laker is going digital starting January 2025!

By Ruth Hovey

Don't miss an issue by subscribing to receive a digital copy. To subscribe, go to the City of Medicine Lake website, www.cityofmedicinelake.com, and scroll to the bottom of the home page. You will see the Subscribe Now section. Fill it out and select subscribe now, or the link to **Subscribe to Updates** for more options. Many of you already receive the digital version. Beginning in January 2025, The Laker will no longer be mailed out in the US Mail.

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City Council Votes



By Therese Polum, City Clerk and Lisa Neary, Deputy

October 7, 2024 Council Votes

The following motions were approved with Mayor Heim, Councilmembers McNaughton, Hovey, Tomczik and Jones in favor.

- Agenda
- September 10, 2024 City Council Meeting minutes
- Approval of Veit pay application No. 6
- Approval of Veit change order No. 5
- Resolution 24-41 approving JPA with the Bassett Creek Watershed Commission
- Ordinance 145 adopting the salary of the Mayor, Councilmembers and city staff and officials
- Resolution 24-42 authorizing publication of Ordinance 145 by title and summary
- Summary spending, receipts and cash balances through September 30, 2024.
- Adjourn

Mark Your Calendar!



Event	Time and Day
City Council	6 pm, Monday, November 4
Medicine Lake Fire Department	7 pm, Tuesday, November 5, off site 7 pm, Tuesday, November 19
Planning Commission	6 pm, Thursday, November 21