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FROM THE MAYOR



Hello Ham Lakers,

I want to give you all an update on the 2024 budget and tell you about some projects we have going on.

We recently wrapped up our 2024 budget. Like every budget, we handle the city's like we're at our own kitchen table making personal budget decisions. In the end,

we're seeing an increase in the levy of \$262,292. This is dropping our tax capacity rate by approximately .637%. This will continue to separate us from other cities, keeping us with one of the lowest tax rates in the state of Minnesota.

The big dollar increases are:

- \$105,004 staffing and operating costs for Fire Station 3
- \$50,000 increase into our Public Works Capital Improvement Plan
- \$39,811 Anoka County Sheriff's Department contract increase
- \$45,984 presidential elections

As I write this in mid-December, we're close to finishing up construction on Fire Station 3, and everything is going as planned. Ebert Construction hopes to be done by mid-January. We are very close to ordering a new engine for this station that should be in our fleet for the next 30 years. We've had a lot of support from local residents who have applied to join the fire department.

Thank you to those residents!

Here's what we've got going on with our parks for 2024:

- We have new playground equipment on order for Crosstown Rolling Acres Park
- We're replacing the park equipment at Grandpa Scott's Playground Park.

- At Hidden Forest East Park we're waiting for a
 wetland feasibility study to be completed along
 with hearing from the state on a DNR grant we're
 submitting to help pay for playground equipment.
 A lot of what the city does here will be based on
 what we hear back on the wetland study.
- Constance Estates Park will get a picnic shelter.
- Two parks get half-court basketball pads.

We have a lot of road projects taking place this year. We went out for bids on mill and overlays for the 2024 construction season. As I'm writing this, we haven't yet hit the bid opening date (December 27^{th}). The City Council will consider these bids at its January 2^{nd} meeting.

If the bids come in as expected, these neighborhoods will get a mill and overlay in the summer of 2024:

- Eagle Ridge Estates South
- Naples Estates
- Lever Street at 173rd Ave to 177th Ave
- $\bullet \ Royal \ Woods$
- Radisson Meadows
- Woodland Bluffs 3rd Addition

We have two full reconstruction projects due to take place this year: Crosstown Shopping Center and a portion of Meadow Park neighborhood north of Constance Blvd.

I'm very hopeful we'll be able to start construction of a frontage road this spring at the southeast corner of Highway 65 and Crosstown Blvd. From the intersection of Crosstown Blvd and Chisolm St, this road will travel south to connect with Baltimore St.

The city council has also been supporting the county and its efforts for major improvements at the intersection of Highway 65 and Bunker Lake Blvd.

There will be a lot more to come as we move forward.

I hope you all have a great 2024!

Mayor Kirkham

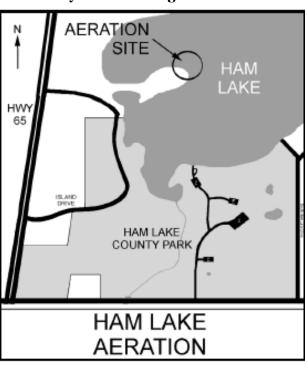
Public Notice

Be careful of risky thin ice at Ham Lake's aeration site

The City of Ham Lake hereby gives public notice of its intent to aerate Ham Lake to prevent winter kill of game fish. The City intends to use mobile systems which may be used at any time. The aeration systems will cause areas of thin ice and open water that fluctuate greatly.

If you have any questions concerning the aeration system, please contact Ham Lake City Hall at 763-434-9555.

WARNING! Stay Clear of Designated Areas



Be Safe on the Ice!

The Anoka County Sheriff's office provides these general ice thickness guidelines:

- 2 inches or less—stay off!
- 4 inches—ice fishing or other activities on foot
- 5 inches—snowmobile or ATV
- ullet 8-12 inches—car or small pickup
- ullet 12-15 inches—medium truck

These guidelines are for new, clear solid ice. White ice or "snow ice" is only about half as strong as new clear ice. Double the thickness guidelines when traveling on white ice.

Obey Ham Lake's Snow and Winter Parking Rules

Respect your neighbors by following the City's policy on parking and on where to deposit snow and ice. Minnesota State Statute 160.2715 makes it illegal for property owners to deposit snow or ice upon any street or highway. This includes the 15-foot right-of-way back from the curb.

Therefore, it is illegal to plow snow from your driveway and move it across the street onto the right-ofway of the property across from you.

That snow can increase spring flooding (even into yards and homes) and cause wear and tear on city plows if these piles freeze. Snowplow repair costs the taxpayers money, as does the extra time plowers need to remove illegal snow to a safe location.

Winter Parking

And remember, from October 1 through April 30, NO PARKING is allowed on Ham Lake streets between the hours of midnight and 6:00 am.

In addition, no parking is allowed in the daytime hours during or after a two-inch snowstorm or until the streets are plowed afterwards.

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

Christmas Tree and Light Recycling

Christmas trees, holiday lights and extension cords can be dropped off at the north side of the City Hall parking lot for recycling. Please place holiday lights and cords in the blue container with the green lid near the small garage.

Tree can be placed at the north side of the City Hall parking lot through January 7th. They must be clean of all tinsel and decorations.

HAM LAKE CITY COUNCIL NEWS

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

Approved items on the Consent Agenda included:

- The 12-month extension of the Memorandum of Understand (MOU) for Anoka County Economic Development
- Accepting the overpaid funds for the completion of the Joint Power Agreement (JPA) for the Sunrise Watershed Management Organization (SRWMO)
- The agreement with Anoka County allowing funds from the Office of the Secretary of State to be used to offset the annual Elections Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)
- Accepting the Crosstown Rolling Acres Third Addition project and releasing the maintenance security and adoption of Resolution No. 23-50
- Resolution No. 23-51 for an amendment to the Conditional Use Permit at 13830 Aberdeen St NE
- Resolution No. 23-52 to appoint signers and authorized traders for bank and investment accounts
- The Animal Humane Society (AHS) Letter of Understanding for Impound Services for 2024
- Approved the Sketch Plan for a development located at 2506 Swedish Drive NE as presented by Jeff Stalberger of MN Development, LLC for 47 Single Family Residential lots and two Outlots in Section 4, subject to requirements.

At its December 4, 2023 meeting the City Council took the following actions:

Approved items on the Consent Agenda included:

- Resolution No. 23-54 supporting the submittal of a Federal Funding Application for the Trunk Highway 65 and CSAH 116 (Bunker Lake Blvd) Interchange Project by the Anoka County Highway Department
- Hiring a part-time snow plow driver
- Various Business Licenses for tobacco, cabaret, vending machines, recycling/refuse and hotel/motel for several Ham Lake businesses
- Amending the Employee Handbook regarding Emergency Sick and Safe Time (ESST), Timesheets using the Employee Self-Serve (ESS) System and Safety Boots/Clothing
- Appointing Mayor Kirkham, Jeff Entsminger and Troy Wolens to two area water management organizations as city representatives
- Accepted the donation of land PIN #20-32-23-13-0009 from Robert and Dianne Arnold as a benefit to the citizens of Ham Lake, as allowed by law and adoption of Resolution No. 23-55.
- Approved Resolution 23-56 to take action and retain the entire cash security of \$19,840.00 so the City can install the required ADA compliant pedestrian ramps in the development of Whitetail Crossing 2nd Addition.

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

11.15 137xx Johnson St NE-enclosed trailer at job site pried open; nothing stolen

11.15 138xx Johnson St NE-2 vehicles at business forced entry into, drilled ignition, nothing stolen

11.23 25xx 134 Lane NE-a stolen vehicle was found at the property

11.24 144xx Hwy 65 NE-a vehicle was stolen off the lot and recovered in New Brighton

11.24 146xx Hwy 65 NE—a stolen vehicle out of Brooklyn Park was located at the location

11.29 10xx 181 Ave NE—illegal dumping in trash can on property

12.05 14xx Lombardy Dr NE,—theft of a firearm out of an unsecured vehicle

Burglaries

11.16 42xx 149 Ave NE—no forced entry, copper tubing stolen from construction site

Arrests

11.08 Hwy 65/Constance Blvd NE-Traffic; headlight out. The female driver didn't have a license or insurance and was issued a citation. The male passenger had a loaded handgun under the seat without a permit to carry. He was arrested.

11.09 14xx Flamingo Dr NE—Disorderly Conduct; family fight involving two males and one female. After investigating, the two males were arrested.

11.19 176xx Central Ave NE-DWI 4th degree; call to break up a bar fight. A female who was impaired was seen leaving the parking lot. She failed field sobriety tests and was arrested.

11.23 14xx Lombardy Dr NE-Domestic Assault; physical altercation between roommates. One male was arrested.

11.24 175xx Hwy 65 NE-Domestic Assault; physical domestic. After investigating, a female was arrested. 11.25 Constance/Tippecanoe St NE-DWI 1st degree; speeding 89/65. The driver failed field sobriety tests and he was arrested. Charges were elevated due to three prior DWI convictions and the high alcohol content.

11.26 173xx Zumbrota St NE—Warrant Arrest; deputies went to the location looking for a male with Ramsey County warrants. He was located and taken into custody.

12.01 154xx Hwy 65 NE—Warrant Arrest; deputy saw a male he knew had warrants. He stopped the vehicle, confirmed his identity and arrested him.

12.03 134xx Hwy 65 NE-Domestic Assault; a third party reported a possible assault taking place at the location. Deputies arrived and spoke with those involved. A male was arrested.

November Building Permits

The City of Ham Lake issued 85 permits in November with a valuation of \$1,265,585.00.

The issued permits are as follows: 2 commercial remodel, 1 residential new construction, 3 residential remodel, 1 residential basement finish, 2 residential addition, 1 residential accessory building, 3 residential deck, 1 residential porch, 3 residential solar panel and 28 roofing/siding.

Other permits include seventeen mechanical, fourteen plumbing and 9 septic installations.

Fire Department Calls

The Ham Lake Fire Department responded to 21 calls during the month of November: 11 during the day and 10 at night.

The department spent 203 personal hours responding to calls for the month. Year-to-date, the department has answered 316 calls, compared with 405 calls at the same time last year.

2024 Absentee Ballots

You can apply for an absentee ballot or register online to vote.

To request an absentee ballot for the 2024 elections, apply online at *mnvotes.gov*, use the online absentee application, or get one of the downloadable applications below:

- Absentee Application (Presidential Primary only)
- Absentee Application (all other elections)
- Large Print Absentee Application

Return your completed absentee application to the Anoka County Elections Office by mail, fax or email.



Elections and Voter Registration

Email: Elections@anokacountymn.gov

Address: 2100 3rd Ave, Suite 160, Anoka MN 55303

Phone: 763-324-1300 Fax: 763-324-1160

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

To request an application in an alternative format such as Braille, please call 1-877-600-8683.

Application deadline

You can apply for a ballot any time during the year, except the day of the election.

Leave time for election officials to mail your ballot. Your returned ballot must be received no later than Election Day.

February '24 Issue Deadline: Wed., January 10 @ 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

Editor: Sharon Brodin, Brodin Press LLC

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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

Brian Kirkham (Mayor) 612-978-2764

bkirkham@ci.ham-lake.mn.us

Jim Doyle (Council) 612-850-1698

jdoyle@ci.ham-lake.mn.us

Gary Kirkeide (Council)

763-434-9762

akirkeide@ci.ham-lake.mn.us

Al Parranto (Council) 763-355-5171

aparranto@ci.ham-lake.mn.us

Jesse Wilken (Council)

763-458-4608

jwilken@ci.ham-lake.mn.us

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Assistance Program 2024

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide will provide income tax services starting in February. The Tax-Aide program uses the talents of IRS certified volunteers to complete free tax returns for members of our community with a focus on low-income 50+. All tax returns will be completed the same day following safety protocols set forth by the Ham Lake Senior Center and AARP Foundation Tax-Aide.

Tax-Aide volunteers are taking appointments for the 2023 tax season from Monday, February 5 - April 15 at the Ham Lake Senior Center by appointment only. You will need a separate appointment for each year's return you need completed.

The appointment scheduling line will open the week of January 15, with appointments taken by the Ham Lake Senior Center. Please call 763-434-0455. Leave a message if necessary and we will return your call in the order received.

Prior to your appointment you will need to pick up required documents at the Ham Lake Senior Center. Please fill out the forms before your appointment. Collect all your tax documents (including your prior year's tax return) and bring everything with you to you appointment. Please be prompt!

Recycle Smart: Recycle Electronics and Cardboard After the Holidays

You may have received or purchased new electronics over the holidays. Make sure you recycle any old electronics plus the cardboard boxes they came in.

Recycling Electronics

- Call Ham Lake Haulers for curbside pickup
- Drop-off at Ham Lake recycling events (ci.ham-lake.mn.us/services/recycle/events)
- Drop-off at Recycle Technologies (recycletechnologies.com)

Recycling Corrugated Cardboard

Your actions matter! Cardboard is a very valuable resource that should be re-used. Making new boxes from used corrugated cardboard saves 75% of the energy used to manufacture cardboard boxes from virgin tree pulp. Liberty Paper in Becker, MN manufactures the outer layer of a cardboard box using old corrugated boxes cardboard.



Preparation:

- 1. Remove all packaging materials
- White Styrofoam and plastic film can be taken to the Coon Rapids Recycling Center (1831 111th Ave NW in Coon Rapids (coonrapidsmn.gov/390/ Recycling-Center)
- Excessive tape, twist ties and other materials need to be thrown away
- 2. Flatten the box. This saves space in the recycling container and makes sure all packaging materials are removed.
- 3. Recycle
- Curbside: For smaller boxes, place the flattened box along the side of your curbside recycling container so there is still room for bottles, cans and mixed paper
- Drop-off: For larger or multiple boxes, drop them off at the Ham Lake Recycling Center (ci.ham-lake. mn.us/services/recycle/center). It is located on the west end of the Ham Lake City Hall parking lot. Please flatten the cardboard to allow other residents space to recycle their boxes and hold costs down for the city.

HAPPENINGS AT THE SENIOR CENTER

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

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 are all accepted.

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, fun cribbage, wood carving, Bingo, 500 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 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 2024 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. The fee is \$24 for the 4-hour class:

- Friday, March 29 11:00 am 3:00 pm
- Friday, May 24 11:00 am 3:00 pm
- Friday, August 9 11:00 am 3:00 pm
- Friday, October 25 11:00 am 3:00 pm

8-Hour Course for "First Timers"

• Wednesday-Thursday, April 9-10 • 4:30-8:30 pm

Did you know? If you are 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!

Why Does Ham Lake Plow Snow the Way It Does?

Dealing with large amounts of snow is a challenge for everyone, including the City's snow plow drivers.

During and after large snowfalls, the city receives many calls related to plowing. One very popular question is: "When will the plow get to my street?"

The City of Ham Lake understands the importance of efficient and timely snow removal and ice control. Snow plowing policy and processes are reviewed annually to provide for safe travels for the greatest number of people on the roughly 158 miles of Citymanaged roadways.

The Public Works Department reviews a map of the City's public street systems. (This map clearly delineates thoroughfare and local residential streets.) The map is then divided into six routes, plus four cul-desac routes for purposes of snow removal and ice control. Within each of the areas, the City has classified city streets based on the street function, relative traffic volume and importance to the welfare of the community.

Those streets are classified as:

Priority A streets will be plowed first. These are higher volume streets which connect major sections of the city and provide access for emergency fire, police and medical services.

Priority B streets provide access to schools and commercial businesses. They're plowed next.

Priority C are low-volume residential streets which are plowed after Priority B streets.

Priority D are cul-de-sacs, plowed last.

The Public Works Superintendent or designated representative monitors street conditions to determine the timing and amount of equipment and personnel necessary to clear the streets.

During large snowfalls, the City has seven trucks dispatched to plow. The plows are assigned to specific sections of the City. When they leave the shop or "hub," plowing is done from the hub to outlying parts of the City. This saves time, is a more efficient way to plow and prevents plows from having to backtrack on streets already plowed.

Snow plows discharge snow on the right-hand side of the truck or curbside. The routes are designed to allow the trucks to always take right-hand turns to limit time spent backing up or turning around.

Maneuvering a large plow truck is more difficult than a passenger vehicle, especially when there are mounds of snow to drive around and through. Plows travel at an average speed of 10-20 mph, but that pace can be impacted by the amount and weight of snow, traffic, obstacles in in roadways, et cetera.

To help the plow drivers, be sure all unattended vehicles are off City streets during or after a snowfall until the streets have been cleared (per article 6-121 of the City Code).



Some roadways within the City are managed by Mn-DOT or the Anoka County Highway Department. Examples of those roads are Highway 65 (managed by MnDOT), Constance Boulevard, Crosstown Boulevard, Bunker Lake Boulevard and Radisson Road (managed by the Anoka County Highway Department).

Please direct your questions or concerns about those roads or conditions to the responsible organization:

MnDOT Information Center • M-F, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm • 651-296-3000 or 800-657-3774

Anoka County Highway Department • M-F, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm • 763-324-3100

50th Annual Christmas Party for Local Senior Citizens

On Sunday, December 3, the Ham Lake Lions and Scouts came together to host the 50th Annual Christmas Party for local senior citizens. With the generous support of the Ham Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and Glen Cary Lutheran Church, about 140 seniors enjoyed music from the Elk River German Band, dinner and a visit from Santa.

Special thanks to the 40+ volunteers from Scouts BSA Troops 3509 and 5509, as well as the local Order of the Arrow Chapter and the Ham Lake Lions, who made this amazing event happen!

A good time was had by one and all!

2023 Santa Rides: NACE Donation Update

Each year the Ham Lake Fire Department and Santa collect donations as they visit all of the residents!



This year's numbers have been reported and WOW look at these incredible numbers—11,765 pounds of food and \$8,272 cash! Our firefighters were able to deliver the donations to NACE just in time for the holidays.



For more information about the services and programs NACE provides, please visit the website at www.nacefoodshelf.org.

A HUGE THANK YOU to the Ham Lake residents, the firefighters and all the volunteers who participated this year. We hope to see you again next year!







Ham Lake Business Spotlight: Mansetti's Pizza & Pasta

Mansetti's Pizza & Pasta has been serving delicious pizza and pasta to Ham Lakers and our neighbors since 1998. If you're doing your math, that means they just celebrated 25 years in business this August.

According to founding owner Troy Smith, all their food is made from scratch. That includes their pizza sauce and dough, and the pasta sauces and dishes. Customers can come into the restaurant to eat, order food by phone or online and pick it up, or order for delivery.

Besides a wide range of pizza options, some of their other tasty menu items are various styles of spaghetti, rigatoni, fettuccine, manicotti, tortellini, ravioli and penne rigate. There are vegetarian and gluten-free options available too, as well as different types of salads to choose from. Their calzones are a big hit with their customers, as are their appetizers like cheesy garlic toast, mozzarella sticks and jalapeño poppers.

Mansetti's is known for its friendly, community atmosphere. Troy appreciates how he and his family (his wife also works at Mansetti's, as well as his son from time to time) have gotten to know many of their regular customers over the years. He also loves to see the kids grow up—both those who come as customers and those who work for them.

"It's fun to see your employees grow up and move on, get into different careers," Troy said. "One is now at Boston Scientific, another one owns his own car dealership."

One of those former young employees, Rourke Rodwell, is now his business partner. Rourke bought into Mansetti's in 2021 after trying a different route out of high school first. He went back to Troy when he realized he'd rather be in the restaurant business.

"He's 25 years old," said Troy, "the same age as I was when I first opened the restaurant in '98. Rourke handles the everyday operations. We have meetings once a week and discuss what we want to do and what changes we want to make."

"It's been awesome to learn under Troy and have him as a role model," said Rourke. "He's always walking me through the things I'm still learning. I feel like I grow every day because I have him by my side."

One of the big changes they decided to stick with after the pandemic was to forego wait staff. It was difficult to find staff in the first place, and the layout of their restaurant makes it easy for customers to order, seat themselves and get their own beverages. This set-up has helped them cut costs while keeping the customer experience high and their food as good as ever.

Two other services Mansetti's offers are catering and a food truck. Customers can hire the Mansetti's team to cater Christmas parties, birthday parties, weddings and other events for groups of 20-300 people. Their homemade pasta dishes are especially popular for these catered events.

The food truck carries genuine Mansetti's recipes like pizza by the slice, penne with your choice of sauce, meatballs on a stick and other popular quick eats. Another business partner, Ryan Granlund, handles the seasonal food truck operations from about March through October every year.

Check Mansetti's website for daily specials and to order online at: *MansettisHamLake.com*. For information on hiring the food truck or to see where it'll be next see: *www.mansettis.com/food-truck-for-hire*. To eat in their dining room you'll find them at 16220 Aberdeen St NE Suite C on the southeast corner of Highway 65 and Constance Blvd.



Rourke Rodwell and Troy Smith, co-owners of Mansetti's Pizza & Pasta

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Jan 1: City Offices closed in observance of New Year's Day

Jan 2: City Council mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm Jan 8: Planning Commission mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm

Jan 10: *The Ham Laker* ads and articles deadline for the February issue @ noon

Jan 15: City Offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan 16: City Council mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm Jan 22: Planning Commission mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm

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JANUARY 2024

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2330 Crosstown Blvd NE Ham Lake, MN 55304 (1 mile East of HWY 65) Same day appointments available!

763-434-5714 Crosstownclinic.com