

# Fall 2025 Home Guide

SUPPLEMENT TO THE  
**PATRIOT**  
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SEPTEMBER 27, 2025



GOLDENROD GLEN APARTMENTS opened its doors last winter to residents 55 years and older. Located on Northstar Street in Big Lake, Goldenrod Glen Apartments are just north of the Northstar Commuter Rail Station. Their thoughtfully designed one- and two-bedroom apartments provide the perfect blend of comfort, convenience, and modern living. See the story on page 26. INSET: A view of the beautiful community center room that features a full kitchen, lots of seating, a library room and a large screen TV. (Photos from Goldenrod Glen website)



# This Fall Home Guide can help be a blueprint

Home remodeling and DIY construction have become more than just trends—they're essential for creating living spaces that truly reflect our needs, preferences, and lifestyles. Whether you're updating a kitchen, building custom shelves, or transforming your backyard, these projects provide both functional and emotional benefits.

First and foremost, home remodeling increases the value of your property. A well-executed remodel not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of your home but also makes it more attractive to potential buyers. From energy-efficient upgrades to modernized interiors, these improvements can result in a higher resale value.

DIY construction takes it a step further by allowing you to personalize your space. By tapping into your creativity, you can design solutions tailored specifically to your vision. Not only does this make your home uniquely yours, but it also fosters a sense of accomplishment and pride. Plus, taking on projects yourself can save money, especially when you're willing to invest time and effort.

But perhaps the greatest reward lies in the long-term benefits—home remodeling creates spaces that improve quality of life. Whether it's a more functional kitchen, a cozier living room, or a home office designed for productivity, these

changes can significantly impact your everyday experience.

In short, remodeling and DIY construction allow you to create the home you've always wanted, and the process itself is rewarding. So, grab those tools, unleash your creativity, and start building the future of your home.

Of course, looking for professionals to do the job is also an option. This Fall Home Guide is packed with information that can serve as your guide or blueprint to get the job done right and at affordable costs. Check out the advertisers within and give them a call or text to jumpstart your fall home projects. You won't regret it!

*William B. Morgan*  
Editor  
Patriot Newspaper





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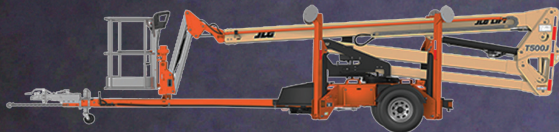


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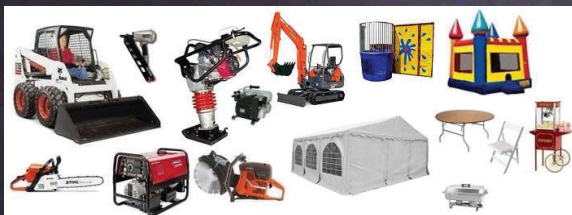
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Keep your eyes peeled in the next couple weeks for a QR code that will direct you to a website with a survey of Central Minnesota's best establishments! Stay tuned!

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# New home numbers steady in 2025

By Ken Francis,  
Contributing Writer

New single-family home construction is the same this year in Sherburne County townships for the first eight months of 2025.

A report compiled by the Sherburne County Planning and Zoning Dept. shows through the end of August, the county has issued 45 building permits for new single-family home construction, the exact same number as in 2024. That number was 40 in 2023 after a better year in 2022 with 69.

The 2025 report does not include Baldwin and Becker Twp. Both jurisdictions control their own planning and zoning projects.

New home construction is sometimes stronger in late summer through the fall, and numbers are expected to pick up throughout the rest of the year. In 2023 and in 2024, the townships finished the year with 95 new homes built.

So far through the end of August, Big Lake has had the most permits issued for new homes with 15, compared with nine in 2024.

Orrock Twp. is next with 12. The town-

ship had 15 this time a year ago.

Palmer Twp. is next with six permits, the same as in 2024. New home permits in the remaining townships so far in 2024 are: Clear Lake (5), Livonia (4), Santiago (2), Blue Hill (1) and Haven (0).

Valuation for those new homes ranged from a low of \$70,000 to a high of \$503,000, adding to the county's total tax base.

But not all building permits were

for new single-family homes. Homeowners and business owners were busy with other projects to improve and repair their properties. As a result of spring storms, the county issued 205 permits for roofing jobs and another 104 for new siding. Some of those projects are still in progress.

There were 89 permits to build accessory buildings like pole sheds and storage sheds.

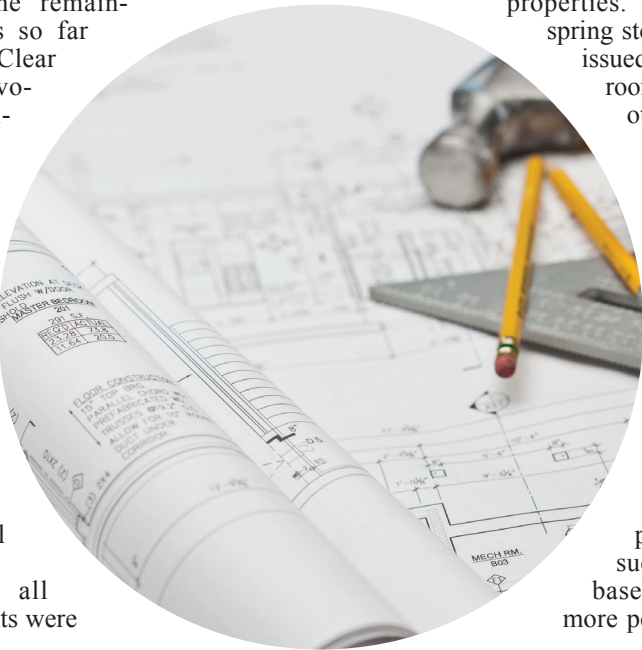
Another 41 permits were issued for finishing basements, and 23 more permits for build-

ing additions to existing homes.

There were lots of permits (152) to replace windows and doors, 36 to build decks, five for swimming pools and 10 for residential solar electric installations.

There were 115 permits pulled to upgrade gas, heating and cooling systems, and 86 more to install or replace septic systems.

The final numbers for 2025 for all townships and cities will be available in early 2026.



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# Organizational tips for bathrooms and laundry spaces

### Submitted Article

No two homes are exactly alike.

While homes typically feature certain common amenities, even in planned communities homeowners do their best to set their homes apart from others in the development.

Certain areas of a home may initially garner less attention than others. This often is the case with small washrooms, sometimes called powder rooms or guest bathrooms, as well as laundry areas. Despite their utilitarian nature, bathrooms and laundry rooms can often benefit from some better organization. The following are some ways to maximize storage and function in these spaces.

### Bathroom

Apart from a vanity and possibly a medicine cabinet, many bathroom layouts tend to be pretty sparse in terms of storage. So it is up to homeowners to introduce more storage and organizational function.

- Over-toilet shelving: Freestanding units are available from many different retailers, but they may lack aesthetic appeal. Homeowners can install open shelves above the toilet that coordinate with the style of the home. Use them to store extra towels or dis-



ORGANIZING BATHROOMS AND WASH ROOMS can give your bathroom spaces a cleaner, more impressive look.

play decorative items.

- Streamlined containers: Invest in coordinating storage containers (clear are preferable) so that all items can be uniformly put away. First sort through all items to determine which size containers are necessary and how many are required.

- Conceal toilet paper: Homeowners want to have bath tissue on hand, but simply placing it near the toilet can look cluttered or unsightly. Use decorative baskets to house one or two extra rolls and place on shelving or on the toilet tank itself.

- Freestanding cabinet: Those lucky enough to have linen closets in their bathrooms can keep everything behind closed doors. In small bathrooms this may not be possible. However, a freestanding cabinet, similar to a kitchen pantry cabinet, can be used if there is space for it. Store all of the linens and other items inside.

### Laundry

Laundry rooms can be very organized or a catch-all space for objects that simply do not fit in other rooms in the home. Perfect-

**SPACES**  
to page 7





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**SPACES**  
from page 6



**LAUNDRY ROOMS CAN BE VERY ORGANIZED** or a catch-all space for objects that simply do not fit in other rooms in the home. Perfecting laundry room organization can take some effort. (Submitted Photo).

ing laundry room organization can take some effort.

- **Folding station:** A laundry room is more useful with a folding station. It can be a separate counter over cabinetry, or innovative homeowners build a counter over front-loading washing machines and dryers.
- **Utilize wall space:** Use hooks and shelving to get items off the floor or counters. Use them to hold brooms, mops, ironing boards, detergent, and much more.
- **Invest in a pedestal storage drawer:**

Laundry pedestal storage drawers can be used to keep dryer sheets, laundry pods and additional supplies out of view.

- **Use space-saving cabinetry:** Pull out drawers and cabinets can be used to hold hampers, ironing boards, and other frequently used items without cluttering up the room.
- Organizing bathrooms and wash rooms can give these spaces a cleaner, more impressive look.



**Amy Chmielewski**  
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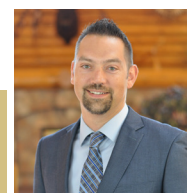
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# Did you know?

Submitted Article

Professionals might be returning to work in offices after years of pandemic-related remote work, but that doesn't mean home buyers aren't still prioritizing home office space when shopping for a new place to call their own. According to a recent survey of home buyers conducted by the National Association of Home Builders, 66 percent would prefer to buy a home with exactly one home office space and 13 percent want at least two offices. Just one in five buyers indicated they do not want any home office space. The majority of buyers who want home office space prefer a medium-sized space, which the NAHB defined as between 100 and 150 square feet. Just 22 percent of buyers prefer a home office space larger than 150 square feet, while only 19 percent want a small space (less than 100 square feet). The NAHB survey indicates the enduring popularity of home office spaces, recognition of which can be particularly useful for current homeowners preparing to put their homes on the market as well as those looking to add office space.



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# Becker seeing growth commercially and residentially

By Bill Morgan,  
Editor

Becker continues to see growth patterns as the city heads into the fourth quarter of 2025.

**Current Commercial/Industrial Construction Projects**

• **Bill's Superette Redevelopment** – Bill's new convenience store and gas station is currently under construction. The new building will take the place of the old one and will include a car wash and RV Dump Station;

• **TJ Potter Trucking New Building** – Began construction on 100,000 square foot warehouse. T.J. Potter Trucking has been in business in Becker since the late 1980s;

• **Fairway Ridge Apartments – Second Apartment Building** was recently opened. Combined with the first building there are 104 units. The unit is located between the Becker Community Center and Pebble Creek Golf Course;

• **Thousand Hill's Renovation** – Loading dock and existing building (purchased by Thousand Hill's) renovations. Since 2003, Thousand Hills Lifetime Grazed has been an industry leader in the Grass Fed Beef category.

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**Construction Projects likely to start later in 2025/2026**

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• **Cemstone Plant** - Enclosure. Cemstone supplies the broadest support network and widest

est range of ready-mixed concrete, concrete products, concrete pumps, aggregates, and services for concrete contractors, homeowners, designers and owners in the upper Midwest.

• **Von Hanson's** - New Addition. Von Hanson's Snacks was established in 2017 in Becker.

**Commercial/Industrial projects last five years**

• **Becker Screen Printing** - Addition. Becker Screen Printing & Design is family owned and operated, and has been creating quality garments since 2005;

• **Dueling Brews** building (Brewtique and UPS Store). Dueling Brews is a casual coffee shop serving coffee, cocktails and beer, plus pastries and comfort food;

• **TJ Potter Trucking** - Warehouse Addition. T.J. Potter Trucking has been in business in Becker since the late 1980s;

• **Charlie's Bar and Grill** - Renovation and addition. Charlie's is a family business with over 30 years of hospitality experience serving the greater-Becker community;

• Renovations and additions to **Becker Public Schools** (multiple buildings). A 10,000-square-foot addition was erected to the Becker Middle School building. The front office was remodeled, and a secure entry system was installed. In addition, new classroom space was added to the back of the building. Upgrades were made to the existing security doors at the high school as well as remodels to the wood shop, the metals shop, and the robotics lab.

• **Dairy Queen**. DQ serves their signature stackburgers to their classic Blizzards;

• **Country Lumber** - Office/storage buildings (multiple new buildings in 2025);

• **Kwik Trip** came to Becker this past year at the corner of Bank Street and Rolling Ridge Road;

• **Oakwood Church** - moved from their site at Becker Furniture to their own location at 12900 1st Street;

• **G-WILL Liquors** - Expansion. They are located at 13410 1st Street in Becker;

• **1 Layer Technologies** - features a 54'x60' shop equipped with six overhead doors, allowing for seamless drive-through access;

**BECKER**  
to page 15

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## BECKER from page 14

• **Bowl'd Restaurant** - Bowl'd offers burritos, bowls, nachos, tacos, salads and quesadillas;

• **Thousand Hill's** renovation and expansion (under construction). Since 2003, Thousand Hills Lifetime Grazed has been an industry leader in the Grass Fed Beef category.

• **Bill's Superette** - Redevelopment (under construction). Bill's will be putting in new gas pumps including off-road diesel, as well as a large car wash to serve the community;

• **TJ Potter Trucking** - New warehouse (under construction). T.J. Potter Trucking has been in business in Becker since the late 1980s.

### Residential Permit Numbers from 2021-2025

• **2021** - 12 Single Family Homes, 1 Twin Home (2 units);

• **2022** - 19 Single Family Homes, 3 Twin Homes (6 units), 1 Four-plex, 1 Six-plex;

• **2023** - 9 Single Family Homes, 4 Twin Homes (8 units), 1 Four-plex, 1 Commercial Multi Family (52 units);

• **2024** - 9 Single Family Homes, 1 Commercial Multi Family (52 units);

• **2025** - 11 Single Family Homes.



**BILL'S SUPERETT'S** new building is going up quickly directly behind the existing store. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan).



**THE BECKER CITY HALL AND POLICE STATION** is completed and features a new front entrance and an expansion for the Becker Police Station. (Photo from Facebook).



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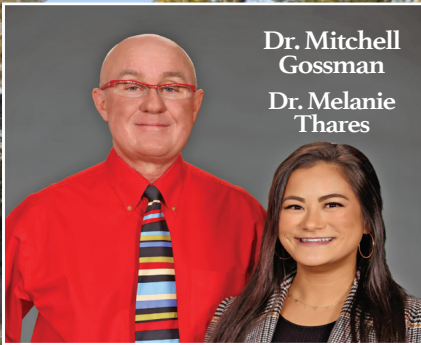


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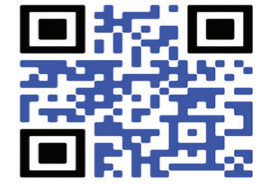
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# Big Lake commercial growth booming

By Bill Morgan,  
Editor

Big Lake is continuing to expand and grow as several expansions, developments and buildouts in the past year, mostly in commercial.

For the City of Big Lake, here are developments that have occurred or will occur within 2024-2025:

- **Covenant Christian Academy** opened their doors north of Premier Marine. They are providers of exceptional classical Christian education and work in partnership with parents to build foundations for lifelong learners and devoted followers of Jesus;

- **Rawr Organics** is constructing an approximately 17,000 sq. ft. facility in the Industrial Park to manufacture protein bars. Rawr Bar launched in June of 2018 in a Minneapolis Farmer's Market;

- **White Bear Clothing** purchased an Industrial Park parcel for a business expansion project to construct an approximately 40,000 sq. ft warehouse. They provide premium fleece, outerwear and performance apparel to embroiderers, screen printers, promotional products distributors, uniform retailers and athletic dealers;

- City Council and Big Lake Township approved a development contract with **M&M Precision Machining** to construct an approximately 60,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility in the Industrial Park. M & M Precision Machining is dedicated to providing superior CNC machining solutions with a focus on quality, reliability, and customer partnership;

- **Mega Storage** completed their large-scale self-storage facility near Lisi Medical south of Hwy. 10. Mega Storage is a state-of-the-art facility specializing in boat, RV and contractor storage;

- Aeon completed **Goldenrod Glen**, a 74-unit multifamily senior living facility. Nestled in the scenic and vibrant community of Big Lake, Goldenrod Glen offers affordable, independent living for households with at least one adult aged 55 or older;

- **Prairie Meadows 4th Addition**, east of 172nd Street, continues to be built out by Cavaliera Homes. The development consists of 60 twin homes;

- **Prairie Meadows 5th Addition**, west of 172nd Street, received Preliminary Plat approval for 99-single family homes;

- **Big Lake Car Condos** (east of 168th Street) completed their final phase of luxury garage condominiums. Whether the space is used as a personal garage, workshop, private office, urban cabin or just a place to get



**GOLDENROD GLEN APARTMENTS** is a 74-unit senior living facility constructed by the Northstar Train Station. (INSET) Dozens of guests were on hand during the facility's open house as they toured the building earlier this year. (Photo from Chamber Facebook Page).



**BIG LAKE CAR CONDOS** continues to grow as they finished Phase I of construction and received preliminary plat approval for expansion. (Photo from Facebook Page).

away, Big Lake Car Condos is built to customize however one sees fit;

- **Big Lake Car Condos II** (west of 168th Street) received Preliminary Plat ap-

proval for 60 luxury garage condominiums. The applicant is currently seeking Final Plat approval;

- **Dollar General** completed their development of **DG Market** on Lakeshore Drive. DG Market delivers everyday low prices on items including food, snacks, health and beauty aids, cleaning supplies, basic apparel, housewares, seasonal items, paper products and much more from America's most-trusted brands and products, along with high-quality private brands.

The City continues to market development opportunities throughout the commercial, industrial, and residential areas.



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