

THE LAKER

Volume LXXI issue no. 9

September 2025

MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

CHRIS HEIM, MAYOR

HELLO NEIGHBORS!

Labor Day weekend brought some of the best days of the summer—a perfect send-off as the season shifts and fall begins to set in. This month's update is a brief one, focused on our 2026 budget and the steps we're taking to ensure Medicine Lake has a strong, future-proof financial plan.

KEY UPDATES

2026 BUDGET PLANNING

For 2026, our city's budget is set at \$722,552, which reflects a modest 2.4% tax increase. Medicine Lake remains one of the lowest tax-increase cities in the state. The budget includes \$250,000 for debt service payments and \$472,552 for annual operations expenses.

We are also managing cash to protect our financial future by building reserves for the eventual replacement of a fire engine and proper upkeep of the City Hall and Fire Department facilities. While many small cities are caught off guard by these one-time costs, our goal is to plan ahead so Medicine Lake remains financially strong and resilient.

With careful stewardship, a conservative budget increase, and a forward-looking reserve plan, we are creating a future-proof financial foundation that balances today's needs with tomorrow's priorities.

Thank you for your continued trust as we work to keep Medicine Lake financially strong, well-prepared, and thriving for years to come.



MEDICINE LAKE

COMMUNITY CLUB FALL MEETING

What: Medicine Lake Community Club Fall Meeting

When: Sunday September 21st. 5-7 pm

Where: Medicine Lake City Hall

Who: All residents of Medicine Lake are welcome

Come to learn about the club, what we are up to, and how to get involved. This is a grown-up event. Pizza and drinks will be served.



IN THIS ISSUE...

Interested in the MLFD 75th anniversary event? For more information see **page 2**.

Want to buy Medicine Lake spirit apparel? Get the details about it on **page 2**.

Heard about the new wakeboard and watercraft recommendations See **page 3**.

Looking for City Council Votes or monthly Meeting Dates? Go to **page 4**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 21

Community Club Meeting

October 6

City Council Meeting, 6p

October 10

Laker Submissions Due

October 31

Halloween

November 2 (updated date)

MLFD Open 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!

EVENTS (Asst. Fire Chief, Mike Fox)

SAVE THE DATE: November 2, 10a-2p. To celebrate our 75th Anniversary, MLFD will be holding an open house at the fire station. We are still working to finalize activities, but we aim to have activities for both adults and kids, a pancake breakfast, and hats for sale (along with some other MLFD apparel for order). Be sure to come on down to eat food, chat about MLFD, and spray some water!

We are also going to do our Pizza Delivery event this year, but we'll do it later in the year. Current plan is to take Jets Pizza orders and deliver via fire truck on Sunday, Dec 14 just before the Vikings-Cowboys game. More to come on that in a few months.

PUBLIC SAFETY (Brian Malecha, Emergency Management)

October is Fire Prevention Month. This annual campaign encourages us to take simple steps to prevent fires and protect our homes and loved ones. Fires can start unexpectedly, but many are preventable with proper precautions--small actions can make a big impact. Here's a list of fire prevention suggestions:

- **Install and Test Smoke Alarms:** Place smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside and outside sleeping areas. Test them monthly and replace batteries yearly.
- **Create an Escape Plan:** Develop a home fire escape plan with two exits from every room. Practice it twice a year to ensure everyone knows what to do.
- **Cook Safely:** Never leave cooking unattended, especially when using the stove or oven. Keep flammable items like towels and curtains away from heat sources.
- **Use Space Heaters Wisely:** Keep space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that can burn, like furniture or curtains. Turn them off when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- **Handle Candles with Care:** Keep candles at least 12 inches from flammable materials. Always blow them out when leaving the room or going to bed.
- **Check Electrical Cords:** Inspect cords for fraying or damage. Avoid overloading outlets and use surge protectors for electronics.
- **Store Flammable Materials Safely:** Keep gasoline, paint, and other flammable liquids in approved containers, stored away from heat sources and in well-ventilated areas.
- **Practice Safe Smoking Habits:** Smoke outside and use deep, sturdy ashtrays. Never toss cigarette butts in trash cans or on the ground.
- **Keep Matches and Lighters Out of Reach:** Store matches and lighters in a locked cabinet, away from children.
- **Know Emergency Numbers:** Ensure everyone in your household knows to call 911 in case of a fire emergency.

Feel free to share these tips to promote fire safety this October! For more resources, check your local fire department or NFPA.org.



NEW MEDICINE LAKE APPAREL FOR SALE

We are pleased to invite you to visit the website below to order official Medicine Lake apparel. Explore the collection and place your order now. The website will close October 15th.



Attached is the link for ordering apparel:

<https://medicinelakeapparel.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

NEW WAKEBOARD AND WATERCRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

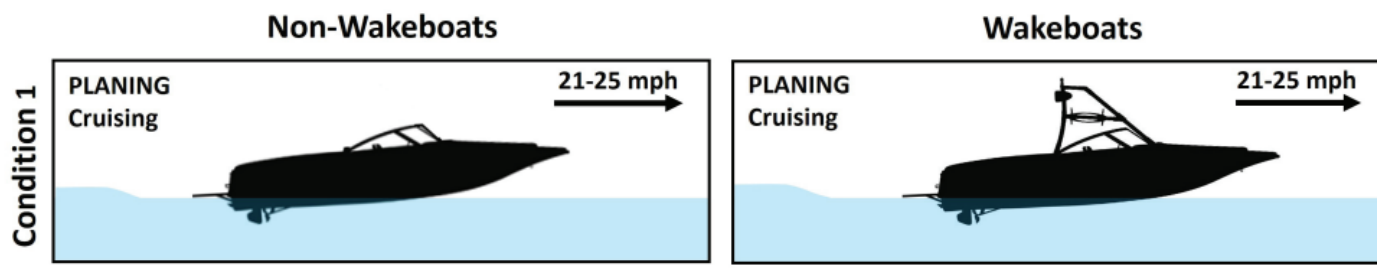
Below are take home recommendations for everyone operating a watercraft that should be considered when recreating on the lake.

These recommendations came from the most recent University of Minnesota study: A Field Study of Recreational Powerboat Hydrodynamics and their Impacts on the Water Column and Lakebed (2025).

RECOMMENDATION 1:

All Boats Operating in Planing Mode (Cruising)

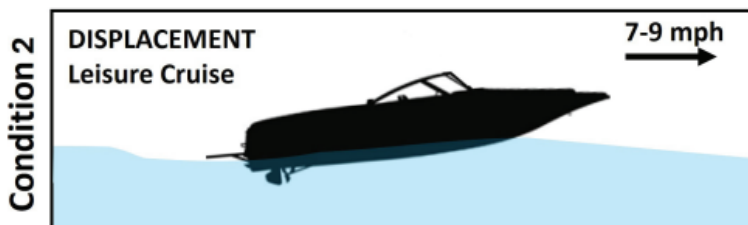
Recommended depth of operation for planing mode for all boats is 10 ft of water or greater to minimize impacts on the lakebed.



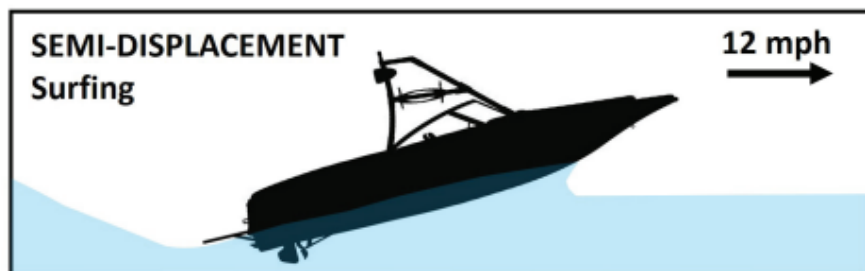
RECOMMENDATION 2:

Non-wakeboats operating in displacement mode (plowing)

It is recommended that recreational boats operate in 10 feet of water or greater when in sustained displacement mode (slow cruising) to minimize impacts on the lakebed. If traveling in waters less than 10 ft deep is unavoidable (i.e. Going through channels, getting to and from boat lifts, docks, and launches, etc.), it is recommended to go as slow as possible to minimize the magnitude of impact to lakebed. Also, it is recommended to trim the motor up, if possible, when in shallow water.



RECOMMENDATION 3:



Wakeboats operating in semi-displacement mode (surfing)

It is recommended that wakeboats operate in 20 feet of water or greater when in semi-displacement (surfing) mode to minimize impacts to the lake bottom.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.twinlakeswi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/SAFL-Boat-Report.pdf>

COUNCIL VOTES



SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

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

- Agenda
- August 4, 2025 city council meeting minutes and special city council minutes
- Summary spending, receipts and cash balances through August 31, 2025
- Approve does not waive monetary limits on municipal tort liability
- Approve Veit pay application 12 and 13 and change order 9
- Approve 2026 preliminary budget
- Approve resolution 25-18 adopting preliminary tax levy for taxes payable in 2026
- Approve resolution 25-19 for expenditures for electrical and lighting installation at Jevne Park
- 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@cityofmedicinelake.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, October 6 at 6p

MLFD

Tuesday, October 7 at 7p

Tuesday, October 21 at 7p

***Sunday, November 2, 10a-2p**

PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, October 16 at 6p

*Updated date & time.