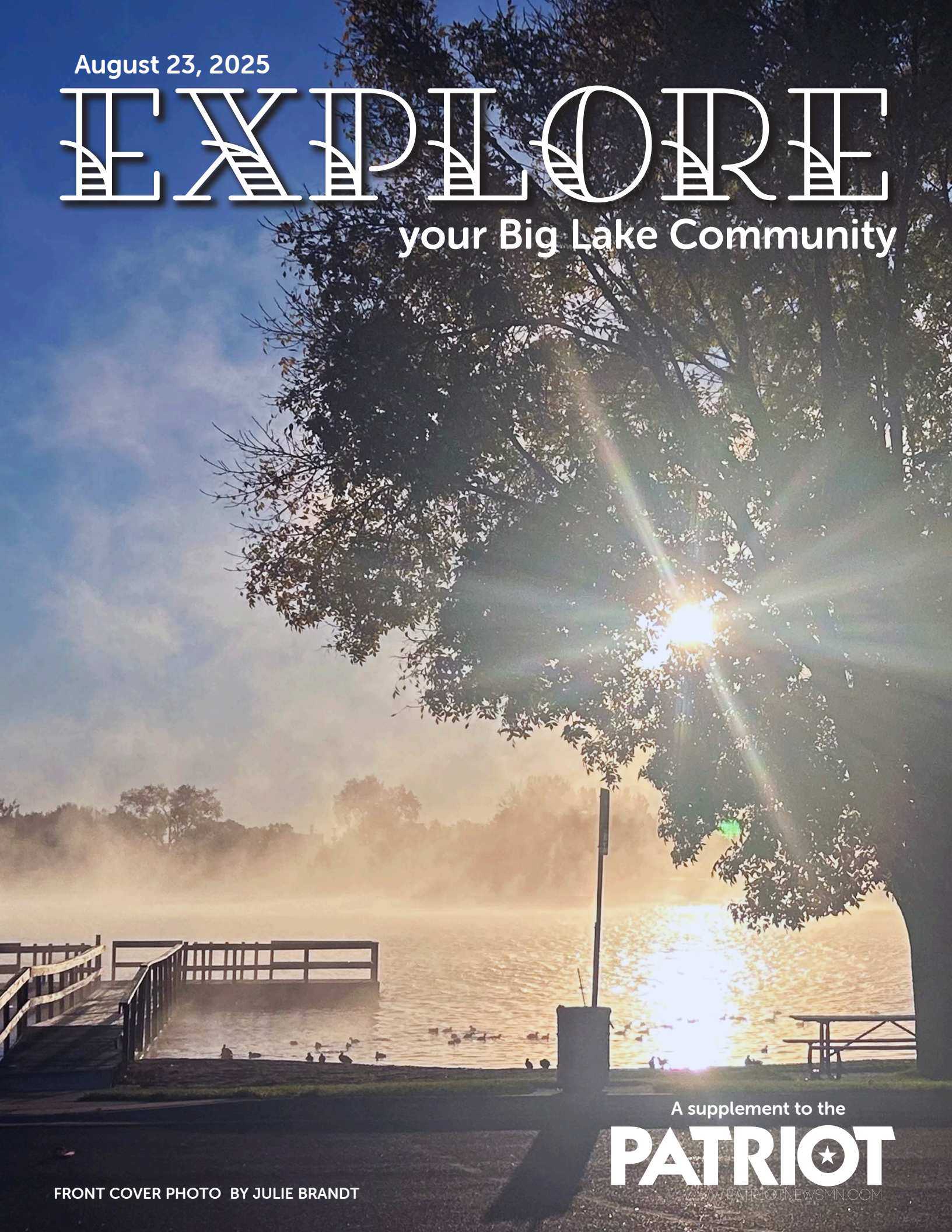


August 23, 2025

# EXPLORE

your Big Lake Community



FRONT COVER PHOTO BY JULIE BRANDT

A supplement to the  
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# City of Big Lake



**B**ig Lake is experiencing steady growth in 2025, marked by new developments and businesses choosing to call our community home. This progress is fueled by the strong sense of safety and security provided by the City's Police, Building, and Fire Departments, as well as the exceptional quality of life residents enjoy. With 19 well-maintained parks, more than 20 miles of scenic trails, and the picturesque Lakeside Park, Big Lake offers countless opportunities for recreation and connection. The community calendar is filled with engaging events

like the Farmers Market, Movie in the Park, ECFE in the Park, Music in the Park, Big Lake Spud Fest, the Graniteman Triathlon, and many other local gatherings. Whether you're a longtime resident or a newcomer, there's always something to enjoy in Big Lake!

Big Lake's strong sense of safety, quality of life, and unmistakable feeling of home are powered by the people who make this City shine. From dedicated volunteers to the hardworking teams behind local businesses and nonprofits, your passion and commitment have turned Big Lake into a magnet for new families and a cherished home base for longtime residents. The proof is in the progress as Community Development continues to flourish with exciting new housing opportunities! Goldenrod Glen, a beautiful 74-unit affordable senior (55+) apartment complex, recently celebrated its grand opening and is already welcoming new neighbors. Over in Prairie Meadows Fourth Addition, construction is humming along with 60 twin-homes underway east of 172nd Street and north of Highway 10. There is more growth on the horizon as City Council just gave the green light to preliminary plans for Prairie Meadows Fifth Addition; a 99-home development west of 172nd Street near Prairie Drive.

The Big Lake City Council and City staff support and thank our local community organizations and businesses. We encourage everyone to #LiveBig by enjoying Big Lake's many amenities and supporting local. Being thoughtful about "keeping it local" enhances the stability of our community. Big Lake is buzzing with opportunity as new investments kick off! M&M Precision Machining, Inc. is set to transform the Industrial Park with a substantial 60,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility and continuing to spark the City's industrial growth. With 41 employees already on board, the company plans to expand its workforce by at least 16 more, fueling local job creation and economic momentum, and that's just the beginning! Several other businesses are actively shaping their own development plans, promising an exciting wave of investment in the coming year. Keep an eye out for updates on events and other happenings within the City on Facebook and at [biglakemn.org](http://biglakemn.org).

*Mayor, Paul Knier*



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# From the Editor



I hope this letter finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to share with you the quality of life enjoyed here in Big Lake, Minnesota – a place many are proud to call home.

Nestled along the shores of its namesake lake and the Mississippi River, Big Lake offers the perfect blend of small-town charm and access to modern conveniences. The community is close-knit, friendly, and supportive – neighbors look out for each other, and there's a genuine sense of belonging.

Families are drawn to the excellent schools, well-maintained parks, and abundant recreational opportunities. Whether it's boating and fishing on the lake in summer, snowmobiling in winter, or enjoying

the scenic trails and Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge nearby, there's no shortage of outdoor activities year-round.

Despite the peaceful setting, Big Lake is well-connected. With easy access to U.S. Highway 10 and the Northstar commuter rail line, residents can commute to the Twin Cities while still enjoying the tranquility of a smaller community.

What truly sets Big Lake apart is its blend of natural beauty, safety, affordability, and civic pride. Community events like Music in the Park and the Big Lake Block Party foster a strong sense of community spirit that makes life here vibrant and fulfilling.

Whether you're raising a family, starting a business, or simply looking for a slower pace with room to breathe, Big Lake offers a high quality of life that's hard to match.

— William B. Morgan, Editor



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## Big Lake Public Library

The Big Lake Public Library is located at 790 Minnesota St. across from the Independence Elementary School. The Big Lake Public Library is a part of the Great River Regional Library.

Hours: Monday 1 to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 to 5 p.m.; Wednesday 1 to 7 p.m.; Thursday 1 to 5 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; closed Sunday.

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## Big Lake Food Shelf

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# Welcome from the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry!



Julie Brandt,  
Executive Director

**“Support the success of the Big Lake Area business community through information, communication and cooperation”** is the mission of the BLCC (Big Lake Chamber of Commerce). As a non-profit independent organization, we seek to help businesses thrive, network, and learn thru various meetings, communication, and community events.

We hold **monthly member meetings** at various member locations to feature our members as the speakers and lunch providers. Membership includes weekly emails, website presence, networking events, awareness of local events, social media exposure, referrals, and opportunities to help and sponsor chamber community events. The chamber helps keep businesses up to date on local city and Minnesota legislative changes. Our website business directory is a great resource of chamber members. Our Ambassador team also welcomes and visits new businesses!

Our goal is to create opportunities for business to **network** and help each other. Two events in particular include:

**“Morning Mixer”** – A casual morning coffee session to learn more about a hosting member.

**“Chamber Cheer”** – A chance to meet up after work for some casual networking.

Our BLCC annual meeting is always held in November, at which time we may elect new board members or make policy changes with member approval.

“Winter Fest” was held in January. We enjoyed a “Friends and Flannel” theme with socializing, bingo, great food, entertainment, and many laughs. We will celebrate winter again in January 2026.

The Big Lake Community Fair was held on March 15th at the Big Lake High School. Our partnership with Big Lake Community Education makes this event happen. We had vendor booths that featured many businesses and organizations. Caricatures, face painting, music, dancers, Big Lake Robotics team, Farmer’s Market, “meal deals” and a job opportunity table were available. Bikes and prizes were given away. The Big Lake Community Food Shelf received donations. KidSight Vision, sponsored by the Big Lake Lions, screened many children. It was a great collaboration of chamber members, school district, businesses, and community members. The proceeds from this event are gifted as scholarships to Big Lake High School Seniors based on “Volunteerism”. We gifted 4 - \$500 awards this year. Save the Date for 2026: **March 14th.**

The summer is always busy in Big Lake! Our 7th Annual BLCC Golf Scramble “Swinging through the Decades” was held in July at Pebble Creek in Becker. We had a record number of golfers and sponsors to make this a top event!! What a great day of golf, fun, food and prizes!! Thanks to so many business sponsors, participants, and volunteers!! We will see you next July!!

Annually, we welcome new teachers with welcome bags of items donated by local chamber members.

The Annual Big Lake Block Party will be held again at McPete’s on Saturday, September 13th. This year marks a milestone 15th year!! Some changes this year include: date, time, month, dunk tank, bouncy house, “World of Wheels”, tug-of-war, car parade, bean bag tournament and live music at night! There will also be giveaways, raffle items, family activities, entertainment, food options, and vendor booths.

As you can see, we have many opportunities for businesses to get involved as a member, sponsor, committee member, volunteer, or participant. We encourage involvement and participation! We want people to **shop LOCAL, eat LOCAL, and spend LOCAL.** Explore Big Lake Area businesses!

**Current 2025 Board of Directors include:** Tim Truebenbach, Big Lake Schools; Brenda Geldert, Options Inc.; Scott Driscoll, Driscoll Accounting; Oscar Cooper, El Teca Barber Shop;

Marissa McKee, Sherburne State Bank; Stacey Stanley, Real Broker, Inc.; Donna Clarksean, National Bank of Commerce, and Ona Rawson, EXP Realty. We are actively seeking new board members.

If you have questions or want more information, please contact the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce at 763-263-7800, email [julie@biglakechamber.com](mailto:julie@biglakechamber.com), check our website at [www.biglakechamber.com](http://www.biglakechamber.com) or Facebook page: Big Lake Chamber of Commerce.



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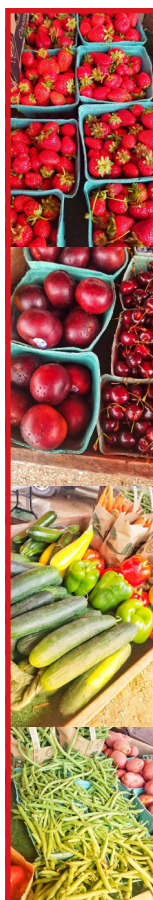
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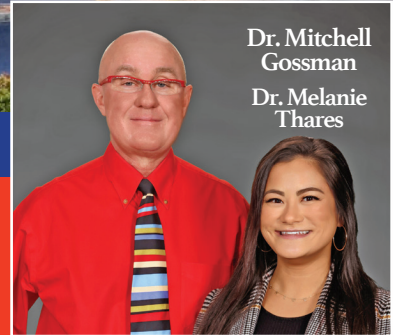
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## Avery's Adventures

Elk River

## Beaudry Oil & Propane

Elk River

## Beautiful You Dermatology LLC

Big Lake

## Becker Big Lake Ice Association

Big Lake

## Best Western Plus Chelsea Hotel

Monticello

## Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association (BELIA)

Big Lake

## Big Lake All Night Graduation Committee, Inc.

Big Lake

## Big Lake Ambassadors

Big Lake

## Big Lake American Legion

Post 147/Auxiliary

Big Lake

## Big Lake Area Veterinary Hospital

Big Lake

## Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

Big Lake

## Big Lake Community Food Shelf (BLCFS)

Big Lake

## Big Lake Community Lakes Association (BLCLA)

Big Lake

## Big Lake Fire Department

Big Lake

## Big Lake Lions Club /

LC of BL Lioness

Big Lake

## Big Lake Police Department

Big Lake

## Big Lake Schools

Big Lake

## Big Lake Spud Fest

Big Lake

## Bolton and Menk, Inc.

Mankato

## Brenteson Companies, Inc.

Big Lake

## Cabot Lodge Securities -

Paul Knier

Big Lake

## Carefree Cleaning

Elk River

## Carefree Country Club

Big Lake

## Cargill

Big Lake

## Centerpoint Energy

Coon Rapids

## CentraCare - Big Lake

Big Lake

## CentraCare - Monticello

Monticello

## City of Big Lake

Big Lake

## Coborn's Superstore

Big Lake

## CoMitted 365 Roofing & Exteriors

Waite Park

## Commercial Realty Solutions

Buffalo

## Compassion Connection

Becker

## Connexus Energy

Ramsey

## Connie Stegora - Realtor with Keller Williams Classic Realty NW

Maple Grove

## CorTrust Bank

Monticello

## Covenat Christian Academy

Big Lake

## Create and Connect Studio

Big Lake

## Dan's of Big Lake

Big Lake

## Data Success, Inc.

Big Lake

## Deanstech Business Technology

Big Lake

## Driscoll Accounting Services, LLC

Big Lake

## Edina Realty- Ryan Benjamin

Becker

## Edward Jones - Tim Suchy

Big Lake

## El Teca Barber Shop

Big Lake

## Elevier Women's Center

Elk River

## FLOATERS Recreational Rentals

Big Lake

## Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge

Zimmerman

**MEMBERS to page 15**

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# BIG LAKE CHAMBER & INDUSTRY MEMBER LISTING

## Friends of Big Lake Library

Big Lake

## Girl Scouts of MN and WI - Lakes and Pines

Waite Park

## Glenbrook Building Supply, Inc.

Big Lake

## Goldenrod Glen Apartments

Big Lake

## Great River Federal Credit Union

Big Lake

## Great River Spine and Sport

Big Lake

## Guardian Angels Senior Services

Elk River

## Harvest Church

Sauk Rapids

## Hometown Auto Care

Becker

## Imholte Excavation and Trucking

Clear Lake

## JC's U Lock Storage

Big Lake

## Jeddeloh, Snyder & Stommes, P.A.

Big Lake

## Joshua Mandell LLC- Edina Realty

Minneapolis

## J's Junction

Big Lake

## Keller Lake Commons

Big Lake

## Kensho Salon

Big Lake

## Kwik Trip

Big Lake

## Lake Liquors

Big Lake

## Liberty Bank Minnesota

Big Lake

## Lisi Medical

Big Lake

## Loch Jewelers

Monticello

## Lofgren Construction, LLC

Big Lake

## Lord of Glory Lutheran Church

Elk River

## Lupulin Brewing Company

Big Lake

## MacTaggart Construction Co.

Otsego

## Majestic Creations

Becker

## MB Consultants, PLLC

Monticello

## McPete's Sports Bar and Lanes

Big Lake

## Metro Tent Rental Inc.

Nowthen

## Michelle M. Backlund CPA

Elk River

## Minnco Credit Union

Big Lake

## Minnesota State Senator

Andrew Mathews

St. Paul

## Monticello Printing

Monticello

## Monticello Times/

Town & Country Shopper

Monticello

## National Bank of Commerce (formerly Riverwood Bank)

Big Lake

## North Risk Partners-Insurance Specialists Team

Monticello

## Northstar Technology Solutions

Big Lake

## Old National Bank

Big Lake

## Ona Rawson Realty Coldwell Banker

Big Lake

## Options, Inc.

Big Lake

## Park Dental Big Lake (PDG, P.A.)

Big Lake

## PATRIOT News

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## Premier Marine

Big Lake

## Queen Bee's Gardens & Florals

Monticello

## Real Broker LLC

Big Lake

## RG LPT Realty-

Brad & Carla Swanson

Big Lake

## Rocket Tile

Big Lake

## Royal Renovations

Clear Lake

## Safe Food Training

Elk River

## Saron Lutheran Church

Big Lake

## Schleif Real Estate Group

Monticello

## Sherburne County

Elk River

## Sherburne County Area

United Way (SCAUW)

Elk River

**MEMBERS to page 16**

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# BIG LAKE CHAMBER & INDUSTRY MEMBER LISTING

## Sherburne History Center

Becker

## Sherburne State Bank

Becker

## Shield Pro Exteriors

Big Lake

## Sign Man, Inc.

Buffalo

## Smith, Paulson O'Donnell & Erickson (SPOE) PLC

Monticello

## St. Croix Valley Insurance

## Service Incorporated

Big Lake

## Starz Dance Studio

Becker

## State Farm-

## Cory Laugen Insurance Inc.

Big Lake

## Style Catering

Big Lake

## T&J Construction

Rogers

## Terning & Company, Inc.

Big Lake

## Thelen Mechanical

Big Lake

## Three Sons Hardware LLC

Big Lake

## Trail's Grill and Sports Bar

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**WWW.CORYLAUGENINSURANCE.COM**



# Big Lake Parks

## **Bluff Park:** 20220 Prairie Drive.

Located in the Prairie Meadows Dev. Playground, picnic tables, and swings.

## **Browns Square Park:** 106 Lake Street North.

Adjacent to City Hall along US Hwy 10. Gazebo, benches & flower garden.

## **Hidden River Park:** 20774 Atlantic Blvd.

Located in the Hidden Rivers Development along CR 5. Trail to river with overlook gazebo and benches.

## **Highline Park:** 19200 Highline Drive.

Located N of Highline Drive west of CR 5, and east of Highland Trail. Playground, picnic tables, ballfield, benches, and grills.

## **Hudson Wood Park:** 16400 May Circle.

Playground, benches, picnic tables, pickleball courts, and disc golf course.

## **Ice Rinks:** 160 Lake Street N.

Open seasonally. Warming house, ice skating rink, benches and indoor bathrooms available at City Hall.

## **Kellerwood Park:** South of Hwy 10 and West of Hwy 25 along Keller Lake.

Benches overlooking Keller Lake.

## **Lake Ridge Park:** 4430 Pintail Street.

Located east of CR 81 off of 206th Avenue. Playground, ballfield, benches, swings, and picnic tables.

## **Lakeside Park:** 101 Lakeshore Drive.

Located on the west side of Big Lake along US Hwy 10. Amenities: Swimming beach, playground equipment, 3 volleyball courts, boat launch, fishing pier, dock, two park shelters available for rental, picnic area, grills, picnic tables, water fountain, skate park, restrooms, outside showers, and the site for Big Lake's Freedom Rock. Farmers Market and Music in the Park series take place in summer months. Visit [biglakemn.org](http://biglakemn.org) to find the park facility rental application. Parking Passes: Daily Parking Passes available for purchase at Lakeside Park Kiosk. Vehicle - \$5/day; Vehicle & Trailer - \$20/day. Cards only. Seasonal Passes are available for purchase at City Hall, Lake Liquors or online at [biglakemn.org](http://biglakemn.org): Vehicle Only - \$10 (55309 Zip Code); Vehicle & Trailer - \$20 (55309 Zip Code); Vehicle Only - \$30 (non-resident); Vehicle & Trailer - \$60 (non-resident). General Rules: Vehicles must park in the designated areas. Beware of restricted parking areas including handicapped, boat trailer parking, no parking, etc. Boats must remain 150 feet away from swimming area. No lifeguard on duty. Swim only in the buoyed area. No pets allowed. No glass containers. No keg beer. Place refuse in proper container. Be safe and courteous to others.

## **Lions Park:** Big Lake Township.

Located 3.5 miles N of Hwy 10 on Eagle Lake Rd. 36 acres built up to accommodate the entire community. Community building reserved on an "as requested" basis for non-profit groups. Bonfire ring, playground area, picnic tables and barbecue grills.

## **McDowall Park:** North of Lake Mitchell.

Trail system, prairie restoration plantings, and benches.

## **Mitchell Farms Park:** 5415 Teal Street.

Located N of Mitchell Road and W of Teal Street. Playground, benches, and swings.

## **Norland Park:** 20480 Nedd Street.

Playground, picnic tables, and portable toilet.

## **Powell Park:** 1420 Powell Street.

Located W of CR 5 and S of Hiawatha Avenue. Playground, zip line, benches, swings, and portable toilet.

## **River Oaks Park:** West of CR 5 and north of Grace Drive.

Disc Golf Course, walking trails, picnic tables, restrooms, river, and parking.

## **Riverside Landing Park:** East of CR 5, across from Highline Drive.

This park provides access to the Elk River. Trails overlooking the river.

## **Sanford Select Acres Park:** Sanford Avenue and Eaglewood Drive.

Remote car track, playground, zip line, picnic tables, parking, and portable restroom.

## **Shores of Lake Mitchell:** 3211 Lake Ridge Drive.

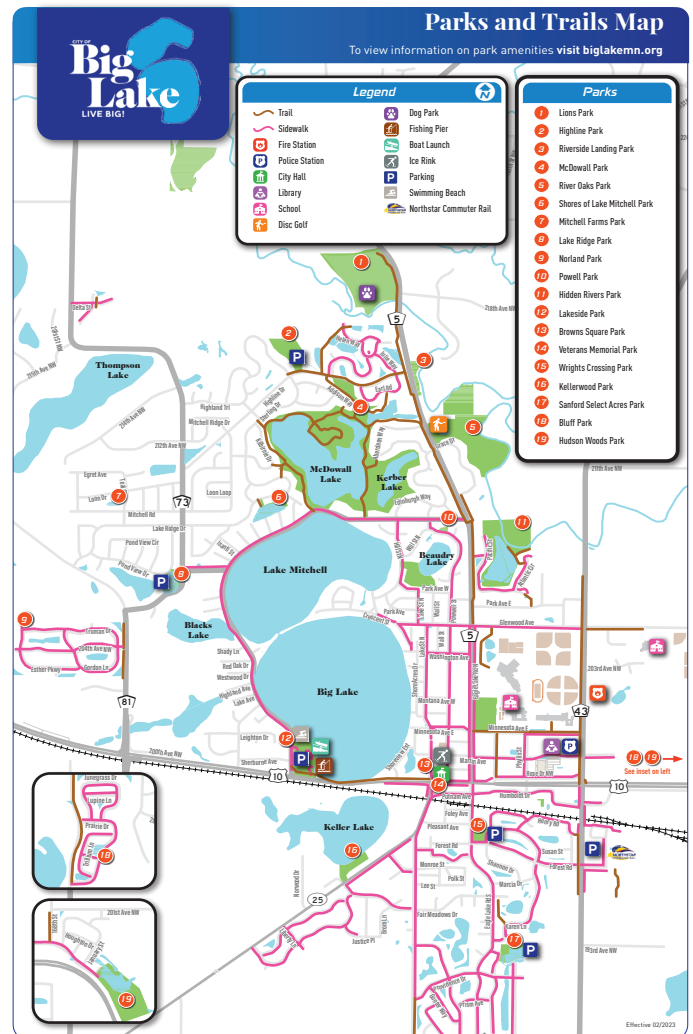
Located south of Lake Ridge Drive and north of Manitou Street. Playground, swings, benches, horseshoe pits, soccer field and basketball court.

## **Veterans Memorial Park:** 10 Lake St. S.

Located along the south side of US Hwy 10 at the intersection of Hwy 10/25. Veterans Memorial, benches, reader board, and flower garden.

## **Wrights Crossing Park:** 514 Forest Road.

Located S of Hwy 10 and N of Forest Rd. Playground, swings, park shelter available for rental, benches, picnic tables, and volleyball court. Visit [biglakemn.org](http://biglakemn.org) to find the park facility rental application.





# Township Info.

## BIG LAKE TOWNSHIP

[www.biglaketownship.com](http://www.biglaketownship.com)

21960 County Road 5 NW, Big Lake, located at the Township's Lions Park 2.6 miles North of Hwy 10 on County Road 5 NW (Eagle Lake Road).

U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 75, Big Lake, MN 55309

Phone: 763-263-8111

Email: [info@biglaketownship.com](mailto:info@biglaketownship.com)

Town Hall/Clerk's Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9am - 4pm, Fridays 9am to 12 Noon

Township Meetings: Second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the Town Hall beginning at 6pm.

The Township's Lions park, pavilions and ballfields are open to the general public for use during park hours of 8am to 10pm, 7-days a week. Indoor amenities are available for event rentals. Reservations can be made by contacting Town Hall during office hours at the number listed above or visit our website for more information.

Township Board Members: Chairman Bruce Aubol, Vice Chairman; Mark Hedstrom, Supervisor; Larry Alford, Supervisor; Dean Brenteson, Supervisor; Laura Hayes, Treasurer; Ken Warneke, Clerk; Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Deputy Clerk; Debbie Workman, Deputy Treasurer; Becky Guthrie.

## ORROCK TOWNSHIP

[www.orrocktownship.com](http://www.orrocktownship.com)

Orrock Township, 26401 180th St NW

Big Lake, MN 55309. **Office hours** at Orrock Town Hall on Wednesdays from 8:30 to 11:30 or by appointment with the Clerk. **Board meetings** take place the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Meetings are held at town hall.

General Email: [clerk@orrocktownship.com](mailto:clerk@orrocktownship.com)

Phone: 763-263-6411

### Township Board Members:

Chairperson - Anne Felber

Vice Chair - Paul Ellinger

Supervisor - Bryan Adams

Supervisor - Peter Owen

Supervisor - Dalton Keiderling

Treasurer - Kellie McConville

Clerk - Shelley Erickson

Deputy Clerk - Francine Larson

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# Big Lake Area Lakes

## Big Lake/Lower Lake:

Lake Size: 251 Acres

Public Boat Access: Located on Southwest shore of lake off U.S. Hwy. 10 & Co. Rd. 73

Lake Notes: Specializing in Northern Pike and Bluegill. Walleye, Crappie and Sunfish also caught.

## Lake Mitchell/Upper Lake:

Lake Size: 170 Acres

Public Boat Access: 1 on Northeast shore, 1 on Southeast shore of lake

Lake Notes: Specializing in Northern Pike and Bluegill. Walleye, Crappie, Largemouth Bass and Sunfish also caught. Connects to Big Lake.

## Eagle Lake:

Lake Size: 381 Acres

Public Boat Access: Located on Northwest shore of lake off Co. Rd. 75

Lake Notes: Specializing in Crappie and Bluegill. Northern Pike and Smallmouth Bass also caught.

## Lake Ann:

Lake Size: 184 Acres

Lake Notes: Specializing in Crappie and Bluegill.

Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass and Sunfish also caught.

## Birch Lake:

Lake Size: 151 Acres

Public Boat Access: Located on West shore of lake off Co. Rd. 15 & 223rd Ave.

Lake Notes: Specializing in Crappie and Bluegill. Northern Pike, Walleye and Sunfish also caught.

## Orono Lake:

Lake Size: 281 Acres

Public Boat Access: Located on West shore of lake

Lake Notes: Specializing in Crappie. Northern Pike and Bluegill also caught.

For further information, please contact the DNR at:  
1-800-766-6000

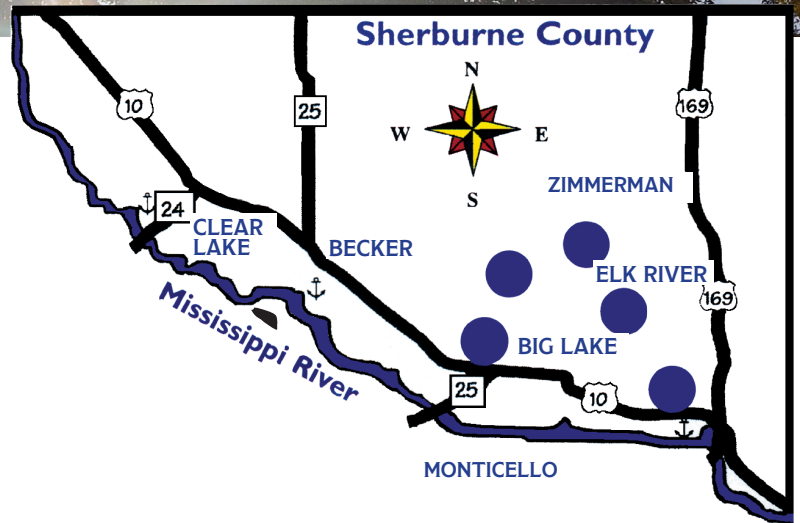
## Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association

BELIA (Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association) is a community organization dedicated to promoting and supporting efforts to maintain and enhance the natural beauty and ecological health of Big Eagle Lake, ensuring it remains a safe and enjoyable recreational destination. BELIA is involved in water quality tests, invasive species control, and advocacy/education efforts.

BELIA holds fundraisers throughout the year to raise funding for water quality treatments (controlling invasive species and treating excess algae).

**Board members:** President Gordon Westerlind, Vice President Bryan Adams, Director Michael Donnelly, Director Craig (CJ) Johnson, Secretary Lori Andreen, Director John Smullen, Director George Wallin, Director Ed Peitso, Director Dan Boyle, Director Paul Ellinger, and Treasurer Jeff Johnson. [BigEagleLakeBoard@gmail.com](mailto:BigEagleLakeBoard@gmail.com) •

[BigLakeImprovementAssociation.com](http://BigLakeImprovementAssociation.com) • Secretary: Lori Andreen



## Big Lake Community Lakes Association (BLCLA)

BLCLA's motto is: "Working together to protect and improve our area lakes, for the use and future enjoyment of all."

Ongoing Projects in Mitchell and Big Lakes.

- Aquatic plants and invasive species
  - Survey and identification
  - Paid treatments
  - Annual dock, lift and watercraft inspections
  - Paid inspections at Lakeside Park
- Annual walleye stocking program

Residents are encouraged to join BLCLA. Individual memberships are \$50 per year. Board meetings the second Tuesday of each month.

763-568-9514 • [BLCLAPresident@gmail.com](mailto:BLCLAPresident@gmail.com) • President: Dakota Weinzel

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# City of Big Lake

## BIG LAKE CITY HALL

160 Lake Street North, Big Lake, MN 55309  
[www.biglakemn.org](http://www.biglakemn.org)  
Phone: (763) 263-2107 • Fax: (763) 263-0133  
Hours: Monday - Thurs: 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Friday 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

## Big Lake Council Members:

**Paul Knier**, Mayor: [pknier@biglakemn.org](mailto:pknier@biglakemn.org)  
**Ken Halverson**, Council Member: [khalverson@biglakemn.org](mailto:khalverson@biglakemn.org)  
**Ken Geroux**, Council Member: [kgeroux@biglakemn.org](mailto:kgeroux@biglakemn.org)  
**Paul Seefeld**, Council Member: [pseefeld@biglakemn.org](mailto:pseefeld@biglakemn.org)  
**Kim Noding**, Council Member: [knoding@biglakemn.org](mailto:knoding@biglakemn.org)

**City Administrator:** Hannah Klimmek

763-263-2107 • [BigLakeMN.org](http://BigLakeMN.org) • City Clerk: Gina Wolbeck

The Big Lake City Council is comprised of elected officials consisting of a Mayor and four City Council Members, all of whom are elected at-large. All seats are four-year terms with City elections held on even-numbered years. The Mayor presides at City Council meetings and has equal voting rights with the Council Members.

City Council Meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of the month beginning at 6 p.m. Workshops are also held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month beginning at 5 p.m.

Meetings are held in the Big Lake City Council Chambers located at 160 Lake Street North, Big Lake.

## City Information

Big Lake is a growing community in Sherburne County. As of April 2024, the City's estimated population is 12,773 and Big Lake Township's is 8,177, totaling 20,669. The City is home to many beautiful natural amenities with the City's pride and joy being Lakeside Park.

Big Lake is roughly 45 miles away from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International airport and 28 miles from the St. Cloud Regional Airport.

*"We tend to believe life is different in small towns, and frankly, it is different. The pace of life is slower, there's little traffic, people tend to know their neighbors; each town has its distinct idiosyncrasies and charms." — Nicholas Sparks*



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# Big Lake Public Schools District 727

## WELCOME TO BIG LAKE!

Big Lake Schools is a district of approximately 3,400 students, dedicated to providing individualized learning, employing high quality teachers, and ensuring graduates are career and college ready. The decision to enroll students in Big Lake Schools is one that will benefit students and families for a lifetime. Daily work incorporates cutting-edge education philosophies, including: Response to Intervention; Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports; Professional Learning Communities; Q-Comp; and, the school's own behavioral philosophy, the Hornet Way.

Diverse educational offerings paired with a wonderful community makes Big Lake Schools an excellent choice for local families!

For more information on Big Lake Schools, visit [biglakeschools.org](http://biglakeschools.org).

**Comm. Ed. Office** 763-262-2523  
**District Office** 763-262-2536  
**Early Childhood/Pre-K** 763-262-3233  
**Kids Club - Ind.** 763-262-7168 **Kids Club - Lib.** 763-262-8284



## BIG LAKE HIGH SCHOOL:

Big Lake High School (grades 9-12) is located at 501 Minnesota Ave. School hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.

Big Lake High School boasts a wide variety of educational and co-curricular activities that enable students to be successful in school and in life. The school's number one priority is preparing students for college and careers. Students can choose from a list of more than 150 class offerings in 14 different content areas that help focus career options and transition them to college. Class offerings include College in the Schools (CIC), Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO), online classes, classes through Wright Technical Center, foreign languages, Project Lead the Way, apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities, and more!

763-262-2547 • [blhs.biglakeschools.org](http://blhs.biglakeschools.org) • Principal: Bob Dockendorf



## BIG LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Big Lake Middle School (grades 6-8) is located at 601 Minnesota Ave. School hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.

Big Lake Middle School focuses on providing educational experiences that emphasize the instruction and overall well-being of students as they move through some of their most formative years. The school promotes a welcoming and safe atmosphere for diverse learners, fostering mutual respect among students and staff, and encouraging a positive image within the community. Beyond the core curriculum, class offerings include media and technology (Project Lead the Way), music education (including band and choir), physical education, and art.

763-262-2567 • [blms.biglakeschools.org](http://blms.biglakeschools.org) • Principal: Mark Ernst



## LIBERTY ELEMENTARY:

Liberty Elementary (grades E-2) is located at 17901 205th Ave. NW. School hours are 7:40 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

The district's youngest learners start their educational journey at Liberty Elementary School which houses Early Childhood through second grade. Early Childhood encompasses parent/child (ECFE) classes along with our Little Learners Preschool, which helps create a smooth transition to kindergarten. Liberty focuses on creating a school family, building a passion for reading, and making learning fun for Little Hornets! The entire building takes great pride in meeting students' social and emotional needs, and staff strive to build an environment where all students feel safe and valued. Students engage in lots of hands-on learning and fun activities that foster creativity and exploration. Instruction also includes STEAM-based activities, research-based literacy practice, and individualized student support.

763-262-8100 • [liberty.biglakeschools.org](http://liberty.biglakeschools.org) • Principal: Teresa Smock-Potter  
 763-262-2536 - [ce.biglakeschools.org/early-childhood](http://ce.biglakeschools.org/early-childhood) - Early Childhood Coordinator: Sam Gort.



## INDEPENDENCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: 763-262-2537

Independence Elementary School (grades 3-5) is located at 701 Minnesota Ave. School hours are 7:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Independence Elementary STEM is dedicated to providing curriculum opportunities beyond state requirements to help students become well-rounded, global citizens. Notably, Independence has won numerous awards and recognitions for its strong STEM and PBIS initiatives. The school promotes a safe, caring, and inviting environment where each student is valued for who they are and the contributions they bring. Students and staff take great pride in their school and being part of the Independence Elementary STEM community!

763-262-2537 • [indy.biglakeschools.org](http://indy.biglakeschools.org) • Principal: Jona Deavel

## BIG LAKE ONLINE

Big Lake Online (grades K-12):

Big Lake Online is the fully accredited online school of Big Lake Schools, offering K-12 full-time enrollment options and 9-12 single course enrollments to students statewide. The program offers the best of both worlds. The curriculum is rigorous, self-paced, and standard-based. Students also receive individualized educational, tech, and social-emotional support from Big Lake Schools staff members, and are welcome to participate in all district activities and programs. Big Lake Online is the perfect option for those looking for an alternative to traditional in-person learning!

763-262-2547 • [blo.biglakeschools.org](http://blo.biglakeschools.org) • Coordinator: Nathan Hamrin



# Big Lake Police Dept.



**THE 2024-25 BIG LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT** includes Police Chief John Kaczmarek (L) and Officer Sam Olson (R) along with (not pictured) Sergeant Sam Nolin, Sergeant Guy Chaffee, Investigator Tom Kucala, Investigator Silas Reek, Officer Joe Kalla, Officer Bill Saliterman, Officer Michael Asfeld, Officer Chris Hoard, Officer Caleb Sawatsky, Officer Andrew Hanson, Officer Autumn Hanson, Officer Nathan Hedstrom, Officer Cody Garda, Sergeant Nic Prigge, Officer Julie Hawkins, Office Manager Tina Peterson and Police Specialist Jessica Baker.



## BIG LAKE POLICE DEPT

790 Minnesota Avenue, P.O. Box 417,  
Big Lake, MN 55309

**Phone:** Emergency: 911

**Dispatch:** 763-765-3500

**Administration/Business:** 763-251-2996

(M-TH, 7am-4:00pm; F, 7am - Noon)

**Fax:** 763-515-4701

[www.biglakepolice.com](http://www.biglakepolice.com)

**Chief of Police:** John Kaczmarek

The Big Lake Police Department has a dedicated staff of sworn, civilian, and reserve staff providing professional law enforcement services to the City of Big Lake. The Big Lake Police Department works cooperatively with numerous agencies, community groups, and its citizens to provide to a high quality of life in our community.

An advertisement for the EMR facility. It features the EMR logo at the top left. The main text reads "VISIT OUR STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY IN BECKER, MINNESOTA". On the right, a green circular badge says "NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC". The background shows industrial equipment.



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# Big Lake Fire Dept.



**THE 2024-25 BIG LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT.** In alphabetical order: Brad Anderson, Brady Bagne, Terry Baxter, Eric Boe, Eric Burleigh, Nick Christenson, Steve Christenson, Tim Davis, Adam Dietz, Nic Dornbusch, Brian Erlandson, Seth Hansen, Sam Hanson, Daren Hardies, Mark Hedstrom, Jesse Hemauer, Matthew Houle, Mike Houts, Noel Krebs, Ryan Lien, Joshua Matich, Clinton Maxson, Joe Moraczewski, Doug Novak, Jeff Novak, Trevor Roediger, Eric Rosa, Shane Roy, Kiel Ruberg, Samuel Sweat, Jeremy Terwisscha and Jason White. (Submitted Photo).



## BIG LAKE FIRE DEPT

**Location:** 20243 County Road 43, Big Lake, MN 55309

**Mail:** Box 129, Big Lake, MN 55309

**Phone:** (763) 263-3456, Fax: (763) 263-7006

**Fire Chief:** Seth Hansen

**Assistant Fire Chief:** Mark Hedstrom

**Deputy Fire Chief:** Jeff Novak

**Captain No. 1:** Tim Davis

**Captain No. 2:** Doug Novak

**Captain No. 3:** Nick Christensen

**Captain No. 4:** Sam Hanson

**Captain No. 5:** Clinton Maxson

**Lieutenant No. 1:** Eric Rosa

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