



Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2023

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Preparing Seasonal Septic Systems and Cabins for Winter

Closing a septic system for the winter is a vital task for seasonal homeowners to prolong the life of the system and to keep it operating at peak performance. Precautions taken in the fall can help prevent a frozen system.



Winterizing the Pipes in the Cabin

- Do not add automotive antifreeze, salts or any other additives to your plumbing.
- If you leave the water on for the winter, be very sure that there are no leaks or drips. This constant, low flow of water can cause septic system freezing. This is common with high efficiency furnaces.
- Even if the heat is left on, it is a good idea to drain water supply lines. Shut off the water where it enters the house and drain all lines. Drain the pump and then run a couple of seconds to be sure all water is out of the lines. Drain the system by opening all the faucets, leave faucets open. Completely drain the pressure tank. Flush toilets and add RV antifreeze to the tanks at the recommended dilution ratio. Check flexible hoses in sinks and bathtubs to be sure they are drained completely. Remove and drain inlet hoses for the dishwasher and clothes washer. Clear the water valve by starting the machine for a few seconds, then drain the tub. Remove the drain hoses, drain completely. Disconnect the electrical supply to the pump, water heater, softener, washer and dishwasher. Drain the water heater and water softener with a hose after power is disconnected. RV antifreeze can be added to traps in sinks, bathtub and shower drains, washtubs, floor drains and sump pumps. In the spring, re-connect all hoses and flush the lines out before using again.

Furnace

If you have a high efficiency furnace that is left on for the winter, be sure there is no water drip into your system. Freezing can result. Re-route the drip water to a floor drain, bucket or other source that does not enter the septic system at all or enters in larger amounts. This water does not harm the septic system, but entering in very small amounts causes a trickle of water, which can freeze more easily. If shutting off the furnace, drain all water from forced hot water and steam systems unless the system contains antifreeze. If that is the case, call a plumber for assistance. If leaving the furnace on, it is a wise idea to conserve energy by installing a low-heat thermostat that will maintain the cabin at 40 degrees.

Cleaning/Pumping the Septic Tank

Consider pumping the tank if closing the cabin for the winter, or if it will only be used a few times during the winter. If you live in an area with a high-water table, you should only pump out the tank if the tank was designed for high water table conditions. If a tank is left full but the system is not used for the winter months, the sewage will get very cold, and can even freeze. If the cabin is opened before temperatures in the soil start to rise, the effluent leaving the tank will be cold. By starting with an empty tank, you can then start fresh with warm effluent, which is desirable in the soil treatment area.

Vegetative Cover

Stop cutting the grass over the soil treatment area in mid-September. The extra grass length will help capture snow, providing insulation over area. This can help prevent freezing.

Protect the Soil Treatment Area

Keep all foot and vehicle traffic off the tank, pipes, and soil treatment area (drainfield or mound). The only exception is the lawn mower. Do not plow snow off the area or store plowed snow over the drainfield.



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Police Notes: *Message from the Chief*



Take It To The Box

Take It To The Box provides a FREE, safe disposal site for medications that are no longer needed or are expired. This box allows residents to bring their unused, expired, and unwanted medications and drop them into a secure place where the police department will have them destroyed. Medications can be dropped off at Lake Shore City Hall during regular business hours, Monday-Friday 8am-4pm.

The purpose of this program is to provide environmentally safe alternatives to disposing of medications in landfills or sewer systems. It also encourages residents to remove unwanted medications from their homes thus reducing the access to addictive medications for accidental or intentional misuse by children or others in the home.

Medication expiration dates should be checked regularly and disposed of when expired. Remember to clean out your medicine cabinet routine and dispose of any unneeded medications.

Reporting Suspicious Activity and Crime

The Lake Shore Police Department wants to remind residents to report suspicious activity. With your help and action, we will continue keeping this community safe from crime. When you help the police department, you are helping yourself from becoming a victim of crime.

If you see suspicious or unusual activity report it immediately by dialing 911. Even a five-minute delay in reporting can significantly reduce the likelihood of catching the criminal. Don't hesitate to call if you think something may be wrong or out of place. Think about what could happen if you delay or don't make the call. Get to know your neighbors and watch out for each other.

Roads Report

Update Provided By: *Wayne Anderson, Liaison to Road Wastewater Committee*

The Roads and Wastewater committee has had a busy 2023.

We overlaid or reconstructed several streets which included reconstruction of Nottingham and Little John; and overlaying Fernmont, Bent Arrow, and Waseya Woods. This work was completed by Knife River based on their low bid. In 2024, we will chip seal these roads. We have been pleased with the performance of the chip sealing on past new road projects as the chip sealing extends the life of the road.

Due to the heavy snows, this spring there were a lot of trees in the city's road right of ways that had to be cleaning up. We were able to get emergency funding to pay for that work which totaled about \$70,000.

The county inspected the Fritz Loven Bridge and determined that it needs to be replaces or removed based on its condition. After much discussion, including a public information hearing, the committee and the City Council voted to replace the bridge with a 20-foot-wide bridge. A 20-foot-wide bridge meets State bridge standards so most of the cost will be covered by the State, assuming the funds are available.

The Spider Lake home development on Lost Lake Road was connected to the Lake Shore wastewater system. The committee along with the contracted manager for our wastewater system are working on a plan to continually update the equipment at the 9 lift stations that the city maintains.

Construction on the Gull Lake Trail should be wrapping up for the year. An issue with the boardwalk located across from Bar Harbor restaurant has caused construction delays. A grant application for Legacy Funds has been submitted for funding to complete the remainder of the trail.

Snow Plowing Across Roads

Lake Shore residents are reminded that it is unlawful to plow snow from driveways onto or across city streets or country roads. Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Accidents and damage caused by snow piles left in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner. Piles of snow increase the chances of drifting snow onto the roadway.

Hunting in Lake Shore

Firearm hunting is regulated within the city of Lake Shore. Because of the varying densities of homes, a map has been developed to identify where firearm hunting is allowed. Depending on density, certain areas are prohibited from firearm hunting while other areas allow for the discharge of shotguns with birdshot. State law still applies to the discharge of any firearm within the city. The city does not regulate the taking of game by bow & arrow. Bow hunting is governed by state law. Landowner permission should always be obtained for any activity including hunting. The Firearms Hunting map is available at City Hall or at www.cityoflakeshore.com.

Property Watch

Property Watch forms are available at the Lake Shore Police Department or online at www.cityoflakeshore.com. A new property watch form needs to be filled out each time you are away on vacation or leaving for the winter season. This information notifies the police department that you will be away from your residence during a specific period and allows us to have contact information in the unfortunate event that something happens.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

NOVEMBER 24, 2023
City of Lights Celebration
Downtown Nisswa

JANUARY 6-7, 2024
Nisswa 100 Cross-Country
Snowmobile Race

FEBRUARY 3, 2024
Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing
Extravaganza

February 23-25, 2024
Gull Lake Frozen Fore

PRIMARY ELECTION

The next presidential primary will be on March 5, 2024.

The current election law specific to the presidential primary is in Minnesota Statute Chapter 207A and Minnesota Rules Chapter 8215. Common questions about the presidential primary are answered below.

When will the presidential primary take place? March 5, 2024.

Will all parties participate in the presidential primary? No, only major parties will participate.

Will all parties be on the same ballot? No, each participating major party will have a separate ballot.

Who decides which candidates will appear on a party's ballot? The chair of each party will submit a list of candidates for the party's ballot no later than 63 days before the date of the presidential primary (January 2, 2024).

What if a candidate drops out before the primary? Once a party's list is submitted, changes will not be made to candidates that will appear on the ballot.

Will there be a place to write in a choice or vote for "uncommitted"? Only if it is requested by the party chair. Party chairs will need to submit names of write-in candidates to be counted seven days before the primary.

Will any other offices be on the ballot? No, only presidential candidates from a major party will appear on the presidential primary ballot. Other offices with a primary will be on the primary ballot in August.

Who can vote in the presidential primary? Any voter registered in Minnesota. Voters can pre-register through February 13, or register at the polling place when they vote. Note that voters must turn 18 years old by March 5 to vote in the presidential primary.

How will I be able to vote in the presidential primary? Registered voters will be able to vote at their polling place on presidential primary day or by absentee ballot in the 46 days before presidential primary day (starting January 19, 2024). A voter must request the ballot of the party of their choice. If a voter refuses to select a party, they will not be able to vote in the presidential primary.

Will other people know which party's ballot I request? A voter's choice of party ballot will be recorded and is private data. However, a list will be provided to the chair of each major political party of voters who selected that party. How a voter voted on the ballot will be secret.

Will parties have to abide by the primary results? The presidential primary results must bind the election of delegates in each party.

Who will pay for the presidential nomination primary? County and municipalities will be reimbursed by the state for the primary costs.

How much will the primary cost? In 2020, the cost to administer the presidential primary was \$9.6 million. Counties and municipalities will be reimbursed for their costs of administering the Presidential Nomination Primary following the election.

Will there still be precinct caucuses? Yes, precinct caucuses and local and state nominating conventions will still take place to conduct other party business.

Is the presidential nomination primary the same as the presidential primary? Yes, the official name of this election is "presidential nomination primary" but it is most commonly known simply as the presidential primary.

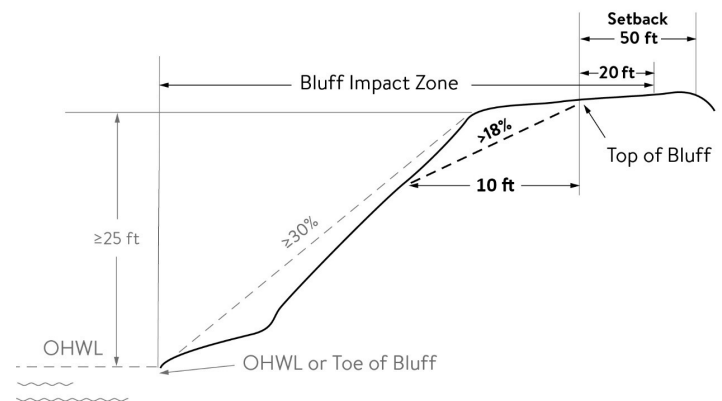
SNOWBIRDS OR ANYONE NOT ABLE TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

To vote absentee or early, follow these online directions to apply for a ballot: To locate an application for absentee/early voting – go to the Cass County website at casscountymn.gov click on 'Services' – then on the left of the screen, click on 'Elections/Voting', then scroll down to the middle of the page and click on 'Apply for an absentee ballot online' to fill out the Presidential Primary application. Make sure you choose to receive the ballot for the party that you identify with.

*Primary Election information found on the MN Secretary of State's website

BLUFF SETBACK CHANGE

The Lake Shore Planning Commission has been revising the Lake Shore Zoning Ordinance in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan and as part of those revisions the DNR has mandated the city change its bluff definition. The city was given two options for calculating bluffs; the first was to keep the same calculation by using a 10-foot segment and increase the setback from 30' to 50' and the second option was a method eliminating the 10-foot segment and utilizing a 50-foot segment. After much study on the impact this change will have to property owners, the Planning Commission opted to continue to utilize the 10-foot segment and increase the setback from 30' to 50'. The DNR did allow the city to grandfather in existing homes constructed between 1990 and 2023; this means that property owners wishing to construct an addition to their home may utilize the 30' setback versus the 50' setback.





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Cindy Terwilliger
Alternates: Steve Sundstrom, Kiley Armitage

City Administrator/ Planning & Zoning Administrator

Teri Hastings

Police Chief Steve Sundstrom

Public Works Roger Olmscheid

218-963-2148

cityoflakeshore.com

info@cityoflakeshore.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the City Council are held the fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.