



THE Ham Laker

Published by the City of Ham Lake, Minnesota

March 2025 ~ Volume 40, No. 3

County Assessor Update

In mid-March, Anoka County will mail statements for 2025 Property Taxes Payable and Valuation Notices (2025 Valuation that taxes will be based on in 2026). For general questions about these statements, go to Anoka County's online resource here: anoka-county.us/281/About-Your-Tax-Statements.

If you have specific questions about the valuation or the classification of your property in Ham Lake, see below:

- For residential or agricultural property, please call Mary Wells at 763-412-1966 ext. 1, or email her at mnassessormary@gmail.com
- For commercial, industrial or apartment property, call Erik Skogquist at 763-412-1966 ext. 0, or email him at mnassessorerik@gmail.com

You can address most of your questions and concerns with a phone call to Mary or Erik.

If you prefer an in-person meeting with one of them, you may go to the informal appeal meetings on Tuesday, May 6 between 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm or Wednesday, May 7 between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm at the Anoka County Assessor's office (2100 3rd Ave Room 160 in the Government Center in downtown Anoka).

If you plan to come to the in-person meetings, please call 763-324-1175 to make an appointment so your wait time is minimal when you arrive.

Next Charter Commission Meeting on March 26

The next meeting of the Ham Lake Charter Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26th at 6:00 pm at the Ham Lake City Hall.

Any citizen who has items they would like placed on the agenda for consideration, or who would like to appear before the Commission to discuss a subject pertaining to the City Charter, must submit them to Ham Lake City Hall.

Send your email to info@hamlakemn.gov (please list "Charter Commission" in the subject line) no later than 4:30 pm on Monday, March 17th.



Mark Your Calendars

Ham Lake's Fireworks display will be Saturday, June 28th, 2025 at dusk in Lion's Park!

Public Notice

Be careful of risky thin ice at Ham Lake's aeration site!

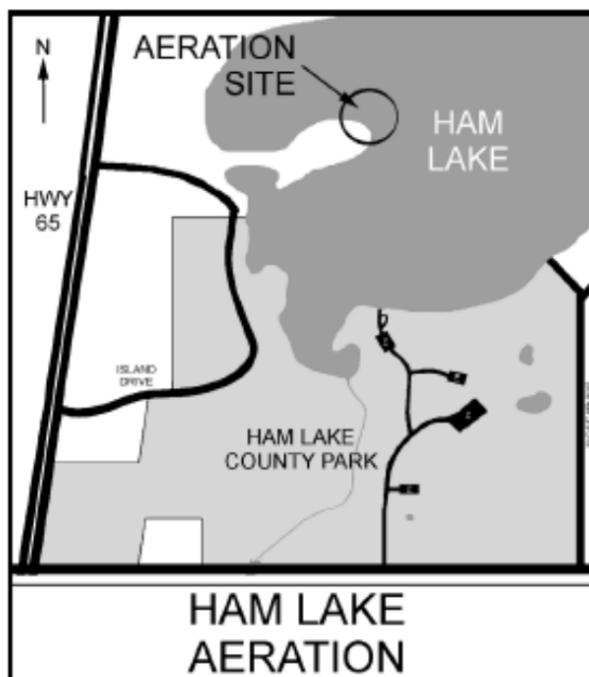
The City of Ham Lake hereby gives public notice of its intent to aerate Ham Lake to prevent winterkill of game fish.

The City intends to use mobile systems which may be used at any time. The aeration systems will cause areas of thin ice and open water that fluctuate greatly.

If you have any questions concerning the aeration system, please contact Ham Lake City Hall at 763-434-9555.

WARNING!

Stay clear of designated areas



Ham Lake's Winter Parking Rules

Reminder from Ham Lake's Public Works Department

Our snowplow operators are seeing a large number of cars parked on the street, and in many areas there are cars parked across from each other.

When this happens, snowplows and emergency vehicles can't get through. This results in piles of snow left on the street that create a safety hazard once the parked cars are moved.

Please keep all vehicles, trailers, etc. out of the roadways. The Anoka County Sheriff's Office will be writing tickets. Repeat violations could result in vehicles being towed.

Remember that from October 1st through April 30th, NO PARKING is allowed on Ham Lake streets between the hours of midnight and 6:00 am.

In addition, NO PARKING is allowed in the daytime hours during or after a two-inch snowfall or until the streets are plowed afterwards.

Ham Lake City Wide Garage Sales May 1-3

Ham Lake residents are invited to participate in our city wide garage sale weekend which will run Thursday through Saturday, May 1-3, 2025 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm each day.

Registration is NOT required to participate but IS required if you'd like your listing on the printed and on-line map.

If you would like to add your sale address and a short description of items you are offering for sale to the printed map, there is a \$10 registration fee that covers listing, printing of maps and social media advertising on our local media sites and to our local area.

Registration is online only. Please register by Friday, April 25th to be included on the maps. A link to register is available on the Ham Lake Chamber of Commerce website at www.hamlakeareacc.org/events/citywidegaragesale.

Printed maps will be available starting Tuesday, April 29th in the city hall foyer. Maps will also be available to view and download online at the URL above.



Youth Snowmobile Safety Class

Interested young people ages 11-15 are invited to take an approved online snowmobile safety course. Students must have been 11 years old by November 15, 2024, although the certificate is not valid until age 12.

After successful completion of the course, a one-day classroom review and riding performance test is still required.

This class will be held Saturday, March 8th at Ham Lake Fire Station #2 (17301 Xylite St NE) beginning at 10:00 am. No pre-registration is required.

Please email hamlakesnowmobilesafety@gmail.com with any questions.

Articles and photos that appear in *The Ham Laker*, along with other useful information about the City, can be found on the City's website:
www.hamlakemn.gov

HAM LAKE CITY COUNCIL NEWS

At its January 21, 2025 meeting the City Council took the following actions:

Approved items on the Consent Agenda

- Changes to the Ham Lake Fire Relief Association Bylaws, Appendix C for a pension increase
- Scheduling the Recycling Days for Saturday, May 3rd and Saturday, September 6th, 2025
- Arbor Day Proclamation for May 3rd, 2025
- Resolution No. 25-04 to appoint signers and authorized traders for bank and investment accounts
- Resolution No. 25-05 accepting the low bid for the 2025 Overlay Project
- Resolution No. 25-06 requiring "No Parking" on the Highway 65 East Frontage Road from 171st Avenue NE to Anoka County State Aid Highway 18 (Crosstown Boulevard NE)

At its February 3, 2025 meeting the City Council took the following actions:

Approved items on the Consent Agenda included:

- Ordinance No. 25-03 for the Five-Year Extension to the current Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement
- Not waiving the monetary limits on municipal tort liability coverage
- Re-appointment of Brian Pogalz and Dave Ringler as Planning Commissioners with the term of March 15, 2025 to March 15, 2028
- Purchasing a Front-End Loader for the Public Works Department
- Snow Plow Truck change order for the Public Works Department
- Lot Line Adjustment between 445 157th Avenue NE and 505 157th Avenue NE in Section 18
- Directing Engineer Krugler to prepare the feasibility study for the Municipal State Aid (MSA) 143rd Ave NE from Highway 65 NE to Lincoln St NE

Visit the City's website to view Council and Planning meeting videos on-demand and agenda minutes of City Council and Planning Commission: www.hamlakemn.gov

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Thefts & Damage to Property

01.03 153xx Central Ave NE—theft of cash from a wallet in an unsecured locker

01.04 5xx 170th Ave NE—a stolen trailer out of Ramsey County was located in the cul-de-sac

01.09 166xx Isanti Circle NE—theft of a license plate from a vehicle parked in the driveway

01.21 14xx Constance Blvd NE—lock cut on propane cage at location; 18 tanks were stolen

02.06 169xx Baltimore St NE—business; windows broken on hood stolen on a vehicle

Arrests

01.04 Hwy 65/169th Ave NE—No Driver's License; a deputy stopped a driver because he knew the man did not have a driver's license. His identity was confirmed and he was arrested.

01.05 12xx Andover Blvd NE—Warrant Arrest; deputies responded to a verbal altercation between a new boyfriend/girlfriend. When the boyfriend was identified, he was found to have multiple serious warrants and was arrested.

01.05 Hwy 65/165th Ave NE—DWI 3rd degree; a deputy stopped a driver for speeding 85/65. The driver lit a cigarette when he rolled down the window but the deputy could still smell alcohol. He failed field sobriety tests and was arrested.

01.06 Crosstown/Bataan St NE—Warrant Arrest; a deputy stopped a driver because he had expired registration on his truck. When identified, he had a warrant and was arrested.

01.09 14xx Crosstown Blvd NE—Disorderly Conduct; a road rage incident turned into a fist fight at a gas station. Both males were spoken too and they agreed to go their separate ways.

01.12 35xx 172nd Lane NE—Domestic Assault; a deputy responded to a husband/wife domestic. The husband was arrested.

01.14 11xx 133rd Lane NE—Warrant Arrest; deputies went to the location looking for a male who had a warrant. He was located and arrested.

01.17 26xx 171st Lane NE—Stolen Property; deputies were investigating a stolen trailer call when they observed a suspicious trailer being pulled behind a vehicle. They stopped the driver. His and his passenger's stories didn't match up. The trailer ended up being stolen out of Coon Rapids. The driver was arrested.

01.17 21xx Soderville Dr NE—Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a physical altercation between a grandchild and the grandparents. The grandchild was arrested.

01.18 Bunker Lake Blvd/Lexington Ave NE—DWI 4th degree; a deputy stopped a driver for speeding by him and swerving lanes. The deputy made contact and could smell alcohol. When asked for his drivers license, he couldn't retrieve it from his wallet. He failed field sobriety tests and was arrested.

01.19 Bunker Lake/Lexington Ave NE—DWI 4th degree; a deputy stopped a driver for speeding 68/55. The driver stated he was on the phone and denied drinking alcohol. He failed field sobriety tests and again stated he had not had a drink. He was arrested.

01.21 Crosstown/Lexington Ave NE—No Driver's License; a deputy stopped a driver for not having a license plate. The driver stated he did not have a driver's license. He was arrested.

01.26 Central/153rd Ave NE—DWI 3rd degree; a deputy stopped a driver for blowing a stop sign. The driver appeared impaired but stated he didn't have anything to drink. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. He admitted to having 4-5 fireballs and was arrested.

01.29 21xx Soderville Dr NE—Warrant Arrest; juvenile probation requested a deputy go to the location and arrest a female with a probation violation. She was located and taken into custody.

01.30 Concord/178th Lane NE—DWI 3rd degree; a deputy stopped a driver for an illegal U-turn. The driver appeared impaired. He stated "I'm a little buzzed." When asked if he had too much to drink, the male stated "yes." He failed field sobriety tests and was arrested.

01.31 Hwy 65/143rd Ave NE—Warrant Arrest; a deputy observed a male in a vehicle and knew he had warrants. He stopped the driver and arrested him.

01.31 70xx Birchview Lane NE—Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a physical altercation between a brother and sister. The brother was arrested.

02.03 Johnson St/Crosstown Blvd NE—Traffic Arrest; a deputy stopped a driver because he had a revoked license. The driver has failed to appear in court 13 times for the same charge. He was arrested.

Hwy 65/Bunker Lake Blvd Improvement Project

There is a proposed Open House concerning the Highway 65/Bunker Lake Boulevard improvement project on Thursday, March 27th from 5:00-7:00 pm at Church of Saint Paul (1740 Bunker Lake Blvd NE in Ham Lake).

The purpose of this first Open House is to share concepts based on the Traffic/Concept Alternative Analysis. A second open house is planned for the fall.

Go to www.65andbunker.com for more details and updates.



Fire Department Calls

The Ham Lake Fire Department responded to 21 calls during the month of January: 21 during the day and eight at night. The department spent 319.5 personal hours responding to calls for the month.

Year-to-date, the department has answered 29 total calls, compared with 26 calls at the same time last year.

January Building Permits

The City of Ham Lake issued 61 permits in January with a valuation of \$654,962.

The issued permits are as follows: two commercial sign, four residential remodel, two residential new construction, one residential addition, three residential basement finish, one residential deck, one residential miscellaneous and three roofing/siding.

Other permits include 28 mechanical and 16 plumbing permits.

April 2025 Issue Deadline: Wednesday, March 12 @ noon

Please send all Ham Laker correspondence, ideas and articles to:

City of Ham Lake
15544 Central Ave NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304

Email: HamLaker@hamlakemn.gov

For advertising information please contact City Hall at 763-434-9555

Editor: Sharon Brodin, Brodin Press LLC

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Ham Lake City Contacts

City Hall: 763-434-9555

To report emergencies after office hours call 911.

City Hall Hours: Monday-Thursday: 7:00-4:30

Friday: 7:00-11:00

Brian Kirkham (Mayor)

612-978-2764

bkirkham@hamlakemn.gov

Jim Doyle (Council)

612-850-1698

jdoyle@hamlakemn.gov

Mike Van Kirk (Council)

612-618-9441

mvankirk@hamlakemn.gov

Al Parranto (Council)

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aparranto@hamlakemn.gov

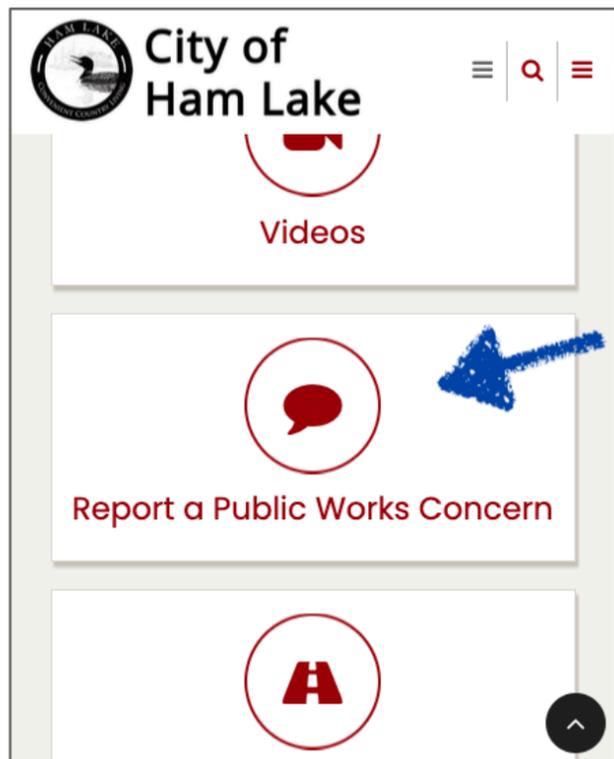
Andrew Hallberg (Council)

763-257-2545

ahallberg@hamlakemn.gov

Report a Concern to Public Works

Is there a tree down in the street or a pothole that needs to be fixed? Use the Ham Lake *Report a Concern* icon on our website (www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us) to report your concern. You can even upload photos.



Choose the category that best fits the problem and fill out the form. Once you have submitted your form, you will receive an email communication from the City acknowledging your request.

This reporting system is for city maintenance/public works issues. If you have a need that requires immediate attention or police response, please call 911. Our staff responds to these requests during regular business hours. If this report comes in on a holiday, weekend or after-hours, it will be read on the next business day.

Recycle Your Plastic Bags Properly

Plastic bags are the most common non-acceptable item found in the recycling bin! Do not place them in your curbside recycling bin.

City Hall has a collection container available during business hours for plastic bags. You need to remove any stickers or paper labels first. Do not leave bags by the front door if City Hall is closed!

Examples of plastic bags you can leave in this drop box are:

- Bread, cereal, ice and produce bags
- Bubble wrap, case overwrap and plastic shipping bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Pallet wrap and stretch film
- Plastic shopping bags
- Salt bags
- Ziplocs and other recloseable bags



HAPPENINGS AT THE SENIOR CENTER

Open Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 3:30 pm
15544 Central Ave NE in Ham Lake
763-434-0455

(Located in the lower west parking lot of City Hall)

Senior Dining on Mondays and Wednesdays each week at noon. **Reservations needed!** Meals are \$7 for those 55+ and \$10 for those younger than 55.

Senior Center Activities:

- Hand-Foot-Toe Cards—1:00 pm on Mondays
- Bingo—2nd and last Wednesdays at 12:45 pm following lunch
- Jam Sessions—2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm following lunch (open to the public)
- Wii Bowling—9:30 am Wednesdays
- Wood Carvers—10:00 am Wednesdays
- Dominoes—10:00 am Thursdays
- 500 Cards—12:30 pm Thursdays

Watch for upcoming trips to the Casino (open to members only), health insurance counseling, scheduled shopping trips for those who need transportation, and a birthday lunch on the last Wednesday of the month.

Call the Senior Center to find out about the dates, times and details of these and other special events.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSES are held by MHSRC (Minnesota Highway Safety Research Center) for those 55 and older. Registration is required. Call 1-888-234-1294 for information and to register. Or go to: www.stcloudstate.edu/continuingstudies/mhsrc/55-plus

4-Hour Courses for 2025 (\$24 fee):

- Friday, March 28 • 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Friday, May 23 • 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Friday, August 8 • 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Friday, October 24 • 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Did you know? If you are 55 years or older, state law requires your insurance company to give you a 10% discount after taking a 4-hour initial or refresher course every three years. An 8-hour initial course is no longer required.

NOTE: The Ham Lake Senior Center is NOT available for rent!

Prescription Medications Drop Off

Prescription and over-the-counter medication (pills, powder, liquids, creams and sprays), pet medications, IV bags, inhalers and vials can be disposed of in a drop box at the Anoka County Sheriff's Office. Keep medications in their original containers and black out your name on any prescriptions. There is no charge and you can remain anonymous.

Drop off is available during regular business hours (Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm). Bring them to the Anoka County Sheriff's office at 13301 Hanson Blvd NW in Andover. Call 763-324-5000 with any questions.

Have You Tested Your Smoke Alarm Lately?

Smoke alarms show you care about your family's safety. But you have to test them to make sure they work. It takes just a minute, and you will sleep better after you do. Here's how to test yours:

1. Push the test button on the alarm. On most alarms, it's the only button.
2. Do you hear a loud noise? Yes—It works. No—Change the battery or get a new smoke alarm.

It's pretty simple. Test your alarms every month. It's an easy way to show your love!

"No Cut" Period for Oak Trees Starts April 1

The City would like to remind residents of the approaching "no-cut" period for oak trees which starts April 1st and is effective through July 15th (Article 11.1400.4 of the City Code).

If you need to cut an oak tree(s) during the no-cut period, you must get a permit from the City prior to cutting. Please contact a City tree inspector with any questions at 763-235-1662.

Tree Trimming in the City's Right-of-Way

Boulevard trees are trees that are located in the City's Right-of-Way. Tree trimming maintenance is generally done in the fall, winter or spring as weather permits. The primary objective is to remove low hanging or broken branches and sightline obstructions that either are or could be a problem in the future. Tree removal is generally assigned through the Public Works Department.



- ✓ Homesteaded single family homes or duplexes in Anoka Co.
- ✓ Must have been inspected and issued a certificate of non-compliance.
- ✓ May NOT be used for tank pumping or other maintenance.
- ✓ Household must meet low income thresholds. Grant covers up to 90% depending on income.
- ✓ Funding is limited and may vary by location. Shoreland areas or projects providing the greatest health and environmental benefits may be preferentially funded.
- ✓ See all program requirements at www.AnokaSWCD.org under "financial assistance."

Contact Kris Larson at the Anoka Conservation District.
 763-434-2030 ext 110 or kris.larson@anokaswcd.org



Ham Lake Cub Scout Pack 508 Races to Success

With Pinewood Derby and Annual FundRacer

On January 25th, Cub Scout Pack 508 held its annual Pinewood Derby and 14th annual FundRacer at Oak Haven Church, delighting scouts and community members alike. Enthusiasm ran high among the young racers as well as the 26 local sponsors who generously supported this year's event.

In a field of 32 handcrafted derby cars, Scout Gabe Zuk clawed his way to the top of the pack with his car, *Godzilla*, proudly taking home the coveted winning trophy.

Local business Lang Builders, Inc. hammered out the competition with the fastest time among the 24 FundRacer cars, showcasing both skill and community spirit.

Pack 508 extends its sincere appreciation to the following sponsors, whose generous participation helps ensure another year of exciting scouting activities:

B&C Home Loans, CJ's Garage, Canine Crossing, Cedar Creek Energy, Diamond Metal Products, Elite Garage Door, Grady Motors, Gizmos, Ham Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, Ham Lake Lanes, Ham Lake Lions, IQA Engineering, Jam Hops, Jefferson Street Barbershop, Lang Builders, Inc., Meineke Car Care, Mickman Brothers, Minnesota Equipment, Molins Meadows, One Stop Convenience Center, Paul Klucsar, Pro Drywall and Painting, Soderville Baseball, Ulteig, Walters Recycling & Refuse, ZTS Trucking.

Cub Scout Pack 508 invites families to join them in building strong kids and a strong Ham Lake community. To learn more, visit www.pack508mn.org.

Community Dinner

Come and meet your neighbors at the March Community Dinner on Friday, March 21st at 6:00 pm at Glen Cary Lutheran Church.

On the menu this month is meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, candied carrots and assorted desserts.

The dinner is free for everyone!

Glen Cary Lutheran Church is located at 15531 Central Ave NE in Ham Lake. Call 763-434-5695 with questions.

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 Friday: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
 Saturday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
763-434-5929
 1207 Constance Blvd. NE Ham Lake, MN 55304



Jed Poster
 On-staff Certified Arborist
 B.S. Urban Forestry
 - University of Minnesota, 2002
jed@andovertreecare.com
 763.248.6798 (call or text)

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Ham Lake Business Spotlight: Kingdom Builder LLC

Kingdom Builder LLC is a family-owned and operated construction company in Ham Lake. Owner Wesley Ridgeway founded the business in Spring 2024.

"We do a little bit of everything," said Wes. Larger projects he works on are decks, deck remodels and bathroom remodels. He also handles pressure washing, window and door replacement, furniture assembly including mounting shelves and TVs, cleaning gutters, staining, interior and exterior house painting, and many small home maintenance projects.

Wesley recently added installing permanent holiday lighting for residential homes to his list of services. And he has over 14 years of experience in the auto industry and offers a "mobile mechanic" service for light vehicle work. He enjoys working on projects that keep him outdoors as much as possible.

So yes, he does a little bit of everything!

Most of Wes's customers are residential, although he's done commercial work with a general contractor as well. When possible, he likes to keep his customer base on the north side of the Twin Cities and close to home.

Wesley grew up in Wabasha, Minnesota, "in the country where there are more cows than people." After he married his wife, Ashley, they lived in Arizona for four years, then decided to move back to Minnesota.

"I didn't want to live too far from city life, but still in the country," he said. "We ended up in Ham Lake, and we absolutely love it. We love the country vibe. I love the septic and well, which is what I grew up with."



Wesley and Ashley Ridgeway with their two children

Besides offering high-quality service with attention to detail, Wesley's main business goal is simply to help people and give to the community. His and Ashley's Christian faith is central to the business name, Kingdom Builder, and how he desires to operate and serve his customers.

Wes said, "Our motto is to do the little things so people can spend more time with their family."

Contact Wesley Ridgeway at Kingdom Builder for your home and auto needs by calling or texting him at 602-425-9614. Or you can find him on Facebook at *Kingdom Builder LLC* and send him a direct message.

Battery Recycling

Batteries can cause harmful fires at recycling facilities. Do not place them in your recycling or trash bin. Instead, recycle batteries at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Blaine (3230 101st Ave NE) or at one of the other participating sites.

The website page www.anokacountymn.gov/355/Recycling-Resource-Solutions has information on how to recycle various types of batteries.

This page includes a list of local drop-off sites: several hazardous waste facilities, some Target stores and other retailers that accept batteries for recycling.

You can also call 763-324-3400 to learn more.



Recycle Better
NO! Batteries
 Don't put batteries in your recycling cart. Bring to participating retail locations or Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- March 3: City Council, City Hall 6:00 pm
- March 10: Planning Commission, City Hall 6:00 pm
- March 12: *The Ham Laker* ads and articles deadline for the April issue @ noon
- March 17: City Council, City Hall 6:00 pm
- March 24: Planning Commission, City Hall 6:00 pm
- March 26: Charter Commission, City Hall 6:00 pm

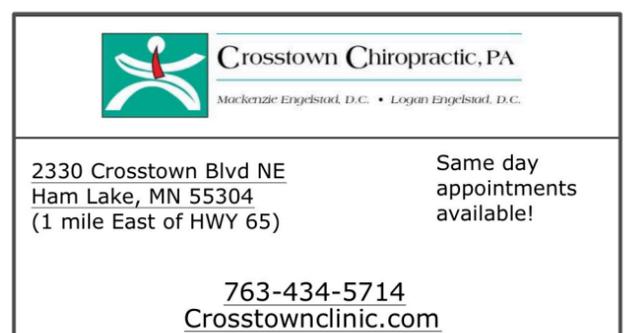
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