



Ritter Fest 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Help protect our environment by participating in Lakeville's annual cleanup event, April 26–May 4. This hands-on initiative focuses on removing pollutants from our watershed. Learn more on page 4.
- Greenway trail access expands with Lake Marion Greenway project. More details on page 5.
- Do you know how playgrounds are replaced in our parks? Find out on page 7.



Celebrate Earth Day With Us!

Join us for this year's **FREE Earth Day Celebration** on **Friday, April 26**, from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the Central Maintenance Facility (7570 179th Street West). This family-friendly event features educational stations, interactive activities and opportunities to earn prizes by answering environmentally-themed questions. Come learn, have fun and celebrate our planet with the community! 🌍🌟



City's Annual Tree Sale Kicks Off

This year's tree sale, **February 18–April 17**, features 13 species, including eight shade trees, two conifers and three ornamentals! Don't wait—these trees sell out quickly. Visit page 6 for all the details and get ready to grow your landscape! To order, go to the homepage at LakevilleMN.gov. 🌱

Tap Into Savings: Water Rebates Await!



Lakeville water customers can save money and conserve water with the new **Water Efficiency Rebate Program**. Rebates are available for replacing toilets, irrigation controllers and sprinkler

bodies with EPA WaterSense-labeled products. Apply online at LakevilleMN.gov/WaterEfficiencyRebate. Rebates are credited to your water bill. Start saving today—conserve water for a better tomorrow! This grant is provided by the Metropolitan Council and the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment.

Summer Rec Catalog & Exciting New Programs

From nature education programs to creative workshops, here is a peek at some of the new summer & fall programs! A full listing will be on the website, LakevilleMN.gov, and registration begins on **February 13**.

- **Nature Games:** Play games from EcoElsa's classes like Wolves vs. Deer, MuskoX Maneuvers and Exploding Ants. Thu., Jun. 12
- **Pressed Flower Art Workshop:** Learn to preserve flowers and use them to create unique gifts and decor. Tue., Jun. 10
- **Storybook Theatre:** Storybook is a professional touring theater company. These camps fill quickly and include: Rapunzel, The Little Mermaid, Goldilocks and Twice Upon a Time.
- **Youth Art Camps:** A variety of workshops including pottery, drawing, painting and more.



Live at the Arts Center: Humor & Harmony



Volume 2, Issue 2

City of Lakeville CITY NEWS

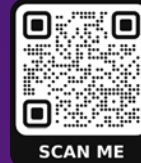
The official newsletter for the City of Lakeville. Published quarterly to update residents and businesses on city government news.



South Metro Chorale Cabaret: British Invasion

Saturday, March 1 – 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 2 – 3 p.m.

1&2 March



Mayor
Luke Hellier

Councilmembers
John Bermel
Joshua Lee
Michelle Volk
Dan Wolter

City Administrator
Justin Miller

Assistant City Administrator
Allyn Kuennen

Editors & Creators
Communications

Website
LakevilleMN.gov

City Hall
20195 Holyoke Avenue
Lakeville, MN 55044
952-985-4400

Collective Unconscious A Tribute to Paul McCartney and Wings

Friday, March 7 – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 8 – 7:30 p.m.

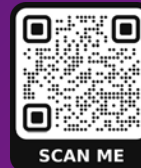
7&8 March



A Night of Comedy Mary Mack

Friday, April 25 – 7 p.m.

25 April



Songs of Hall & Oates Mick Sterling

Friday, May 9 – 7:30 p.m.

9 May



Find current news by following us on:

Facebook: City of Lakeville, Minnesota-Government

X, formerly Twitter: @CityofLakeville

YouTube: CityofLakeville

Nextdoor: City of Lakeville

LinkedIn: City of Lakeville

Instagram: cityoflakevillemn

Join us at "Live at the Lake" starting June 11!
Lakeville's outdoor summer concert series held at the Casperson Park Outdoor Performance Stage on beautiful Lake Marion.



Your favorite performance center for local entertainment.

20965 Holyoke Avenue, Lakeville

For more events/tix: LakevilleAreaArtsCenter.com or 952-985-4640



Spring Into Action: City Regulation Reminders and Seasonal Permits for Your Home Projects

Proper Waste and Recycling Container Use and Storage Guidelines: To ensure our neighborhoods remain clean and orderly, here are some important reminders about waste and recycling container placement and storage:

Placement for Collection

- Containers must be accessible during collection times and placed near the street, but not within the traveled portion of the roadway year-round.
- Containers should be positioned in the driveway or behind the curb, with enough clearance for trucks to safely grab them.
- Containers should not remain at the collection point for more than 24 hours.

Storage Requirements

- Containers must be stored either within a principal structure (like a garage) or an accessory enclosure, except as outlined below:
 - Side or rear yards: Containers may be located here, provided they are not in the side yard of a corner lot or rear yard of a double frontage lot abutting a public right of way.
 - Containers must be set back at least five feet (5') from all property lines.
 - Front yards and garage fronts: Containers cannot be stored here.

Additional Guidelines for Garbage and Recycling

- Containers must have secure lids to prevent overflow.
- If your lids don't close due to excess waste, consider upgrading to a larger container or adding a second one.

Parking regulations for vehicles: Motor and recreational vehicles kept outdoors must be parked on a solid surface such as asphalt, concrete or pavers. This includes auxiliary parking next to a garage. Parking on grass is not permitted for motor vehicles. Only gravel surfacing in existence as of March 2003 is an allowable surface. Please refer to Lakeville City Code Chapter 19 for further details.

Grass and weed regulations: Any weeds or grass growing beyond eight inches in length are deemed a public nuisance and are not allowed on lots with buildings or on any lot, outlot or parcel less than one acre in size without a building. Please see Lakeville City Code 4-1-3 for more information.

Landscape watering: Please water only when necessary and adhere to the odd/even system, determined by the last digit of your house number. These regulations, along with time-of-day watering restrictions, are applicable from May 1 to September 30. Watering is permitted solely before 11 a.m. or after 5 p.m. each day. Watering during peak daytime temperatures leads to water wastage due to evaporation. Refer to Lakeville City Code 7-5-12-2 for details.

Encroachments: Numerous private properties are adjacent to stormwater ponds, wetlands, City parks, trails and open spaces. It is prohibited to place any structures in these areas, and activities such as gardening, tree removal or mowing beyond your own property are not allowed. Refer to Lakeville City Code 11-17-11 for details.

Building permits: A permit is required for the construction of sheds, fences, porches, decking and re-decking, lawn irrigation systems and pools. For a comprehensive list of required permits and to apply online for sheds, fences and other improvements requiring a permit application, go to our website, LakevilleMN.gov and click on Building Inspections.



Join the Effort to Keep Lakeville Beautiful

This spring, make a meaningful impact on our community by participating in Lakeville’s annual cleanup event April 26-May 4! This initiative not only helps remove pollutants from our watershed but also brings people together to learn about protecting our environment and fostering community pride.

Why Join?

- **Build Community Stewardship:** Help protect the places we live, work and play while connecting with others who care about Lakeville.
- **Restore Natural Beauty:** Remove waste from roadsides, parks, trails, ponds, wetlands and waterways, ensuring a cleaner, healthier environment.
- **Learn & Grow:** Enjoy an educational experience covering a variety of environmental topics that will inspire you to make a difference year-round.

Who’s Involved?

This effort brings together people from all walks of life—church groups, scouts, students, environmental organizations, businesses, families and individuals.



How to Participate

Register your group or yourself today and select your cleanup area at LakevilleMN.gov or use the QR code. Together, we can make a lasting difference. Let’s roll up our sleeves and show our commitment to keeping Lakeville clean and vibrant.



Help us make this year’s cleanup the best yet! 🌱

A New Public Safety Training Center for Our Region

Did you know that there is currently no dedicated public safety training facility in the south metro area? Police, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, including those in our neighboring cities and counties, must travel long distances to maintain their certifications. In many cases, they rely on temporary training sites such as local businesses, schools or vacant facilities, which often lack the necessary resources and consistency.

To address this need, the City of Lakeville is leading the development of a regional public safety training facility at the site of the former public works property on 214th Street. This facility will provide a permanent space for training and certification, ensuring public safety personnel have the tools and training to respond effectively to the growing demands of their roles, as well as address the growing state and federal standards for training and preparedness.

The new center will include:

- Physical and virtual training areas.
- A firing range with vehicle access.
- Tactical training and classroom spaces.
- Equipment cleaning and armory areas.

- Restrooms, lockers and office spaces for operational needs.

Funding the Project

- The project, estimated at \$22–24 million, is funded through a combination of state, federal and local sources:
- \$7 million from the 2023 Minnesota Legislature.
- \$800,000 awarded in 2024 through Federal Congressionally Directed Funding.
- Additional funding requests are underway, with the remaining costs supported by general obligation bonds, to be repaid through franchise fees over the next 20 years.

What’s Next?

The design phase wrapped up in 2024 and construction begins in 2025. The facility is expected to open its doors by mid-2026, creating a long-term resource for public safety personnel throughout the region.

Operating costs will be covered by membership fees from the various agencies using the facility, ensuring its sustainability and accessibility for years to come.

This training center is a significant step forward in supporting our public safety professionals, equipping them with the skills and resources they need to serve our community effectively. More information can be found at LakevilleMN.gov, Construction Projects, Public Safety.

Blazing New Trails: Lakeville's Greenway Expansion Plans

The City of Lakeville, in partnership with Dakota County, continues to enhance Greenway Trail access throughout the City. Following the successful opening of a portion of the North Creek Greenway in 2024, the focus in 2025 will shift to the expansion of the Lake Marion Greenway—a highly anticipated project expected to have a significant impact on the community.

Current Trails and Future Connections

Currently, Lakeville trails connect downtown Lakeville to Casperson Park. A feasibility study completed in 2021 focused on proposed trail segments extending from downtown Lakeville into Ritter Farm Park. Once fully developed, the greenway segments within Lakeville will link various local destination areas, city parks and schools to broader regional trail networks.

Trail Design and Features

Greenway trails are designed with accessibility and usability in mind:

- **Width:** 10-12 feet, with a 3-foot grass clear zone on each side.
- **Usage:** Suitable for walking, jogging, inline skating and bicycling.
- **Alignment:** At least 80% off-road, with up to 20% adjacent to city roads.

Lake Marion Greenway Expansion

The expansion will occur in two phases:

- Phase I: Includes reconstruction of existing trails and construction of new segments, connecting Ritter Farm Park's parking lot to a mini trailhead in downtown Lakeville.
- Phase II: Extends the trail from downtown Lakeville to the South Creek Trail segment at Cedar Avenue.

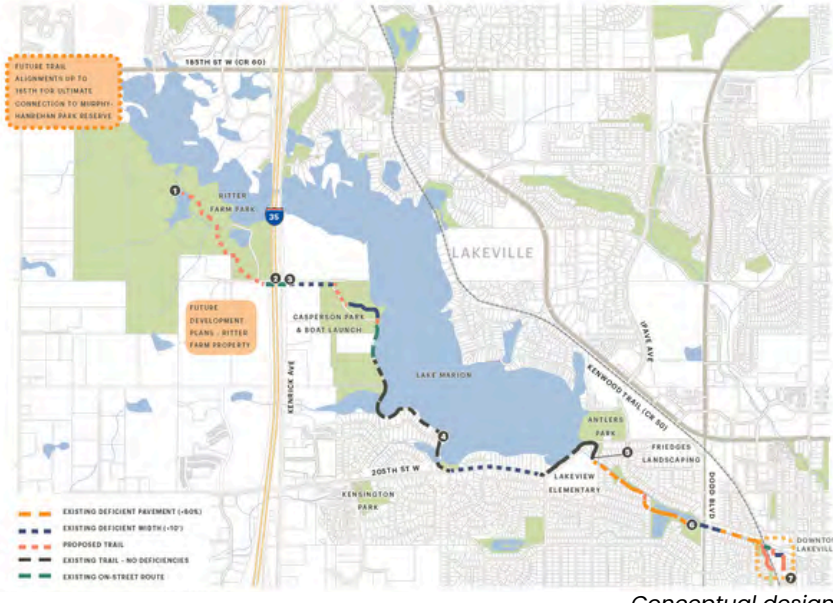
Lakeville to Implement Utility Franchise Fees for Public Safety Improvements

To support critical public safety improvements, Lakeville will implement utility franchise fees starting April 1, 2025. The City's franchise agreements with CenterPoint Energy, Minnesota Energy Resources, Xcel Energy and Dakota Electric Association allow utility companies to use public rights-of-way. Historically, this use has been free, but under Minnesota law, cities can impose franchise fees in exchange for this access.

The funds will help transition Lakeville's Fire Department to a hybrid model with paid-on-call and full-time firefighters. This shift requires significant renovations to the City's fire stations, estimated to cost \$60-68 million.

As part of this process, community involvement will be key, with opportunities to provide feedback through surveys and interactive comment maps.

Additionally, open houses will be held to share project updates and gather input. The first open house will introduce the project and collect initial feedback, while the second will present the final trail alignments and an overview of the construction schedule.



Conceptual design

Once complete, the Lake Marion Greenway will span 20 miles, traversing Burnsville, Savage, Credit River Township, Lakeville and Farmington.

City staff continues to collaborate with Dakota County to bring this exciting project to life over the next several years, creating a connected, accessible and vibrant trail system for the community to enjoy. To see more, LakevilleMN.gov, Parks & Rec.

Additionally, the City is advancing the FIRST Center, a regional training facility for first responders, with an estimated remaining cost of \$18 million after state and federal funding contributions.

Franchise fees will provide a stable funding source, with typical single-family households paying up to \$12.00 per month (\$6.00 per utility). Commercial and industrial fees will vary by usage. Unlike taxes, franchise fees are a flat rate that won't fluctuate annually.

These improvements ensure Lakeville's public safety services meet the needs of the City's growing population, now the 9th largest in Minnesota.

Lakeville's Urban Forest: Challenges and Solutions

In recent years, pests, disease and drought have taken a toll on Lakeville's trees, leaving gaps in our urban forest. However, the City's annual tree sale offers an opportunity to rebuild and diversify, with species carefully selected by City Forestry staff at great prices.



Trees in urban areas provide invaluable benefits: they offer shade in summer, act as windbreaks in winter, improve air quality and provide food and habitat for wildlife. Unfortunately, invasive pests like emerald ash borer have significantly impacted our tree population, which is dominated by only a few common species.

To combat these challenges, planting a diverse selection of trees is crucial. A more diverse urban forest is better equipped to resist pests, adapt to changing climates and provide a wider range of ecosystem benefits.

Highlights from This Year's 13 Tree Species



Planting during spring, characterized by cool and rainy weather, is optimal as it encourages robust root growth. Of the 13 species available, eight are shade trees, two are conifers and three are ornamentals.

Did you know you can donate a tree to be planted in a City park? To order, go to the homepage at LakevilleMN.gov, call 952-985-4600 or call ahead for in person ordering. Tree pickup day is Saturday, April 26 between 8-10:30 a.m. at the Central Maintenance Facility.



A good rule of thumb for creating a diverse forest is ensuring no single tree species comprises more than 10% of the total population.

To support these efforts, Lakeville's Forestry Division is working to expand and diversify the tree canopy in parks and along main roadways. Residents can help by participating in the City's 2025 Annual Tree Sale, which offers a variety of trees at a discounted rate and runs from February 18 to April 17 (or until trees sell out). The sale operates on a first-come, first-served basis, and all orders must be prepaid.

This year's offerings include a variety of species, such as Tamarack, White Pine, Hawthorn, Redbud, Serviceberry, Buckeye Autumn Splendor, Bur Oak, Heritage Oak, Cherry, Ginkgo, New Horizon Elm, Catalpa and Hackberry. While trees purchased through the sale are not under warranty, they represent an excellent opportunity to enhance your property and contribute to a healthier, more resilient urban forest.

Don't miss the chance to help Lakeville grow greener this spring!

LANDSCAPING FOR CLEAN Water

Creating a beautiful garden to improve water quality, benefit pollinators or protect your shoreline is what the Landscaping for Clean Water program is all about!

**FREE, INTRO CLASSES
FEBRUARY 20 TO JUNE 2,
6 SESSIONS IN DAKOTA COUNTY**

LANDSCAPING FOR CLEAN WATER

Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District

LEARN MORE & REGISTER
DakotaSWCD.org or
651-480-7777

Keeping Lakeville's Playgrounds Safe and Fun

Lakeville boasts 51 play areas offering a wide range of experiences, from specialized spaces like The Land of Amazement at Steve Michaud Park to accessible play equipment at King Park, tot lots and nature play areas. Maintaining these spaces is a full-time effort for the City's Park Maintenance staff!



Playgrounds are inspected at least twice a year, with high-use parks checked more frequently. Inspections ensure stability, proper fittings, slide conditions, fall material depth and overall site safety. Repairs are completed during inspections or as needed.

Play equipment lasts 20-25 years, with two-three playgrounds replaced annually. Replacement includes developing new designs with community input, updating outdated features and improving the site. The Kenmore Park playground was replaced in 2024, with projects typically scheduled after the summer season and completed within five-six weeks.

Each replacement costs \$100,000-\$110,000 with equipment and materials, funded through the Park Improvement Fund. For details on current and upcoming projects, visit LakevilleMN.gov.



Proposed Fire Station and Park Revisions in Cherryview Park

Over the past few years, the City has completed multiple fire department studies to develop the best plan for modernizing the fire stations, improving service areas and response times, and transitioning staffing from paid-on-call model to a full-time hybrid model.

A key finding from the service area study indicated the Dodd Boulevard/Cedar Avenue area was the optimal location to consolidate services from Fire Station 4 and Fire Station 2 into a new, combined fire station. As a part of this process, several potential sites were evaluated, including a portion of Cherryview Park, as a location for the new fire station.

This initiative also provides an exciting opportunity to reimagine the park, improve its amenities and add new features. The goal is to create a functional, community-focused space that serves both public safety and recreational needs.

Why a New Fire Station?

A recent study of our fire department emphasized the importance of adapting to meet the current and future service demands of our growing community. Building a new fire station in the Dodd Boulevard/Cedar Avenue area of the City:



- Allows us to consolidate operations from four existing stations into three, improving efficiency, response times and reducing future costs.
- Supports our current transition from a paid-on-call (volunteer) model to a full-time hybrid model which requires existing stations to be renovated or replaced to accommodate this updated staffing model.

Learn More

For details about the fire station plan, proposed park revisions and the timeline for station transitions, visit LakevilleMN.gov. Navigate to **Construction Projects** on our homepage and select **Public Safety Projects** for more information.



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Friends of the Heritage Library Present:

An Author Event

April 26
 Time: 7:30 pm
 Place: Lakeville Area Arts Center
 Tickets: Free, but you must register
 LakevilleAreaArtsCenter.com, Events
 952-985-4640

Novelist, playwright, comedian and actor Lorna Landvik, is moderator of this author event. Books will be available for sale and there will be a book signing following the event.

Tickets

Mindy Mejia
 "TO CATCH A STORM"

Allen Eskens
 "THE LIFE WE BURY"

Presenting Sponsor

HIGHMARK

LAKEVILLE

COMMUNITY EXPO

HOME and LANDSCAPE

9 AM - 3 PM

LAKEVILLE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

March 22

Visit the City's booth!
 Learn about the tree sale & care, seasonal jobs, building permits, decks, fences and more!

100 donors needed!

Lakeville

mini citywide blood drive

Antlers Park Hennen Pavilion | 9am-4pm

APRIL 8

THANK YOU on behalf of these community partners:

Lakeville Rotary | City of Lakeville | Lakeville Police | Lakeville Liquors
 Lakeville Public Safety Foundation | Pan-O-Prog | Lakeville Fire
 Lakeville Area Schools | Lakeville Chamber of Commerce

mbc.org
Code: 4450