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THE Ham Laker

Published by the City of Ham Lake, Minnesota

August 2023 ~ Volume 38, No. 8

Thanks for a Successful Freedom Festival

From Kari Lund, Executive Director of the Ham Lake Area Chamber of Commerce:

We are so proud to be a part of this great nation and to be Ham Lakers. This year's Freedom Festival was a wonderful demonstration of neighbors coming together to enjoy great food, fun and friends and to celebrate what it is to be Ham Lake. Thank YOU, our community, for coming out to celebrate!



Fun at Ham Lake's Freedom Festival

We are grateful and thankful for our event committee and others who donated their time and talents to this event, for all of our food vendors, activities, craft and business expo booths. To the Ham Lake Lions for the dunk tank, KidSight tent, HLACC Charitable Gambling for the bingo, Jam Hops - Old Page for the obstacle course and gymnastic demos. To Scouts BSA Troop 3509 for Boys - Ham Lake and Scouts BSA Troop 5509 for Girls - Ham Lake for the archery booth (and clean up on Sunday morning!). To Upper Midwest Athletic Construction for the free pork sandwiches, Shotgun Drama Junkies for the incredible music, Ham Lake Fire Department and the Anoka County Sheriff's Office for the vehicle demos/traffic control.

A HUGE thank you to our amazing sponsors who made this event spectacular: Falcon National Bank, Twin Cities Gateway, Arko Companies, Upper Midwest Athletic Construction, Jam Hops - Old Page, The Treat Truck and Edward Jones Ham Lake.

We take great pride in our community and love putting this event together. Cheers to the 4th and we look forward to another great event next year!

Articles and photos that appear in *The Ham Laker*, along with other useful information about the City, can be found on the City's website:

www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us

Want to Have a Campfire at Your Home?

Know the safety rules and City Ordinances before lighting that fire!

Sitting under the stars by a crackling fire has its appeal. It's where stories are told, sing-a-longs happen and meals are cooked over an open flame. Campfires bring family and friends together.

But campfire mishaps can cause injuries. With a few safety tips, you can prevent these accidents.

Campfires (or recreational fires) are generally allowed if you observe the following City Ordinances and recommendations, except for times when all outside burning is banned due to extremely dry conditions:

- ✓ Not more than three feet in diameter and height
- ✓ At least 25 feet from structures, wood piles and other combustibles
- ✓ Constantly attended by an adult
- ✓ Have water or some other means of extinguishment immediately available

- ✓ Only dry, clean wood may be burned
- ✓ Fire must be completely extinguished when you're finished

Please note the following CANNOT be burned at any time: leaves, grass, garbage, green or wet wood, painted or treated lumber, furniture, etc.

Tip: Never shake a roasting marshmallow. It can turn into a flying, flaming ball.

Open burning may be allowed when a permit has been issued. Applications for open burning permits are available at City Hall.

You can find more information on these topics on the City's website (www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us). See Article 8; Section 8-800 of the City Code.



Reducing Stormwater Pond Algae Blooms

Most ponds in residential and commercial areas have been constructed as a tool for capturing runoff pollution—like phosphorus—from rainfall and snowmelt. Phosphorus can feed plant and algae growth to excess, creating algal blooms. Ponds can then look green and smell badly. This is especially true in late summer or during drought.

So, if your pond is green and smelly, it is working like it is supposed to by capturing the excess phosphorus.

Note: Sometimes, the green is not algae but tiny plants like duckweed or watermeal. These don't usually smell and are important food for ducks and ducklings.

If the water looks like green paint on its surface, it may be blue-green "algae," a type of bacteria that indicates a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB). For more HAB info, go to www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/blue-green-algae-and-harmful-algal-blooms.

How to reduce algal blooms? Reduce phosphorus pollution!



Only use phosphorus fertilizers if your lawn needs it

1. If you fertilize your lawn, first find out if phosphorus is even needed.

a. Check out the UMN Soil Lab for process and cost: Call 612.625.3101 or go online to: soiltest.cfan.s.umn.edu/testing-services/lawn-garden

b. Use "natural fertilizer" by grasscycling: leave grass clippings on your lawn as you mow. Up to one inch in length will easily decompose.

2. Keep an unmowed strip of vegetation surrounding the pond. Plant native flowers for our pollinators like hummingbirds, butterflies or the endangered rusty patch bumblebee. Long-rooted vegetation can help filter out pollutants before they get to the pond. Long roots also reduce soil loss from erosion.

3. Pick up the dog poo! Pet waste can contribute excessive phosphorus and bacteria.

4. Don't feed the ducks! Their waste can be a source of bacteria in waterways.

Recreational activities on stormwater ponds are not recommended because stormwater runoff can contain sediments, nutrients, bacteria, trace metals, oil and grease and organic contaminants such as pesticides.

Information provided by Coon Creek Watershed District: www.cooncreekwd.org or 763-755-0975

Ham Lake City Council News

At its June 20, 2023 meeting the City Council took the following actions:

Approved items on the Consent Agenda included:

- Lot line adjustment for the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency located at 4536 Crosstown Blvd NE in Section 12
- Replacing ballfields 1-4 fencing at Lion's Park
- Adopted Resolution No. 23-27 approving the vacation of a portion of the drainage and utility easements located on Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 3, Creekside Farms.
- Approved the request of Kevin Hentges, Hentges Turf Farm, Inc., requesting Preliminary and Final Plat approval for the Hentges Addition a Minor Plat (2 lots) in Sections 15 and 22 and rezoning of Lot 2, Block 1, Hentges Addition, from Rural Single Family Residential (R-A) to Single Family Residential, subject to requirements.

At its July 5, 2023 meeting the City Council took the following actions:

Approved items on the Consent Agenda included:

- Ordinance No. 23-04 rezoning Hentges Addition
- 2024 North Metro Telecommunications Commission Budget (NMTV)
- Purchasing two new Single Axel Plow Trucks for the Public Works Department

Visit the City's website to view Council and Planning meeting videos on-demand and agenda minutes of City Council and Planning Commission: www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us.

Sheriff's Report

Thefts & Damage to Property

06.12 16xx Deerwood Dr NE—vandalism; group of kids throwing rocks at siding causing damage

06.16 164xx Hwy 65 NE—vehicle stolen out of a business parking lot

06.24 171xx Van Buren St NE—enclosed trailer was stolen from the property; captured on video

06.25 90xx Birchview Ln NE—vehicle was stolen overnight

06.26 163xx Polk St NE—forced entry into a secured mailbox, check stolen

06.28 169xx Van Buren St NE—stolen vehicle out of St. Paul was located, abandoned

06.28 10xx Meadow Lane NE—unlocked vehicle rummaged through overnight in driveway

06.30 138xx Lincoln St NE—multiple checks stolen from a business mailbox, checks cashed

07.06 172xx Kenyon St NE—vehicle window broken in parking lot

Arrests

06.12 Crosstown/Rendova St NE—Drugs; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. When he made contact with the driver he saw paraphernalia and drugs in the vehicle. The driver was searched and meth was found. He was arrested.

06.20 Xylite/Crosstown Blvd NE—Drugs; a caller observed a woman wandering around the area and requested we check her welfare. When the deputy arrived they located a female who is familiar to us and is homeless. She also had a warrant. While searching her after she was arrested for the warrant, meth was found on her.

06.22 Hwy 65/Andover Blvd NE—Warrant Arrest; a caller requested a deputy check on a male walking on Hwy 65. The deputy stopped and the male requested a ride because of the heat. He was identified and found to have three warrants. He was arrested.

07.04 181xx Hwy 65 NE—Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a dispute between a boyfriend and girlfriend. After investigating the boyfriend was arrested.

- Rescinding Resolution No. 23-23 and adoption of Resolution No. 23-28 scheduling a public hearing to vacate a portion of the drainage and utility easement located on Lot 12, Block 1, Timber Woods in Section 35
- Resolution No. 23-29 for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding for Creek Valley Street Reconstruction Project
- Resolution No. 23-30 accepting a \$2,500 donation from the Ham Lake Chamber of Commerce
- Approve the request of Richard and Diane Sylvester for Preliminary and Final Plat approval and rezoning of a portion of land from R-A (Rural Single Family Residential) to R-1 (Single Family Residential) of Toby's Trails (3 single family residential lots) located in Section 15, subject to requirements.
- Approve the request Jeff Stalberger, HFN Properties, LLC, for Preliminary Plat approval and rezoning of portions of land from R-A (Rural Single Family Residential) to R-1 (Single Family Residential) of Hidden Forest East 4th Addition (22 Single Family Residential lots and 3 out-lots) in Sections 24 and 25, subject to requirements.
- Approve the application of Stone Construction to build a 12,992 square foot addition to the existing Jam Hops building located at 1460 133rd Lane NE, subject to requirements.

Recycle Smart

Don't Put Bulky Plastics in Your Recycling Cart!

It might be tempting to put that broken hamper in your curbside recycling cart. Or bring your child's large worn toy to the recycling center. It's plastic, so it's recyclable, right?

Actually, that is NOT correct. Curbside programs are set up to sort plastic bottles, cups and containers that are numbered #1, #2 and #5.

Large, bulky plastic items like children's toys, kiddie pools, lawn furniture, laundry hampers, plant pots, buckets and other large plastic household items, should not be put in a curbside recycling cart.

Drop-off centers don't want them either because they ARE NOT recyclable.



Large, bulky plastic items like kids' toys, milk crates, coolers and 5-gallon pails are NOT recyclable

If these items are still in good condition, consider reusing or donating them. If they're damaged, contact your hauler before you throw them away for more details and to see if there's a charge to dispose of them.

Ham Lake Farmer's Market

The Ham Lake Farmers and Artisan Market is underway each Wednesday in the Mickman Brothers Parking lot (14630 Hwy 65 NE, Ham Lake). The Market will be held every Wednesday from 3:00-7:00 pm through September 27th. For more information see the website: www.hamlakeareacc.org/events/farmersmarket. Weekly updates are posted on the Chamber's Facebook and Instagram pages.

IRS Warns Taxpayers of New Scam

The Ham Lake Area Chamber of Commerce offered this warning to its members from the IRS, dated July 3, 2023:

The Internal Revenue Service is warning taxpayers to be on the lookout for a new scam mailing that tries to mislead people into believing they are owed a refund.

The new scheme involves a mailing in a cardboard envelope from a delivery service. The enclosed letter includes the IRS masthead and wording that the notice is "in relation to your unclaimed refund."

Like many scams, the letter includes contact information and a phone number that do not belong to the IRS. It also seeks a variety of sensitive personal information from taxpayers—like pictures of driver's licenses—that can be used by identity thieves to try obtaining a tax refund and other sensitive financial information.

This new scam contains many warning signs that can be seen in similar schemes that come through email or text. This scam tries to trick people into emailing or calling in very detailed personal information: "filing information."

This letter contains a variety of warning signs like odd punctuation and a mixture of fonts, as well as inaccuracies in dates and terms like "unclaimed property."

Educate yourself about the worst tax scams here: www.irs.gov/newsroom/dirty-dozen

September Issue Deadline: Wed., August 9 @ noon

Please send all Ham Laker correspondence, articles and ideas to:

City of Ham Lake
15544 Central Ave NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304

Email: HamLaker@ci.ham-lake.mn.us

For advertising information please contact City Hall at 763-434-9555

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Ham Lake Contacts

City Hall: 763-434-9555

To report emergencies after office hours call 911.

City Hall Hours: Monday-Thursday: 7:00-4:30

Friday: 7:00-11:00

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CarFit is Free

CarFit is a FREE, interactive program that teaches participants how to make their personal vehicle "fit" them to increase safety and mobility.

They review 12 key areas including seat belts, mirrors, head restraints and spacing. Each checkup takes about 20 minutes.

The CarFit event will be held at the Ham Lake Senior Center parking lot on September 9th from 9:00 am to noon.

To schedule your appointment, please call the Ham Lake Senior Center at 763-434-0455. This is not a driving test or mechanical inspection. For more information visit www.car-fit.org.



Ham Lake Receives Community Safety Grant

The following is from a press release from CenterPoint Energy:

CenterPoint Energy is pleased to present the City of Ham Lake with a Community Safety Grant for \$1,000 that will be used for [seven] multi-gas monitors.

Across our Minnesota service area, CenterPoint Energy awarded nearly \$104,000 to 49 communities to support safety projects in 2023. The Community Safety Grant program helps communities leverage local funds to purchase critical safety equipment or support safety projects that are important to your community.

CenterPoint Energy Community Safety Grants have enabled communities to install public AEDs (automated external defibrillators), update emergency communication equipment, purchase protective gear for first responders, install traffic control signs, purchase gas monitoring devices and more.

CenterPoint Energy is Minnesota's largest natural gas utility, serving 900,000 residential and business customers in more than 260 communities.

The Community Safety Grant program offers an opportunity for CenterPoint Energy to invest in the communities we serve. For more than 150 years, we have partnered with communities in support of our shared commitment to safety while delivering safe, reliable natural gas.

Since 2003, the Community Safety Grant program has awarded more than \$3 million in donations and provided funding to support more than 1,500 projects in communities throughout CenterPoint Energy's service area.

Thank you for your efforts to make your community safer.

The Grant was presented to Mike Raczkowski, Ham Lake's Fire Chief, in June 2023.

June Building Permits

The City of Ham Lake issued 170 permits in June with a valuation of \$2,432,671.00.

The issued permits are as follows: one commercial remodel, one commercial sign, one government new construction, seven residential new construction, two residential remodel, two residential addition, two residential basement finish, one residential house move-in, seven residential accessory building, 12 deck, eight pool, two residential miscellaneous, one residential solar panel and 40 roofing/siding.

Other permits include 47 mechanical, 20 plumbing and 16 septic installations.

Happenings at the Senior Center

Open Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 3:30 pm
15544 Central Ave NE in Ham Lake
763-434-0455

THE SENIOR CENTER IS OPEN for all activities and meals (Mondays and Wednesdays). Please spread the word to everyone as some people didn't renew their membership last year and may not be getting the newsletter.

City Hall collection box for flexible plastics. Everything must be clean. Grocery bags, bread bags, bubble wrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, plastic shipping envelopes, re-closable food storage bags, cereal bags, water bottle case overwrap, salt bags, pallet wrap and stretch film, wood pellet bags and produce bags.

Senior Dining on Mondays and Wednesdays each week at noon. **Reservations needed!** Meals are \$7 for those 55+ and \$10 for those younger than 55.

Senior Center Activities include vet coffee, fitness class, cribbage, wood carving, Bingo, 500 cards, Hand & Foot cards and Dominoes.

Watch for upcoming trips to the Casino (open to the public), Jam Sessions during the day and evening (open to the public), health insurance counseling, scheduled shopping trips for those who need transportation, free blood pressure checks and a birthday lunch.

Call the Senior Center to find out about the dates, times and details of these and other special events.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSES for 2023 are held by MHSRC (Minnesota Highway Safety Research Center) for those 55 and older. Registration is required. Call 1-888-234-1294 for information and to register. Or go online: www.stcloudstate.edu/continuingstudies/mhsrc/55-plus

4-Hour Refresher Course: You need to take this every three years. Time flies, so make sure you are current! The fee is \$24 for the 4-hour class:

Friday, September 15: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday, November 10: 12:00 - 4:00 pm

8-Hour Course for "First Timers"

There are none scheduled at this time.

Did you know? If you're 55 years or older, state law requires your insurance company to give you a 10% discount after taking an 8-hour Defensive Driving Course and attending a 4-hour refresher course every three years.

NOTE: The Ham Lake Senior Center is NOT available for rent!

Ham Lake Spotlight: Foundations Christian Academy

Foundations Christian Academy is Ham Lake's newest school. Last year was the inaugural year for this kindergarten-through-grade-8 private school.

Foundation's mission is to partner with parents to build Christian character through affordable and biblical education.

First, the administration and teachers recognize the need and value for parents to have a partner in their children's education—a partner with shared values and respect for the parent's ultimate responsibility for their children's education.

Building character in their students—traits like honesty, kindness, humility and self-control—is emphasized in every classroom. "We want to provide an option for families that want their children's school to build on the same values they have at home," said Sarah Brown, a teacher at Foundations.

Second, Foundations fully embraces the Bible as the basis for truth, and emphasizes growth in Christian character in their students. Head of School, Brad Sunderland, said, "Truths that have been accepted culturally for generations are being challenged today. We believe and teach that there are certain things that will always be true, regardless of your age or where you live."

The school has an all-grade chapel service each week that's also open to family members. Pastors from local churches are invited to speak.

Third, the school is committed to being affordable for families. The staff doesn't want financial barriers to be the reason a child cannot receive a Christian education. Their tuition is far below many of the metro area's other private schools. Financial assistance is available through private and corporate donations to families that qualify.

Fourth, the school is academically rigorous but sees the goal of education as learning to think critically and biblically, not just memorize facts for tests. Research, thoughtful reasoning, relating to the world around them, and recording their findings in age-appropriate ways all play into the academics at Foundations.

The school has been growing, with its facility (located in Crosstown Mall on Highway 65 and Crosstown Blvd) able to handle up to 160 students. Each classroom is capped at 20 students, ensuring

small class sizes. The staff hopes to add a high school in the future.

Because it's so new, there are openings for additional students for the upcoming 2023/24 school year. If you are exploring education options for your kids, take a look at the website and schedule a tour (www.learnatfoundations.org).



A class field trip to Oliver Kelley Farm

Foundations Christian Academy receives no public funding. Rather its funding relies on student tuition and the generous gifts of individuals and business donors that support our mission. Sarah said, "The benefit of having this school in our community is that we're building future workers and future leaders for our community."

Volunteering is another way to support the school. While parents aren't required to volunteer, many of them do. Grandparents and community members have also come forward to give their time and skills to help. If you are interested in sharing your time, talent or resources to support their mission, please reach out.

To learn more, go to Foundations' website: www.learnatfoundations.org, call the school office at 651-783-2217, or send an email to admissions@learnatfoundations.org.

Fire Department Calls

The Ham Lake Fire Department responded to 34 calls during the month of June: 19 during the day and 15 at night. The department spent just over 54 hours on calls with a total personal time adding up to 454 hours.

Year-to-date, the department has answered 196 calls, compared with 224 calls at the same time last year.

Silver Sneakers and Silver & Fit Members

Anytime Fitness Ham Lake (1460 133rd Ln NE, Unit B) offers Silver Sipper Sessions for seniors 65+. Come for a coffee, stay for a workout!

The sessions are offered Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:15 and 10:00 am.

These are first-come, first-served. Staff will hand out tickets to the first 15. After those are taken, the next 15 will be handed out for the 10:00 session.

Ham Lake is Open to Business

Anoka County's Open To Business program offers free, one-on-one, confidential consulting to help entrepreneurs grow or launch their business.

The program offers business owners help with accounting, business plans, networking, marketing, cash flow, planning, loan packaging and more. It is offering in partnership with the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers,



Want to learn more? Contact Carrie Mikkonen at 763-438-7315 or cmikkonen@mccdmn.org. Or you can visit the Open To Business website at: www.opentobusinessmn.org.

Hole-in-One Hall of Fame

The following golfer at Majestic Oaks Golf Club got a hole-on-one recently:

- Jordan Jeske from Lino Lakes • 190 yards on Crossroads Course #17 with an 8 Iron
- John Santelices from Prior Lake • 153 yards on Crossroads Course #13 with a 9 Iron





Crosstown Chiropractic, PA
Mackenzie Engelstad, D.C. • Logan Engelstad, D.C.

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24 HOUR SERVICE

Fall Recycling Event • Saturday, September 9

Residents may drop off recyclable items at Ham Lake City Hall (15544 Central Ave NE) on Saturday, September 9th from 8:00 am to noon. Vendors will collect fees directly for various items.

Participating Vendors

Participating vendors in this event include:

- City of Ham Lake (bicycles, paper for shredding vehicle batteries, scrap metal, brush)
- Evergreen Recycling (mattresses/box springs)
- Recycle Technologies (electronics and bulbs)
- JR's Advanced Recyclers (appliances, propane tanks, tires on and off-rim)

Accepted Materials/Fees per Item

Appliances	\$10
Batteries	
Household	\$1.75/lb
Lithium.....	\$6.75/lb
Vehicle (<i>sealed lead acid</i>)	FREE
Bicycles	FREE
Brush (<i>tree limbs and brush no longer than 8 feet and no larger than 4 inches in diameter</i>)	FREE
Clothing/bedding/shoes/accessories—U'SAgain Drop Box.....	FREE
Electronics	
Small-medium (<i>Ex. blender, VCR, stereo, etc.</i>)	\$6
TVs and monitors up to 17 inches.....	\$20*
TVs and monitors 18-31 inches	\$30*
TVs and monitors 32 inches and over	\$55*
Console/Rear projection TVs	\$85*
*Additional fees may be charged for broken TVs or CRTs	
Printers/scanners/fax machines (<i>residential</i>).....	\$10-\$35
Printers (<i>all in one</i>).....	\$35
Large copiers	\$95
Fluorescent bulbs	\$.50-\$2.50
Fluorescent light fixtures.....	\$25
Holiday lights.....	FREE
Mattresses/box springs (<i>each</i>).....	\$20-\$25
Paper shredding (<i>secure drop box, shredded off-site</i>)	FREE
Propane tanks.....	\$5-\$10
Scrap metal	FREE
Tires	
ATV/motorcycle.....	\$3
Passenger	\$6
Bobcat/Skid steer.....	\$12
Light truck.....	\$6
Semi truck, off-rim.....	\$12
Semi truck, on-rim	\$14
Tractor, off-rim	\$75
Tractor, on-rim	\$77

Please note that each vendor must be paid separately

Funded by the Anoka County Board of Commissioners and State SCORE
(Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment funds)

Please call 763-434-9555 with questions

Community Calendar

AUGUST 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 7: City Council mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm

August 9: *The Ham Laker* ads and articles deadline for the September issue @ noon

August 14: Planning Commission mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm

August 21: City Council mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm

August 28: Planning Commission mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm

Tim Ross
Owner



612-961-0906
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