



Lakeland Shores

Newsletter

Spring 2011

City of Lakeland Shores
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Lakeland, MN 55043

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Randy Kopesky, Mayor

Note: All regular city council meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month starting at 7:00 p.m. and at Lakeland City Hall, 690 Quinnell Ave. N.

Mayor Randy Kopesky (651) 436-5066

Council Members:

Elizabeth Kemling (651) 436-2480
Cary Schroeder (651) 436-3254
Dave Jarvis (651) 998-0768
Todd McLarty (651) 337-1537

Staff:

City Attorney, Dave Magnuson
(651) 439-9464
City Clerk, Penelope Johnson
(651) 436-1789
City Engineer, John Parotti (SEH)
(715) 246-9906
City Treasurer, Tom Niedzwiecki
(651) 433-5732
City Zoning Administrator/Road
Commissioner, Tim Schroeder
(651) 210-1278

Mayor's Update

There have been and are quite a few items of interest happening in Lakeland Shores. A brief review of the most noteworthy will be covered in this newsletter. For a complete review of all city news and events visit the Lakeland Shores website at <http://lakelandshores.govoffice.com>. The weather is certainly high on the list of happenings. Seems like a long time ago in December when we received our first snowstorm and we have not yet made it through our snowiest month that is typically March. Sufficient snowplowing funds remain available to get the city through this springs plowing.

It is my pleasure and honor to continue to serve you as your Mayor. As always, I welcome your comments and input. It is my goal to ensure a smooth and fiscally responsible operated city. I hope you will agree with me that we have very dedicated city council members and staff who professionally manage and deliver high quality and effective public services to the residents and businesses of Lakeland Shores.

And speaking of services, please remain especially alert to our area military service members and their families who might be adversely affected by the flood. The Yellow Ribbon Alliance Lower St. Croix Valley's goal is to help military members and their families as needed and requested. Volunteering to assist is a great gesture of thanks.

Flooding

As you may have been hearing, extraordinary flooding conditions have been forecast for our area. We are lucky in Lakeland Shores to have a high elevation from the river. This elevation strongly mitigates the devastating consequences of the flood. For our neighboring communities, it is a different story. There will be some localized heavy damage inflicted by the flooding. If you feel you might be affected by the flood, I urge you to contact your insurance agent to determine if flood insurance is something of value to you. Flood insurance takes effect 30 days after it is purchased. You do not need to live in the floodplain to buy flood insurance. If you do not know whether or not you live in the floodplain, be sure to contact the Lakeland Shores city clerk. She will assist you in finding out.

It is crisis situations such as flooding in our local communities that bring out the best in people. There will be ample opportunities for people to demonstrate their best by volunteering to work in the flood effort. There will be many needs to fill by concerned citizens who want to help. Volunteers will be needed to fill those needs. Please contact Randy Kopesky at 651-436-5066 if you want to volunteer during the flood event.

The following is an excerpt from an article written and produced by the Federal Emergency Management Administration regarding flood insurance.

“With forecasts predicting significant flooding this spring, Minnesota faces the threat of flooding along rivers and tributaries throughout the state. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is encouraging individuals, families and businesses to prepare for flooding now by purchasing a flood insurance policy, as there is a 30-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy takes effect.

Over the past 20 years, there have been numerous flood disasters in Minnesota, 21 of which have been significant enough to warrant disaster declarations by the President. A claim on a flood insurance policy can be filed after any flooding event whether or not it is declared a disaster by the President.

“We’re all at some level of flood risk. Homeowners, renters and business owners should take steps now to protect against that risk,” said Andrew Velasquez III, FEMA Region V administrator. “Because homeowner's insurance does not cover flood loss, purchasing a flood insurance policy is one of the best ways to protect yourself from the financial impacts associated with flood damage.”

Flood insurance is available to everyone in those communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Homes and businesses do not have to be in a high-risk flood hazard area to be eligible for coverage. In fact, more than 20 percent of all claims come from floods that happened in low or moderate flood-risk areas.

The average cost of a flood insurance premium in Minnesota is about \$663 a year – less than \$2 a day for financial protection from what could be devastating effects of a flood in a home or business. Flood insurance policies can be purchased for both the property and contents; an insurance agent can tailor a policy to fit specific needs.

Find out more about flood insurance and your flood risk online at <http://www.floodsmart.gov> or call 1-888-379-9531.”

Yellow Ribbon Alliance Lower St. Croix Valley (YRALSCV)

All of the planning meetings for Lakeland Shores to become a Yellow Ribbon City have been held. Lakeland Shores and the other four Lower St. Croix Valley Cities are on track to earn the Yellow Ribbon designation from the Minnesota National Guard and Governor Dayton's office in the next few weeks.

An open and public invitation is now made requesting your presence at the designation ceremony and celebration. It is anticipated a formal reception ceremony will occur sometime during the month of May. More information will be made available as the event draws nearer. After we receive our designation, we will begin to meet again as a group to implement the Action Plan that was accepted by the National Guard and the Governor's Office. Several key areas of the Action Plan are included in this article. Lakeland Shores website will soon be updated to include the Action Plan and to provide more information about the Beyond The Yellow Ribbon initiative.

The Yellow Ribbon Alliance is a comprehensive program that creates awareness for the purpose of training and empowering community leaders to develop a sustainable network for service members and their families during deployment and reintegration.

The mission of the Yellow Ribbon Alliance Lower St. Croix Valley is to positively collaborate with the Minnesota National Guard in continuing the proud history of supporting our nation's military by creating an intimate network of support that prides itself in trust and follow-through. There are seven distinct focus areas that will guide our commitment to the military service members and their families.

1. Sustainable Community Leadership and Support
2. Fast Action Support Team (FAST) and Community Network
3. Family Member and Youth Care/Education
4. Military and Veteran Outreach
5. Public Safety
6. Employers/Businesses
7. Faith Based Communities and Non-Profits

Public Safety report

Our city is blessed to have wonderful residents and businesses. We take care of ourselves quite well and look out for each other. This is evident by the low number of incident reports and criminal activities reported to city council each month by the Washington County Sheriffs Office. With the exception of very few minor traffic offenses, our city is a quiet and safe place to live and work. You are reminded to continue to be aware of any suspicious activities and to call 911 if you see anything that poses a risk to Lakeland Shores property or residents. We have a highly skilled and professionally trained Sheriffs Office protecting us, and Sheriff Hutton has committed to ensuring our safety and welfare.

Of safety interest is to be aware the Afton Lakeland School Carnival will be held on Saturday March 26th. You are asked to drive with extra caution during the carnival and **please do not park on the bike path.**

Lower St. Croix Valley Alliance (LSCVA) meetings

The Lower St. Croix Valley Alliance (LSCVA) was officially created on April 14, 2005. It is the organization resulting from combining the Middle St. Croix Valley Planning Committee and the former Five Cities Mayors Alliance.

The membership of LSCVA consists of any and all elected officials from the cities of Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, St. Croix Beach, St. Mary's Point, and Afton. Other participants include the elected state and county officials from our area and members from the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Department.

The members meet the **4th Monday of each month** at the Lower St. Croix Fire Department building in Lake St. Croix Beach. It is an open meeting and the public is invited to participate. Items of local interest and topical issues are discussed. Sharing information and knowledge building of common opportunities and community challenges drive the discussion.

All meetings start at 4:30 pm and are concluded no later than 6:00 pm, or sooner if the agenda permits.