

# CITY OF LAKEVILLE CITY NEWS



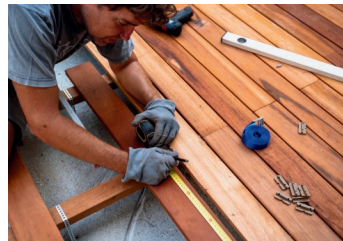
## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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### Celebrate Earth Day with Us!

Join the fun on **April 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the Central Maintenance Facility, 7570 179th Street West. This free, family-friendly event features hands-on educational stations and plenty of Earth-loving fun.



### Spring Projects? Let's Talk!

The City of Lakeville will be at the **Home, Landscaping & Community Expo** at Lakeville North High School on **March 21, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** Stop by to discuss spring projects, trees and more!



### Parents Urged to Watch Pond Ice

With warmer spring weather, ice on Lakeville's ponds and stormwater basins is becoming unsafe. A recent incident underscores the risk. Parents and guardians are urged to talk with children and use caution—no ice is ever safe in spring.

## Together, Small Actions, Cleaner Water

**Watershed Cleanup** in Lakeville is an annual community effort that brings residents together to protect local waterways, wetlands and ponds by preventing pollution before it enters these systems. Healthy watersheds support clean drinking water, productive fisheries and outdoor recreation.

Volunteers from church groups, Scouts, schools, environmental organizations, businesses, families and individuals all take part. This year's cleanup runs **April 18-27**, allowing volunteers to participate when it works best for them by picking up litter in areas around the City. To help, register for your area at [LakevilleMN.gov](http://LakevilleMN.gov).

# MICK STERLING

FEBRUARY 21



the songs of  
**HUEY LEWIS and THE NEWS**

# 7 seven wonders of rock

VOCAL LEGENDS OF THE 70S & 80S



FEBRUARY 28

PAMELA MCNEILL

**JANIS STEVIE DOLLY AND ME**



APRIL 17

Twin Cities Ballet OF MINNESOTA



APRIL 27 & 28

# MINI-NARNIA

ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD, BEVERAGES, GOOD TIMES

# Pub NIGHT

1ST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
6-9 P.M. | ART CENTER

March 4, Rob Meany  
April 1, Sawyer's Dream

The Looney Lutherans  
in **HOTDISH ON THE RANGE**  
ALL HAT, NO CATTLE.

MAY 16



Your favorite performance center for local entertainment.

20965 Holyoke Avenue, Lakeville  
For more events: [LakevilleAreaArtsCenter.com](http://LakevilleAreaArtsCenter.com)

Volume 3, 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.

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# The Fine Print of Being a Good Neighbor & Helpful Reminders

## Building Permits

If you're planning a home project this year, a building permit may be required. Permits are typically needed for **sheds, decks (including re-decking), lawn irrigation systems and pools**. Some smaller structures may be exempt based on size, but a zoning permit is always required. **Fences** require zoning permits, even if the fence is under seven feet tall.

Before you begin any project, it's best to check with Building Inspections or visit the City's website, where you can also apply and pay for permits online.



## Garbage and Recycling Containers

To keep neighborhoods clean and safe, garbage and recycling containers should be placed near the street for collection, but never in the traveled portion of the roadway. Containers should be **set in the driveway or just behind the curb** with enough space for collection trucks to safely access them. Please remove containers from the curb within 24 hours after pickup.

When not out for collection, **containers must be stored in a garage or an approved enclosure**. Containers may also be stored in side or rear yards, provided they are set back at least five feet from all property lines and are **not located in front yards or directly in front of garage doors**. Special rules apply to corner lots and double-frontage lots, where side or rear yard storage may not be allowed.

## Parking Recreational and Motor Vehicles

Motor vehicles and recreational vehicles parked outdoors must be parked on a solid surface such as asphalt, concrete, or pavers. **Parking on grass is not allowed**, including areas next to garages. For additional details, residents can refer to Lakeville City Code, Chapter 19.

## Property Encroachments

Many homes in Lakeville are located near stormwater ponds, wetlands, city parks, trails and open spaces. These areas are protected, and placing structures or personal items there is not allowed. Activities such as gardening, mowing, or removing trees or plants beyond your property line are also prohibited.

# MARCH 21, 2026

9AM-3PM  
Lakeville North High School



**150+ Exhibitors**

ALL DAY free coffee 10:30-2:30 concessions

Coffee courtesy of Lakeville Lions.

Presenting Sponsor:

PLUMBING HEATING COOLING ELECTRICAL

PRIZE DRAWING

**\$500**

GIFT CARD

**Free Screening Zone (all ages)**

- Foot & Gait Analysis
- Body Composition
- A1C Diabetes
- Hearing (adults & kids)
- Vision (adults & kids)
- Learn your blood type

Screenings subject to change.

TO THE 2026 EXHIBITOR OF YOUR CHOICE\*



YES! Sponsor

**YES! Young Entrepreneur Section**

Teenagers (18 and under) will be selling homemade products and services! QR for information/application. Kim@LakevilleChamber.org

SCAN QR CODE

Platinum Sponsors

\*\$500 gift card drawing: No purchase necessary. No cash value. Must be 18 or older. Do not need to be present to win. One prize winner will be drawn at 3pm on March 21, 2026 at the show entrance. Restrictions apply. Winner can split the \$500 gift card among up to three 2026 show vendors. Drawing slips and rules and regulations will be at the show entrance.

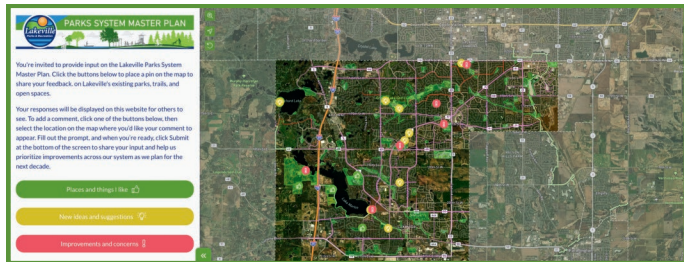
# Help Shape the Future of Lakeville's Parks & Trails



The City of Lakeville has launched the planning process for a **new Parks System Master Plan—a long-range roadmap** that will guide the future of our parks, trails, open spaces and recreation facilities for the next decade and beyond.

As Lakeville continues to grow and mature, this plan will help ensure our parks system keeps pace with community needs, evolving recreation trends, and priorities for health, mobility and sustainability. The decisions made through this process will shape how residents of all ages experience Lakeville's parks and trails for generations to come.

This planning effort focuses on caring for our existing parks while also exploring new opportunities to enhance and expand the system in ways that best serve our community. Public input is a critical part of that process—and there are multiple ways to get involved.



## Share Ideas Online

Residents can also participate using the project's **interactive mapping tool**, a virtual way to share ideas and location-based feedback about Lakeville's parks, trails and open spaces.

Using the mapping tool, you can:

- See which parks your neighbors enjoy most
- Identify areas where improvements are needed
- Add comments by placing markers on the map
- View and interact with feedback from others

Visit **LakevilleParksAndRec.com** or use the QR code to explore the map and share your thoughts.

Your input will help shape a parks system that reflects Lakeville's values today—and into the future.



## Attend a Public Open House for Master Park Plan

The first Parks System Master Plan Open House will be held on **Wednesday, March 4, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Lakeville City Hall (Council Chambers)**. Residents are invited to review survey results, learn more about the planning process and share feedback directly with City staff and the project consultants.

## New Seasons. New Programs. New Fun.

The **Summer and Fall Parks & Recreation Catalog** arrives in homes mid-February! This season's catalog features new programs including YEL! Guitar Camp; STEM camps—Battle Drones, Merch Lab, and Intro to Game Design; youth pickleball lessons; Summer Bash lawn games; and the Pan-O-Prog Bocce Tourney. Look for your guide to summer and fall fun! Sign up soon, classes fill fast!



# Serious about FUN

ALL YEAR LONG!

## EVENTS

### ANNUAL SCHEDULE

|          |                        |
|----------|------------------------|
| Jan      | Hockey Day Lakeville   |
| Feb      | Ritterfest             |
| March    | Home & Community Expo  |
| May      | Downtown Art Crawl     |
| June-Aug | Live at the Lake Music |
| July     | Pan-O-Prog             |
| Aug      | Taste of Lakeville     |
| Sept     | Lakeville Art Festival |
| Oct      | DLBoo                  |
| Dec      | Holiday on Main        |

SCAN ME

**VISITLAKEVILLE.ORG**

# Leave a Living Legacy: Plant a Tree

Planting a tree is an investment that pays off for decades—and **Lakeville's Annual Arbor Day Tree Sale** makes it easy to get started this spring.

## Why Trees Matter

Shade from properly planted trees can significantly reduce your air-conditioning costs in the summer, and having tree canopy nearby can improve air quality in your neighborhood—not to mention the beauty of dappled shade during the hot summer months. Mature trees are incredibly valuable for the many benefits they provide, but many are lost each year to insects, disease and storms.

## Help Grow Lakeville's Urban Forest

Plant a new tree—or replace one you've lost—and enjoy the benefits for years to come. The City of Lakeville's tree sale offers a wide variety of trees, including shade trees and ornamental varieties, at discounted prices to help regrow Lakeville's urban forest.

## Tree Sale Details

Here are just some of the trees available this year! The sale opens on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. Trees are sold at discounted prices on a first-come, first-served basis to Lakeville residents only and are expected to sell out quickly.

## Don't Miss Out

Visit the City website to view available tree species, pricing, and ordering details. Plan ahead and place your order early to take advantage of this popular annual sale and help keep Lakeville green for generations to come.



- Apple, Zestar
- Whitespire Birch
- Heritage Oak
- New Horizon Elm
- Northern Catalpa
- Kentucky Coffee Tree
- Skyline Honeylocust
- Northern Hackberry
- Serviceberry
- Black Cherry
- Tamarack

**Other trees for purchase, including the four on this page:**

- Crabapple, Purple Prince

Visit **LakevilleMN.gov** to see all the trees available and place your **order online starting on February 17.**



## White Pine

**Mature height: 50-80'**

**Width: 20-40'**

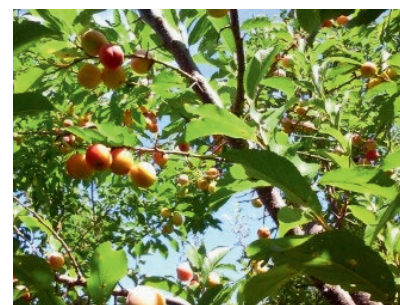
White pines have long, soft, blue-green needles. These evergreens are fast growing and often planted as a windbreak. They are tolerant of a wide variety of soil conditions, but sensitive to road salt and air pollution. Cones provide a food source for songbirds. Plant in full sun to part shade.

## Toka Plum

**Mature height: 15-20'**

**Mature width: 15-20'**

The Toka Plum self-pollinates, while it produces very sweet candy-like plums that have reddish-bronze skin. Green leaves turn



a dark purple in fall. Toka plum is a cross between American plum and the fragrant apricot of China. Prefers full sun to part shade and well-drained soil.



## Swamp White Oak

**Mature height: 50-75'**

**Mature width: 40-70'**

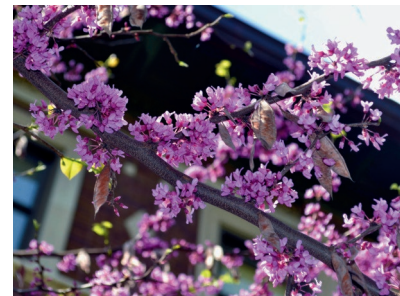
This large, majestic oak has glossy dark green leaves with silvery undersides. In nature it is found along streams and it can tolerate both wet and dry areas. The acorns are a valuable food source for wildlife. This oak is resistant to oak wilt disease but not immune.

## Redbud

**Mature height: 20-30'**

**Mature width: 20-25'**

Redbuds are small stature ornamental trees with a spreading form that feature small pink-purple flowers sprouting in the spring. The leaves



are heart-shaped and have a bright yellow fall color. This tree thrives in sun or partial shade in a variety of soils but should be kept properly mulched to insulate the soil in winter and watered during drought.

# Waking Up Lakeville's Parks for Summer

Have you ever wondered what it takes to “wake up” Lakeville’s parks after a long Minnesota winter? Long before summer programs begin and park shelters fill with reservations, the Parks team is hard at work preparing parks, trails, playgrounds, and facilities across the city.

Each spring, 13 full-time Parks staff start to transition Lakeville’s 67 parks from winter conditions to summer-ready destinations. They are joined by 29 seasonal employees, typically beginning in mid-May to help throughout the summer months.

## From Snow to Green

As soon as hockey rinks and skating areas close for the season, equipment begins its seasonal switch. Snow-removal equipment is converted back to lawn mowers, and Fleet Maintenance performs preventive maintenance on all machinery to ensure it’s ready for heavy summer use.

When temperatures remain consistently above freezing, crews reassemble plumbing systems, inspect for leaks, and turn water back on in park buildings and amenities.

## Setting the Stage

Spring setup includes reinstalling shade structures at playgrounds and picnic areas—23 picnic canopies citywide—as well as large structures like the Lakeville Beach canopy, which takes significant time and coordination to put back in place. More than 300 summer garbage and recycling cans are also returned to parks throughout the city.

Irrigation systems are fired up and repaired as needed, while crews complete general park cleanup—removing sticks and branches so mowing can safely begin.

## Courts, Fields, and Playgrounds

Summer sports require careful preparation:

- Volleyball nets, 26 pickleball courts and five tennis courts are set up and cleaned
- 45 ball fields are re-dragged, prepped and cleaned, including dugouts and playing surfaces
- Swim area and safety buoys are installed on multiple lakes

All 51 playgrounds across Lakeville are inspected—a process that takes about two weeks—to ensure they’re safe and ready for play.

## Trails and Shelters

Park shelters are thoroughly cleaned and prepared for the busy reservation season. Crews also inspect approximately 120 miles of winter-plowed trails for turf damage and make repairs as needed—on top of maintaining many additional miles of trails throughout the city.

## Timing Is Everything

The start of spring preparation varies each year based on weather, but early April is typical. Athletic associations often begin using fields by mid-April, so crews work carefully to balance readiness with protecting park surfaces. Tennis and pickleball courts must be completely free of snow and ice before opening, as early use can damage court surfaces.

## A Season of Growth

This year, Lakeville continues to expand amenities with three parks planned to offer year-round restroom facilities: East Lake Park, Antlers Park and Ritter Farm Park. While Antlers Park is currently open, restroom facilities at East Lake Park and Ritter Farm Park are under construction and will open in 2027 or earlier.

Waking up Lakeville’s parks is a massive team effort—one that helps ensure residents can enjoy safe, welcoming and well-maintained parks all summer long.

## Spring Park Prep at a Glance



# New Fire Station 2 Planned



As Lakeville continues to grow, the City has been planning ahead to ensure fire protection services meet both current and future needs. Over the past several years, the City completed multiple studies to evaluate fire station locations, service areas, response times and staffing models. These studies also supported the transition from a paid-on-call (volunteer) model to a full-time hybrid staffing approach.

Lakeville currently operates four fire stations. A key finding from the service area study identified the **Dodd Boulevard and Cedar Avenue** area as the best location to combine Fire Station 2 and Fire Station 4 into one new, modern facility. The new station will continue to be known as Fire Station 2. Consolidating these two stations into one will allow the City to reduce the total number of stations from four to three, improving efficiency, enhancing response times and reducing long-term operating costs.

The City is currently completing final design and construction documents for the new station, which will be located at the northeast corner of **Dodd Boulevard and Granby Lane**, adjacent to the water tower along **179th Street West**. Construction is scheduled to begin in **April 2026**. Learn more about this and other projects at **LakevilleMN.gov** by visiting the *Construction Projects* page.

**WE ARE HIRING**  
Seasonals, interns, PT, FT  
LakevilleMN.gov, Job Opportunities



# Progress on FiRST Center

What is the **First Responder Skills Training Center**, or FiRST Center? Communities in the south metro area currently do not have a shared public safety training facility for fire, police and EMS personnel. To help ensure first responders receive the highest level of training possible, construction is underway



on the FiRST Center, a new regional training facility. For residents, this means better-prepared first responders, faster and more coordinated emergency response, and a safer community overall.

Construction began in early 2025 at the former Public Works site in the Airlake Industrial Park, located at **7777 214th Street West**. The **40,000-square-foot facility** will include a variety of indoor and outdoor training spaces designed for real-world scenarios. Features include physical and virtual training areas; a firing range with vehicle access; tactical training rooms with movable partitions; classrooms and meeting space; equipment cleaning and armory areas; office space; restrooms and locker rooms; and exterior training areas.

Construction costs are funded through a combination of local, state, and federal sources. Ongoing operational costs will be supported through membership fees paid by the agencies that use the facility. The FiRST Center is expected to be completed and fully operational by **July 2026**. More information is available on the City's website at **LakevilleMN.gov** under *Construction Projects*.

# Ride Smart on City Trails

Lakeville recently updated its **City ordinance** regarding the use of **e-bikes, e-scooters, motorized bicycles and off-highway motorcycles** on City trails and paved pathways. E-bikes are allowed on trails and paved paths where traditional bicycles are permitted, but not on sidewalks. Electric scooters are allowed on trails but not sidewalks and must follow posted speed limits. Other motorized devices are restricted from trails and sidewalks. All users are expected to ride safely and respectfully. More information is available at **LakevilleParksAndRecreation.com** under *Parks and Trails*. A handy chart is available with more details, and watch for spring and summer classes that are being offered to teach more about e-bike, scooter safety.



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## Love Your Yard, Not Your Lawn Mower. Grants Make It Easy.

LANDSCAPING FOR  
CLEAN WATER



Dakota County Soil and  
Water Conservation District

Take the **free Introduction to Clean Water class** and learn how native plants protect water, support pollinators, and save you time. Lakeville residents who attend will be qualified for up to **\$650 in grants and rebates**—and spend less time mowing and more time enjoying your yard. In person or virtual. Open to everyone—Dakota County residency not required.

Scan the QR code to view class options and register.



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Together, our community collected over 600 units, saving nearly 1800 lives in 2025. Help us beat that record this year!

**2026**

# Lakeville citywide blood drives



- April 7 | Antlers Park
- July 28-29 | McGuire Middle
- December 8-9 | Emporium Room

REGISTER NOW



Blood drive questions:  
info@LakevilleChamber.org  
or call 952.469.2020

**MBC.org**  
Sponsor Code: 4450



**Citywide Blood Drive Partners:**

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