

## MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

CHRIS HEIM, MAYOR

### HELLO NEIGHBORS!

With the sun shining and snow melting, it's great to finally get outside and enjoy this "feels-like-spring" weather! While we'll likely get a few more reminders that winter isn't quite over, for now, it's nice to have longer days and warmer temperatures. I also want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped make the Winter Festival a success. I was out of town that weekend, but I've heard it was an outstanding event—such a wonderful new tradition for our city!

### KEY UPDATES

#### ELECTION CLERK

We have an urgent need for an Election Clerk, and if you're not currently serving in a volunteer role for the city, please consider stepping up. It takes all of us volunteering, as a community, to keep our city running. Our ability to maintain essential functions and continue forward as a city depends on people stepping in to help. While many of you already dedicate time in various ways—something I'm incredibly grateful for—this role isn't a huge time commitment overall, aside from some busier periods leading up to and during elections. If you're organized and care about election integrity, you'd be a great fit, and we're also open to two people sharing the role if that makes it more manageable. Without an Election Clerk, we can't maintain our local voting facility—so your help is truly needed!

#### FINAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES COMING SOON

We are coordinating with SEH and VEIT to finalize the road construction project, which includes repairing torn-up roadside areas, finalizing the bike path and pedestrian entrance, installing speed humps and crosswalks, and applying the final coat of asphalt citywide. Please note that Road Restrictions are in effect during this thaw season as our roads are not yet at full strength.

#### TREE CLEAN UP

A huge thank you to Derek Chappel, our city's forestry expert, for coordinating efforts to remove dead trees and manage necessary trimming throughout the city. His expertise is invaluable, and we're lucky to have him keeping our tree-filled community looking great!

#### MAY 5 MEETING MOVED TO APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>

Our May 5th meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, April 28th due to scheduling conflicts.



## PLANT SPRING GARDENS— SUPPORT POLLINATORS!

As you prepare your yard, plan your gardens, and get new plants this spring, **don't forget to plant for clean water and pollinators!** By using proper yard design and planting pollinator-friendly plants, our yards can help filter rainwater where it falls, rather than flowing straight to our water bodies and picking up pollutants along the way. Native plants in yards have many other benefits too.

### Check out these resources from Blue Thumb to learn more:

- **Where can I buy native plants?** Read this [article](#) on native plant sales coming up this spring.
- **Can I get financial support for creating pollinator habitats?** Yes! All Minnesota residents are eligible to apply for [Lawns to Legumes](#) cost-share funding of up to \$400.
- **Where can I learn more about planting for clean water?** Blue Thumb has many [workshops and online learning events](#).
- **What kind of plants should I use?** Use Blue Thumb's [plant finder](#) to identify options for your yard's conditions.

# Hot Flashes

FROM THE  
FIRE CHIEF

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

### 75 Years of History – 1950-2025 (Fire Chief, Rich Halvorsen)

In 2017, after 16 years serving on both the Medicine Lake and Plymouth Fire, I was honored to be asked to take on the role as the eighth Fire Chief for Medicine Lake.

In order, the first seven were Dean Mummert, Morrill Stelzner, Marion Roe, Jack Berkholz, David Elliott, Jack Garberg, and Mike Helman.

You'd be forgiven for thinking each chief served about a decade in MLFD's 75yr history. That is until you take into account that Charter Member and third Fire Chief Marion Roe served as chief for thirty years from 1954-1984. In fact, until the department was reorganized in 1985, the Fire Chief was largely the sole manager of the organization.

Since 1985, the department has fleshed out a more effective officer corps with additional Chiefs, Captains, and Lieutenants—a structure that resembles the more typical paramilitary ranks of most fire brigades.

Fire Chiefs carry a large burden as incident command leaders, but also as department organizational, operational, and regulatory leaders: ensuring members are recruited, trained, retained, and properly equipped—all within budget! This workload can be tremendous especially as standards, training requirements, and technology continues to grow.

In recent years, Medicine Lake Fire has worked hard to develop and establish leaders who can share the workload playing to their individual strengths whether operations, admin, training, maintenance...the list goes on and on. I am very fortunate to have the support of many very capable officers and the City is lucky to have such a capable group of volunteers making up all levels of our organization.

Since 1989, exemplary members have been recognized with an award appropriately named in honor of our longest serving Fire Chief: the Marion Roe Firefighter of the Year Award.

## EVENTS (Asst. Fire Chief, Mike Fox)

Thanks to all who attended and help organize this year's Winter Festival held on 2/22 and 2/23! The number of events increased this year and weather cooperated nicely to allow for good attendance by community members. A new event we tried this year was hosting a kids movie night at the fire station. 25 kids (many with parents in tow) split up between the fire station and city hall to watch two different movies and enjoy pizza and drinks.

Many fire departments make regular trips to local schools and daycares to help educate kids on fire prevention basics and share information about firefighters and our equipment. With no schools in Medicine Lake, MLFD doesn't do many of these visits. However, this year we were asked by Tender Learning Center in Plymouth to join them for an hour to support their Transportation Week lesson plans. MLFD was able to send a truck and two firefighters to share with the preschoolers—it's never too early to start recruiting...

With National Bike Month and spring around the corner, we're excited to invite all to a free bike maintenance event at the fire station for the third year in a row! Bring your bikes down on Saturday, April 19th, from 3 to 6pm, and let our team get them tuned up and ready to roll. The Community Club will be serving some snacks and drinks while the Fire Department hosts some show-and-tell—we'll spray a little water if weather cooperates. Come celebrate the season, enjoy some community vibes, and kick off your biking adventures with us!

...continued on page 3

## HOT FLASHES CONT.

### **MARCH PREPAREDNESS AND SPRING ICE SAFETY** (Emergency Manager, Brian Malecha)

As winter transitions to spring in Medicine Lake, it's the perfect time to focus on preparedness and safety. March is Severe Weather Preparedness Month, a reminder to review emergency plans and ensure you're ready for unpredictable weather. Take simple steps like assembling an emergency kit with flashlights, batteries, bottled water, and non-perishable food, and signing up for local weather alerts via NOAA Weather Radio or smartphone apps. Families should practice a severe weather drill, identifying a safe shelter location in case of high winds or tornadoes. Additionally, homeowners can prepare by trimming weak tree branches, securing outdoor furniture, and checking sump pumps to prevent flooding during heavy spring rains.

Along with severe weather awareness, residents should exercise caution regarding spring ice conditions on Medicine Lake. Warmer temperatures, increasing sunlight, and runoff weaken ice, creating hidden dangers even when it looks solid. Avoid ice fishing, snowmobiling, or walking on the ice as it begins to thaw, and watch for signs of instability like dark patches, slush, or pooling water. If someone falls through, call 911 immediately.

By staying prepared for severe weather and being mindful of unsafe ice conditions, our community can ensure a safer transition into spring. A little preparation now—whether securing your home, having a weather radio on hand, or staying off thinning ice—can prevent accidents and keep everyone safe as we welcome the warmer months ahead.

For more spring safety tips check out [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)



Fire Chief Marion Roe with Medicine Lake's First Fire Engine in front of the original fire bay (now office).



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# FORESTRY NEWS

## SPRING REMINDERS

A lot of plant health care, such as pest control and fungicide applications are done in the spring. If you have any of these issues and want a tree company to treat your trees, you will need to contact them as soon as possible. Timing is everything with many applications. Most fungicide applications are applied at or just after bud break.

At this time, please stay away from pruning oak trees. Most companies will refuse to do so anyways unless just a couple of limbs need to be removed and the wounds can be “painted over” Most of the Oaks in Medicine Lake are not Red Oaks, so Oak Wilt isn’t a huge worry, but I would recommend getting any Red Oaks injected for Oak Wilt Prevention.

Spring is a great time to plant trees and we are working on getting some discounted saplings from Hennepin County. Feel free to email the forester if anyone is interested in helping with some planting this spring.

Hennepin County will be giving away saplings in April: [2025 tree giveaway details](#) **Please note that you must RSVP for the event.** Feel free to contact me at [forester@cityofmedicinelaake.com](mailto:forester@cityofmedicinelaake.com) and I can forward you more details. Pickup dates: Thursday, April 24 from noon to 6 p.m. and Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Parkers Lake Golf Course in Plymouth.

## WHO TO CONTACT (FOR TREE ISSUES)

For anything related to trees or forestry in the city, please feel free to contact Derek Chappell, City Forester at [forester@cityofmedicinelaake.com](mailto:forester@cityofmedicinelaake.com) or by phone at 802-735-7956.

For tree emergencies, please don’t hesitate to call 911. The fire department and forester will then be notified. If a tree falls and blocks the road, the forester and the fire department will likely work together to remove the tree as soon as possible in order to keep the road open. If the fallen tree or branch is not an emergency and not blocking the road, then feel free to just contact the city forester.

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## RECYCLING UPDATE!

Please review the newly published recycling info on pages 8 & 9 below.

The flyer shared last month was incorrect regarding glass recycling.

They DO recycle glass as you can see in the attached flyers. This information and a 2025 recycling calendar are also on the city website:

<https://www.cityofmedicinelaake.com/trash-and-recycling/>



**MLCC  
EASTER EGG HUNT**

**EVENT DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 19th, 2025 at 10:00 am.**

**Meet at pavilion at Jevne Park.**

3 CATEGORIES OF AGES-IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE PARK  
AGES 0-4    AGES 5-11    AGES 12-19

**TO PARTICIPATE:**

Please drop 25 prefilled eggs per child filled with age-appropriate candy or prizes to Leigh Doyle 172 Peninsula Rd (612-386-2778) **by April 15.**

Please label the bag when dropping off what age group the eggs should go in! If your child is in the 12-19 age group, could it be a mix of candy and \$\$ in your eggs.

All are welcome! You will take home your eggs when the hunt is done.

Donuts will be provided by the Medicine Lake Community club.





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## COUNCIL VOTES

**March 3, 2025**

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



- Agenda
- February 3, 2025 City Council Meeting minutes
- Summary spending, receipts and cash balances through February 28, 2025
- Adjourn
- May Council Meeting Rescheduled to April 28.

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## URGENT: ELECTION CLERK STILL 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. Training provided. **No prior experience needed.** 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. Reach out to a councilmember to volunteer.



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## GOT NEWS?

Welcome, **we hope you're enjoying this new all-digital edition of The Medicine Laker!** We (the editors) appreciate your patience as we convert to this new format.

The **submission deadline moved to the 10th of each month** as of February. Please avoid late submissions so we can stick to this publication schedule.

Watch for a new issue to get posted to the City of Medicine Lake website on or about the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Send your news to:**

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

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 7 at 6p  
Monday, April 28 at 6p

### MLFD

Tuesday, April 1 at 7p  
Tuesday, April 15 at 7p

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, April 17 at 6p

### SPRING BIKE EVENT

Saturday, April 19

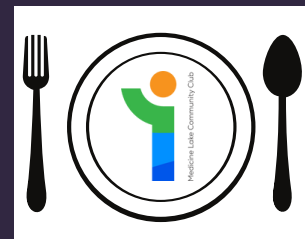
### PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Saturday, April 26

# 2025 PROGRESSIVE DINNER

CITY OF MEDICINE LAKE

## Registration Form



**EVENT DATE: Saturday, April 26th 2025**

**Registration & Payment DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH 2025**

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FUN, FOOD AND DRINK!

### EVENT INFORMATION

TIME	EVENT	HOSTS NEEDED	APP & DESSERT ASSIGNMENTS
5:00 pm	Appetizers	1 Host home needed	<b>All guests bring app to share.</b>
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Break Out Dinners	Many host homes needed	
8:30 pm - ???	Dessert	1 Host home needed	Dessert will be provided.

### TWO WAYS TO REGISTER

#### REGISTER VIA PEN & PAPER

Fill out and return the form below.

- Deliver completed forms to Nina Zelazny - 228 Peninsula Rd

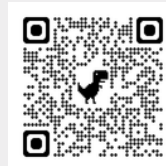
OR

- Email completed form to Nina Zelazny -  
[ninazelazny3@gmail.com](mailto:ninazelazny3@gmail.com)

OR

#### REGISTER ONLINE

Use the below QR code to complete the online registration form.



### PAYMENT OPTIONS

#### CASH OR CHECK

Checks payable to: *Medicine Lake Community Club.*

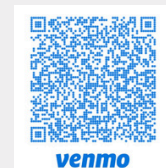
Deliver to Nina Zelazny - 228 Peninsula Rd.

OR

#### VENMO

Pay with Venmo!

Venmo [@MLCC-1](#) or use QR Code below.



PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY - RETURN BOTTOM PORTION

## 2025 MEDICINE LAKE PROGRESSIVE DINNER

### REGISTRATION FORM

#### ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Attendee(s) Name(s):

Address:

Email:

Single \$30.00 ☐

Couple \$60.00 ☐

### SIGN UP TO HOST

#### YES, I'LL HOST!

Check any that you would be comfortable hosting. The committee will be in touch.

Appetizers ☐

Dinner ☐

Dessert ☐

**REGISTRATION & PAYMENT DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH 2025**

Registration forms & cash/check payments can be submitted to Nina Zelazny - 228 Peninsula Rd.



# How to appeal your value and classification

If the property information on your valuation notice is not correct, you disagree with the values, or have other questions about this notice, you may appeal.

## Start with your assessor

Often issues can be resolved by reaching out directly to your assessor. Their number is listed on the valuation notice.

## Do you still have concerns? Attend a local meeting

If your issues weren't resolved by talking to your assessor, you can either attend a local board of appeal and equalization meeting or continue having an "open book" conversation with assessing staff. Each city chooses which meeting format they prefer (the front of your valuation notice will tell you which option your city has chosen).

### Local board of appeal and equalization meetings

Property owners may appear in front of the local board of appeal and equalization to dispute their valuation or classification. The date and time of the meeting is located on your valuation notice.

### Open book meetings

During an open book meeting, property owners can address questions about their property valuation and classification directly with assessing staff. If your city has opted for an open book meeting, the in-person meeting will be held at one of five locations. Choose the location that best fits your schedule.

Monday, April 14, 4 to 7 p.m. — Richfield City Hall, 6700 Portland Ave S, Richfield, MN

Wednesday, April 16, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. — Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd, Plymouth, MN

Thursday, April 17, 4 to 7 p.m. — Rogers Community Room, 21201 Memorial Dr, Rogers, MN

Wednesday, April 23, 4 to 7 p.m. — Mound Centennial Building, 5341 Maywood Rd, Mound, MN

Thursday, April 24, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. — Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Dr N, Crystal, MN

If you prefer a virtual meeting, please call the number on the valuation notice to schedule a virtual appointment with an appraiser in advance of the following meeting date:

Tuesday, April 22, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## If you still need help, attend the county meeting

If after attending your local meeting you are still not satisfied, you can attend the county board of appeal and equalization meeting. If your city offers a local board of appeal and equalization meeting, you must attend that meeting before attending the county board of appeal and equalization. This requirement does not apply if your city holds an open book meeting.

## Questions

Please call the number on the front of your valuation notice.

Hennepin County Assessor's Office  
300 S. Sixth Street, MC 213, Minneapolis

[hennepin.us/assessment](https://hennepin.us/assessment)



pg. 7



# Recycling in Minnesota



## What to Recycle



### Plastic Bottles & Jugs

Water, soda and juice bottles, dish soap bottles, shampoo bottles, soap and lotion bottles, and detergent jugs (empty and clean/rinsed, and dry; caps on)



### Plastic Cups & Containers

Yogurt cups, pudding and fruit cups, clear disposable cups (no straws), margarine/whipped cream tubs, cottage cheese and similar containers, clear produce, deli and take-out containers (empty and rinsed; lids on)



### Boxes (flattened)

Cardboard, cereal, cracker, pasta and tissue boxes, shoe, gift and electronics boxes, toothpaste and other toiletry boxes



### Cartons

Milk cartons, juice cartons, juice boxes and soup and broth cartons (empty and clean/rinsed, and dry; caps on)



### Paper

Mail, office and school papers, magazines and catalogs, newspapers and inserts, phone books (clean; staples OK)



### Metal

Food and beverage cans (empty and rinsed; labels OK)



### Glass

Brown, green and clear bottles, jars (empty and rinsed; no lids)

Not recycling costs money. In 2021, a million tons of recyclable material was thrown away, but could have been recycled for an additional estimated value of \$142.1 million. Instead, it cost Minnesotans millions of dollars to put it in landfills. Recycling saves energy. It takes 90% less energy to make a can from recycled aluminum compared to virgin material. Recycled glass? About 50% less energy. Recycled paper? About 75% less energy, plus 74% less air pollution and 35% less water pollution. Lower energy use means reduced air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

### What You Can Do to Optimize Sorting at Our Facility

**Do not bag:** For the safety of our employees and for the efficiency of our system, Republic Services asks that you place recyclables in the bin loose and individually. We can't be sure what is in the bags that we receive. For example, it could contain a sharp object and harm our employees. Plastic bags can also get caught in the recycling machinery, which can cause delays and significant damage. Therefore, bagged plastics are removed from the line and are processed as residual trash.

**Empty, rinse and leave lids on:** If items in your recycling cart aren't clean and empty, they are likely to be considered contaminated and will not be recycled. This is because food residue and liquids can damage the recycling process and

contaminate other recyclable materials in the cart, making them unsuitable for reuse.

If you leave a dollop of mayo in the jar or a big swig of soda at the bottom of a bottle, it might not make a huge difference. But imagine if everyone did the same thing? The cumulative effect can ruin otherwise perfect recyclable items. Instead of being recycled, contaminated items will likely end up in a landfill and all the efforts truly, went to waste.

**Flatten boxes:** It makes them easier to process and saves space in your recycling cart. Flattening boxes also prevents clogs. Other recyclables can get stuck in your bin if a box is lodged.

**Leave caps on your plastic bottles:** It helps with the sorting process at recycling facilities, ensuring the cap stays attached to the bottle and is recycled together, rather than potentially falling through the sorting machinery.

**Batteries:** Never recycle or throw away batteries at home. Putting them in your recycling or trash harms the environment and can be dangerous. Instead, dispose of them at a designated recycling site. This prevents fires, protects the environment, and keeps our community safe.

The recycling calendar is available on your city's website. A larger 95-gallon recycling cart can be requested. Extra recycling carts are available, if needed.

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Sustainability in Action



A Republic Services Company

2025

# Recycling Collection Calendar



Sustainability in Action

■ Holiday - Service is delayed by one day if your collection is on or after the holiday ■ Recycling

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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FEBRUARY						
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MARCH						
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30	31					

APRIL						
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MAY						
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JUNE						
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29	30					

JULY						
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27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST						
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31						

SEPTEMBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## We Recycle! Do Not Bag Your Recyclables



### Plastic Bottles & Jugs

Water, soda and juice bottles, dish soap bottles, shampoo bottles, soap and lotion bottles, and detergent jugs (empty and clean/rinsed, and dry; caps on)



### Plastic Cups & Containers

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