

THE Ham Laker

Published by the City of Ham Lake, Minnesota

March 2024 ~ Volume 39, No. 3

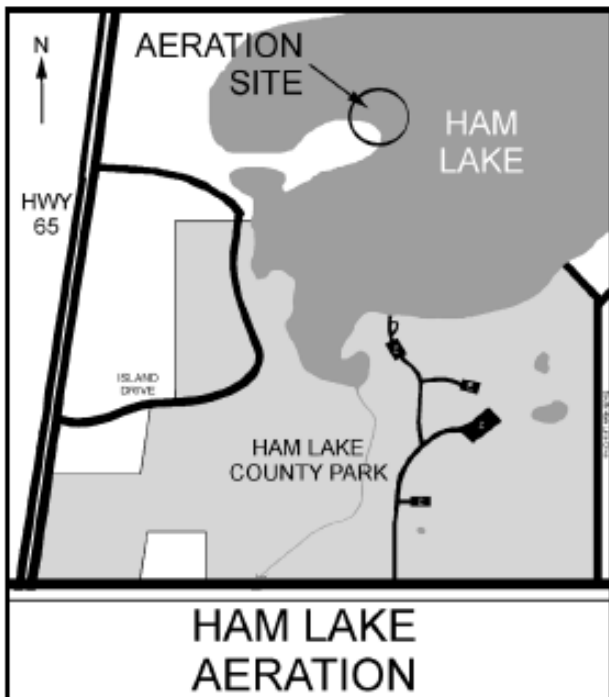
Public Notice: Thin Ice at Ham Lake's Aeration Site

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 risky thin ice and open water that fluctuate greatly.

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

Warning: Stay clear of designated areas!



Mark Your Calendars

Ham Lake's Fireworks display will be on Saturday, June 29, 2024 at dusk in Lion's Park.

Mark your calendars today so you don't miss it!



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

Charter Commission Meets Wednesday, March 27

The next meeting of the Ham Lake Charter Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27th at 6:00 pm at the Ham Lake City Hall.

Any citizen who has items they would like placed on the agenda for consideration, or who would like to appear before the Commission to discuss a subject pertaining to the City Charter, must submit them to the Ham Lake City Hall.

This can be done by email: info@ci.ham-lake.mn.us (please type "Charter Commission" in the subject line) or fax (attention of Charter Commission) at 763-434-9599 no later than 4:30 pm on Monday, March 18th.

Ham Lake's Winter Parking Rules

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.

Tree Trimming in the City's Right-of-Way

Boulevard trees are trees that are located in the City's Right-of-Way.

Tree trimming maintenance is generally done in the fall, winter or spring as weather permits. The primary objective is to remove low hanging or broken branches and sightline obstructions that either are or could be a problem in the future.

Tree removal is generally assigned through the Public Works Department.

Septic System Repair & Replacement Grants

Grants are available for qualifying homeowners through Anoka County to repair or replace a septic system:

- Homesteaded single family homes or duplexes in Anoka County
- Must have been inspected and issued a certificate of non-compliance
- May NOT be used for tank pumping or other maintenance
- Household must meet low income threshold. Grant covers up to 90% depending on income.
- Funding is limited and may vary by location. Shoreland areas or projects providing the greatest health and environmental benefits may be preferentially funded.

You can see all the program requirements at: www.AnokaSWCD.org under *Financial Assistance*. For more details email kris.larson@anokaswcd.org or call Kris Larson at 763-434-2030, ext 110.

How to Safely Dispose of Used Batteries and Small Electronics

In recent years there has been a spike in fires erupting at recycling facilities due to lithium-ion batteries. These are the types of batteries contained in cell phones and other electronics, or rechargeable batteries.

In fact, recent research shows that nearly 40% of waste and recycling facilities have had fires every year due to unsuccessful attempts to recycle batteries and small electronics in curbside recycling.

In addition to fires breaking out at recycling facilities, waste and recycling collection trucks have also gone up in flames from lithium-ion batteries.

It goes without saying that these fires are an extreme safety hazard for both drivers and the people working in recycling facilities—as well as the surrounding communities.

Small electronics and most batteries don't belong in recycling or trash. Instead, take them to a safe collection site. Examples of collection sites for items with rechargeable batteries nearest Ham Lake are:

- Lowe's in Blaine (11651 Ulysses St NE)
- Home Depot in Blaine (4550 Pheasant Ridge Dr NE)
- Target in Andover (2000 Bunker Lake Blvd NW)
- Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Blaine (3230 101st Ave NE)

Alkaline batteries can legally be placed in the garbage, according to Anoka County's Recycling Directory website page. But it's illegal to throw away a rechargeable battery, a rechargeable battery pack or a product with a non-removable rechargeable battery (Minn. Stat. §115A.9157).

Cellphones, laptops, car keys and e-cigarettes are all powered by batteries and need to be disposed of properly. Batteries that are punctured or damaged can cause explosions and fires and should never be placed in your trash or recycling bin.



Examples of batteries that may NOT be thrown in your household garbage or recycling bin

Disposing of small electronics depends on the type of item it is. To learn where to recycle or safely dispose of these items go to: AnokaCounty.us/RecyclingDirectory. Then put the type of waste item you have in the *Search* bar and a list of drop-off facilities will come up.

HAM LAKE CITY COUNCIL NEWS

At its January 16, 2024 meeting the City Council took the following actions:

Approved items on the Consent Agenda included:

- 2025 Budget for the Sunrise Watershed Management Organization and Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization
- Purchasing new AV Equipment for Fire Station #3 from Z Systems
- Accepting the 181st Avenue NE reconstruction project
- Letters of Support for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Funding Application for a Roundabout at Lexington Avenue NE (CSAH 17) and Constance Boulevard NE (CR60), and Bunker Lake Boulevard NE (CSAH 116) and Naples Street NE in Ham Lake
- Off-Site Gambling Permit for The Way of the Shepherd to conduct a raffle on February 9 at Majestic Oaks Golf Club
- Tabled the request for funding towards the engineering interchange design for Trunk Highway 65 and Bunker Lake Boulevard NE

At its February 5, 2024 meeting the City Council took the following actions:

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.

Approved items on the Consent Agenda included:

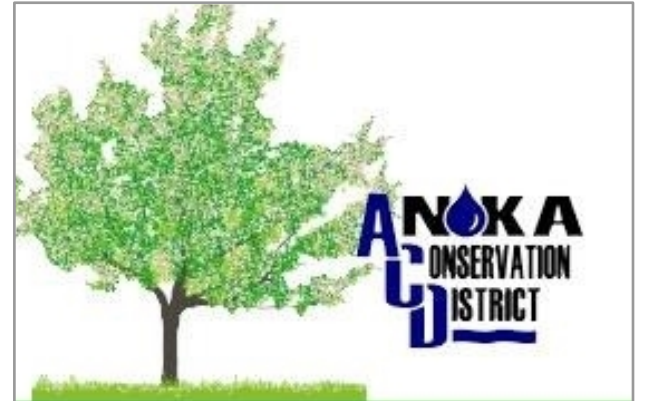
- Arbor Day Proclamation for May 4, 2024
- Excluded Bingo for four dates (March 7th, April 7th, October 7th, and November 7, 2024) for Blaine Central Alano, 13536 Highway 65 NE
- Reappointment of Erin Dixson, Jonathan Fisher and Jeff Entsminger as Planning Commissioners with the term of March 15, 2024 to March 15, 2027
- Purchasing Aluminum Park Bleachers and Hip Shade replacement fabric
- Hiring part-time snowplow driver John Abbott
- Resolution No. 24-04 appointing Election Judges for the Presidential Nomination Primary on March 5, 2024 and allowing the City Clerk to appoint additional judges as needed
- Purchasing a Pumper Tanker for the Fire Department using Public Safety Aid
- Approved Angela Oldenburger's request for a Conditional Use Permit to operate White and Sable, LLC, an event center, at 15485 Baltimore Street NE subject to requirements.
- Approved Angela Oldenburger's request for commercial site plan approval to construct a 10,381 square foot event center at 15485 Baltimore Street NE, subject to requirements.
- Approved \$25,000 for the funding towards the engineering interchange design for Trunk Highway 65 and Bunker Lake Boulevard NE

Annual Tree Seedling Sale

Spring is just around the corner so get your tree order in today for the end of April pick up at the Anoka Conservation District.

The District offers a wide variety of native stock, including black cherry trees, mixed oak trees, maple trees, and pine trees.

The trees and shrubs are sold in bare root seedlings or transplants range from 12" to 18" in height. They may be purchased in bundles of 10 for \$23, or 25 for \$45 not including tax. Native prairie seed and tree aides are also available.



You do not need to be an Anoka County Resident to order. Pick up is the last Saturday in April at the ACD office. Order online here: anokaswcd.org/tree-sale-order-forms/order-online

January Building Permits

The City of Ham Lake issued 62 permits in January with a valuation of \$26,142.38.

The issued permits are as follows: 1 commercial accessory building, 2 commercial remodel, 5 residential new construction, 3 residential remodel, 2 residential basement finish, 1 residential deck, 1 residential solar panel, and 6 roofing/siding.

Other permits include 28 mechanical, 10 plumbing and 3 septic installations.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Thefts & Damage to Property

01.06 138xx Johnson St NE—theft of scrap metal from a business; suspect identified

01.09 45xx Constance Blvd NE—theft of purse from an unlocked vehicle dropping off at daycare

01.10 45xx Constance Blvd NE—theft of credit card, cash, driver's license from an unlocked vehicle dropping off at daycare; \$2K was withdrawn from bank account in Maple Grove

01.15 43xx 137 Lane NE—multiple unsecured vehicles in the area rummaged through

01.15 146xx Bataan St NE—multiple unsecured vehicles in the area rummaged through

01.16 145xx Edison St NE—theft from unsecured vehicle in garage; sunglasses stolen

01.16 27xx 146 Ave NE—theft from unsecured vehicle in garage; cash, gym bag stolen

01.21 29xx 174 Ave NE—theft of mail; suspect vehicle possibly a red Ford F150

01.24 152xx Quamba St NE—electric meter stolen from outside of new home

01.25 157xx E Ham Lake Dr NE—illegal dumping

01.26 23xx 154 Lane NE—a meter stolen off a new construction home

01.29 175xx Hwy 65 NE—wheels and tires stolen off a vehicle overnight

01.31 35xx Woodland Dr NE—theft of a truck from the driveway; unknown about keys

02.05 19xx 168 Ave NE—backpack stolen out of an unsecured vehicle; chrome books were inside

Arrests

01.06 21xx153 Ave NE—DWI 4th degree; rollover crash. Driver appeared impaired. He was taken to the hospital and a warrant for blood was obtained. Charges pending.

01.18.2024 14xx Crosstown Blvd NE—Warrant Arrest; a deputy stopped a driver because he knew he had a warrant. His identity was confirmed and he was arrested.

01.19 Bunker Lake/Radisson Rd NE—Warrant Arrest; driver stopped for no break lights. The male did not have a driver's license and had warrants in Anoka and Isanti counties and a meth pipe was located. He was arrested.

01.20 134xx Hwy 65 NE—Warrant Arrest; a male with a felony warrant out of Sherburne County was located and arrested.

01.21 164xx Hwy 65 NE—False Information; deputy stopped a suspicious vehicle. The driver did not have a license and was issued a citation. A passenger lied about her identity, was caught and arrested.

01.22 46xx Lexington Ave NE—Warrant Arrest; a male with a felony warrant was located and arrested.

01.26 70xx Birchview Lane NE—Warrant Arrest; a male with a warrant was located and arrested.

01.28 Hwy 65/Andover Blvd NE—DWI 2nd degree; A driver refused to participate in field sobriety tests. Three open alcohol bottles were located in the vehicle. A warrant for blood was obtained and he was arrested. Charges were elevated due to a prior DWI.

01.29 50xx Ivy Lane NE—Assault; deputies responded to a landlord/tenant physical altercation. One male was arrested.

02.05 17xxx Swedish Dr NE—Domestic Assault; a physical altercation between a husband and wife. The husband was arrested.

02.08 60xx Edgewood Dr NE—DWI 4th degree; an unresponsive male in a vehicle. The deputy could not tell if he was breathing so he broke the window to provide aid. The deputy smelled alcohol and observed empty "shooter" bottles on the passenger side floor. Field sobriety tests were failed, and the male was arrested.

Be Aware

Never download the *Anydesk* App. This app allows scammers to remotely access your device.

Anoka County Sheriff's Office

April '24 Issue Deadline: Wed., March 13 @ 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)

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jdoyle@ci.ham-lake.mn.us

Gary Kirkeide (Council)

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gkirkeide@ci.ham-lake.mn.us

Al Parranto (Council)

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aparranto@ci.ham-lake.mn.us

Jesse Wilken (Council)

763-458-4608

jwilken@ci.ham-lake.mn.us

Garage & Vendor Sale

Cedar United Methodist Church (17541 Jefferson St NE in Ham Lake) is hosting its Garage & Vendor Sale on Friday, May 3 from 9:00 am - 6:00 pm and Saturday, May 4 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

The garage sale is cash only. The church is looking for vendors to participate. If you're interested, please email CedarUMC@gmail.com.

Community Dinner March 16

Glen Cary Lutheran Church is hosting their monthly Community Dinner on Friday, March 16 at 6:00 pm.

On the menu this month is meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, candied carrots and dessert.

The Dinner is free and everyone is welcome! Come meet your neighbors and community at our location at 15531 Central Ave. NE in Ham Lake.

Call the church at 763-434-5695 with questions.

Ham Lake Lions Pancake Breakfast March 24

Join the Ham Lake Lions for their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 24 from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm at the Ham Lake Senior Center (15544 Central Avenue in Ham Lake, behind City Hall).

Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee and juice will be served.

Also featured is the free Lions KidSight vision screening provided for youth, as well as a bicycle giveaway.

There's no charge, but free will donations will be gratefully accepted.

Our Saviour's Preschool Registration for 2024-2025

Our Saviour's Preschool registration is now open for the 2024-2025 school year. They offer morning and extended-day classes for children ages 3-5.

The Preschool is sponsored by Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. It has been fully licensed by the State of Minnesota since 1975. This Parent Aware 4-star rated program offers children a quality Christian education while nurturing the child as a whole. It seeks to further each child's growth and development through creative interaction with teachers and other during play and structured learning time.

Please contact Lissa by phone (763-434-6117 x123) or email (lleebens@oursaviourslc.org) for more information or to schedule a tour.

Fire Department Calls

The Ham Lake Fire Department responded to 26 calls during the month of January: 18 during the day and 8 at night.

The department spent 229 personal hours responding to calls for the month. Year-to-date, the department has answered 26 calls, compared with 29 calls at the same time last year.

No Oak Tree Cutting Between April 1 & July 15

The City would like to remind residents of the approaching "no-cut" period for oak trees which starts April 1st and is effective through July 15th (Article 11.1400.4 of the City Code).

If you need to cut an oak tree or trees during the no-cut period, you must get a permit from the City prior to cutting. Please contact a City tree inspector with any questions at 763-235-1662.

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:

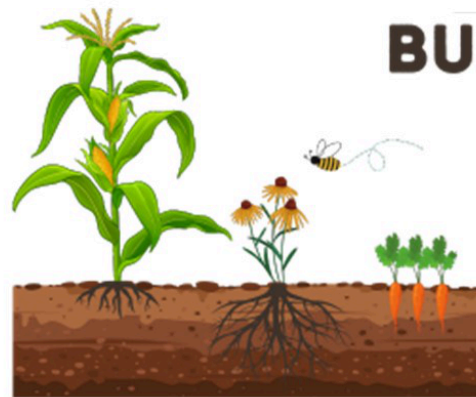
- Friday, March 29 • 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Friday, May 24 • 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Friday, August 9 • 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Friday, October 25 • 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

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 rentals!



BUILD BETTER SOIL

Funding available to help landowners improve soil health and productivity.

The Anoka Conservation District has funding for landowners interested in trying practices such as cover crops, pollinator plantings, reduced-till, no-till, and others that support soil microbial activity and reduce erosion. Offerings include 1-3 year contracts and flat rate per-acre payments.

Contact Logan Olson at 763-434-2030 ext 180 or logan.olson@anokaswcd.org



Fire Department Calls

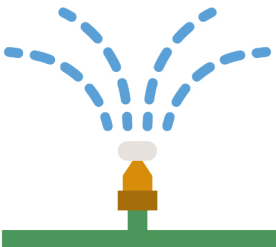
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Irrigation Controllers

Save Money and Water

Worst	Better	Best
Clock-based	Clock-moisture sensor	Weather-based "Smart"
Waters on set schedule.	Overrides scheduled watering when there is enough soil moisture.	System adjusts watering based on recent and predicted rainfall, evapotranspiration, and more. App-based control.

Residential soil moisture sensors and smart irrigation controllers cost a couple hundred dollars and can be added to any irrigation system. Water savings for an average home is 15,000 gallons a year¹ or 20-40%². Save money on water, electricity and pump maintenance. Protects aquifers from drawdown.

¹EPA ²Gardening Know How

Winter Salt Alternatives

Did You Know...

Clearing snow before it can get compacted into ice is safer and cheaper than throwing down salt to try to create bare pavement?

This one tip can provide safe areas for walking, is cheaper, and protects our waters.

Why protect our waters? Coon Creek, like the rest of the Metro, is getting increasingly polluted with chlorides, primarily from winter road salt. This is a pollutant that stays in the water, is very expensive (nearly impossible) to get out of the water, and is very harmful to fish and other aquatic life.

The cheapest and easiest way to deal with it is through prevention:

- Putting snow tires on your car, even just the two front tires (for front-wheel drive vehicles), will give you much better grip in most snow conditions.
- Remember to slow down! Since most road salt is used for highway safety, we can all help by adjusting our expectations from summer to winter road conditions.

The City has sent staff to specialized, low-cost certification trainings on how to efficiently remove snow and ice to save taxpayer money while providing a high level of service.

To find out what else you can do to have safe walkways and prevent chloride pollution of our waters, go to our website for home winter salting tips to save on winter salt and de-icers.

Remember, before you get out your winter de-icer, think about picking up your snow shovel instead!



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



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Mackenzie Engelstad, D.C. • Logan Engelstad, D.C.

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Owner



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Compliance & Well Testing Ham Lake, MN 55304

Business Spotlight: Floor Coverings International

Floor Coverings International® of North Twin Cities is a Ham Lake-based franchise that operates with a unique model for a flooring company: they offer in-home consultations.

Franchise owners Spencer and Kayla Akers service the area from Ham Lake to Elk River, up to Princeton and east to Chisago Lakes.

“We are a free in-home consultation service,” said Spencer. “Like other flooring stores, we have a showroom—but our goal is to get into the customer’s home. We have a Mobile Flooring Showroom® with over 3,000 samples we bring to our customers.

“We get an idea of what they’re looking for in their project, do all the measurements, and will give them an estimate before we leave their home.”

If customers don’t find a product in the Mobile Showroom they’re looking for, the team also has additional options in their Ham Lake office as well as other resources they can order from.

So far, most of their work is residential, including many restoration projects like fire and water damage. They also service commercial spaces and hope to expand into new construction in the future. Besides flooring, they specialize in tiling jobs like backsplashes and bathrooms.

Spencer handles sales, in-home consultations and project management while they also have Design Associates and an installation team.

Floor Coverings International® carries hardwood, carpet, stone, luxury vinyl and tile floorings for a wide range of budgets, lifestyles and decor. They offer a highly flexible in-home schedule to meet with customers that includes daytime, evenings and Saturday hours.

“Especially since Covid, people appreciate the in-home option. And it can be very overwhelming to go

into a store and see so many different samples,” Spencer said.

“In our phone consultation, we get an idea of what a customer is looking for. Then we pick samples that align with that consultation with good-better-best options for them to choose from. We bring those to the customer’s home and spend about an hour-and-a-half there.”



Spencer Akers, co-owner of Floor Coverings International® of North Twin Cities

If someone prefers to visit the showroom over an in-home consultation, it’s easy to set up an appointment for that, too.

In addition, Spencer and his team offer in-house financing for customers who need it. Various options are available including a 12-month interest-free loan.

For more information about Floor Coverings International® of North Twin Cities or to book your free consultation, give them a call at 763-353-0174 or visit their website at: northmsp.floorcoveringsinternational.com.

Test Your Smoke Alarms to Show You Care

Smoke alarms show you care about your family’s safety. But you have to test them to make sure they work. It takes just a minute and you will sleep better after you do. Here’s how:

1. Push the test button on the alarm. On most alarms, it’s the only button.
2. Do you hear a loud noise?

Yes: It works.

No: Change the battery or get a new smoke alarm.

It’s pretty simple. Test your alarms every month. It’s an easy way to show your love!



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- March 4: City Council mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm
- March 11: Planning Commission mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm
- March 13: *The Ham Laker* ads and articles deadline for the March issue @ noon
- March 18: City Council mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm
- March 25: Planning Commission mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm
- March 27: Charter Commission Meeting, City Hall 6:00 pm

MARCH 2024

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Tax Season Office Hours Jan. 29 - April 15
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Wednesday & Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
or by Appointment

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