



Rice Lake News

October 2026



CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Mayor
Jayme Heim



Councilor
Bob Quade



Councilor
Mike Hendrickson



Councilor
Darrel Johnson



Councilor
Mike Jeka

2026 Upcoming City Office Closures

- ◆ Wednesday, November 11—Veterans Day
- ◆ Thursday, November 26—Thanksgiving
- ◆ Friday, November 27—Thanksgiving Holiday
- ◆ Thursday, December 24—Christmas Eve
- ◆ Friday, December 25—Christmas Day
- ◆ Friday, January 1—New Years Day

2026 Upcoming Recycling Closures

- ◆ Thursday, November 26—Thanksgiving
- ◆ Thursday, December 24—Christmas Eve

GENERAL ELECTION - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

For more information go to [MNVotes.gov](https://mnvotes.gov)

General Election Absentee and Early Voting

- Friday, September 18 - Absentee voting begins during regular business hours 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
- Friday, October 16 - Early voting begins during regular business hours 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
- Saturday, October 24 - Open 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 27 - Open until 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 31 and Sunday, November 1st - Open 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Monday, November 2 - Open until 5:00 p.m.

Voting location is at Rice Lake City Hall for Rice Lake Residents Only

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday
7:30 AM to 4:30 PM



CITY HALL STAFF

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Toni Blomdahl
218-249-0733

tblomdahl@ricelakecitymn.com

ASST. CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Robin Murphy
218-249-0917

robin@ricelakecitymn.com

BUILDING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

218-249-0733

tblomdahl@ricelakecitymn.com

DEPUTY CLERK

Kim Sarvi
218-249-0916

kims@ricelakecitymn.com

DEPUTY CLERK

Kathy Lafave

office@ricelakecitymn.com

PUBLIC WORKS STAFF (Roads, Utilities, Facilities)

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR

Shayne Downey
218-249-0623

shayne@ricelakecitymn.com

Justin Schendel
Justin Rosencrans

ANIMAL CONTROL

Leave message at 218-721-3778

In an emergency call 911

Mayor's Corner

Jayme Heim, Mayor



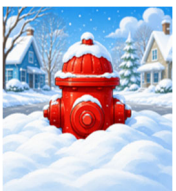
Summer is winding down, but there were several events throughout the summer months that are worth mentioning! The Rice Lake Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Red Run in July was a tremendous success, despite the poor air quality caused by the fires in the northern part of the state, nearly \$17,000 was raised for the relief association! As always, there was a great

turnout for the race and everyone had a good time. The Rice Lake National night out was held in August in the City park and also had a great turn out! The Fire Department provided burgers and hotdogs and the Council handed out rootbeer floats. For the first time since I've been on Council, we actually ran out of rootbeer; over 300 floats were served! It was wonderful seeing all of the families in attendance and the kids having such a good time!

Mark your calendar for the upcoming 2026 Halloween Carnival put on by the Rice Lake Fire Department Auxiliary. It's being held on October 25th at the Fire Department on Martin Rd. This is a fun filled event every year and offers a safe community alternative to trick-or-treating to over 500 children and their families. Each child that plays a game wins a prize regardless of their skill level. Voluntary donations to help sponsor the event can be made by sending a check made out to Rice Lake Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary and mailed to 325 E Faribault St, Duluth, MN 55803.

The beginning of Fall also means that it's time for the Public Works summer projects to start winding down. The guys are working hard to get culvert maintenance completed before laying down 15,000 tons of gravel on two of our roads before the snow flies. They have also completed routine inspections and maintenance of the City's water and sewer systems in preparation for the scheduled Fall cleaning of the City's five lift stations.

Happy Fall everyone! The Holiday Season will be here before you know it!



Adopt a Fire Hydrant

If you have a fire hydrant near your property, please take the time after a snowfall to shovel around the hydrant so it is visible to the Fire Department and Rice Lake Public Works Department. Thank You!



Snow Removal Reminder

A friendly reminder to keep all your exterior doors free of snow. Even if you normally don't use the door, you should keep it clear at all times in case of an emergency.

Rice Lake Public Works

Shayne Downey, Public Works Supervisor

As we move into fall, the Public Works Department is wrapping up summer road projects and beginning preparations for the upcoming winter season. Crews will continue taking advantage of favorable weather conditions to complete road maintenance, drainage work, and other projects throughout the City.

ROAD MAINTENANCE & GRAVEL

Public Works continues to perform maintenance on gravel roads as conditions allow. Grading will continue throughout the fall to address washboarding, potholes, and other areas needing attention before freeze-up. The City anticipates having access to approximately **15,000 tons of Class 5 gravel from the Vermilion Pit**. This material will be an important resource for current and future road maintenance projects throughout the City.

2026 ROAD PROJECTS

Work continues on the City's planned 2026 summer road projects, including **Birchwood Road, Kingston Road, Faye Road, and Gothenberg Road**. These areas are scheduled to receive additional gravel as part of the City's ongoing effort to improve road conditions and drainage. Public Works will continue completing ditching, culvert work, gravel placement, grading, and other improvements as weather and scheduling allow.

SANITARY SEWER MAINTENANCE

As part of the City's preventative maintenance program, sanitary sewer mains on **W. Calvary Road and Rice Lake Frontage Road** are scheduled for cleaning and televising. The City's five sanitary sewer lift stations are also scheduled to be cleaned. This work helps identify potential maintenance concerns and maintain the reliability of the City's sanitary sewer system.

FALL MAINTENANCE

Fall is an important time for preparing roads, drainage systems, equipment, and City facilities for winter. Public Works crews will be working on ditch and culvert maintenance, final gravel road grading, equipment inspections, and preparing snow and ice control equipment. Residents may see Public Works equipment operating throughout the City as these projects are completed.

WINTER PREPARATIONS

Public Works has begun preparing snowplows and other winter maintenance equipment for the **2026-2027 winter season**. Crews will inspect and service plows, wings, sanders, trucks, and other equipment before the first significant snowfall. Residents are reminded to keep vehicles, trailers, garbage containers, basketball hoops, and other objects out of the City right-of-way so snowplow operators can safely and efficiently keep City roads clear.

THANK YOU

The Public Works Department appreciates everyone's patience and cooperation while crews complete fall maintenance and prepare for another Minnesota winter.

Community Thoughts

Darrel Johnson, City Councilor

It's been a whirlwind summer at City Hall! We've all been putting in long hours on the Rice Lake Corridor County project. Right now, we're at the 60% planning stage. This project is huge, so there's a lot of planning involved.

When I got back in mid-2025, I immediately noticed the underground water and sewer lines in this area needed to be tweaked or extended to avoid digging into the new road system later on. These underground utility adjustments weren't part of the County's original design or budget. So, we hired an engineering firm to discuss the adjustments and extensions. The costs for these adjustments were in the millions of dollars!

In early 2026, we headed down to St. Paul for the bonding session, and we asked for \$3.8 million for infrastructure upgrades. For the first time ever, Rice Lake got the full amount!

I want to thank Representative Zeleznikar, who wrote bill 4710, and Senator Hauschild, who both worked hard to get this bill through. It was a huge win for the citizens of Rice Lake!

Now, we're going to focus on finishing the utility extension plans and help the County finalize the road plans.

Utility construction will kick off in 2027 in the Rice Lake and Martin Road areas.

I hope you all had a wonderful summer! It was such a pleasure to see so many of you at National Night Out in August.

As always, reach out if you have any questions or concerns.



Calendar of Meetings and Events

(Subject to change—check our website calendar for the most current meeting/event information)

*If a Holiday falls on a Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday the Recycling Center will be closed.

Mon. Oct. 5	Finance Meeting	6:00 PM
Tue. Oct. 6	Rice Lake Fire Open House (Firehall)	4:00 PM
Wed. Oct. 7	Community Club	6:30 PM
Mon. Oct. 12	Council Meeting	6:00 PM
Tue. Oct. 20	Planning Commission	6:00 PM
Thu. Oct. 22	Duluth Area Townships (TBD)	6:30 PM
Sat., Oct. 24	Early Voting (9:00-3:00)	9:00 AM
Sun. Oct. 25	Halloween Carnival (Firehall)	11:00 AM
Mon. Oct. 26	Council Meeting	6:00 PM
Sat. Oct. 31	Early Voting (9:00—3:00)	9:00 AM
Sun. Nov. 1	Early Voting (9:00—3:00)	9:00 AM
Tue. Nov. 3	General Election	7:00 AM
Wed. Nov. 4	Community Club	6:30 PM
Mon. Nov. 9	Council Meeting	6:00 PM

Wed. Nov. 11	Veteran's Day	Closed
Wed. Nov. 11	Veteran's Day Celebration (RL Veteran's Memorial Park)	10:00 AM
Tue. Nov. 17	Planning Commission	6:00 PM
Mon. Nov. 23	Council Meeting	6:00 PM
Thu. Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day *	Closed
Fri. Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Holiday	Closed
Sun. Dec. 6	Community Club Christmas Potluck	12:00 PM
Mon. Dec. 7	Community Talks with Mayor	6:00 PM
Mon. Dec. 14	Council Meeting	6:00 PM
Tue. Dec. 15	Planning Commission	6:00 PM
Thu. Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Day *	Closed
Fri. Dec. 25	Christmas Day	Closed
Mon. Dec. 28	Council Meeting	6:00 PM

All Meetings/Events are held at Rice Lake City Hall unless noted otherwise.

Working Together for Rice Lake

By Senator Grant Hauschild



Over the last four years, I have tried to approach my job in the State Senate with a pretty simple philosophy: listen to the communities I represent, work with local leaders, and deliver results that make life better for the people who live there.

Rice Lake is a great example of what that can look like.

This year, we secured \$3.8 million in state funding for major sewer and water improvements in Rice Lake. That investment will extend water infrastructure along Martin Road, expand sewer and water service near the Rice Lake Road corridor, and help prepare the community for major road improvements ahead.

This is not just about pipes in the ground. It is about providing reliable drinking water to residents who have dealt with well issues. It is about opening the door to new housing and businesses. And it is about growing the commercial tax base so more of the burden does not continue falling on existing homeowners.

Getting that done took partnership.

I have worked closely with Mayor Jayme Heim, the City Council, city staff, county leaders, and our legislative delegation to make sure Rice Lake gets the attention it deserves at the Capitol. Our delegation includes legislators from both parties, but when it comes to advancing the interests of Rice Lake and northern Minnesota, we have worked together across party lines.

That is what we are supposed to do.

People in Rice Lake should not have to care which political party gets credit for a sewer project, a road improvement, or a public safety investment. They should expect their elected officials to work together and get the job done. That approach is how I have tried to represent northern Minnesota more broadly.

Whether it is securing funding for rural ambulance services, reducing car tab costs, supporting child care, investing in roads and infrastructure, or standing up for northern Minnesota industries and jobs, my focus has been on practical results rather than partisan politics.

There is still more to do in Rice Lake.

One thing I hear from residents all the time is about rising property taxes. They are a real concern for families, especially in growing communities like Rice Lake. That is why I chief authored legislation this year that ultimately delivered \$125 million in additional property tax refunds for Minnesota homeowners, increasing qualifying refunds by nearly 15 percent to an average of \$1,600 for an average homeowner. Those larger refunds are reaching folks this fall, putting real money back into the pockets of families in Rice Lake and across the state.

Just as important is staying connected to the community itself. I had a great time joining residents at Rice Lake's National Night Out this summer. It was one of those events that reminds you what makes a community like Rice Lake special, neighbors coming together, families spending time outside, and local public safety professionals connecting with the people they serve. And Rice Lake may have had the best treat of all with the root beer floats!

As Rice Lake continues to grow, I want to help make sure it grows in a way that preserves that sense of community. That means supporting new housing and businesses while protecting the rural character, independence, and quality of life that make Rice Lake such a special place to live.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together over the last four years, but there is much more work ahead.

My commitment to Rice Lake remains the same: listen, work across party lines, partner with local leaders, and make sure northern Minnesota gets its fair share.

That is how we have delivered for Rice Lake, and that is the approach I will continue bringing to the Capitol.



Protect Your Pipes

Fats, oils and grease – FOG – are a recipe for disaster when it comes to sewer systems.

Butter, cooking oil and other fatty foods poured down sinks eventually cool and harden, causing potential blockages in pipes that can end with sewer backups and overflows. The result: home damage, health hazards and expensive repairs.

Avoid the FOG clog

- ✓ **CONTAIN** – Scrape food and oily residue from dishes into the trash. Pour oil and grease from pans into a metal can or other container and soak up the remainder with paper towels. Use a sink strainer to collect food particles and put them in the trash.
- ✓ **COOL** – Place covered containers with oil and grease in the refrigerator or freezer to harden.
- ✓ **TOSS** – The best place for FOG is in the trash.

Put your pipes on a diet

Fats, oils and grease come from cooked meats, food scraps, salad dressing, gravy, mayonnaise and lard and should never be poured down the drain. Using the garbage disposal or running hot water down the drain will not keep fats, oils and grease from hardening.





For most of my career, I never knew whether the people I worked with had a **D, I, or R** after their name. It simply didn't matter.

For decades, I worked in health care caring for vulnerable adults. We shared a common goal: provide great care, uphold high standards, solve problems, and do what was right for the people depending

on us. I brought that same philosophy to St. Paul.

I represent everyone—whether you voted for me or not.

I remember residents calling because they needed inspections for newly purchased used or salvaged vehicles. Some told me, "I didn't vote for you, but will you still help me?"

My answer was simple: **Of course I will.**

People were driving two to four hours for required vehicle inspections. I worked with MnDOT to find a solution, and we now have a new inspection location in our region, closer to home.

That is what public service should look like.

I have worked in both a Democratic trifecta and an evenly divided House and successfully passed **18 bills** by doing what I have always done—building relationships, finding common ground, and focusing on solutions.

I was also honored to be selected for the **Citizens League's first Minnesota Legislative Exchange**, partnering with DFL Rep. Ned Carroll. We spent time touring each other's districts, learning where our communities are similar and where they are very different. The experience demonstrated that we can bridge the political divide without abandoning our principles.

I was proud to show why ATV trails matter to our regional economy and way of life, how our loggers responsibly manage Minnesota's forests, and the devastating impact wildfires can have on our communities. In turn, I learned more about suburban communities, including how a larger commercial property-tax base can help spread the tax burden. It reinforced for me the challenges Greater Minnesota communities face when homeowners and fewer businesses must shoulder the cost of essential local services.

Most importantly, Rep. Carroll and I found common ground, **authored legislation together, and got it passed.** That is how government should work.

I have taken that same approach to Rice Lake. I authored legislation seeking bonding dollars for **critical infrastructure and utility expansion** so these major costs don't simply fall onto you through higher property taxes. I also authored legislation to help replace our region's approximately **75-year-old air traffic control tower**, one of the oldest in the nation.

I also served on the **Aging and Ambulance Task Forces**, working on two issues that will become increasingly important to Greater Minnesota. I authored and supported

legislation aimed at protecting timely 911 ambulance response and strengthening the services and workforce we will need as the baby-boom generation ages.

At the same time, I hear you loud and clear: **taxes and the cost of living are no longer reasonable.**

Minnesotans should not have to work two or three jobs to keep up while state government grows dramatically. Minnesota needs a reset—prioritizing essential services, demanding accountability for tax dollars, and leaving more money in your wallet. Finally, Minnesota must pass a full elimination of taxing social security like 42 other states with zero income caps.

We also need safe communities. I will continue supporting policies that hold violent and repeat criminals accountable. **If you do the crime, you do the time—period.** Victims deserve justice, and crime has costs for all of us through vehicle thefts, vandalism, property damage, and rising insurance costs.

We can do better.

Safe communities, strong infrastructure, opportunities for our children, care for seniors, timely emergency services, and a government that respects taxpayers aren't Republican or Democratic goals. **They are Minnesota goals.**

I will work with anyone willing to find common ground while standing firm on the principles you elected me to represent. Whether you voted for me or not, my commitment remains the same:

I work for you, I will listen to you, and I will always have your back.

Rice Lake Fire Open House

Tuesday, October 6th

4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

4051 Martin Road

Join us for an evening of Fire Prevention Education, Food, Community, and FUN!



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

ZONING AND BUILDING OFFICIAL

The City of Rice Lake is looking for an energetic, detail-oriented person to fill our Zoning and Building Official position. This position is full-time with benefits including health insurance, life insurance, vacation, sick time, paid holidays, and retirement benefits. This position performs professional and technical work to provide information to the public, outside agency representatives, and City staff in regard to laws, codes, ordinances, and requirements that apply to the construction and use of structures and land use. We are looking for a natural, positive leader that is tech savvy, forward-thinking, and team orientated with a comprehensive knowledge of the State Building Code and zoning regulations.

Applications are currently being accepted. Hourly wage range: \$40.00 - \$48.00 dependent on experience.

If you are interested or would like more information, you can find the application packet along with the Job Description on our website and Facebook page or contact Toni at City Hall at [218-249-0733](tel:218-249-0733) or tblomdahl@ricelakecitymn.com.



CITY OF RICE LAKE

Coffee Mugs
\$5.00 each

History Book
\$25.00 each

Side 1

Side 2

Available for purchase at City Hall. They make great gifts for any occasion! Cash, check, or debit/credit cards accepted. There is a 3% fee if paying by card.

All PROFITS go towards enhancements to Rice Lake City Park for family enjoyment.

Disclaimer

Any statement, views or opinions expressed in the Rice Lake News are those of the individual contributors.

Articles do not necessarily reflect the official action of the City of Rice Lake, the City Council, or any employees.

Any hiring or compensation for employment is handled directly by the advertiser.

The City of Rice Lake is not responsible for any problems that may arise during employment.

No material herein may be reprinted without permission.

report an
ILLICIT DISCHARGE
in your area by calling relevant number listed.

What to report?

- Date
- Time
- Location
- Send picture
- Details on material in storm drain or ditch.

City of Cloquet (218) 879-6758
City of Duluth (218) 730-4130
City of Hermantown (218) 729-3600
City of Hibbing (218) 262-3486
City of Proctor (218) 624-3641
City of Rice Lake (218) 249-0818
City of Superior (715) 394-0392, dial 1
Duluth Township (218) 525-5705
Lake Superior College (218) 733-6906
MN DOT (651) 366-3638
St. Louis County (218) 625-3830
Town of Thomson (218) 879-9719
U of M Duluth (218) 726-7139



Welcome to

Family of God Lutheran Church, ELCA
 4097 Martin Road Duluth, MN 55803
 218-724-9210
www.fogduluth.org
office@fogduluth.org



*"Praising God, Strengthening Families,
 Serving the Community"*

Welcome to All Visitors and Guests

8:45 a.m. Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m. Coffee fellowship

10 - 10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Looking Ahead

October 17 - 21

Pasties making and pick-up

October 25

10 a.m. Trunk-n-Treat

Tuesday, November 24 Thanksgiving Worship

Christmas Eve Worship

Time to be announced

Sundays, Oct. 11 & 25; Nov. 8 & 22; Dec. 13 & 27

Open Arms Senior Living Center

10:30 a.m. Worship. Every Second & Fourth Sundays

Quilters:

Thursday 9 - 11 a.m.

Find worship online

on our Website: www.fogduluth.org and on YouTube



Like us on Facebook: our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/FamilyofGodDuluth

Rice Lake Fire Department Auxiliary's

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

OCTOBER 25
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Rice Lake Fire Station 1
 4051 Martin Rd

GAMES & PRIZES

.25¢ per ticket
 \$5 to go through each game 1 time

Visit our Facebook page for more information

Pre-buy your game tickets :
<https://givebutter.com/halloween-carnival-2026>

City of Rice Lake 2027 Proposed Levy		
2026 APPROVED LEVY	FUND	2027 PROPOSED LEVY
\$ 251,166.00	General Fund	\$ 239,859.00
\$ 308,350.00	Administration	\$ 380,766.00
\$ 119,850.00	Public Works/Park/City Hall/ Fire Hall	\$ 115,199.00
\$ 72,610.00	Buildings & Grounds	\$ 71,460.00
\$ 189,750.00	Planning & Zoning	\$ 203,650.00
\$ 762,462.00	Fire Department Operations	\$ 863,905.00
\$ -	Road & Bridge	\$ -
\$ -	Fire Truck	\$ -
\$ -	Capital Improvements	\$ -
\$ -	Machine Equipment	\$ -
\$ 1,704,188.00	TOTAL BUDGET LEVY	\$ 1,874,839.00
The following is informational only		
2026	DEBT LEVY	2027
\$ 130,000.00	West Calvary Bond	\$ 130,000.00
\$ 68,874.00	Public Works Addition	\$ 67,158.00
\$ -	Fire Turnout Gear	\$ -
\$ 198,874.00	TOTAL DEBT LEVY	\$ 197,158.00
\$ 1,903,062.00	TOTAL LEVY	\$ 2,071,997.00
The 2027 levy is a proposed increase of 8.87%		



My name is Michael Jeka and I'm running for city council to keep our property taxes down, preserve our residential neighborhoods, and make sure our city staff, public works, and fire department have the resources they need to succeed. I've talked with a lot of residents, and those are the things they tell me matter most. I'm confident we can do all three. In my year on the council we passed a responsible budget while getting important public works and utility projects done, and

we're on track to do the same for 2027. We've stuck to our zoning plan, which protects existing neighborhoods. And we've set up city staff, public works, and the fire department for continued success with capital purchases like gravel, radios, lift station backup generators, and a new boiler, all while staying within budget.

I grew up in Rice Lake and graduated from Central, then spent six years on active duty in the Navy as a "Nuke" electrician on a fast attack submarine, operating and maintaining the ship's reactor plant. After the Navy I worked as an industrial electrician, studied electrical engineering at the University of North Dakota, and moved back to Rice Lake, where I live today with my beautiful wife and daughter. Between the Bloombergs and the Roberts on my mom's side, my daughter is the fifth generation of our family to call Rice Lake home. That history matters to me, and it's part of why I'm running.

I value service. I first learned how meaningful it can be in the Navy, and I've spent the last 12 years as a volunteer first responder and firefighter. A year ago I applied for a vacant council seat and was appointed to fill it.

I bring a practical, questioning perspective to the council. I ask questions so residents and I both understand what's going on, and I push back when I disagree. My goals have been and still are to spend tax money responsibly, preserve existing neighborhoods, and make sure our city staff, public works, and fire department are set up to do the important work they do. Above all, my job on the council is to represent you: to bring residents' best ideas and their consensus to the table and fight for them. If you want to share your thoughts on an issue, ask where I stand, or get a yard sign, email me at michael@jekaforricelake.org or message me on Facebook at "Michael Jeka For Rice Lake City Council."

Paid for by Michael Jeka, michael@jekaforricelake.org

Hi! My name is **Lisa Walz**, and I am running for **Rice Lake, MN City Council**. You may recognize me from speaking regularly at the podium during city council meeting videos.

First, no, I am not related to the governor 😊. I have lived in Rice Lake for 23 years. I have worked for the same company for 24 years and now serve as a full-time Business Process Consultant working with electronic data. My favorite hobby is pottery, and I have an art studio in my garage. I do not have children, but I do have a few feline kids.

With me, what you see is what you get: an intelligent, straight forward, tattooed, middle-aged woman with many life experiences. I care deeply about people and animals, love my job, enjoy my hobbies, and appreciate the nature around me. I am an average Jane who wants to help make a difference.

I have always been interested in government. I do not align myself with one political party, and I believe partisan politics should be left out of local government. Thanks to my sister-in-law, I was introduced to city council meetings, and I attend as many as I can.

My background includes Customer Service, Legal and Compliance, Data Mining, writing Policy and Procedures, and Data Integrity and Security.

I do not own a business. While I occasionally sell pottery on the side, I have nothing to gain from rapid city growth and have no stake in that game. I am simply a hardworking community member who cares deeply about what we have.

I am running because I care about where WE live and want to be a voice for OUR community. I want to make sure YOU are heard. I understand that growth is progress, and progress is inevitable, but I do not believe it needs to happen at lightning speed. Many of us moved here for the space and rural atmosphere, and we want to preserve that.

A council should serve the people. I see a divide in our community, and I would like to help close it - or at least lessen it.

I want to bring integrity, truth, transparency, and balance to Rice Lake. Let me be a voice for you, represent what you want for this city, and work on behalf of our community.

Sincerely,

Lisa Walz



This is a paid ad submitted by the candidate

Hello citizens of Rice Lake!

I am seeking your support for my candidacy for the **Rice Lake City Council** in the upcoming election on **November 3, 2026**.

My return to City Hall was not motivated by the desire to become mayor, but rather by a commitment to serving our community and maintaining stability within our small city government. Since returning to the City Council in June 2025, I have dedicated myself to daily service—assisting our city staff across public works, inside City Hall, and helping the fire department whenever needed. You will frequently see me driving our city roads, attending meetings, or working alongside our public works employees to provide guidance.

While some may perceive me as overly involved, I believe that such dedication is essential for effective public service.

In the spring of 2026, we successfully secured our largest bonding bill of \$3.8 million dollars by bridging the political divide in St. Paul. I am impartial in politics and collaborate effectively with both parties, as both have demonstrated their commitment to our community in 2026.

- My strengths include:
- ◆Fiscal responsibility: I am committed to managing our taxpayer dollars within our budget, applying for public grants, and securing bonding dollars from St. Paul.
 - ◆Infrastructure management and future planning: I have extensive experience in these areas, which I apply to daily in Rice Lake.
 - ◆Oversight of existing equipment and buildings: My 30 years of business experience provide me with the necessary expertise to ensure the proper maintenance and management of all our city assets.

I am available to meet in person and can be reached at 218 390-9555

Community First-Experience-Leadership



This is a paid ad submitted by the candidate.

My name is Lori Jackson and I am running for a spot on the Rice Lake City Council. I have been a citizen of this community for 20 years and recently retired from ISD 709 after 30 years of teaching at Homecroft Elementary. If elected I would do my best to serve the people with honesty and transparency. I would do this by keeping open communication with those I serve and listening to what matters to them.



This is a paid ad submitted by the candidate.

**Rice Lake
Veterans Memorial Park**

Engraved Brick Pavers

\$50 - 3 lines (5.5" x 5.5")

\$75 - 3 lines (11" x 5.5")

\$125 - 7 lines (11"x 11")



Order forms can be found on our website at <https://ricelakecitymn.com/community-information/> and available at City Hall

Jayne Heim, Mayor of City of Rice Lake



I'm Jayne Heim and I'm running for Mayor of the City of Rice Lake. Many of you know me, but many of you do not, so I'm going to start with a short bio of who I am and how I got to be here running for Mayor.

I've lived in Rice Lake for 20 years. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Medical Technology and Biology/Chemistry from UWS, and a Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration from the U of M Carlson School of Business. I worked in healthcare my entire career, and retired in 2012, shortly after Northland OB-GYN (where I was the Clinic Administrator) merged with the St. Luke's hospital system. I've also owned a business in Rice Lake for the 20 years that I've lived here. I love Rice Lake!

I became involved in City Government back in 2015 when I ran against John Werner for Mayor and lost (thank goodness, because I was nowhere near being ready!). Shortly after that election, John asked to meet with me because he wanted to know if I truly wanted to be a part of making Rice Lake the best it can be or if I was just running for the title of Mayor. I wanted to serve, and a few weeks later, I was appointed to the Utilities Commission, which I served on until I was elected to City Council in 2018. I was reelected to Council in 2022. In July of 2025, after serving 6 ½ years on Council, I was appointed Mayor by the City Council when the elected Mayor resigned unexpectedly. I have served in that role since that time.

But what you really want to know is why I am running for Mayor and why you should vote for me, and the reason is this. Before being elected to Council for the first time, I had attended nearly every City Council meeting, Planning and Zoning meeting, Utilities Commission meeting, and Special Meeting held in Rice Lake from late 2015 – 2018. I wanted to make sure that I knew what was going on in Rice Lake before stepping into a leadership role; my loss in the 2015 election showed me just how unprepared I had been. Since then, I've attended many more meetings than just our City meetings. I have been a part of numerous committees involving numerous entities – the DNR, City of Duluth, St. Louis County, the State, and numerous other entities that are from the State - committees that work to preserve our environment and watersheds, our rivers and streams, or work to develop pedestrian/bike paths to safely increase our enjoyment of the outdoors. I have been involved in creating a Hazard Mitigation Plan that will allow us to better prepare our community for severe weather situations or unexpected events. These are committees that every City has to be involved in; because of my background, I have been the logical choice. I have also been involved in every aspect of the governing of our City; that is a given for every member of Council. Experience and knowledge matters; I have both. I would like to continue to serve as your Mayor, working for you and with you to make Rice Lake the best that it can be.

The City of Rice Lake has over 53 million dollars of funded projects that will be starting over the next 2 years, and by funded, I mean absolutely no money out of pocket to the residents of Rice Lake. The money will come from grants from either the State or the Federal Government. These projects have taken many years of planning, and I have personally been involved in their planning since their inception. Not all of these projects will be done by the City of Rice Lake, but I want to make sure they move forward with the input of Rice Lake. I have built the relationships through the years that will ensure that happens; a new Mayor will not have those relationships and will not be as effective in making that happen. I, as well as the rest of our Council, have worked hard to secure many of these government funds. This past spring, Councilor Darrel Johnson and I made two trips down to the Capitol where we met with State Legislators and also testified in front of the House Capital Committee to obtain funding for a Rice Lake infrastructure project. We received the entire \$3.8 million dollars we need for the project – the largest grant ever given to the City of Rice Lake from the State! These projects will grow our infrastructure, which is needed for the growth of our City. You want lower property taxes? The only way to do that without decreasing services for our residents is by increasing the number of residents and businesses that share that tax burden. That is not a political statement, that is a fact. I live here, too; I want lower taxes. I will do all I can to make that a reality.

I am asking for your support on **November 3rd**. Please vote for **Jayne Heim for Mayor of the City of Rice Lake**. But even if you don't vote for me, please get out there and **VOTE!** It is a right that we all need to cherish and appreciate.

If you have questions for me, please feel free to attend any City Council Meeting; I am more than willing to stay after the meeting to talk with you. Or visit my campaign Facebook page: Jayne Heim for Mayor City of Rice Lake. Or do it the good old-fashioned way and call me at 218-349-9307 – if I don't answer, leave a message and I'll call you back.

Thank you for your consideration.

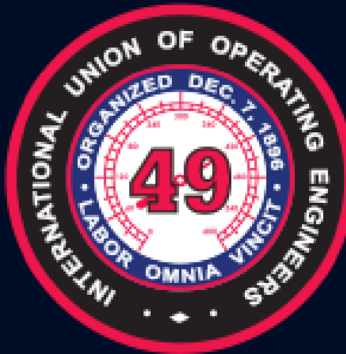
This is a paid ad submitted by the candidate

RE-ELECT STATE REP. NATALIE ZELEZNIKAR

Effective. Driven. Common Sense.

Working Hard for the People Who Make Our State Run!

PROUDLY ENDORSED BY



Scan Here to
Take Our
Priorities Survey



Scan Here
for Voting
Information



**Your Voice Has
an Impact! Early
Voting Starts
Sept. 18th!**

Rice Lake Recycle Shed

Hours:

- Tuesday 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM
- Thursday 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM
- Saturday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM



Illegal Dumping Could Result in Fines.
Recycle Shed is Under Video Surveillance.

MIXED CONTAINERS: CONTAINS ALL 3 CATEGORIES BELOW

PLASTICS #1-#7:

- Check the bottom of containers to make sure they are labeled #1-7
- Rinse all food containers
- No FILM or PLASTIC BAGS in mixed (see update below)
- No Styrofoam
- No plastic cups, plates, or utensils
- No buckets
- No plastic that contained motor oil, antifreeze, or other automotive fluids
- Caps and lids can be included
- NO CLAMSHELL CONTAINERS (Bakery, strawberry, etc.)

STEEL CANS:

- Rinse all food containers
- Labels do not need to be removed
- Cans do not have to be flattened
- Do not include any non-food and beverage cans or scrap metal

GLASS BOTTLES & JARS:

- All colors of glass are accepted for recycling
- Rinse all food containers
- Labels do not need to be removed
- Do not include any window glass, canning jars, ceramics, dishes or drinking glasses

MIXED PAPER PRODUCTS:

- Press or pasteboard boxes and packaging (cereal and pop boxes, packing and clothing inserts, legal pad backing, etc.)
- Paper of any color
- Copy machine and un-coated fax machine paper
- Envelopes with or without windows or self-adhesive
- Tablets, legal pads, and notebook paper
- Junk mail
- Glossy pamphlets and brochures
- Manila folders and envelopes
- Newsletters
- Newspaper
- Shredded paper
- Carbon-less paper
- Paper ream wrappers
- Phone books
- Magazines

**CORRUGATED CARDBOARD:

- Cardboard that has a wavy layer in between two pieces of thick paper
- Paper bags
- Cardboard with printing or color
- No cardboard covered with paint, grease, or other contaminants
- No waxed cardboard

FILM PLASTICS:

- Film must be clean and dry
- Grocery and retail bags
- Newspaper bags
- Bread bags
- Produce bags
- Napkin, Paper Towel, Bathroom Tissue, and Diaper packaging wrap
- Pallet and Case wrap
- Food Storage bags
- Bubble-wrap
- No black plastic bags

****If you have a large amount of corrugated cardboard, please bring it to the WLSSD Materials Recovery Center at 4587 Ridgeview Road.**

What Are My Recycling and Disposal Resources?

If you want to recycle household materials as listed above, the Rice Lake Recycle Shed is the place.

For other items such as old furniture, appliances, tires, etc. you would go to the Resource Renew Materials Recovery Center (WLSSD) location:
4587 Ridgeview Rd.
Duluth, MN 55803

Household hazardous waste disposal location:
2626 Courtland Street
Duluth, MN 55806

Phone: 218-722-3336
Hours: Wed-Sat. 8:00 AM-4:30 PM

You can check their website disposal guide to find out what they will and will not accept and at what location.

<https://wlssd.com/>



Dog Licenses Required in Rice Lake

Lifetime License Fee: **\$25.00** per license
(includes one free replacement tag)

Residents age **60 or over** are eligible for a **reduced rate of \$10.00** per Lifetime license.

Lifetime Licenses are good for the life of your dog!
Licenses are available at City Hall.

Payments can be made by cash, check, or credit/debit card.

If paying by card an additional 3% +.30 is charged by the credit card processing company.



Join a Community That Cares
Come to Open Arms Senior Living in Duluth

Contact: Jordann Balaich
Executive Director, RN, Co-Owner
4414 Martin Rd, Rice Lake, MN, 55803
218-275-7280 | openarmsseniorliving.com

Now Leasing Independent Living

Winter Safety Reminders

Winter is just around the corner and with winter comes snow and snow removal. Please remember to keep your trash and recycle bins at least 3 feet off the edge of road/shoulder and into your driveway so they are out of the way of the snowplow. Most garbage trucks are equipped with a hydraulic extending arm that grasps bins up to 5 feet away. Prompt removal of empty bins is also important when possible.



Pushing snow into the road or across the road, no matter what method you use, creates icy ridges that are hazardous to motorists, damaging to vehicles and plows. It can also lead to costly road repairs, clogged ditches, and culverts. It is against the law and a misdemeanor under MN statute 160.2715 and a violation of City Ordinance 46, Sect 4. Anyone who violates this ordinance is subject to a \$200 fine.



Can you find the Halloween words below without getting "Stuck"?



Word list:

BONE	GOBLIN	NIGHT	SPIDER
BOO	GRAVE	OCTOBER	SPOOKY
CANDY	GRAVEYARD	PUMPKINS	TREAT
CAT	HALLOWEEN	TRICK	VAMPIRE
COSTUME	HAUNTED	SCARE	WEREWOLF
DRACULA	MONSTER	SCREAM	WITCH
GHOST	MOON	SKELETON	ZOMBIE



BOOMTOWN

BREWERY



WOODFIRE

Boomtown Duluth Weekly Specials

MONDAY *Cows & Mules*

SELECT BURGERS \$10.95
CUCUMBER MULE \$5
JUICY IPA \$5



TUESDAY *Tacos*

TACOS \$10.95
JALAPEÑO RANGER-RITA \$5
MEXICAN LAGER \$5



WEDNESDAY *Pizza, Pasta & Wine*

PASTAS \$15
FLATBREADS \$10
WINES (GLASS) \$5
HONEY AMBER \$5
50% OFF BOTTLES OF WINE



THURSDAY *Wings & Brew*

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT \$19.95
BONE-IN WINGS
1 LB. WINGS \$8.95
TACONITE TEA \$5
MESABI'S BEST LIGHT \$5



FRIDAY *Fish Fry*

ALL DAY FISH FRY \$18.95
JAMESON ORANGE MULE \$5
OATMEAL STOUT \$5



SATURDAY *Smokehouse Saturday*

PITMASTER PLATTER \$32.95
BBQ BRISKET LOADED FRIES \$15.95
TANGLED UP IN BLUEBERRY \$5
BLUEBERRY BOURBON MULE \$5



SUNDAY *Sunday Funday!*

50% OFF

- RAIL DRINKS
- GLASS HOUSE WINE
- DOMESTIC BOTTLES
- DOMESTIC TAPS
- BOOMTOWN BREW TAPS
- APPETIZERS

\$9.95 BOOMTOWN BLOODY

HAPPY HOUR
Be Happy!

MONDAY-FRIDAY
2-5PM + 9-CLOSE

HALF OFF

RAIL DRINKS
GLASS HOUSE WINE
DOMESTIC BOTTLES & TAPS
BOOMTOWN BREW TAPS
& APPETIZERS!



SCAN TO VIEW MENU
& ORDER ONLINE!



Boomtown Duluth

www.boomtownwoodfire.com



Northern Lights T A V E R N A

Greek Spirit. Mexican Heart.
Hometown Hospitality.

7047 Rice Lake Road | 218-391-5295 | iltmn.com

Open Daily!

order
online!

Follow Us!



northernlightstaverna

stay up to date on events,
specials, hours, and classes!

Touchdowns taste better at the Taverna!

Monday 6-9p: \$2 off drinks & apps

Thursday 6-9p: Pitcher specials & \$2.50 tacos

Saturday 12-5p: Free Nachos w/ group of 6+

Sunday 11a-6p: \$2 off drinks, \$5 off app platter

Vikings Games: "SKOL" drinks, giveaways, Bloody specials



October

10/2-10/4 Grand Opening Weekend

10/31 Trunk or Treat 11am-2pm

Saturday Brunch deals 11a-3p

check our facebook or website for most up-to-date
hours, as they may change through the winter.

November

Thanksgiving Pies &
Dinners to go!

December

Cookie decorating & hot cocoa
every Saturday!

Christmas Cookie Platters for sale,
multiple sizes & varieties available

Thank you to all who contributed to making
Rice Lake's National Night Out 2026 a success.
It was a great turnout! See you next year!

To see photos from this event, go to the City Website [Community Photos](#) Page.



Kwik Trip



Betsy Levar (face painting)
City Council (root beer floats)
Donovan Doffing - SLC (emergency preparation kits)
Family of God LC (popcorn)
Jerry Alander (tractor rides)
Luke Meints (canoe rides)
Nellie Scheffler, Greg Bown & Stephanie Hemphill (pollinator education)
RLVFD (burgers and hotdogs)
Steve Gregorich (music)
Troop 7 (bounce house supervision)





SALINE

LANDSCAPE COMPANY

218-626-5501 | salinelandscape@gmail.com



CULTIVATE

GATHER





SEPTIC PUMPING TOILET RENTALS

DULUTH, MINNESOTA
STEVESSEPTICDULUTH.COM
 DAVE HAPPY 218-213-1233



**DARREL D. JOHNSON
EXCAVATING, INC.**

**Septic Systems Installations,
Driveways, Homesite Excavation**

**Water and Sewer Laterals,
Commercial Site Work Excavation**

**Call Digger Darrel 218 390-9555
 Email 1digger@diggerdarrel.com
www.diggerdarrel.com**

We Want to Hear from You!

We encourage all community organizations, businesses and residents to submit articles or ads for the next issue of the Newsletter. If you want to be added to the email list for notifications of deadlines to get your article or ad in the next Newsletter, email robin@ricelakecitymn.com or call 218-249-0917.

Rice Lake City Hall/Pavilion Rental

City Hall

Max Capacity—100

Daytime or Evening Rentals

4 hours or less

Resident	Non-Resident
\$150 deposit	\$150 deposit
\$50 rental	\$75 rental

All day

Resident	Non-Resident
\$150 deposit	\$150 deposit
\$100 rental	\$125 rental

Funeral/Celebration of Life

4 hours or less

Resident	Non-Resident
\$150 deposit	\$150 deposit
\$25 rental	\$50 rental

All day

Resident	Non-Resident
\$150 deposit	\$150 deposit
\$75 rental	\$100 rental

Wedding Receptions/Dances

4 hours or less

Resident	Non-Resident
\$150 deposit	\$150 deposit
\$150 rental	\$200 rental

All day

Resident	Non-Resident
\$150 deposit	\$150 deposit
\$300 rental	\$400 rental

City Hall Office/Meeting Space

Capacity – 5

All day

Resident	Non-Resident
\$50.00 rental	\$75.00 rental

City Park Pavilion

All day

Resident	Non-Resident
\$50 deposit	\$50 deposit
\$50 rental	\$75 rental
\$25 gate key deposit	\$25 gate key deposit

All rentals require a certificate of homeowners/rental insurance and must be presented prior to the rental or deposit will be forfeited.

Alcohol is prohibited on all City grounds.

Watch for Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

This is the time of year when an especially disgusting invasive bug peaks in population and starts invading homes to hide out for the winter. The Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) has not been seen in northeastern Minnesota yet, but the population in the Twin Cities area is growing.

These ugly bugs have many host plants, but they prefer apples, grapes, soybeans, and other vegetables commonly grown in Minnesota. Feeding on apples creates cork-like dead spots that can render the fruit unsuitable for market. All the damage is superficial, and the fruit is safe to eat but not suitable for market.

Due to their unpleasant odor, large size, and sheer numbers, BMSB can be a nasty home invader as well. Large numbers will congregate and invade buildings in search of overwintering sites.

Reproducing populations have been confirmed in several areas of the Twin Cities, and researchers are worried that nearby crops will soon be at risk.

Adult BMSB are ½ -inch-long shield-shaped insects with long piercing-sucking mouthparts held under the body between the legs. They are brown with a marble-patterned exterior. Young are more colorful, with red and orange markings.

There are many stink bugs in Minnesota, most of which can be easily confused with BMSB. Native brown stink bugs (*Euschistus* spp.) are especially similar to BMSB. Other species commonly mistaken for BMSB include: the western conifer seed bug (*Leptoglossus occidentalis*), the squash bug (*Anasa tristis*), and the box elder bug (*Boisea trivittata*).

Brown marmorated stink bugs overwinter as adults in a hibernation-like state in woodlots, households, sheds and garages. Adults may emerge as early as March and April and produce offspring in June. They feed and reproduce until September and October, when populations typically peak, and then seek overwintering sites.

Researchers are experimenting with a wasp that parasitizes BMSB eggs in the bug's native range. They want to make sure the wasp can handle Minnesota's cold winters and will not cause other damage to animals or plants.

If you observe an insect that looks like BMSB outside the Twin Cities metro area, please take a picture or sample and contact the MDA via [Report a Pest](#). There is no need to report new detections of BMSB within the seven-county Twin Cities area.



Article provided by Stephanie H.



Building our Future, While Preserving Our Past

Rice Lake News
4107 W Beyer Rd
Rice Lake, MN 55803



Like us on Facebook at City of Rice Lake or visit our website at ricelakecitymn.com