

LAKELAND NEWS

Volume 45 Issue 2

February 2016

“But in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes”

~ Benjamin Franklin

Yes—it is that time of the year—tax time. Here’s the good news—Community Thread is offering free tax filing assistance to low and middle income taxpayers, with special attention to those aged 60 and older. Trained AARP Tax-Aide volunteers, certified by the Internal Revenue Service and MN Department of Revenue, will explain tax requirements, answer your questions, and electronically file your income tax returns at no cost to you. The AARP Tax-Aide program, sponsored by the AARP Foundation, is offered in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service and the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

Appointments begin in February and can be made by calling Community Thread at 651.439.7434 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Appointments will be offered on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Appointments fill quickly so call now!



community thread

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February 2016

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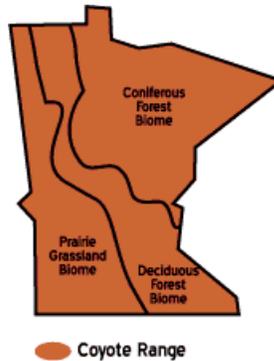
Community CPR Classes

Coyotes in the state and in the city

The coyote is Minnesota's most abundant large predator. Coyotes usually prey on small mammals, but sometimes they kill large mammals and livestock. Coyotes typically do not get along with their larger cousins, the timber wolf.

Coyotes are wild members of the dog family, intermediate in size between red foxes and wolves. In autumn, coyotes are vocal. They howl or bark alone or in groups. Younger coyotes have higher pitched voices than adults. A coyote's yipping sounds can be heard for miles. In Minnesota, coyotes average 30 pounds and stand about 18" high at the shoulders. However, they may appear much larger due to their heavy fur coat, especially in winter. They are gray/brown in color, and somewhat resemble a small German Shepherd dog in appearance. Coyotes in Minnesota are loners, except when families are raising pups. Their primary foods are rabbits and mice, but they are very opportunistic, and will feed on other small mammals, deer, birds, carrion, snowshoe hares, porcupines, and occasionally, livestock such as sheep and small calves. Predators include wolves. Human hunters and trappers kill coyotes for their fur.

Coyotes are nomads. Males may roam over territories as large as 36 square miles, though females usually stay within a six square mile area. Adult male coyotes may share the territory of two or more females, which may overlap the ranges of other males. Coyotes normally move two to three miles per day. They are found throughout the state. They are increasing in southern Minnesota, including the Twin Cities area. Coyotes prefer a combination of farm land and forest habitat, but survive well in the prairie or dense forest areas.



Most coyotes live less than two years in the wild, though one animal is known to have reached 13 years of age. It is difficult to estimate coyote populations. Densities vary from one coyote for every three miles during high population years to one coyote for every five or six miles during lower population years.

Although coyotes can be found anywhere in Minnesota, distribution and population size is variable. Currently, populations are establishing and increasing in the Twin Cities metro area.

Most coyotes avoid people and domestic animals, but occasionally they will kill sheep, turkeys, and calves. They may also raid garbage cans, and kill domestic cats and small dogs. Healthy wild coyotes avoid people, and no attacks have ever occurred in Minnesota. However, attacks by urban coyotes have been reported in other states. Experts believe these attacks occur after a coyote has become accustomed to humans, or after being fed by humans.

This information was provided by the MN DNR, for additional information please visit the Department of Natural Resources website at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/coyote>



Coyotes have been spotted with increasing regularity in Lakeland. Know what to do and what not to do!

DO:

- secure all garbage containers, wildlife feeders, and other food sources to prevent coyote access
- confine small dogs and cats in kennels, or supervise them when outside
- vaccinate all pets for rabies, distemper, parvo, and other diseases, as recommended by a veterinarian
- consider installing coyote-proof fencing
- harass (by chasing, shouting, etc.) any coyotes that do not immediately run from people

DON'T:

- do **not** feed coyotes
- do not leave pet food outside
- do not allow cats and small dogs outside, unattended

Event Schedule

February 10, 2016
Recycle Pickup

February 14, 2016
Valentine's Day

February 15, 2016
President's Day
City Offices Closed

February 16, 2016
City Council Meeting
6:00 pm

February 22, 2016
District 834
Kindergarten
Enrollment Night
www.sowashco.org

February 24, 2016
Recycle Pickup

March 1, 2016
Precinct Caucuses
Major Political Parties
7:00 pm

March 9, 2016
Recycle Pickup

March 15, 2016
City Council Meeting
6:00 pm

March 23, 2016
Recycle Pickup

April 6, 2016
Recycle Pickup

April 12, 2016
LBAE Meeting
5:00pm to 6:00pm

April 19, 2016
City Council Meeting
6:00 pm

April 20, 2016
Recycle Pickup

Become an Election Judge!

We need you! To serve as an election judge you must be eligible to vote in Minnesota and be able to read, write and speak English (M.S. 204B.19).

Election judges serve in many capacities. State law allows you to receive time off work to be an election judge and you get paid! Your employer can reduce your salary by your judge salary during the hours you are away from work OR you can voluntarily take a vacation day and receive the judge salary you earn as extra income. Per M.S. 204B.195 an employer cannot force you to take a vacation day. If you are working in your own precinct, you may vote on a break, or vote absentee before election day.

The training is free, consists of a two-hour session and you are paid for attending. Head judges must attend an additional one-hour training as well. Students age 16 and 17 can be election judge trainees if they are US citizens, are in good academic standing and are granted permission from school/guardians.

- ◇ Primary Election Tuesday, August 9, 2016
- ◇ General Election Tuesday, November 8, 2016

The City of Lakeland election will include following municipal offices:

- ◇ Mayor (1) Two Year Term 2017-2018
- ◇ Council Member (2) Four Year Term 2017-2020

Contact city@ci.lakeland.mn.us or 651.436.4430 to sign up. Thank you for your consideration to serve your community, your state and your country!



your VOTE
is your VOICE

Make a Commitment to Recycling

Reduce & Reuse first... Recycling is not the first in line in the waste reduction hierarchy. Look more towards reducing consumption and try to reuse things as much as possible before deciding to recycle.

Know what to recycle... Lakeland has recently switched to single sort recycling. If you are unsure of what you can and cannot recycle, check out Maroney's website at www.maroneysinc.com to find additional information on what items can be recycled.

For your home... Often, household products that are store bought come with a lot of packaging that end up in the waste basket if you do not make an effort to reduce, reuse or recycle. Aim to become as waste-free as possible.

State, City and Community Updates

Last chance to weigh in on city hall location...

At the December 15, 2015 meeting of the city council the decision was ratified to move forward with the new city hall facility. At the January 19, 2016 meeting the item to decide between the two remaining options was on the agenda but a decision could not be reached. The item was tabled and will be brought back to the February 16, 2016 council meeting for a final decision. Public input is encouraged. Please send written comments to city@ci.lakeland.mn.us or City of Lakeland, 1190 St. Croix Trail South, Lakeland, MN 55043 or attend the meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 16, 2016.



Minnesota is the second-strongest state in the union, according to an analysis by [Politico](#).

The magazine looked at 15 categories, including per capita annual income, unemployment rates, poverty levels and high school graduation rates.

New Hampshire was No. 1.

Minnesota Cold Weather Rule

The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule is in effect from October 15 through April 15 each year. Xcel Energy customers who are concerned about paying their heating bills should contact the company now to learn about their rights and responsibilities under the Rule. Administered by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, the Rule requires utilities such as Xcel Energy to establish payment arrangements during the heating season with customers who cannot pay their bills in full. It applies to both homeowners and renters, but does not protect customers who fail to contact the company.

For additional information call (651) 296-5157 or email energy.info@state.mn.us

Thanks LSCVFD!

The Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Department Annual Awards Banquet and Presentation was held on Saturday, January 16th.

Service Awards were presented to the following members:

Chip Hannigan—25 Years
Sherry Kirby—20 Years
Steve Jacobs—15 Years
Bridget O'Brien—15 Years
Rob Corey—10 Years
Brenda McKenzie—10 Years

Pete Granat was also recognized for his combined 38 years of service first as a firefighter and the last 17 years as a City of Lake St. Croix Beach Fire District Representative. Pete retired from the District Board as of January first.

The evening was topped off as Deputy Fire Chief Jim Stanley recalled a cardiac arrest event that occurred in June. After thanking everyone who played a part in the “save”, he turned the mic over to the survivor who thanked everyone *in person*.

It was a very special and memorable evening!

City Business

Automatic Bill Pay

Sign up for auto pay!
Obtain a form on our website at www.ci.lakeland.mn.us or stop by city offices for the convenience of automatic bill pay. Payments received after noon on the 20th of the month will be credited to next month's bill. Please do not place cash in the drop boxes.

Building Department

Scott Qualle, the building official is in the office Tuesdays from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. MNSPECT can be reached Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm. For building plan, permit questions or to schedule an inspection please call (952) 442-7520 or email info@mnspect.com.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The city encourages you to reuse, reduce and recycle whenever possible. Go to www.rethinkrecycling.com for additional information.



LOWER ST CROIX VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT CPR CLASSES 2016: Your Year To Save A Life

Do you have the necessary skills to save a life?
Did you know that investing as little as three hours in education could mean the difference between life and death for someone who is choking or in cardiac distress?
Be prepared!
Learn to recognize life-threatening emergencies and what to do next.

Whether you want to learn CPR and basic lifesaving skills, refresh your memory or require formal CPR and AED instructed training with certification, we have the perfect class for you!

- Sign-up today for one of the following classes:
- * **Basic Lifesaving for Healthcare Providers**
 - * **Heartsaver CPR and AED**
 - * **Infant CPR**
 - * **Friends & Family CPR**

Classes range in price from \$20 to \$50 per person and include instruction by a certified trainer as well as course certification card (valid for 2 years). All classes will be taught at the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Department. Email Sherry.Kirby@LSCVFD.com or call (651) 755-1584. to register. Private groups and industry classes may be scheduled upon request.

Community WhatzUp?

New Stillwater Area Elementary School, Fall of 2017:

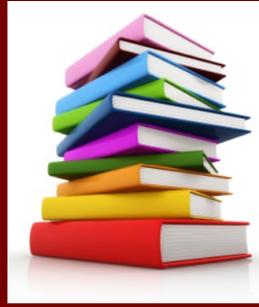
Sixth graders will be moving to middle schools and attendance boundaries will be reviewed and changed throughout the school district. This discussion will begin February 18, 2016 at a Learning Session for board members to consider boundary changes.

Low Interest Loans: The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency provides low interest loans to Lakeland homeowners for purchasing/fixing up homes. The Legislature approved additional dollars for housing rehabilitation. Go to www.mnhousing.gov for more information.

Would you like your monthly newsletter emailed? Please contact us at city@ci.lakeland.mn.us or call at 651.436.4430 to be added to our monthly e-list. Electronic newsletters save on mailing and printing costs.

Valley Branch

Monday, Friday, and Saturday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed on Sunday



February Calendar of Events:

- 2/1/16 at 10:30am: Preschool Storytime
- 2/8/16 at 10:30am: Preschool Storytime
- 2/15/16: Closed for Presidents Day
- 2/20/16 at 11:00am: iPad Tips for Seniors
- 2/22/16 at 10:30am: Preschool Storytime
- 2/25/16 at 5:00pm: Book Club
- 2/29/16 at 10:30am: Preschool Storytime

Read a good book today!

2016 Local Board of
Appeal Equalization (LBAE)
Public Hearing to be held April 12, 2016
at City Hall from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Washington County Environmental Center

The Environmental Center provides residents with a free and convenient disposal of household hazardous waste, electronics and recyclables. Proof of residency such as a driver's license is required.

Hours:
Tue: 11am to 7pm
Thu: 8am to 4:30pm
Fri: 8am to 4:30pm
Sat: 8am to 2pm

4039 Cottage Grove Drive
Woodbury, MN 55129
(651) 275-7475

January 2016 Building and Septic Permits

Address:	Building Permit:
16605 11th Avenue North	Furnace Replacement
16655 7th Street North	Plumbing
85 Quality Avenue	Water Heater Replacement

Supporting military families throughout the Valley... to become involved in the Yellow Ribbon Alliance Lower St. Croix Valley please contact Randy Kopesky at rkopesky@comcast.net.



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City Council Contact Information

Mayor Amy Williams: awilliams@ci.lakeland.mn.us or (612) 875-0340

Councilmember Richard Glasgow: rglasgow@ci.lakeland.mn.us or (651) 472-4390

Councilmember Joe Paiement: jpaiement@ci.lakeland.mn.us or (651) 967-5050

Councilmember Jeri Ryan: jryan@ci.lakeland.mn.us or (651) 436-4430

Councilmember Evan Loenser: eloenser@ci.lakeland.mn.us or (651) 436-4430

City Website: www.ci.lakeland.mn.us

Please visit the city's website for application forms, city code updates, public notices, meeting information and community news, etc. Please submit community photos for the online community showcase photo gallery to city@ci.lakeland.mn.us

County and State Contact Information

Washington County Commissioner Gary Kriesel: (651) 430-6213

MN Representative Kathy Lohmer: (651) 296-4244 rep.kathy.lohmer@house.mn

MN Senator Karin Housley: (651) 296-4351 sen.karin.housley@senate.mn

MN Governor Mark Dayton: (651) 201-3400 mark.dayton@state.mn.us

U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum: (202) 225-6631 betty.mccollum@mail.house.gov

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar: (612) 727-5220 klobuchar@senate.gov

U.S. Senator Al Franken: (651) 221-1016 info@franken.senate.gov

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City of Lakeland
Lakeland, MN 55043

Contact Us

City of Lakeland
1190 St. Croix Trail South
Lakeland, MN 55043
(651) 436-4430
city@ci.lakeland.mn.us

Public Works Department
(651) 436-8044
waterdept@ci.lakeland.mn.us

Building Department
(952) 442-7520
info@mnspect.com
Permit forms available at
www.ci.lakeland.mn.us

Non-Emergency Contacts
Sheriff: (651) 439-9381
Fire: (651) 436-7033
Animal Control: (715) 386-7789

Visit us on the web at
www.ci.lakeland.mn.us

**Call 911 for police
or fire emergency!**

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