



MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

CHRIS HEIM, MAYOR

HELLO NEIGHBORS!

Happy spring! It's great to see early plants emerging and trees beginning to bud—summer is on the way! It was also wonderful to see so many of you at the Progressive Dinner. A big thank you to the planning committee for making it such a special event.

And don't forget to mark your calendar for **National Night Out on August 5th**—we've once again reserved the Butcher Salt food truck!

KEY UPDATES

CELEBRATING OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

We started our May Council Meeting with a wonderful pinning ceremony for 5 new firefighters who completed an extensive training program to achieve their certifications. Congratulations to Anna Preston, Brian Doyle, Ian Hall, Brian Malecha, and Adam Williams. Our fire department is a cherished and invaluable function of our city, and we are so fortunate for everyone who volunteers their time to serve our community.

PLAYGROUND AND PARK IMPROVEMENTS

We're excited to share that our new playground equipment is expected to arrive in June and should be fully assembled and ready for use by July. We're also preparing to install trash bins and a porta potty in the park, and we kindly ask everyone to help keep the area clean and welcoming for all. Additionally, we'll be beautifying the new swale area with Minnesota native plants and will be looking for volunteers to help with the planting. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks!

PAVILION RESERVATIONS

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APPRECIATING THE HUTTON HOUSE

During our recent council meeting, we approved the annual liquor license for the Hutton House. I'd like to take a moment to thank the Hutton House for being such a thoughtful and generous neighbor. They've been outstanding partners to the city—always willing to lend a hand when asked and consistently mindful of minimizing noise and traffic disruptions in the surrounding area. It's great to see their business thriving, and we're fortunate to have them in our community.

Thank you for everything you do to help make Medicine Lake such a special place. I look forward to seeing you around the park and enjoying the warmer months together!

Hot Flashes

FROM THE
FIRE CHIEF

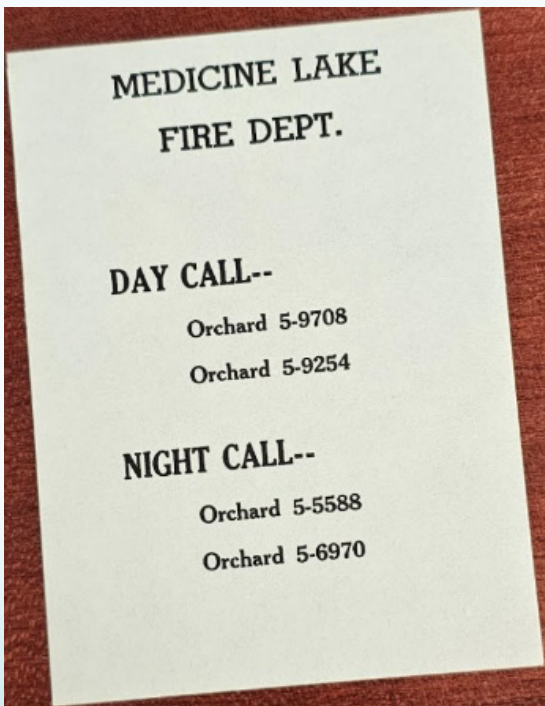
Over many years, The Laker has intermittently featured notes from the Fire Department. In celebration of our 75th year, we're bringing back its most popular title "Hot Flashes from the Fire Chief"!

1950-- 75 years --2025

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

HISTORY

As technology evolves so do many of the tools that impact an emergency response. Though water still gets pumped from an engine through a hose to the nozzle and onto the fire the same for 150+ years, much of the accessory items have advanced considerably beyond their core function. The breathing apparatus firefighters use have more advanced safety features for the wearer, lighting has moved towards more



efficient and reliable LEDs, infrared and thermal imaging tools allow firefighters to find heat through smoke and even some walls, the turn out gear materials allow firefighters to safely move through and out of increasingly hot environments, **but some of the most dramatic differences in MLFD's 75 years may be what happens when you dial 9-1-1.**

In early years neighbors were encouraged to call a specific number, pre-dating even the seven-digit phone number structures we know today. The firefighters had phone trees to notify others of the emergency (this is specifically why in the original "Ordinance Providing for the Establishment and Government of a Volunteer" a home telephone was a requirement for members). In 1955 the first Fire Siren was installed at 174 Peninsula and residents were encouraged to activate it in an emergency. Later, a siren installed above City Hall was installed and the first firefighter in the door would sound the siren to alert other members as well. This siren remained in service for many years in the event responders were working in their yards or out on their boats before advanced

paggers and smart phones became prevalent. Eventually the siren would be activated by the same trigger as members' paggers before being phased out due to maintenance issues.

But what exactly happens when you call 9-1-1 today?

The phone rings in a facility that was opened new about ten years ago adjacent to the Correctional Facility on Shenandoah Lane next to Parkers Lake. The call taker will plug in two key pieces of data right away, the location and the event type. This combination sets off the next chain of events.

A medical emergency? Fire Dept units will be alerted and the call transferred to North Memorial

Ambulance dispatchers who can coordinate between paramedics and provide what are called "pre-arrival instructions" with the caller before responders arrive.

An emergency on Medicine Lake? The lake itself is a single geographic zone, coupled with a response type of Water Rescue, a response will be paged out for Medicine Lake and Plymouth Fire Departments as well as Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol Division units who have jurisdiction over bodies of water in the county.

HOT FLASHES (continued from page 2)

A House Fire? Dispatchers will be prompted to start a response from both Medicine Lake and Plymouth Fire as well as assigning communication groups multiple agencies can coordinate on. Though larger cities may have specific unit responses and mutual aid by geographical areas, Medicine Lake is small enough to be contained to one response pattern.

And, what does it mean when you hear of a three-alarm, four-alarm, or five-alarm fire? It's not just my famous hot chili recipe. An alarm level, starting with the first alarm in the initial callout, specifies additional units to the scene as deemed necessary. A larger fire might warrant striking out a second or third alarm for additional resources. Careful mind is paid to structuring these by unit type (ladder truck, engine, etc.), availability, location, and more. This gives incident commanders an easy way to bring more and more manpower to the scene without having to know what to ask for and from where.

In just my past 25 years the old walkie-talkie radios have moved to digital systems, pagers have gotten smaller and more reliable, and even cell phones are working their way into the process of notifying firefighters of a call, call details, and even who is responding and where firefighters are on a map. We've come a long way but one thing hasn't changed, the sooner you call 9-1-1 the better we can put these tools into motion. ***Don't hesitate, when in doubt dial 9-1-1.***

SUMMER SAFETY

May is **Wildfire Awareness Month** and although our community isn't typically threatened by large-scale wildfires, fire safety remains crucial, especially as outdoor activities increase during warmer months. Even a small fire from a fire pit, grill, or outdoor celebration can spread under the right conditions, potentially damaging property or natural areas. Prevention is our best defense. Always fully extinguish fires, use fire

pits, and never leave grills unattended. Keep a water source or fire extinguisher nearby when using fire outdoors. Additionally, be mindful of local burn restrictions, especially during dry periods, and properly dispose of cigarettes and matches.

Finally, as we all get outdoors, the Friday before Memorial Day is **Don't Fry Day**. The National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention encourages sun safety awareness by reminding everyone to protect their skin while enjoying the outdoors on Don't Fry Day and every day. Remember to *Slip! Slop! Slap! and Wrap!* when you're outdoors. Slip on a shirt, slop on sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher, slap on a hat, and wrap on sunglasses.

<http://www.epa.gov/sunsafety/dont-fry-day>



To our Medicine Lake friends and neighbors,
Thank you so much for the beautiful bouquet given to us in remembrance of my mother, Joan Sifford. She frequently visited Medicine Lake and could often be seen going for walks with us. Thanks again, Jola and Glen Skajewski

NEW PLAYGROUND INSTALLATION TO BEGIN IN JUNE

New equipment for the Jevne Park playground is on the way!



The equipment was ordered and went into production this spring. The committee chose equipment that offers a different play experience from other nearby playgrounds. It features more than a dozen distinct play components plus connecting elements to encourage movement around and through the equipment. The pod-shaped elements have the added benefit of promoting pretend play. The swings include two belt seats, an infant bucket seat, and an accessible molded bucket seat. The concrete

sidewalk will be extended from the existing pavilion patio to the swing play area and across the swale to the other playground equipment area. A pour-in-place rubber surface will provide a wheelchair accessible path from the sidewalk to the bucket swings.

The committee specifically chose equipment with a lower height out of consideration for views from neighboring homes, while the green colors were chosen to harmonize with the natural



environment. Installation is scheduled to begin June 4, weather permitting. Once begun, it's expected to take two to three weeks. There will be fencing placed around the rubber surface once it's poured – it's very important that people stay off

that surface while it's setting up and curing. Please be mindful of signage and fencing during the installation process.

We are also working with Natural Shore Technologies to supply native plants for the swale. We anticipate organizing a volunteer planting event soon, so stay tuned for that!

It's very exciting to reach this point in the project.

Thank you to those who have generously contributed funds and their time to make this possible!

Medicine Lake Community Club NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

2025 Dues Drive

As a resident of the City of Medicine Lake and S Shore Drive you are a welcomed member of the Medicine Lake Community Club (MLCC). The MLCC appreciates your support and time dedicated to making our city even better. The committee has been hard at work to make sure all the events you love and look forward to happen in 2025 and beyond. ***Please support our mission by paying your "dues" as they were called in the past with a \$25/person or \$50/family donation;*** however a donation of any amount is appreciated!

The MLCC contributes support for; Winter Carnival, Easter egg hunt, Bike Tune-up, Progressive Dinner, July 4th boat parade, National Night Out, Kids' Halloween party, holiday party, welcome packets for new neighbors, flowers, and more! The list continues to grow as the community comes together.

Cash or checks can be dropped in the locked mailbox at 18 Kaiser Avenue.

The MLCC appreciates your volunteer & financial contributions!

Medicine Lake Communi...
@MLCC-1



**Cash or Checks (made out to
Medicine Lake Community Club.)**

Community
Medicine Lake Community Club

COUNCIL VOTES



April 28, 2025

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

- Agenda
- April 7 3, 2025 City Council Meeting minutes
- Summary spending, receipts and cash balances through April 28, 2025
- Approve resolution 25-12 granting variance allowing construction of addition at 265P within seven feet side yard setback with encroaching eaves and fifty feet of streetside setback. McNaughton recused from vote.
- Adjourn

April 28, 2025 Special Meeting: Liquor License

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

- Agenda
- Resolution 25-13 approving liquor license for LLW Partners, LLC, Hutton House
- Resolution 24-14 approving liquor license for LLW Partners, LLC, Hutton House.
- Adjourn



GOT NEWS?

We hope you're enjoying 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 moved to the 10th of each month**. Watch for the edition to get posted to the website on or about the 20th of each month.

Send your news to:

news@cityofmedicinelaake.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, June 2 at 6p

MLFD

Tuesday, June 3 at 7p

Tuesday, June 17 at 7p

PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, June 19 at 6p

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 5