



Mayor's Minute

Happiest of Thanksgivings and Merry Christmas to you, my friends and fellow citizens! It has been an honor to serve you these past four years and I am encouraged by your vote of support. I am thankful for each of you living in our city proper and for those in the surrounding area who call Medical Lake their home. I am grateful, and I know you are too, for our dedicated and committed city council, leadership team, and supporting staff. I've served in municipal government for nearly 30 years, and I can attest, something new and good is happening here and happening now!

By the time this letter reaches your mailbox the year will nearly be over, the budget will be passed, planned capital projects will already be in the works, and Winter Festival will be right around the corner. I can tell you with certainty that the City of Medical Lake is in a special season of

restoration and hope. Hardly a day goes by that I do not hear how pleased people are with the changes they see, for example, the Lefevre Street Sidewalk and Streetlight Project and the beautification of our parks and trails. Hope is rising, a sense of belonging is growing, and people are proud to say they live in Medical Lake. It doesn't get much better than that. I wish to express my gratitude for our valued partnerships with our non-profit organizations like Re*Imagine Medical Lake, Lions Club, Kiwanis, Dollars for Scholars, Blue Waters Bluegrass, and others who serve so well to support families and foster an environment conducive to a healthy and happy community. I envision Medical Lake as a vibrant community dedicated to fostering human flourishing, where all residents can thrive in a place known for peace, wellness, and healing. Yes, The Healing Waters of Medical Lake! I am grateful for our ever improving and expanding partnerships and collaboration with our anchor employers including Medical Lake School District, DSHS facilities, and Fairchild AFB. Small businesses also hold a special place in my heart, and I thank you for all you offer, every day, providing local resources to our community. A thriving and prosperous local business economy is also essential for a vibrant and thriving community. You can expect an emphasis on economic development to continue into 2026 and beyond.

My prayer is that we together will enter this season with a renewed sense of gratitude for all we have and hope for. May this be a season of goodwill and good cheer. May the Lord bless you and keep you, may his face shine upon you, and bring you peace. See you all Saturday, December 13th, for Winter Festival. Oh, the things we can do!



Mayor Terri Cooper

City Council Corner

City Budget Matters. The Finance Director provided a 3rd Quarter Budget Report, highlighting how most funds are outpacing revenue projections and have expended less than expected through September. The [FY 2026 Preliminary Budget](#) Hearing was held on 11/18 and reviewed projected revenues and expenditures for next year's budget. City Council approved updates to Administrative and Utility Fees for the upcoming year, which can be viewed on our website. The Final Budget Hearing is scheduled for the 12/2 City Council meeting. Citizens are welcome to share ideas and comments in writing or in person during the hearings. Check out the City [website](#) for more information.

Lorin Ray-Abbott Joins City Council. During the 11/4 meeting, City Council interviewed 3 candidates seeking appointment to Position 6 recently vacated by Keli Shaffer. Lorin Ray-Abbott was nominated and unanimously approved for appointment. She was sworn in at the beginning of the 11/18 meeting and is already making a positive impact.

Grant Writing Service Agreement. City Council unanimously approved a service agreement with Building Hope Consulting to assist in comprehensive grant writing services to the City of Medical Lake, including research, writing, editing, and submission support to secure funding for opportunities aligned with our mission and goals.

In The News

Election Results Mayor Terri Cooper was reelected along with Council members Ted Olson, Don Kennedy, and Tony Harbolt, and Council member Heath Wilbur was newly elected. The Advisory Ballot Measure about fireworks resulted in 58.29% of the voters not wanting a ban on consumer fireworks. Many thanks to all who volunteered on the "for" and "against" committees who prepared statements for the voters' guide.



"Pass the Mic" Community Building Stories. Join us on Wednesday, December 10 at 6 p.m. via Facebook Live to learn more about City of Medical Lake Community Building endeavors, including events, partnerships, and local services. Speakers include Mayor Cooper and representatives of Medical Lake School District, Lakeland Village and Re*Imagine Medical Lake. Click [HERE](#) to view the event page and let us know you're coming!

Citizen Advisory Boards. Carl Munson was recognized for his service to the community as a member of the Planning Commission since 2022. As a result of Carl's resignation, Mayor Cooper appointed Cindy Altheide to the Planning Commission. Patrick Flaherty has been appointed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Volunteering on a Medical Lake Citizen Advisory Board helps to shape our City into the kind of community worth living, working, learning, and playing in all seasons of life. Applications are being received for an open seat on the Planning Commission starting in January 2026. To apply, click [HERE](#).

West Plains Chamber of Commerce Best of the West Awards. Congratulations to Gerri Johnson and Farm Salvation for her recognition as the Business Leader of the Year. Compliments to Matt and Jamie Clark and Rusty Truck Ranch, who were recognized as the Medical Lake Business of the Year. Jim Wentland was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his valued work and continued investment in youth and ranching. There is so much to celebrate in Medical Lake!

Community Calendar

December

- 12/2** – City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm in City Hall, Final Budget Hearing
- 12/13** – Re*Imagine Medical Lake Winter Festival, Noon - 5:00 pm
- 12/16** – City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm in City Hall, Final Budget Adoption
- 12/18** – Planning Commission Meeting at 5:30 pm in City Hall, Amendment Criteria Public Hearing
- 12/24** – Christmas Eve – City Hall will close at 12pm
- 12/25** – Christmas Holiday – City Hall Closed

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram!



January

- 1/1** – Happy New Year – City Hall Closed
- 1/6** – City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm in City Hall
- 1/19** – MLK Day Holiday
- 1/20** – City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm in City Hall
- 1/27** – Medical Lake School Board Meeting at 6pm in the Administrative Office and Zoom

Helpful links:

- [Re*Imagine Medical Lake](#) (Farmers Market and Festival information)
- [City Council - City of Medical Lake](#) (agendas and minutes)
- [Planning Commission - City of Medical Lake](#) (agendas and minutes)
- [Medical Lake School District](#)
- [Medical Lake Dollars for Scholars](#)

MEDICAL LAKE PARKS AND RECREATION

YOUTH PROGRAMS

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Join us every day after school at Hallett Elementary for some fun free play!

Grades: K-5th **Time:** 2:45-5:30pm

Dates: Monday-Friday every full school day

Cost: \$7/Per day (full week discount)

SCHOOL'S OUT DAY CAMP: AIRWAY HEIGHTS REC CENTER

Need something for your kiddo to do on their day off from school? We got you! Join us for a trip to the Airway Heights Rec Center for a fun day of water fun! This mini-camp will run from 7:30am to 5:30pm. Breakfast and snack will be included, **but all participants must bring their own lunch!!!** For grades K-5th

Date: 1/26 **Register By:** 1/21

Time: 7:30am-5:30pm **Cost:** \$45

Reptile Safari Day Camp

Date: 2/17 **Register By:** 2/11

Time: 7:30am-5:30pm **Cost:** \$50

STAYING SAFE AT HOME EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Safe@Home by Safe Sitter

Help your child take their first steps of independence with confidence! This program helps prepare students to safely stay at home alone by teaching safety and first aid skills. Classes will be taught by our certified Safe Sitter instructor, Jessica Chadwick!

Grades: 4-6 **Cost:** \$20 **Location:** Hallett

Time: 3:15-4:45pm Elementary School

Date: 1/19 (additional date on 1/21 may open if waitlist develops)

Register By: 1/7

PINT SIZED PLAYTIME

Join us for some sensory play with your little one! Playtime activities will vary from class to class.

Ages: 1-4 yrs **Time:** 10:00-11:00am

Dates: Tuesday, 1/20 **Register By:** 1/16

Location: City Hall Auditorium

Cost: \$10/class



Interested in signing up for one of our programs? Scan the QR code here to get started!

FAMILY PROGRAMS

TAEKWONDO LESSONS

Join Master Hughes to enhance your fitness level, learn self-defense techniques, and build mental toughness! Classes help kids build focus, character, and self-disciplinary skills.

Cost: \$75 for your first 28 days, including free uniform and t-shirt (now through 12/31) Members can come to any classes offered!

Dates: Wed, Fri, Sat starting 1/7

Location: City Hall Auditorium

Tiny Tigers Classes

Cost: \$80/month

Tiny Tigers is designed for children aged 3-6, focusing on developing fundamental physical and mental skills through fun and engaging activities.

Wednesday & Friday Classes: 4:00-4:30pm

Saturday Class: 2:00-2:30pm

Family Classes

Cost: \$135/month

Challenge yourself to reach new heights in both mental and physical strength! Ages 7 and up.

Wednesday & Friday Classes: 4:30-5:30pm

Saturday Classes: 2:30-3:30pm

SQUARE DANCING LESSONS

Grab a partner and stretch your body and mind in this fun and social dance! No previous dancing skills required, so long as you can walk and listen at the same time.

Ages: 8 years and up (must be 14 years or older to attend without a parent)

Location: City Hall Auditorium

Open House Event

Not sure if Square Dancing is for you? Come take your first lesson for free! Sign up for remaining 15 weeks of course will be available after the class.

Date: 1/15 **Register By:** 1/12

Time: 6:30-8:00pm **Cost:** FREE

16-Week Square Dancing Course

Learn everything you need to know to be a square-dancing pro!

Dates: Thursdays, 1/15-5/14 **Register By:** 2/3

Time: 6:30-8:00pm **Cost:** \$75

ONCE UPON A TIME: DADDY DAUGHTER BALL

Knights and princesses – come one, come all! Join us for a night of games, dancing, and magical memories! All ages welcome!

Date: 2/13 **Register By:** 2/6

Time: 5:00-7:00pm

Location: MLMS Gym

Cost: \$25/couple, \$10/add. guest



TEEN PROGRAMS Ages 11-17

TEEN MOVIE THEATER SHOWING: THE PLAGUE (RATED R)

Hitch a ride with us to the theater for a showing of The Plague! This movie is rated R, so all participants must have a signed permission slip from a parent to attend.

A socially awkward tween endures the ruthless hierarchy at a water polo camp, his anxiety spiraling into psychological turmoil over the summer.

Date: 1/9 **Register By:** 1/2 **Ages:** 13-17
Time: TBA **Cost:** \$20

SAFE SITTER BABYSITTING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Safe Sitter Essentials

This program is designed to teach students basic safety, childcare, and first aid skills, as well as life & business skills to begin building their babysitting business! Classes will be taught by our Safe Sitter instructor, Jessica Chadwick, and students will graduate with a certification they can share with families to help get babysitting jobs.

Grades: 6th and up **Cost:** \$50

January Course

Date: 1/24 **Time:** 10:30am-4:30pm

Location: City Hall Auditorium

Christmas IN MEDICAL LAKE

TEEN & SENIOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TRIPS

Got some Christmas shopping to get done? Catch a ride with our Parks & Rec staff to the Spokane Valley Mall and pick up the perfect gift for your loved ones! Just meet us at City Hall and we will provide transport.

Teen Trip (11-17 yrs)

Date: 12/14 **Time:** 10am-2pm **Cost:** \$15

Senior Trip (50+ yrs)

Date: 12/18 **Time:** 8am-12pm **Cost:** \$15

LETTERS TO SANTA

We have made a very special arrangement with Santa's elves to accept mail for deliver to Santa this year! Bring your letters to Santa and drop them off with us at City Hall to receive a letter back from him by Christmas! **Parents - please print, fill out, and submit the form linked in the QR code here with your child's letter!**

Drop Off Dates: 11/17-12/5

ADULT PROGRAMS

ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Gear up for adult sports! This fast-paced league is open to ages 16 and older. All skill levels are welcome and spaces are limited, so sign up today!

All team members must register to play.

Cost: \$250/Team **Dates:** Sundays, 1/18-2/22

Register By: 1/9

SENIOR WELLNESS

Senior Fitness Program

Learn new ways to stay agile and confident in your balance and movement!

Date: Thursdays, 1/8-2/12

Time: 10:00-11:00am **Cost:** \$3 per class

Location: City Hall Auditorium

SENIOR YOGA

Senior Yoga is back! Join us for a gentle and relaxing time of stretching and strengthening!

Date: Wednesdays starting 1/21

Time: 11:30am-12:30pm **Cost:** \$8/class

Location: City Hall Auditorium

MEDICAL LAKE BOOK CLUB

Come join our local group of book worms for a tasty drink and some treats while we talk about our current read! No deadline to join, so register online to join!

Dates: Wednesdays starting 1/21

Time: 5:30-6:30pm **Cost:** FREE

Location: TBA

CRAFT & CHAT ACTIVITIES

Looking to get out of the house? Join us for a fun time of crafting and conversation! See what projects we have planned for the season!

Seasonal Evergreen Centerpieces with Sue Hines

Date: 12/20 **Time:** 12:30pm-3:00pm

Register By: 12/15 **Cost:** \$65

Rustic Snowman Decor Craft with Sue Hines

Date: 1/10 **Register By:** 1/2

Time: 12:30-2:00pm **Cost:** \$25



Pinochle (55+)

Cost: FREE!

Socialize and meet new people in our weekly Pinochle group. Bring a snack to share.

12:00pm - 4:00pm
Tuesdays & Saturdays

Location: City Hall Auditorium