

City of Fifty Lakes Quarterly Newsletter

ISSUE #3

3rd Quarter - 2026
July - September

CITY HALL

General Election

The General Election will be held Tuesday, November 3rd. Voting will take place at Fifty Lakes City Hall, 40447 Town Hall Road, with polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Information regarding early voting and absentee voting can be found on the Crow Wing County website.

Holiday Closings

Fifty Lakes City Hall will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- Veterans Day: Wednesday, November 11
- Thanksgiving: Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27
- Christmas Day: Friday, December 25
- New Year's Day: Friday, January 1

We wish all our residents a safe and enjoyable holiday season and encourage everyone to make their voice heard by voting this November!

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
pz@fiftylakesmn.com

Chester Borntrager
Maintenance Supervisor
roads@fiftylakesmn.com

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

- PREPARING OUR ROADS FOR WINTER

The Fifty Lakes Roads & Maintenance Department will begin fall road grading in September. The crew will be working to shape and maintain our roads in preparation for the upcoming winter season. We appreciate everyone's patience while this work is underway.

Following the completion of ditch mowing, the crew will continue brush cleanup from this summer's storms. This work will help keep our roadsides and ditches clear and ensure they are ready for the winter months ahead.

As always, please use caution when approaching maintenance equipment and give our crews plenty of room to work safely. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work to keep the roads throughout Fifty Lakes safe and well-maintained! Questions or concerns can be directed to City Hall @ 218-763-3113.

Safe travels this season!



Monthly Council Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Meetings start at 6 pm in City Hall.

Public Welcome and Encourage to attend!



There's always something happening at 50 Lakes Bar & Bottle Shop, and we have plenty of fun planned as we head into the fall and holiday seasons!

Our Meat Raffles & Horse Races continue every Monday and Thursday. Ticket sales and races begin at 4:00 p.m., with the Meat Raffle drawing at 5:30 p.m. Stop in for your chance to win some great meat packages while enjoying a little friendly competition!

One of the things that makes our Meat Raffles & Horse Races so special is that they are completely run by volunteers! We are incredibly thankful for everyone who gives their time to make these events possible. Interested in being part of the fun? Reach out to a member of our staff—we'd love to have you join us!

There's something happening throughout the week, too! Tuesdays are Taco Tuesday, with 2 tacos for just \$6, plus Trivia starting at 6:00 p.m. Gather your team, grab some tacos and put your knowledge to the test! On Wednesdays, join us for Wing & Whiskey Wednesday, featuring \$1 wings and \$1 off whiskey, followed by Texas Hold'em at 6:00 p.m. Be sure to follow us on Facebook for our other weekly food specials, live music and upcoming events. Thank you for continuing to support your local municipal bar and bottle shop. We hope to see you soon—Meet Me at the Muni!

Special Events

50 LAKES BAR & BOTTLE SHOP Weekly Specials

MONDAY	Classic BLT w/ Chips
TUESDAY	2 Fully Loaded Tacos (Hard or Soft) - \$6
WEDNESDAY	Muni Wings
THURSDAY	¼ lb Sloppy Joe w/ Chips - \$6
FRIDAY	Cook's Choice
SATURDAY	Hamburger w/ Fries
SUNDAY	\$1.00 off Heggies Pizza

OPEN DAILY AT 11:00 AM | *Meet Me at the Muni!*

FIFTY FEST - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

Celebrate fall with us at Fifty Fest! The fun begins at 11:00 a.m. with vendors from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., along with live music, hay wagon rides and plenty of fall fun.

Stick around for a special **Meat Raffle & Horse Races** beginning at **4:00 p.m.**, with the raffle drawing at **5:30 p.m.**

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

Get some Christmas shopping done while supporting local vendors at our Holiday Craft Fair from **10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Browse crafts, treats, jewelry, home décor and more.

We'll also have a *Cookie Walk* and *Wine Tasting* to help kick off the holiday season!



Message from the Mayor

The City of Fifty Lakes is pleased to announce that we have finalized the purchase of 5 acres of land located at the former golf course, directly across from the Fifty Lakes Fire Hall. We are excited about this investment in our community and the opportunities it may provide for the future. At this time, there are not specific plans for the property. The City Council looks forward to considering how this land may best serve the needs of Fifty Lakes and our residents in the years ahead. The City is also working towards acquiring the former Sportsman's Club property. With no existing organization currently operating the property, the City is exploring the opportunity to preserve this community asset and consider its potential future use. These properties represent the future of Fifty Lakes. As plans develop, we will continue to keep our residents informed.

-Gary Staples, Mayor of Fifty Lakes

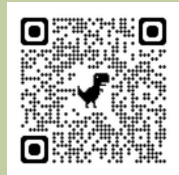
A Wonderful Summer at the FIFTY LAKES COMMUNITY PARK

What a wonderful summer it has been at the Fifty Lakes Community Park! It was great to see so many families, residents and visitors enjoying the splash pad, pickleball courts, playground and green spaces throughout the season. Thank you to everyone who spent part of their summer making memories at our park! As the seasons begin to change, the Splash Pad will officially close for the season on September 14th. The pickleball courts will remain open for everyone to enjoy this fall.

As you start thinking ahead to the holidays, consider giving a gift that will become a lasting part of our community! With a \$100 donation to the Tile Project, you can receive a personalized 6×6 engraved tile to be displayed on the Park Pavilion wall.

Each tile allows for 4 lines with up to 13 characters per line and makes a unique gift for friends and family. Honor a loved one, celebrate your family, commemorate a special memory or highlight your local business while supporting our beautiful community park. Scan the QR code or visit our website.

Visit us on Facebook!
Website:
fiftylakesmn.com



Thank you for another fantastic summer and for helping us continue to make the Fifty Lakes Community Park a special place for everyone!

Comprehensive Plans AND Land Use Ordinances: What Do They Do?



Curious about the future of Fifty Lakes? Take a few minutes to visit “fiftylakesmn.com” and explore the City’s comprehensive plan, land use information, meeting materials, and other helpful resources. It is a great way to learn more about where the community is headed and how residents can stay informed and involved. The Fifty Lakes Comprehensive plan was adopted in 2018. A comprehensive plan is like a roadmap for the community. It helps guide future decisions about growth, housing, roads, public services, natural resources, and the overall character of Fifty Lakes. Instead of looking at one project at a time, the comprehensive plan looks at the bigger picture and

helps the City think about what kind of community residents want Fifty Lakes to be in the future. A land use ordinance is one of the tools used to carry out that plan. It includes the everyday rules property owners and builders look to when planning projects, such as setbacks, lot coverage, permitted uses, shoreland standards, subdivisions, conditional uses, variances, and permit requirements. In simple terms, the comprehensive plan helps describe the City’s goals, and the land use ordinance helps put those goals into practice.

A strong comprehensive plan and an ordinance that reflects the community’s shared priorities helps create a clear roadmap for thoughtful decisions and responsible growth. For Fifty Lakes, these planning tools help balance property use with the protection of lakes, wetlands, neighborhoods, and natural resources.

Planning Commission

Bob Stancer

- Chair

Gary Oster

- Vice Chair

Belinda Yurick

- Member

Joni Fligiel

- Member

Daniel Wright

- Member

Don Reiersen

- 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.

A Message from Fire Chief Jesse Anderson

I hope everyone has had a safe and fun summer so far! Fall is just around the corner but there are still plenty of leaves on the trees and shrubs. Check your E911 emergency number at the end of your driveway for any obstructions blocking the view from the roadway. This is how we find you when we are responding to an emergency.

- September is National Preparedness Month shining a light on being prepared for disasters and emergencies. It helps to be proactive and have a plan in place if something should occur. Having a good plan, supplies readily available and knowing who to call when a disaster or emergency strikes will help to ease the burden in the moment of need.
- October is Fire Prevention Month with October 4th starting Fire Prevention Week. It is very important to take the proper precautions such as:
 1. Having functioning smoke/fire/CO2 alarms in any living or occupied spaces. Test them regularly and replace them every ten years.
 2. Every home and garage should have at least one fire extinguisher readily accessible. It will buy valuable time while the department is on its way or if practiced properly in the correct manner could extinguish a fire completely.
 3. Have a plan in place for you and your family if a fire should occur. Where are the exits, how to exit safely, where to meet up and who to call are questions to bring up and make sure everyone knows the correct procedures. It is monumental to know where everyone in your family is and if they are safe should an emergency happen.
 4. Fall will also bring a change in weather and with that heating systems will start being used. Make sure your system is serviced and functioning properly to prevent any leaks, mishaps or fires.

As always, be safe, stay fire aware, watch over yourself, your neighbors and our community!
-Fire Chief Anderson-

FLPOA *Summer Update*



Thank you to the members who attended our Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 15th! Attendees enjoyed refreshments, and several walked away with door prizes.



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Our current membership sits at **224**, which is down from recent years. If you know a neighbor who hasn't joined, please encourage them to do so. Your dues directly fund vital conservation efforts, including professional boat inspectors, water quality testing, and invasive plant analysis at public accesses.



AIS INSPECTIONS

Our two dedicated inspectors completed **808** watercraft inspections from May through July. They will remain on duty through **September 20th** to protect our waters.



PLANNING & ZONING INSIGHTS

Guest speaker and Planning and Zoning Administrator Bethany Soderlund presented on city permit requirements. She outlined what constitutes a structure and explained size and placement limits for sheds within shoreline zones 1, 2, and 3. Handouts are available, and all residents are encouraged to verify regulations with the city *before* starting property upgrades.



As days shorten and temperatures cool, continue to enjoy our treasured lakes and streams!
Warm regards, **The FLPOA Board**

