



City of Lake St. Croix Beach  
City Hall  
16455 20<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Lake St. Croix Beach, MN 55043

Staff:  
Clerk/Administrator:  
Michael H. DeRosia  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer:  
Amy Truhlar

City Hall Hours  
9:30 – 1:30 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
Call for an appointment at other times  
Contact Information  
Phone Number: (651) 436-7031  
Fax: (651) 436-8310  
Email: [lscb@comcast.net](mailto:lscb@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.lscb.govoffice.com](http://www.lscb.govoffice.com)

April, 2013  
Issue No. 484

# Lake St. Croix Beach

The official posting place for Lake St. Croix Beach city meetings is at the posting board near the front door at City Hall. A majority of the City Council may be in attendance at any city meeting.

## April Calendar

Note: All city meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the City Hall except as noted otherwise.

Wednesday, April 3  
Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 9  
Park Commission

Wednesday, April 10  
LSCV Fire District at Fire Hall

Thursday, April 11  
Middle SCV WMO meeting at Washington Conservation District Office

Thursday, April 11  
Recycle Day

Monday, April 15  
Regular City Council Meeting

Monday, April 22  
LSCV Alliance – 4:30 p.m. at Fire Hall

Thursday, April 25  
Recycle Day

## Applications Being Accepted

The City of St Croix Beach will be accepting applications for summer Park positions in the month of April. This is a part-time seasonal position. Positions include Park Attendants, Supervisors and Park Maintenance workers. Applicants must be at least 14 years old. Call City Hall at 436-7031 for an application. Applications will be accepted April 15, 2013 – April 30, 2013.

## Rummage Sale

The St. Croix Valley United Methodist Church will hold their annual spring rummage sale.

Saturday, May 4  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,  
St. Croix Valley United  
Methodist Church,  
St. Croix Trail and 7<sup>th</sup>  
Street in Lakeland

Clothing and small household items will be for sale. All proceeds will benefit the United Methodist Women's mission fund.

## Recycle Committee Members Needed

The City Council is now accepting applications from those who are interested in serving on the 2013 Recycle Committee.

The five-year curbside recycling services contract with Waste Management expires in December 2013. Members of this committee will review the current contract, provide input, and lend their ideas to the City Council about how to best move forward with providing curbside recycling service. To apply for the position of Recycle Committee member, please fill out and turn in a volunteer appointment application form found on the city's website at <http://lscb.govoffice.com>.

Committee members receive \$10 per meeting attended.

April Showers bring ... April flooding. Actually the City has been dry so far this spring despite all the snow melt on the roads. April also marks the beginning of Severe Weather Awareness. The warning sirens will now be tested on the first Wednesday of each month moving forward. Please note that there is an additional test for Severe Weather Awareness Day, on Thursday April 18th where the sirens will activate between 1:45 -2:00pm and again between 6:55-7:10pm. This is only a test!

April will also bring the annual Motorcycle Flood Run on Saturday April 20th. This ride, starting at the Beach Bar, is the 48th anniversary of the Flood Run named in 1965 during the flood where motorcycle enthusiasts rode to Winona, Minnesota to sandbag. Today the Flood Run raises money for the Gillette Children's Hospital. You do not have to be a biker to participate in this good cause. All are invited to take part in this benefit at the Beach Bar.

Lastly, April also brings yard clean-up. There is a place just six miles north of Lake St. Croix Beach called RSI Services in Bayport (201 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S.). Their phone number is 651-430-2809 and they accept washers, dryers, air conditioners, couches, mattresses, and household junk.

Every day is Clean-Up Day in LSCB!!!

Mayor Tom McCarthy

.....  
Greetings,

Happy Spring. With spring comes potholes – many this year due to the amount of snow and freeze/thaw events. This year I received calls concerning our city's plowing and snow removal. For those of us that have lived here awhile – we remember the days of the exceptional county plow services and how it used to be done. For about 5 years the city has been the policy maker for the service provider and it has surely provided some learning, headaches and opportunity to do better. However to do better for the entire city we need our residents to understand the issues and help the city and its provider to do a better job.

The most expressed concern was the width of the roads. Narrow roads cause issues not only with personal vehicles but the trash & recycle trucks, cable, electric and phone utility vehicles and most importantly emergency vehicles. One way we can all help to resolve this is to keep in mind that the ROW (right-of-way) is intended to be used for snow placement. If the snow builds onto the road surface, not only does it narrow the road, it also allows moisture to sit on the pavement, which then deteriorates the road surface – then comes the cracks, potholes – and needed repair.

This surely won't address all of our city plow and road concerns – but thought if we can understand the need for the ROW use we can all help in improving our road conditions.

Happy Spring (again) as we have waited long for it to arrive.

Cindie J Reiter  
LSCB Councilmember

.....  
Hello Everyone,

Some good progress was made at our March 25th meeting to allow easier access and usage of our City Hall building (during off hours) by local groups, organizations and by city councilpersons. I am hopeful that the new policy that comes out of this will remove our city council from approving each and every usage of the building each and every month. I expect that listening sessions (that I may hold) will include ordinance enforcement and concerns about garbage yards and houses, planning for new events, a regular Saturday Coffee Hour and possibly a historical club meeting.

On my other radar screen is the cable commission and the renewal of the cable television franchise. This renewal presents our community with the perfect opportunity to investigate the possibility of a city-wide (or possibly a lower St Croix Valley) internet WI-FI service. The cost of WI-FI service on a monthly basis could potentially be less than what is currently available, thus making Lake St Croix Beach an even more desirable place to live, work and raise a family.

Thanks for your calls and emails. Look to the back page of this newsletter for my contact information.

Jim Unker

# Fundraiser

Ethan Teegarden is conducting a fundraiser for the Student Ambassador program. The Student Ambassador program is an organization that allows children to travel all over the world experiencing things that they would not get to experience or learn in a normal school setting. The trip he plans to go on is to England and Paris. If he can raise enough money he will go this summer in June - otherwise he will plan to go the following summer.

Because it costs a lot of money to travel abroad, he needs to raise money to help pay for the trip. The program offers many ideas for fundraising. One of the fundraisers he is doing is the Heart-O-Gram. He makes a giant heart and delivers it personally with a special message inside. He tried this out for Valentine's Day, and really enjoyed delivering one to a nursing home. The recipients really liked the delivery.

He will continue to do this for Easter, May Day, and Mother's Day with Easter-O-grams, May Day Greetings, and Mother's Day-O-Grams.

If you would like more information about the Student Ambassador program you can check out their web site at [www.peopletopeople.com](http://www.peopletopeople.com).

If you are interested in Ethan's services - please email him at [heartinvasion@comcast.net](mailto:heartinvasion@comcast.net) or call 612-998-3809 to request an order form.

## Annual Notice to All Residential Utility Customers

Bills can pile up just like snow, but the Minnesota Cold Weather Rule is designed to protect people who may have trouble paying their utility bills in winter. The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule applies from October 15 to April 15. The rule, established by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, means that your utility cannot disconnect your residential electric service during the winter if the customer meets the following requirements:

1. Utility disconnection would affect the customer's primary heat source;
2. The customer has declared inability to pay on forms provided by the utility (Note: Customers receiving "any form of public assistance," including energy assistance, are deemed to have qualified for inability to pay status);
3. The household income of the customer is less than 50% of the state median income level, as documented by the customer to the utility; and
4. The customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.

If you have trouble paying your utility bill, local agencies may be able to provide payment assistance. The state Department of Human Services recommends you call the county in which you live.

If you know you are going to have trouble paying your utility bills, please contact the utility to try and work out a payment schedule.

## Calendar of Events for Valley Library in Lakeland – April 2013

Valley Library

380 St. Croix Trail South

Website: [www.washington.lib.mn.us](http://www.washington.lib.mn.us)

Phone: (651) 436-5882

Monday, Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Tuesday - Thursday 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

### Storytime

April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 10:30 a.m.

### Dog Gone Reading

Tuesday, April 23, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Valley Branch Library invites kids to participate in "Dog Gone Reading." Kids in grades K-7 may sign up for a 15-minute block of time when they practice their reading skills by reading to a dog. Dogs are great listeners. Their presence creates an inviting and motivating environment. Top things off, reading to a dog is fun!

Kids at Valley Library will be reading to Chase and his owner. Chase is an Australian Cattle Dog-Smooth Coated Collie mix. He herds sheep and ducks, runs agility courses, and does tracking. He loves to fetch his favorite ball and run and play with his dog friends. Chase is a Delta Pet Partner certified therapy dog.

The program will continue at the same time on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Sign up at the library.

### New Adult Book Club

Thursday, April 25, 5:00 p.m.

Visit Valley Library to pick up a copy of the book and a discussion guide. Valley Book Club will continue to meet every fourth Thursday of the month throughout the year. Just read the book, come, and discuss.

## "Women Poets" Portrait Display Featured at Washington County Libraries in 2013

Washington County Library invites area residents to view the portrait display entitled "Women Poets: Portraits by Jay Wittenberg" – a display that will be rotated throughout the county during winter and spring of 2013. The portrait artist is St. Paul resident Jay Wittenberg, a graduate of the College of Visual Arts, and a professional artist for more than 20 years. Wittenberg celebrates the genius of famous women poets with his collection of portraits.

Dates and library locations for the displays are:

- April 2 – 29, Wildwood Branch, Mahtomedi
- May 2 – 31, Park Grove Branch, Cottage Grove

Wittenberg's work has been exhibited at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Minnesota Museum of American Art. His works are also represented in a Los Angeles art gallery. He teaches drawing for the cities of St. Paul and Woodbury.

For more information about this program and other Washington County Library programs, log on to the library's website, [www.co.washington.mn.us/library](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/library), or call the library's information desk, 651-731-1320. The "Women Poets" display is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

## Public Safety

(Including Reports)



### Law Enforcement Report

February, 2013

#### Complaints Investigated

4 Medical	1 Theft Report
3 Fire	1 Verbal Domestic
2 Assist	1 Juvenile Complaint
2 Residence/Location Checks	1 Alarm
2 Noise Complaints	
2 Check Area	

Citations Issued: 0

#### • Sheriff's TIPLine

A quick, simple way to forward information to Washington County Investigators anonymously.

E-mail: [sheriff@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:sheriff@co.washington.mn.us)

Or Phone 651-430-7850

*Crime in progress – call 911*

### Fire Department Report

The Fire Department reported 29 runs, 9 of which were in Lake St. Croix Beach in February.

The Fire Department's Website is [www.lscvfd.com](http://www.lscvfd.com).

### Nuisance Complaints

#### Complaints Filed at City Hall

- 2 Excessive junk in back yards
- 1 No garbage service
- 1 Junk car



### Animal Control

In the month of February, 1 dog was reported lost and 1 dog was reported found.

Impounded animals are brought to the Humane Society in Woodbury.

## Building Permits



Remember to Contact the Building Inspector before you start a project!

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

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 321, Lakeland, MN 55043,  
Phone: 651-436-1405

**Please note: The Building Department Office Hours**

**Mondays 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Thursdays 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.**

## Parks Department



### Part-Time Park Staff Wanted

The City of St Croix Beach is advertising for summer Park Staff. Applicants must be at least 14 years old. Call City Hall at 436-7031 for an application. See page 1 for more details.

## Solid Waste and Recycling

### Garbage Service

The City of Lake St. Croix Beach currently has three garbage haulers who are licensed to collect garbage on Wednesdays and Thursdays only:

Highland Sanitation	651-458-0043
Maroney Service Inc.	651-439-7279
Waste Management	651-437-9201

Residents may choose a garbage hauler from those who are licensed with the City. All residents must have a contract with a garbage hauler or be able to prove that their garbage is taken to a proper collection site.

### Recycle Service

We use a single-sort recycle service. Only certain materials can be recycled. These items are listed on the lid of the cart. Please set your recycle cart at the curb by 7:00 a.m. every other Thursday.

Recycle Hauler is Waste Management 952-890-1100

### Hazardous Waste Site

#### General Information

Did you know that residents can drop-off household hazardous waste, electronics, and recyclables for free at the new Washington County Environmental Center? The Center is located at 4039 Cottage Grove Drive in Woodbury, near the intersection of Manning and Bailey Road, just 4 miles south of I-94. The Center replaces the Hazardous Materials Collection Site in Oakdale, which permanently closed in 2009.

The Environmental Center is open:

Tuesdays	Noon – 7:00 p.m.
Thursdays	9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Saturdays	9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

#### Free Product Room

Don't need it? Someone might! Did you know that some of the items you drop-off at the Environmental Center might be stocked in the *Free Product Room* for other residents to pick up, free of charge?

The *Free Product Room* is located inside of the Washington County Environmental Center at 4039 Cottage Grove Drive in Woodbury. Products set out in the *Free Product Room* are first screened for quality. Some of the more popular items are paint and stain. If you are on a tight budget, you might just find the color you were looking for, and there's no cost to you. Other popular products set out in the *Free Product Room* are lawn & garden products and automotive fluids.

For materials collected and more information go to [www.co.washington.mn.us/envirocenter](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/envirocenter) or call 430-6655.

## Yard Waste Dropoff & Compost

### Site

Bayport: RSI

Location: 201 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S.

Also accept appliances and household junk

Phone: 651-430-2809

Woodbury: Compost Concepts

Location: 4600 Cottage Grove Drive

Phone: 651-436-1213

Cottage Grove: Cottage Grove Compost Site

9600 Glendenning Rd.

Phone: 651-459-1556

## Community News

### XYZ Club (Extra Years of Zest)

XYZ Club, for seniors 55 years and older, meets every Tuesday morning at Memorial Lutheran Church in Afton. Cards will be played at 9:00 a.m. with a coffee break at 10:00 a.m., followed by more card playing until noon. Programs will be announced as they develop. For information, registration, or cancellation, call Marian Glasbergenner at 651-436-7742 on Mondays.



The Lake St. Croix Beach City Council Meetings may be viewed on Channel 16.

Schedule:

Apr. 3 at 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Apr. 4 at 9 a.m.

Apr. 10 at 4 p.m. and midnight

Apr. 11 at 7 a.m.

Apr. 17 at 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Apr. 18 at 9 a.m.

Apr. 24 at 4 p.m. and midnight

Apr. 25 at 7 a.m.

Upon occasion, the transmission of these meetings may be delayed or not available due to technical difficulties. Check their website for more information [www.vactv.org](http://www.vactv.org)

### Lake St. Croix Beach City Hall

16455 20<sup>th</sup> Street South

Lake St. Croix Beach, MN 55043

Phone: 651-436-7031

Fax: 651-436-8310

E-Mail: [lscb@comcast.net](mailto:lscb@comcast.net)

Web Site: [www.lscb.govoffice.com](http://www.lscb.govoffice.com)

Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday or call for an appointment.



## HIGHLIGHTS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL

The following are unapproved minutes from the March 18, 2013 City Council meeting. Minutes may at times be condensed to fit space. (Complete minutes on file at City Hall.)

**Members Present** Tom McCarthy, Charles W. Brown, Cheryl Kopp, Cindie Reiter, Jim Unker

**Staff Present** Michael DeRosia, John Parotti, Kevin Sansdstrom, Amy Truhlar

**Others Present** Mary Ashby, Steve Zigan, Lyle Sorenson, Mary Yanchar, Gina Allen, Linda O'Donnell, Nancy Truax, Jim Stanley, Kris Peterson

• **Call To Order** by Mayor McCarthy at 7:02 p.m.

• **Pledge of Allegiance** was said.

• **Approve Agenda** Agenda Item 3

City Clerk-Administrator Michael DeRosia asked that the City Council add New Business Item F, Meetings At City Hall, to the agenda.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION OF NEW BUSINESS ITEM F, MEETINGS AT CITY HALL. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

• **Recess City Council Meeting** Agenda Item 4

Mayor McCarthy explained that the City Council meeting would go into recess in order for the Planning Commission to hold a Public Hearing and a Special Planning Commission meeting.

M/S/P (Reiter, McCarthy) TO RECESS THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 7:05 P.M. IN ORDER FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

• **Call Recessed City Council Meeting To Order** by

Mayor McCarthy at 7:30 p.m.

• **Consent Agenda** Agenda Item 6

M/S/P (Brown, Reiter) TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN: UNKER – AYE, REITER – AYE, BROWN – AYE, KOPP – AYE, MCCARTHY – AYE.

M/S/P (Brown, Reiter) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 11, 2013 AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

M/S/P (Brown, Reiter) TO APPROVE THE SHORELAND PARK COMMITTEE STRUCTURE FOR 2013. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

M/S/P (Brown, Reiter) TO APPROVE THE 2013 SPRING/FALL STREET SWEEPING CONTRACT WITH MIKE MCPHILLIPS, INC. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

• **OPEN COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Steve Zigan, 1885 Ramada Avenue South and building at 1880 Riviera Avenue South, stated that he will stay under 20% impervious surface at 1880 Riviera Avenue South, but will not be including impervious surface in the right-of-way (ROW) as part of his calculations. Councilmember Reiter noted that variances were already approved for that property. He felt that the issues have been dealt with, and now it is time to allow the building inspector to do his job. He asked that people stop inquiring about his property or he may start harassment proceedings. There was discussion regarding flood vents. City Attorney, Kevin Sandstrom, stated that this issue should be discussed at another time with staff as public comments should not be a time of discussion with the City Council.

• **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS**

Presented by Councilmember Kopp  
Law Enforcement

• 23 calls, 0 citations

Animal Control

• 1 dog reported lost

• 1 dog reported found

Washington County Sheriff's Deputy reported a high number of mail thefts in the past month. He stated the thefts have occurred mostly in Afton, but there have also been several in Lakeland. Checks are being stolen, put into chemical solutions removing the writing, rewritten, and taken to the bank. He urged residents to not put checks in unsecured mailboxes. Mail taken which does not contain checks is being discarded. The deputy also reported increased enforcement of stopping at stop signs. He reminded residents not to roll through stop signs. He reported an increase in copper thefts, which mostly occurs when homes are vacant.

Jim Stanley, Deputy Chief of the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire District, reported that they are very close to becoming a training facility. The only step left is for the Minnesota Department of Health to come inspect their facility. There has been some progress on the I-94 Corridor payment discussions. Fire department officials met with Ms. Lohmer, a representative from the Minnesota Ambulance Association, and a representative from Allina. There is a statute that allows fire departments to bill the state for fires on the freeway. An amendment to this statute will allow the fire department to bill the state for ambulance runs as well. If money is received from the individual needing assistance or their insurance company, the state will be refunded the money. If money is not received from the individual or their insurance company, the state will compensate the department for the ambulance usage.

Mr. Stanley presented the City Council with a breakdown of all calls in 2012. The breakdown included mutual aids and provided information regarding the time of day and the city. In the month of February, there were 29 calls to the fire department, 9 of which were for Lake St. Croix Beach. Councilmember Reiter asked that the city start receiving the fire district meeting minutes again.

- **CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- **Sweeping Quote**

City Engineer, John Parotti of SEH, noted that the City Council approved the street sweeping contract in the consent agenda. He pointed out that the quote was a lump sum quote, which means the City Council will be invoiced the amount listed in the quote. The invoice will not be dependent upon the amount of the time the sweeping takes.

- **Seasonal Load Limits**

Seasonal load limits went into effect at 12:01 a.m. Friday, March 15. During these road restrictions, vehicles are limited to 5 tons per axle load. Exceptions are provided in the statute for vehicles such as buses, garbage/recycle trucks, milk transport vehicles, and propane and heating oil tank trucks. Utility vehicles and septic system pumping trucks are allowed to prevent loss of service or emergency pumps.

- **St. Croix River Key Elevations**

The St. Croix River has not yet started to rise. He presented a graph showing that the river elevation as of March 14 is 675.6. Councilmember Brown noted that there is a link to the NOAA website on the city's website so residents can stay updated on river levels. Currently, the prediction is that there is a normal or below normal chance of flooding in the spring. The chance of flooding will depend upon the pace of snow melt. There is currently no significant warming trend predicted. New predictions will be publicized on March 29. There was a discussion regarding current river levels and historic river levels.

Councilmember Reiter noted that there have been issues with the snowplowing not being done the entire street width. If the street is not plowed full width, she asked if that would change the effect it has on the pavement. Mr. Parotti pointed out that the freeze/thaw cycle can be the most detrimental thing for pavement, so the more snow on the pavement, the more detrimental the effect on the pavement.

It was suggested that Sentenced-To-Serve crews shovel out the hydrants in the city when they are here on Friday, March 22, 2013. There was discussion regarding the Quinlan Avenue repairs that were completed in the fall of 2012. Mr. Parotti stated that those repairs will be checked in the spring to ensure that the repair is still working.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Variance For Banners at Pettitt Park**

It was noted that the Planning Commission held a public hearing and Special Planning Commission meeting while the regular City Council meeting was in recess.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE VARIANCE FOR ADDING BANNERS TO THE PETTITT PARK BALL FIELD PER THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Portable Restroom Quote**

M/S/P (Reiter, Kopp) TO ACCEPT THE PARK COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVE THE QUOTE FROM ON SITE FOR PORTABLE RESTROOM SERVICE IN 2013. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Grant Application For Pettitt Field**

Mayor McCarthy explained that a grant is available through the Minnesota Twins' Fields for Kids grant program. The grant is for ball park renovation. The city has applied for the grant in order to put an addition on the top of the backstop to prevent balls from flying over it. It is a matching grant, but City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia explained that he was advised by a representative at the foundation to request more than 50% of the funds needed for the project.

M/S/P (Reiter, McCarthy) TO APPROVE A MATCHING GRANT OF UP TO 50% FOR THE BACKSTOP ADDITION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Recycle Contract RFP**

City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia noted that the Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC)/Recycle Committee stated three companies they recommended sending a request for proposal (RFP). He asked if the City Council would like to send the RFP to additional companies. Councilmember Reiter stated that she had recommended these three companies to the EAC/Recycle Committee because they were the three licensed haulers in the city. The concern is that allowing additional vendors to bid for the recycle contract would lead to further requests for garbage licenses. This would lead to additional trucks in the city.

There has been interest in combining four or five of the cities in the area to get a better rate. However, each city is on a different schedule with their contract ending dates. The City Council directed City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia to send the RFP for recycling to the three haulers licensed in the city.

- **Consider Amendment of Vehicle Use Policy**

Mayor McCarthy explained that when the city leased a Gator, it was stored in the city garage on 20<sup>th</sup> Street South. Bob Shearer, Parks Manager, will be the primary user of the vehicle, with Park Commissioner Becky Brewster using the vehicle periodically for watering trees and gardens. If the Gator is stored down at the city garage, it will be more convenient for the Gator use. The Park Commission suggested storing the Gator in the garage on 20<sup>th</sup> Street again, but the garage should be more secure.

City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia presented an amendment to the Vehicle Use Policy to allow for the storage of the Gator at the city garage May 20 – September 15. Councilmember Reiter suggested that when new keys are obtained for the city garage, they should have "No Duplicates" imprinted upon

them. One set of the new keys will be stored at City Hall and another set will be stored by Parks Manager Shearer.

M/S/P (Brown, McCarthy) TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE CITY VEHICLE USE POLICY AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

o **Meetings At City Hall**

City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia reported that he has discussed this issue with Councilmember Unker, who wanted to be able to hold meetings with residents at City Hall at hours other than the posted business hours without first discussing it with the City Council. When City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia reviewed the city's conditional use permit (CUP), he was unsure if this would be allowed.

Councilmember Unker felt that the building is being underutilized. When the building was first purchased, there was discussion that the building could be used for other types of meetings, such as a Boy Scout meeting or Girl Scout meeting. He felt that Councilmembers should be able to hold listening sessions about various issues without previous City Council approval. Councilmember Reiter advocated in the past for community use of City Hall. She noted that Girls Scouts have held meetings at City Hall in the past, and the Villas Homeowners Association holds their annual meeting at City Hall every year in July.

City Attorney Kevin Sandstrom noted that the concern he and City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia had discussed was that the community could view the event as a City Council-sanctioned event since it would be run by a City Councilmember. Mr. DeRosia and Mr. Sandstrom felt that the City Council should approve this type of use to establish a policy for the future. It was noted that City Councilmembers would need to be mindful of the Open Meeting Law. Another point was made that although complaint forms could be given to residents by a City Councilmember, complainant data is confidential so a completed form could not be accepted by a Councilmember. The completed form must be turned in to city staff.

City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia noted that the scheduling of City Hall should be done through city staff. The topic of discussion is immaterial to staff. After further discussion, it was agreed that City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia would bring a policy to the City Council at their regular meeting in April.

• **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

o **Schedule Performance Review for City Clerk-Administrator**

Councilmember Reiter stated that the Personnel Committee should develop a process for reviewing the City Clerk's performance, create a form, and determine where additional input will come from and make a recommendation to the City Council. City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia was directed to set up a meeting of the Personnel Committee.

Councilmember Kopp reported that a resident asked her about a low spot on 19<sup>th</sup> Street South and Racine Avenue South. She asked if there was a plan to fix this area. Mayor McCarthy stated he talked to the properties abutting this section of the road. The property owners agreed to allow ditches to be dug on their property when the snow is melted. There was discussion regarding drainage structures in the city that need to be cleaned out.

After a question, Mayor McCarthy explained that Mr. Wigton, owner of A+ Lakeland Auto, had been renting the property. The owner is looking for another renter to take over.

• **COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS**

**Councilmember Brown's Report**

Nothing further to report.

**Councilmember Kopp's Report**

Councilmember Kopp did not attend the Yellow Ribbon Alliance. She will get the minutes of the meeting and forward them to the City Council. The Yellow Ribbon Alliance will be having a booth at the Afton-Lakeland School Carnival. The EAC/Recycle Committee will also have a booth with a game and prizes. Councilmember Kopp and Councilmember Brown stated they would help the two members, Bruce Albrecht and Marilyn Siebenaler, at the booth.

**Councilmember Unker's Report**

Councilmember Unker reported that the Cable Commission had a consultant attend their meeting to explain the process of negotiating a new franchise agreement with Comcast. The commission is planning to meet monthly as they begin the process.

**Councilmember Reiter's Report**

Councilmember Reiter did not attend the Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization (WMO) meeting. Baytown and Stillwater feel they are being double-taxed because they are in a watershed district and the WMO, so they want to create their own taxing authority for this purpose. The WMO will be moving to Oakdale in May.

She has received several phone calls from residents complaining that there is too much silt/sand being used on the west side of CSAH 18.

Councilmember Reiter asked when the auditors will be presenting the 2012 audit. City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia noted that they city has until the end of March to submit the audit to the state auditor. There is an issue with the cash balance from December 2011 – January 2012. He asked the auditor to allow him more time to look into the issue internally to avoid extra cost. Councilmember Reiter felt the auditors should do this work. If the City Council would like the auditors to perform this work, he asked that the City Council approve this as significant costs could be incurred. The City Council agreed that city staff could work on this issue to avoid extra cost. Councilmember Reiter noted that if a balance needs to be adjusted, City Council will need to approve that adjustment.

**Mayor McCarthy's Report**

Mayor McCarthy attended the fire district meeting. He stated that he wants to create a relationship with the Lower St. Croix Valley (LSCV) Foundation where people can donate money to the Veterans Memorial park through the Foundation. There will be a Flood Advisory Commission meeting in early April. City Council Chambers will be closed for demolition and remodeling work that is needed due to the water damage. It was noted that the city's insurance company has been out to look at the issue. The city has a \$1,000 deductible. There is a dais available from a nearby city that recently moved to a new City Hall. If the dais is removed by Lake St. Croix Beach without any damage to the building, the dais will be free.

M/S/P (Reiter, Kopp) TO SPEND UP TO \$500 FOR A NEW CITY COUNCIL DAIS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**City Attorney's Report**

Nothing further to report.

**City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia's Report**

City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia explained that a new city laptop was purchased with help from Councilmember Brown, the acting IT coordinator, who reported that the laptop is functional and serviceable into the future.

Mr. DeRosia presented the City Council with information regarding the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) codification services. An estimate for this service will be provided during the next budget process.

### Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Truhlar's Report

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Amy Truhlar presented the bills for March totaling \$28,197.38. After a question from Councilmember Kopp, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Truhlar explained that PERA (Public Employees Retirement Association) was based on wages and salaries. PEIP (Public Employees Insurance Program) is a steady cost and is the employees' health insurance premium. Councilmember Reiter asked about the large map that was purchased for the Park Commission, and City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia explained that the map will first be used for dead and hazard trees. Post-its will be used for the tree inventory. The map will have many future uses.

M/S/P (Brown, Kopp) TO APPROVE THE BILLS AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Truhlar then reported that an Economic Development Authority (EDA) meeting will be held in April to elect the officers.

Thoughts and prayers went out to John Jansen, who is in the hospital. Councilmember Brown reported that he is very lucid and on the mend.

### • ADJOURNMENT

M/S/P (Brown, McCarthy) TO ADJOURN AT 9:38 P.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### *Acronyms and abbreviations that may appear in this newsletter.*

CC	=	City Council
EAC	=	Environmental Advisory Commission
FAC	=	Floodplain Advisory Commission
FEMA	=	Federal Emergency Management Agency
LSCVA	=	Lower St. Croix Valley Alliance
LSCVCC	=	Lower St. Croix Valley Cable Commission
LSCV FD	=	Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Department
M/S/P	=	Moved, Seconded, and Passed
M/S/F	=	Moved, Seconded, and Failed
SEH	=	Short Elliott Hendrickson (City Engineer)
STS	=	Sentenced-To-Service
WMO	=	Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization



### *House Numbers*

Ordinance 505.045 It shall be the duty of the owner, lessor and/or occupant of every house, apartment, duplex, industrial, commercial, or other building to have house and/or building numbers clearly displayed thereon, either by affixing to said building or sign post . . . The numbers shall not be less than 3 inches in height, in a contrasting color to the base and be so placed as to be easily and clearly seen from the street when approached from either direction.

### Good bug, bad bug

Not all bugs are created equally. Everyone loves butterflies, despite the fact that they are clearly insects; they have three body parts (a head, a thorax and an abdomen), six legs, and antenna on their heads. Make a few changes in a butterfly, though – fuzzy antenna and body, preference for flying at night – and suddenly you send campers diving into their sleeping bags screaming, “Close the tent flap, the moths are getting in!”

In our gardens, we may be tempted to treat all bugs as enemies. There are hundreds of species of beneficial insects, however. Familiar to most people is the ladybug beetle, which eats aphids, mealybugs and spider mites. Less familiar are the assassin bug, big-eyed bug and syrphid fly larva, all of which also eat aphids, as well as caterpillars, leafhoppers and mealybugs. If you've ever been frustrated by insects such as cabbage moths or corn borers attacking your vegetable garden, then you'll be a fan of the trichogramma wasp. Its larva parasitizes the eggs of over 200 pest insects, devouring their growing bodies from the inside out. Now that's a fun way to imagine your insect enemies dying!

Use caution when applying insecticides to your yard or garden, as many brands sold in garden centers are non-targeted, meaning they will kill good and bad insects alike. Research suggests that the widespread use of insecticides is partially responsible for the decline in pollinators such as bees and butterflies over the past 50 years. Nearly all insecticides have the potential to significantly alter ecosystems, many are toxic to humans and others are concentrated in the food chain.

The best way to fight insects and other pests is to control them before they get a foothold in your yard and garden. One way to do this is by planting native trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses, which are more resistant to our Minnesota pests than plants from Europe or Asia. You can use the plant selector tool on [www.BlueThumb.org](http://www.BlueThumb.org) to find the best native plants for the soil and shade conditions in your yard. The website also has links to local retailers selling native Minnesota plants in our area. Other techniques for discouraging insect pests in your garden include watering in the morning and using mulch to reduce weeds, which often harbor pests.

If you decide to use a pesticide in your yard, take a little time to accurately identify the pest and look for a pesticide that kills just that pest, and not beneficial bugs as well. You may also want to consider using a biological pesticide, usually a bacteria that attacks the insect pest, to reduce your environmental impact. Never spray chemicals near water (this goes for herbicides and fertilizers as well) and avoid spraying on windy days and near paved surfaces, where the chemical can be washed into the storm sewer and contaminate nearby lakes and streams.

It is important to remember that for every caterpillar munching on our vegetable leaves, there is a wasp munching on a caterpillar's insides, and for every horsefly buzzing in our hair, there is a bee buzzing in our garden and helping our flowers and vegetables to grow.

## Debunking myths about raingardens

Raingardens are becoming increasingly popular in Minnesota as communities and individuals look for low-cost, attractive methods for reducing water pollution. Despite their popularity, however, some common myths about raingardens still exist.

- **Myth #1 – Raingardens are weed patches.** Raingardens need to be weeded, just like any other garden, and when they are well maintained, they can be beautiful. A simple planting plan with only four to six plants may be easier to maintain than one with more variety. In general, raingardens should be weeded at least once in the spring and once around the Fourth of July to keep the invaders at bay.
- **Myth #2 – Raingardens attract mosquitoes.** When properly designed and installed, raingardens absorb water within one to two days, leaving no time for mosquito eggs to hatch. In fact, the vast majority of the time, raingardens are completely dry like any other garden.
- **Myth #3 – Raingardens are dangerous.** Residential raingardens are only four to eight inches deep and when the plants are mature, it is often hard to tell that a raingarden is concave at all. They are also dry the majority of the time except immediately after a rain-storm.
- **Myth #4 – Raingardens are only for people who live near the water.** In Lake St. Croix Beach, streets connect to the St. Croix River. Rain and melting snow washes off rooftops, driveways and streets and carries dirt, litter and contaminants to the river from miles away. Raingardens help to keep some of that stormwater pollution out of the St. Croix. Every drop counts, whether it falls ten feet or ten miles from the edge of the water.
- **Myth #5 – A wet spot in the yard is the perfect place for a raingarden.** Raingardens are designed to soak water into the ground. If there is a wet spot in the yard where water is not soaking in, it might actually be better to plant a raingarden uphill where the soil infiltrates better, thereby capturing the runoff water before it reaches the soggy zone.
- **Myth #6 – Raingardens are the solution to our water pollution problems.** Runoff is the number one source of pollution to Minnesota's lakes and rivers and raingardens can help to take a significant bite out of this pollution, especially in urban and suburban areas. Raingardens are just one of many tools in the toolbox, however, and they aren't appropriate everywhere. You can help to keep our water clean by using less lawn chemicals and winter deicers, sweeping leaves, grass clippings and litter out of the streets, and disposing of hazardous chemicals properly.

For more information on raingardens, visit [www.BlueThumb.org](http://www.BlueThumb.org). To learn more about keeping water clean in Minnesota, visit [www.cleanwatermn.org](http://www.cleanwatermn.org).

## Green Up Your Lawn Without Draining Local Lakes and Rivers

Summer has finally arrived, and here are a few tips for getting the most out of your lawn without draining your local aquifer or inciting the wrath of your neighbors:

1. **Sprinklers running in the middle of the rain?** If you have a timer that lets your sprinklers do the thinking for you, buy a rain sensor for \$20 and end the insanity.
2. **Watering more pavement than turf?** Check to ensure that you are not watering your driveway, the road, or your neighbor's face. For gardens, many people find that soaker hoses are more effective than sprinklers at getting the water to your plants.
3. **Turning your lawn into a swimming pool?** The roots of turf grass cannot absorb more than 1 inch of water at a time. Try this: Place an empty tuna can in an unobtrusive location on your lawn before you turn the sprinklers on. When it is full, the grass has had enough water. When all of the water in the can evaporates, it is time to water again.
4. **Hate mowing the lawn?** Then don't do it so often. The roots of turf grass are generally as long as the above ground height of the lawn. That means that the taller your grass is, the better in can absorb water, and the greener it will be. Taller grass also makes it harder for weeds to germinate. Set your cut height a bit higher to avoid scorching.
5. **Got dirt as hard as rock?** Reduce soil compaction and improve infiltration in your lawn by renting a lawn aerator from a local garden supply store.

### Reminder:

Ordinance 1801.010 . . . **Curfew for Minors** . . .  
. Between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. during the months of September through May and between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. during the months of June through August, it shall be unlawful for any minor under the age of 16 years to idle, loiter, or be upon the public streets, boulevards, sidewalks, alleys, parks, beach, or other public places in the City of Lake St. Croix Beach.

## Hazard Mitigation Topic

Don't Let Your Spring Cleaning Dirty the Environment!  
Have you thought about products that can help keep your home "Green"?

Exposure to harmful chemicals has been largely overlooked as a source of indoor air pollution. However, studies have shown that chemicals in indoor air may exceed the standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to protect us. You can help avoid such levels in your home by buying and using products that are free of toxic chemicals whenever possible.

Reducing toxins inside your house can be as simple as looking for a few key words or ingredients. Look for products that appear to disclose all ingredients, and avoid ones that contain petroleum, phosphates, phthalates, triclosan, and benzalkonium chloride. The words "Caution," "Warning," and "Danger" indicate that the product's ingredients are harmful.

There are wide varieties of alternatives as the market for non-toxic household products grows in response to consumer demands. Greener alternatives are prepared with plant-based materials, such as oils made from citrus, seed, vegetable, or pine. These products are biodegradable, generally less toxic, and are made from renewable resources.

Another alternative is to make your own solutions using common, single-ingredient household materials such as baking soda, vinegar, or plant-based soaps and detergents.

Basic soap and water has been shown to keep surfaces as free of bacteria as antibacterial soaps; baking soda works well to clean sinks, tubs, and toilets; vegetable oil with a little lemon juice works wonders on wood furniture; use vinegar and water in a pump spray bottle for cleaning mirrors and shining chrome.

Simple changes in our everyday routines such as how we choose the products we buy, or the way we clean our houses, can reduce our long-term exposure to low levels of potentially harmful substances.

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## Non-Toxic Cleaning Recipes

Basic Supplies:

- Baking Soda
- Bon Ami Cleanser
- Borax
- Lemon or Lime Juice
- Liquid Dish Soap
- Vegetable Oil
- Washing Soda
- White Vinegar
- Non-scratch scrubber sponge

DOS:

- Read and follow all label directions on all products you purchase
- Label all containers with ingredients, intended use, and date made
- Keep all containers out of children's reach
- Keep all containers closed when not in use
- Use only non-chlorine bleach if you feel you must use a bleach product. Use it by itself
- Control pests by eliminating their food, water, and access

DON'TS:

- Use food or beverage containers for cleaning chemicals of any type
- Avoid using bleach and ammonia. **Never** mix these products with each other – or with any other product
- Avoid using chemical pesticides

**All-Purpose Cleaner:**

- ¼ cup white vinegar
- 2 tsp. Borax
- 3½ cups hot water
- 20 drops lemon or lavender essential oil
- ¼ cup liquid dish soap

In a 32-oz. spray bottle, mix the vinegar, Borax, and water thoroughly. Add essential oil if desired. Add dish soap last. (Abrasive and may cause scratching.)

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## City Directory

### City Council

**Tom McCarthy**

Mayor, 436-5686

E-Mail: [lscbmccarthy@gmail.com](mailto:lscbmccarthy@gmail.com)

**Charles Brown**

Councilmember, 612-889-7588

E-Mail: [chazbrown@comcast.net](mailto:chazbrown@comcast.net)

**Cheryl Kopp**

Councilmember, 214-9665

E-Mail: [ck66575@gmail.com](mailto:ck66575@gmail.com)

**Cindie Reiter**

Councilmember, 436-8244

E-Mail: [cindie55043@gmail.com](mailto:cindie55043@gmail.com)

**Jim Unker**

Councilmember, 340-5800

E-Mail: [C6513405800@gmail.com](mailto:C6513405800@gmail.com)

### Services

Animal Control 715-386-7789

Building Inspector 651-436-1405

City Hall 651-436-7031

Fire Hall (non-emergency) 651-436-7033

Lakeland Water Utility 651-436-8044

Police (non-emergency) 651-439-9381

Street Lights Out - Xcel Energy 1-800-960-6235

Well Water Test Kits - Wash. Co. 430-6655

U. S. Post Office - Lakeland 651-436-5469

***Fire, Medical & Sheriff Emergency 911***

### Representatives

**Gary Kriesel**

Washington County Commissioner 651-430-6213

**Kathy Lohmer**

Minnesota Representative (District 39B) 651-296-4244

E-mail: [rep.kathy.lohmer@house.mn.us](mailto:rep.kathy.lohmer@house.mn.us)

**Karin Housley**

Minnesota Senator (District 39) 651-296-4351

E-mail: [sen.karin.housley@senate.mn](mailto:sen.karin.housley@senate.mn)

**Mark Dayton**

Minnesota Governor 651-201-3400

E-mail: [mark.dayton@state.mn.us](mailto:mark.dayton@state.mn.us)

**Betty McCollum**

U. S. Representative (District 4) 202-225-6631

E-mail: [betty.mccollum@mail.house.gov](mailto:betty.mccollum@mail.house.gov)

**Amy Klobuchar**

U. S. Senator 612-727-5220 or 202-224-3244

E-mail: [klobuchar@senate.gov](mailto:klobuchar@senate.gov)

**Al Franken**

U. S. Senator 651-221-1016 or 202-224-5641

E-mail: [info@franken.senate.gov](mailto:info@franken.senate.gov)

### Meeting Schedule

- Planning Commission – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday
- LSCV Alliance – 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at Fire Hall at 4:30
- Middle SCV WMO – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at Washington Conservation District Office
- Park Commission 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday
- Recycle Committee Varies
- LSCV Partnership Team – Varies
- City Council 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon (2<sup>nd</sup> Mon in Jan & Feb)
- Land Use Review Committee Varies
- LSCV Fire District – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at Fire Hall

Please call the City Hall at 651-436-7031 for the address of any meeting held outside of the City. Check the City's Posting Box for up to day information on City meetings.

*Future Newsletter Articles should be submitted to: Newsletter Editor at the Lake St. Croix Beach City Hall.*

"Choosing to save a river is more often an act of passion than of careful calculation. You make the choice because the river has touched your life in an intimate and irreversible way, because you are unwilling to accept its loss." - David Bolling, 1994

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