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Ham Lake, MN 55304



THE Ham Laker

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March 2026 ~ Volume 41, No. 3

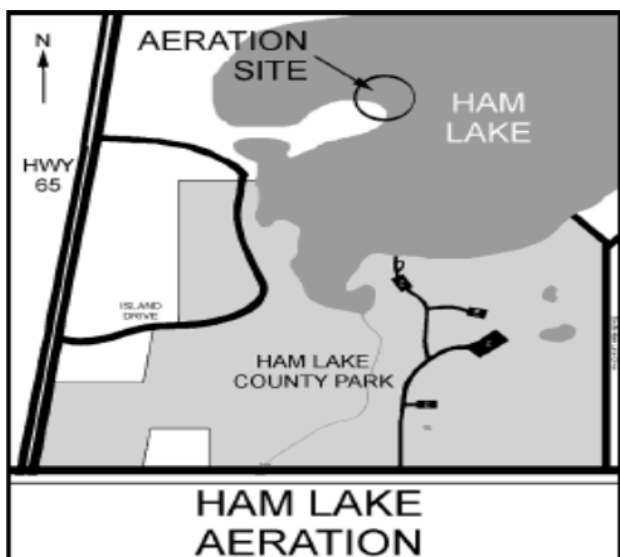
Public Notice

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 about the aeration system, please contact Ham Lake City Hall at 763-434-9555.

Warning: Stay Clear of Designated Areas!



Charter Commission Mtg

Wednesday, March 25

The next meeting of the Ham Lake Charter Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25th 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 the City of Ham Lake.

Email them to info@hamlakemn.gov (list "Charter Commission" in the subject line) no later than 4:30 pm on Monday, March 16th.

Monthly Siren Testing

The Outdoor Warning Siren System is tested at 1:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month.

When testing, sirens will sound for approximately one minute and should not repeat. In an actual emergency, sirens are sounded for approximately three minutes and may repeat several times.

Reminder: The Outdoor Warning Sirens are meant to be heard for outdoor activities. The sirens may not be heard inside buildings.

Property Tax Statements

In mid-March, Anoka County will mail statements for 2026 Property Taxes Payable and Valuation Notices (2026 Valuation that taxes will be based on in 2027). For general questions regarding these statements, Anoka County has an online resource at: www.anokacountymn.gov/281/Taxation

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

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

Most questions and concerns can be addressed with a phone call to Mary or Erik. If you prefer an in-person meeting with them, you may go to the informal appeal meetings on Tues, May 5th from 1:00-7:00 pm or Wed, May 6th from 8:00 am-4:30 pm at the Anoka County Assessor's office (2100 3rd Ave, Room 160 at Government Center in Anoka).

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

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Assistance Program

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is providing income tax services starting in February. The Tax-Aide program uses the talents of IRS-certified volunteers to complete free tax returns for members of our community, concentrating on low-income 50+.

All tax returns will be completed the same day following safety protocols set forth by both the Ham Lake Senior Center and AARP Foundation Tax-Aide.

Tax-Aide volunteers are taking appointments for the 2025 tax season which will run from Monday, February 2nd to Wednesday, April 15th at the Ham Lake Senior Center.

They are by appointment only. You will need a separate appointment for each year's return you need completed. Appointments are 9:00 am to noon. The appointment scheduling line is open. Appointments will be made by a dedicated tax line.

Please call or text 612-615-8575. If your call is not answered, leave a message and we will return your call in the order received.

Again, taxes will be done by appointment only. Prior to your appointment, you will need to pick up some required documents at the Ham Lake Senior Center.

Please fill out these forms and collect all your tax documents (take them out of the envelope and put in number order), including your prior year's tax return, and bring all of it to your appointment. Please arrive on time (better yet, 15 minutes early) for your appointment.

Mark Your Calendars

Ham Lake's 2026 Fireworks Display will take place on Saturday, June 27th at dusk in Lion's Park.

Mark it on your calendars today so you don't miss it!



City-Wide Garage Sale

April 30-May 2

Ham Lake residents are invited to participate in our City-Wide Ham Lake Garage Sale weekend which will run from Thursday, April 30th through Saturday, May 2nd from 8:00 am-5:00 pm each day.

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

If you would like to add your sale address and short description of items you are offering for sale to the printed map, there is a \$10 registration fee that covers the 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 24th to be included on the map. 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 download or view online.



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

City Council Meetings

At its January 20th, 2026 meeting, the City Council took the following actions:

Approved items on the Consent Agenda included:

- Pay Equity Report, Ham Lake Haulers Agreement, and inspection requirements, application and first reading of an Ordinance for Mobile Food Trucks and Trailer Vending
- Outdoor Lighting Energy and Maintenance Agreement for streetlights in Kohler Farms
- Scheduling Recycling Days for Saturday, May 2nd and Saturday, September 5th, 2026
- Resolution No. 26-05 accepting the low bid for the 2026 Overlay Project
- Hiring a part-time Warming House Attendant
- Resolution No. 26-06 of support for the upcoming 2026 Build Grant Funding Application for the Trunk Hwy 65 and CSAH 116 (Bunker Lake Blvd) Improvement Project
- Approved Conditional Use Permit for Christopher Windschill to operate CJ's Garage at 1333 154th Ave NE, Suite 250, and adoption of Resolution No 26-07, subject to all requirements.
- Approved Multiple Dog License for Theresa and Christa Hentges, 16011 Pierce St NE, subject to all requirements.
- Approved the sale of the City-owned property PIN #29-32-23-43-0017 in the amount of \$65,000.

At its February 2nd, 2026 meeting, the City Council took the following actions:

Approved items on the Consent Agenda included:

- Ordinance No. 26-02 for Mobile Food Trucks and Trailer Vending
- Ordinance No. 26-03 for Establishment of Permit Fees and Service Charges
- Re-appointment and new appointments of Safety Committee Members
- The 2026 service contract with SafeAssure for safety training
- Resolution No. 26-09 appointing a Responsible Authority and Designating Duties for Compliance with the Data Practices Act
- Resolution No. 26-10 to grant a building permit to Kwik Trip, Inc., located in the Elwell Commercial Park
- Adopted Resolution No. 26-08 approving the vacation of temporary right-of-ways and drainage and utility easements within Enchanted Estates and Hamlet Estates, and drainage and utility easements in Section 13.

Visit the City's website (www.hamlakemn.gov) to view Council and Planning meeting videos on demand and complete agenda minutes of City Council and Planning Commission meetings

No Oak Tree Cutting

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.



January Building Permits

The City of Ham Lake issued 62 permits in January with a valuation of \$2,160,143.00.

The issued permits are as follows: one commercial sign, one public building/government remodel, five residential remodel, two residential basement finish, one residential porch, four residential new construction, one residential sign, two residential roofing.

Other permits included 23 mechanical, 17 plumbing and five septic permits.

Fire Department Calls

The Ham Lake Fire Department responded to 29 calls during the month of January: 18 during the day and 11 at night.

The department spent 278 personal hours responding to calls for the month. Year-to-date, the department has answered 29 total calls, compared with 29 calls at the same time last year.

Sheriff's Report

Thefts & Damage to Property

01.20 164xx Aberdeen St NE—theft of scrap out of bins at a business; caught on camera

01.27 138xx Terrace Rd NE—theft from two unlocked vehicles parked in the driveway

01.27 148xx Aberdeen St NE—a stolen vehicle from St Paul was recovered at the business

Burglaries

01.13 13xx Andover Blvd NE—business, cut fence, stole items out of boats

Arrests

01.10 172xx Kenyon St NE—Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a physical fight between a mother and her son's girlfriend. The mother was arrested.

01.10 159xx Central Ave NE—No Driver's License; a deputy saw a man he had stopped a couple hours prior who did not have a driver's license, but had promised, if let go, he wouldn't drive until he gets his license back. This time when he was stopped he was arrested.

01.11 139xx Lexington Ave NE—Warrant Arrest; a deputy was at the location looking for a woman with a felony warrant out of Washington County. She was found and arrested.

01.14 13500 Block Central Ave NE—No Driver's License; a deputy observed a male driving and knew his license was cancelled. He was stopped, his identity was confirmed, and he was arrested.

01.19 137xx Lincoln St NE—DWI Refusal; a deputy was called to a woman at the location yelling at a turkey, stealing electrical parts and hitting a cement barrier. He located her driving in the parking lot and stopped her. She appeared impaired and thought our deputy was ICE, even though she is an American citizen, it was concerning to her. She kept playing games, not doing field sobriety tests, and arguing with deputies. She was arrested.

01.21 142xx Coral Sea St NE—Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a mother/son domestic. The son had fled the residence. After investigating, it was decided the son would be arrested. An attempt to locate was put out for him.

01.25 Hwy 65/167th Ave NE—Driving Offense; a deputy stopped a driver because he knew he didn't have a driver's license. His identity was confirmed and he was arrested.

01.25 146xx Hwy 65 NE—No Driver's License; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. The driver was identified, and his license was canceled inimical to public safety. He was arrested.

02.01 Bunker Lake Blvd/Yancy St NE—DWI 1st degree; a deputy was dispatched to a vehicle in the ditch. The witness stated the driver appeared confused and possibly intoxicated. The deputy located him in his vehicle and he was revving his engine and spinning his tires. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. A warrant for blood was obtained. A DRE (drug recognition expert) was called to the scene. The suspect was arrested. Charges were elevated due to a prior criminal vehicular homicide and DWI.

Common Scams

The Anoka County Sheriff's Office has had multiple reports lately where someone poses as working for their office or the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. This person tells people they have an arrest warrant and demands payment.

This is a scam! No sheriff's office will ask for money, gift cards or payment by Venmo or other online payment system.

Anytime someone demands payment through gift cards, assume it's a scam.

Another common scam reported is through listings on Facebook Marketplace or other seller/buyer channels when the seller won't take cash, but insists on Venmo or other payment before receiving the item in question.

There have been many scams reported where the item for sale doesn't exist. In one case, a "free" puppy was offered for seniors. But when contacted, the buyer was charged high fees for shots and delivery—all with Apple gift cards. A sure sign of fraud.

April 2026 Issue Deadline: Wednesday, March 11 @ 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)
763-355-5171
aparranto@hamlakemn.gov

Andrew Hallberg (Council)
763-257-2545
ahallberg@hamlakemn.gov

Blood Drive • March 27

The Ham Lake Senior Center will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, March 27th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The Senior Center is located at 15544 Central Avenue, just behind the City Hall.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767.



American Red Cross

Glen Cary Lutheran Church Community Dinner

On the menu for March at Glen Cary's Community Dinner is chicken breast, baked potato bar, raw veggies and dessert.

The Community Dinner will be Friday, **March 20th** at 6:00 pm at 15531 Central Ave NE in Ham Lake. The event is free and open to everyone. Come meet your neighbors and community!

Call 763-434-6595 with any questions.

Drug Drop-Off

Anoka County Sheriff's Office

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 times: Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Anoka County Sheriff's Office
13301 Hanson Blvd. NW
Andover, MN 55304

Call with any questions: 763-324-5000



Test Your Smoke Alarms

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 is how:

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 is pretty simple. Test your alarms every month. It is an easy way to show your love.

Senior Center Events

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. Non-members are welcome at these meals, too.

Meal Delivery on Monday/Wednesday: If you need meal delivery, please call and order with as much notice as possible. We may be able to accommodate same-day delivery if we have a cancellation and a driver.

Senior Center Activities:

- Craft Group—10:00 am on Mondays
- Hand-Foot-Toe Cards—1:00 pm on Mondays
- Bingo—2nd and last Wednesdays at 12:45 pm following lunch
- Jam Sessions—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

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

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 each month.

Call the Senior Center for dates, times and details of these and other special events.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSES for 2026 are being held at the Ham Lake Senior Center for those 55 and older. Registration is required. Call 1-320-308-1400 to register, or go online to:

www.stcloudstate.edu/precisiondrivingcenter/55-plus

4-Hour Initial or Refresher Courses for 2026 (\$24 fee):

- Tuesday, March 31 • 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Friday, June 5 • 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Friday, August 21 • 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Friday, October 16 • 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Friday, November 13 • 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.

Plastic Bag Collection

Plastic bags are the most common non-acceptable item found in the recycling bin! Do not place these in your curbside recycling bin. You can bring them to City Hall and place them in our collection bin.



Remove any stickers or paper labels first. These are the types of plastic bags you can bring for collection:

- Bread bags, cereal bags, ice bags
- Bubble wrap, case overwrap, newspaper sleeves, plastic shipping envelopes
- Dry cleaning bags
- Pallet wrap and stretch film
- Plastic shopping bags, produce bags, salt bags
- Ziploc and other recloseable bags

City Hall's collection container is available during regular business hours. Do not leave bags by the front door if City Hall is closed—come back during business hours.

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, with the primary objective being removal of 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.

Reminder: Ham Lake's Winter Parking Rules

This is a reminder from the Ham Lake Public Works Department. The City's 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 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 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 snowstorm or until the streets are plowed afterwards.



Ham Lake Lions Pancake Breakfast • March 29

Join the Ham Lake Lions for their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 29th from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm at the Ham Lake Senior Center (15544 Central Avenue in Ham Lake, behind City Hall).

Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, juice and coffee will be served.



Also at this event:

- Bicycles will be given away, donated by Pioneer Cycling & Fitness and Bikes 4 Kids.
- FREE Children's Vision Screening
- Boy Scout Bake Sale
- Drop box for used eye glasses and hearing aids
- Pictures with the Easter Bunny!

There is no charge for this event, but free-will donations will be accepted.

Worship with Cedar United Methodist During Lent

The members of Cedar United Methodist Church invite you to worship with them during the season of Lent:

Join them on Wednesdays (Feb. 25th, March 4th, March 11th, March 18th, March 25th) at 5:30 pm for a Soup Supper followed by their midweek Lenten Worship Service. Also:

- Palm Sunday—March 29th for their 10:00 am Worship Service
- Maundy Thursday—April 2nd for their 7:00 pm Worship Service
- Good Friday—April 3rd for their 7:00 pm Worship Service
- Easter Sunday—April 5th for their 10:00 am Worship Service, followed by an Easter Brunch.

All are Welcome! A free will offering is not required but accepted.

Cedar United Methodist Church
763-434-7463
cedarumc@gmail.com



Crosstown Chiropractic, PA
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2330 Crosstown Blvd NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304
(1 mile East of HWY 65)

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763-434-5714
Crosstownclinic.com

Tim Ross
Owner



612-961-0906
MyTrustedCarpetCleaners@gmail.com
www.MyTrustedCarpetCleaners.com

Ham Lake Girl Receives Distinguished Stars & Stripes Award from American Heritage Girls

Eleanor Kraft, 18, of Ham Lake has earned the highest recognition the American Heritage Girls offers to Girl Members, the Stars & Stripes Award. In addition to living out the AHG Creed and Oath, award recipients have completed several requirements to achieve this honor, including:

- Earning the Abigail Adams Level Award
- Earning a total of 13 required Stars & Stripes Award Badges
- Having held a leadership position in their Troop for a minimum of six months
- Planning, developing and providing leadership to others in a 100+ hour service project
- Writing a Spiritual Walk Essay and an AHG Resume
- Receiving at least three Letters of Reference
- Passing a Board of Review

Eleanor chose to serve Open Window Theatre in Inver Grove Heights by designing and constructing a storage system for the theater's extensive Christmas display.

She has served as song and game lead and service project coordinator and has earned nearly 1,000 service hours at her time in American Heritage Girls.

A member of the Catholic Church of Saint Paul's Troop, MN2206, Eleanor is part of the 2024-2025 Class of girls to earn the prestigious Stars & Stripes Award nationally. She was recognized in a Court of Honor Ceremony on January 25th at the Catholic Church of St. Paul in Ham Lake.

Eleanor is active in service to her parish and community, musical theater, and NCFCA Speech competition. She is a homeschooled senior and is taking dual enrollment coursework at the University of Northwestern St. Paul.



Eleanor Kraft, Stars & Stripes Award recipient

She is the daughter of Todd and Heather Kraft of Ham Lake. Congratulations, Eleanor!

Press release from American Heritage Girls, Inc.

American Heritage Girls, Inc., is the premier national character development organization for young women, ages 5-18, that embraces Christian values and encourages family involvement. For more information on the American Heritage Girls, visit www.americanheritagegirls.org.

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 the City's website (shown to the right) to report your concern. You can even upload photos. Go to: www.hamlakemn.gov

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 and 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.



Report a Public Works Concern

Community Calendar

- Mar 2: City Council, City Hall 6:00 pm
- Mar 9: Planning Commission, City Hall 6:00 pm
- Mar 11: The Ham Laker ads and articles deadline at noon for the April 2026 issue
- Mar 16: City Council, City Hall 6:00 pm
- Mar 23: Planning Commission, City Hall 6:00 pm

MARCH 2026						
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29	30	31				



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