

# THE LAKER

Volume LXXI issue no.1

January 2025



## MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

CHRIS HEIM, MAYOR

### HELLO NEIGHBORS!

Happy New Year! With the majority of our capital project behind us, 2025 promises to be a year of renewed focus on city operations, finalizing our Jevne Park project, and refreshing our post-construction landscaping. This edition of The Laker is our first digital-only publication, which will soon be showcasing a new brand and layout in the coming months. New year, new beginnings!

### KEY UPDATES

#### JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING UPDATES

Our January meeting covered several key topics, including approvals for the Jevne Park playground equipment, Public Works transition plans, affirming all citywide roles and staff responsibilities, and reaffirming our list of 2025 top-priority projects and spend plans. February will also be a key Council Meeting as we assess purchasing a utility pickup for the Fire Department, decide on one or two pickleball courts, and review sidewalk and lighting enhancements at the city's entrance. Join us Monday, February 3rd, at 6 PM to be part of the conversations.

#### IMPRESSIVE MLFD UPDATES

Assistant Fire Chief, Mike Fox, shared exciting Fire Department updates. We are thrilled to report that our department's ISO rating—a measure of our department's ability to respond to and prevent fires—places us in the top 16% statewide! Also, the team has made significant progress in medical response preparations, with 83% of our members now EMR/EMT certified. As call volumes in our city continue to rise, the department has responded with impressive gains in attendance and response times. Thank you to the entire department for your dedication and outstanding service!

#### PUBLIC WORKS TRANSITION PLANNING

As we work through plans for covering Chris Klar's many contributions as our Public Works Superintendent, I want to thank everyone who has stepped up with ideas and support. While Chris can never be replaced, I know he'd be proud of how we're moving forward. We'll finalize assignments in February and provide updates on roles and who to connect with for Public Works matters.

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## ELECTION CLERK NEEDED!

**If you love the City of Medicine Lake** and are looking for a way to meet new neighbors, contribute to our community and insure that we have free and fair elections please **consider learning more about becoming our next Elections Clerk!!**

Ideally we would have an Elections Clerk and Deputy Elections Clerk. You will be provided with training. **No prior experience needed.** Bring your enthusiasm and patriotism and join in with your neighbors who each contribute their time, talents and passion to keep our little city running smoothly. If you have ever voted at City Hall you know how lucky we are to have our own polling place.

**Thank you to Josh Hauble who has done a fantastic job at this position for many years** and is eager to show you the ropes. Contact Nina Zelazny to discuss even if you just need more information.

#### Contact Info:

[ninazelazny3@gmail.com](mailto:ninazelazny3@gmail.com) or 612-327-0657.

Thank you!

# Hot Flashes

Over many years, The Laker has intermittently featured notes from the Fire Department. In celebration of our 75th year, we're bringing back its most popular title "Hot Flashes from the Fire Chief!"

## HISTORY

### 2025 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Medicine Lake Fire Department!

The Medicine Lake Fire Department formed on August 8th, 1950 and was formally established on August 15th by Ordinance 15: An Ordinance Providing for the Establishment and Government of a Volunteer Fire Department for the Village of Medicine Lake. This ordinance reads, in part:

"Be it ordained by the Council of the Village of Medicine Lake that to better protect the lives and property of its citizens, a department to be hereafter known as the Volunteer Fire Department is hereby created. Its object shall be the prevention of fire and the preservation and protection of life and property from and during such fires as may occur."

In 2017 Ordinance 121 amended the section on membership to remove the requirements that members be men, citizens ("preferably property owners"), and have a household telephone. Being "able bodied" and "who present a high level of moral character" are still included.

**Fun Fact:** The Medicine Lake Fire Department pre-dates the Plymouth Fire Department by 10 years and remains the innermost suburban department that is all volunteer.

## EVENTS

Proceeds from the annual pizza delivery fundraiser (\$2700) were formally accepted and dispositioned by city council in January--thank you so much for all your support! These funds have been added to our firetruck reserve fund. T11 (our tanker) will be retired this year--we don't need it now that we have fire hydrants--and we are actively researching/planning for a replacement utility vehicle that will improve our emergency capabilities.

Also, thank you to everyone who came out on New Year's day to participate in the Cold Plunge! In addition to being good for you, it's a great way to learn how to manage your breathing and emotions when your body gets hit with a shocking dose of stress! We've been co-hosting this informal event with Minnetonka Fire since 2020, but we've been getting increasing interest from neighbors--many who join in with their entire families!

## HYDRANTS

Thanks to last year's construction work, we now have 25 hydrants in our city providing ample water supply for use in fire suppression--take note of the hydrants nearest your home that might be needed in an emergency! To keep hydrants accessible throughout the winter, please consider "adopting a hydrant" by keeping snow cleared from around it. MLFD needs to be able to find hydrants work around them to connect hoses and manipulate caps/valves. If you have the time, we would appreciate if you help remove significant snow and ice in a 3-foot radius around the fire hydrant within 24 hours of a snow event. **PUBLIC SAFETY** We are in the coldest part of the year and would like to help you all stay safe amidst the chill. From treacherous roads to the risks of heating equipment and extreme cold, taking precautions can prevent accidents and ensure a safer season. Key areas of concern include winter travel, house heating fires, and cold exposure.

### **COLD WEATHER SAFETY** (FROM OUR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR)

Winter travel demands heightened awareness. Drive "winter ready" by keeping your gas tank full and packing an emergency kit including extra clothing (hats, boots, gloves and jackets). While driving, increase your following distance to ensure you have plenty of time to stop on icy roads. For pedestrians, wear high-traction footwear and brightly colored clothing to avoid slips and improve visibility. ...continued on page 3

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## MAYOR'S MESSAGE CONT.

### **ANNOUNCING NEW CITY FORESTER ROLE**

Our city cherishes its trees, and we are deeply grateful for the exceptional care Chris Klar provided for our city's tree care. As part of our Public Works transition, we are thrilled to welcome our new neighbor, Derek Chappell, as our new City Forester. Derek, a certified arborist with extensive experience, has graciously volunteered his expertise to provide a range of tree management services and serve as a valuable resource for our residents. Derek's contact information will be included in the city's updated roles and responsibilities list, which will be available soon. Thank you, Derek!

*I look forward to seeing everyone on the lake this winter!*

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## HT FLASHES CONT.

At home, heating systems and alternative heat sources can pose fire hazards if not handled properly. Space heaters should always be kept at least three feet away from flammable materials and never left unattended. Regularly inspect and clean chimneys, vents, and heating appliances to reduce fire risks. Additionally, installing and maintaining smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors can be lifesaving.

Lastly, prolonged exposure to cold can lead to frostbite or hypothermia. Dress in layers and cover exposed skin when outside!

For more winter safety tips check out: <https://www.ready.gov/winter-ready>

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## FORESTRY NEWS

Due to the unfortunate passing of Chris Klar there has been a multitude of tasks in the public works department that will need to be filled. One of Chris's many duties was to take care of the public trees in the City. Council has appointed Derek Chappell to take over this role as he has been a Certified Arborist for 15 years and has a lot of experience with residential and commercial tree contracts.

### **WINTER REMINDERS**

As many of the residential trees in the City are located on the lakeside of properties, please keep in mind that it may be easiest to access trees by driving equipment on the frozen lake. We likely only have a few more weeks in which the lake can be accessed, so please contact a local tree company as soon as possible if you have a tree with removal or pruning needs in locations with tight access.

Also, please keep in mind that Oak trees do need to be pruned while the tree is dormant and it is not uncommon for tree care companies to be booked out 2 to 3 months ahead, so please don't wait to contact a tree company for any winter pruning or removals. Getting tree work done in winter can often come with a small discount too.

Speaking of Oak trees, we have a lot of beautiful and very old Bur Oak trees in Medicine Lake. The dry weather this past 5 years has really affected Bur Oaks and they are really struggling. It is highly recommended to prune out the deadwood in these trees and treat them with an injectable pesticide to help control the Two-Lined Chestnut Borer that can kill these trees. Price for that injection is about \$200 to \$400 depending on the size of the tree and it lasts for 2 to 3 years. Price for removing a 200 year old tree with limited access can cost upwards of \$15,000.

Please feel free to contact Derek by phone at (802) 735-7956 with any questions or concerns. A proper city email will be assigned in the future.

## COUNCIL VOTES

### January 13, 2025

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



- Agenda
- December 2, 2024 City Council Meeting minutes
- Approval of Veit pay application No. 9 and Veit change order No.7
- Resolution 25-01 approving Jevne Park Playground equipment purchase and installation services
- Resolution 25-02 approving contact with SRF for final playground engineering services
- Resolution 25-03 approving contract amendment with SEH for continued construction administration services
- Resolution 25-04 accepting \$2,595.73 from Fire Dept. pizza fundraiser to support the fire department truck fund
- Resolution 25-05 approving resurfacing of the basketball and tennis courts and including painting either one or two pickleball courts on existing tennis court
- Summary spending, receipts and cash balances through December 31, 2025
- Adjourn

## GOT NEWS?

**Welcome** to the all-digital edition of The Medicine Laker! We (the editors) appreciate your patience as we convert to this new format and add new features. We'll still be publishing monthly.

Beginning in February the **submission deadline will move to the 10th of each month**. Watch for the edition to get posted on or about the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Send your news to:**

[news@cityofmedicinelake.com](mailto:news@cityofmedicinelake.com)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



### CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 3 at 6p

### MLFD

Tuesday, February 4 at 7p

Tuesday, February 18 at 7p

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, February 20 at 6p

### WINTER FESTIVAL

February 22 & 23



# 3rd Annual Medicine Lake **WINTER FESTIVAL**

**February 22nd & 23rd, 2025**

## **Saturday February 22nd, 2025**

- TBD - *Tentative* **Group Ski**
- 3:00 PM **Ice Carousel & Ice Golf**
- 7:00 PM **Bonfire, chili and hot drinks**

## **Sunday February 23rd, 2025**

- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM **Kids \*OF ALL AGES\* Fishing Contest**
- 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM **Boot/Ice Hockey & bonfire (kids & adults of all talents)**
- 6:00 PM - **Kids movie & pizza party (ML Fire Station)**

SKI & HOCKEY EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE DUE TO SNOW & ICE CONDITIONS AT TIME OF EVENT. Updates will be communicated via Facebook & MLCC email. Email [medlkcommunityclub@gmail.com](mailto:medlkcommunityclub@gmail.com) to received MLCC notifications.

A more detailed schedule will be sent out prior to event. Any event changes will be communicated via Facebook & MLCC email.

**Please join us if you can!**

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