



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

Staff:  
 City Clerk-Administrator  
 Angel Smith  
 Deputy Clerk-Treasurer  
 Amy Truhlar

**City Hall Hours:**  
**9:30 – 1:30 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday**  
**Call for an appointment at other times**  
**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)**

January, 2014  
 Issue No. 493

# 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.

## January Calendar

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

### Friday, January 3

Recycle Day

### Wednesday, January 8

LSCV Fire District at Fire Hall

### Thursday, January 9

Middle SCV WMO meeting at Washington Conservation District Office

### Monday, January 13

Regular City Council Meeting

### Thursday, January 16

Recycle Day

### January 20

City Hall Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

### Thursday, January 30

Recycle Day

Reminder: Garbage and Recycling Pick-up will be one day later the week of New Year's Day.



## Snow Plowing

During storms with heavy snowfall, the drivers will concentrate on keeping primary routes open for travel. After the storm subsides, all streets will be plowed full width. Garbage cans and recycling carts must be removed from the edge of the street as soon as possible after pickup.

Do not park cars in the street during this time so the snowplow drivers can plow the full width of the street.



Join our email list and receive updates about current Lake St. Croix Beach news and events. If you would like to be included, please submit your name, organization, phone number and email address to [asmithlscb@comcast.net](mailto:asmithlscb@comcast.net).

## Winter Parking Restrictions\*

On street parking is prohibited throughout city:

- For more than 24 consecutive hours from Nov. 1 thru April 1
- After snowfall, for 48 hours or until snow is removed
- Where posted "No Parking"

The above conditions require that vehicles must be

**OFF THE PAVED STREET SURFACE.**

Citations may be issued for vehicles that obstruct snowplow routes.

Animal Impound notices are now posted in posting box outside the front door of City Hall.

**Happy New Year!**

We had a great turnout for the city's annual holiday party on December 16<sup>th</sup>. It was nice visiting with everyone and it is something I look forward to each year.

I would also like to thank everyone who serves or has served on any city commission or committee and look forward to serving with everyone in the upcoming year.

I would also like to extend a big thank you to everyone in the community who has helped me with many various projects from moving file cabinets to remodeling the Council Chambers and from helping with our restoration projects to trimming trees and hauling brush. A big thank you to our many city volunteers. I hope to continue to serve our community for many years to come. Thank you to everyone in the community for all your support, and I hope everyone had a great holiday season.

Thank you,  
Mayor Tom

.....  
Dear City of Lake St. Croix Beach and residents,

Thank you so much for participating in the first, and hopefully annual, LSCB Holiday Craft Fair. It was a great success, and we were able to deposit \$200 into the Lower St. Croix Valley Playground Fund. Our committee (Lyle Sorenson, Dawn Bulera, Jeannie Paulson, and Joanna Welch), along with Mayor McCarthy, Councilmembers, and city staff, worked very hard to make this even happen, and we hope you enjoyed it.

Again, we thank the city for helping put on this event. Hope to see you next year!

LSCB Craft Fair Committee  
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### **Annual Washington Conservation District Tree Sale - Order today!**

Winter weather got you down? Make plans to plant a tree (or many!) in your yard come spring to improve your local habitat. Trees are both beautiful and functional. They shade your house from scorching sun in the summer and block it from icy winds in the winter. A mature tree canopy can intercept 1600 gallons of rainwater per year; this is stormwater that may otherwise run off of roofs and streets, causing pollution to be carried into local water bodies. Trees improve air quality by catching dust in the air and provide valuable habitat for birds and other wildlife.

When selecting trees for your yard, it is best to plant a variety of natives to prevent the spread of disease. By interspersing conifers and deciduous trees, you will ensure that your landscape is verdant throughout the year. Choose a fruiting tree, such as a chokecherry or plum, to attract birds and maybe even give yourself a canning project come fall.

The Washington Conservation District is currently taking orders for their annual tree sale. Trees can be ordered in bundles of 25 for only \$35, and the selection includes conifers, hardwoods and shrubs. In addition we are offering a special bird pack of trees - 30 bird friendly trees for \$50 that include Bur Oak, White Oak, Black Cherry, White Pine, Chokecherry, and Wild plum. Conservation District staff can also help you to plan your planting project and have tree bars available for rental. To order trees, check for sold out trees, or to learn more about the program, call Wendy at (651) 275-1136 x24 or visit [www.mnwcd.org](http://www.mnwcd.org).  
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#### **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.

## Garbage Cans Must be Stored In Your Back Yard !

Section 801.070 of City Code States:

"In all residentially zoned areas of the city, no person shall store or allow to be stored on their property any garbage or refuse except in the rear lot area. Garbage containers may be moved to the front yard area on the day of garbage collection. Storage of garbage containers is only allowed in the front yard if a written permit is granted by the City Clerk."

## Calendar of Events for Valley Library in Lakeland – January 2014

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

January 6 and 27 at 10:30 a.m.

### MacPhail Center For Music

Monday, January 13, 10:30 a.m.

Join MacPhail Center For Music's early childhood music specialists for "A Musical Snowstorm" – a program to encourage musical play. For preschool children. Space is limited; registration is required.

### Valley Book Club

Thursday, January 23, 5:00 p.m.

Book selected for discussion at this meeting is "The Florist's Daughter" by Patricia Hampl. Just read the book, come, and discuss.

### Dog Gone Reading

Tuesday, January 28, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Children in grades K-7 practice reading by reading aloud to a specially trained dog and its owner. Reading sessions are 15 minutes in length. Dogs used in this program are certified therapy dogs. Sign up to read at the library.

## Public Safety

(Including Reports)



## Law Enforcement Report

November, 2013

### Complaints Investigated

4 Check Area	1 Suspicious Vehicle
3 Noise Complaints/Loud Music	1 Disturbance
3 Burning Complaint/Large Fire	1 Road Hazard
2 Smoke/Fire Alarm	1 Intoxicated Male
2 Public Assist	1 Medical
1 Burglary Report	1 Vandalism Report
1 Injured Owl	1 Scam Report
	<b>Citations Issued: 2</b>

### • 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 24 runs in November, 5 of which were in Lake St. Croix Beach.

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



### Animal Control

In the month of October, 3 dogs were reported lost, and 1 dog was reported found.

**Reminder:** Animal License Renewals are now due. All dogs and cats over 6 months of age must be licensed. Licenses can be purchased at City Hall during normal business hours or by mail. **Application, payment, and proof of current rabies vaccination required.**



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

Schedule:	Jan. 1 at 4 p.m. and midnight
	Jan. 2 at 7 a.m.
	Jan. 8 at 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.
	Jan. 9 at 9 a.m.
	Jan. 15 at 4 p.m. and midnight
	Jan. 16 at 7 a.m.
	Jan. 22 at 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.
	Jan. 23 at 9 a.m.
	Jan. 29 at 4 p.m. and midnight
	Jan. 30 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)



## HIGHLIGHTS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL

The following are unapproved minutes from the December 16, 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** John Parotti, Kevin Sandstrom, Angel Smith, Amy Truhlar

**Others Present** Steve Zigan, Chris Knopik, Dave Pergande, Lyle Sorenson, Jon Place, Mary Parr, Jim Stanley, Bob Shearer, Darrell Hoekstra

## TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING** by Mayor McCarthy at 7:03 p.m.

### EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED CITY BUDGET FOR 2014

Mayor McCarthy explained the hearing process. There was a brief review of the 2014 budget.

### HEAR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC/READ WRITTEN COMMENTS

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Amy Truhlar reported that the city had received one written comment from Ron Carlson, and she read the comment into the record. He expressed his appreciation to the City Council for holding the 2014 budget to 3% less than the 2013 budget. He also expressed concern that the budget was not more prominently placed on the city's website. Mr. Carlson went on to express concerns he had regarding the fire department's budget and their budgeting process.

Dave Pergande, 16606 Upper 12<sup>th</sup> Street South, also expressed appreciation that the 2014 budget was less than the 2013 budget. He urged the City Council to cut line items where possible and suggested looking at neighboring cities to compare tax rates and budgets. Mr. Pergande felt that appointees to commissions and committees, such as the fire department, who are paid to attend meetings, should be reporting to the City Council regarding the activities of the assigned commission/committee. If another person reports for the appointees, the perspective is different. Mr. Pergande then stated he felt it would be beneficial for residents, and taxpayers, to have the total compensation for a fire department employee, a police officer, city staff, and City Councilmembers listed in the newsletter.

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING** by Mayor McCarthy at 7:16 p.m.

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**Call To Order** by Mayor McCarthy at 7:17 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** was said.

- **Approve Agenda**

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

- **Consent Agenda**

Councilmember Reiter noted that Margaret Longan's name was misspelled in the City Council minutes from November.

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

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL

MEETING ON NOVEMBER 18, 2013 AS CORRECTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **OPEN COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mary Parr, 1430 Quasar Court South, reported that the snowplow contractor is not plowing close enough to the side of the road, and residents in the St. Croix Villas are having difficulty getting to their mailboxes. She asked that the snowplow get closer to the mailboxes. She stated that no sand had been put down after the first snowfall.

- **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS**

Presented by Councilmember Kopp  
Law Enforcement

- 29 calls, 2 citations issued

Animal Control

- 3 dogs lost; 1 dog found

Councilmember Unker asked about the burning complaints on 18<sup>th</sup> Street South. Jim Stanley, deputy chief of the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Protection District, reported that the fire was a permitted fire. Councilmember Kopp thanked those who helped her father and their quick response to her 911 call.

Jim Stanley reported there were 24 calls in November, 5 of which were in Lake St. Croix Beach. Mr. Stanley spoke to concerns regarding the brightness of a LED sign at the fire department, noting that the sign they are considering measures the ambient light and automatically cuts down the intensity to the programmed light intensity at night.

On Thursday, February 27, 2014 the fire department will be hosting a 5-city meeting. The concerns voiced by Mr. Pergande will be addressed at this meeting. Mr. Stanley pointed out that the cost per firefighter is listed in the reports emailed out to cities monthly. He added that pension costs will be reviewed at the meeting in February. The City of Afton has concerns regarding the way the percentage is being paid out, and this will also be discussed. Councilmember Reiter asked whether the fire department is considering increasing the retirement benefit. Mr. Stanley answered that this is under consideration. He noted that they are currently at 117% funding, which is historically when they have increased the retirement benefit in the past.

Deputy Sullivan reported there were three burglaries at a house on Quasar. He reminded residents to call on any suspicious activity, suspicious vehicles, or suspicious people. These burglaries have occurred during the daytime. Many daytime burglaries have occurred in Afton recently as well.

- **CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- **Levee US Army Corps of Engineers Compliance - Update**

John Parotti, City Engineer with the city's engineering firm, Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH), reported that he had had submitted a plan to address each concern from the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) 2013 Routine Inspection Report. The US ACOE expressed satisfaction with the City's plan for compliance. Mr. Parotti recommended that the city begin the process of obtaining easements for locations where portions of the levee system are on private property and move forward with tree and brush removal as required by the ACOE. He will

continue to provide updates to the City Council on the process as the city moves forward.

- **Sign Maintenance Plan – Draft**

Mr. Parotti explained that the Federal Highway Administration and MnDOT have changed the standards for retroreflectivity on street signs. They have removed many of the compliance deadline dates. The city must still comply with the new requirements, but no deadline is in place for compliance. Cities are allowed to take a reasonable approach given financial constraints to reaching compliance with all street signs. The city is required to adopt a Retroreflectivity Sign Maintenance Plan by June 13, 2014. He presented a draft plan for the City Council to review. The draft plan gives the city until 2017 to meet retroreflectivity requirements for all signs.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

- **2014 City Levy and Budget**

Councilmember Reiter read Resolution 2013-18, A Resolution Approving the 2014 City Tax Levy. The 2014 levy will be \$480,878.

M/S/P (Reiter, Kopp) TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2013-18, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2014 CITY TAX LEVY. THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN: UNKER – AYE, REITER – AYE, KOPP – AYE, BROWN – AYE, MCCARTHY – AYE.

Councilmember Reiter read Resolution 2013-19, A Resolution Approving the 2014 City Budget. The 2014 budget will be \$592,316.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2013-19, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2014 CITY BUDGET. THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN: UNKER – AYE, REITER – AYE, KOPP – AYE, BROWN – AYE, MCCARTHY – AYE.

- **Licenses for 2014**

City Clerk-Administrator Angel Smith reported that not all paperwork and fees have been submitted and asked that approvals for the liquor, cigarette, garbage, and recycling services licenses be contingent upon fees and paperwork being submitted by December 31, 2014.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE LICENSES FOR MARONEY SANITATION, WASTE MANAGEMENT, HIGHLAND SANITATION, BEACH BAR, AND FREEDOM VALU CENTER (ERICKSON OIL PRODUCTS) AS PRESENTED, CONTINGENT UPON ALL FEES AND PAPERWORK BEING SUBMITTED TO CITY STAFF. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Request For Proposals (RFP) For Recycling Services**

Darrell Hoekstra, public sector services representative for Waste Management, pointed out that Waste Management has been the city's recycling services provider for many years. He explained that there was an error in the proposal submitted by Waste Management: bi-weekly service will be cheaper than weekly service. The bi-weekly service will cost \$3.99 per household per month. He stated that Waste Management appreciates the business of serving the City of Lake St. Croix Beach. Mr. Hoekstra explained that the increase in costs for this

contract is because Waste Management has closed their office in Hastings, and now the city is being serviced out of the Somerset, Wisconsin office. This has caused a significant increase in their operating costs.

Councilmember Reiter asked if Waste Management still supplied the green/gold week calendars and whether those calendars were supplied to the city or mailed out to the individual households. Mr. Hoekstra stated that the calendars could be sent out to the city or mailed to individual households, but a listing on an Excel spreadsheet of all addresses would need to be provided if the city preferred Waste Management to mail them to each household in the city.

Councilmember Unker asked whether the cost per household was assessed whether the house was vacant or occupied, noting that there are many snowbirds and summer homes/cabins in the city, as well as some vacant homes. There was discussion that if there was a 5% variation in the number of homes versus the number that are occupied, there was a possibility of discussing a different process for billing. Councilmember Reiter noted that there was a city ordinance requiring residents to recycle.

Mary Parr asked why Waste Management had closed their Hastings office if it resulted in increased operating costs. Mr. Hoekstra answered that the company had lost the service contract with Hastings, which was the main reason for keeping that office open. They now have locations in Burnsville, Blaine, and Somerset, and after working through different scenarios, operating costs were lowest with Lake St. Croix Beach being serviced out of Somerset.

City Clerk-Administrator Smith reported that the Environmental Advisory Commission/Recycle Committee recommended that the City Council approve the contract with Waste Management. She explained that the agreement is for three years of service, with two optional 1-year extensions. If at any time the city feels that the service is not being provided as agreed upon, a new RFP process could begin. It was noted that if diesel fuel prices rise to above \$4 per gallon, a fuel surcharge would be added to the price charged.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE RECYCLING CONTRACT WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

City Attorney Kevin Sandstrom suggested that since this was essentially an extension of the previous contract, an addendum should be written up for the contract for recycling services to continue with Waste Management.

- **Request For Proposals (RFP) For Auditing Services**

City Clerk-Administrator Smith reported that two firms had submitted proposals for auditing services. The two firms, Abdo, Eyck, and Meyers, and CliftonLarson Allen (CLA), are well-established and well-qualified. The only notable difference between the two proposals was price, with CLA submitting the proposal with the lower cost. CLA submitted a proposal with a slightly higher cost than the previous year, but their charge will remain static through the three year contract period.

Chris Knopik, manager with the public sector audit group at CLA, noted that CLA has been the city's auditor for the past three years. He pointed out that the increase in price was minimal at \$390 per year. The city is required to have the audit and financial statements submitted to the state auditor every year by March 31. In order to meet this deadline, CLA would like to conduct field work at the end of January or beginning of February.

Councilmember Reiter noted that she would like to see a report showing where the city stands with the special assessments and the collection rate, especially now that the 20-year bond has ended. She had a concern that the city has no report regarding the amount of assessments still owed. Mr. Knopik stated that delinquent assessments will be easy to track by working with Washington County to get the correct reports. Deferred special assessments are little different, but if the deferment was certified with Washington County, they will be easy to track. If they were not certified with the county, they will be a little harder to find. Councilmember Reiter noted that there was a report created listing all the deferred special assessments.

Councilmember Reiter asked if the auditors could also issue a final report which speaks to the city's cash reserves. She noted that there was a resolution setting the amount of reserve the city should have. Mr. Knopik stated that this will be included, and the auditors will also present what the state auditor recommends regarding city's reserves and where the city stands in relation to those recommendations.

City Clerk-Administrator Smith explained that staff recommended accepting the proposal from CLA for auditing services. She noted that if at any time the services are not up to the set standards or the contract terms are not being met, the contract for auditing services can be awarded to another bidder or the RFP process could start over. It was noted that there is no early termination fee if the contract is ended due to non-satisfaction with the auditing firm.

M/S/P (Reiter, McCarthy) TO ACCEPT THE QUOTE FROM CLIFTONLARSONALLEN AS PRESENTED.

Mr. Knopik explained that the firm will submit an engagement letter as required, which has changed a little bit with their auditing standards. Clarity standards must now be met, which will cause a slight language change in the engagement letter.

Councilmember Reiter asked about GASB 68, which is a standard relating to cash-basis accounting. The state auditor is investigating how this new standard will affect smaller cities. PERA will be providing information for this new standard to municipalities. He noted that this will be a large number hitting small cities.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **Electronic Parking Meter**

Mayor McCarthy reported that the Park Commission had recommended to the City Council to approve the purchase of an electronic parking meter for the beach parking lot. City Attorney Sandstrom pointed out that the City Council had adopted an ordinance allowing for administrative citations. This would allow deputies or other

employees appointed by the city to check that the cars in the beach parking lot have paid the fee.

Bob Shearer, Parks Manager, explained that the electronic parking meter would replace the teenagers that have worked at the parking lot in the past. He stated that it has gotten harder every year to find teenagers to apply and continue to work the entire summer. In 2013, half of the employees quit before the season was over.

M/S/P (Unker, Brown) TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF AN ELECTRONIC PARKING METER FOR THE BEACH PARKING LOT.

Councilmember Reiter noted that park wages were still included in the budget at the same rate as 2013. Mr. Shearer noted that he would like to hire one person who is old enough to drive the Gator and issue the administrative citations. He pointed out that teenagers are not allowed to drive the Gator, and therefore cannot perform the clean-up duties at the park as easily as he can. The company will buy the meter back as a used product if the city is unsatisfied.

MOTION PASSED, 3 AYES, 2 NAYS (REITER, KOPP).

- **Sheriff Substation Lease**

M/S/P (Unker, Reiter) TO TABLE THE SHERIFF SUBSTATION LEASE UNTIL JANUARY 2014. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Annual Renewal of Conditional Use Permit (CUP)**

City Clerk-Administrator Smith reported that city staff has still not heard from the owner of Nails Etc. regarding their CUP and compliance. City Attorney Sandstrom explained that if the city were to revoke the CUP for Nails, another public hearing should be held before doing so. He suggested that the City Council direct staff to try again to make contact with the property owner to determine if he intends to continue business and submit the fees and paperwork.

- **COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS**

- **Councilmember Brown's Report**

There was no Park Commission meeting in December. He attended the Environmental Advisory Commission/Recycle Committee meeting where the recycling contract was discussed.

- **Councilmember Kopp's Report**

Councilmember Kopp reported that the Yellow Ribbon Alliance Veteran's Dinner was a very successful event. There were more veterans in attendance than ever before. Councilmember Reiter asked about the meat raffle. Councilmember Kopp explained that the meat raffle was a very exciting event and they had a lot of people participating. Mary Parr, a member of the Yellow Ribbon Alliance, noted that they do not yet know how the money will be shared and when it will be received.

- **Councilmember Unker's Report**

Councilmember Unker reported that the Cable Commission meeting was cancelled.

### Councilmember Reiter's Report

Councilmember Reiter was not able to attend the Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization meeting, and the Planning Commission did not meet in December. The Partnership Team will meet in January.

### Mayor McCarthy's Report

Mayor McCarthy thanked everyone who served on city commissions and committees in 2013. He also thanked Nicole and Jack Runge for helping to decorate City Hall for the Holiday Social Hour. The snowplow contractor plowed the city streets earlier in the day on December 16, 2013 after the snowfall. They also laid out sand. It was noted that when the temperature is very low salt and sand do not work. Now that the weather is warmer, salt/sand has been spread. Mary Parr stated that the snowplow contractor should plow closer to the mailboxes. Mayor McCarthy noted that many cars have been parked in the street when the snowplows have come through. He reminded residents to please move their cars when it snows so the snowplow drivers can plow the entire street width. Parking near St. Francis of Assisi is still an issue, especially on Ramada Avenue South and 13<sup>th</sup> Street South. Councilmember Unker pointed out that the overflow parking area is not being plowed, so when the main parking lot is full, people are parking in the street.

### City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Sandstrom reported that the City Council will meet in closed session to discuss litigation strategy for a threatened lawsuit. At the January City Council meeting, he will make a statement for the record regarding the discussion.

### City Clerk-Administrator Smith's Report

City Clerk-Administrator Angel Smith reported that the city has received a list of dates that Sentenced To service (STS) crews will be in the city. The city will have crews in the city every month in 2014. Twenty-two suggestions for the naming of newsletter were submitted. Ms. Smith thanked everyone who donated food for the food drive. The items were taken to Valley Outreach on Monday, November 25. She reminded residents that garbage and recycling routes will be delayed by one day during the week of Christmas and New Year's Day. Submissions for the newsletter should be submitted to city staff by Wednesday, December 18 for inclusion in the January newsletter. Starting January 1, 2014, most city purchases will be exempt from sales tax, except on purchases used to provide services that are commonly provided by private businesses (such as a golf course).

### Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Truhlar's Report

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Amy Truhlar presented the bills for the month of December totaling \$39,302.99. She noted that this included the fire hall payment of \$14,143.

M/S/P (Reiter, McCarthy) TO APPROVE THE BILLS AS PRESENTED TOTALING \$39,302.99 AND AUTHORIZE THE DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER TO PAY THE REMAINDER OF BILLS THAT ARRIVE AT CITY HALL BEFORE

DECEMBER 31, 2013. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

City Clerk-Administrator Smith reported that the city received a letter from the group that put together the arts and crafts fair held at City hall on December 7, 2013. The group thanked the City Council, and the thank you letter will be included in the newsletter. She reported that there was a good turnout at the arts and crafts fair considering the weather was so cold on that day.

City Attorney Sandstrom reported that the City Council will hold a closed session of the City Council before the Holiday Social Hour. He explained that David Triemert, of Lake Elmo, has threatened the city with a lawsuit regarding his data practices act request. The session will be closed to the public, as allowed by statute. The closed session will be held in the back conference room at City Hall. A summary of the closed meeting will be presented at the January City Council meeting.

### • ADJOURNMENT

M/S/P (Reiter, Kopp) TO ADJOURN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 8:25 P.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

CC	=	City Council
EAV	=	Environmental Advisory Commission/Recycle Committee
FAC	=	Floodplain Advisory Commission
FEMA	=	Federal Emergency Management Agency
LSCVA	=	Lower St. Croix Valley Alliance
LSCVCC	=	Lower St. Croix Valley Cable Commission
M/S/P	=	Moved, Seconded, and Passed
M/S/F	=	Moved, Seconded, and Failed
RFP	=	Request For Proposal
SEH	=	Short Elliott Hendrickson (City Engineer)

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.

## Saltwater in Minnesota? Unfortunately, it doesn't come with an ocean view

It's that time of year again; time to dig our snow brushes out of the trunks of our cars, pull out the shovel or get the snow-blower revved up. And without a doubt we will spend longer than we want stuck in traffic, navigating the snowy and icy roads around town. While it seems such a relief when city crews come around salting and sanding our roads, it's having an impact on water quality.

Chloride, or salt, is naturally present in Minnesota's groundwater due to weathering of rocks. However, it is also getting into the groundwater primarily through use of road salt (usually used in de-icing), as well as fertilizer and water softening salt. We apply salt to roads, parking lots and sidewalks to help the snow and ice melt faster. Chloride, however, has a devastating effect on fish (only one teaspoon of salt is enough to contaminate five gallons of water) and water monitoring has already found several lakes and streams in the Twin Cities area have unhealthy levels of chloride. Now, according to a recently released report from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)\*, this is also true for our groundwater.

In fact, one-third of wells across the state showed an increase in chloride concentrations and 27 percent of wells in the Twin Cities Metro Area had chloride concentrations greater than drinking water guidelines set by the EPA. Excessive chloride concentrations in groundwater are toxic to aquatic life when the groundwater discharges to lakes, streams, and wetlands. High chloride concentrations can also adversely affect drinking water because it imparts a salty taste to water that consumers find objectionable.

In recent years the MPCA and local watershed districts have worked to educate county and city employees, as well as the general public, about the damaging effects of road salt. The Minnesota Department of Transportation has modified winter maintenance procedures and many metro area communities have as well. Using salt on our roads is important to public safety, but it is very possible to use less more effectively.

What can you do to prevent pollution to local lakes and rivers? At your home, you can prevent pollution to local lakes and rivers by limiting the amount of salt and deicers you use on your driveways and sidewalks. As a rule of thumb, if there is a layer of salt remaining on your driveway after the ice melts, you used too much salt. If you do have excess sand or salt, sweep it up and throw it away so that it is not washed into the storm sewer or a nearby lake. 75% of Minnesotans depend on groundwater for their drinking water, and fishing is a \$1.58 billion industry in Minnesota (MN DNR, 2013). These simple, smart actions in the winter will have a significant and beneficial impact on the water resources we depend upon for drinking water and that we enjoy for recreation. That being said; stay warm and stay safe out on the roads this winter!

To learn more about local efforts to protect water resources, contact Jenn Radtke, East Metro Water Resource Education Program at 651-275-1136 x44 or [jradtke@mnwcd.org](mailto:jradtke@mnwcd.org).

\*Read the report here: *The Condition of Minnesota's Groundwater, 2007-2011* (<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/oagx947>)

## Exterior Storage

Trailers, Boats, RV's, Lawn Equipment, Utility Trailers, Etc...

- Should be stored in rear yard or side yard.
- Your yard might not be big enough! There are limits.
- Watercraft & Watercraft Trailers: Licensed & owned by resident occupying residential property.  
Boats -25 Feet  
Boat Trailers – 35 feet
- Vehicles – Current registration & operable.
- Other items may require that they be stored within a building or fully screened.

### **Hazard Mitigation Topic**



### **Line of Sight**

Property owners are urged to check their corners for overgrown shrubs and low-hanging tree branches to ensure a clear line of vision. No vegetation should be allowed to grow in such a manner as to impede vision for pedestrians or vehicle drivers. In most cases, the right-of-way runs about 10 feet from the paved street. At corners, clear vision is essential within 15 feet of the intersecting street right-of-way lines.

# 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

## DO:

- 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'T:

- 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.)

## Floor Cleaner:

- 1/8 cup liquid soap
- ¼ to ½ cup white vinegar or lemon juice
- ½ cup herb tea (peppermint has antibacterial qualities)

Combine ingredients in pail with 3 gallons of warm water. Swirl until it is sudsy. Rinse with 1 cup vinegar in 3 gallons of cool water.

## Wood Floor Cleaner:

Use ½ cup vinegar per gallon of water. Wipe dry.

## Furniture Polish:

- ½ teaspoon olive oil
  - ¼ cup vinegar or lemon juice
- Mix the ingredients in a glass jar. Dab a soft rag into the solution and wipe onto wood surfaces.

## Carpet Spot Remover:

Blot immediately. Sprinkle with baking soda, cornstarch, or borax and let dry. Wash with club soda and vacuum.

## Window Cleaner:

- ¼ cup white vinegar
- ½ teaspoon liquid soap or detergent
- 2 cups water

Combine the ingredients in a spray bottle and shake to blend.

## Oven Cleaner:

- 1 cup or more baking soda
- A squirt or two of liquid soap

Sprinkle water generously over bottom of oven, then cover the grime with enough baking soda so surface is totally white. Sprinkle more water over top. Let sit overnight. Wipe up the grease the next morning; then with a bit of liquid soap on a damp sponge, wash remaining residue from the oven.

## Soft Scrubber: Basin, Tub, and Tile:

- ½ cup baking soda
- Enough liquid soap or detergent to make frosting-like consistency
- 5 – 10 drops antibacterial essential oil, such as lavender (optional)

Place baking soda in bowl; slowly pour in liquid soap, stirring continually. Add essential oil. Scoop mixture onto sponge, wash surface, and rinse.

## Rust Remover for Sinks and Tubs:

Sprinkle a little bit of salt on the rust, squeeze a lime over the salt until it is nicely soaked in lime juice. Leave the mixture on for two or three hours. Use the leftover rind as a handy scrubber. Rust is gone.

## Unclog and Deodorize Drains:

Sprinkle a generous amount of baking soda in and around the drain opening. Follow with a cup of white vinegar. Repeat if needed and finally flush with very hot water.

## Toilet Bowl Cleaner:

Use Bon Ami cleanser with a non-scratching scrubber sponge.

## Bacteria, Mold, and Germs:

A straight 5% solution of vinegar – such as you buy in the supermarket – is effective for eliminating harmful bacteria, mold, and germs. Keep a spray bottle of vinegar in your kitchen and in your bathroom.

Ordinance 724.04 **Outdoor Implements** . . . any power lawn mower, snowblower, power hedge clipper, power saw, or such other implement designed primarily for outdoor use, shall be operated only between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekdays, or between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays, and State and Federal Holidays. . .



### 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.

### Junk Cars

Ordinance 723.01 -- "Junk Vehicle" shall mean any of the following:

- Any type of vehicle requiring a license to operate on any public highway or street, but without a current license attached thereto.
- Any type of vehicle not in operable condition.
- Any type of vehicle that is partially dismantled and is used for sale of parts, or source for replacement parts for repair of other vehicles.
- Any type of vehicle that is kept for salvage or scrap of any sort.

### Save Energy By Insulating Your Attic

The single most effective way to make your home more comfortable year-round is to add insulation to your attic. A properly insulated attic reduces your energy needs. If you have less than seven inches of fiberglass or rock wool insulation, or less than six inches of cellulose insulation in your attic, consider adding more. Also, be sure to insulate under floors above unheated spaces, like crawlspaces.

### Beware Winter/Spring Threats to Septic Systems

Arctic cold and spring thaws can both present challenges to people who have individual septic treatment systems. People don't usually think about taking precautions with their septic systems until they have a problem at their own home. But by then the damage is done, and problems can be expensive to correct.

Even if you did not take precautions before the start of winter, it is not too late to do so now. You can do the following to help protect your septic systems from freezing and backing up into your home:

- Place a layer of straw, leaves, or hay over the pipes, tank and drain field for insulation.
- Use your water regularly. Regular water use, especially warm or hot water helps prevent a system from freezing.
- Do not drive any vehicles, snowmobiles, or ATVs over your system. This is particularly true when the ground is softened by spring thaws.
- Have your tank pumped if you plan to be gone for an extended period of time. Also have a neighbor come over and flush toilets or run warm water down your system periodically while you are gone.
- Fix any leaky plumbing fixtures that may send a constant drip of cold water into your system.

Contact a professional septic pumper if you have already experienced a problem or fear you may have one starting. They are qualified to pump your tank if needed and/or determine how best to thaw out any frozen areas. If one of the pipes is frozen, the pumper will need to use a steamer to clear the ice. The tank is usually not what freezes; it is the pipe between the house and the tank or the drain field that freezes.

If your drain field (the open area, or piping network in which the surrounding soil absorbs the liquids from a septic tank) is already frozen, there is little that can be done except to have a certified septic pumper check and pump the tank regularly until the weather warms.

Already had your tank pumped but are experiencing a back up in your home? Then it is even more likely that the pipe between the house and tank is frozen, and you should call a professional to assess the problem. A number of fact sheets are available on the MPCA website for more information on how best to prepare and maintain your septic system throughout the year at [www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/lists/index.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/lists/index.html). Additional information about the proper care of septic systems is available on the University of Minnesota Extension Service's website at <http://septic.umn.edu/homeowner/index.html>.

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## City Directory

### City Council

**Tom McCarthy**

Mayor, 436-5686

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

**Charles Brown**

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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**

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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

Waste Management (Recycling) 877-969-2783

Maroney's Sanitation 439-7279

Highland Sanitation 458-0043

Waste Management (Garbage) 437-9201

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

*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

### 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**

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**Mark Dayton**

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**Betty McCollum**

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**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.

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