



THRIVE!

Lakeville Business Updates



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Lakeville, Minnesota - Positioned to Thrive

The Thrive! Business Newsletter is intended to provide information on new and expanding businesses, community business events and monthly development statistics for the City of Lakeville.

To learn more about economic development projects, visit LakevilleMN.gov/developmentmap.

Business Happenings in Lakeville

Construction has begun on Amazon's new 750,000-square-foot XL fulfillment center, located south of 217th Street and west of Dodd Boulevard. When open, the Amazon facility will fulfill large item orders, such as mattresses, grills and exercise equipment.



Hy-Vee Lakeville was presented with the 2020 Employer of the Year for People with Disabilities during the [Legislative and Employer Awards Virtual Event \(PDF\)](#) on December 4, hosted by Dakota-Scott County Workforce Development Board.



The Employer of the Year for People with Disabilities is presented to an employer who has improved the lives of people with disabilities through employment. Hy-Vee Lakeville works with Placement Partners' Employer Affairs Specialist to connect with applicants who have disabilities.

Representatives from Hy-Vee have also attended Placement Partners' annual job fairs to interview and screen candidates with disabilities. Congratulations Hy-Vee Lakeville!

Energy Savings Available For Small Businesses

Xcel Energy is offering temporary rate discounts for small and mid-sized businesses who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns. If your business has experienced a material impact from the pandemic, along with an electric load decrease of 25% or more in electric demand as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, you may be eligible for a temporary 25% discount on base energy and demand



charges on your bill. For eligible customers with an average monthly peak load below 100 kW, discounts are available Jan. 1 through Aug. 31, 2021. For eligible customers with a monthly peak load between 100 kW and 2,000 kW discounts are available through March 31, 2021. [Visit xcelenergy.com](http://xcelenergy.com) to learn more and apply.



Eat Local



**Take Out, Curbside To Go
Family Size Meals, Delivery, Drive-Thru
Gift Cards, Cocktail & Holiday Gifts**

Visit lakevillerestaurants.com for options to eat local!

Go Green Engages Employees and Reaps Savings

Hearthside Food Solutions, based in Airlake Park in Lakeville, prides itself on being a progressive business. Hearthside has 39 facilities in North America and Europe; but Lakeville is considered the "mothership of recycling," by leading the pack in green, sustainable activities.



Andrea Oliverius, Support Operations Manager, manages the Go Green recycling program as one of her many duties at Hearthside. The green team has 13 employees that meet monthly to do air and water leak checks, talk about ways to recycle even more and participate in the occasional dumpster dive to see how they are doing and what to focus on.

The program is so popular at the company that Oliverius has a waiting list for her green team. They train their employees to ensure they recycle everything they can, they even train their temporary help.

The Lakeville operation recycles over one million pounds per month, including 16 targeted items, such as cardboard, office paper, cans and bottles, wood, large plastic barrels, sacks from sugar and oats, paper bags, metal, aluminum and stainless steel, to name a few.

The company's goal is 95% landfill avoidance. Oliverius keeps spreadsheets on how they are doing and posts for all the employees to see monthly. Currently they are at 94% with a few more weeks left in 2020. Oliverius admits that she has had no formal training in the art of recycling in her 24 years with the company but has learned as she has gone along and could teach classes in the knowledge she has gained.

"You have to start somewhere as a company," Oliverius said. "There is a problem out there with us covering up Mother Earth."

The green team works closely with their recycle partners to find ways to use the materials. The wood they gather is shredded and used to make bedding for chicken and turkey coops. Any food that might land on the floor during processing is processed back to feed animals such as pigs and chickens. The green team had some material that was not wanted by any recycling company, so Oliverius worked with a company in Mankato to create new building materials from it. This alone pulled 30,000 pounds out of the landfill per month. They have sugar sacks that hold a whopping 2,000 pounds of sugar that were not accepted anywhere. Now these bags are ground up, mixed in with asphalt and used in highway construction projects.

"You have to think long-term and at first, there is an investment you have to make as a company," said Oliverius. "It's hard to estimate what you will bring in terms of savings and money back, but you must think long term, build relationships with the recycling companies and you have to think outside of the box."

Recycling is a constantly changing business with more restrictions, new standards and tariffs, but there are also new ways and new recycling uses around every corner. As an example, Hearthside reduced the compactor costs by 65%, saving over \$100,000 in two years, capturing significant savings. The green team shares these ideas with their other companies and take field trips to expand their own knowledge as well. Last year, the green team visited Dick's Sanitation in Lakeville to learn about how recycling is processed. Oliverius went on Dakota County's Tour de Trash, which she said was eye opening to see what the County does to try to reduce what is in the landfill. According to Oliverius, it is an eye opener to see what we dispose of that should have been recycled. We have become a throwaway society.

Hearthside is also committed to looking at water and electricity usage, which is tricky due to increased customer demand. However, lighting in the warehouse has a unique feature when forklifts leave the area, the lighting turns off, reducing usage. Many companies provide rebates when you update your light fixtures.

Employees of Hearthside are also committed to the Lakeville community by participating in Earth Day cleanup in Airlake Park and sponsoring a food drive for 360 Communities that support residents of the south metro area.

If you are interested in learning more about recycling for business or how your

business could become eligible for grants up to \$10,000 to implement waste prevention and recycling improvements and help with compliance of county requirements, contact Renee Burman, Dakota County Environmental Resources at 952-891-7042 or renee.burman@co.dakota.mn.us.

Building Permit Report

The City has issued building permits with a total valuation of \$372,141,389 through November. This compares to a total valuation of \$282,631,363 for building permits issued through November of 2019.



The City issued permits for 579 single-family homes through November with a total valuation of \$171,785,000. This compares to 476 single-family home permits through November of 2019 with a total valuation of \$145,537,000.

The City has also issued 143 townhome permits with a total valuation of \$27,571,000 through November, compared to 91 townhome permits with a total valuation of \$19,864,000 during the same period in 2019. The City has issued eight apartment permits through November, totaling 200 units, with a valuation of \$27,833,000.

Lakeville has issued the highest number of residential permits year-to-date in the Twin Cities followed by Otsego, Woodbury, Cottage Grove and Plymouth.

Click to view the [City of Lakeville's Permit Activity Report](#).

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