



Focus on Lakeville

City of Lakeville Weekly Newsletter

Positioned to Thrive

MEETINGS

Week of August 7, 2017

Monday, August 7

City Council, 7 p.m.

Meetings take place at City Hall unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome to attend. Agendas are available online at lakevillemn.gov.

Mayor's Office Hours

Mayor Doug Anderson has office hours on Mondays from 3 to 5 p.m. at City Hall. To schedule an appointment, call 952-985-4403.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2nd Annual Minnesota Wine Experience

Thursday, August 24

6-8 p.m.

Lakeville Area Arts Center - 20965 Holyoke Ave.

This event is free to Wine and Premier Club members, \$15 for non-club members. Would you like to become a club member? Visit lakevilleliquors.com for details! Club members: RSVP by email to LiquorEvents@lakevillemn.gov. Non-club members: Order tickets online at LakevilleAreaArtsCenter.com.

Home Improvement Loans

The Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA) is offering interest-free home improvement loans for low and moderate income homeowners in Dakota County. There are no monthly payments - loans are repayable when you sell your home or no longer live there. Loans are commonly used for replacing roofs, siding, windows, furnaces, doors and driveways. To qualify, you must be a homeowner, have sufficient equity, a satisfactory credit history and a gross annual income under certain limits. For more information and an application, visit dakotacda.org and click on Housing Resources or call the CDA's Housing Rehab Coordinator at 651-675-4469.

Airlake Airport/MAC Public Meeting

Wednesday, August 9

6-8 p.m.

6:30 p.m. - presentation by MAC staff

Lakeville City Hall - 20195 Holyoke Avenue

The public is invited to this informational meeting to learn more about the Metropolitan Airports Commission's (MAC) proposed long-term plans for Airlake Airport. A summary of the changes can be found online at metroairports.org under Recent News.

BEEST Mode Project Shows Promising Youth Engagement with City Government

Six local junior high students turned a robotics competition project into a new Lakeville city ordinance to allow backyard beehives. The team, aptly named BEEST Mode, spent six months collaborating with – and often educating – the Planning Commission and City Council before their initial proposal was passed.



The robotics competition, First Lego League in Minnesota, is part of an international robotics program that includes more than 200,000 kids in 63 countries. Teams work together to build and program an autonomous robot and create a unique solution to a problem associated with the yearly theme. The 2016-2017 theme was Animal Allies; teams had to implement a plan to improve human/animal interaction.

Mason Ertel, a member of the team, already had a connection to bees when the project was announced. "We were talking about what animal we wanted to do," Ertel said. "I brought up my grandpa owning a bee farm. Everyone said, 'oh that's cool' and we decided to do bees."

Settled on bees as the project subject, the team set out to find out how they could improve some element of human and bee interaction. Although the issues of habitat loss and pesticide use piqued their interest, once the team learned Lakeville didn't allow beehives on residential areas they knew the aim of their project.

Planning Director Daryl Morey worked with the students starting in December 2016. Something that stuck out to Morey was the level of expertise and dedication shown by the group of sixth graders. "The BEEST Mode team attended a bunch of work sessions and meetings over 6 months to present their ideas and give their input and expertise."

"They all answered all questions beyond their years," Morey continued. "The Planning Commission all commented on how poised they were. It was a great experience all around for the kids and staff alike."

For the BEEST Mode kids, it wasn't always easy to stay poised throughout the project. One of their big takeaways from the process: politics and policies don't change quickly.

"The ordinance process takes a fair amount of time," said Mayor Doug Anderson. "The kids may have lost a little patience, but they didn't show that to us."

"We learned that politics is really slow, but it was really fun," said Steve Launsbach, another member of BEEST Mode. "It was worth it in the end."

STAFF UPDATES

Planning

A final plat application and plans have been submitted by RJ Ryan Construction for First Park Lakeville 4th Addition, which consists of one industrial lot located on the east side of Humboldt Road, south of 217th Street. A 48,000-square-foot building for Globus Transport will be constructed on the lot.

Community & Economic Development

The City issued 36 new residential permits in July, which was the highest in the Twin Cities according to the Builders Association of the Twin Cities. The City also issued the highest number of residential permits year-to-date followed by Plymouth, Blaine, Woodbury and Lake Elmo.

Public Works - Transportation

The contractor continued storm sewer, watermain and sanitary sewer work on the County Road 50/Kenwood Trail Reconstruction Project. Upcoming work will include street and utility construction, tree clearing and utility relocation.

Curb and sidewalk removal continues on the Holyoke Avenue Improvement project, working south towards 210th Street.

Information Systems

Construction has begun on the fiber optic network from City Hall to Fire Station 1 and the Heritage Center. Conduit from the two sites is now connected to the City's existing conduit, and fiber optic cable is being pulled into all three buildings.

City Watering Ordinance Remains in Effect

Odd/even and time-of-day watering restrictions are in effect through September 30. Water only on odd-numbered days if your house number ends in an odd number, or even-numbered days if your house number ends in an even number. Also, watering is only allowed before 11 a.m. or after 5 p.m. - watering during the heat of the day wastes water. Surcharges will be assessed for violations.