



City Newsletter November/December 2023





Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Summary... ..	3
To ALL Staff/Personnel/Stakeholders... THANK YOU!!!	5
Current Projects & Collective Achievements.....	7
Now Hiring.....	8
Housing Trends.....	11
Items on the city’s website, include.....	16
Additional Information & Notices... ..	16
Did you check the website? (https://cityoflakecity.com/).....	17
Closing.....	24



Introduction...

In short, this document was developed to outline some of the City of Lake City's recent efforts, general improvements, and further to serve as a mechanism to share specific programmatic achievements. I am proud to report that our collective stakeholders including staff, elected/appointed personnel, and part-time and/or seasonal staff have made measurable progress in many program areas. We would not have been so successful without support from the collective team, so we are hopeful our staff, personnel, and all area stakeholders are happy with the observed progress, especially since we have continually operated within the fiscally prudent confines of a lean structure.

Summary...

Hello, TEAM CLC...

In this newsletter, we are sharing some of the city's recent achievements and we want to publicly thank the city's staff, and further all stakeholders that have supported the City of Lake City and the greater community. I believe we ALL should be justifiably proud of our progress, though we recognize there is still much work to be performed! As always, the ensuing document will not capture all



of your achievements during the delineated period, but we wanted to take a moment to outline progress and try to touch on some of the highlights. We will continue to look for opportunities to ensure we are meeting professional and legal standards including ongoing implementation of prudent fiscal practices, and further we'd like to drive projects and pursue opportunities to improve the current footprint of the CLC, as envisioned by the collective City Council. In short, we will:

- ✓ Continually work hard, as a team, and provide exceptional customer service for the citizens and visitors alike, in this great community.
- ✓ Implement and continually revisit policies and procedures to ensure effective and efficient operations.
- ✓ Support the City Council to ensure we are appropriately sharing information, so they can make informed decisions.
- ✓ Ensure City Council and the respective Board's and Committees are supported and further kept apprised, so they can make informed decisions.
- ✓ Giving thanks to our staff and community partners.
- ✓ See below for some information regarding open positions... please share the ensuing information with potential applicants.
 - Help wanted...We are actively searching for an Administrative Clerk, an appointed Treasurer, and those seeking general employment, see the ensuing link for additional application materials and information: <https://cityoflakecity.com/documents/employment-application-policy-and-application-document/>.
 - We are also seeking a couple more residents to serve on the *Board of Review*. If interested, please fill out this brief electronic form <https://forms.office.com/r/iFfrFisJ3P>, or for additional information, please check out the ensuing links,



<https://cityoflakecity.com/2023/10/16/volunteer-opportunity/> and [Application and related Procedures for City Board and Committee Appointments – City of Lake City](#)

- ✓ Please also share this information with residents in the city that may be interested in getting more involved.

To ALL Staff/Personnel/Stakeholders... THANK YOU!!!

Greetings from the City of Lake City...

We are excited to share that our DPW Team has been working hard to clear those roads and decorate downtown, too.

We are sending a special thanks to Ray and his entire team, including Ted, Adam, and Gerald (captured in the photograph on Tuesday, November 28, 2023). It was a cold, windy, snowy day, but our team was out there getting it done!

As always, thank you for ALL of your hard work. Your efforts are noticed and much appreciated!





- ✓ If you missed it on the website, we also took a moment prior to Thanksgiving to thank ALL the city's area partners... it truly takes a team, and we will continue to look for opportunities to work with the community.

Thank You!

As we quickly move towards Thanksgiving, we are thankful for ALL of the city's area partners... it truly takes a team, and we will continue to look for opportunities to work together.

With a cooperative attitude and consistent effort in developing a stable economic and recreational base, Lake City will improve the quality of life for every citizen.



- [Missaukee Area Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Missaukee County Recycling Center](#)
- [Lake City Senior Center](#)
- [State of Michigan](#)
- [GFWC Womans Club](#)
- [Lake City Area Schools](#)
- [Missaukee Conservation District](#)
- [MEDC](#)
- [Missaukee Mountain](#)
- [Missaukee County](#)

Current Projects & Collective Achievements...

First, I am excited to report that we have made significant progress on our utility billing software and related hardware upgrades. It's difficult to quantify, but this has been a really big project for our team, and our staff continues to make progress. We are looking forward to the prospect of getting back to a 'normal' billing period real soon.

- ✓ As we move forward, we would like to discourage the practice (to the extent possible) of taking over/under payments for utility bills, and we recognize some have been doing this practice for a long time, though the perceived convenience factors will hopefully represent a dated idea once we offer auto bill pay, or by sending bills via email, etc.
 - Longer term, we'd ask that you please consider that we can email a copy of your bill and/or you can setup auto bill pay because general management of the funds is a timely process for staff, and we recently confirmed that we have an inordinate number



of over/under payments going into our books which can/will have a deleterious impact.

- If the transaction has been completed in the BS&A Utility Billing then any subsequent changes will necessitate manager approval prior to making a change, which is a good additional control or improvement without being too onerous for staff.
- As a reminder, we need your email address, because we will be able to send bills electronically, so here is the contact form if you have not provided your email address, please see [Contact – City of Lake City](#).
- ✓ Again, the city’s Assessing, Utility, and Tax data will now safely reside in the metaphorical BS&A cloud.
 - In terms of our related program data, the vendor has taken on the responsibility for security and related data backup and general management.
- ✓ We removed over 70 stumps this fall from various locations in the city via Joe’s Tree Service--- a big thank you to Joe and his team, and further thank you to Ray and all LC staff that helped clean up the parks.
- ✓ We received council approval to proceed with a citywide roadway project to address several streets in the CLC, which will commence next year.

Now Hiring...

As previously mentioned, the City of Lake City is currently seeking applicants for open positions, including an appointed Treasurer



position, additional volunteers to serve on the Board of Review, and further a full-time Administrative Clerk position. If interested, please email a copy of your resume to vautawr@cityoflakecity.com.

City Treasurer, Duties, Section 7.3, the Treasurer shall have, or be responsible for:

Custody of Moneys.

1

Have custody of all money of the city.
Maintain all evidence of value belonging to or held in trust by the city.

Depositories.

2

Keep and deposit all money according to council and prescribed laws.

Tax Collection.

3

Have powers, duties, and prerogatives, regarding state, county, school, and city taxes and moneys, as are conferred by law.

Other Duties

4

The treasurer SHALL perform such other duties as the council shall direct, or which may be required by law.





Have you ever wanted to help your community or meet new people?

If so, we have a great opportunity for you that does not entail a lot of time, and further this experience may give you requisite background to pursue other opportunities while serving your community.

If interested, please complete a brief survey application at the ensuing web address, <https://forms.office.com/r/iFfrFisJ3P>, or call the City of Lake City at 231.839.4561.

Additional Information/Links can be found at:

- <https://cityoflakecity.com/documents/cityof-lake-city/>
- <https://cityoflakecity.com/documents/cityassessor/>





Housing Trends...

The City of Lake City has been conducting research pertaining to housing, looking at related grant opportunities, and concurrently working with area partners to assess this emerging trend.

- ✓ The city's leadership team has participated in housing events, and further continually served on a housing board and attended related events.
- ✓ Research and related work will buttress subsequent efforts by the council to implement a long-term strategy to support the community's housing needs.
- ✓ Since Housing is increasingly becoming a concern across communities; the subsequent efforts or program successes will likely be predicated on a creative and/or team approach spanning across jurisdictions.
- ✓ Please see below for a summary that was developed and posted on the city's website.
 - City leadership has been evaluating housing trends and assessing our options to appropriately act.



Affordable Housing....

You've possibly heard about an affordable housing shortage throughout the State of Michigan.... In this context, the City of Lake City has been conducting research pertaining to housing, looking at related grant opportunities and concurrently working with area partners to assess this emerging trend. In terms of recent efforts, the city's leadership team has participated in housing events, and further continually served on a housing board and attended related events. The cited research and related work will buttress subsequent efforts by council to implement a long-term strategy to support the community's housing needs. Since housing is increasingly becoming a concern across communities, the subsequent efforts or program successes will likely be predicated on a creative and/or team approach spanning across jurisdictions.



In a recent study from the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan, the statewide survey participants observed additional housing concerns in their most recent study. As you begin to assess relevant information, the cited study outlines some areas that were identified as being a concern in local communities, please see the ensuing link for the complete study.

Based on U of M's survey, they provided a synopsis on their website to outline a couple of their 'key' findings, including:

- *Statewide, 41% of Michigan local officials report a shortage of single-family housing options in their community, up sharply from 23% who said the same in 2017.*





- A majority (52%) of local leaders from both the U.P. and the Northern Lower Peninsula say their communities currently lack sufficient affordable housing.
- Over half (51%) of local leaders from Michigan cities, villages and townships report housing stock that is out-of-date, and 53% say their housing stock suffers from blight. These assessments are essentially unchanged from 2017.

Here is a weblink to the Cited Survey:

[Local government leaders sounding alarms over housing shortages spreading across Michigan | Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy \(umich.edu\)](#)





Hope this information proves useful. In the coming weeks/months, please check back on the city's website (City of Lake City) for additional information and be sure to like and follow us on Facebook.





Items on the city's website, include...

- ✓ link to the agendas, <https://cityoflakecity.com/document-category/meeting-agendas/>
- ✓ link to our approved meeting minutes, <https://cityoflakecity.com/document-category/meeting-minutes/>
- ✓ link to our finalized Resolutions, <https://cityoflakecity.com/document-category/resolutions/>
- ✓ link to the General Application, <https://cityoflakecity.com/documents/employment-application-policy-and-application-document/>
- ✓ this is the 'live' link to our regular CC meetings, <https://cityoflakecity.com/join-city-council-meeting/>

Additional Information & Notices...

- ✓ We are seeking volunteers to serve on the city's Board of Review, and we must appoint someone to serve as the City's Treasurer.
 - Of note, these roles are both extremely important positions, though they also represent positions that do not entail a huge time commitment.



- ✓ As a reminder, the City of Lake City recently transitioned to the Lake Missaukee Fire Department for fire services (<https://www.facebook.com/LMFD200/>)

Did you check the website? (<https://cityoflakecity.com/>)...

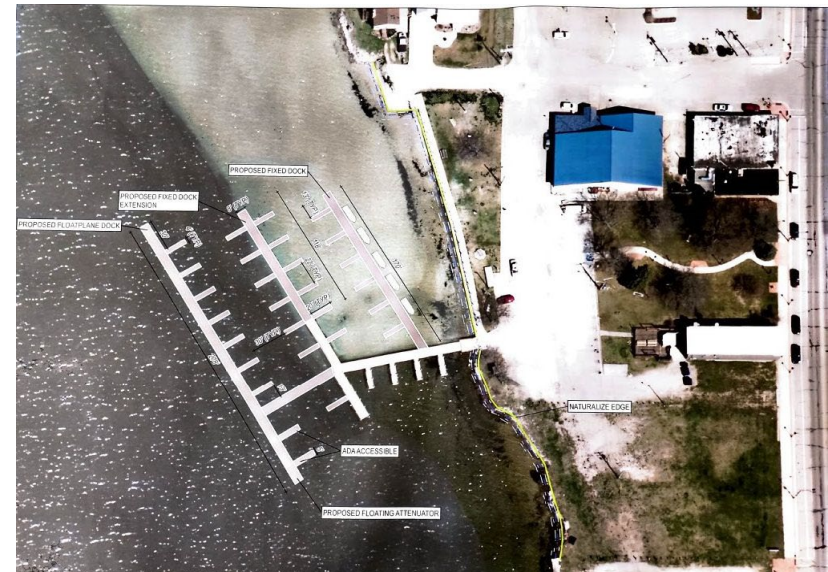

Please periodically check the website for additional information and/or general city updates. If you haven't been on the website, here are some recent examples of announcements you possibly missed, including:

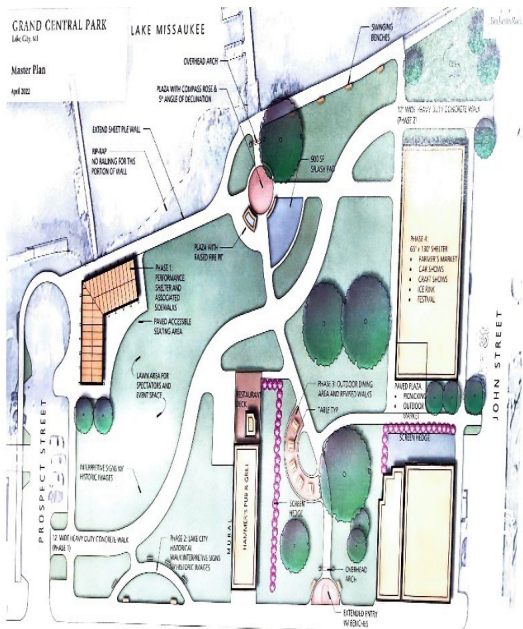
Utility Billing

If you have not heard already...The City of Lake City is currently updating our water meters (as needed), reading equipment, and related software. Once the project is completed, you will be able to easily pay electronically, monitor your actual or real time usage, and you'll be able to receive an electronic copy of your bill.

If you have not already, please go to the city's 'Contact' page [Contact - City of Lake City](#) of the website and provide your email address. In addition, we are currently certifying our utility billing data, so please confirm your billing/actual address(es), so we can ensure a successful launch.

Thank you in advance for your help!





2023 Fall in Lake City

Many thanks to those that make the city such a nice area to reside and visit...

As soon as the beautiful flowers came down, the **Lake City Women's Club** had another set of beautiful decorations deployed. Many thanks for the timely and nice decorations around our downtown this fall and throughout the year!

<https://www.facebook.com/lakecitywomensclub>





Sending a big thank you to the Lake Missaukee Fire Department for the invitation to your Halloween Open House! It was fun to see so many from the community in the fire hall, enjoying the food and treats... just a great event... thank you for your generosity!





According to History.com:

- *Halloween is a holiday celebrated each year on October 31, and Halloween 2023 will occur on Tuesday, October 31.*
- *Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating treats.*
- *Did you know? One quarter of all the candy sold annually in the U.S. is purchased for Halloween.*
- *Did you [also] know? More people are buying costumes for their pets. Americans spent nearly \$500 million on costumes for their pets in 2021—more than double what they spent in 2010.*

<https://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween>



In terms of safety, the Michigan State Police previously advised, "Let common sense be your guide!" MSP continued on Twitter. "Talk to kids about where to cross the street, not to go in anyone's home and don't eat anything till they get home. And if you see something that concerns you, just throw it away. Be safe, be nice and enjoy the day!"

Prepare your kids for safe and fun trick-or-treating with the tips below from MSP:

- Go in groups — kids under 12 should be supervised.
- Be visible — use glow sticks or flashlights.
- Use crosswalks when possible.
- See the ensuing link for additional tips for 'When walking'...and 'When driving'....

[Michigan officials offer tips for a safe Halloween night \(ourmidland.com\)](https://www.ourmidland.com)

Halloween – October 31 – 5:30p to 7:30P

FUN FACTS & SAFETY TIPS

[HTTPS://CITYOFLAKECITY.COM/EVENTS/4031/](https://cityoflakecity.com/events/4031/)





ACCORDING TO HISTORY.COM:

- VETERANS DAY OCCURS ON NOVEMBER 11 EVERY YEAR IN THE UNITED STATES IN HONOR OF THE "ELEVENTH HOUR OF THE ELEVENTH DAY OF THE ELEVENTH MONTH" OF 1918 THAT SIGNALLED THE END OF WORLD WAR I, KNOWN AS ARMISTICE DAY.
- IN 1954, PRESIDENT [DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER](#) OFFICIALLY CHANGED THE NAME OF THE HOLIDAY FROM ARMISTICE DAY TO [VETERANS DAY](#).
- FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION GO TO THE ENSUING LINK AT:
[**VETERANS DAY FACTS - DATA, POPULATIONS & BACKGROUND | HISTORY**](#)

Thank you for your service!!!



The ensuing excerpt was taken from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website.

History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” – officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day



of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.” Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. [History of Veterans Day – U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/history-and-heritage/commemorative-events/veterans-day/)

Last, we would like to share a couple of final updates. We filled a seat on the Board of Review, though we have a couple of additional seats available for those interested in serving on the city’s BOR. This is a great opportunity to help your community with an important governmental process, and further to help ensure the assessment process is completed and our efforts are congruent with established standards, and further this process serves as a mechanism for those that have any questions or concerns.

For those that would like to help, you should consider this opportunity, especially those that want to help though are possibly concerned about related scheduling and time constraints. The total time and frequency commitments are quite low compared to other positions. In short, you’ll need to complete a web-based training every two years, and you will meet approximately 1-3 times a year as needed—that’s it! Please check the website for additional information pertaining to the process and ways you can contact us directly. Looking forward to reviewing your application sometime soon.... thanks!



Closing

In closing, we will continually work with the collective City Council to drive the city's projects, and effectively support our team members in all operations. As always, the goal is to develop confidence, professionalism, and abilities within our team, so we are ready to take on any project or challenge, as we strive to provide the highest level of service possible for our citizens and in support of the greater community. We will continue to keep you apprised of our progress, please check back on the website for updates and emergency alerts, or please come see us at the next City Council meeting.

As always, thank you for your ongoing interest and support!

Robert C. Vautaw, MPA

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