

Lakefield Police Department Community Update

AUGUST 2023



L.P.D. UPDATE

Stay Aware & Stay Safe

SAFETY

Whether you are new to Lakefield or need a refresher, it is essential to pay close attention to the curb markings and signage related to on-street parking restrictions. This will prevent fender benders and ensure a safe driving experience within the community.

If you stop at the intersection of 3rd Ave. N. and plan to turn or cross onto Mainstreet, it's important to note that if a vehicle is parked illegally in front of the Post Office, your view of oncoming traffic will be obstructed. To address this issue, the Lakefield Police Department is issuing written warnings for first offenses, followed by citations for subsequent violations.

Residents often park in front of the Post Office for reasons such as quickly retrieving their mail, having a long-standing habit of doing so, or simply because they believe it is acceptable in Lakefield.

Let prevent accidents by following the law.

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

No Parking Zones

Parking is not allowed in the following areas:

- Within intersections.
- On a crosswalk or sidewalk.
- Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection.
- Within 10 feet of a fire hydrant.
- Beside a curb that is painted yellow, or where official "No Parking" signs are posted.

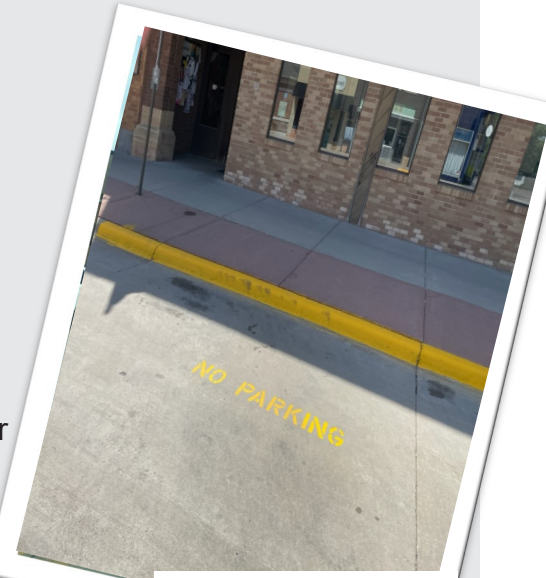
Yellow no parking areas were recently painted on Main Street, especially by the Post Office. There were many near misses at this location with vehicles turning right from 3rd Avenue North onto Main Street and with pedestrians crossing main in the cross walk.

Please help create a safe and caring environment for your fellow residents by following the no parking guidance.

Written warnings will be given over the next two weeks to help remind you of the parking restrictions, after the educational period is over, we will begin issuing parking tickets.

Minnesota pavement markings and signs help you park legally. The color red prohibits and commands, yellow warns & instructs, blue is designated mobility impaired.

To learn more about Lakefield's ordinances go to www.lakefieldmn.com/ordinances.



Roger D. Pohlman



LEARN MORE ABOUT PARKING IN LAKEFIELD

Lakefield's Parking Ordinance can be viewed on the website or by visiting Lakefield City Hall.

www.lakefieldmn.com

[Title VII: Traffic Code - Ordinances - City of Lakefield Minnesota \(lakefieldmn.com\)](http://www.lakefieldmn.com)

CHAPTER 71: PARKING REGULATIONS

Section

Parking Restrictions

- 71.01 Angle parking
- 71.02 Parallel parking
- 71.03 Disabled vehicles
- 71.04 Parking for certain purposes unlawful
- 71.05 Parking time limit
- 71.06 Parking house trailer or motor home; permit required
- 71.07 Truck parking restricted
- 71.08 Congested district; special traffic and parking regulations
- 71.09 City parking lots; prohibited activities
- 71.10 Snow removal; obstructions to be removed
- 71.11 Snow emergency; parking prohibited
- 71.12 Repairing of vehicles
- 71.13 Prohibiting parking areas in front yards in residential zones

Parking on Private Property

- 71.25 Policy
- 71.26 Unauthorized parking on private property
- 71.27 Private parking signs
- 71.28 Violations

Administration and Enforcement

- 71.40 Registered owner responsible; prima facie evidence
- 71.41 Impoundment of vehicles in violation

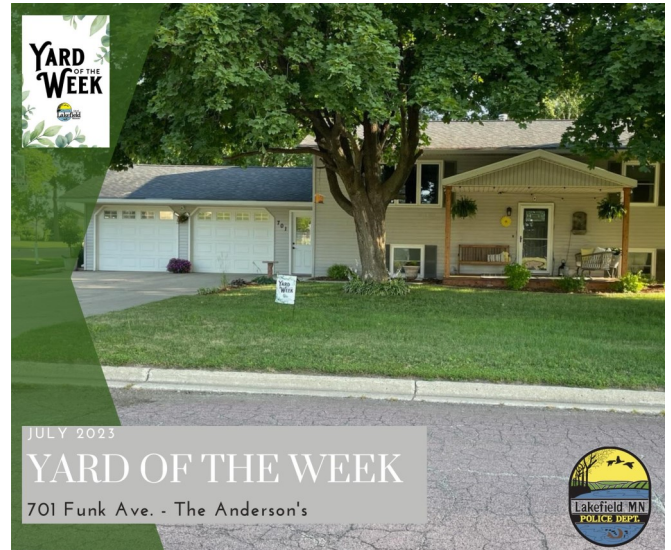
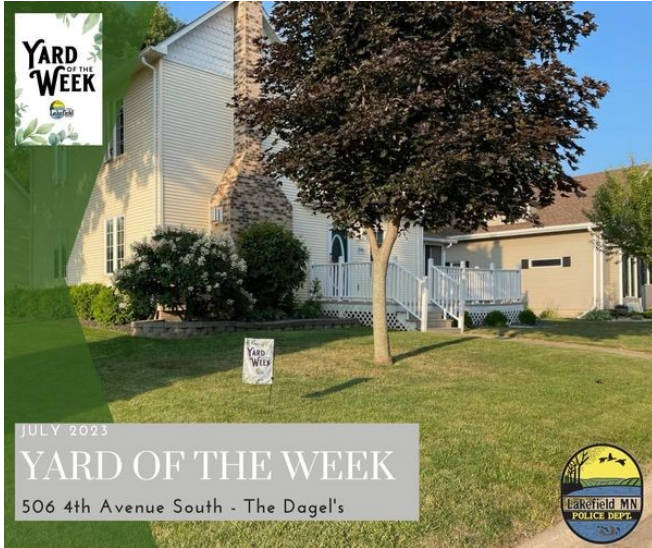
Cross-reference:

Authority; parking, stopping, and traffic-control signs, see ' 70.01



YARD OF THE WEEK - JULY RECIPIENTS

The Lakefield Police Department the *'Keep Lakefield Beautiful'* Program



YARD OF THE WEEK STARTING IN SPRING OF 2023

The Lakefield Police Department Launches *'Keep Lakefield Beautiful'* Program

Ready, get set, and beautify!

We are excited to announce the Keep Lakefield Beautiful Program, the 'Yard of the Week' program, recognizing residents who strive to beautifully maintain their lawns and add to the overall appeal of the Lakefield community.

Keep Lakefield Beautiful is established to promote goodwill and reward lawn care in the community. The purpose of the program is to recognize neighbors who demonstrate average and above-average efforts in maintaining their property, thereby contributing to the overall appearance of the community at large.

For the months of **May 1, 2023, through October 31, 2023**, the Lakefield Police Department will choose a lawn that best typifies the qualities of uniqueness, beauty, appeal, and consistency with the guidelines. In addition, the Committee will select one residential yard every Monday. The winner will be provided with a decorative flag to display for the indicating their winning yard. Also, a photo of the yard will be shared on the city's website and social media accounts.

Yard of the Month Guidelines

All residential properties within the city limits are automatically eligible. Award winners are selected based on the recommended judging criteria listed below.

- Key criteria include manicured yard, beautification, originality, and creativity.
- The upkeep of the yard can reflect the residents' efforts or that of a professional landscaper groundskeeper.
- An award duration term lasts a single calendar week and runs from Monday to Sunday.
- The same property cannot receive more than one award in a 12-month calendar period. At least 12 months must lapse between awards for the same yard.
- While an individual's home is being recognized as a "Yard of the Week," they are expected to maintain their yard in the same manner that allowed them to win the title.



JUDGING CRITERIA:

The Lakefield Police Department will judge solely on the total exterior appearance of their property. Therefore, general upkeep of the yard and property is paramount. Factors include the overall appearance, tidiness, and neatness of the front of the property as evidenced by pruned, trimmed, and shaped foliage, edged and defined lawns, borders & flower beds and a visually appealing facade. Each yard will be chosen from the nominations given to the Lakefield Police Department or an officer's choice. Nomination can be made by emailing pdchief@lakefieldmn.com.

LAWN: Grass should be healthy with no bare spots or excessive weeds. Grass shall be mowed and trimmed around foundations and fences. Debris shall be picked up and removed. A unified, simple, balanced landscape design is preferred.

LANDSCAPE & FLOWER BEDS: Beds shall be weeded and edged, flowers must be deadheaded and dead plants removed, trees and shrubs pruned, and natural areas clean. Beautification efforts should include new plants, flowers, trees, shrubs, etc.

WALKWAYS & DRIVEWAYS: Walkways and driveways shall be clean (including trash containers or yard products removed from view). The area in front of the curb must be free from debris and dirt. The appearance after dusk includes accent, safety, and visible interior lighting, if applicable.

AESTHETICS: The overall look of landscaping (formal versus informal, use of color and textures, garden art) is essential. The front entryway should be inviting, with original and creative touches to show personality (hanging baskets, pots, yard art, bird feeders, etc.)

The Lakefield Police Department is dedicated to improving our community's quality of life and appearance. We encourage residents to take pride in their homes and neighborhood. In turn, we look to celebrate those who do a superior job in keeping their yards in such a way that they enhance the overall curb appeal of the entire community.

Nomination(s) can be made by emailing pdchief@lakefieldmn.com.

Ready, Set, buy your bulbs!



CROWDFUNDING

By The Office of the Minnesota Attorney General

Don't Just Follow the Crowd on "Crowdfunding" Websites



The Office of the
Minnesota Attorney General
helping people afford their lives and live with dignity and respect

People hear on the news that someone in their community has lost her home in a fire or a spouse to an illness. They want to help, so search the internet and find several social media pages that claim to be raising money for the victim. They donate through a particular page, but later find out that the person running it kept the money and did not pass it along to the victim of the tragedy. For example:

- In 2016, a Minnesota woman pleaded guilty to stealing more than \$20,000 that she had raised online to help the families of three drowning victims.
- In 2018, a Minnesota woman was charged with theft for crowdfunding thousands of dollars for a man who suffered a death in his family, but keeping the money for herself.
- In 2017, an Oklahoma woman was sentenced to prison for fundraising thousands of dollars online by pretending her child had cancer.

Following a few simple rules can help people avoid such scams when donating through online "crowdfunding" platforms.

What is Crowdfunding?

"Crowdfunding" generally means raising donations from a large number of people. It is done online, through web sites like GoFundMe, and social media sites like Facebook. Crowdfunding campaigns are frequently run by one or a small group of people from the local community. Some crowdfunding pages claim to help a specific person, while others ask for donations for particular charities.

What Do I Need to Know About Crowdfunding?

Many, but not all, crowdfunding pages are legitimate. Bad actors sometimes try to take advantage of people's generosity by keeping donations for themselves. Even with legitimate campaigns, a portion of a donation may go to the website, instead of the charity or person in need, because the website takes a "cut" of the donation by charging a fee. Not every crowdfunding donation is tax deductible either. For example, donations to a specific person are generally not tax deductible.

How Do I Protect Myself?

- **Before donating:** Research the organizer of the crowdfunding campaign, the cause, and how the money will be used. Do public facts support the organizer's claims? Will the website charge a fee? How will the organizer handle and safeguard donations?
- **Donating to help a specific person:** If you are donating to people you don't know, look for specific information about the situation that can be verified.
- **Donating to an organization:** Donors should look for charities they already know and trust. To be sure that your money is going where you want it to go (and to minimize the chance of any extra fees being taken from your donation), consider donating directly through that charity's own website, instead of through a crowdfunding page.
- **Donating smartly:** Be wary of charities that spring up overnight in the wake of a disaster or tragedy, that have names that sound like well-known charities, or that otherwise raise red flags. If there is reason to suspect a charity might not be legitimate, contact the Minnesota Attorney General's Office before donating.

Minnesota Attorney General's Office • 445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1400, St. Paul, MN 55101
Twin Cities Calling Area: (651) 296-3353 • Outside the Twin Cities: (800) 657-3787 • Minnesota Relay: (800) 627-3529
www.ag.state.mn.us



CROWDFUNDING

The Office of the Minnesota Attorney General

Where Do I Go For More Information?

The Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance and Consumer Reports publish information and tips on crowdfunding on their websites, www.give.org and www.consumerreports.org. Donors may also contact the Minnesota Attorney General's Office for more information about crowdfunding, to research charities on the Office's website, or to file a complaint as follows:

Office of Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison

445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1400

St. Paul, MN 55101

(651) 296-3353 (Twin Cities Calling Area)

(800) 657-3787 (Outside the Twin Cities)

(800) 627-3529 (Minnesota Relay)

www.ag.state.mn.us

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling (651) 296-3353 (Twin Cities Calling Area), (800) 657-3787 (Outside the Twin Cities), or through the Minnesota Relay Service at (800) 627-3529.

The Minnesota Attorney General's Office values diversity and is an equal opportunity employer.





EMERGENCY PLAN

WATER
MEDICATION
COMMUNICATION
FOOD
PETS
A FAMILY PLAN
A BUSINESS PLAN



LET'S MAKE LAKEFIELD DISASTER RESILIENT

Clip & Save Phone Numbers

For all emergencies
dial **911**

Lakefield Police Dept.
1-507-662-5353

**Jackson County
Dispatch Services**
507-847-4420

**Human Trafficking
Hotline**
1-888-373-7888

Lakefield City Hall
507-662-5457

Suicide & Crisis
988

**Domestic Assault
Victims (SW Crisis Ctr.)**
800-376-4311

**MN SW Crisis Center
24 hour SAFE Line**
800-376-4311

**MN SW Crisis Center
Youth Text Line**
218-666-8336

MN Elder Justice Center
651-440-9312

**Violence Free
Minnesota**
1-800-333-SAFE

**Minnesota Coalition
Against Sexual Assault**
800-964-8847

**The Council for
Prevention of Domestic
Violence**
712-362-4612

**Des Moines Valley Health
and Human
Services**
1-800-662-5207

Jackson Cnty. Court
507-800-7003

Jackson Medical Cntr.
507-847-2420

EMERGENCY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Do 1 Thing is a twelve-month preparedness program that focuses on a different area of emergency preparedness each month.

Do 1 Thing is designed to help people take small steps toward personally preparing for emergencies or disasters.

What residents can do:

Download a 12 month plan

<https://www.do1thing.com/individuals/> and [download a 12 month plan.](#)

What businesses can do:

Download a 12 month plan <https://www.do1thing.com/business/>

Subscribe to Jackson County Emergency Alerts

[https://account.civicplus.com/identity/CivicPlusLogin?
signin=ac78cf6f75410930bd08679f85f92e22](https://account.civicplus.com/identity/CivicPlusLogin?signin=ac78cf6f75410930bd08679f85f92e22)



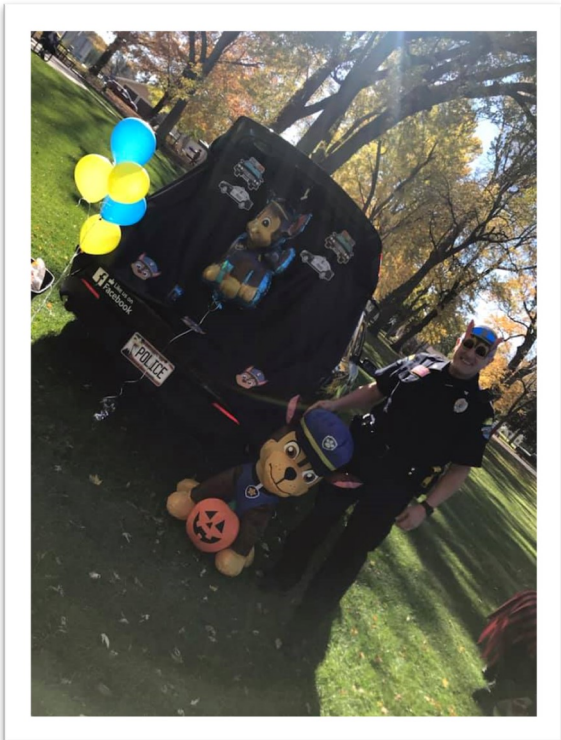
UPCOMING EVENTS

The Lakefield Police Department is excited to announce our participation in Immanuel's Oktoberfest and Trunk or Treat events. We will be distributing gun locks and offering a door prize at Oktoberfest. Additionally, at Trunk or Treat, we will be giving away treat bags to attendees. We look forward to seeing you there!



OKTOBERFEST

Date: Saturday, September 30, 2023
Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Place: North City Park



TRUNK OR TREAT

Date: Saturday, October 28, 2023
Time: TBA
Place: North City Park

