

LAKELAND NEWS

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January 2016

City Council approves 3.1 percent increase to property tax levy for 2016

The final budget and levy for 2016 reflects a \$13,427 or 1.3 percent increase in the budget and a \$30,527 or 3.1 percent increase in the certified levy. At the December 15, 2015 city council meeting, Mayor Williams reflected on all that was accomplished in 2015 and expressed appreciation to staff on behalf of the council for their fiscally conservative practices and hard work leading to the City's positive financial position in view of significant and costly organizational changes. The city did "much with little" and avoided an anticipated larger budget to actual variance and a higher increase in the 2016 levy proving that teamwork and due diligence between elected officials, staff and consultants really paid off.

Taxable Market Value increased a healthy 7.3 percent on average, contributing to a decrease in the tax rate from 43.489 percent to 42.410 percent. The median home value increased nine percent to \$230,100 in 2016 from \$211,100 in 2015.



Washington County approved a 3.45 percent increase to the property tax levy for 2016. The county saw \$303.7 million in new construction, which means some of that levy increase will be absorbed by the owners of the new construction, instead of being spread out across the existing tax base. Homeowners in general will not see such drastic increases in county property taxes as they saw in 2015. Last year county taxes were impacted by the significant shift of tax burden from businesses to residents when residential values increased at a much faster rate than commercial and industrial properties according to Deputy County Administrator Kevin Corbid.



January 2016

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Election Judges needed for 2016 Primary and General Elections

Becoming an election judge is a great way to get more involved in your community and show your civic spirit! 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). Serving is also a great way to get involved in the great state of Minnesota and be a part of making history for your country as well. Presidential elections are particularly exciting for election judges and the community as a whole. We are fortunate to be part of a democracy where we have a voice and a vote and are able to exercise this right as citizens of the United States according to the Fifteenth Amendment of the Constitution.



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.

Becoming an election judge is fun and rewarding and a terrific way to 'give back' to your community. 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.

2016 Elections Calendar:

Primary Election is Tuesday, August 9, 2016

General Election is Tuesday, November 8, 2016

The City of Lakeland will have the following municipal offices up for election:

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

*Contact us for additional information
on becoming an election judge this year!
city@ci.lakeland.mn.us or 651.436.4430*

Resolutions for 2016!

A new year, a new you.
According to Health.com, these resolutions are the top 6 for 2016:

Lose Weight—Choose a diet you can stick to or incorporate healthy food choices. Use a food journal. Have a support system. Don't get discouraged.

Stay in touch—Rejuvenate relationships with friends, family and loved ones. Pick up the phone, fire up Facebook, follow up in person. Have dinner together.

Quit Smoking—Do not fear—multiple attempts are often the path to success. Contact a health professional for support. This may be your year to quit.

Save Money—by making healthy lifestyle choices, walk/ride to work, nature vs. technological gizmos, etc. Before you buy, see what you have in the fridge and make a list. Save a little from every paycheck for retirement.

Reduce Stress—Reducing stress triggers is one way to manage stress. Getting enough sleep, exercising and healthy eating will energize the body; relaxing and socializing will reduce stress. Doing what you love will fuel the soul!

Volunteer—We tend to think our own happiness relies on bettering ourselves, but our happiness also increases when we help others.

Event Schedule

January 1, 2016
New Year's Day
City Offices Closed

January 13, 2016
Recycle Pickup

January 18, 2016
Martin Luther
King Jr. Day
City Offices Closed

January 19, 2016
City Council Meeting
6:00 pm

January 27, 2016
Recycle Pickup

February 10, 2016
Recycle Pickup

February 15, 2016
President's Day
City Offices Closed

February 16, 2016
City Council Meeting
6:00 pm

February 22, 2016
District 833
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

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...

The City of Lakeland has contracted with Tri-County Services for snowplowing services. This is the first year of the contracted services and there will likely be a few bumps in the road (no pun intended)



as the contractor becomes accustomed to the city. Tri-County has provided excellent services in the communities surrounding us for a very long time and we are confident in their work and expertise. If issues do arise that need attention please call the Lakeland Public Works Department at 651.436.8044 or email at waterdept@ci.lakeland.mn.us. Thank you for your patience.

Please keep in mind the following reminders during snow season:

- * It is illegal in the city to push snow across or onto a city street. This act is a misdemeanor crime chargeable with a fine.
- * During snow plow events, please do not park on the side of the streets until they are cleared from curb to curb and no parking is allowed between the hours of 1:00 am and 6:00 am through March 31, 2016.
- * Please slow down during the snow fall season to avoid unexpected slippery spots. The city does not sand/salt every single stretch of black top in the city.
- * Snow plow drivers are doing their best to clear the city streets. Please give them the room they need in order for them to do their job.

Water rate increase effective January 2016

The Lakeland Water Utility is an enterprise fund which means it is funded entirely from water revenues. The only source of revenue coming into the enterprise fund are payments received from customers of the water utility. No general fund monies from any of the partnering cities is received. Therefore the water utility operations require adequate funds for repairs, maintenance, water department salaries, and the like. In order to operate effectively water rate increases are necessary from time to time. On an annual basis the treasurer and public works director review the 10 year capital improvement plan along with a 10 year projection income budget in order to gauge whether a rate increase may be in order. This process allows the water utility to raise rates in smaller increments rather than having a large rate hike when funding is at a shortfall. The Lakeland City Council at its December meeting unanimously passed an increase of 10 cents to water rates effective January 1, 2016. The rate increase will be the first increase in the past three years. Water rates will increase from \$2.30 per 1000 gallons to \$2.40 per 1000 gallons. Essentially, for the cost of two bottled waters purchased at the gas station, you could have 16,000 glasses of water from the tap in your house. City water is extremely affordable.

Please feel free to call the Lakeland Water Utility at 651.436.8044 if you should have any questions regarding the rate increase or for water related inquiries.



Council moving forward with new city hall facility

At the December 15th meeting of the city council the decision was ratified to move forward with the new city facility which has been in the works for some time now. Plans for expanding at the St. Croix Trail South property were resurrected from a 2012 council desire for a new facility to house both city hall and city staff and were reviewed for comparison purposes to what has been presented this year. The council has been vetting out the options for many months which has involved at least six public meetings on the subject (*denotes public meeting open to public comment) and a community survey in efforts to garner community input. The process in 2015 included (but not limited to):

March 2015: Organized a City Facility Advisory Task Force

*July 2015: City Facility Advisory Task Force presented their findings in support of a new facility citing efficiency, increased service levels, better working environment, and public space for community use with the caveat that the process remain transparent and open to public comment/feedback

*August 2015: Graduate Student survey and presentation on New City Hall

*August 2015: Preliminary Budget Approved outlining funding for New City Hall

*October 2015: Tabled item to consider new options presented at Public Meeting

*November 2015: Narrowed to two options-tabled item to hold public workshop

*December 5, 2015: Discussed pros and cons of two remaining options

*December 15, 2015: Approved Resolution 2015-34 Moving Forward with the Decision to Build a New City Hall Facility at one of two locations.

At their January 19, 2016 meeting the city council is expected to make a decision on where the new facility will be located. Public input is welcome and community members are encouraged to attend and comment.

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

When Old Man Winter calls off school!

District 833 has no formal decision making process when it comes to winter weather school closing procedures but it does have procedures in place on how the decision is made. Since Old Man Winter cannot be trusted to be consistent, all situations vary but guidelines are in place for parents to better understand the decision making process on severe weather days. More information on school closing procedures is available at www.sowashco.org under Quick Links—Parents.

The superintendent, district staff, district transportation, city personnel and neighboring school districts all play a role in the decision making process. Decisions are made as early as possible. Early dismissals and late starts are kept to a minimum as they are inherently difficult. But they do happen! Therefore, create a contingency plan ahead of time in the event of school closings and early dismissals and if you have elementary children have a plan on file at school so staff know how to direct children in these situations.



City Business

Automatic Bill Pay

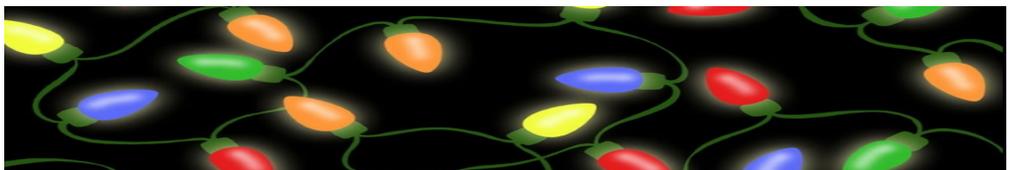
Sign up for auto pay!
Obtain a form on our website at www.ci.lakeland.mn.us or stop by city offices for the convenience of automatic bill pay. Payments received after noon on the 20th of the month will be credited to next month's bill. Please do not place cash in the drop boxes.

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.



Recycle old holiday lights in Minnesota

Drop off your old, tangled holiday lights at any participating location during the holiday season as part of Recycle Your Holidays. There are over 400 locations across the state where they will take the old lights, including Home Depot, Ace Hardware and local recycling facilities.

Recycle Your Holiday is one-of-a-kind statewide holiday light recycling program in Minnesota created and managed by the Recycling Association of Minnesota. The program is promoted in partnership with Clean Energy Resource Teams, WCCO-TV and many more and employs more than 200 individuals with disabilities at vocational centers throughout the state. The lighting strands are dismantled by vocational center clients and properly recycled locally. The average MN home can save between \$10 and \$250 each holiday season by switching to LED holiday lighting. Check to see if your utility offers rebates for LED lights.

For additional information visit RecycleMinnesota.org

Community WhatzUp?

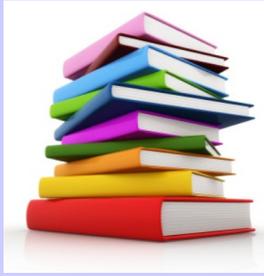
January 1, 2016: It's a new year and time to check the batteries in your smoke detectors and replace if necessary. Remember it is state law to have working smoke detectors in your home.

January 10, 2016: Victorian Multi-Course Tea and Program presented by the MN Historical Society. *Old, New, Borrowed, Blue...Victorian Weddings* at the Historic Courthouse; for tickets call 651.275.7075 or stop by the Courthouse.

Ski, snowshoe and do yoga in the Nordic Center at Lake Elmo Park Reserve. See www.washington.mn.us/parks for additional information.

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



January Calendar of Events:

- * **Preschool Storytime: Mondays**
at 10:30 a.m. for children preschool through kindergarten and their caregivers. Stories, songs, finger plays and more to encourage the development of early literacy skills. Siblings welcome.
- * **January 7, 2016, 12:30 p.m. - Intro to Internet Genealogy** featuring ancestry library edition
- * **January 13, 2016, 1:00 p.m.—Winter Reads Event:**
Tangles and Doodles: Meditative Art; Participants will learn history of Zentangle inspired art, learn and practice five basic steps to correctly making a Zentangle inspired design to take home. All supplies provided and included. (early open at 1pm)

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.**

Safety first for snowmobiles

Snowmobiles may operate from November 1 to April 1 provided the trail is covered with snow.

The bike trail east of County Road 18 is the designated snowmobile trail. Snowmobiles are not allowed on the paved trail west of County Road 18.

Snowmobiles are not allowed in city parks, ball fields, parking areas or on private property without the consent of property owners (including church/school property).

Be safe first and enjoy the ride!

December 2015 Building and Septic Permits

Address:	Building Permit:
16141 6th Street North	Septic Permit
16655 7th Street North	Septic Permit
16028 5th Street South	Furnace Replacement
566 Queenan Avenue North	Window Replacement
44 Quality Avenue South	Window Replacement
16747 Upper 4th Street North	Window/Door 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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Joseph M. Paiement, Attorney

Licensed in MN/WI

Constance J. Paiement, Attorney

(651) 967-5050

Fax: (651) 967-5055

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-Childhood ear infections & colic

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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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Lakeland, MN 55043

Contact Us

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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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