

THE LAKER

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November 2025

MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCILMEMBER

BILL McNAUGHTON, COUNCILMEMBER

HELLO NEIGHBORS!

I was honored to fill in as acting mayor at the November council meeting while Mayor Heim was out of town for work and am honored to share the November mayor's update.

As I write this, the first flakes of the year are falling, and a huge cold front is enveloping most of the Midwest. Looking down the lakeshore there are few docks left in the lake along with an assortment of migrating birds. How lucky are we to live in a place that holds so much beauty regardless of the season?

In addition to the beauty that nature shares with all of us, we as a community share so many wonderful memory making events with each other. Just in the last month we witnessed the Klar Halloween display being assembled by volunteers at Jevne Park, a wonderful sugar-induced Halloween party at the fire station and a tremendous party to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our beloved fire department. These events are integral to our community and don't happen without a significant amount of volunteer time invested by our neighbors. Please take time to thank everyone involved in these events.

We are nearing the end of the Road and Water project! We expected to be fully complete by the end of this year. However, Veit still has a handful of punch list items to complete. We expect that these will be completed in the spring of 2026. Once these items are complete, we will enter into a one-year warranty period after which our engineering firm, SEH, will complete a detailed inspection to confirm that no warranty repairs are required.

As the primary council member on this project, I want to thank the entire community for your patience during the project. I am a strong advocate for the benefits of the project that we see now as well as the benefits we will continue to see in the future, and I recognize that those benefits were delivered on the back of some hardships, both small and large. Thank you and congratulations to everyone for making it through this major project!



IN THIS ISSUE...

Want to see pictures from the MLFD 75th anniversary event?
See **pages 2 and 3**.

Interested in buying MLFD merch? Get the details about it on **page 3**.

Want advice on how to prepare your home for winter?
More information on **page 3**.

Interested in donating to Second Harvest Heartland?
Go to **page 5**.

To see ways to celebrate the holidays sustainably, scroll to **page 4**.

Turkey Trot details on **page 7**

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 27

Turkey Trot, 9a

December 1

City Council Meeting, 6p

December 10

Laker Submissions Due

December 12

ML Holiday Party, 7p

December 18

Planning Commission, 6p

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)

We want to thank all those who attended/supported our Nov 2nd Open House/75th Anniversary Celebration! We had a great turnout--here are some highlights:



PHOTO 1. FIREFIGHTERS RICH HALVORSEN AND BRIAN MALECHA DEMONSTRATING WHY PUTTING WATER ON A GREASE FIRE IS A BAD PLAN.



PHOTO 2 FIREFIGHTER JEFF SEAMANS GIVES TIPS ON PROPER FIRE EXTINGUISHER TACTICS.



PHOTO 3 OUR MEMORABILIA TABLE--WITH PHOTOS, PROPS, NEWS ARTICLES, AND EVEN VIDEO CLIPS.

See more photos on page 3.



PHOTO 4 FIRE STATION WITHIN A FIRE STATION--KIDS BURN OFF HALLOWEEN SUGAR IN THE BOUNCE HOUSE.

PUBLIC SAFETY (Emergency Mgr, Brian Malecha) **November Preparedness Spotlight: Getting Winter-Ready**

As autumn deepens, it's a great time for families to begin prepping for colder weather and the kinds of disruptions that can come with it. November's focus according to Ready.gov is **Winter Weather Preparedness**.

...continued on page 3

HOT FLASHES (continued from page 2)

Here are key things your household can do now — so when snow, ice, power interruptions, or unexpected cold snaps come, you'll be ready.

1. Prepare your home for cold weather

- Add or check insulation, caulking and weather-stripping around doors/windows to reduce drafts.
- Protect exposed pipes (especially those in unheated areas) so they don't freeze and burst.
- Make sure your heating system works (furnace, boiler, fireplace, space heaters) and that vents are clear, and filters are clean.
- Identify a safe way to stay warm if power goes out (generator, alternative heat source) and ensure that it's installed properly and used safely.

2. Build or refresh a winter emergency kit

- Gather supplies that can sustain your family if you lose power, heat, or become snow-bound for a while. Include food, water, blankets, flashlights, batteries, portable charger, a manual can opener, and items for infant/elder/medical needs.
- Add cold-weather gear for travel or emergencies: extra socks, gloves, hats, a change of clothes, a thermos, etc.
- For your vehicle: keep jumper cables, ice scraper, blankets, a map, phone charger, first aid kit and ensure antifreeze, wipers and fluids are ready.

Taking 30–60 minutes this month to walk through your home, check your supplies, update your plan and have a family conversation will pay off when winter weather arrives. Preparedness isn't about fear—it's about confidence. Equip your household with the simple steps above and you'll be better positioned to stay safe, warm and connected. Let's use this November to get **winter-ready** together.

MLFD Apparel!

We still have hats available for \$20 in each of the styles in this photo (both kid and adult sizes). Reach out to Fire@cityofmedicinelake.com if you're interested in buying a hat! Also, we have an online storefront where you can buy hats, shirts, hoodies, and more. Check out the store front at [this link](#)



PHOTO 5 FIREFIGHTERS JEFF POMERENKE AND IAN HALL HELP KIDS AND ADULTS TRY OUT A HANDLINE FIREHOSE.



PHOTO6 FIREFIGHTER AND MASTER CHEF BRIAN DOYLE KEEPS THE PANCAKE SUPPLY TOPPED OFF.



THINK SUSTAINABILITY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Want to celebrate the season sustainably? Use the Hennepin County Holiday Checklist as inspiration to create a sustainability To-Do list of your own. It's filled with sustainable holiday tips and suggestions for reducing waste generated by seasonal celebrations and gift giving.

Our advice on how to act on the Sustainable Holiday Checklist is to start with what you can manage. Remember, it's not about being perfect; it's about doing what you can to make meaningful progress. And know this: Every action you take will be a gift to the planet, your community, and to future generations.

The Hennepin County website is full of advice on how to make sustainability a reality with topics such as:

- Holiday shopping tips including shopping locally, giving gifts of experience and more.
- Gift wrap, holiday cards and packaging advice such as buying holiday cards made from recycled paper and clever ways to wrap gifts.
- Holiday decorations and treetop tips like using energy efficient LED lights and turning nature into holiday décor.
- Advice about Christmas trees, both real and artificial.
- Holiday food and party tips from planning, buying, cooking, serving, storing food and more.

For more holiday tips, see <https://www.hennepin.us/choose-to-reuse/tips/sustainable-holiday-checklist>

MEDICINE LAKE HOLIDAY PARTY

A festive holiday-themed poster for the Medicine Lake Holiday Party. The background is a deep red with strings of warm white lights and white snowflakes. At the bottom, there's a row of colorful, stylized houses in shades of orange, red, and green, some with snow on their roofs. A green Christmas tree with gold and red ornaments is on the left, and another is on the right. A green street lamp stands in the center. The text is arranged in a clear, organized manner. The title 'MEDICINE LAKE HOLIDAY PARTY' is at the top in large, bold, white and gold letters. Below it, the date and time 'Friday, December 12 • 7–11 PM' are in white. The address '145 Peninsula Road' is also in white. A list of bullet points in white text provides details about the event: festive attire is encouraged, attendees should bring an appetizer to share, and it's an adults-only event. A note states that dessert and beverages will be provided. Contact information for the Medicine Lake Community Club is listed. To the right, an 'Optional Donation Opportunity' is highlighted in gold, asking for non-perishable food or new toys for PRISM in Golden Valley. It explains that PRISM serves families across the NW suburbs through its food shelf, year-round 'birthday shop' for kids, and other vital community programs. At the bottom left is the 'Community Medicine Lake Community Club' logo, and at the bottom right is the 'PRISM' logo, which features a stylized triangle with a rainbow gradient.

Medicine Lake Cares! Annual Fundraiser for Second Harvest Heartland



Why We Give

For the seventh year, the City of Medicine Lake Community Club is joining forces to support Second Harvest Heartland — one of Minnesota's largest hunger relief organizations.

When you give, you're not just helping feed families—you're supporting our Medicine Lake community project and standing with neighbors to feed the hungry.

Quadruple our Impact: "Match the Match" Challenge

- Several residents will match the first \$16,500 raised— doubling our local impact to **\$33,000**
- A corporate donor will then match that \$33,000 bringing our grand total to **\$66,000**.
- \$16,500 → \$33,000 → \$66,000!
- **Every \$1 you give becomes \$4 for Second Harvest!**

Why It Matters

- Second Harvest supports nearly 1,000 food shelves, soup kitchens, and shelters
- In 2024, food shelves saw 9 million visits — up from 7.5 million in 2023
- Grocery prices are up almost 30% in 5 years
- Government funding for food assistance programs has been reduced. The need is great.

Your Gift in Action

- **\$1 = 3 meals**
- **\$10** feeds a person for 10 days
- **\$100** feeds a family of 4 for a month
- Every gift helps — consider **\$100, \$250, \$500 or more**.

Our Goal

- Last year: \$30,000 raised. **This year: \$33,000 local goal → \$66,000 total impact all matches**
- The 10% increase in our goal reflects the increased community need for food.
- If you are able, please consider a donation. Every dollar helps!
- Let's show what Medicine Lake can do—together.



How to Donate

- **Online:** <http://support.2harvest.org/goto/MLC2025> (Link also on ML Facebook page)
- **By Check:** Payable to *Second Harvest* Drop off at 185 Peninsula Road (Donation box at Barry & Mozie's front door)
- **Foundation/Donor-Advised Fund:** Contact Paul Samson at LPSamson@aol.com
- ***All Donor names will appear on the website unless you request anonymity.***

Questions or Comments? Email **Paul Samson** at LPSamson@aol.com

Thank you in Advance for your Generosity and Community Support!!

COUNCIL VOTES



NOVEMBER 3, 2025

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

- Agenda
- October 6, 2025 city council meeting minutes
- Summary spending, receipts and cash balances through October 31, 2025
- 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, December 1 at 6p

ML HOLIDAY PARTY

December 12 at 6p

MLFD

Tuesday, December 2 at 7p

Tuesday, December 16 at 7p

PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, December 18 at 6p

It's Time for the Annual TURKEY TROT!!

Medicine Lake TURKEY TROT

Thanksgiving Morning, 9 a.m. at the fire station



Two trots available: 1.5 mile or 5K option!

All are welcome! No pressure- just fun! Run, walk, push a stroller, walk a dog, drag a teenager out of bed-anything goes- festive attire always encouraged! Hot cider and chocolate available at fire station after. No fee, no prizes, no pressure- just fun time with neighbors, friends, family and excuse to eat that third helping of stuffing after!