

# LAKELAND NEWS

Volume 44 Issue 6

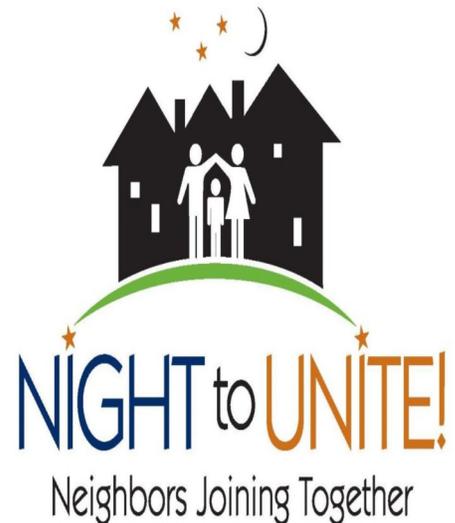
July 2015

## Mayor's perspective

**SAVE THE DATE!** This year's Night to Unite will be held on Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at Afton Lakeland School from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There will be many activities for the kids including a bounce house, craft stations, hula hoop demonstrations and hours of fun on the school's playground. In addition to activities for the kids there will be a visit from Chomp, the giant carrot super hero! Once again we have invited the Washington County Sheriff's office to join us along with the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Department. Organizers will supply plates and utensils. Hot dogs and pulled pork sandwiches make up the main dish and we ask that residents bring a dish to share. Based on feedback from last year's event there will be additional seating under a large tent to provide shade. We are working on a few other fun surprises and hope to see you there!

At the June city council workshop we discussed snowplowing. It seems like a strange topic for June but you know what they say about an ounce of protection being worth a pound of cure. The city has had some turn over in the public works department so now seemed a good time to look at this essential service and how it is provided to our community. When I first moved to Lakeland, snowplowing services were provided to our city by Washington County. When Washington County decided to stop offering this service the city was forced to take it on. The council at that time made investments in trucks and other equipment to provide the service. The city hired a third full time public works employee and leased a facility to store our snow plowing equipment. For almost a decade now we have provided snow plowing services to our residents that have been reliable and of high quality. Our employees are responsive and know our streets. However, the time is coming when we will need to reinvest in equipment and make a decision regarding a long term equipment storage facility that is owned rather than leased. City Staff has analyzed the data and determined that if the city were to outsource this service rather than keep the work in house we would save about \$35,000 annually. The concern is that a contractor may not provide the level of service that our residents have come to expect. The council has asked that staff do some additional research into contracts and options regarding a trial run at contracting the service in time for our July City Council meeting. As always, if you have thoughts on the issue I would encourage you to reach out to me, other members of council or city staff. Your input is very important.

Mayor's perspective continued on page 3...



August 4, 2015

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## Celebrating Independence Day

The Fourth of July is traditionally celebrated with an array of red, white and blue decorations and sparkly fireworks. Small and grand festivities range from barbeques to parades. It is a day for many that provides for a little downtime from work obligations and likely includes time spent with friends and family. The United States declared the Fourth of July or Independence Day an official federal holiday in 1941 but the actual Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. The Fourth of July is an important day marking the birth of American Independence!

240 people on average visit emergency rooms with fireworks-related injuries and deaths the month surrounding the fourth of July ([www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)). Please don't let yourself or a loved one be one of them!

As you sing the *Star Spangled Banner* and enjoy a day of fun and fireworks please be reminded of the following safety tips:

- Never allow young children to play with or light fireworks.
- Avoid fireworks packaged in brown paper as this is often a sign they were made for professional displays and could pose a danger to consumers.
- Always have an adult supervise firework activities—children suffer injuries from sparklers which burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees which is hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place your body directly over fireworks device when lighting the fuse and back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Keep a bucket of water or hose nearby in case of fire or mishap.
- Make sure fireworks are legal before buying or using them.

For additional safety information visit the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission's website at <http://www.cpsc.gov/fireworks>

## What to do if your pet goes missing

- ⇒ **Call Animal Control (715) 386-7789**
- ⇒ **Call the Woodbury Humane Society (651) 730-6008**
- ⇒ **Call Washington County non-emergency dispatch (651) 439-9381**
- ⇒ **Let your neighbors know, especially the kids—kids go places adults don't and pets typically do not stray far at first—the more people that know the more likely the pet is to be found.**
- ⇒ **Post it on social media—it is amazing how quickly one post on Facebook can reunite an owner with their lost pet!**
- ⇒ **Call local veterinary hospitals/clinics.**
- ⇒ **Place familiar objects outside the door and leave a light on but do be aware that leaving food outside could attract more than just your pet.**
- ⇒ **Do not stop looking! The local animal control officer has returned pets that have been lost up to three years!**
- ⇒ **ID your pet and never leave your pet outside unattended.**

## Schedule of Events

- July 1, 2015  
Recycle Pickup
- July 3, 2015  
City Offices Closed
- July 3 and 4, 2015  
Valley Library Closed
- July 4, 2015  
Independence Day
- July 11, 2015  
Aggregate Brush Site  
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- July 15, 2015  
Recycle Pickup
- July 21, 2015  
City Council Meeting
- July 29, 2015  
Recycle Pickup
- August 1, 2015  
Aggregate Brush Site  
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- August 4, 2015  
Night to Unite
- August 12, 2015  
Recycle Pickup
- August 18, 2015  
City Council Meeting
- August 26, 2015  
Recycle Pickup
- September 5, 2015  
Aggregate Brush Site  
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- September 7, 2015  
Labor Day  
City Offices Closed

## Mayor's perspective continued...

The city has entered into new talks with Washington County HRA and a local developer to explore new housing options in Lakeland. It is very early on in these talks but I can say that we are focusing on the piece of land immediately adjacent to Lakeland Plaza. There is a lot of positive momentum and updates will be available in this newsletter and at city council meetings.

With regard to positive momentum I would like to report that progress is being made in the development of our new city hall. The city adopted the MN General Records Retention Schedule at the June city council meeting. This will allow us to begin purging old water bills and other useless items that we have held on to for decades in the absence of a formal records disposal policy. By adopting the policy we will not have to move those documents from the current city hall to our new location. We can simply dispose of those no longer requiring retention. The July city council meeting will include discussion regarding the current City Hall building located on Quinnell Avenue. It is my hope to use the revenue from the sale of that building to help fund the expansion of the public works building on St. Croix Trail.

Public safety on roads is an ongoing concern for residents. In July, there will be a speed trailer provided by Washington County and placed on Quality Avenue near Humphries Park. Later, it will be moved to 5<sup>th</sup> Street just east of St. Croix Trail. The trailer serves as a reminder to keep our speeds low. I would like to thank residents, young and old, for being considerate drivers on our streets. I live on Quality Avenue and can say that I have noticed a reduction in traffic speeds on that road. Later this month we will be working with public policy students from Hamline University to explore additional options to make our streets safer. These findings will be presented at our August city council meeting.

The June city council meeting was one of the highest attended meetings that I have seen in my time on the council. It is encouraging to see so many residents active in local government. Thank you all for your thoughtful comments and active participation in our community!

I mentioned previously that the city has had some turn over in the public works department. I would like to take a moment here to thank Rick Regnier for his years of service to our city. Rick has accepted a public works position with the city of Scandia. His positive attitude and strong work ethic will be missed. Thank you Rick and best wishes! ~ Amy Williams

## Summer projects that will impact motorists

**4th, 5th and 6th Street** reconstruction project (*from Quality Avenue North to the cul-de-sacs*).

**Quant Avenue** reconstruction project (*from 1<sup>st</sup> Street North to Division and Division Street from Quant Avenue North to CSAH 18*).

**Quixote Ave North/6<sup>th</sup> Street and Quixote Ave North/4<sup>th</sup> Street** drainage improvement projects.

**County Highway 18** (St. Croix Trail South) roadway striping and median maintenance.



## The art of neighboring

Most of us need to work for a living and I am no exception. But truth be told the number one reason I took this position and have been working in municipal government for the past ten years is because I am passionate about making a positive difference in people lives. I have worked for a number of communities and served on boards and committees in my own community as well as two MN counties. I understand what a joy *and* challenge building community while respecting each other's differences can be. The communities of Lakeland and Lakeland Shores have impressed me in so many ways. The small town charm along the backdrop of the beautiful St. Croix River Valley is unmatched. I drive in to this wonderful community in the morning watching children on their bikes and people walking their dogs down St. Croix Trail and I feel like someone just transported me back to my childhood, where we played outside all day and knew everybody in the neighborhood, at the store, and at the post office. I love it!

I have listened to residents, staff, elected officials and community safety personnel and have an appreciation for the emphasis placed on community here. Neighborhoods come in all shapes and sizes and being a good neighbor isn't always easy. Some issues are simply more complicated than what might be handled with a shared lemonade and an honest, respectful chat.

For all the smaller matters though just the right touch of neighboring may make all the difference. I decided to challenge myself to become a better neighbor. It took just two short weeks for me to make some startling revelations. Sure, I say hello to my neighbors and will make brief conversation if they approach me but what I realized in my self-reflection was that I honestly did not go out of my way much for my neighbors. Frankly, I discovered I did not even know many of their names! I like to think I live and breathe 'community spirit' but it was clear I was falling short. My excuse of being 'too busy' for neighboring, well, it was really just an excuse for not stepping out side of my comfort zone.

So I decided to change what kind of a neighbor I was. First off, I stood on my neighbors' property and looked at my property. I wanted to know what they saw when they looked at my house and yard. I would encourage you to do this as well. You may be surprised at how it looks from their perspective.

Secondly, every time I was out, in my yard, at the park or out walking, I smiled and engaged in conversation with neighbors which I initiated! I went to a neighbor's garage sale and bought things I really didn't need in an effort to get to know them. Adopting these practices have completely transformed my idea of my neighbors, my neighborhood and my enjoyment of both. I cannot wait to see who I will run into today out and about, after all, it's a beautiful day in the neighborhood!

### Got yard waste?

Did you know it is illegal to put yard, garden and tree waste into the garbage? Bring your leaves, grass clippings, and other plant materials to a yard waste or compost site. Some waste haulers also pick up yard waste. Better yet, backyard composting is another great way to reduce the amount of yard and garden waste.

The Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) is selling compost bins for pick-up at various locations throughout the twin cities area including the Washington County Fairgrounds. For ordering and pick-up information, visit [www.recycleminnesota.org](http://www.recycleminnesota.org).

In addition, do not bag your grass clippings! Grass clippings can be left after mowing to conserve moisture and supply nutrients for a healthy lawn.



### Keeping citizens informed.

**Notification System** To enroll go to <https://public.coderedweb.com/>

For those who are hearing impaired the sign up form offers a TDD ONLY option for tone delivery of emergency messages. Messages delivered to phone numbers marked TDD will only be delivered in a TDD/TTY format.

## City Business

### Automatic Bill Pay

Sign up for auto pay!  
Obtain a form on our website at [www.ci.lakeland.mn.us](http://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

Building Official John Buckley is available on Mondays and Thursdays at city offices between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. He is available for inspections by contacting 651. 275.4408 .

### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

In addition to the single sort recycling offered to the community there are additional things you can do to preserve natural resources for future generations.

The city encourages you to reuse, reduce and recycle whenever possible. Go to [www.rethinkrecycling.com](http://www.rethinkrecycling.com)



## Practice smart lawn watering to preserve Lakeland's water source

Residents are strongly encouraged to conserve water when sprinkling lawns in the summer months and year round. Please follow Lakeland's watering restrictions:

- ◇ Lawn watering is prohibited between noon and 5:00 p.m. each day
- ◇ Watering is allowed before noon and after 5:00 p.m. on an odd/even schedule

Additional tips for preserving water:

- ◇ Water only if needed
- ◇ Program your irrigation system for no more than twice weekly watering
- ◇ Provide at least one inch of water per week plus rainfall
- ◇ Watering too much is wasteful and reduces root growth; a shallow root system requires more water

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has determined the amount of water in the aquifer is declining. They are making groundwater conservation and management a top priority. Please help by doing your part at home.

## Community WhatzUp?

### 2014 Consumer Confidence Report

Residents should all have received Lakeland's Water Utility 2014 Consumer Confidence Report which was mailed the week of June 22, 2015. If you should have any questions or like to review the report visit city offices or our website at [www.ci.lakeland.mn.us](http://www.ci.lakeland.mn.us)

### 2nd Annual River Rally St. Croix River Clean Up

July 14, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m./Sign up at [www.CommunityThreadMN.org](http://www.CommunityThreadMN.org)  
A Community Thread event engaging local volunteers who love the river.  
Family friendly event for ages 14 and older; contests, prizes and picnic after the clean up.

### Night to Unite Community Celebration

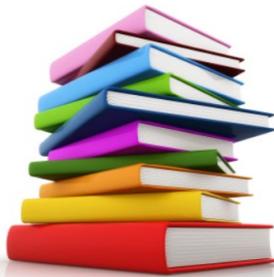
August 4, 2015 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.at Afton-Lakeland Elementary School  
Please won't you be my neighbor? Come celebrate national night out with fellow Lakeland and Lakeland Shores neighbors. Come eat hot dogs, pulled pork sandwiches and chips, meet Chomp from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and play in the jump house. Night to Unite promotes neighborhood's against crime and supports safe neighborhoods in our community. Come meet local Fire Department, Law Enforcement and elected officials.

### Summer Series for Parents—Youth Service Bureau

Because being a parent isn't always a picnic!  
July 30 : Kick the Habit Before it Starts and August 20 : Tackle Back-to-School Stress  
All sessions held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., \$5 / session Register online or pay at the door.

## Valley Library

**Monday, Friday, and Saturday**  
**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**Tuesday and Thursday**  
**2 p.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**Closed July 3 and 4, 2015**



### Mid-Summer Events

- ◆ July 10 : Baby & Me/Edible Bubble Art 11am to 12pm
- ◆ July 14 : Bruce the Bug Guy 1pm to 2pm
- ◆ July 16 : Star Wars Jedi Academy 4pm to 5pm
- ◆ July 21 : Kitchen Science 3:30pm to 4:15pm
- ◆ July 23: Book Club discusses *The Glass Castle* 5pm
- ◆ July 27: Preschool Dance Party 11am to 11:45am
- ◆ July 28: Dog Gone Reading with Chase 4pm
- ◆ July 30: Super Hero Training Academy 3pm to 4pm

Preschool Story Time every Monday 10:30am to 11am

## Street Light Outage Information

To report a street light outage please go to [http://www.xcelenergy.com/Outages/Report\\_Outage](http://www.xcelenergy.com/Outages/Report_Outage) or call 1-800-960-6235 Lights Out at Xcel Energy.

Washington County Environmental Center  
 4039 Cottage Grove Drive  
 Woodbury, MN

Free Document Shredding  
 (up to 6 boxes at less than 30 pounds each)  
 open to all residents and businesses  
 Friday, July 10 and Friday, October 9, 2015  
 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Visit [www.co.washington.mn.us/envirocenter](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/envirocenter) or call (651) 430-6655 for additional details

## June 2015 Building Permits



Address:	Building Permit:
148 Quamwell Avenue South	Windows and Patio Door
529 Quixote Avenue North	Roof and Siding
16424 7th Street Lane South	Gas Fireplace
690 Quixote Avenue North	Patio Door
205 Quamwell Avenue North	Fence
16539 10th Street Court South	Roof
312 Quinmore Avenue North	Addition

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](mailto:rkopesky@comcast.net).



**LOWER ST. CROIX VALLEY FIRE DEPT.**

**EMS**

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Lakeland July 2015

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## City Council Contact Information

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

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

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

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

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

## City Website: [www.ci.lakeland.mn.us](http://www.ci.lakeland.mn.us)

Please visit the city's newly revised 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](mailto: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](mailto:rep.kathy.lohmer@house.mn)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Building Department  
(651) 436-1405  
[buildingdept@ci.lakeland.mn.us](mailto:buildingdept@ci.lakeland.mn.us)

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