



Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2025

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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.

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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Attention City Sewer

Residents:

Beginning January 1, 2026 your quarterly sewer bill will go up **\$8.00/ERC**. Please call Kathy at 218-963-2148 x2 with questions.

Police Notes: *Message from the Chief*



Snow Plowing

Fall is here and Lake Shore residents are reminded that it is unlawful to plow snow from driveways onto or across city streets or county 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 placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner. Piles of snow increase the chances of snow drifting onto the roadway which can create a hazard for motorists and the snow plow.

Alarms

If you have an alarm system at your residence or business, make sure your alarm is registered with Cass County. The Lake Shore police department responds to nearly 100 residential/business alarms each year. We ask that you have a key holder available to respond to your alarm. Have your alarm system maintained regularly to help prevent false alarms.

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.

Roads Report

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

This year we reconstructed two streets which included Gullwood Road and Timber Lane. We also repaired culverts at Dettbarn Road and Ridge Road. This work was completed by Ideal Construction of Staples. This is the first time the City has used this construction company and we were pleased with their performance.

In 2025 we chip sealed the roads that were overlaid or reconstructed in 2024 which included Balsam Lane, Woodland Road, Abbey Way, and Lincoln Green. We have been pleased with the performance of the chip sealing on past new road projects.

We are working with Cass County on upgrades at the 90 degree corners on County Road 107. We replaced



Any delay in reporting can significantly reduce the likelihood of catching the criminal. Do not leave a voice mail on the police

department answering machine. Just dial 911 to get the Cass County Sheriff's Office dispatcher on duty. 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.

Property Watch

Property Watch forms are available at the Lake Shore Police Department or online at www.cityoflakeshore.gov. 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.

Traffic Safety

The Lake Shore Police Department will enforce traffic laws. These laws include seat belt, speed, passing on the right and DWI enforcement. Please remember to always buckle up, have a sober driver, and travel the posted speed limit. Remember, to slow down during inclement weather and **Be Safe!**

the fences at both the south and north septic fields as required by the inspector.

The committee has reviewed the continuing concerns with the residents of Pebble Beach Road. The City Engineer prepared visual presentations of the existing conditions and some proposed updates. There will be continuing difficult discussions of possibilities for changes in that area.

Work is underway to fund the balance of the Gull Lake Trail along CR 77 from the top of the hill by the quarry to the City Limits. Funding is approved but will not be available this year. We will be finishing the work for the Lake Shore trail in the spring. Nisswa is currently finishing their portion of the trail.

From Mayor *Andy Stewart*



It was another great summer in Lake Shore. We are extremely fortunate to live in a community where we can enjoy the lake life every day! We all love our community for a variety of reasons, and we will continue to make living here a great experience.

In general, we had a very busy, but normal summer on the lake. We continue to work diligently with Cass County and other local law enforcement departments to keep the boat speeds through our channels down. It is an ongoing issue, and we are constantly searching for new ideas and methods to control those speeds.

City News

- Phase 5 of the Gull Lake Trail, which will complete our portion and connect to Nisswa's portion, has been awarded a grant. We are still waiting to get the actual funds in hand so we can begin work on the final design and getting bids for the work. We cannot start any of this until we get the funds in hand. We are hopeful to get started on actual construction this winter and hope to be completed with this final phase of the trail in late 2026.
- I would like to remind all residents and property owners that a building permit is required for most every type of project or upgrade that you may be doing in the City of Lake Shore. Things as simple as landscaping changes, patios, decks and firepits come to mind. These require permits and approvals to maintain compliance with State and Local rules and regulations. Always contact City Hall if you have any questions or doubts about getting a permit.
- We Are also waiting to get word on funding from the State for the Fritz Loven Park bridge. As of this writing we have not heard anything but have received the DNR and MNDOT approvals of our final design.

Finally, thanks to all our residents for the safe summer we enjoyed. It is time to get all things lake related put away and get ready to enjoy all the wonderful winter activities that are available to us.

Reminder: Planning & Zoning Hours and Permitting Process

Nicole Hausmann with Sourcewell is the designated contact for the City. Nicole will be in City Hall for office hours on Monday and Wednesdays, 8am - 11am, winter hours may vary. Nicole is available Monday-Friday, 8am - 4pm via email or phone. Nicole.Hausmann@sourcewell-mn.gov or 218-541-5538. Reminder, over-the-counter permits are no longer issued same day. Please plan accordingly and expect a one to two week turn around.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, November 28th
Nisswa City of Lights Celebration

Saturday, January 31st
The Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza

February 27th-28th
Gull Lake Frozen Fore

CITY HALL HOURS

Monday–Thursday
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

City Hall will be closed:

Thursday-Friday,
November 27th-28th

Wednesday-Friday,
December 24th-26th
Thursday, January 1st





City of Lake Shore
8583 Interlachen Road
Lake Shore, MN 56468

City Hall Business Hours
Mon – Thur 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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CITY OF LAKE SHORE, MN

Council Members

Henry Cote
Darcy Peterson
Wayne Anderson
Vern Gevik

Mayor

Andy Stewart

Deputy Clerk

Kathy Johansen

Board of Adjustment/Planning Commission

Darcy Peterson - Liaison
Jim Woll - Chair
PJ Smith, Sean Weldon, Alex Kuhn, Dave Riegert
Alternates: TJ Graber, Kevin Egan

Road/Wastewater Committee

Wayne Anderson - Liaison
Jim Woll, Troy Magnuson, Jim Halverson, Justin Stahnke,
Terry Hansen
Alternate: Bill Schultz

Park Committee

Henry Cote - Liaison
Kiley Armitage - Chair
Greg Schwanbeck, Todd Peterson, Wesley Robertson
Steve Sundstrom
Alternate: Mary Kay Larson

Clerk Administrator

Laura Fussy

Police Chief Mike Heldt

Public Works Roger Olmscheid

218-963-2148
cityoflakeshore.gov
info@cityoflakeshore.gov

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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