

Lakeland Newsletter

Volume 40 Issue 12
December 2011



Lakeland City Hall
690 Quinnell Avenue North
Lakeland, MN 55043-0321

Voice: (651) 436-4430
Fax: (651) 436-8118

E-Mail: cityoflakeland@comcast.net

Brian Zeller, Mayor

December Calendar

*Note: All city meetings start at 6:00 p.m.
and are held at city hall, unless otherwise noted.*

Recycling Pick Up Days: Every Thursday

Maroney's Sanitation picks up all residential recycling material. Have your materials in a visible location beside the curb before 7:00 a.m. on collection day. There is no charge to the resident for this service. If your recycling is missed, please call (651) 439-7279.

Thursday, December 1

Recycling Day

Wednesday, December 7

Pearl Harbor Day

Thursday, December 8

Recycling Day

Thursday, December 15

Recycling Day

Tuesday, December 20

Christmas Party - 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Planning Commission - 5:45 pm

*City Council Meeting - 6:00 pm - including
Truth in Taxation*

Thursday, December 22

Recycling Day

Friday and Monday, December 23 and 26

*City offices closed in observance of the
Christmas Holiday*

Thursday, December 29

Recycling Day

City Hall offices are open from
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on weekdays.

Please call (651) 436-4430 for an appointment
if you have business at other times.

City of Lakeland Holiday Party

Lakeland City Hall
Tuesday, December 20
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

*You are invited
to join us for food, fun
& celebration of the seasons.*

*Have a wonderful
holiday!*

Mayor's Corner

from Brian Zeller, Mayor

The November City Council meeting had a very light agenda with two notable exceptions. The City Treasurer updated the Council on our year-to-date budget. Tom expects us to be under budget by approximately \$15,000 for the year. This is great news, and the timing is perfect as the Council is looking to finalize the City's budget for next year. The City Council established a zero increase goal very early for next year's budget. When it became apparent that we could meet that goal, the Council decided to look at even more aggressive options to decrease the tax levy. At the December meeting, two options will be considered for the final budget. One option is a zero percent increase, and another option that would result in a 2.4% decrease.

Property tax statements have been mailed to all property owners in Washington County. The statement you received should reflect the zero percent budget increase. It should also reflect a 4% reduction at the County level. If you are like me, you may be confused by hearing that the City and County have decreased their budgets but your tax statement may reflect an increase of up to 10.5% overall. The short explanation is that the increase reflects decisions made at the state capital. You may recall, the State budget has some very significant challenges that our representatives are forced to deal with. Revenues are down and expenses are still relatively high.

Our City Council and neighboring Councils have been meeting with our state representatives to better understand and to explain what the impact of the state budget is on our citizens. I will say our state representatives have been very responsive and have made themselves available for these discussions. I am hopeful that working together will result in budget changes at the state level that will hopefully decrease the impacts.

The other agenda item of significance required Council to go into a closed session. Closed sessions are required when the City is dealing with legal issues or confidential negotiations. This particular closed session was regarding zoning ordinance violations at a specific property. Negotiations are taking place in an attempt to resolve the violations that occurred in a reasonable and cost effective manner. It is unfortunate that our system requires us to sometimes resolve these issues through the legal process. This can be a time consuming and an expensive process for the City. I am hopeful we can resolve the ordinance issues and move on to more productive projects.

Please join us on December 20th for our annual Christmas Holiday gathering. Our celebration is an open house at City Hall from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and will be followed by a brief City Council meeting to complete our 2012 budget.

I hope to see you there!

Highlights of Planning Commission (PC) Meeting

The PC meeting scheduled for November 1, 2011 was cancelled due to lack of compelling agenda items.

Highlights of City Council (CC) Meeting

(Held November 15, 2011 - Complete minutes on file at city hall)

It was reported that on October 18, 2011, the Council conducted a Closed Session regarding litigation matters. Approval of the Consent Agenda (on file at City Hall) including the following:

- Minutes of the October 18, 2011 CC meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Bills to be paid
- AFP for Upper Elevation Water System Improvements through November 8, 2011

There were 93 calls for service and 12 citations issued by the Sheriff's Department during October.

There was review and discussion about proposed Tax Increment District No. 1-2. Resolution was adopted setting a public hearing for establishment of the District.

There was review and discussion about changes in the Public Works Department. Approval was given to fill the open PW I position. Authorization was given to fill the PW II / Water Operator if appropriate after the ongoing interview process; or to re-post the position if there isn't a qualified applicant when the process is completed.

Direction was given for the Personnel Committee to offer the position of PW Director to Matt Kline, current interim PW Director.

Approval was given to the proposed 2012 Street Improvements Agreement, and snowplowing contract services for Lakeland Shores.

The Council recessed to Closed Session regarding litigation matters.

Highlights of Special City Council (CC) Meeting

(Held November 18, 2011 - Complete minutes on file at city hall)

There was public hearing for establishment of Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-2 & Adoption of TIF Plan relating thereto.

There was adoption of Resolution 2011-29 establishing Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-2, adopting a Tax Increment Financing Plan therefor, and approving a Contract for Private Development with Commercial Management, LLC.

Truth in Taxation for Taxes Payable 2012

Truth in Taxation provides citizens the opportunity to share their views on the Lakeland budget with elected officials. This opportunity will take place during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, December 20th beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Please note this meeting addresses Lakeland's budget and levy. The opportunity for citizens to discuss individual property taxes is at the Board of Appeal which will take place in spring 2011.

Public Safety

Adopt-A-Hydrant

Please help protect your neighborhood by taking the time to remove snow and ice that accumulates around fire hydrants during the winter season.

Make sure the hydrant is readily visible to Fire Department personnel.

Fire Department News

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Lower St Croix Valley Fire Department will be holding their annual Pancake Breakfast with SANTA on Sunday, December 4th beginning at 8:00 am until Noon. Speaking of calendars, the annual calendar for the FD will be mailed to homes and businesses around the first week of December as well. Have a safe and happy November!

NOW HIRING

The Lower St Croix Valley Fire Department is currently accepting applications for EMT/Firefighter for an upcoming hire. This is for a paid on-call position and not full time. You provide the time commitment and we provide all the training! You must reside or work fulltime within ten minutes from the station. If you are interested, please log into our website at www.lscvfd.com and print out the employment application and questionnaire and return to us.

Be Safe - Be Seen!

There is danger in the dark - the biggest being vehicles that don't expect you or can't see you. Wearing reflective clothing is a good defense against invisibility, but you need to be sure the reflective areas are large enough and are exposed from every angle.

ALL Lakeland Dog and Cat Licenses Expire December 31, 2011

New Licenses are required for ALL DOGS AND CATS for the 2012-2013 Licensing Period

ALL DOGS AND CATS OVER 6 MONTHS OF AGE MUST BE LICENSED.

Licenses can be purchased at City Hall during normal business hours or by mail. The licensing fee is \$5 for the remainder of the licensing period.

Please be aware that this license is for Lakeland residents only. Lakeland Shores residents must contact their City for licensing.

2010-2011 ANIMAL LICENSE APPLICATION

Fee: \$5.00

(Proof of current rabies vaccination must accompany application.)

Animal's Name _____ Age _____

Breed _____

Weight _____ Color _____

Owner's Name _____

Street Address _____

Mail to: Lakeland City Hall, 690 Quinnell Ave. No.

Snowmobilers NOTE

Operation of snowmobiles is permitted on the bike trail between November 1 and April 1 each year, PROVIDED THAT THE TRAIL IS COVERED WITH SNOW.

The bike trail east of St. Croix Trail is the designated snowmobile trail through the City. All snowmobile traffic should travel north and south on the designated trail. The most right-hand street right-of-way should be used only as a direct route to the snowmobile trail. Snowmobiles are not allowed in any city parks, including ball fields and parking areas or on private property without consent of the owners, including church and school property.

THE PAVED TRAIL WEST OF ST. CROIX TRAIL IS NOT TO BE USED BY MOTORIZED VEHICLES AT ANY TIME.

Public Works

Garbage Service

The City of Lakeland currently has three licensed garbage haulers:

Maroney Service Inc. - (651) 439-7279

Highland Sanitation - (651) 458-0043

Waste Management - (651) 437-9201

Residents may choose a company licensed to haul rubbish in the City.

Winter Has Arrived...

and our snowplow drivers are hard at work keeping the streets clear and safe. Please be aware of the following policies and regulations:

- Between November 1 and March 31, no motor vehicle is to be left standing or parked on the streets of the City during the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- Do not place garbage cans/recycling containers on the street edge while streets are being plowed.
- Remove the cans/containers as soon as possible after pickup.
- Do not push snow across any street or highway.
- Do not park on any street in the City during a snow removal period, defined as 48 hours after each snowfall.
- Vehicles illegally parked in violation of the provisions may be removed and citations issued.

Plow drivers have a tough job to do, and they need everyone's help for the safety of all.

Remember that it is residents' responsibility to keep curbside mailboxes clear of snow and ice.

Water

Water Payments

Water bill payments may be dropped off in the box on the south side of the Lakeland City Hall building, or in the drop box at the Water Utility Building located at 12th Street South and CSAH 18 (St. Croix Trail).

Payments received after 12:00 noon on the 20th of the month will be credited on the next month's bill.

No cash please.

Community Information

Afton Preschool Registration

Afton Preschool will open enrollment for Fall 2012 classes on February 1, 2012. We offer a combined age class of 3-5 yr. olds on Tues., Wed. & Thurs. mornings from 9-12. There are also few openings for the current school year.

The school is located at Memorial Lutheran Church in Afton and is not church-affiliated. For more information, please call Cindy at (651) 436-8557.

Box Tops for Education - Don't Toss Them Out!

Local schools can benefit from Box Tops, specially marked milk caps and Labels for Education. Contact Linda Barclay at 651 998-0813 for more information.

Community Thread

Senior Chore Services Initiative matches seniors with volunteers and professional service providers to assist with household chores and projects. Go to www.communitythreadmn.org or call (651) 439-3434 for more information.

Fare for All Express

www.fareforall.org (763) 450-3880

1 (800) 582-4291

Distribution will take place on Tuesday, December 6 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at St. Croix Valley Church.

No advance payment or pre-registration is needed to purchase packages, and there are no income restrictions for participating in this program.

Gateway Corridor Transit Study Adjusts Routes and Station Locations Based on Stakeholder Input

Since the latest round of open houses in late July, the Gateway Corridor transit study team has been working to incorporate stakeholder comments into the eight transit alternatives and their corresponding station locations. The following adjustments were made to the alternatives:

- A station was added along Mounds Boulevard in St. Paul for the I-94 running Alternatives 3 (BRT) and 5 (LRT) to provide better connectivity to Metro State University and the surrounding community.
- The Johnson Parkway Station in St. Paul for the I-94 running Alternatives 3 and 5 was moved west to Earl Street. Multiple stakeholders commented that Earl Street would be a better station location than Johnson Parkway because of the higher population densities near the station.
- Through further study and input from stakeholders, it was determined that the I-94 bridge over the St. Croix River would not be able to accommodate additional room for LRT or BRT. The BRT, LRT and BRT Managed Lane alternatives will end near Manning Avenue in Woodbury/Lake Elmo. Buses, utilizing shoulder lanes during periods of congestion, will continue to carry passengers into Wisconsin.

Originally, there were two options for the Commuter Rail, Alternative 7, from Eau Claire, WI through St. Paul to Minneapolis by the BNSF rail alignment or CP rail alignment between St. Paul and Minneapolis. From an examination of travel times, potential impact to the existing and future rail service and stakeholder feedback, it was determined that the CP rail alignment is the best rail option for connecting the two downtowns.

All of the changes made incorporated stakeholder comments and enhance the aim of increased connectivity throughout the Gateway Corridor. Other goals for the corridor include increased mobility, economic development potential, cost effectiveness and safety.

The modifications to the eight alternatives have been approved by the Gateway Corridor Commission and are now being analyzed to determine cost, ridership estimates and potential environmental impacts. The outcomes of the analysis will be compared for all eight alternatives in order to identify a preferred transit mode and route. A final recommendation identifying the preferred transit mode and route is scheduled to be completed by spring 2012 and will be presented at open houses and community groups at that time.

Updated information on each of these alternatives has been posted to the Gateway Corridor website, visit: <http://www.thegatewaycorridor.com/>.

Rainbow Christian Preschool

Located in St. Croix Valley Church, Lakeland

3-year old preschool: T & TH - 9:00-11:30 a.m.

4-year old preschool: M, W & F from 9:00-11:30 a.m.

We also offer an extended day option for those pre-kindergartners on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:30 - 2:00! Coming February 2012, we will be offering a young 3's class on Tuesday's from 12:00-2:00 pm. Children must be 3 by 2/1/2012 and potty trained!

Please check us out on the church website: www.stcroixvalleychurch.org or by calling Jena Lyden at (651) 436-8691, ext. 105.

Valley Branch Library

Web: www.co.washington.mn.us/library

Monday & Friday	10 am - 2 pm
Tuesday-Thursday	2 pm - 6 pm
Saturday & Sunday	closed

Job seekers needing help with resume or interview preparation can now get live expert help at the Washington County Library. Using your Washington County library card you may access a new online resource, JobNow!, from the library or from home. JobNow! offers live assistance from job coaches trained to work with individuals through every step of the job search process.

Washington County Library Library eBooks Now Available for Kindle

Washington County Library is excited to announce that its eBook collection is now compatible with the Amazon(r) Kindle. Patrons can now download popular and classic eBooks to a Kindle device or any mobile device running the free Kindle app, such as iPhone®, iPad®, Android™, and more. To get started, visit <http://washington.lib.overdrive.com/>.

Washington County Library also offers eBooks for use on a PC or Mac computer and popular mobile devices such as a Smartphone, MP3 player, and eBook reader like the Barnes & Noble®, Nook™ and Sony® Reader.

Kindle users can browse Washington County Library's collection of bestselling and classic eBooks from a PC or Mac computer, check out titles using a library card, and select "Get for Kindle" to deliver eBooks to their Kindle device or any device running the free Kindle app.

For more information, go to the Library's website at www.co.washington.mn.us/library.

- REMEMBER -
Contact the Building Inspector before you start a project!

The Building Inspector is located at the Lakeland Water Department Plant No. 2, located at 1190 St. Croix Trail So.

Mailing Address: 690 Quinnell Ave. No., Lakeland, MN 55043

Hours: Monday & Thursday – 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Phone: 651-436-1405

Treasurer's Report
 September / October 2011

Fund	Fund Description	Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	Balance
		8/31/11	Sept/Oct. 2011	Sept/Oct. 2011	Sept/Oct. 2011	10/31/11
100	General Fund	\$391,091.90	\$4,417.17	\$57,268.07	\$0.00	\$338,241.00
199	Applicant Dep./Exp.	\$11,735.03	\$0.00	\$6,747.75	\$0.00	\$4,987.28
200	Special Parks Fund	\$69,445.63	\$371.24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$69,816.87
205	Diseased Tree Fund	\$3,452.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,452.14
401	Public Works Fund	\$471,529.12	\$558.30	\$76,659.77	\$0.00	\$395,427.65
501	Fire Station Debt Serv Fund	\$15,367.61	\$0.61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,368.22
502	Fire Relief Assn. Fund	\$6,675.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,675.78
601	Water Utility Fund	\$360,925.87	\$46,384.10	\$55,234.97	\$858.34	\$352,933.34
605	Water Construction Fund	\$186,126.04	\$179,767.89	\$242,706.21	\$0.00	\$123,187.72
606	Water Debt Service Fund	(\$23,914.89)	\$12,337.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$11,577.06)
701	Building Inspection Fund	\$68,530.77	\$4,541.47	\$2,158.94	(\$858.34)	\$70,054.96
705	Lakeland Village Const Fund	\$6,502.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,502.95
706	Lakeland Village Debt Serv Fund	(\$1,484.63)	\$0.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,484.33)
801	LT Improvement Fund	\$318,476.45	\$319.52	\$6,249.97	\$0.00	\$312,546.00
Total Fund Balances		\$1,884,459.77	\$248,698.43	\$447,025.68	\$0.00	\$1,686,132.52

Save for future reference...

City Council & Planning Commission

Lakeland City Hall: E-Mail - cityoflakeland@comcast.net Web Site: www.lakelandmn.com

Mayor: **Brian Zeller** - Gateway Corridor, Lower St. Croix Water Management Organization, Weed Inspector (12/31/12) (612) 325-3038

Council Members: **Richard Glasgow** - Lower St. Croix Joint Cable Commission, Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Protection District, Public Buildings/Building/Planning (12/31/14) (651) 217-2189
Peg Larsen - Gateway Corridor, Emergency Response, Public Health & Safety (12/31/12) 436-4430 (City Hall)
Robert Livingston - Acting Mayor, Parks/Playgrounds/Bike Trails/Beach, Personnel Committee (12/31/12) (612) 875-0330
Joe Paiement - Lower St. Croix Joint Cable Commission, Personnel Committee Chair, Recycling Committee (12/31/14) 967-5050

Planning Commission: **Asia Bednar** - (2/1/14) (612) 986-3862
Members: **Pete DeCorsey** - (2/1/13) (651) 436-4430
Bill Francel - (2/1/12) (651) 436-4430
Chris White - (2/1/12) (651) 436-7697
Diane Wirth - (2/1/14) (651) 436-6227

Telephone Numbers

City Hall: (651) 436-4430
(Hours: 9 a.m. - Noon, Monday - Friday.
Call for an appointment at other times.
E-Mail: cityoflakeland@comcast.net

Water Utility Department: (651) 436-8044
(Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday)
E-Mail: lakelandwater@comcast.net

Building Inspector: (651) 436-1405
Hours: Monday & Thursday 8-10 a.m.
Located in Lakeland Water Dept. Plant No.2,
1190 St. Croix Trail So.

Animal Control: (715) 386-7789

Fire Department (non-emergency): (651) 436-7033

Washington County Sheriff (non-emergency): (651) 439-9381

*Future Newsletter Articles should be submitted to: Newsletter Editor
Lakeland City Hall, 690 Quinnell Ave. No., Lakeland 55043 by the 15th of the month.*

Fire & Sheriff Emergency Number - 911

Printed on recycled paper by:
River Valley Printing

POSTAL PATRON
CITY OF LAKELAND
LAKELAND, MN 55043

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 7
LAKELAND, MN 55043