



# MAD LAKE UPDATE CITYWIDE NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter Issue

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 25, 26, 27th- Citywide Garage Sales
- September 26th- Paddlefish Days Chili Cook-off, Golf Cart Roll-in and Beer and Wine Tasting at Point Pleasant
- September 28th- Planning Commission Meeting
- September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7PM Comprehensive Plan Focus Groups
- October 3<sup>rd</sup> - Citywide Fall Clean-up
- October 5<sup>th</sup> – City Council Meeting
- October 19<sup>th</sup>- City Council Meeting
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Steak-Fry
- October 26<sup>th</sup>- Planning Commission Meeting
- October 31<sup>st</sup>- Rental Inspections must be completed
- October 31<sup>st</sup>- Madison Lake Halloween Party (Fire Hall)
- November 2<sup>nd</sup>- City Council Meeting
- November 16<sup>th</sup>- City Council Meeting
- November 23<sup>rd</sup>- Planning Commission Meeting
- December 4<sup>th</sup>- Christmas on Main Street
- December 7<sup>th</sup>- City Council Meeting
- December 21<sup>st</sup>- City Council Meeting

### Mad Lake Trivia

Q1: What year was the great Madison Lake Fire?

- A. 1953
- B. 1911
- C. 1910
- D. 1956
- E. 1918

*Answer on last page.*

The City of Madison Lake's vision is to be a thriving, engaged and supportive community with a legacy for small town character and big opportunities.

The City of Madison Lake's mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of life for Madison Lake Residents, Business Owners and Visitors, by providing excellent public services.

City of Madison Lake  
525 Main Street, PO Box 295  
Madison Lake, MN 56063

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MADISON LAKE, MN 56063  
PERMIT NO. 1

### Contact Us!

507-243-3011 • [City@ci.madison-lake.mn.us](mailto:City@ci.madison-lake.mn.us) • [www.ci.madison-lake.mn.us](http://www.ci.madison-lake.mn.us)

## Compost Site Changes

The City has struggled this year with maintaining employees for the compost site. This fall, we will be making a change to try to still keep the compost available to residents.

Throughout the month of October and the first two weeks of November Public Works Staff will be picking up bagged leaves from the boulevards in front of houses and bringing them out to the compost site for residents. Leaves must be bagged in biodegradable lawn and leaf bags (see photo). If your bag has not been picked up after a few days, please call City Hall (507)243-3011. For larger items such as branches, please call City Hall to set up an appointment to get into the compost site.



## Dog Leashing

Over the past few months, the City has received several complaints about dogs running at large. City Ordinance §91.02 prohibits dogs or cats from running at large. All dogs or cats are required to be on a leash and accompanied by a responsible person if allowed off of private property. Dogs and Cats running at large are a safety concern for both residents and other animals. Citations for dogs running at large are \$30.00 and any possible transport or pound fee.

## Project Updates – Don't Forget to Sign up for the City's Listserv!

### Comprehensive Plan

The Planning Commission has been working hard on updating the comprehensive plan. This past summer they completed a survey to assist with updating the plan. They are now planning focus groups this fall to gather more information before updating the Comprehensive plan. For more information contact City Hall.

### Fourth & Fifth

The City's Engineers will be arranging individual appointments with residents on September 28 and 30<sup>th</sup>. Residents are welcome to sign up online <http://madisonlake.setmore.com/> or to call City Hall to schedule a time. The City plans to hold the hearings this winter and begin the project next spring.

### Public Works & Police Facility

Last newsletter, I mentioned the proposed Public Works and Police Facility. Several residents have asked for more information about why the City is proposing the project. Several contributing factors are outlined below:

- **Safety Concerns-** the City's workers compensation agents from the League of Cities have noted in several of the City's annual reports safety concerns at the current public works building regarding the inability to use safety features properly on the trucks due to the size of the building, lack of emergency exits and an inadequate working space. Additionally, there have been several instances where the police department has had to bring in individuals being detained into meetings and community events at City Hall because of the location of their offices. This is both a security concern for those attending the meetings and a privacy concern for those being detained.
- **Shortage of space in current facilities-** Below are examples of space problems at our current facilities:
  - **Public Works Issues:** Due to the size of the current public works building, the public works team cannot put the plows on the trucks indoors. So early in the morning before they plow you will find them standing in the cold hooking up the proper equipment. Additionally, the Public Works Team currently stores a lot of their equipment outdoors. We have received some complaints about the unsightliness of the equipment. Beyond the unsightliness, the City has experienced theft and leaving the equipment outdoors deteriorates the equipment faster causing increased maintenance and replacement needs.



Figure 1 Current Public Works Building and Storage Space

- Fire Department: The fire department currently rents several storage units in town to handle the equipment they cannot fit into the fire hall. The Fire Department plans purchase the old public works department for \$26,000, the funds would go towards the new facility. This would also save the City and the Townships \$6,000 annually in storage unit rent.
- City Hall/Community Center: Long-term offices for public works and police would be moved to the new facility giving additional storage and a conference space at City Hall. Over the past few years, due to space demands the City has had to store tables and chairs in the Community Center. This reduces the space and capacity for larger council meetings and events. Additionally, government agencies are required to keep certain records for extended periods of time by state statute. For items like packets and minutes, we are required to keep them permanently. As time goes on, this creates some storage issues. In recent years, the historical society had to remove their stuff from the facility due to the space shortage. Beyond the storage space, the City would like to eventually have a small conference style meeting room, this would help with privacy and be available for smaller groups to rent when the community center is booked. The Community Center is currently booked for routine meetings almost every night of the week.
- Parking Lot: Next year with the fourth and fifth project, the City is planning to resurface the parking lot. The parking lot is used throughout the day by a variety of businesses on Main Street. The current police garage is the old recycling center (see figure 2 to right). The building is in need of maintenance, if we are going to keep the building. The police department has been putting away funds for several years for a new garage, by combining the project with public works facility those funds go towards the new project and would allow us to take down the current building and have more parking available.



Figure 2 Current Police Garage (Former Recycling Center)

- **Substantial Growth-** Since 2012, Housing units are projected by the end of 2015 to have increased by 29.9% and Parks/Land the City's Maintenance Workers maintain is projected to increase by 28.5%. With the several proposed developments expected in the next few years, the City Council wants to be prepared to keep up with the growth we are experiencing. They feel the proposed facility will set the City up for long-term success and growth.

**Next Steps:** One of the key questions the Council has had is how much will it cost. Because of public bidding requirements, without putting the project to bid we cannot identify a set cost. The City Council has decided putting the facility out to bid is the best next step. Depending on the results of the bids, the Council will decide whether to move forward with the project or to reconsider options.

**Opportunity for Input:** From 6 to 7 PM before the Council meeting on October 19th, the City Council will host an open house to discuss the project and allow residents to get a better understanding of the need for the project. Based on the feedback received at the meeting, the Council will determine next steps for the project.



Figure 3 Proposed Public Works and Police Facility

If approved, the facility would be located at the water tower site. A rendering of the proposed project is provided to the right (Figure 3).

## Annual Performance Survey

Last year, the City sent out the first annual performance survey to gather resident feedback and set a baseline for comparison purposes this year. The Performance Survey will be available online and at City Hall throughout the month of October. The Council has used the feedback they received to help set budget priorities for 2016. The lowest ranked area in 2014 was Road Conditions /Quality of Roads with 20% of survey takers rating respondents rating roads "Poor." Based on the feedback, this past spring the council approved Street Improvement Projects on Oak Avenue, 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Melwood and Madison, North Duck Lake, Evergreen Court and is current planning a reconstruct of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The proposed budget also includes an increase in the street reserve fund to put aside additional funds for future street improvements.

## Budget Update

The City received good news this year from Blue Earth County. Our total valuation numbers are estimated to increase to \$105,762,800, an estimated 8.8% increase from last year. The Council set the preliminary levy with a proposed flat tax rate, this means one dollar of value will be taxed at the same rate or value that one dollar of value was last year. For example if a house was valued at \$100,000 in 2015 you would have paid approximately \$526.38 (City portion only). In 2016 the council has proposed the same rate. An increase in values allows the council to increase the levy while not increasing the tax rate. This philosophy lets the growth pay for the growth.

Table 1 below, provides a comparison of the City of Madison Lake's tax rate to other communities. One area that significantly impacts the City is Local Government Aid, in the proposed budget approximately 20% of our total revenue comes from Local Government Aid. Local Government Aid amounts vary and each communities need determination impacts the whole equation.

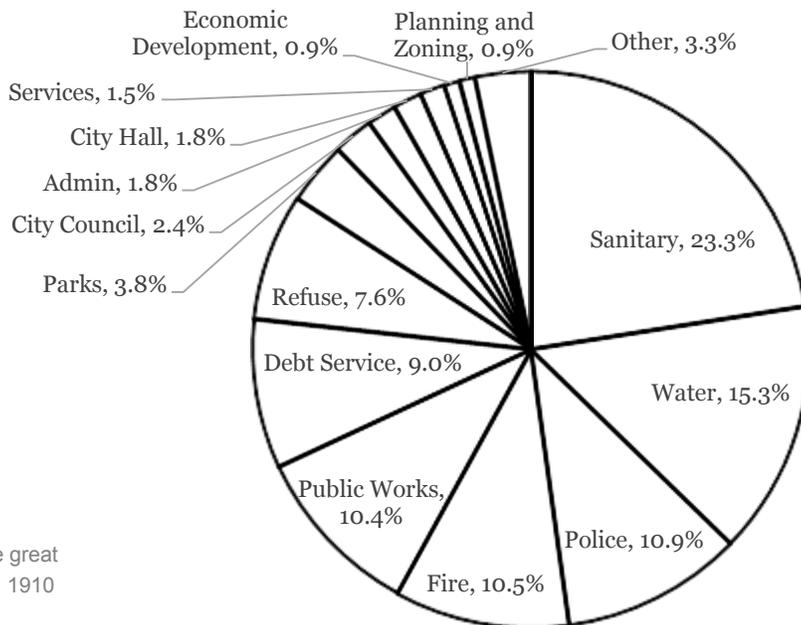
**Table 1: Tax Rate Comparable Communities (smallest to largest tax rate)**

	2015 Estimated Tax Capacity	2015 Tax Rate	2015 Estimated Levy	Local Government Aid 2015	Estimated Total Levy & LGA
Eagle Lake	\$1,477,580	43.374	\$640,885.55	\$ 611,393.00	\$ 1,252,278.55
<b>Madison Lake</b>	<b>\$944,080</b>	<b>52.633</b>	<b>\$496,903.37</b>	<b>\$ 156,791.00</b>	<b>\$ 653,694.37</b>
Elysian	\$876,444	56.895	\$498,652.81	\$ 13,924.00	\$ 512,576.81
Waterville	\$1,152,525	68.700	\$791,784.68	\$ 477,281.00	\$ 1,269,065.68
Cleveland	\$329,166	75.161	\$247,404.46	\$ 158,509.00	\$ 405,913.46
Janesville *	\$932,652	82.570	\$770,090.76	\$ 781,839.00	\$ 1,551,929.76
St. Clair	\$335,426	91.376	\$306,498.86	\$ 236,737.00	\$ 543,235.86
Lake Crystal	\$1,377,265	93.468	\$1,287,302.05	\$ 717,509.00	\$ 2,004,811.05
Mapleton	\$715,700	101.090	\$723,501.13	\$ 556,978.00	\$ 1,280,479.13
Minnesota Lake	\$248,181	124.490	\$308,960.53	\$ 162,827.00	\$ 471,787.53
Vernon Center	\$173,783	141.659	\$246,179.26	\$ 67,506.00	\$ 313,685.26
Good Thunder	\$204,530	143.473	\$293,445.33	\$ 165,839.00	\$ 459,284.33
Amboy	\$184,283	144.558	\$266,395.82	\$ 142,808.00	\$ 409,203.82
Pemberton	\$96,825	170.964	\$165,535.89	\$ 34,066.00	\$ 199,601.89

\*Tax rate for Janesville Sewer District 1

Chart 1 (below) shows the allocation for all funds for the 2016 Proposed Budget. The City Council will hold the Truth in Taxation hearing on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. All interested parties are invited to attend.

**Chart 1: All Fund Expenditures by Category**



### Mad Lake Trivia

Q1: What year was the great Madison Lake Fire? C. 1910