

THE LAKER

Volume LXXI issue no. 6

June 2025

MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

CHRIS HEIM, MAYOR

HELLO NEIGHBORS!

Summer is here! I recently enjoyed a perfect Minnesota summer day—some gardening, a workout, a pontoon ride, a nap on the couch, grilling, dinner outside, and a family bonfire. I hope you're experiencing much the same—we live in such an incredible place.

KEY UPDATES

STATION73 TRIP (COUNTY RD 73 & HIGHWAY 55) PROJECT

Construction on Highway 55 is underway and will limit access from our neighborhood for several months. The project includes a new pedestrian and biking tunnel, improved bus stop accessibility, safer intersections, and a roundabout at South Shore Drive and 10th Avenue. While the detour is inconvenient, these long-term upgrades will make Highway 55 significantly safer and more accessible. Thank you to the City of Plymouth for attending our May council meeting to share project details and address questions from our residents.

OUR ROADWAY IS NEARLY COMPLETE

With new sidewalks at the entryway and speed humps throughout the roadway, our complete-street design is now fully implemented. Final striping and markings will be added soon. This project represents years of planning focused on pedestrian safety and traffic calming. The speed humps are performing as intended—smooth to drive over at up to 20 MPH. The newly crowned road pitch has improved water flow in most areas, though a few households are experiencing new waterflow challenges, which the contractors are actively addressing. As the roadside grass takes root, our city will soon feel back to normal. Thank you for your continued patience as we complete the final touches.

ANNUAL BUDGETING PROCESS

We're beginning to plan for the 2026 annual budget, with preliminary discussions scheduled for the July 7th council meeting and a special session at 5 PM before the August 4th council meeting. With the road project complete, it's time to review other long-term investments—such as enhancements to City Hall, covering all Public Works responsibilities, and continued park beautification. We welcome your ideas and input as we thoughtfully incorporate these items into a carefully managed budget.

4TH OF JULY BOAT PARADE

We're all set for the annual 4th of July Boat Parade, starting at 11AM. Gather in the SE bay just past the "swimming hole" for a festive tradition. We're hoping to set a new record for the number of boats participating, so please join us!.

Enjoy Your Summer!



IN THIS ISSUE...

News from MLCC on page 2

Enjoying the regular History articles from our Fire Chief?

Check out *Hot Flashes* on **pages 3-5** for all the latest MLFD news.

Want to know about the quality of City Water? Get all the details on **page 5**.

Curious about speed monitoring? Go to **page 6-7**.

Wondering what's going on with the ***Highway 55/Station 73 Road Construction project?*** Jump to **page 8**.

Take the pledge to ***Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers*** on **page 9**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 16

Hwy 55 Road Construction begins

July 4

Annual Boat Parade

July 7

City Council Meeting

August 5

National Night Out

ANNUAL MEDICINE LAKE BOAT PARADE

Decorate your boat, pontoon and yourselves! Gather in the small bay by the Heim's house. If the Medicine Lake rescue boat is available then let that boat go first to lead the parade. Parade will start promptly at 11:00.



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



venmo

Venmo your donations

or

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

Community
Medicine Lake Community Club

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"!

2025 MARKS THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MEDICINE LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT!

HISTORY

We're almost halfway through 2025 and we're finally getting to everyone's favorite part, the FIRE TRUCKS!

Perhaps there's nothing more emblematic to kids (and those of us still kids at heart) than the big red trucks. But seriously, talk to any firefighter at any department from MLFD to FDNY and every member will have a favorite or most legendary apparatus they served alongside.

Some fire trucks may be noteworthy for a significant fire (*definitely not foreshadowing future article subjects...*), others for their history, length of service, and some for how sharp they look (or possibly the opposite!)



Medicine Lake paraded its fire department through the 125-home community during an open house Dec. 7. The department has added a fire truck to its equipment and has joined the North Suburban Mutual Aid Association. The celebration signals independence for the volunteer force after the city refused a contract with Plymouth for back-up fire service.

Medicine Lake volunteer spirit makes it 'the little city that did'



perhaps less than excited parents at National Night Out, its primary purpose was to be a mobile cistern. So fittingly "Water Wagon" was later added as a tribute to the first Country House fire truck. That 1929 Model A Ford is often credited as the city's first fire truck, though arguably the 1946 Diamond T was the first actual pumper.

Today the cost of a new fire apparatus is nothing short of astronomical. This isn't surprising as they get more impressive every year, but many small departments are lucky to ever buy new and departments that do sometimes pass along a really good truck only because its 20+ year schedule has run its course. This leaves an interesting mix of trucks on the used market but even then, finding the right truck for the agency isn't always a perfect match. I mean, after all, what if it's (gasp!) YELLOW??!!

At the time of this writing Medicine Lake Tanker 11, which effectively represented all of the above -- for better or worse! -- was just sent on to greener pastures after two decades as the largest tanker in Hennepin County. She wasn't the quickest nor the shiniest but with 3800 gallons of water on wheels T-11 served as a portable fire hydrant that brought water in Medicine Lake, Plymouth, Minnetonka, Golden Valley, Medina, and others from 2005-2025.

Though this truck could move enough water to drench a neighborhood-worth of children and their



HOT FLASHES (continued from page 3)

Medicine Lake has been very fortunate in 75 years to not only find a series of quality apparatus that fit our community well but also to be able to acquire them at a reasonable cost through hard work, charitable gambling, grants,



donations, and neighboring communities doing what they can to help. MLFD has also taken advantage of 'refurbished' vehicles that had much of the apparatus renewed or replaced resulting in a longer life left when it came into our station. This is the case with our current secondary-engine (acquired via the grant, pictured left)

the aforementioned Tanker (a DNR facilitated program to

repurpose excess military equipment), and our first 'major' apparatus which had served previously in Maple Grove – where it is still a legend among those who rode on it (it currently serves parade duty in a private collection, of which the owners are also very passionate about it).

Our first due apparatus came to us from the Little Canada Fire Department. After many meetings and reviews we ultimately did a maintenance once-over, added some Medicine Lake specific tweaks while putting our name on the doors, and ultimately set it out as our most advanced, best attuned, and dare I say best looking truck MLFD has ever had.

That truck led our second ever parade of vehicles 35 years later during the early Covid lockdown to show once again what our small community was capable of. Now, thanks to the addition of fire hydrants our parade might be slightly shorter, but we are exploring using that space in our fleet to bolster medical and lake response. Hopefully looking just as sharp when we do.

EVENTS (Asst. Fire Chief, Mike Fox)

On May 31st, our Tanker, T11, was formally returned to the DNR after a 20-year, \$0 lease. As Rich noted above, the tanker served us and our mutual aid partners admirably, but with hydrants we no longer need a tanker. There is still ample need in rural Minnesota, of course. The DNR immediately passed ownership to De Graff Fire and the tanker was sent off on 5/31 with very grateful firefighters from De Graff, MN. De Graff is a small city about 2hrs west of here with 110 people. Including the surrounding township, Kildare Township, De Graff Fire is responsible for 1200 people and 35 sq miles. With 4x the people and 200x the area we cover, T11 will likely see a lot of miles and hours this year helping manage barn and shed fires – a very different life than it spent in Medicine Lake.



On June 16th, 20th, and 27th, the Courage Kenny Adaptive Waterski Program will be taking place on Medicine Lake's west bay. This program aims to provide individuals with disabilities the opportunity to experience the thrill and excitement of waterskiing, fostering self-confidence, independence, and an active, healthy lifestyle. The program offers adaptive equipment, such as sit-skis and stand-up skis, to accommodate various mobility, visual, or other impairments, making waterskiing accessible to participants of all skill levels, from beginners to competitive skiers. As in past years, Medicine Lake Fire, in partnership with Hennepin County Water Patrol, will monitor the corridor between the peninsula and west beach to help control traffic and improve safety for this event. [Here is a link to additional info and video of this event](#)

HOT FLASHES (continued from page 4)

SUMMER SAFETY: HEAT AND LIGHTNING AWARENESS (*Emergency Manager, Brian Malecha*)

Summer heat is responsible for the highest number of annual deaths among all weather-related hazards, with periods of high heat and humidity above 90 degrees for several days putting extra strain on our bodies. Ready.gov suggests some helpful tips: stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids, wear loose and light-colored clothing, stay indoors during the hottest part of the day. Use cooling locations like libraries or shopping malls in your area if needed. Always remember to never leave people or pets in a closed car on a warm day, and watch for warning signs of heat-related illnesses including heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Remember: stay cool, stay safe.

Lightning safety is equally important during summer thunderstorms. When thunder roars, go indoors! Move immediately from outdoors into a building or car with a roof when you hear thunder, as you're already within striking distance of dangerous lightning. During storms, avoid using electronic devices connected to electrical outlets, stay away from running water, and remember that there is no safe place outside when thunderstorms are in the area. Let's look out for one another and make sure everyone stays safe this summer.

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER REPORT NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Published each June, the City of Plymouth annual drinking water report – which also applies to City of Medicine Lake households connected to the City of Plymouth water main – is now available to view online.

Like past years, Plymouth's water met or surpassed all 2024 state and federal water quality testing, regulations and requirements. The drinking water consumer confidence report contains monitoring results from previous year(s).

The report does not apply to Medicine Lake residents with private wells used for drinking water supply.

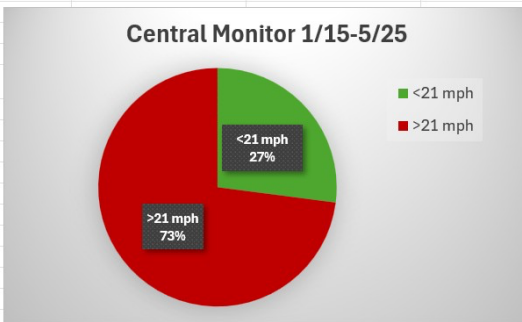
City of Plymouth water is tested weekly by an independent, state-certified laboratory. Results are submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health. Plymouth's water is regularly tested for more than 100 contaminants, such as bacteria, nitrates, pesticides, solvents and metals. Water is also tested multiple times per day for appropriate chemical levels and water quality. View the report at plymouthmn.gov/waterreport.

The public may download the water report, or request a paper copy by calling 763-509-5000 and arranging to pick it up during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday) at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd.



SPEED MONITORING RESULTS

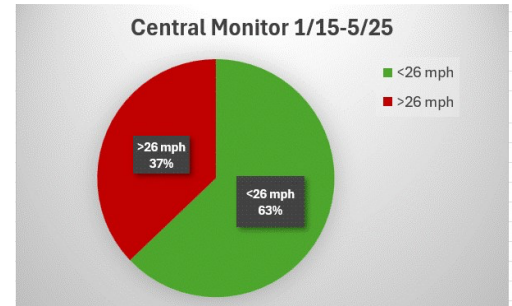
Councilmember Ruth Hovey



We have obtained some of the data from the speed monitor at the entrance to the peninsula (Entrance Monitor) and the centrally located monitor (Central Monitor). Please note that the entrance monitor collects speeds for nearly all vehicles entering the peninsula, while the central monitor only shows a portion of the vehicles leaving the peninsula as there are many cars leaving the peninsula south of that monitor.

Central Monitor results are from 1/15/25-5/25/25.

- 37% of the vehicles passing this monitor are travelling over 26 mph and 63% are travelling over 21 mph.
- The largest number of cars travelling at 26 mph and more are during the 8 am hour.

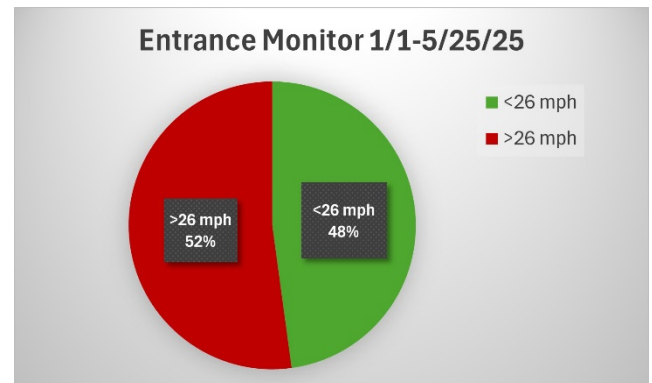
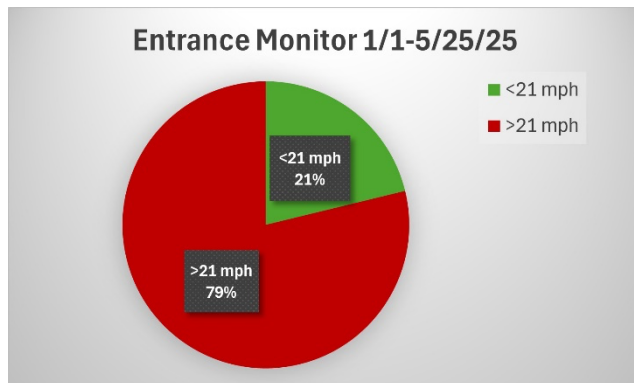


| Central Monitor 1/15/25-5/25/25 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Time | Under 6 MPH | 6 MPH to 10 MPH | 11 MPH to 15 MPH | 16 MPH to 20 MPH | 21 MPH to 25 MPH | 26 MPH to 30 MPH | 31 MPH to 35 MPH | 36 MPH to 40 MPH | 41 MPH to 45 MPH | Over 45 MPH |
| 12 AM | 71 | 18 | 7 | 12 | 23 | 29 | 11 | 12 | 5 | 4 |
| 1 AM | 28 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 AM | 24 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 AM | 90 | 28 | 2 | 6 | 20 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| 4 AM | 65 | 37 | 10 | 30 | 37 | 35 | 22 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 5 AM | 70 | 29 | 15 | 74 | 113 | 66 | 31 | 11 | 13 | 16 |
| 6 AM | 18 | 14 | 12 | 116 | 200 | 85 | 86 | 30 | 4 | 5 |
| 7 AM | 78 | 45 | 54 | 239 | 576 | 450 | 163 | 66 | 15 | 5 |
| 8 AM | 55 | 46 | 100 | 290 | 959 | 491 | 224 | 91 | 40 | 17 |
| 9 AM | 36 | 38 | 78 | 215 | 571 | 350 | 173 | 52 | 11 | 4 |
| 10 AM | 40 | 47 | 93 | 305 | 509 | 275 | 171 | 33 | 10 | 1 |
| 11 AM | 36 | 49 | 110 | 353 | 715 | 352 | 191 | 43 | 18 | 9 |
| 12 PM | 60 | 60 | 92 | 292 | 667 | 333 | 190 | 49 | 19 | 17 |
| 1 PM | 81 | 71 | 119 | 342 | 584 | 297 | 161 | 57 | 15 | 3 |
| 2 PM | 59 | 102 | 171 | 359 | 719 | 423 | 175 | 68 | 15 | 3 |
| 3 PM | 69 | 93 | 111 | 305 | 524 | 310 | 143 | 50 | 10 | 6 |
| 4 PM | 80 | 68 | 136 | 366 | 719 | 467 | 208 | 57 | 15 | 2 |
| 5 PM | 51 | 60 | 111 | 332 | 603 | 341 | 194 | 69 | 11 | 7 |
| 6 PM | 62 | 56 | 97 | 214 | 524 | 378 | 179 | 28 | 32 | 11 |
| 7 PM | 82 | 42 | 56 | 158 | 291 | 241 | 114 | 39 | 13 | 7 |
| 8 PM | 46 | 22 | 20 | 82 | 195 | 111 | 91 | 37 | 6 | 11 |
| 9 PM | 63 | 26 | 18 | 113 | 164 | 83 | 61 | 33 | 6 | 5 |
| 10 PM | 47 | 7 | 11 | 13 | 44 | 66 | 24 | 11 | 11 | 1 |
| 11 PM | 38 | 7 | 17 | 29 | 58 | 37 | 29 | 0 | 9 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 1349 | 975 | 1440 | 4251 | 8832 | 5236 | 2648 | 837 | 283 | 138 |

SPEED MONITORING RESULTS (continued from page 6)

Entrance Monitor results are from 1/1/25-5/25/25.

- 52% of the vehicles passing this monitor are travelling over 26 mph and 79% are travelling over 21 mph.
- The largest number of cars travelling at 26 mph and more are during the 4-5 pm time frame.



| Entrance Monitor 1/1/25-5/25/25 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Time | Under 6 MPH | 6 MPH to 10 MPH | 11 MPH to 15 MPH | 16 MPH to 20 MPH | 21 MPH to 25 MPH | 26 MPH to 30 MPH | 31 MPH to 35 MPH | 36 MPH to 40 MPH | 41 MPH to 45 MPH | Over 45 MPH |
| 12 AM | 27 | 24 | 4 | 23 | 41 | 57 | 53 | 27 | 13 | 5 |
| 1 AM | 31 | 22 | 2 | 5 | 18 | 10 | 27 | 14 | 17 | 0 |
| 2 AM | 21 | 24 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 16 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 AM | 35 | 20 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| 4 AM | 43 | 21 | 8 | 20 | 37 | 38 | 26 | 17 | 1 | 6 |
| 5 AM | 48 | 19 | 6 | 19 | 16 | 18 | 18 | 9 | 13 | 4 |
| 6 AM | 40 | 23 | 10 | 31 | 58 | 58 | 44 | 28 | 21 | 13 |
| 7 AM | 65 | 44 | 46 | 103 | 267 | 232 | 158 | 67 | 25 | 17 |
| 8 AM | 86 | 66 | 77 | 119 | 329 | 290 | 205 | 94 | 36 | 15 |
| 9 AM | 86 | 44 | 66 | 128 | 363 | 304 | 222 | 88 | 29 | 15 |
| 10 AM | 52 | 42 | 49 | 158 | 436 | 392 | 243 | 91 | 48 | 15 |
| 11 AM | 106 | 37 | 65 | 195 | 496 | 520 | 305 | 114 | 56 | 19 |
| 12 PM | 71 | 57 | 67 | 193 | 601 | 604 | 428 | 194 | 80 | 11 |
| 1 PM | 84 | 54 | 96 | 224 | 627 | 538 | 407 | 154 | 64 | 23 |
| 2 PM | 79 | 73 | 86 | 219 | 676 | 595 | 411 | 156 | 50 | 11 |
| 3 PM | 105 | 74 | 98 | 248 | 745 | 657 | 390 | 173 | 52 | 20 |
| 4 PM | 93 | 77 | 105 | 334 | 898 | 779 | 430 | 171 | 73 | 13 |
| 5 PM | 57 | 50 | 87 | 323 | 835 | 774 | 454 | 191 | 86 | 52 |
| 6 PM | 82 | 53 | 77 | 286 | 731 | 690 | 388 | 169 | 68 | 42 |
| 7 PM | 36 | 28 | 44 | 167 | 521 | 430 | 276 | 139 | 42 | 10 |
| 8 PM | 62 | 35 | 26 | 127 | 453 | 438 | 270 | 113 | 47 | 32 |
| 9 PM | 27 | 17 | 22 | 121 | 343 | 327 | 192 | 65 | 31 | 17 |
| 10 PM | 29 | 18 | 16 | 57 | 159 | 211 | 155 | 76 | 38 | 24 |
| 11 PM | 63 | 25 | 10 | 19 | 86 | 89 | 61 | 23 | 17 | 8 |
| TOTAL | 1428 | 947 | 1077 | 3127 | 8748 | 8074 | 5175 | 2178 | 909 | 373 |

HIGHWAY 55 ROAD CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN JUNE 16

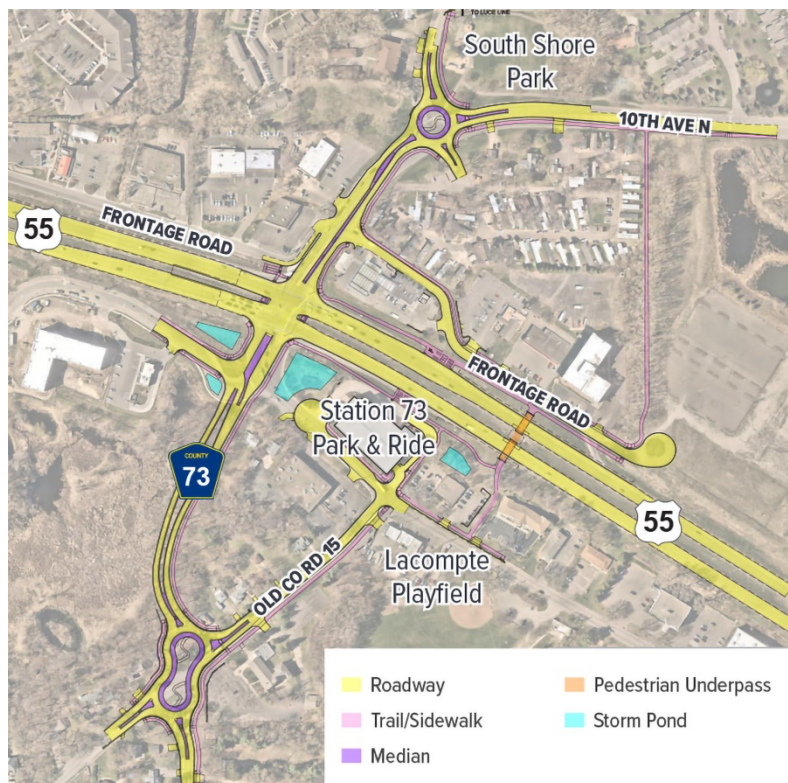
Highway 55 in Plymouth will be closed between West Medicine Lake Drive and Revere Lane beginning Monday, June 16 and will remain closed through late fall.

The closure will allow crews to begin work on the Station 73 TRIP project, which will impact the area of County Road 73 and Highway 55.

During the closure, the regional detour route will follow Interstate 494, Interstate 394 and Highway 169. Access to local businesses and residents will be maintained throughout the project.

To stay informed about the project, sign up to receive eNotify email updates at plymouthmn.gov/station73trip.

A project hotline and email address has been established for questions and concerns; contact 763-251-1010 or info@station73trip.com



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Station 73 TRIP project involves significant roadway, transit, trail and utility improvements. The City of Plymouth has partnered with Hennepin County, Three Rivers Park District, the Metropolitan Council and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to complete the project.

The project will continue into 2026 to focus on more of the local improvements outside of Highway 55. As the project continues, lane closures, full closures and detours may occur.

View project materials, learn more and sign up for email updates at:

plymouthmn.gov/station73trip

PROTECT WATER RESOURCES: STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

Aquatic invasive species don't usually enter lakes, rivers, and streams on their own, people help transport them. In some cases, it only takes one individual organism, such as a small plant fragment, to result in an infestation. An infestation can be devastating for lake recreation and aquatic life and can cost a lot of money to manage. Aquatic invasive species can be introduced directly, like through the dumping of a fish tank into a stream, or hitchhike on different surfaces, like boats, docks, live wells and more.

Preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species takes everyone, including people fishing, boating, kayaking, or sailing, those who live on lakes, and those with aquariums or ponds, to help keep our lakes clean and healthy. That's why Hennepin County is encouraging anyone who enjoys our lakes to sign up for [Lake Pledge](#).

If you are using a watercraft, remember to **clean** off any plants, animals and mud, **drain** any water-containing devices, **dry** everything, and **dispose** of unwanted bait in a designated area or the trash. Don't forget to trim your boat motor down or run your personal watercraft engine for a few seconds to discharge that last bit of water before leaving a water access.



If you have been on a lake for 24 hours or more, clean your boat at a decontamination station before entering another lake. [Three Rivers Park District](#) and the [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#) have hot water decontaminations stations available in Hennepin County.

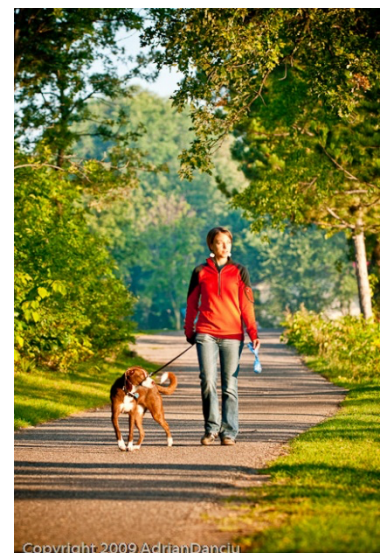
BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER AND SCOOP THAT POOP!

Being a pet owner comes with many responsibilities, and let's be honest, they aren't all fun! Even though picking up pet waste is not anyone's favorite task, it is undoubtedly better than swimming in it.

Pet waste that isn't picked up washes into nearby storm drains in the street and directly into our lakes, rivers, and streams with no filtering... gross! This waste adds excess nutrients into the water, which can cause algae blooms and make water unpleasant or unsafe for swimming in the summer. Pet waste also pollutes the water with harmful bacteria such as E. coli. Bacteria in the water can cause beach closures and transmit diseases that threaten the health of people, pets, and wildlife.

This is why picking up your pet waste, though it can seem insignificant, is a big deal. Not only does it make you a responsible pet owner, but it helps protect water quality and public health. Not to mention, it's the law. Help keep our waters safe for swimming and fishing this summer by scooping that poop!

Learn more at westmetrowateralliance.org/pet-waste.



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COUNCIL VOTES



JUNE 2, 2025

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

- Agenda
- April 28, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
- April 28, 2025 Special City Council Meeting Minutes
- Summary spending, receipts and cash balances through May 31, 2025
- Approve resolution 25-15 accepting a gift of memorial plaque and installation from SEH and VEIT to benefit the City of Medicine Lake; Yea-4 (Heim, McNaughton, Hovey, Tomczik), Na-1 (Zelazny).
- Approve the Bassett Creek Watershed Commission continued development of the 10-year plan to move from the development phase to review phase allowing this plan to gather public comments
- Approve Veit pay application Number 11
- 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. Submit your articles by the **10th of each month to be included in that month's issue.** (If you're including images, please submit as separate files and indicate the order they are to appear.)

Watch for the latest edition on or about the 20th of each month.

Send your news to:

news@cityofmedicinelake.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, July 7 at 6p

MLFD

Tuesday, July 1 at 7p

Tuesday, July 15 at 7p

PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, July 17

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 5