



2025

WEEKLY UPDATE

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JUSTIN MILLER, CITY ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: October 3, 2025

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” – Jane Goodall

PUBLIC WORKS

Project update: The 185th Street project from Kenwood Trail to Ipava Avenue should be open to traffic next Thursday, weather permitting.

Streets, Fleets, Constructions Services and Utilities

- Street crews have been busy with multiple storm sewer inspections.
- Streets staff are spray patching high iron areas in preparation for plow season.
- Street staff are working on repairing broken drain tile lines.
- Streets have half of the crew attending the MN Fall Maintenance Expo this week.
- Utility staff submitted the water service line inventory update to the MN Department of Health.
- Utility staff started the annual cleaning of lift stations program this week.
- Utility crew fixed a watermain break on Griffin Trail Wednesday night.

Environmental Resources/Forestry

- The 2025/26 private property ash inspections have begun with 310 properties identified in this year's survey. Letters were mailed to properties the week of September 29.
- Stump removal work is nearing completion for the 2025 season. This year's focus was on park and right-of-way ash tree stumps, as well as a smaller number of miscellaneous right-of-way stumps. In total, 213 stumps will have been removed.
- Fall planting projects began in four parks with 170 trees planted to replace ash trees as part of a bonding grant through the MNDNR.
- Forestry staff have been surveying and marking trees for removal along trails, including Ritter Farm Park and along Klamath Trail on the north side of Orchard Lake.
- Forestry held a buckthorn management class at the Ritter Farm ELC on the evening of October 1.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Recreation and Heritage Center

- Next week is the last week of organized outdoor activities until 2026. This includes pickleball, walking group, bocce, bags and others.
- Heritage Center membership is currently at 1,639 members as of September 30.
- Staff have been busy entering winter/spring programs and leagues into RecTrac, preparing for online registration to open on October 9. The Winter-Spring brochure is scheduled to go to the printer today.
- Recreation staff attended the October 1 Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Committee meeting to review current rental stats and discuss allowing vendors in public parks.

Arts Center

- Local Artist, Michael Brown, hung his photography show featuring images of vintage weathered vehicles set against natural backdrops. View the works at the Arts Center until November 8.
- The final draft of the Winter/Spring brochure has been completed!
- Several fall classes kicked off this week, including Homeschool Pottery, Outdoor Raku Firing, Learn to Knit and more.
- The Performing Arts Season opens this week with Lake Wobegon Brass Band and Comedian Jessi Campbell.
- Get your tickets today!
 - Jessi Campbell - <https://www.lakevilleareaartscenter.com/1111/Jessi-Campbell-A-Night-of-Comedy>
 - Lake Wobegon Brass Band- <https://www.lakevilleareaartscenter.com/572/Lake-Wobegon-Brass-Band>
- Facility improvement projects continue in the Performing Arts Building.
- Friends of the Lakeville Area Arts Center had a very successful Viking Cruise event that raised more than \$10,000!
- The Arts Center Advisory board will meet Thursday, October 9, at 3:30pm.
- Expressions Theater Company is preparing for auditions for The Mousetrap. Spaces are filling fast! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4DAAAF2BA3FAC61-58552791-agatha#/>
- The Lakeville Area Community Band is preparing for performances in December and organizing music for proper storage.

COMMUNICATIONS

- [Sun Thisweek](#): publishes October 10.
- Media productions for social media:
 - Lakeville Liquors [5K Fun Run & Walk October 11](#)
 - LPD [Ride Along with Officer Nick Pelach](#)
 - LPD Fun Facts with K-9 Officer Nora ([Episode 4](#))
 - PSA: [Garbage Can Placement](#)

Upcoming Meetings of the Council

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| October 6, 2025 | Regular Meeting | 6:00 p.m. |
| October 20, 2025 | Regular Meeting | 6:00 p.m. |
| October 27, 2025 | Work Session | 6:00 p.m. |

Informational Attachments:

- Police Department Weekly Report
- Fire Department Weekly Report
- Lakeville Liquors Weekly Report
- September 2025 Building Activity
- Lakeville Ranked No. 1 in U.S. For Permit Approval Speed



Lakeville Police Department Update

Sunday, September 21 – Saturday, September 27, 2025

893 Calls for Services



161 TRAFFIC STOPS



44 SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY



4 DOMESTICS



30 AUTO ACCIDENTS



8 THEFTS



11 CRISIS MENTAL HEALTH
11 WELFARE CHECKS
0 SUICIDE THREAT/
ATTEMPT/DEATH



19 ALARM BURGLAR
1 FIRE ALARM



1 FRAUD



30 ANIMAL CALLS



0 BURGLARY



18 MEDICALS



8 VANDALISM/DAMAGE
PROPERTY



0 DRUG ACTIVITY



5 CHILD PROTECTION



23 DISTURBANCES



0 DRUNKENNESS



4 MISSING PERSON



1 SHOPLIFTING



Lakeville Police Department Update

Sunday, September 21 – Saturday, September 27, 2025

Weekly Review

Please note, the Weekly Review does not include all calls to which the Lakeville Police Department responded. Incidents included here are based on severity, impact on public safety or other factors.

- Officers observed a vehicle driving over the curb and conducting multiple lane use violations. A traffic stop was completed, and the driver was displaying signs of impairment. The standard field sobriety testing was conducted and the driver failed. They provided a preliminary breath test of .242 blood alcohol content and was subsequently jailed.
- Multiple officers responded to a report of heavy smoke inside the residence at XXX Juliet Drive. The Lakeville Fire Department also responded and extinguished the flames and luckily no injuries were sustained.
- Officers dealt with a shoplifter at 18XXX Kenrick Avenue for stealing \$210 worth of makeup. The suspect was cited and trespassed for a year.
- Community Service Officers located a lost golden retriever near 16XXX Estate Lane. They located the owners after and returned their dog after almost being impounded at Dakota Pet Hospital.
- Officers responded to a report of a vehicle stolen from the driveway overnight near 19XXX Huxley Avenue. The reporting party reported that the vehicle was left unlocked with the fob inside. The vehicle was recovered in a neighboring city with no obvious damage. A reminder to lock your vehicles and keep your keys in a secure location.
- A passerby called in a driving complaint for a vehicle which was parked temporarily, slumped over then started driving again. Officers stopped the vehicle, and the driver was displaying signs of impairment. The driver provided a DMT-g sample of .18 blood alcohol content and was arrested for DWI and transported to Dakota County Jail.
- Officers responded to a suspicious persons call involving a vehicle stuck on private property. The caller stated they could hear an engine revving and he believed the vehicle may be tearing up his yard. Officers arrived and observed the vehicle in the front yard and backed into a tree. The vehicle was running, the occupants were identified and the driver displayed signs of impairment. The driver provided a preliminary breath test of .225 and was placed under arrest for DWI and transported to Dakota County Jail.
- Officers responded to a theft from vehicle report at 10XXX 166th Street. The reporting party advised that two unlocked vehicles had been rummaged through and some items of value were taken. The investigation is ongoing, but this serves as a reminder to always lock your vehicle.
- Officers responded to the area of 8XXX 189th Street West after a report of a male pulling on car door handles. The suspect was not located and the investigation is ongoing.



Lakeville Fire Department Update

Sunday, September 21–Saturday, September 27



FIRES
1



VEHICLE ACCIDENTS
6



MEDICAL
55



FIRE ALARMS
12



GOOD INTENT
20



HAZARDOUS
CONDITIONS
2



SERVICE CALLS
2



INSPECTIONS
17



PLAN REVIEW
2



PRE-PLANS
25



COMMUNITY EVENTS
3

Fire Prevention School Visits:
Christian Day Academy – Pre-K
North Trail – 4th Grade
Christian Day Academy – Pre-K
Orchard Lake – K
Lakeview - 4th
East Lake – 4th
All Saints – K
All Saints – Pre-K
North Trail - K
JFK – 4th

Lakeville Liquors

September 28 - October 4, 2025

Weekly Summary



Store Highlights

Heritage Location



Heritage is busy moving around shelving and making their store easier to shop before the busy holiday season!

Galaxie Location



Galaxie has reworked their Monaco selection to make it easier to shop. This is a great high-margin, add-on item for our single item shoppers.

Kenrick Location



Fall is here at Kenrick! This week we are transitioning displays and decorations from summer favorites to fall and winter items!

Keokuk Location



Keokuk has a new painted rock by the entryway to greet their customers!



Angry Inch Lies & Lederhosen

New! from local Lakeville brewery, Angry Inch - Lies & Lederhosen is a Marzen style Oktoberfest brew with a sweet caramelized nose and a full bodied malty finish. 5.7% ABV

Metrics

| September Sales Summary | | | | | Change in % |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------|-------------|--|---------------|
| Heritage | \$435,845 | 2024 | \$467,482 | | Decrease 6.8% |
| Galaxie | \$472,822 | 2024 | \$509,621 | | Decrease 7.2% |
| Kenrick | \$379,555 | 2024 | \$399,577 | | Decrease 5.0% |
| Keokuk | \$443,425 | 2024 | \$453,995 | | Decrease 2.3% |
| Combined | \$1,731,647 | 2024 | \$1,830,675 | | Decrease 5.4% |
| September Customer Count | | | | | Change in % |
| Heritage | 15,146 | 2024 | 16,452 | | Decrease 7.9% |
| Galaxie | 17,793 | 2024 | 19,147 | | Decrease 7.1% |
| Kenrick | 14,384 | 2024 | 14,926 | | Decrease 3.6% |
| Keokuk | 14,442 | 2024 | 14,459 | | FLAT - |
| Combined | 61,765 | 2024 | 64,984 | | Decrease 5.0% |
| September Sales Per Transaction | | | | | Change in % |
| Heritage | \$28.78 | 2024 | \$28.41 | | Increase 1.3% |
| Galaxie | \$26.57 | 2024 | \$26.62 | | FLAT - |
| Kenrick | \$26.39 | 2024 | \$26.77 | | Decrease 1.4% |
| Keokuk | \$30.70 | 2024 | \$31.40 | | Decrease 2.2% |
| Combined | \$28.04 | 2024 | \$28.17 | | FLAT - |

| January 1 - September 30 Sales Summary | | | | | Change in % |
|--|--------------|------|--------------|--|---------------|
| Heritage | \$4,024,841 | 2024 | \$4,137,347 | | Decrease 2.7% |
| Galaxie | \$4,437,219 | 2024 | \$4,710,636 | | Decrease 5.8% |
| Kenrick | \$3,411,024 | 2024 | \$3,546,761 | | Decrease 3.8% |
| Keokuk | \$4,054,959 | 2024 | \$4,131,083 | | Decrease 1.8% |
| Combined | \$15,928,043 | 2024 | \$16,525,827 | | Decrease 3.6% |
| January 1 - September 30 Customer Count | | | | | Change in % |
| Heritage | 139,949 | 2024 | 144,148 | | Decrease 2.7% |
| Galaxie | 163,409 | 2024 | 170,412 | | Decrease 4.1% |
| Kenrick | 126,028 | 2024 | 130,049 | | Decrease 3.1% |
| Keokuk | 127,841 | 2024 | 126,261 | | Increase 1.3% |
| Combined | 557,227 | 2024 | 570,870 | | Decrease 2.4% |
| January 1 - September 30 Sales Per Transaction | | | | | Change in % |
| Heritage | \$28.76 | 2024 | \$28.70 | | FLAT + |
| Galaxie | \$27.15 | 2024 | \$27.64 | | Decrease 1.8% |
| Kenrick | \$27.07 | 2024 | \$27.27 | | FLAT - |
| Keokuk | \$31.72 | 2024 | \$32.72 | | Decrease 3.1% |
| Combined | \$28.58 | 2024 | \$28.95 | | Decrease 1.2% |

- It's exciting to see our stores gearing up for the busy months ahead. From creating impactful displays and scheduling vendor takeover events to rearranging shelving, refreshing products, and tidying up areas in need of attention—every effort makes a difference. These steps not only make it easier for our customers to shop but also help our staff navigate and showcase our selection with ease.

Nelson Mandela

“After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.”



Michelob

ULTRA

BEER RUN



RUN FOR A CAUSE

100% of registration fees support life-saving breast cancer research, awareness and support through vranicURE.


- ✓ All ages! Family friendly 5K fun run & walk
- ✓ Post-race lunch, root beer and Mich Ultra tastings (ID & Wristband required)
- ✓ Swag bags, silent auction and chance to win prizes

SAT. OCT 11
\$25

Join us at the Emporium Room on Saturday, October 11!
Check in at 9 a.m. Start time at 10 a.m.

REGISTER ONLINE



 LakevilleLiquors.com/Events

September 2025 Building Activity

Past Twelve Months

| | Permits | Permitted Units | Permit Value |
|----------------|---------|-----------------|--------------|
| September 2024 | 533 | 705 | 228,983,672 |
| October 2024 | 675 | 1,018 | 221,967,926 |
| November 2024 | 670 | 856 | 275,132,800 |
| December 2024 | 484 | 961 | 247,573,437 |
| January 2025 | 465 | 674 | 310,503,400 |
| February 2025 | 378 | 384 | 216,045,732 |
| March 2025 | 383 | 637 | 152,402,205 |
| April 2025 | 617 | 908 | 190,034,368 |
| May 2025 | 593 | 612 | 264,458,948 |
| June 2025 | 546 | 730 | 264,343,242 |
| July 2025 | 505 | 509 | 205,135,513 |
| August 2025 | 556 | 902 | 280,575,295 |
| September 2025 | 634 | 919 | 269,670,991 |

Five-Year Comparisons

| | Permits | Permitted Units | Permit Value |
|----------------|---------|-----------------|--------------|
| September 2021 | 609 | 1,716 | 330,040,301 |
| September 2022 | 438 | 1,631 | 279,146,957 |
| September 2023 | 684 | 1,476 | 323,009,167 |
| September 2024 | 533 | 705 | 221,967,926 |
| September 2025 | 634 | 919 | 269,670,991 |

| | Permits | Permitted Units | Permit Value |
|----------|---------|-----------------|---------------|
| YTD 2021 | 5,788 | 10,737 | 2,419,897,724 |
| YTD 2022 | 4,806 | 14,217 | 2,392,560,362 |
| YTD 2023 | 4,099 | 8,128 | 1,815,847,956 |
| YTD 2024 | 4,608 | 5,826 | 1,859,192,740 |
| YTD 2025 | 4,677 | 6,275 | 2,076,247,006 |

Total Multifamily Units

| Oct-24 | Nov-24 | Dec-24 | Jan-25 | Feb-25 | Mar-25 | April-25 | May-25 | Jun-25 | July-25 | Aug-25 | Sept-25 | YTD-25 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| 354 | 196 | 490 | 213 | 10 | 257 | 300 | 22 | 189 | 6 | 350 | 291 | 1,638 |

Multifamily Construction as a Percentage of Total Activity

| Oct-24 | Nov-24 | Dec-24 | Jan-25 | Feb-25 | Mar-25 | April-25 | May-25 | Jun-25 | July-25 | Aug-25 | Sept-25 | YTD-25 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| 35 | 23 | 51 | 32 | 3 | 40 | 33 | 4 | 26 | 1 | 39 | 32 | 26 |

Top Cities for Building Activity

| September | | | | YTD | | | |
|-------------|----|-----------------|-----|-------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| Permits | | Permitted Units | | Permits | | Permitted Units | |
| Lakeville | 83 | Eden Prairie | 196 | Lakeville | 378 | Rosemount | 469 |
| Corcoran | 53 | Minneapolis | 102 | Rosemount | 298 | Woodbury | 463 |
| St. Michael | 51 | Lakeville | 83 | Maple Grove | 235 | Lakeville | 378 |
| Rosemount | 41 | Corcoran | 53 | St. Michael | 235 | Minneapolis | 323 |
| Maple Grove | 36 | St. Michael | 51 | Otsego | 229 | Waconia | 263 |

Housing First Minnesota has contracted with Keystone Report, a local research firm, to maintain a database with information about new residential construction permits around the metropolitan area. After a builder has picked up the permit from a city, Keystone Report compiles and updates weekly residential housing permits by city for 70 percent of the metropolitan-area municipalities in the greater 13-county region. Planned units are the total number of housing units planned to be built under the permits issued (one permits is issued per building which may include more than one housing unit). Permit value does not include the land/lot costs.



This August 2025 photo shows the Lakeville 35 Logistic Center North Addition under construction in Lakeville. Likewise Partners is the developer. (Submitted photo: City of Lakeville)

Lakeville ranked No. 1 in U.S. for permit approval speed

Brian Johnson // October 2, 2025 //



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The Blueprint

- Minnesota placed No. 27 among states in Labrynth’s Red Tape Index.
- Maple Grove (No. 6) and Duluth (No. 11) also ranked high nationally.
- In-house reviews help Lakeville cut delays and save developers costs.

Lakeville has bragging rights as the nation’s top city when it comes to efficient processing of [building permits](#) and related approvals, while Minnesota as a whole is in the middle of the pack.

Those are among the findings of a new national index from Labrynth, which describes itself as a “regulatory intelligence company dedicated to streamlining permitting approvals across government and industry.”

Labrynth recently launched the “Red Tape Index,” which ranks cities and states on how efficiently they process building permits, zoning changes and other approvals. The index is based in part on “weighted scoring among multiple data sources,” including permit approval “speed and efficiency.”

In the Red Tape Index, Lakeville claims the top spot among U.S. cities. Also scoring well are Maple Grove (No. 6) and Duluth (No. 11). Eden Prairie (No. 26) and Minnetonka (No. 39) crack the top 40.

Among states, Minnesota lands in the No. 27 position, one notch behind Wisconsin and one ahead of South Carolina. The top five states are Tennessee, Indiana, Georgia, Texas and South Dakota.

Joe Hogeboom, Maple Grove’s community and economic development director, said the city has automated most of its permitting processes, allowing businesses and residents to access and submit information online.

“If we’re looking for additional plan sets or something from them, we can have more of a real time exchange and get that information faster,” he said. “The automation has really helped us increase our ability to serve our customers over the last few years. We’re happy to have been recognized and look forward to making even more improvements over here.”

Lakeville, for its part, has been busy in the permitting department.

Through September, for example, the city has permitted 378 new housing units this year, trailing only Woodbury (463) and Rosemount (469), according to the Keystone Report, which tracks homebuilding permits in the 13-county area.

Tina Goodroad, Lakeville’s community development director, said in an email that the city “takes pride in being one of the fastest-growing communities in the Midwest, and we recognize how important consistent, reliable and timely approval processes are for development and investment decisions.

“Our staff works diligently to ensure land use applications are thoroughly reviewed while also minimizing delays that can impact project delivery. This balanced approach is strongly supported by our planning commission and city council, and we consistently hear from developers that our process sets the standard in the region.”

Lakeville rates well, in part, because the city maintains a “full-service Building Inspections Department, authorized through state delegation agreements to administer a broad range of permit types, including those for institutional uses,” Goodroad said.

In addition, she said, Lakeville has a licensed master plumber on staff, which enables the city to complete plumbing plan reviews in-house rather than through the state, providing “greater efficiency and measurable time and cost savings for applicants.”

“These efforts, combined with our collaborative approach, have helped Lakeville be recognized as the No. 1 city in the United States for [permit approval speed](#) and efficiency,” Goodroad added.

Justin Miller, Lakeville’s city administrator, said the city receives good feedback about its processes in general.

“A lot of our developers work in other cities and other states, and they appreciate the efficiency and the predictability that we have,” Miller said. “I think that’s important to them. We hear that pretty consistently when we get feedback from the development community.”

In a press release, Labrynth said the index provides “the first comprehensive, data-driven benchmark designed to track and compare how efficiently U.S. states process building permits, zoning changes, and related approvals.”

Stuart Lacey, CEO of Labrynth, said in an interview that red tape is a “hidden drag” on growth.

“These permitting delays are maybe one of the biggest invisible bottlenecks to economic growth and, until now, they’ve been very hard to measure,” Lacey added. “So when we can now look at cities like Lakeville or Maple Grove, we can start to identify some great work being done.”

Lacey said the rankings are based on a wide range of data. Among other things, the rankings account for factors such as land use, fiscal rank, labor and population growth.

“The primary driver is the time between starting and ending a permit, because I think that’s the best indicator we have of how efficient they are,” he added. “But as you can imagine, a city with a ton of permits is going to get a backlog of some degree anyway, so we have to weight it with population change. So that’s how we do it.”

All else being equal, permitting processes can make or break a developer’s commitment to bringing affordable housing and other investments to a community, Lacey said.

“If their margins are going to be eroded by a couple hundred days of delays ... they might not be able to put that housing up, other than at a loss, and thereby they might not make that commitment,” he said.

Tags: [construction efficiency](#), [Red Tape Index](#), [permit approval speed](#), [Minnesota Housing](#), [Maple Grove](#), [development approvals](#), [building permits](#), [Labrynth](#), [Lakeville](#), [Duluth](#)