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# Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2023

## BATTLE LAKE CITY COUNCIL:

- Rich Bullard, Mayor
- Marjorie Quammen, Council Member
- Donald Maslow, Council Member
- Julia Everts-Demars, Council Member
- Ryan Christensen, Council Member

## BATTLE LAKE CITY STAFF:

- Todd Quaintance, Police Chief
- Tim Sweazey, Police Officer
- David Wilson, Police Officer
- Val Martin, City Clerk-Treasurer, Zoning Official, EDA Director
- Karalee Brandner, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
- Tami Olson, Admin Assistant
- Paige Stewart, Admin Assistant
- Chris Johnson, Public Works Director
- Trevor Meece, Public Works Technician
- Adam Schwartz, Public Works Technician
- Dennis Pederson, Public Works Employee
- Adam Freyholtz, Liquor Store Manager
- Jennifer Nickolite, Assistant Liquor Store Manager

**PICKLEBALL IN BATTLE LAKE** - Land has been donated by the city of Battle Lake for the opportunity to add four new pickleball courts to the Lions Park west of the horseshoe pits. A nonprofit group of interested people have formed the Battle Lake Pickleball Club to take on the project of planning and fundraising to make the courts a reality.

Surrounding communities like Vergas, Perham and Ottertail have already accomplished the completion of new courts which draw enthusiastic players from many different areas to their towns with area businesses pleased to see new customers as a result.

Pickleball is enjoyed by all ages and abilities. It's easy to learn and a perfect way to stay active and socialize. It's the fastest growing sport in the United States and it is easy to see why. Multiple generations can play and enjoy it together and many people travel with their paddles and search for courts to utilize. If you are interested in meeting other players, learning a new sport or helping move this project forward,

We would love to hear from you. The Battle Lake Pickleball Club is free to join.

Please feel free to contact Carol Nelson at 605-270-2186 or Email [marky2506@gmail.com](mailto:marky2506@gmail.com)

Receive important updates from the City of Battle Lake by providing your email and phone number. Email your information to [bladmin2@arvig.net](mailto:bladmin2@arvig.net)

EMERGENCY ALERTS	HOUSEHOLD INFO	MEDICAL HISTORY	PET INFO
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### Keep your household SAFE in an emergency.

Protect your loved ones by creating a Smart911 "Safety Profile." You can provide 9-1-1 with life-saving information in an emergency and receive important community and weather alerts.

#### HOW IT WORKS

Sign up for Smart911 and create a secure Safety Profile for your household

If you ever call 9-1-1, the call-taker can see the emergency information you want them to see.

Emergency responders can then use this key information to help you faster and more efficiently.

Register Today! [ottertailcounty.gov/smart911](http://ottertailcounty.gov/smart911)  
Emergency Management 218-998-8067

Create your "Safety Profile" & help spread the word.

Smart911 will also be used for important notices from the City of Battle Lake.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED:

November 10, 2023	Veterans' Day
November 23-24, 2023	Thanksgiving Day
December 25, 2023	Christmas Day
January 1, 2024	New Year's Day



# STRONG SCHOOLS. STRONG COMMUNITIES.

Battle Lake Public Schools calls for an election on November 7, 2023 to authorize 20-year general obligation bond funds in an amount not to exceed \$30,520,000 for facility and learning environment improvements

## OPEN HOUSE INFO NIGHTS

OCTOBER 2, 2023 6:30-8:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 11, 2023 6:30-8:00 P.M.

402 SUMMIT STREET W, BATTLE LAKE

Join us for an informational open house! Tour the school, ask questions regarding the November 7, 2023 Referendum question, and more!

For more information go to the school website at [www.battlelake.k12.mn.us](http://www.battlelake.k12.mn.us)

Visit [bit.ly/blps-tax](http://bit.ly/blps-tax) or scan the QR code to view tax impact charts, use the tax calculator, learn about the Ag2School Tax Credit, and more!



## HEALTH & SAFETY

- ✓ Create safe & secure entryways.
- ✓ Improve ventilation and HVAC system.
- ✓ Upgrade existing restrooms, locker rooms, and interior doors to be ADA compliant.

## FUTURE-READY LEARNING

- ✓ Remodel Career and Technical Education (CTE) space.
- ✓ Remodel the computer lab/Makerspace.
- ✓ Remodel the digital media lab to support programming needs.
- ✓ Build a new addition to include a music suite, weight room, receiving area and changing rooms

## BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

- ✓ Replace the existing roofing systems.
- ✓ Replace exterior windows and doors.
- ✓ Crack fill and seal coat parking lots.
- ✓ Pave and expand existing gravel parking lots.
- ✓ Update the cafeteria.

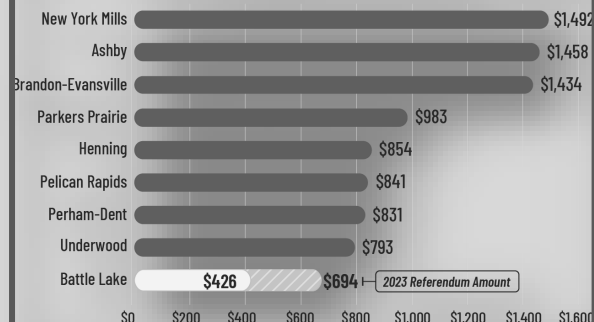
## EFFICIENCY UPGRADES

- ✓ Replace the waste delivery system piping.
- ✓ Upgrade outdated electrical systems.
- ✓ Replace the current fire alarm system.
- ✓ Replace the existing diesel generator.



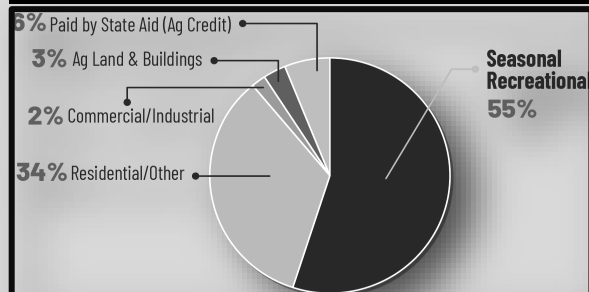
## Comparable Residential School District Tax Levy (2022)

Estimated Home Market Value of \$300,000



## ESTIMATED SOURCE OF PAYMENTS

provided by Ehlers Public Finance Advisors



**Light Up Battle Lake** - Winter is coming, as a way to entice people to visit Battle Lake in the winter season, the LACC has been following social media trends and noticed that several communities had become "destinations" due to their fun and welcoming holiday lighting. Over the last year, LACC board members Lauren Belmont and Jayd Sharpe have been looking for affordable options to share with the Battle Lake Community to create this warm, welcoming, and Instagram worthy environment in Battle Lake.

We are pleased to share that we found a partner that can not only provide Gemstone Lights, but is willing to install them at a discount to our Battle Lake community!

## Here are some of the frequently asked questions about the lighting and installation.

- **How visible will the lighting be year round?** Minimally, these lights are housed in a track that can be matched to 150 different soffit colors so they blend into the look of your business or home. They have special tracks for commercial buildings that blend into most facades as well. They are LED lights, so there are no bulbs that are hanging down or visible.
- **What will they do to my electric bill?** Because they are LED, they should have a minimal impact on your electricity bill.
- **Are they only for holiday lighting?** No, the great thing about the Gemstone product is that they can also be used for architectural lighting on your home when you're not celebrating a holiday or event. You can see examples of the different uses at <https://www.gemstonelights.com/>
- **Who will do the installation?** We've partnered with Holsen Home - a distributor and installer of Gemstone Lights out of Fargo. <https://holsenhome.com/holiday-lights-installation/>
- **How long do they last?** The lights are rated to last 100,000 hours. There is also additional warranties you can learn more about from Holsen Homes.
- **How much do they cost?** For businesses the cost has been discounted down by over 15% to only \$26 per linear foot for the product, soffit/siding matched track, and the Gemstones lights. For a 25 foot building this is a cost of \$650 for permanent, energy efficient lighting. For residences the cost is \$28 per linear foot, because they are typically a more complicated install. So, for a 50 foot wide home, you'd be looking at \$1400 for permanent, energy efficient architectural lighting and holiday lighting.

Obviously, your business or home may have unique considerations, so the best way to find out if this is a good option for you is to connect with Kevin, Project Manager with Holsen Homes at 218-787-6527 or [Kevin@HolsenHomes.com](mailto:Kevin@HolsenHomes.com). If you are interested in being part of this, please reach out to the LACC at [info@lakesareacommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@lakesareacommunitycenter.org) so we can keep track of everyone that is interested as well.

## Dear Battle Lake Community,

We want to share some important information about your drinking water. Your safety and well-being are paramount to us, which is why we took a proactive step to conduct voluntary testing of our municipal drinking water supply wells. This was not a requirement, but a precautionary measure to ensure everyone's continued access to safe and clean drinking water.

**Why is This Worth Noting?** During our recent voluntary testing, PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) were found in one of our drinking water wells this past spring. Initially, the levels in this well were below the proposed health-based values set by the MN Department of Health. However, subsequent testing verified the presence of PFAS at a level that both the EPA and MN Department of Health have considered long-term exposure to be a risk. While this doesn't pose an immediate risk, it's important for us to be transparent and proactive in addressing any potential concerns.

**Steps Taken to Keep You Safe** In response to these findings, we promptly ceased the use of the high PFAS Well #4. Currently, our primary water source is Well #5, which has negligible levels of PFAS. This action was taken to ensure your peace of mind and continued access to safe drinking water.

**Understanding PFAS** PFAS are man-made chemicals that break down slowly over time. They're considered emerging contaminants and may potentially have health impacts with prolonged, high-level exposure. It's important to note that our water system or well is not the source of this contaminant; it enters our water system through groundwater. PFAS are currently an unregulated group of contaminants.

**How did PFAS get in the water?** Battle Lake and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency are investigating how PFAS may have gotten into the source of water.

**The Challenges and Our Dedication** Dealing with PFAS is intricate. These chemicals have been part of many common products for years, which makes it hard to grasp their full impact. The EPA is currently considering regulations for this group of substances, expected to be confirmed in 2024. Please know that we're dedicated to your well-being and are collaborating closely with the Minnesota Department of Health to guarantee your uninterrupted access to pure and secure drinking water. Your safety is our utmost priority.

**Your Role in a Safer Community** We believe that together, we can make a positive impact. It's important for all residents and businesses in Battle Lake to be aware of PFAS and its environmental and health considerations. By learning more about PFAS and taking steps to reduce its presence in our community, we can collectively contribute to a safer future.

We'll keep you updated on our progress in addressing PFAS in your drinking water. Your well-being is our utmost priority.

For more information, go to the City's web-site: [www.Ci.Battle-Lake.mn.us](http://www.Ci.Battle-Lake.mn.us)

**COLD WEATHER RULE INFORMATION** - *During the period from October 1 through April 30, a utility cannot disconnect a residential utility customer for nonpayment if the disconnection would affect their primary heat source for the residential unit and all the following conditions are met:*

*The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. A municipal utility may verify income on forms it provides or obtain verification or income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.*

*A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a plan agreement that considers the financial resources of the household. A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, and other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.*

*This notice is to tell you about your rights and responsibilities under the Cold Weather Rule. These rights and responsibilities are designed to help you with winter utility bills. You must act **promptly!** If you choose not to assert your rights or choose not to enter into mutually acceptable payment schedule **your service may be disconnected.***

*If you need help paying your natural gas bills, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance.*

*Weatherization or conservation programs to reduce your energy bills may also be available. To find out if you qualify and how to apply, contact the following : **MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership, Inc., 128 W. Cavour Avenue— Fergus Falls, MN 56537—Phone 218-739-3011 or 1-888-458-1385***

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUAL INCOME	1 MONTH MAX GUIDELINES
1	\$32,667	\$2,722
2	\$42,719	\$3,559
3	\$52,770	\$4,397
4	\$62,822	\$5,235
5	\$72,874	\$6,072

**The Energy Assistance program** pays towards heat, electricity, and past due water costs. Energy Assistance is free for all eligible households. Below are the income guidelines for the FFY24 program year, which is October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

To request an application call Mahube-Otwa at: 218-739-3011 Fergus Falls or Toll Free at 1-888-458-1385 or visit their website at: mahube.org

*Energy Assistance is administered in Mahnomen, Hubbard, Becker, Otter Tail and Wadena Counties by Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership, Inc., PO Box 747, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502. Mahube-Otwa offices are located in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Mahnomen, Park Rapids, and Wadena.*

**Battle Lake Natural Gas—Private Line Notice** Battle Lake Natural Gas maintains the natural gas service lines up to and including each meter. Battle Lake Natural Gas **does not** maintain the customer's PRIVATE natural gas lines. Private lines include service lines that branch off the main meter to garages, guest houses, and other customer owned structures. For customer safety, it is very important that private lines be maintained properly. A natural gas service line that is not properly maintained may be subject to potential hazards from corrosion and leakage. Private metallic natural gas service lines should be inspected periodically for leaks and corrosion. Any unsafe conditions should be repaired immediately. Service lines should be located in advance if excavating near the customer's buried natural gas service line. To avoid accidental nicking or puncturing of the lines all excavating near these lines must be done by hand! Local plumbing and heating contractors may be able to assist you in locating, inspecting, and if necessary repairing your service line. If Battle Lake Natural Gas discovers a problem with the customer's private service line, the flow of gas will be shut off and the customer will be advised of the needed repair.

**Changes to Local Ordinances** - the full list of ordinances can be found on the City's web-site [www.ci.Battle-Lake.mn.us](http://www.ci.Battle-Lake.mn.us)

**90 Animals** - Changes were made to the licensing requirements for pets. The City Council voted to go back to the yearly licensing starting in 2024. This is due to the safety concerns of our community members and the need to know that residents are up to date on their pets' rabies vaccinations. Those people who currently have lifetime licenses will not have to pay the yearly fee of \$15 for 2024 or 2025 but will be required to produce proof of rabies vaccinations and receive a new tag as the tags will be different each year.

**74 Regulating Special Vehicles** - Changes were made to the licensing requirement for all special vehicles such as ATVs, golf carts, side-by-sides, etc. The City has moved back to a yearly license in order to ensure that all of these licensed vehicles are carrying insurance coverage on their vehicle. The new fee starting in 2024 is \$10 a year and for those that have a 3-year license, the fee will be waived until the expiration of their current license. You must still come in and provide your insurance information and receive a license specific to that year. Each year's tag will be a different color so law enforcement can easily establish that the vehicle has a current license.

**110 Public Use of Cannabis** - Cannabis use is now legal in Minnesota and like many other Cities in Minnesota, the City of Battle Lake has passed an ordinance that prohibits the use of cannabis and cannabis-derived products in public spaces and places of public accommodation with the purpose of protecting the public health and safety in the community.

**41 Special Events defines when you need a permit to hold an event.**

**41.01 PURPOSE:** The purpose of the chapter sets forth the procedure for the time, place, and manner of holding certain special events on City property. This policy is enacted in order to promote the health, safety, and welfare of all residents and visitors of the City by ensuring that special events do not create disturbances, become nuisances, menace or threaten life, health, and property, disrupt traffic or threaten or damage private or public property. It is not the intent of the City Council by enacting this policy to regulate in any manner the content of speech or infringe upon the right to assemble, except for regulating the time, place, and manner of speech and assembly and this policy should not be interpreted or construed otherwise.

**41.02 SPECIAL EVENT DEFINITION:** is any festival, rally, street dance, sports event or other attended outdoor gathering, entertainment, or celebration that is to be held in whole or in part upon publicly owned property or public right-of-way, or, if held wholly upon private property, will affect or impact the ordinary and normal use by the general public of public property or public rights-of-way and/or will create excessive noise or disruptions in a residential area within the vicinity of the event.