



Mayor, Tom McCarthy
 Councilmember, Cindie Reiter
 Councilmember, Cheryl Kopp
 Councilmember, Charles W. Brown
 Councilmember, Jim Unker

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

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

March, 2013

Issue No. 483

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.

March Calendar

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

Tuesday, March 5

Environmental Advisory/Recycle Commission

Wednesday, March 6

Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 12

Park Commission

Wednesday, March 13

LSCV Fire District at Fire Hall

Thursday, March 14

Middle SCV WMO meeting at Washington Conservation District Office

Thursday, March 14

Recycle Day

Monday, March 18

Regular City Council Meeting

Monday, March 25

LSCV Alliance – 4:30 p.m. at Fire Hall

Thursday, March 28

Recycle Day

City Hall Hours and Contact Information
 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
 Website: www.lscb.govoffice.com



**Afton Lakeland
 School Carnival
 March 23rd
 10:30 – 3:00
 Visit the
 5-Community
 Recycle Booth!!**

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.

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.



Snow Plowing

Snow Plow Bid Awarded to Tri-County Services.

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.

Spring is almost here, and daylight savings time is just around the corner. Spring also brings our annual boat permit renewal, which has a deadline of March 15th, and the festive St. Patrick's Day celebration is on a Sunday this year! Have fun and be safe.

Spring begins March 20th. Here are a couple of reminders to make sure we all stay safe. The fire department recommends that you check your smoke detectors every year in March to make sure they are working properly, and also recommends that we make sure that our house numbers are visible from the street.

Thanks,
Mayor Tom

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Hello All,
A belated Happy New Year to you. Most of you know I am community minded and it's the people that make the community. Sadly, we have lost some in our lower valley community - condolences to the families of Benny Chavez and Al Schneider, the AI in AI's Automatic Transmission. Also condolences to the families of our Mayor McCarthy for the loss of his mother and to Mayor Roettger of St. Mary's Point for the loss of his father.

Further, wishes for a speedy recovery to Lyman Kopp of Kopp Signs and John Jansen, long time LSCB public servant. Hoping to see them both out and about when our long winter gives way to spring.

Hopefully everyone has recovered from the influenza, that nasty cold/cough (I coughed for 34 days!), extreme shoveling and the winter blues. Soon spring will be upon us with vibrant color and hues.

Sunny Regards,
Cindie J Reiter
LSCB Councilmember

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When the snow melts this spring it will reveal our yards and renew our aspirations for gardens and outdoor projects that beautify and improve our homes. Lake St Croix Beach has many wonderful homes, and together they create a beautiful community; a community that we should all take pride in. Unfortunately there are properties in our community that have accumulated garbage and waste in their yards and driveways. In some instances, years have gone by, garbage continues to accumulate and nothing seems to get done to help these residents clean up their properties.

In the coming month, I hope to host a listening session at City Hall for those persons concerned about properties that may possibly be in violation of City Code. During the proposed listening session, I hope to address the processes, (one-on-one or in a group) and the action(s) that an individual homeowner can take to encourage a neighboring property to clean up their yard of garbage. Briefly, the city encourages voluntary compliance, thereafter followed by city lawsuit. In chronic cases, City Code allows the City to declare a nuisance by majority vote and thereafter the property owner has 10 days to remedy the situation.

The second issue here is that in order to hold any Saturday listening session at City Hall, City Staff has taken the position that the City Council must first agree by majority vote that the building can and should be used for council members to meet with constituents outside of regular office hours. Therefor apparently, as your elected official, I cannot just have a meeting in the new City Hall outside of the restrictive City Hall office hours. I must first convince my fellow councilpersons that meetings between council members and residents should be allowed at any time at City Hall; not just during office hours. Call or contact me at 651.340.5800, or email me at c6513405800@gmail.com if you have an interest in the city authorizing me (or anyone of the council), to listen to our constituents' concerns and opinions at Saturday listening session(s) at City Hall. I believe it is time to open OUR City Hall to the people of Lake St. Croix Beach on Saturdays, etc. so that elected officials can use the building to meet (on any subject) with constituents, when it best fits everyone's schedules.

Thanks,
Jim Unker

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 – March 2013

Valley Library

380 St. Croix Trail South

Website: 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

March 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 10:30 a.m.

A Free Program: Sean Emery, Funny Guy Jugglin' Stuff

Saturday, March 2 at 10:30 a.m.

Prepare to be amazed by jaw-dropping juggling stunts. You'll find yourself saying, "How does he do that?" A fun program for the entire family. No registration.

Dog Gone Reading

Tuesday, March 26, 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. To 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 Colie 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.

"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:

- March 5 – 29, Oakdale Branch, Oakdale
- 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, 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

January, 2013

Complaints Investigated

5 Assist	1 Burning Complaint/Smell
4 Medical	1 Alarm
3 Animal Complaints	1 Noise Disturbance
2 Residence Checks	1 Stuck Vehicle
2 Welfare Check	
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

Or Phone 651-430-7850

Crime in progress – call 911

Fire Department Report



The Fire Department reported 26 runs, 6 of which were in Lake St. Croix Beach.

The Fire Department's Website is 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 January, 1 dog was reported lost and 1 cat 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 Attendants Wanted

The City of Lake St. Croix Beach will be advertising for summer Park Attendants in the April City Newsletter. Watch for 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 or call 430-6655.

Yard Waste Dropoff & Compost Site

Bayport: RSI

Location: 201 2nd Ave. S.

Also accepts 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

Open To: All Washington County Residents

Call for days of collection and pricing - Christmas Trees Accepted

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:**
 Mar. 6 at 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.
 Mar. 7 at 9 a.m.
 Mar. 13 at 4 p.m. and midnight
 Mar. 14 at 7 a.m.
 Mar. 20 at 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.
 Mar. 21 at 9 a.m.
 Mar. 27 at 4 p.m. and midnight
 Mar. 28 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

Lake St. Croix Beach City Hall

16455 20th Street South
 Lake St. Croix Beach, MN 55043
 Phone: 651-436-7031 Fax: 651-436-8310
 E-Mail: lscb@comcast.net
 Web Site: 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 February 11, 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, Renee Godbout, Scott Prater, Cheryl Prater, Lyle Sorenson, Mary Parr, Todd Erickson, Jim Stanley, Kris Peterson, Joe Riley, Molly Shodeen

- **Call To Order** by Mayor McCarthy at 7:04 p.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance** was said.
- **Approve Agenda** Agenda Item 3
 M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- **Consent Agenda** Agenda Item 4
 Mayor McCarthy noted that there were a couple of errors in the minutes in the February edition of the newsletter. These were corrected for the minutes in the City Council packets. In the section regarding 1278 Quinlan Avenue South, the words tear-down and remodel were reversed. The corrected sentence now reads, "Mayor McCarthy stated his opinion that this was not a tear-down, but a remodel."
 M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) 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 (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF KELLY SUMMERS AS AN ADDITIONAL ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP ON JANUARY 14, 2013 AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JANUARY 14, 2013 AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

• **OPEN COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mary Parr, 1430 Quasar Court South, reported that the recycling company for the city, Waste Management, skipped the Villa houses on January 17. She called, and they returned on Friday to pick up. On January 31, they again did not pick the recycling up. She called again and was told they were picking up one day later, the city was notified, and the city was responsible for informing residents of this change. City staff reported that they had not been informed of this change. The entire city was picked up one day later, on Friday, February 1.

• **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS**

Presented by Councilmember Kopp

Law Enforcement

- 27 calls, 0 citations

Animal Control

- 1 dog reported lost
- 1 cat reported found

Jim Stanley, Deputy Chief of the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire District, noted that because of different scheduling in February, the district meeting will be held after the City Council meeting. In January, there were 26 calls to the fire department, 6 of which were in Lake St. Croix Beach. The fire department is moving forward to get certified as a training facility. The only step left is for the state inspectors to come out and inspect the facility.

On Thursday, February 28, 2013, the fire department is holding a budget and finance meeting for the 5-city area to explain to City Councilmembers how the fire department operates, where the money comes from, how the fire department budgets long-range and short-range, the benefits of having the ambulance, and fire department operations. They plan for the meeting to last two hours, and there will be time to view the equipment and meet the firefighters as many of them will also be in attendance.

• **CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

• **NEW BUSINESS**

- o **Septic System Inspection Services Presentation by Chris LeClair**

Chris LeClair, Washington County Public Health, explained that the City of Lake St. Croix Beach has a contract for Washington County to provide septic system inspections and permitting services based on the city's septic system ordinances. The city adopted Washington County's septic system ordinance by reference. When revisions are made to the county's ordinances, the city's ordinances automatically change. Since 2009, when the current ordinances were written, state rules have been updated. Washington County is required to have a new ordinance by early next year. Mr. LeClair pointed out that a permit is required any time a new septic system is installed. A permit is also required when any modifications (including repairs) are made to an existing system.

Compliance inspections are required before a home is sold. A compliance inspection is required before the city issues a

building permit for an addition to a home if that addition includes a bedroom addition. When Washington County feels there is a need, they can order a compliance inspection. It was noted that a legitimate reason needs to be given for a compliance inspection to be ordered. This inspection would be performed by a private company and paid for by the homeowner. In Lake St. Croix Beach, only 15% of systems have been determined to be non-compliant and have been replaced.

The only thing that can be done to maintain a septic system is to pump it. He explained that solids settle at the bottom of a septic system and need to be removed periodically. He did not recommend using any product that claims to maintain a system. He explained that the product prevents solids from sinking so they migrate to the drainfield. However, the drainfield will become clogged over time as it is not designed to hold all the solids. In Washington County, septic systems are required to be pumped every three years unless the owner can prove to Washington County that it is not needed by measuring the amount of solids in the tank. A pumping company can do this for a small fee or a homeowner can do it themselves, but it is recommended that a vendor be used for this. Approximately 25% of septic systems in Lake St. Croix Beach have not been pumped in over six years.

Councilmember Unker noted that Washington County receives all fees for septic system inspections and permits, but the city is responsible for enforcement. He asked why this was. Mr. LeClair pointed out that the ordinances are city ordinances, so they are responsible for enforcing their own ordinances. He noted that some cities do not have septic ordinances and Washington County is responsible for enforcement as well. However, the city gives up the local control, its right to approve or deny variances, and design any ordinances specific to their city.

- o **Variance and Conditional Use Permit Application, 1454 Ramada Avenue South**

City Clerk-Administrator Michael DeRosia reported that an application for variances and a conditional use permit (CUP) had been submitted by Scott and Cheryl Prater for 1454 Ramada Avenue South. The Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding this issue on February 6, 2013. He explained that the Planning Commission recommended denying the detached garage and the second driveway. Without this garage and driveway some variances would not be needed and therefore were not addressed. Granting the remaining variances was recommended contingent upon the applicants revising their plan to reflect that the northeast corner of the structure will no longer be excavated to create a walkout on the lower level, and instead, the ground contour will follow the natural grade of the property at that location.

There was discussion regarding the impervious surface on the property. It was noted that the percentage listed on the site plan included the second driveway and garage. The square footage of the proposed structure, existing structure, and detached garage were discussed. Todd Erickson, the applicants' engineer, stated that the impervious surface in the right-of-way (ROW) was not included in the impervious surface calculations. Councilmember Reiter stated that the impervious surface in the ROW had been included in the hazard mitigation elevation projects in the city. City Attorney Sandstrom noted that the city does not want impervious surface in the ROW. Therefore if a resident puts it in the ROW, it should be included in that person's impervious surface percentage.

There was then discussion regarding the bluffline areas and the elevation of certain areas of the property. Councilmember Reiter pointed out that the entire northern section of the proposed structure was within the bluffline area. Mr. Erickson stated that when designing the home, they tried to create as little excavation as possible. Therefore, after meeting with the Planning Commission, they redesigned the home so that the

northern portion was not a walkout and the slope remained very similar to its current grade.

M/S/P (Reiter, Unker) TO APPROVE VARIANCES TO 402.1 (1) AND 402.01 (2) WITH THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY BEING THERE IS NO MORE LAND AVAILABLE, APPROVE THE VARIANCE TO 402.01 (5) WITH THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY BEING THAT THERE IS NO PLACE ON THE LOT THAT IS NOT WITHIN THE 40 FOOT BLUFF SETBACK, APPROVE THE CUP (GRADING PERMIT) WITH THE REQUIREMENT THAT A REVISED PLAN BE SUBMITTED AND A FINAL REVIEW BE CONDUCTED BY THE CITY ENGINEER TO CONFIRM GRADING FOLLOWED REVISED PLAN, AND TO ALLOW THE REMOVAL OF THE EXISTING HOME.

Councilmember Reiter explained that she felt these approvals were the most straight-forward. She stated that she wanted to discuss the variance to the forbidding of building on 12% or higher grade. In her opinion, moving the home to the west and closer to Ramada Avenue (within the 25 foot setback area) would be a better variance to grant. There was discussion regarding how far to move the structure to the west. The resident's engineer felt that the driveway should not be shorter than 20 feet for safety reasons. Molly Shodeen, representative of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), expressed support for moving the home to the west.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT BY COUNCILMEMBER REITER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER UNKER, TO ADD TO THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE VARIANCE TO 402.02 WITH THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY BEING THAT THERE IS NO PLACE ON THE LOT LARGE ENOUGH TO CONSTRUCT A HOME WITHOUT DIGGING INTO A SLOPE OF 12% OR GREATER, AND APPROVE A VARIANCE TO THE 25 FOOT STREET SETBACK WITH THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY THAT FURTHER AWAY FROM THE STREET WOULD CREATE MORE EXCAVATION OF A 12% GRADE SLOPE.

Councilmember Unker asked about safety issues with a shorter driveway. It was noted that a shorter driveway made backing out to Ramada Avenue more difficult as well as making it more difficult for drivers on Ramada Avenue to see a car coming out of the driveway. There was discussion of the proposed detached garage and driveway and whether a shed could be placed on the property in place of the detached garage. It was noted that a variance would be needed for that since it would be a structure being built on 12% or greater slope as well as within 40 feet of the bluffline. The idea was discussed that the attached garage could be expanded to make up for the inability to place a shed on the property. City Engineer, John Parotti, pointed out that with removing the detached garage and second driveway and moving the structure five feet closer to Ramada Avenue, it appeared that the applicant would be very close to 20% impervious surface. If the City Council wanted to allow an expanded, attached garage, they would need to approve a variance for the impervious percentage requirement. There was discussion regarding a practical difficulty for allowing the variance to impervious percentage and what percentage would be needed. City Engineer Parotti noted it would be too hard to determine the amount of impervious surface needed without having a new plan.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT BY COUNCILMEMBER UNKER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER REITER, TO ADD TO THE MOTION TO DENY THE SECOND, DETACHED GARAGE AND SECOND DRIVEWAY, BUT TO ALLOW AN EXPANDED ATTACHED GARAGE AND TO GRANT A VARIANCE TO THE IMPERVIOUS SURFACE REQUIREMENT UP TO 22%.

City Attorney Sandstrom recommended that the City Council vote on the motion (with the amendments) to grant a series of variances. A second motion will be needed stating that the City Council will approve Resolution 2013-05 subject to changes, and staff will work to change the resolution to incorporate the changes made. City Engineer Parotti recommended adding a requirement that a revised plan be submitted showing the changes agreed to. Councilmember Reiter noted that in her motion she had required final approval of a revised grading plan. Therefore, a grading permit could not be issued without a revised plan. She also suggested a document from the designing engineer stating that the project was graded according to his revised plan. Mr. Erickson stated the best way to do this would be to create an "as-built survey."

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

City Attorney Sandstrom noted that the changes made to the resolution were too substantial to talk through at the meeting. He suggested making a motion to approve the resolution subject to the changes discussed, authorize staff to make the necessary changes, and authorize City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia and Mayor McCarthy to sign the resolution with the changes.

Councilmember Reiter noted that residents in the Riverway are required to visually screen the property from the river. She further noted that in the Comprehensive Plan, there is a section requiring trees that are removed to be replaced. There was discussion regarding the number of trees to be removed, the number of large trees that will not be removed, and where the trees are located.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF THREE 2-INCH TREES BE PLANTED ON THE SOUTH OR SOUTHEAST OF THE PROPERTY AS A CONDITION OF THE APPROVED VARIANCES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

M/S/P (Unker, Reiter) TO REQUIRE THE HOUSE SIDING AND TRIM BE IN SUMMER EARTH-TONE COLORS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

M/S/P (Reiter, McCarthy) TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2013-05, A RESOLUTION GRANTING VARIANCES AND A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT AS REQUESTED BY SCOTT AND CHERYL PRATER TO DEMOLISH AND BUILD A NEW HOME AND DRIVEWAY AT 1454 RAMADA AVENUE SOUTH AND THAT ALL CHANGES DISCUSSED AND AUTHORIZE CITY STAFF TO MAKE THOSE CHANGES AND MAYOR MCCARTHY AND CITY CLERK DEROSIA SIGN OFF ON THAT RESOLUTION.

City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia clarified that he would need to review a new site plan and architectural plan before the resolution is signed to ensure that the new plan complies with the conditions in the resolution. The applicant will not be able to proceed to the construction phase until the resolution is signed. City Attorney Sandstrom verified that the variances approved will be recorded on the deed.

THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN: UNKER – AYE, REITER – AYE, BROWN- AYE, KOPP – AYE, MCCARTHY – AYE.

- **CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

City Engineer, John Parotti of Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH), reported that this is the time of year that he usually begins preparing requests for bids for street sweeping for spring and fall. He reminded the City Council that in 2012, he put the requests out in combination with St. Mary's Point. St. Mary's Point directed Mr. Parotti to obtain a quote from the contractor that performed the work in 2012, Mike McPhillips. He noted that Lake St. Croix beach could put requests out to multiple

contractors or just one as St. Mary's Point has chosen to do. Councilmember Reiter expressed her opinion that Mike McPhillips had done a much better job than other contractors in previous years.

M/S/P (Reiter, McCarthy) TO USE MIKE MCPHILLIPS FOR STREET SWEEPING FOR SPRING AND FALL OF 2013 AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS.

City Attorney Sandstrom stated that staff could work out the details with Mike McPhillips for the spring and fall street sweeping, create a written contract, and have that on the Consent Agenda at the March 18, 2013 City Council meeting.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Parotti noted that he will start preparing bid documents for crack sealing, patching, and seal coating. He reminded the City Council that they did not award all seal coating projects originally scheduled for last year. He noted that the snow and ice needs to be gone before the bids for that work can be obtained.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Annual Tort Liability Limit Designation**

City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia explained that this item was not on the Consent Agenda as he did not feel comfortable making the decision for the City Council to then approve. He explained that cities obtaining liability coverage from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust must decide whether or not to waive the statutory tort liability limits. If the city does not waive the statutory tort limits, an individual claimant would be able to recover no more than \$500,000 on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply. If the city waives the statutory tort limits, a single claimant could potentially recover up to \$1,500,000 on a single occurrence. The city typically does not waive the statutory tort limits.

M/S/P (McCarthy, Reiter) TO NOT WAIVE THE STATUTORY TORT LIMITS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Lawful Gambling Permit, Flood Run Inc.**

M/S/P (Reiter, McCarthy) TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR EXEMPT PERMIT MINNESOTA LAWFUL GAMBLING FOR THE FLOOD RUN, INC. HELD AT THE BEACH BAR. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Propose Cost of Living Wage Adjustment for Staff (1.7%)**

City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia explained that due to the Social Security tax cut for employees running out, staff is seeing slightly smaller pay checks. Mr. DeRosia noted that he has not had a salary increase since he started his current position in 2010, and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Amy Truhlar has only seen a wage increase due to increased job duties. He asked that city staff receive a cost of living wage adjustment of 1.7%, based on the consumer price index. Councilmember Reiter asked if there was anything in the Personnel Policy regarding pay increases and noted the past practice of the city of awarding an annual cost of living increase to staff during budget discussions.

There was discussion regarding performance reviews. It was noted that City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia has not yet had a performance review since taking his current position in 2010. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer has had performance reviews performed by City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia on a regular basis. The City Council agreed that the performance review and cost of living increase were separate issues.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE 1.7% COST OF LIVING INCREASE TO STAFF RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2013 BECAUSE PAST PRACTICE HAS BEEN TO

ACCOMMODATE A COST OF LIVING INCREASE ANNUALLY.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER UNKER TO AMEND THE MOTION TO REQUIRE THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEET WITHIN 60 DAYS TO CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR THE CITY CLERK-ADMINISTRATOR. MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 NAY (KOPP).

Councilmember Kopp explained that she voted no because she felt that staff should get a 2% wage increase. M/S/P (Unker, Brown) THAT THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEET WITHIN 60 DAYS TO REVIEW THE PERFORMANCE OF CITY CLERK-ADMINISTRATOR DEROSIA.

Councilmember Reiter asked that staff review the Personnel Policy to investigate what it says regarding performance reviews.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **City Vehicle Use Policy**

City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia presented a city vehicle use policy to the City Council for adoption with three portions blank: those allowed to drive the vehicle, those allowed to ride as passengers, and key storage location. The City Council discussed who was allowed to drive off-road, city-owned vehicles, who was allowed to ride as a passenger, and where the keys would be stored. The City Council agreed that staff, elected officials, and appointed officials would be able to drive the vehicle with reason, and anyone covered under the city's insurance policy would be able to ride as a passenger in the vehicle. There was further discussion regarding where the keys should be stored. It was suggested that the keys should be securely locked in the City Clerk's office. Another suggestion was that they be kept at City Hall, but accessible so people allowed to drive the vehicle could access them when staff was not at City Hall.

M/S/P (McCarthy, Brown) TO APPROVE THE CITY OF LAKE ST. CROIX BEACH CITY VEHICLE USE POLICY AUTHORIZING CITY EMPLOYEES, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS TO DRIVE THE VEHICLE, ANYONE COVERED UNDER THE CITY'S INSURANCE POLICY TO RIDE AS A PASSENGER OF THE VEHICLE, AND THE KEYS WILL BE STORED AT CITY HALL.

Councilmember Reiter suggested that the keys should be locked inside a lockbox or keybox inside City Hall.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS**

- **Councilmember Brown's Report**

Councilmember Brown reported that he had attended the Planning Commission meeting, which although long, he felt had produced good results. Noting the amount of staff time a long meeting takes, he hoped future meetings could move along more quickly. He attended the Newly Elected Officials Conference and felt he got a lot of good and useful information.

- **Councilmember Kopp's Report**

Councilmember Kopp reported that she attended the Experienced Elected Officials Conference. She felt the conferences were a good use of city money.

Mary Parr, appointed to the Yellow Ribbon Alliance of the Lower St. Croix Valley (YRA), reported that she finds the group

and their work very interesting. However, the group is not very well-known in the lower valley area. Every first Tuesday of the month, the group has a fundraiser at Sail Away Café through a donation jar, and a portion of every meal ordered goes to the group. Councilmember Reiter will be the new marketing/communications director for the group. The YRA participated in Afton's Girls Night Out event. New officers were elected at the last meeting.

- **Councilmember Unker's Report**

Councilmember Unker reported that he attended the Cable Commission in February, and they discussed their goals and concerns for the coming year. The commission hired a consultant to help with the Franchise Agreement and they are inviting all elected officials to attend an informational two hour meeting to explain the franchise agreement and the process to renegotiate the agreement. The date is yet to be determined. He reported he also attended the Newly Elected Officials Conference.

- **Councilmember Reiter's Report**

Councilmember Reiter reported that she attended the Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC)/Recycle Committee, and the group is in need of additional members. EAC/Recycle Committee will be looking at requests for proposals (RFPs) for recycling. The current recycling contract runs out December 31, 2013.

At the Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization (WMO), a resident of Lake St. Croix Beach was awarded payment of a grant for his raingarden at Quentin Avenue South near 16th Street South where the roadway was often ponding. She is now the secretary of the WMO.

Councilmember Reiter attended the Experienced Elected Officials Conference. The League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference will be held in St. Paul and encouraged all the City Council to attend.

Through the Partnership Team, Councilmember Reiter and Councilmember Kopp have been tasked with reviewing a property in Prescott, which proposes to build in the bluffland area. This project is going through court. She stated that she is glad the City Council was able to reach an agreement with property owners earlier in the meeting as the improved housing stock is good for the city. Councilmember Reiter noted that with the St. Croix River in close proximity, the city needs to be cognizant of the Riverway rules when making decisions.

- **Mayor McCarthy's Report**

Mayor McCarthy thanked the City Council and the Planning Commission for their work on the variance request discussed earlier in the meeting. He reminded the City Council that in 2012, the City Council approved the purchase of a new laptop. Since that time, the city's current laptop was repaired. He suggested the purchase of a new laptop, and there was discussion regarding software that would type for the user and have voice recognition.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$600 (FROM THE CABLE COMMISSION FUNDS) FOR A NEW LAPTOP FOR CITY STAFF USE COMPATIBLE WITH THE TAKING OF MINUTES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor McCarthy thanked residents for removing recycle bins from the street area as this enabled the snowplow contractor to widen the roads and plow to the edge of the street.

- **City Attorney's Report**

Nothing further to report.

City Clerk-Administrator DeRosia's Report

City Clerk-Administrator Michael DeRosia reported that the City of Lakeland is initiating talks with the five cities to improve the bike trail. They are looking at possible grant money from the Lower St. Croix Valley Foundation and/or the DNR. It was suggested that this be added as a line-item in the budget. In 2009, Lakeland was given a quote of \$15 per foot to resurface the trail.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Truhlar's Report

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Amy Truhlar presented the bills for the month totaling \$47,082.64. The largest expense was to Washington County for July – December 2012 police protection services (\$28,555.21) and the 2013 Code Red fee (\$82.60). \$6,000 went for salting/sanding and plowing the roads.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$47,082.64. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was noted that city offices would be closed on Monday, February 18, 2013 in observance of Presidents Day.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S/P (Reiter, Kopp) TO ADJOURN AT 9:48 P.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Acronyms and abbreviations that may appear in this newsletter.

CC	=	City Council
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

Icy Roads and Salty Water

When it comes to winter weather, it seems that there are two kinds of Minnesotans. The first curses the snow as it billows in, cranks up the thermostat to combat the frigid air and buys plane tickets for a tropical destination. The second group of Minnesotans secretly relishes the adventure of winter. With the snow comes the opportunity for sledding, skiing and snowmobiling. Sub-zero temperatures also mean the lakes will be amply covered in ice for skating and ice fishing.

Not sure yet whether you love or hate winter? Don't worry; you'll have plenty of time to make up your mind. Winter in Minnesota lasts a long, long time. In fact, it may seem odd to talk about water quality at this time of year, when our lakes are buried under a layer of ice, our swimsuits are wadded up at the bottom of a dresser drawer, and the spring fishing opener is still months away. Even in the winter, though, there are things we can do to ensure that our lakes and rivers will be fishable and swimmable come summer.

Road salt poses one of the larger threats to water quality during the winter. Salt splashed from the road kills nearby vegetation and can leave a border of dead and dying trees and shrubs along major roadways. Ex-

cess sodium from the most commonly used road salt, sodium chloride, destroys soil structure, which reduces its ability to retain water and increases the amount of erosion. Both sodium and chloride can also leach into subsurface groundwater supplies, impacting the water we drink.

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.

Whether you spend your winters on top of the ski hills or under the covers, we can all make smart decisions to protect the quality of the natural resources we enjoy throughout the year.

Hazard Mitigation Topic



There's Water Underground

When you hear the term "groundwater," what do you think? Perhaps you picture an underground lake in a cavern somewhere or possibly a subterranean river. Maybe you think of that glass of water you knocked over last week – if the water's on the ground, it must be ground water!

Here in Washington County, 100% of the water we drink comes from groundwater. When it rains, water soaks into the ground and continues to percolate downward until it reaches the water table. We are able to drink groundwater because it is clean and relatively plentiful. Most pollutants are filtered out of rainwater as it percolates into the ground, and once ground water is contained within an aquifer, it is protected from bacteria and other organic pollutants.

The biggest threat to ground water supplies in our area is simply overuse. When we are careless with the amount of water we use, we can draw down ground water supplies, requiring cities and homeowners to drill new wells. We can keep our ground water clean by doing many of the same things that keep our lakes and rivers clean. During the winter, limit your use of salt and de-icers and dispose of hazardous waste such as used motor oil, fluorescent light bulbs, and propane tanks at the county hazardous waste facility.

Though we may not be able to see it, we are all dependent on groundwater, and by making smart decisions around our home, we can all play a part in protecting it.

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.

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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E-Mail: chazbrown@comcast.net

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Cindie Reiter

Councilmember, 436-8244

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Jim Unker

Councilmember, 340-5800

E-Mail: 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

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Al Franken

U. S. Senator 651-221-1016

E-mail: info@franken.senate.gov

Meeting Schedule

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