



THE Ham Laker

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Well Water Wise (3W) Week May 5-10

The Anoka County Public Health and Environmental Services (PHES) Department, in cooperation with multiple municipalities and county agencies, is sponsoring the 22nd annual *Well Water Wise* (3W) week promotion May 5-10, 2024. The goal of this promotion is to encourage residents to check the safety of their private well water.

You may pick up a Well Water Test Kit at Ham Lake City Hall or from Environmental Services, Suite 600 of the Anoka County Government Center (2100 3rd Avenue in Anoka). Collect a sample of your well water and drop it off at the Environmental Services desk in the Anoka County Government Center. You can normally submit your water sample for analysis on Mondays between 8:00 am and 4:15 pm and Tuesdays from 8:00 am to noon. However, during Well Water Wise Week the County will be accepting submissions every day of the week!

DURING 3W WEEK you can submit samples Monday through Thursday (8:00 am to 4:15 pm) and Friday (before 11:30 am). The well water testing kit includes details about water collection and submission.

You will be charged a laboratory fee of \$17 for each test of coliform bacteria or of nitrate-nitrogen analysis.

Unlike public water utilities, private well water is not treated with chlorine to prevent bacteria growth. Simply looking at the appearance of drinking water is not a reliable indicator of whether it is safe to drink. An annual coliform bacteria test is a good way to ensure that your drinking water continues to be free of bacteria.

Nitrate-nitrogen occurs naturally in groundwater and wells at concentrations below one milligram per liter (mg/L). Nitrogen can seep into private wells from a variety of sources including septic systems, nitrogen fertilizers, animal feedlots, and landfills. The Minnesota Department of Health has established a Health Risk Limit (HRL) for nitrate-nitrogen at 10 mg/L. Levels above that point may pose an immediate risk to infants and pregnant women.

The testing of private wells used for drinking water is the responsibility of individual owners. There are an estimated 25,000 private wells in service in Anoka County. Only a small percentage of them are tested annually. For more information about well water testing call the Environmental Services Unit at 763-324-4260.

Resources

The most up-to-date information, along with other water-related information and resources, can be found at the websites below:

- Anoka County Water Website: anokacountymn.gov/2009/Well-Water-Testing
- Know the Flow: www.knowtheflow.us
- Water Testing FAQs: www.anokacountymn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/24239/Water-Testing-FAQ

Questions?

Please direct any questions or concerns regarding private wells and/or well water testing to Michael Wagner at michael.wagner@anokacountymn.gov or 763-324-4207.

Fire Rescue Foundation of Ham Lake

New to the community is the Fire Rescue Foundation of Ham Lake (FRFHL), a local volunteer-run 501(c)(3) organization that was formed in 2023 with the goal of financially rescuing those who rescue us.

FRFHL is a small but ambitious group of community members whose mission is to generate awareness, involvement and support for our neighborhood fire department. They strive to better connect the Ham Lake Fire Department (HLFD) and firefighters with our community.



Fire Rescue Foundation of Ham Lake Board of Directors (L-R): Jessica Miller, Michelle Schahn, President Connie Wunderlich, Sharilyn Erickson, Dede Worsham, Tawnya Thompson, and Rose Nelson (not pictured Kim Larson)

FRFHL has partnered with the Ham Lake Fire Relief Association (HLFRA) to help secure donations that support and advance the fire department while reducing the burdens of government funding. They recently made their first donation to the HLFRA, which was used to purchase grass firefighting gear.

The FRFHL also aids the department through volunteering for and/or assisting with community, charitable and educational events.

In a hometown like ours, everybody knows someone who has needed assistance from our volunteer first responders. The department responds to more than 400 calls each year. These include fires, medical calls, personal injury accidents, rescues, utility incidents and more. Our heroes also volunteer to participate in many local and charitable events to promote fire prevention and safety.

Perhaps you've been considering getting more involved in the community? The FRFHL is looking for volunteers like you. Feel free to reach out by email to frfhl@gmail.com to learn more.

Would you like to make a donation to help our heroes? The FRFHL is a recognized nonprofit with an approved PayPal Giving Fund. You can send support on many different platforms including PayPal, eBay, GoFundMe, Humble Bundle, Airbnb, Nextdoor, ShoppingGives and Zakatify.

Reminder: Recycling Day Saturday, May 4

And FREE Reuse Event • May 5

Ham Lake's spring Citywide Recycling Day is Saturday, May 4th from 8:00 am to noon. Recycle electronics, bulbs/lamps/ballasts, appliances, tires, car batteries, propane tanks, mattresses and box springs, scrap metal, bikes and brush. Secure containers will also be available for residents to deposit documents into for shredding (shredding will be done off-site).

On Sunday, May 5th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm the City, along with Anoka County, will host the City's FREE Reuse Event. Reusable household items will be accepted by staff in the Reuse Tent located in the Ham Lake City Hall parking lot on Saturday from 8:00 am to noon and again from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. Items will be offered free for the taking on Sunday.

Everyone is welcome to attend. There is no requirement to bring items in order to take items.

For more information type AnokaCountyMN.gov/Reuse in the URL line of your web browser.

Questions? Reach out to Anoka County at 763-324-3400 or recycle@anokacountymn.gov.

Mark Your Calendars

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

Mark your calendars 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



HAM LAKE CITY COUNCIL NEWS

At its March 18, 2024 meeting the City Council took the following actions:

Approved items on the Consent Agenda

- Adopted Resolution No. 24-10 approving the vacation of a portion of the right-of-way and drainage and utility easements on Lot 11, Block 2 and Lot 9, Block 3, Hidden Forest East.

At its April 1, 2024 meeting the City Council took the following actions:

Approved items on the Consent Agenda included:

- Several On-Sale Liquor Licenses, Gambling Permits and Party Permits for various events and locations
- Resolution No. 24-11 for the application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for an Outdoor Recreation Grant Program for the proposed park upgrade in Hidden Forest East Park
- Resolution No. 24-12 requesting the use of Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority

(HRA) funds to pay for the 2024 Voluntary Cost Sharing Agreement

- Resolution No. 24-13 accepting a \$5,000 donation from the Ham Lake Fire Relief Association
- Resolution No. 24-14 accepting the low bid for the replacement of County Ditch 58 cross-culvert underneath 152nd Avenue NE Project
- Road Committee recommendations (four)
- Approved the purchasing of a used Pumper Tanker from the City of Shakopee Fire Department in the amount of \$410,000, and up to \$15,000 for graphics for the truck and new front tires with the monies coming from the Fire Department Equipment Fund.
- Voted to consider the request for the conduit bonding on behalf of a senior living facility located in St. Francis, Minnesota.

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

03.11 13xx 133 Lane NE—bikes stored behind a building were stolen

03.14 173xx Polk St NE—an unsecured ATV was stolen from outside a front door

03.15 148xx Aberdeen St NE—a stolen vehicle out of Brooklyn Center was located at the business

03.22 23xx 152 Lane NE—a vehicle was rummaged through; missing a garage door opener

03.23 43xx 167 Ave NE—a vehicle was rummaged through

03.23 162xx Lexington Ave NE—a vehicle hit an outside wall of a business and then drove away; bottles broken inside the business due to the impact

Arrests

03.08 Hwy 65/Andover Blvd NE—Drugs; a deputy stopped a driver for trying to avoid him (suspicious). When stopped, the driver said he didn't have a license. The passenger who owned the vehicle said she didn't have insurance. The vehicle was searched prior to being towed and meth was found. The female passenger was arrested.

03.17 Hwy 65/181st Ave NE—No Driver's License; a deputy stopped a driver because his window tint was too dark. The driver refused to identify himself and got combative. His identity was finally discovered and he did not have a driver's license or insurance. He was arrested.

03.19 1xxx 143 Ave NE—Assist Other Agency; Anoka PD asked us to go to the home and arrest a male who had made a threat. He was located and arrested.

03.23 136xx Hwy 65 NE—Warrant Arrest; a deputy observed a male inside a business and knew he had a warrant. Back-up arrived and the male was arrested.

04.04 157 Ave/Hwy 65 NE—Warrant Arrest; a deputy stopped a male on a bicycle without lights at 1:00 am for his safety. The male was identified and he had a warrant. He was arrested.

Fire Department Calls

The Ham Lake Fire Department responded to 32 calls during the month of March: 17 during the day and 15 at night.

The department spent 349 personal hours responding to calls for the month. Year-to-date, the department has answered 83 calls, compared with 68 calls at the same time last year.

The Street Is Not the Place to Put Your Grass Clippings

There are a lot of things you can do with your grass clippings, fallen leaves and other kinds of yard waste. You can chip them up and use them for mulch. You can turn them into rich soil in a compost bin. You can drop them off at one of Anoka County's two compost sites or at the yard waste bin at City Hall. You can weave them into gift baskets or wreaths if you like.

But there's one thing you must definitely NOT do: leave them in the street!

First, yard waste can plug up our City's storm drains and cause flooding as well as require an expensive cleaning. But there are other bad effects as well.

Unlike water in sanitary sewer systems, storm water does not go through a treatment plant. Storm drains are like a highway that directly conveys the water through streams, rivers, lakes, and eventually to the ocean.

In addition to keeping your grass clippings and leaves out of the street, here are other steps you can take to help keep our storm water runoff clean:

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers. Use them sparingly. Don't just double the dose for good measure.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Take your car to a car wash instead of washing it in your driveway. The runoff from home car washing can contain detergents that are harmful to aquatic life.
- Make sure you dispose toxins like motor oil, anti-freeze and paint thinner at designated drop-off locations.
- Control soil erosion around your house.

March Building Permits

The City of Ham Lake issued 76 permits in January with a valuation of \$714,828.00.

The issued permits are as follows: one commercial roofing, one commercial sign, two commercial tent/building, three residential new construction, five residential remodel, two residential basement finish, four residential deck, one residential garage addition, two residential in-ground pool, one residential solar panel, one residential window and 15 roofing/siding.

Other permits include 16 mechanical, 17 plumbing and five septic installations.

Yard Waste Container Available Starting May 10

Residents will be able to dispose of yard waste at the City's Drop-off Recycling Center starting Friday, May 10th. The dumpster will be located on the north side of the City Hall parking lot.

Material that can be placed in the dumpster includes: garden waste, grass clippings, leaves, pine cones, needles, soft-bodied green plants, weeds, sod (residential quantities), evergreen boughs, shrub trimmings, acorns and branches up to 1" in diameter. NO BRUSH.

You must debag all materials and place them loose into the dumpster. Please unload your yard waste and take your bags or containers home. All material must be placed inside the dumpster. Use of the dumpster is monitored 24/7. Disposal of yard waste in a responsible manner will allow this recycling option to continue to be available within the City at no cost to residents.

You can also dispose of yard waste at the Anoka County Compost locations. Please use these sites when the yard waste dumpster at City Hall is full.

The Bunker Hills location (13285 Hanson Blvd NW in Coon Rapids) is 9 miles from City Hall and the Rice Creek location (7701 Main Street in Lino Lakes) is 14 miles from City Hall. There is no charge to dispose of up to 4 cubic yards (5 to 8-yard waste bags) of waste at the compost sites.

If you have any questions related to yard waste disposal, please contact the Recycling Coordinator at 763-434-9555.

No Oak Tree Cutting Between April 1 & July 15

The City would like to remind residents of the "no-cut" period for oak trees which started 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 questions at 763-235-1662.

June 2024 Issue Deadline: Wednesday, May 8 @ 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

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
gkirkeide@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

Community Dinner at Glen Cary Lutheran Church

Everyone is invited to a Community Dinner at Glen Cary Lutheran Church (15531 Central Ave NE in Ham Lake) on Friday, May 17 at 6:00 pm.

On the menu this month is lasagna, salad, bread and dessert. It's free to all! Come meet your neighbors and community.

Fire Extinguisher Use

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives.

Having a fire extinguisher on each floor of your home is recommended, including one in the kitchen and one in the garage.



Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing. Be sure everyone has exited the building, the fire department has been called or is being called and the room is not filled with smoke.

To operate a fire extinguisher remember the word PASS:

- Pull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you and release the locking mechanism.
- Aim low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- Sweep the nozzle from side to side.

Portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the #1 priority for residents is to get out safely. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms. NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) believes children should not be trained how to operate fire extinguishers. They should be taught to get out and stay out if there is a fire.

Recreational Fires

Recreational fires are allowed in Ham Lake. Recreational fires must be no larger than 3-feet by 3-feet and no higher than a 3-foot flame.

You may only burn:

“Wood” which means dry, clean fuel like twigs, branches and limbs. Other OK burnables are Presto Logs, charcoal, cord wood and untreated dimensional lumber. Clean pallets are okay when cut into thirds.

You may NOT burn:

Wood that is green, rotten, wet, oil soaked or treated with paint, glue or preservatives. You may not burn leaves, pine needles, furniture, tires, etc.



HAPPENINGS AT THE SENIOR CENTER

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

(Located in the lower west parking lot of City Hall)

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 starting Monday, April 1st:

- Hand-Foot-Toe Cards—1:00 pm on Mondays
- Bingo—2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 12:45 pm (following lunch)
- Jam Sessions—2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm following lunch (open to the public)
- Wii Bowling—9:30 am Wednesdays
- Wood Carvers—10:00 am Wednesdays
- Dominoes—10:00 am Thursdays
- 500 Cards—12:30 pm Thursdays

Watch for upcoming trips to the Casino (open to the public), health insurance counseling, scheduled

shopping trips for those who need transportation, and a birthday lunch on the last Wednesday of the month.

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, 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”

None scheduled at this time.

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

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Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Anoka County Fairgrounds

3200 St. Francis Blvd.
Anoka, MN 55303

Dates and Times

Tuesday, May 14 2 p.m.-8.p.m.
New start time, one hour earlier!

Wednesday, May 15 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Last Chance Sale

Up to 50% off on remaining plants-
May 15, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Cash, Card, or Check

2024 Anoka County Master Gardener Plant Sale

Anoka County Master Gardener Events:

More information: <https://z.umn.edu/ACMG>

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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Recycling Plastic Bags

Plastic bags are the most common non-acceptable item found in home recycling bins! Do Not place these in your curbside recycling bin. City Hall and the Senior Center have collection containers for plastic bags.

What Can Be Recycled?

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue:



Business Spotlight: Breese & Brundle Photography

Annie Melin has been a photographer since she was old enough to hold a camera. She began Breese & Brundle Photography in 2019 and left her corporate job to go full-time in 2021.

Through Breese & Brundle, Annie focuses on photographing families. She also works with high school seniors, parents of newborns and businesses, and will schedule a limited number of intimate weddings each year (those generally under 100 people).

“It sounds so cheesy, but it’s just the truth—I capture love,” Annie said. “I want to capture whatever authentic love you have. I want people to show up as themselves. Everyone feels awkward in front of the camera—me, too! So my goal is to ensure they’re in a safe zone with me and can just be themselves. I want to capture the essence of who they are and who their kids are, because time is so short.”

Annie starts by having her clients fill out a questionnaire, whether they’re a family, high schooler or someone in the business community. She’s found this helps her capture the essence of what each family, senior or business says best describes themselves.

A large part of her work is shooting family photos for Christmas cards. She’s become skilled at helping each family member feel comfortable by becoming their friend first, then their photographer. She tells her clients their shoot is a team effort between them and her. And she reminds them they’re not there to capture perfect.

“I’ll try to get the ‘perfect’ Christmas card photo, but if it doesn’t happen, it doesn’t happen. Everybody frets about how their kids will act. I have children—my kids are not perfect! Nobody’s kids are perfect. I just want everyone to walk away with a good experience,” said Annie.

Annie focuses on authenticity with her business clients as well. “A business isn’t just the business—it’s the people behind it. People don’t want to just buy the product or service. They want to support the people behind it.”

She enjoys photographing her clients here in Ham Lake, and has found several “secret” locations she likes to use. This is especially helpful for families with young children who live in the area. “I never get between a kid and their bedtime!” she said.

But her priority is to choose a location that feels the most authentic to her clients. “If that’s their house and they live in Chaska, I’ll go to Chaska. If it’s the family cabin in Brainerd, I’ll go to Brainerd.”



Annie and Dylan Melin with their children Briar and Reese

Annie offered some advice in choosing a family photographer: “Look at peoples’ portfolios and their editing style. It’s an investment of time, money and energy and you don’t want to waste it. Follow them for a while on social media. Be authentic about what you want and don’t be afraid to ask questions.”

Annie is a photography educator as well. She created a Foundations Class for those who dream of owning their own photography business. She also plans to add a photography mentorship program for those wanting in-person shadowing experience during actual sessions.

Annie and her husband Dylan have lived in Ham Lake for 10 years. They have two young children, Briar and Reese.

Learn more about Annie and Breese & Brundle Photography through Instagram or at www.breeseandbrundle.com.

BREESE & BRUNDLE
★ PHOTOGRAPHY ★
mplo, mn

Keep a Creek and Lake-Friendly Lawn

Did you know your turf care can pollute our creeks and lakes?

Pesticides, fertilizers, soil and grass clippings are all water pollutants if not dealt with properly. Rain runoff can send fertilizer, pesticides and bare soil off lawns and pick up grass clippings left on driveways, sidewalks or curbs into street storm drains and can run straight into local waterbodies.

Fertilizers and clippings in water can feed algae and cause algae blooms which smell, are unsightly and can cause fish die-offs. Soil, sediment and grass clippings can also clog our storm drains. And they can lower the ability of ponds, creeks and wetlands to hold floodwaters.

Make sure there are no piles of soil or clippings along banks, shorelines or in or along low areas.

Lawn care tips:

1. Keep your turf three inches tall to promote root growth, reduce weed growth and reduce watering.
2. Sweep up any grass clippings on sidewalks and driveways. Instead, mow and leave your clippings to feed your soil and grass roots—an easy and natural fertilizer!



3. Before applying any fertilizer, test your soil (a service by the UMN). Your soil could be just fine so you can save some money. For more information go to: www.oiltest.cfans.umn.edu/testing-services/lawn-garden

4. Each week: if less than 1 inch of rain, water deeply (1-1.5 inches) to promote deeper roots. Your grass will be more drought and weed resistant.

5. Try to manually remove weeds first. If you use herbicides, follow the label directions.

6. Take old pesticides to the Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Blaine. For hours and rules, contact the facility at AnokaCounty.us/HHW or call 763-324-3400.

Information provided by the Coon Creek Watershed District (763-755-0975 or info@cooncreekwd.org) Go to www.cooncreekwd.org/nooutsidepollution/ for an online resource guide.



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- May 6: City Council mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm
- May 8: *The Ham Laker* ads and articles deadline for the June issue @ noon
- May 13: Planning Commission mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm
- May 20: City Council mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm
- May 27: City Offices closed in observance of Memorial Day
- May 28: Planning Commission mtg, City Hall 6:00 pm



Crosstown Chiropractic, PA
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Crosstownclinic.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY 2024

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	



Tim Ross
Owner

612-961-0906
MyTrustedCarpetCleaners@gmail.com
www.MyTrustedCarpetCleaners.com