



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Progress continues on new Grand Prairie Park. See an updated photo on page 4.
- Lakeville receives a shade tree grant to help remove diseased ash trees and replant at a 2-to-1 ratio in parks. More on page 4.
- Lakeville water customers can save money and conserve water through a new Water Efficiency Rebate Program. Find out how on page 6.

Bike Tour of Lakeville Celebrates Sweet 16

Join us in celebrating the 16th annual "Tour of Lakeville Bike Ride," happening on Saturday, September 21, from 9-11 a.m. This event coincides with the Lakeville Art Festival and starts at Pioneer Plaza Park in downtown Lakeville, located at 20785 Holyoke Avenue.

The event features two routes: a 6-mile ride perfect for kids and families, and an 20-mile ride for more experienced cyclists. All participants are encouraged to bring a helmet and a water bottle. Along the way, there will be stops highlighting areas of environmental interest.



Ride the scenic trails and bike lanes of Lakeville with the Lakeville Friends of the Environment. We look forward to seeing you there!



Haunted Forest Festival—If You Dare!

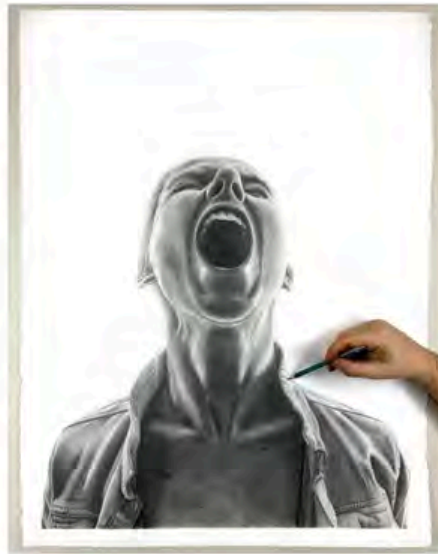
This spooky annual event is always a family favorite. At Steve Michaud Park on October 26, 5:30-8 p.m. there are activities for all ages. Volunteers are also needed. Go to LakevilleMN.gov for more information.

End of Summer, Start of Fun: Keep the Vibe Alive!

Late summer and early fall in the City of Lakeville promises an array of exciting events and activities:

- **Nature's Classroom: Foxes, Bats and Bison!** Three classes, register for one or all online. September–November at Ritter Farm Park.
- **Tree Discovery Workshop**, ages 18+, identify tree species and hike around Ritter Farm Park, September 25, register online.
- **Fire Prevention Open House**, Fire Station 4, October 8, 6–8 p.m.
- **Heritage Center Belgian Waffle Breakfast Fundraiser** for the Lakeville Area Active Adults, Sunday, October 13, 8 a.m.–noon.
- **St. Paul Farmers' Market** on Wednesdays, noon to 5 p.m. goes through September at Lakeville Area Arts Center.

LAKEVILLE ART FESTIVAL



2024 Featured Artists:
Dante Germain & Thomas Martin

September 21-22, 2024

Saturday from 10-5 | Sunday from 10-4

juried & emerging artists
community & youth art projects • art demonstrations
live music • food vendors • wine & beer

LakevilleArtFestival.org

Lakeville Area Arts Center Grounds
20965 Holyoke Ave. | Lakeville, MN 55044 | 952.985.4640

Volume 1, Issue 4

City of Lakeville CITY NEWS

The official newsletter for the City of Lakeville. Published quarterly to update residents and businesses on City government news.

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Find current news by following us on:


 Facebook: City of Lakeville, Minnesota-Government

 X, formerly Twitter: @CityofLakeville

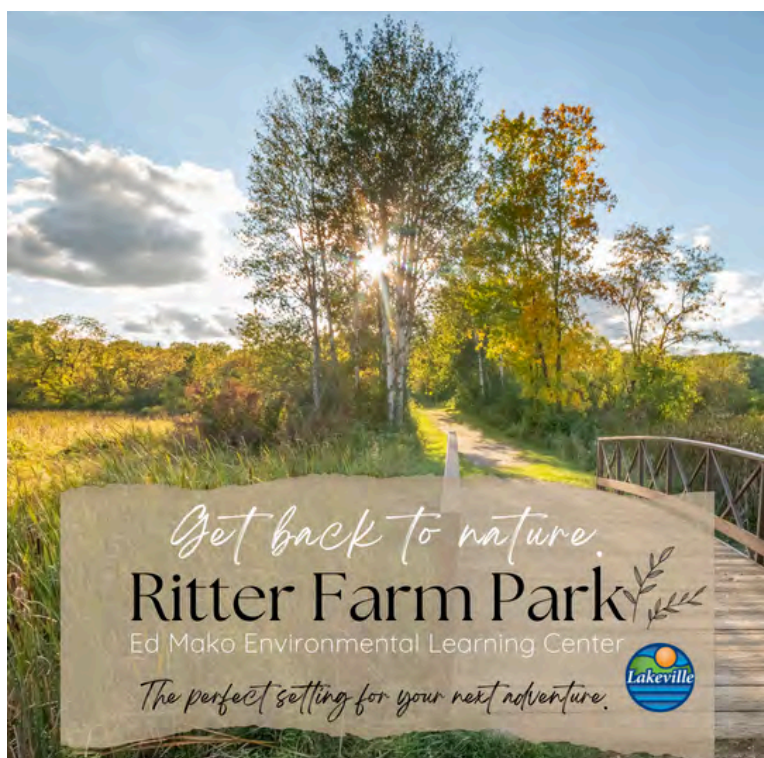
 YouTube: CityofLakeville

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A Fresh Spin on Fall: New Arts, Parks & Rec Programs



With the changing of the seasons coming, City of Lakeville Parks & Recreation is excited to offer a variety of new programs, classes and activities for participants of all ages. From nature education programs to creative workshops, here is a peek at some of our upcoming programs!

The Ed Mako Environmental Learning Center is the City's go-to destination for educational programming. Get back to nature and explore the scenic Ritter Farm Park with a selection of programs and classes.

Nature Education

Youth

Lil' Fall Explorers: Parents and kids will have a blast learning about the changing colors of leaves through fun science and art projects. Explore and learn about plants and animals that inhabit our natural world. Mon., Sep. 23-Oct. 14

Forts & Fires-Bigs & Littles: Learn about building shelters and fire through a variety of safe engaging activities and games for early learners. Adults learn activities they can do at home with the kids! Fri., Oct. 18

Adults

Golden Leaves Getaway: Join local registered yoga and breathwork instructors for an intuitively guided half-day getaway. You'll experience several modalities of yoga, breath and mindfulness. Sat., Oct. 12

Herbal Hacks for Holiday Health: The holiday season's stress and countless opportunities for spreading germs can wear down your immune system. Nature provides ways to help your body "hack" the stress response, strengthen the immune system and support the body in fighting off illness. Thu., Nov. 14



If you are looking to explore your artistic side, the **Fine Arts Building** will be offering expanded glass workshops, ceramics and a variety of visual arts programs for all ages and skill levels. Keep the little ones busy with youth theater programs at the Performing Arts Center.

Performing Arts Ages 3-6

Act & Play: Get your student's imagination working through acting, music and movement! Act & Play classes allow students to explore characters they create and adventure through worlds they build together in class. Sign up and watch as empathy and confidence grow and creativity and artistic exploration thrive! Various dates available beginning late September.

Visual Arts

Youth

Caught in a Snow Globe: Celebrate the start of winter with an imaginative class where young artists will design and personalize their own snow globes. This workshop combines creativity with a touch of winter magic, allowing children to create a unique snow globe featuring an image of themselves. Fri., Dec. 13

Ages 13+

Warm Glass 101: Take an in-depth look at how to design, cut, piece, fuse and form artwork using a glass kiln. Students will learn how to create projects in both flat and slumped forms. Fri., Oct. 18-Nov. 8

Winter Watercolor Birds: Learn about the world of watercolor while painting a cardinal or chickadee. In this class, students will complete two 11x14 paintings by following step-by-step instructions from a skilled teaching artist. Sat., Nov. 16-Dec. 7

Find a full listing of fall programs on our website.



Construction Begins on Grand Prairie Park: A New Hub for Community Recreation

The construction of Grand Prairie Park is officially underway! Once complete, the park will provide five versatile athletic decks that will accommodate cricket, football, lacrosse and soccer. Additionally, the project includes the construction of a full-sized baseball diamond, ten illuminated pickleball courts, challenge course, splashpad, shelters and more.

Due to the wet and rainy start to summer, the project timeline continues to shift. Rough-in grading of the park

is well underway with footings for the grandstand nearly completed and commencing soon for other park amenities. Soil corrections for the playground, splashpad and restroom building are in process as well as the installation for storm drainage and sub-surface drainage. The park is taking shape! Some amenities will be ready to use by summer 2025, with fields ready for play by fall 2025 or spring 2026. Watch our website for the most up-to-date information on the project.

Lakeville Receives \$338,820 from Shade Tree Bonding Grants

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has awarded \$10 million to 43 communities through the Shade Tree Bonding Grants, marking a significant investment in community forestry. Lakeville is thrilled to receive \$338,820 from this program.

Enhancing Community Forests

The Shade Tree Bonding Grants aim to remove ash trees that pose public safety concerns and plant a diverse array of climate-adapted trees across Minnesota. These projects will enhance community forest health, promote environmental equity and improve overall well-being.

The grants will also help replace, diversify and strengthen Minnesota's urban tree canopy, increasing its resiliency and contributing to climate mitigation through carbon storage and the cooling benefits provided by shade trees.



Three-Year Ash Replacement Program

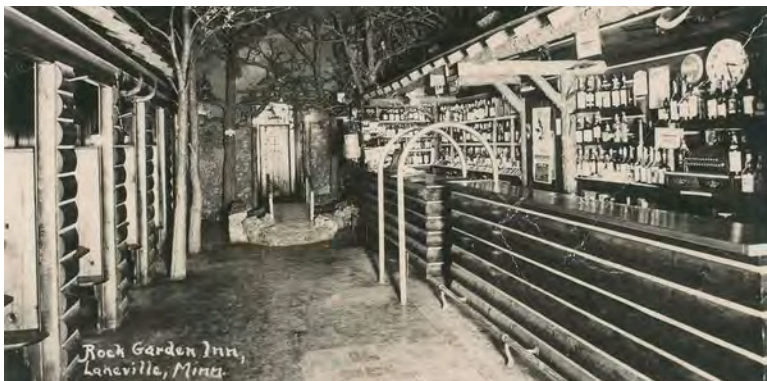
Lakeville has launched a three-year ash replacement program to boost the health and diversity of our community forests. This initiative includes:

- **Removing 150 ash trees from parks:** Approximately 50 trees per year, focusing on parks with a high percentage of ash trees and completing EAB management in locations with 2-6 ash trees.
- **Planting 300 new trees:** A diverse mix of trees will replace the removed ash trees in the same parks, following a two-for-one replacement strategy.
- **Aronson Park:** An additional 60 diverse trees will be planted here, even though ash tree removals are not planned for this location.

Work on the first round of tree removals and plantings will begin this fall. Signs will be placed in various parks to inform and educate the public about these ongoing efforts.

Lakeville Liquors Celebrates 90 Years!

This year marks the 90th anniversary of Lakeville Liquors, the oldest business in the City, established in 1934. When prohibition ended, Lakeville chose to control alcohol sales through municipal liquor stores to combat bootlegging along Dodd Road from St. Paul. Today, Lakeville Liquors is known for its responsible sales and significant contributions to the community.



The first store, Rock Garden Inn, was downtown and featured real trees and a creek inside. As the city grew, the stores moved a few times due to population growth and better locations. Now, there are four stores across Lakeville, adapting to community needs.

Lakeville Liquors has become the most profitable municipal liquor operation in Minnesota, allowing it to reinvest millions into the community. The Liquor fund has supported essential assets like the construction of the Central Maintenance Facility, Fire and Police Departments and City Hall. It has also supported funding of Ames Arena, public works vehicles, snowplows and fire engines. Over the past decade, more than \$10 million in revenue has gone towards these projects, including \$1.53 million in 2023 alone, helping to offset property taxes.



Customers of Lakeville Liquors have played a huge role in community support, donating over \$100,000 annually to fundraisers for the Miracle Field, King Park All-Accessible Mini Golf, lifesaving fire water rescue equipment, annual food drives, the Yellow Ribbon veteran organization and youth programs at Ritter Farm Park. These contributions are vital to the Lakeville community.

In recent years, Lakeville Liquors has won several awards, including the Sun Thisweek Reader's Choice Award for Best Liquor Store and the Beverage Dynamics Top 100 Retailer Award for three consecutive years. The staff's expertise is a key factor, with 18 members recently earning the Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) Level 1 Award in wine. Kenrick store manager Jess Rogers holds a WSET Level 3 in spirits, making her one of only ten in Minnesota with this advanced qualification. This expertise ensures a customer-friendly experience and helps customers find the perfect beverage.



To celebrate the 90th anniversary in October, Lakeville Liquors will host various events, including an exclusive staff craft beer pick from Badger Hill Brewing, promotional events and tastings. There will also be a 5K beer run fundraising event for breast cancer research with Michelob Ultra. Stay tuned for more event announcements on social media and LakevilleLiquors.com. Cheers to 90 years!

Discover More with Lakeville Liquors!

Shop Online Anytime

- Website: LakevilleLiquors.com/Shop
- Mobile App: Download on Apple or Google store

Local Delivery and Curbside Pickup

- Local Delivery: Orders over \$100 are free and all orders are free on Thursdays.
- Curbside Pickup: Free curbside pickup at all locations.

Private Rentals

- The Emporium Room: Located at the Keokuk Lakeville Liquors location is a 3,000-square-foot space for corporate meetings to celebrations.

Club Membership

- Daily shopping discounts, special member offers and access to events.

**Hours: Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Sunday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

Introducing the Water Efficiency Rebate Program

Lakeville water customers can now save money and conserve water through our new Water Efficiency Rebate Program. Residents and businesses are eligible for rebates when they replace existing water-using devices with specified Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) WaterSense labeled products. Eligible purchases must be made between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2026, or until funds are depleted.

What is WaterSense?

The WaterSense label makes it easy to identify water-efficient products that meet the EPA's standards for efficiency and performance. WaterSense-labeled products are certified to use at least 20% less water, save energy and perform as well as or better than their less efficient counterparts.



Eligibility and Details:

- **Who can apply?** Only property owners who are customers of the City of Lakeville water supply system are eligible.
- **What expenses are covered?** The rebate covers the out-of-pocket cost of the replacement device (excluding labor and taxes).
- **What's not eligible?** Rebates are not available for new construction, new development or the replacement of existing water-efficient devices. Homeowners associations (HOAs) are not eligible for irrigation product rebates.

This program is designed to encourage the replacement of current infrastructure with more water-efficient options. Don't miss this opportunity to upgrade your water-using devices and save both water and money!

Eligible rebates are limited to the following:

- Toilets: Receive 50% of the cost, up to a maximum of \$200 for up to four toilets.
- Irrigation (lawn sprinkler) controllers: Receive 50% of the cost of one controller, up to \$200.
- Irrigation sprinkler body replacement: Receive 75% of the cost of each sprinkler body, up to \$100.

How to Apply for Your Water Efficiency Rebate

To apply for a qualifying rebate, visit LakevilleMN.gov/WaterEfficiencyRebate and submit an online rebate request with your product receipts. Rebates will be credited to your quarterly water utility bill.

Please note, you may be selected for an inspection to verify that the products have been installed according to the Water Efficiency Rebate criteria.

Conserving water just got a little easier with this new rebate program!

Grant provided by

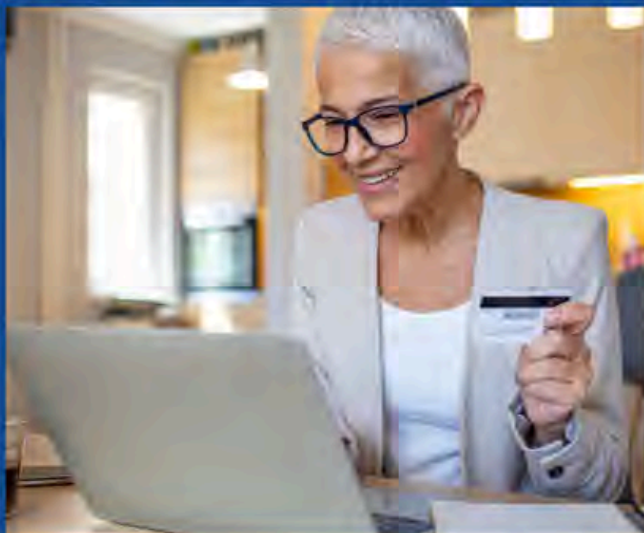


METROPOLITAN
COUNCIL



CLEAN
WATER
LAND &
LEGACY
AMENDMENT

New Water Utility Payment System Coming Soon!



The City of Lakeville is excited to announce that we will be launching a new and improved bill pay service coming on September 23, 2024!

Our new platform will feature a user-friendly portal and more features than before to view and pay bills online. Some of the benefits include:

- Pay your utility bills anytime 24/7 via an easy-to-use online portal
- Set it and forget it with AutoPay – save time and avoid late or missed payments
- Pay by Text to get text notifications about your bill and pay by text if you're on the go
- Pay over the phone using a landline or mobile device using our 24/7 automated Pay by Phone feature

If you have any questions regarding the new payment service, please call us at 952-985-4580 or email utilitybilling@lakevillemn.gov.



Lakeville Friends of the Environment: Over 17 Years of Environmental Advocacy

Over 17 years ago, a few passionate citizens in Lakeville came together to discuss their love for the environment and their concerns about the lack of action being taken. They decided to see if other Lakeville residents shared their concerns about climate change and the state of our planet. Meeting once a month at the Heritage Library, their goal was to educate and act. And so, the Lakeville Friends of the Environment was born.

The group started inviting speakers and they launched the Energy Trends Expo with Dakota Electric, which educates the public about solar energy, electric vehicles and the latest developments in the energy revolution.

Throughout the year, the group participates in pollinator awareness activities. They team up with Great River Greening, the University of Minnesota Bee Lab and the Xerces Society to count bees at Ritter Farm Park. This educational activity for all ages helps track the types and numbers of bees in the area, which are crucial for crops and flowers.

In addition to counting pollinators, the Friends oversee Lakeville's pollinator gardens, raising awareness about the importance of natural and native plants.



Their mission also includes addressing single-use plastics and reducing waste in our parks. Members often spend time picking up litter to maintain the parks' pristine condition and protect wildlife from harmful debris.

The group is always exploring new topics and recently added bird watching and walks to their program.

They are always looking for new members! Special guests frequently discuss a variety of subjects. For more information, follow them on social media and visit their website at LakevilleFriends.org.



Founding member, Harley Horsager, passed away in 2019. To honor his contributions, there are benches dedicated to him at Steve Michaud Park and Lakeville City Hall.

Utility Franchise Fees: What You Need to Know

Under Minnesota Statute 216B.36, cities can impose fees on utility companies that use public rights-of-way to deliver services. These fees can help fund citywide projects and serve as an alternative to property tax levies. Lakeville is considering entering into franchise agreements with four utility providers: CenterPoint Energy, Minnesota Energy Resources, Xcel Energy, and Dakota Electric. Similar-sized neighboring cities already have comparable franchise fee rates in place to provide funding for public improvements.

Why Are Franchise Fees Considered the Best Option?

- **Legal Basis:** Minnesota State Statute permits cities to use franchise fees instead of property tax levies because utilities are allowed to use public rights-of-way.
- **Equal Distribution:** The fee is distributed equally among all users, meaning everyone who uses gas and electric services will pay the same flat fee for each service.
- **Business Adjustments:** Different flat fees will be applied to commercial customers, based on usage.

Why Choose a Franchise Fee Over a Tax Levy?

- **Cost-Effectiveness:** A flat fee is more cost-effective

than a tax levy, which varies based on property value and affects everyone differently.

How Will the Franchise Fees Be Used by the City?

- **Funding Public Safety:** The City of Lakeville has grown significantly, leading to an increased demand for public safety services, especially fire services, which have become a key focus for the City.
- **Revenue Allocation:** Revenues generated by this flat franchise fee will be allocated to public safety facilities, specifically for renovating and improving the fire stations and the first responders training facility.

Look for the following information in the coming months on LakevilleMN.gov as the City works with the gas and electric utility companies and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission regarding the franchise fee process:

- What franchise fees are
- How they compare to tax levies
- Their intended uses
- The different fee levels
- City Council public hearing
- When they would take effect in 2025



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Postal Customer

First Thursday

PUB NIGHTS

STARTS
 OCT 3



Scan to see the schedule
 and to purchase tix

Join us for this popular series featuring a variety of live music performances on stage along with our in-house bar serving craft beers, wine and pub food. Grab a group of friends or make it a date night. General admission pub-style seating will be available. Performances are scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m. but feel free to come and go as you please.

Tix: \$11 / Season Tix: receive tickets to all six performances (October-March) for \$55 per season and early entry
 All concerts held at the Lakeville Area Arts Center



20965 Holyoke Avenue

LakevilleAreaArtsCenter.com, 952-985-4640

**REMINDER: SIGNS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE
 RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM SIDEWALKS TO ROAD
 INCLUDING CORNERS BY STREET INTERSECTIONS**

Private
 Property



Make Your Plan to Vote

It's a big election year and we are looking forward to helping you vote!
 Find answers to key questions you need to know as a voter.



SCAN ME

- Vote by mail
- Vote early in-person
- Vote on Election Day
- Register to vote
- See what's on my ballot

