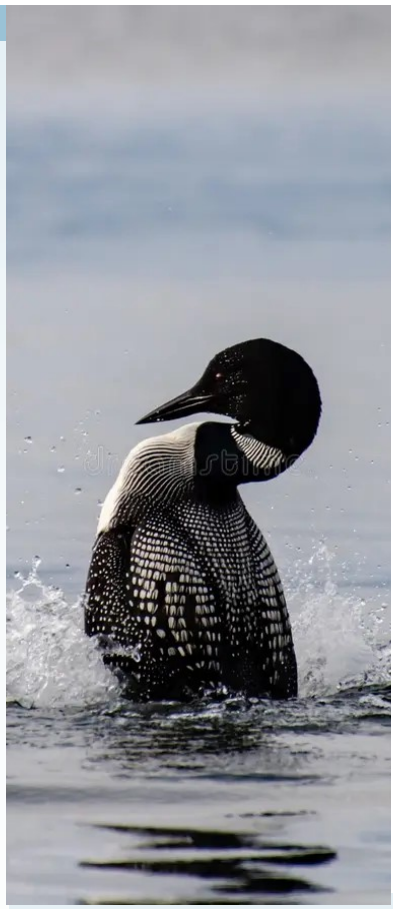
June 2026
Volume 5

Crosslake Connections



From the desk of Lori Conway, City Administrator

Is it finally here—summer at last. After a long wait, there's nothing quite like stepping outside to take in the fresh air, the scent of the lakes, and the familiar sounds of birds and loon calls. It's a season that invites us all to slow down and appreciate the simple pleasures around us.

Many of us are already preparing for days on the water, cleaning up the pontoon and looking forward to time spent on the Whitefish Chain and surrounding lakes. Whether it's enjoying a grilled brat out on the water or gathering around a campfire in the evening, summer has a way of making everything feel just a little more special. Even our favorite foods—cold salads, watermelon, hamburgers—seem to taste better this time of year.

Since our last issue, I had the opportunity to attend the 52nd Street St. Patrick's Day Parade. The level of participation was impressive, with festive displays of green mustaches, hair, clothing, and even a few kilts. The parade was thoughtfully organized and truly enjoyable to watch. Once again, Crosslake delivered a memorable community event.

In March, I was also excited to see Dark Horse Brew open for the season. I treated myself to avocado toast and a dirty soda, both of which did not disappoint. It was great to see activity underway in the boutique as well—I look forward to seeing the additions to the store come together. As always, it was a pleasure to connect with Catharine again. Wishing her a prosperous and successful season ahead.

As we transition into summer—also known as construction season—I'd like to share a few important updates. Traffic will be reduced to one lane on CSAH 66 over the bridge as repair work takes place. In addition, we are continuing with year three of our road improvement project (see back for more info). We appreciate your patience as these projects move forward throughout the summer.

Our Public Works team will also be actively completing repairs, striping, shouldering, and other maintenance efforts. Please use caution when traveling through work zones, observe all barricades, and be mindful of staff working along the road. Your cooperation helps keep everyone safe.

Here's to a safe, enjoyable, and memorable summer season.

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I had the pleasure of visiting the Crosslake Area Garden Club on March 18, and it was a truly enjoyable and eye-opening experience. Even in the absence of the scheduled guest speaker, the afternoon proved both educational and inspiring thanks to club member Linda Gates, who stepped in to present on “Showing at the Fair.”

Linda shared fascinating insights into the detailed process behind exhibiting flowers at fairs. From the precise length of stems to the exact number of blooms required for different categories, it became clear that showcasing flowers is far more intricate than I had ever imagined. I always thought participants simply picked their best blooms and brought them to the horticultural exhibit—but there is a surprising level of care, preparation, and knowledge involved. One particularly useful takeaway was a simple homemade mixture to keep flowers looking fresh: one gallon of water, one tablespoon of sugar, one tablespoon of vinegar, and one teaspoon of bleach. It’s little tips like these that make such gatherings so valuable.

Beyond the presentation, I was struck by the dedication of this wonderful group of women who work tirelessly to keep the city looking beautiful. Their efforts are especially visible in the flower baskets that adorn the bridges all summer long—always looking “fair-ready” thanks to their care and commitment. Thank you, ladies, for the pride you bring to the community!

The Crosslake Area Garden Club itself has been a vibrant part of the community for over 30 years and currently includes nearly 50 members. Its mission is to promote and encourage all forms of horticulture through both home and community gardening. The club meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Crosslake Community Center, located at 14126 Daggett Pine Road in Crosslake. These gatherings feature monthly seminars on a wide range of gardening topics, offering opportunities for members—and the public—to learn and share knowledge. Best of all, these seminars are free and open to anyone interested.

The club’s contributions extend well beyond meetings. In addition to maintaining the beautiful bridge flower baskets, members have previously cared for planting barrels near Andy’s and spent many years tending the pond garden at the Crosslake Library. Their dedication to enhancing local spaces is evident throughout the community.

Looking ahead, the **Crosslake Area Garden Club will host its Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Corps of Engineers picnic shelter next to the dam (35507 County Road 66, Crosslake, MN)**. This popular event features a wide variety of locally grown plants—perennials, annuals, vegetables, and flowers—all nurtured in members' own gardens, making them well-suited to thrive in the local environment. Shoppers can also explore the "Market," which offers garden accents, tools, and unique yard art.

Last year's sale was a great success, with over 550 plants sold and more than 100 donated to the Crosslake Food Shelf. Proceeds from the sale support the club's educational programming and benefit horticulture-related nonprofit organizations within a 40-mile radius. In fact, the club collectively donated $1,000 last year to several worthy causes, including the Emily Food Shelf Garden, the Northland Arboretum's Children's Gardens, Crosslake Community School, Balsam Moon sustainability programs, and the new Breezy Point Community Gardens.

For those interested in staying connected or learning more about upcoming events, be sure to follow the Crosslake Area Garden Club on Facebook.

All in all, my visit was both enjoyable and enlightening. It's clear that this group not only shares a passion for gardening but also plays a meaningful role in enriching the entire community.

On behalf of the Mayor and Councilmembers—we thank you Crosslake Garden Club and we appreciate you!

Music in the Square

Music Lineup

Sponsored by
Ideal Lions Club

Music Saturday Evenings 6 to 8 pm - Crosslake Town Square

June 27—Honky Tonk Stardust Cowboys
July 4—Kyx
July 11—Hip Katz Meow
July 18—Joyann Parker
July 25—One Night Stand
August 1—Norman's Bait and Tackle
August 8—Mark Petersen Band
August 15—Kevin Klimek and the Sideliners
August 22—Benny and the Jets
August 29—Doug Allen Nash
September 5—Lisa Wenger

Fire Department - Chief Lohmiller

As we enter the summer season and one of the busiest times of the year, the Crosslake Fire Department would like remind residents and visitors to stay safe while enjoying our lakes, campfires, and outdoor activities. With increased boat traffic during the summer months, please operate watercraft safely and responsibly, wear life jackets, stay alert for swimmers and other boats, and never operate a boat while impaired.

It has also been a very dry Spring across the area, increasing wildfire concerns. Residents are encouraged to use caution with bonfires and outdoor burning and to check current burning restrictions and fire weather conditions through the Minnesota DNR. Homeowners should also take time to clean up around homes and cabins by removing dead vegetation, trimming brush, and creating defensible space around structures to help reduce wildfire risk.

The Crosslake Fire Department also has several upcoming community events:

- The 2nd Annual Crosslake Fire Golf Scramble—June 12th
- Community Wildfire Prevention Day—June 27th 10-1
- Annual Pig Roast/Car Show—August 8th— beginning at 11 a.m. and serving food until gone

We thank everyone for their continued support!

Stay Safe and Alert!

Summer Programs & Events Guide

Big Fun Tuesdays

June 16 – August 25 | Tuesdays | 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Stop in every Tuesday this summer and enjoy one of our favorite seasonal events! Big Fun Tuesdays are packed with outdoor games, mini inflatables, face painting, crafts, activities, and plenty of family fun for all ages.

Pickleball Programs

Prime Time Outdoor Pickleball

Monday – Friday | 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Day Passes, Punch Cards, and Annual Memberships available.

Indoor Pickleball (Beginner/Intermediate)

Wednesdays | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Senior Fitness Classes

Monday – Friday | 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Stay active and energized with our ongoing senior fitness opportunities.

Guided Cart Tours

Every Wednesday through September

Tours at 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Enjoy a guided tour throughout the park grounds and Nordic Ridge Trail System while learning about the history and development of the facilities and natural landscape. Please call ahead to reserve your spot.

Tennis Programs

Adult Tennis Mixer

Mondays & Thursdays | June 8 – August 27

Youth Tennis Lessons

July | Days & Times TBD

Library & Cultural Events

Book Sales

Browse a great selection of books during our seasonal sales!

- **June 5 & 6** | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- **July 2 & 3** | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- **July 31 & August 1** | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- **September 4 & 5** | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Art Show

August 6 – 8 | 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Celebrate local creativity and enjoy artwork from talented regional artists.

Summer Reading Program

Saturday Story Hour & Crafts

Every Saturday from Memorial Day through Labor Day

Join us for interactive story time and hands-on creative projects each Saturday morning. Whether you live here year-round or are visiting for the summer, it's the perfect way to start your weekend.

Plant a Seed, Read!

Independent Reading Challenge

Kids choose their own books, set their own pace, and track their reading progress all summer long. Registration begins May 26, and every completed reading log earns prizes and raffle entries for exciting giveaways.

Author & Special Guest Visits

Wonder Weavers Storytellers

"Growing Stories – No Fertilizer Required"
1:00 PM

Emily Kilgore

June 23 | 2:30 PM

Children's author and educator Emily Kilgore will share her books including *Huke and Luna*, *The What ifs*, *The I heards*, and more.

Jill Hannah Anderson

July 16 | 3:00 PM

Minnesota author Jill Hannah Anderson discusses her newest book, *Before We Break*.

Sparkle Theater Group

July 21 | 3:00 PM

Molly Blaeser

August 5 | 9:00 AM

Fantasy author Molly Blaeser presents *Origins*, the first installment of *The Snook Saga* series.

Ongoing Clubs & Activities

- **Garden Club** — 3rd Wednesday of each month
- **Woodworking Club** — Tuesdays at 1:00 PM
- **Art Club** — First Monday of each month
- **Mahjong** — Thursdays at 1:00 PM

Happy Dancing Turtles

- **July 1st 10 a.m.—11 a.m.**
- Come learn how to have fun while learning everything planting

Septic Inspections In-House

In another effort to improve service and reduce costs, the City will now be conducting **new septic system inspections in-house**.

Previously, inspections were performed externally. By bringing this service in-house, the City will:

- Save applicants time
- Improve coordination between zoning, building, and septic review

This change allows for better oversight and streamlined communication throughout the development process. It also supports our commitment to protecting public health and water quality while

Digital Permitting & Licensing is now live.
Please go to cityofcrosslake.gov
Planning & Zoning –Applications

Planning & Zoning—Jody Grund

Our Commitment to the Community
The Planning and Zoning Department plays a key role in:

- Managing responsible growth
- Protecting property values
- Preserving environmental resources

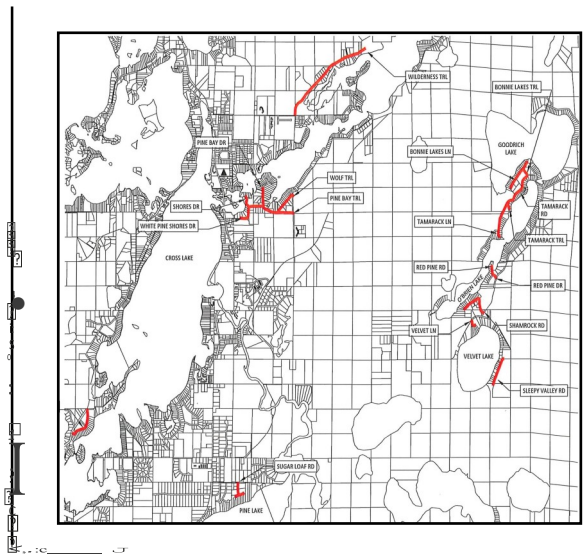
Ensuring development aligns with City ordinances and long-term plans
These updates reflect our continued effort to modernize operations, provide high-quality customer service, and support thoughtful community development.

If you have questions about permits, inspections, zoning regulations, or upcoming projects, please contact the Planning and Zoning Department. We look forward to continuing to serve our residents and development community efficiently and professionally.

Reminders: No permit is needed if your floor area is not increased. Examples are:

- You do not need a permit for a shed as long as it is not over 120 square feet and side walls are not higher than 10'.
- You do not need a permit for replacing shingles.

2026 Street Improvements



- Year 3 Road Improvements - **Mill & Overlay** will include parts of Bonnie Lakes Trail, Pine Bay Dr, Pine Bay Trail, Red Pine Drive, Red Pine Road, Shamrock Road, Shores Dr, Sleepy Valley Road, Tamarack Lane, Wolf Trail, Bonnie Lakes Lane, Velvet lane, Sugar Loaf Road, Wilderness Trail and Sunrise Blvd.
- **Chip Sealing** will take place on the roads that were completed last year – 2025.
- A Petition was received from over 35% of property owners on **Sunrise Blvd** requesting to have the road improved. A public hearing was held and this was approved as an assessment district.
- The County will be doing bridge rehabilitation on CSAH 66 over Daggett Brook starting approximately May 18th with an estimated completion date of September 4th.

Short Term Rentals—please be in compliance

A short-term rental (STR) as defined in STR Ordinance 410 is a home, cabin, condominium, town-home or similar building that is advertised as, or held out to be, a place where sleeping quarters are furnished to the public on a nightly, weekly, or for less than a 30-day period and is not a bed and breakfast, resort, hotel or motel. Before you advertise and operate a STR property within the City of Crosslake, you are required to have an approved STR license.

The Whitefish Area Lodging Association (WALA) exists to promote tourism and lodging on the Whitefish Chain of Lakes. WALA is made up of more than 50 lodging facilities including resorts, hotels, townhomes, B&Bs, and home rentals in the City of Crosslake and Ideal Township. Property owners in those jurisdictions are required to collect a 1% lodging tax. For more information, visit Whitefish Area Lodging Association Owner Resources.

Applying for a license

To apply for your license go to: https://crosslakemn.munirevs.com/

SHORT-TERM RENTAL LICENSE STEPS

1. Review STR Ordinance - go to our website and follow Short Term Rentals.

2. Collect the following information needed to complete your online application:

- Address and parcel number of STR
- Property owner and/or property manager information
- Property information (number of bedrooms, number of guests, parking information)
- Emergency contact information
- Listing information
- Site plan, floor plans, copy of neighbor notification letter, guest disclosure or guest welcome letter

3. Collect and complete the following documents:

Short-Term Rental Local Representative & Owner Authorization Affidavit

•Notarized Documents:

- Short-Term Rental Self Compliance Affidavit
- Short-Term Rental Insurance Affidavit

Health and Life Safety Guidance

- A copy of the designated local representative's driver's license, showing a physical address within 30 minutes of the rental property.

- Septic Compliance

- $750 license fee, payable by credit/debit card or e-check

3. Ensure your property is ready for a fire inspection and complete the STR Fire & Life Safety Inspection Checklist. Once your application is complete, schedule your inspection by contacting Fire Chief Lohmiller: chief1@crosslake.net

4. Complete online application, upload supporting documents and make license payment via your account. If all is satisfactory, your license will be issued and will be available in your account to print. STR license signs will be ordered and installed by the City.

NATIONAL

LOON CENTER

National Loon Center - City of Crosslake Update

Now that spring is here and summer is approaching, activity at the construction site is increasing each week. In early May, crews made significant progress on the sanitary sewer, elevator shaft foundation, domestic well, and site grading. Last week, power was installed, the building water line was connected, and the elevator pit was waterproofed and backfilled. Work also began on the geothermal system, including drilling the wells and stubbing the system into the building.

This week will be especially active, with continued geothermal well drilling, excavation and installation of the solar canopy foundations, and vertical construction of the three-level elevator shaft.

While much of the material from the existing dirt piles will be reused as site fill, unusable sand has been exported from the site since early May. Reusing materials whenever possible remains an important part of the project's sustainability commitment.
The solar array foundations are expected to be completed within the next week, with installation of the solar arrays beginning shortly afterward. Geothermal work will continue over the next month as crews complete installation of all 50 wells. In the coming days, the three-level elevator shaft will become the first visible sign of the building rising above grade.

Looking ahead, plumbing and electrical work are scheduled to begin in June, paving in July, and exterior wall framing along with major timber construction around August 1. Roofing is currently planned for late September, followed by stonework in mid-October to enclose the building and allow interior work to continue before winter arrives.

A camera is up and running to provide updates throughout the day at:

https://share.earthcam.net/tJ90CoLmq7TzrY396Yd88MpRV8AI8sBZkYK6_G8DHxI/national_loon_center/camera/view_1