

THE LAKER

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August 2025

MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

CHRIS HEIM, MAYOR

HELLO NEIGHBORS!

I'm writing the morning after our wonderful National Night Out celebration, still feeling grateful for such a special evening. It was great to see everyone! As I watched the children enjoying the new playground and so many adults gathered around the pavilion, I smiled as I reflected on how far we've come with our new roads and revitalized park. The highlight of the night was dedicating Klar Pavilion and hearing the heartfelt words from the Klar family. Thank you all for making it such a memorable night—we live in a truly special community.

Notice – our September City Council Meeting has been moved to Tuesday, September 2nd at 6PM!

KEY UPDATES

2026 BUDGET PLANNING

With the capital improvement project nearly complete and \$4 million in state and federal grants secured, I'm incredibly proud of our city's financial health. When we began this capital improvement journey six years ago, we faced serious financial uncertainty—but today, our cash position is strong, and we avoided special assessments or major tax increases. In fact, our 2025 tax increase was among the lowest in Minnesota! As we prepare the 2026 budget, we're projecting less than a 4% increase in operating expenses. We'll review the budget at the September 2 Council meeting if you'd like to learn more.

RESEEDING OUR CONSTRUCTION AREA

While our new roads and park look fantastic, the newly seeded grass along the roadsides and in the park construction areas needs serious attention. Heavy rains washed away the initial seeding, and the mid-summer heat hampered the reseeding effort. The contractor will return in September—an ideal time for reseeding—and is fully aligned with us on the need for a much better outcome. We appreciate your patience as we complete this final step!

RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

We encourage every household to increase their use of recycling and composting—services already included in our citywide waste program with Republic. Hennepin County tracks participation rates, and while curbside service is already pre-paid and available to all our residents, our city currently falls below county benchmarks. The County is offering a \$3,300 grant to cities that meet compliance—a meaningful financial benefit for our city. Please read Councilmember Ruth Hovey's article in this edition of The Laker for more details on how to take advantage of these services. Your participation supports both our environment and our community.

Have a wonderful rest of your summer!



IN THIS ISSUE...

Enjoying the regular History articles from our Fire Chief? Check out *Hot Flashes* on **pages 2-3** for all the latest MLFD news.

Want to know about recycling organic and how to sign up? Get the details about it on **page 4**.

Looking for City Council Votes or monthly Meeting Dates? Go to **page 5**.

Looking for back to school safety tips? See **page 3**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2

City Council Meeting, 6p

September 10

Laker Submissions Deadline

September 18

Planning Commission, 6p

September 20

AFTD Fundraiser, 5-9 pm
Hutton House

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!"

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

HISTORY

We couldn't celebrate three quarters of a century of success without recognizing our mutual aid partners. Mutual Aid is a cornerstone of many area departments, large and small, and long-standing agreements coupled with advances in operations and technology make for more seamless interoperability between agencies when the alarm goes out today.

MLFD has benefited from relationships with our closest neighbors, the Golden Valley and Plymouth Fire Departments, as well as other partners further out for decades. This means bringing more resources from nearby to a fire in Medicine Lake but also lending a hand in their time of need.



In fact, these partnerships go much further than just showing up when there's a fire. Sometimes one department might need help covering calls while their units are busy training or setting up for an open house. Another agency might have specialized equipment to deal with unique challenges in their district while the department next door can invest in other resources knowing their neighbors are available in the unlikely need.

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for an open house. Another agency might have specialized equipment to deal with unique challenges in their district while the department next door can invest in other resources knowing their neighbors are available in the unlikely need.

For one example, Medicine Lake has to be able to fill our Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, even if we don't use them as often, so one neighbor helps top off our cascade system saving us the expense of having to build our own setup.

On the flip side our Tanker 11 ran many calls to pockets of the suburbs without hydrants as part of a "Tanker Task Force". Our knowledge around shuttling water also allowed for sharing that experience with our neighbors.





Our boats and equipment also mean we're uniquely poised and well experienced in water rescue events. This most famously led to responding to the 35W Bridge Collapse in 2007.

Assistance like this can also cross into other department types. In recent years we have worked to strengthen our ties with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol Division. The Sheriff's office is ultimately the authority on open waters in the county and much of their energy is spent at their stationed presence on Lake Minnetonka. Though they have units moving about the county on any given day as the second

largest lake MLFD has the only permanent Medicine Lake presence in the summer. This shortens response time on non-rescue incidents that we can help get eyes on right away and helps keep our equipment (and our members) tuned up and well exercised. Plus, as so many of us are near and dear to the lake, we can add that knowledge of the waters to many more routine events.

On September 28th, 1991 Governor Arne Carlson proclaimed the day "Medicine Lake Volunteer Fire Department Appreciation Day" to coincide with the Fourth Annual MLFD Spanferkel Festival and over 40 years of firefighting services to Medicine Lake and surrounding communities. For August 15th, 2025 in honor of the 75th anniversary of Ordinance #15, "An Ordinance Providing for the Establishment and Government of a Volunteer Fire Department for the Village of Medicine Lake", formally organizing a Volunteer Fire Department, Governor Tim Walz has formally proclaimed the day the Medicine Lake Fire Department 75th Anniversary for the State of Minnesota

SAFETY (Asst. Fire Chief, Mike Fox)

Back-to-School Preparedness and Safety

As summer winds down, it's time to get ready for a new school year. This is the perfect time to plan ahead for a smooth and safe transition from vacation to classroom. Start by reviewing morning and afternoon routines, ensuring children know their transportation plans—whether it's riding the bus, walking, biking, or being picked up. If your child walks or bikes to school, practice the route together, pointing out safe crossings and discussing traffic safety. For bus riders, remind them to wait at the stop in a safe spot away from the road and to follow the driver's instructions at all times.

Drivers should be extra alert during school commute hours, watching for children crossing streets, walking between parked cars, or getting on and off buses. Remember that it is illegal in Minnesota to pass a school bus when its stop arm is extended and red lights are flashing. Pedestrians should cross only at designated crosswalks, make eye contact with drivers before stepping into the street, and avoid distractions like phones or headphones. By combining transportation awareness with everyday safety habits, families and drivers alike can help ensure all students get to and from school safely.



HOW TO SET UP ORGANICS RECYCLING IN YOUR HOME

Let's Increase Our Organics Recycling!

Starting in 2026 – Medicine Lake will receive \$3,300 grant from Hennepin County to use directly to assist with curbside organics. We currently have a 33% organics utilization rate, but Hennepin County would like to see a 60% organics utilization rate. We need more households to participate in organics recycling.

- The city submits a report every February reporting our specific recycling and organics tonnage and bin numbers (tonnage provided by our trash hauler, Republic).
- Last year we received roughly \$1600 for our city recycling/organics efforts. The more we recycle the more grant funding we receive. This year we received our first half SCORE grant in the amount of \$842.

<https://www.hennepin.us/organics>

How do I sign up for curbside organics recycling?

To order your FREE organics cart – just call Republic services at 952-941-5174 and they will have it delivered to your driveway! See this link for tips and tricks:

[Get started with Organics](#)

Why should I take advantage of organics recycling in my community?

Organics make up a lot of our trash. Diverting organics from our trash to composting facilities will slow down the rate at which our landfills are growing and will avoid the long-term costs and environmental consequences to burying them or burning them.

Recycling organics reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Organic materials decomposing in landfills generate methane, a potent (and stinky!) greenhouse gas. When diverted to composting facilities, those organics produce far less methane and fewer odors.

Keep non-compostable materials out



Receiving organics free of contamination allows local composters to produce clean, nutrient-rich compost that people want to purchase and use. Some of the most important items to keep out of the organics recycling because they cause the biggest issues are:

- Glass
- Plastic items, including produce stickers, utensils, and Styrofoam™
- Plastic-coated paper items like coffee and soda cups
- Fast food wrappers and condiment packets
- To-go containers that are not certified compostable or only say 'biodegradable'
- Diapers, menstrual products, and cleaning wipes
- Grease or oil

If you aren't sure if an item is compostable, put it in the trash.

Organics Recycling Guide



All food



- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, fish, and bones
- Cheese, yogurt, and other dairy products and non-dairy alternatives
- Eggs and egg shells
- Pasta, beans, and rice
- Bread and cereal
- Nuts and shells

Food-soiled paper



- Pizza boxes from delivery
- Napkins and paper towels
- Paper egg cartons

Other compostable household items



- Coffee grounds and filters
- Cotton swabs with paper stems
- Hair and nail clippings
- Houseplants and flowers
- Chopsticks, toothpicks, and popsicle sticks

Certified compostable products



Look for the BPI logo on certified products. Only items with this logo are accepted.

Not accepted: Glass • plastic and Styrofoam™ • food wrappers • produce stickers • diapers • animal waste • products not certified compostable



Learn why it's important to compost the right things and find a detailed list of accepted and not accepted items at [hennepin.us/organics/what-to-compost](https://www.hennepin.us/organics/what-to-compost)



Composted organics improve soil and protect water. Compost added to soil reduces the need for fertilizers and increases water retention. That increased retention not only helps to conserve water, it also reduces runoff and erosion that can pollute our water.

Backyard composting can't handle all organics. Some organic waste, including meat, bones, fats, and dairy products require higher temperatures to decompose than what a backyard compost pile can produce. Curbside organics recycling services, however, can take those items.

For more information on how Organics works see: [Setting up Organics Recycling](#)

MEDICINE LAKERS, YOU ARE INVITED...



2025 FUNDRAISER FOR AFTD



@GarysFUBteam

September 22, 2025

The Hutton House - 10717 S. Shore Drive, Medicine Lake

ABOUT THE EVENT

Since 2017, the family of Gary Anderson (Gary's FUB Team) has hosted a fundraiser for AFTD. Our event provides live music, food, raffle and silent auction – a fun family oriented event. At each event a local FTD family member shares their FTD journey to provide a glimpse of the challenge and impact when having a loved one with FTD. In 2024, we had over 150 people in attendance and raised over \$26,500 to support our mission.

For 2025, we are excited to bring an expert in genetic FTD as our special guest. **All proceeds from this event go to AFTD and to support the local FTD community and families living with FTD.**



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS | 5:00 - 9:00 PM

- Guest speaker on genetic FTD
- Heartfelt testimony from a local FTD caregiver/family member
- Local dementia-related service provider information tables
- Raffle and silent auction
- Buffet dinner
- Live music & activities for kids

TICKETS ON-SALE

- Early Bird Pricing until August 31st:
 - Adult \$30; Child (17 and under) \$15; Under 5 Free
- Starting Sept 1st:
 - Adult \$40; Child (17 and under) \$20; Under 5 Free
- At the door:
 - Adult \$50; Child (17 and under) \$25; Under 5 Free



SCAN ME

COUNCIL VOTES



JULY 7, 2025

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

- Agenda
- July 7, 2025 City Council Meeting minutes
- Summary spending, receipts and cash balances through July 31, 2025
- Approve Ordinance 147 an ordinance prohibiting smoking in city parks and city property within City of Medicine Lake.
- Approve resolution 25-17 approving of publication or ordinance 147 by title and summary
- Adjourn

NOTICE!

Council has moved the September meeting to Tuesday, September 2, 2025

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

Tuesday, September 2 at 6p

MLFD

Tuesday, September 2 at 7p

Tuesday, September 16 at 7p

PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, September 18 at 6p