

City of Fifty Lakes Quarterly Newsletter

ISSUE #2

2nd Quarter- 2026

April - June



FIFTY LAKES DAY RETURNS JUNE 20TH

A FULL DAY OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 20, as the town comes alive for Fifty Lakes Day – a celebration packed with food, music, games, shopping, and family-friendly entertainment from morning until night. The day kicks off at 10 AM with vendor and crafter booths offering unique handmade goods, local products, and great finds. Whether you're looking for gifts, décor, or something special, there will be plenty to browse and buy.

GAMES & ACTIVITIES



Corn Hole Tournament at Noon
• Sign-ups 11:30 a.m.
• Compete for brining rights!



Family Bingo at 2 p.m.
• Fifty Lakes Fire Relief Association
• Fun for all ages!



Mega Meat Raffle at 5 p.m.
• Win \$1,000 in Gift Certificates!
• Great grilling prizes!

Food & Drink Highlights: The Fifty Lakes Fire & Rescue will be serving up classic favorites: brats, hot dogs, and pulled pork. Perfect for grabbing a quick and delicious meal while enjoying the day. An Outdoor Bar will also be open, providing a relaxing spot for adults to unwind and socialize. Food trucks and Sweet treat vendors will bring a smile to everyone's face.

Free Kids Zone! Inflatables and train rides. Enjoy the spalshpad, playground and pickleball courts right next door.

Fireworks at Dusk: The night will cap off with a spectacular fireworks display – the perfect finale to a memorable day in Fifty Lakes.

LIVE MUSIC
Lineup

THE SOUNDTRACK FOR THE DAY
will be fantastic:

BRIAN PALKOVICH
performs from
2-5 P.M.

PRAIRIE SMOKE FULL BAND
takes the stage from
6-10 P.M.

A graphic for the live music lineup. It features the text 'LIVE MUSIC Lineup' in large, stylized fonts. Below that, it says 'THE SOUNDTRACK FOR THE DAY will be fantastic:'. There are two circular icons: one with a microphone and musical notes, and another with an acoustic guitar and musical notes. The names of the performers, Brian Palkovich and Prairie Smoke Full Band, are listed with their respective performance times.

Whether you come for the food, stay for the music, or spend the whole day with family and friends, Fifty Lakes Day is the ultimate community celebration.

We look forward to seeing you there on June 20.

Rain or shine, it's going to be a great day in Fifty Lakes!



FIFTY LAKES BAR : WEEKLY SPECIALS

MONDAYS Classic BLT \$7 Trivia Night Round 1 - 5pm Round 2 - 6pm	WEDNESDAYS Whiskey & Wings \$1 off Whiskey Drinks Muni Wings \$1 ea.	FRIDAYS Chef Special: Off Menu Creations \$10	SUNDAYS 2 for 1 Taps All Day
TUESDAYS 2 Tacos for \$6 Fully Loaded All Day	THURSDAYS 2 Carnita Street Tacos served w chips \$8	SATURDAYS Hamburger Basket \$7 - All Day	HAPPY HOUR Mon - Fri 3-6 pm



For many years, riprap was placed on shorelines without a second thought. Now, it's hard to get a permit. What's up?

The shift away from riprap is part of a broader movement to restore and protect Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Across Minnesota, 40-50% of our natural shorelines have been lost by a growing desire for a suburban landscape appearance. Landscaped shorelines featuring rock riprap, lawns that extend to the lake, boulder walls, terraces, patios, and other amenities result in a loss of habitat (including critical loon habitat) and an increase in the use of fertilizers near public waters. Phosphorus, a nutrient that flows readily off lawns as runoff, is a key ingredient in algae growth. As lake waters warm, the rate of algae growth increases. Riprap allows phosphorus to flow directly into surface waters, while natural shoreline vegetation helps filter out phosphorus before it reaches the lake, slowing the rate of algae growth.

The city of Fifty Lakes, Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District, and the DNR are available to assist property owners in finding and implementing solutions that stabilize shorelines, protect fish and wildlife habitat, preserve natural character, and reduce nutrient flow and algae growth. By prioritizing natural shoreline stabilization, the City of Fifty Lakes aims to preserve ecological health, water quality, and the beauty of our lakes for future generations.

Planning Commission

Bob Stancer

- Chair

Gary Oster

- Vice Chair

Don Reierson

- Member

Joni Fligel

- Member

Daniel Wright

- Member

Belinda Yurick

- Alternate

Planning & Zoning Administrator

Bethany Soderlund

- Sourcewell
pz@fiftylakesmn.com

Planning Commission Meetings:
The 4th Tuesday of the month at 6pm in council chambers at City Hall.

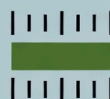
CITY OF FIFTY LAKES RIPRAP REQUIREMENTS



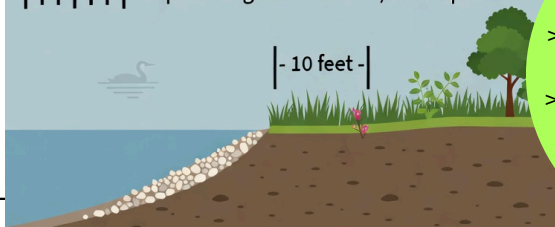
Rock riprap landward of the OHW will only be allowed with a permit in situations that show active erosion and where bio-engineering practices (vegetation) are not feasible.



Riprap used for ornamental purposes or for landscaping is prohibited.



Vegetative shoreline buffers (landward of the riprap - with a minimum of 10 feet in depth along the shoreline) are required.



Crow Wing County Recycling Center

- Accepts Free Recycling
- >Plastic Water & Soda Bottles
- >Cans (Washed) & Mild Jugs
- >Glass Bottles (Lids Removed)
- >Newspapers & Magazines
- >Corrugated Cardboard
- Mon- Fri 8-4:30
- Sat 8-12am



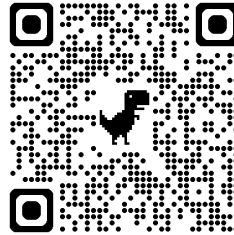
The City Park continues to grow as a favorite gathering place for residents and visitors alike! Families can cool off at the splash pad, open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. While kids enjoy the playground and adults take advantage of the park's four pickleball courts.

We're also excited to share that the City was awarded Community Benefit Funds from Sourcewell to help continue improving and expanding the park space for everyone to enjoy.

Thanks to this funding, several exciting additions are planned for the future, including new swing sets, climbing bars, additional picnic tables, a sunshade, and an outdoor sink and counter space for the pavilion area. These improvements will help make the park an even better destination for recreation, gatherings, and community events for years to come.

MAKE YOUR MARK THIS SUMMER!

Celebrate sunny days & community spirit by becoming part of something that lasts for years to come. Donate \$100 or more and receive a personalized 6x6 engraved tile (4 lines, 13 characters per line) – perfect for honoring a loved one, celebrating your family, or highlighting your business. Tiles placed on Park Pavilion wall. Scan the QR code to access the order form.



Visit us on Facebook!
Website:
fiftylakesmn.com



CAN I EVEN HAVE A CAMPFIRE?

YES – Recreational Campfire (No Permit Needed)

- ✓ 3 feet or less in diameter
- ✓ 3 feet or less in height
- ✓ For cooking, warmth, or recreation
- ✓ 5 feet clearance around the fire + always attended

ALWAYS:

- Keep water & shovel nearby
- Never leave unattended
- Drown, stir, drown again

Check current fire danger & restrictions before lighting. Contact Minnesota DNR if unsure

In May, the Flanders Wildfire tested our communities. Thanks to the swift and heroic efforts of our local fire departments, the fire was successfully contained and major damage was prevented.

Firefighters worked tirelessly around the clock under difficult conditions to protect homes, residents, and wildlife. Their professionalism and dedication kept our community safe. The City of Fifty Lakes would like to Thank you for your bravery and service. We are truly fortunate to have you protecting our homes and families.

-A Message from Fire Chief Jesse Anderson-

The Fifty Lakes Fire and Rescue Department is made up of 19 members. The city supplies us with 7 apparatus to serve our community as well as the surrounding departments. Every member has over 100 hours of training each with continued hours every year. Many of the members are cross trained in fire fighting skills as well as the medical field. You will see these members throughout your community working their regular jobs or out and about with their families. These men and women run to help at the drop of a hat, without questioning it, not knowing if they will make it home. I am proud to call each member part of the Fifty Lakes Fire and Rescue Department. So, if you see a fire shirt with Fifty Lakes on it, say "hi" and "thank you". They will appreciate your kind words and support.

Fire and Rescue Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm
Fire Relief Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm

CITY HALL

City Hall is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Residents are encouraged to stop in or call during these hours for assistance with city services, forms, and general questions.

Planning & Zoning

Planning and Zoning services are available on Mondays and Fridays, in city hall. Appointments are appreciated, so please call ahead to ensure staff availability and proper time for your meeting.

Postal Services Update

The City would like to inform residents that the United States Postal Service has ended its contract with the City as a Village Post Office (VPO). While this change affects certain services previously offered, the City will continue to provide postage stamps for purchase at City Hall for your convenience. Additionally, the Crosslake Post Office will continue to maintain and service all P.O. Boxes as usual.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

- SPRING/ SUMMER 2026

Our crew has been actively maintaining local roads this spring. In early May, magnesium chloride was applied to our dirt roads to reduce dust, control erosion, and keep surfaces firmer and smoother for longer. It's been a dry spring so we appreciate your patience during this process.

We also want to remind ATV and UTV riders to be mindful of road conditions. These vehicles can quickly tear up dirt and gravel roads, especially during wet periods, creating ruts and undoing the benefits of our calcium chloride treatment. We encourage riders to stay on designated trails whenever possible and to avoid spinning tires or excessive speeds on public roads. Responsible riding helps us maintain better roads for everyone.

Finally, please do not dump trash, furniture, tires, appliances, or any unwanted items along roadways, intersections, or ditches. Illegal dumping creates safety hazards, damages maintenance equipment, and increases costs for all taxpayers. We ask that you properly dispose of waste through local recycling centers or scheduled bulk pickup programs. If you witness illegal dumping, please report it with the location, time, and any vehicle details. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our roads safe and well-maintained.

Questions or concerns can be directed to City Hall @ 218-763-3113. Safe travels this season!



City Hall Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9 am - 2pm
218-763-3113

Mayor

Gary Staples

Council Members

Mark Bradley
Toni Buchite
Randy Zeigler
Juan Cabrera

City Staff

Ann Raph
Clerk Treasurer
clerk@fiftylakesmn.com

Jessica Istvanovich
Deputy Clerk
jessica@fiftylakesmn.com

Bethany Soderlund
Planning Administrator
Sourcewell
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Chester Borntreger
Maintenance Supervisor
roads@fiftylakesmn.com

DID YOU know?

The city offers the rental of the
Park Pavilion (\$50),
Community Center (\$50) and
Bar Pavilion (\$25)
for birthdays, showers, association
events and gatherings, etc.

Reservations can be
made at City Hall.

**Monthly Council Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.
Meetings start at 6 pm in City Hall
Public Welcome and Encouraged to attend!**