

The Spirit of Sylvan Shores



Fall & Winter 2016-2017

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYLVAN SHORES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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You are Invited to the Sylvan Shores Annual Christmas Party

To be held at the clubhouse Saturday December 3, 2016

Games and Santa at 4:00 pm • Dinner following games and Santa
**RSVP by Nov. 18th to the office for dinner at 218-894-1065
or email to SylvanShores@outlook.com**

The association will furnish meat, potatoes, rolls and beverages.
Please bring a dish to share.

Parents please call 218-894-1065 or email since
Santa will have a gift for all children 12 yrs and under.
Please provide your child's name, gender and age.

Bring a wrapped gift, approximately \$1.00 value for crazy bingo per person.

We will again be collecting donations for the local food shelf.
Your participation will be appreciated!

MESSAGE FROM THE SSPOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There have been some recent changes and a moving forward in the Sylvan Shores community. Two new directors, Patrick Fiscus and Melissa Hurd were elected at the annual meeting in September as two positions became open due to terms concluding for Joel Linker and Betsy Bergland. On September 19, three board members resigned: Terry Chacos, Judy Fricke and Ann Dibb. Following these resignations, the board appointed Phil Miller and Carol Kollodge to fill two positions with the third remaining open.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the past board for their time on the board. The new board will now continue efforts to ensure that we keep moving forward, in a strategic manner, to incorporate changes best suited for Sylvan Shores and its members.

Two of the highlights over the past year were realizing that Durand Management Company, hired the first of 2016, did not have the experience and knowledge to effectively manage the type of entity that is Sylvan Shores. The relationship ended in May. Also, it was deemed necessary that an audit covering the year of 2015 be performed. This resulted in no negative findings of past improprieties in our accounting system. Positive news! This will set a starting point for future audits.

We are committed to making the board a tool for the entire Sylvan Shores Community. We work for you and are taking steps to ensure what is best for the community is implemented. We are taking a look at the current By-Laws and Covenants and will make amendments based on what you want as a community. We intend to accomplish this by keeping lines of communication open to our members and ask for your input. We held one "Open Mic" meeting (October 15) and will continue to use this venue to allow you to voice your concerns and ideas. Change takes time and changing the Covenants takes a majority vote from all members.

We will do our best to canvas the community to garner votes to make the changes you want. It is our pledge to do our best for you; however, this can only be accomplished with your help...by you using your voice, volunteering to sit on the committees working for change, or simply by offering to assist using whatever time you can carve out to support our meetings or events.

We look forward to meeting you and hearing your comments, concerns or questions at our next board meeting in December!

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I, along with my wife, Ana, moved to SS in 1999. I had just retired from 22 years of military service. It didn't take long, but I was soon involved with SS. I served on the board for over 10 years, and enjoyed meeting so many people. There were challenges, but people worked together to overcome them. Over the last 17 years, we have grown even closer to many at SS, and felt the need to serve on the board again when asked. I am looking forward to sharing my experience with the new board and helping SS grow in the future. Phil Miller

Carol Kollodge....Carol was appointed to the board in October. She and her husband have owned property in Sylvan Shores since 2005. Upon retiring, they moved here permanently in 2009. Her experience in the corporate world includes supervising personnel including hiring, reviewing, setting salary and increases and, if needed, firing; handling in-house marketing from budget through expediting; event, meeting and trade show planning from budgeting through expediting; project manager from budgeting through expediting as well as assisting two vice presidents and three presidents. Carol also set up and ran a non-profit organization for five years.

DOG POLICY

Dogs must be kenneled or leashed at all times in Sylvan Shores. Underground fencing is also a viable option, however, please let the office know if you have the fencing. The Board of Directors voted at our September 11, 2010 meeting to send out 3 notices to owners that have dogs running free and if the dogs are still running loose to add them to the non-compliant fee list at \$100 per instance. Please be considerate of your neighbors and kennel or leash your dogs.

OCTOBER 15 “OPEN MIC” MEETING

On October 15, your board of directors held an Open Meeting at Sylvan Shores. An Open meeting or “Open Mic” format allows members to drive the conversation while the board gains insight into the concerns and ideas from the community. The new board feels very strongly that members should be heard and that your input is essential for the growth of the community.

As I review my notes from the meeting, I realize that just about every comment voiced could be summed up into one theme; “How do we change Sylvan Shores for the future so perspective buyers make an investment and buy?” As you can imagine, answers to this question will vary; however, this statement brought about a lot of great conversation and valuable insights.

Many members feel perspective buyers are not looking at SSPOA as a viable investment. The feeling is that local real estate agents are not interested in showing property here and the reason for this is unclear. An option to discover the answer is to hold an open house where agents could visit our community and provide feedback. Although this has occurred previously with low results, the concept of reaching out to the agents may be key to obtaining the solution.

As conversation continued, we began to ask the question, “What changes in the community could we influence to attract and encourage new ownership?” Many felt the By-Laws needed to be amended along with the Covenants. We must maintain a safe community with well-maintained structures and homes, but if they are too restrictive we will not grow. The By-Laws can be revised easily; however, the Covenants are very difficult. To modify the Covenants, a 67% vote of all eligible owners must be received. This does not mean 67% of those that vote; this means we must obtain a vote from 67% of the 1000+ property owners to revise the Covenants. This could be accomplished, as it has previously; however, the board would require the assistance from volunteers to make this materialize.

Sylvan Shores in years past was a growing community rich with activity and volunteers. We need to work together to return the excitement of ownership. We need to ensure our By-Laws and Covenants allow for growth, but also safeguard the requirements that ensure property is maintained and real estate values do not diminish.

The board would like to thank those members that attended the Open Meeting. Your comments and suggestions are valued and appreciated. We look forward to an even larger turnout at our next Open Meeting as we want to hear from all members! If you have any feedback you wish to provide in the meantime, please send an email addressed to the board at SylvanShores@Outlook.com.

DISCUSSION FROM THE MEETING

How do we change Sylvan Shores for the future and make positive change so others want to live here? We do not want to become a Gull Lake, but we do want to be seen as a community that is growing and a good investment. Look at changes to encourage and attract new owners.

1. We need to understand how local realtors perceive us. To do this we should hold an open house and invite realtors to share their thoughts and educate them about SSPOA. Ask the question: “What is stopping people from buying in our community?”
2. We need to maintain a safe and secure community. Members should be proud of their property and maintain it. SSPOA needs to enforce by-laws and covenants regarding upkeep and assess fines to those that do not follow.
3. Property values need to rise. This will encourage residents with lots to build. Buildings and grounds need to provide a good image though. We cannot allow lots to look like storage facilities with many sheds and garages.
4. Our Covenants are too restrictive. They need to be changed so we can grow.

CLUBHOUSE ISSUES

We have had incidents where children under the age of 14 have been in the clubhouse on weekends unsupervised by an adult. With the office being closed on weekends, there is no one to keep an eye on these children which opens up Sylvan Shores to liability. In one instance, the pool table was jammed with ping pong balls and garbage was left around requiring extra labor to unjam the table and extra cleaning around the clubhouse. This disrespect for property is costing residents of Sylvan Shores. We are looking at the tapes to see if these children can be identified. Nevertheless, if this behavior continues, we may be forced to close the clubhouse on weekends.

CERTIFIED POOL TECH

Sylvan Shores is looking for another person who is willing to be trained as a pool tech. We have one certified tech and are looking for another as backup. We will pay for the certification, which requires classes, upon assurance that the candidate will give Sylvan Shores two seasons of guaranteed employment. The candidate will be asked to sign a contract guaranteeing this employment. If the candidate leaves before the completion of two seasons, they will be asked to reimburse Sylvan Shores for the certification. Please contact the office if you are interested in pursuing this opportunity.

FYI

The members of Sylvan Shores have experienced many incidents involving wildlife this past season. Mama bears with multiple babies have been seen in a couple areas and luckily no unexpected run-ins have been experienced.

Unfortunately, owner's dogs have had up close and personal encounters with skunks. I wonder how many cans of tomato sauce have been used or how many baths have been given, or how many nights these dogs have been left outside to sleep.

One of our owners had an experience with our state bird. A loon was found in the middle of the road on 285th appearing to be injured. After a call to the DNR, it was determined that maybe it wasn't an injury as loons cannot walk on land and tend to flop around as if injured. This owner, under direction of the DNR, threw a towel over the bird, grabbed it by the back of the neck, scooped it up and put it in a plastic tub. After being released into Little Pine Lake, the Loon disappeared uninjured, happy and ready to move on. Did you know that Loons are not happy to be captured and would just as soon take out the capturer? The owner is recovering from the experience.

SOCIAL HOUR

Everyone is welcome to come to coffee Monday - Friday at 10:00 a.m. It is a time of good fellowship and time to solve the world's problems along with lots of laughs. We also share treats when available. We had a visit from Batman and Catwoman on Halloween day.

There is also an exercise class every Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting at 9:00 a.m. During the summer there is water aerobics. Please feel free to come and join any of the groups.



CURRENT TOWNSHIP OFFICERS 2016

Fawn Lake Township

Chairman: Dale Kadlec 218-894-2826 2nd Mon 7pm
Clerk: Kelly Miller 218-531-0287

Turtle Creek Township

Chairman: Robert Bryniarski 320-594-2202 1st Mon 7pm
Clerk: Roxanne Japp 320-594-6088

Moran Township

Chairman: Steven Seefeldt 218-894-3422 1st Tues 7pm
Clerk: Theresa Wagner 218-894-2062
Supervisors: Wayne Lenk 218-894-3996

Ward Township

Chairman: Victor Carlson 218-756-3626 3rd Tues 8pm
Clerk: Nikki Deyle 651-247-5545 Mar-Oct
3rd Tues 7pm
Nov-Feb

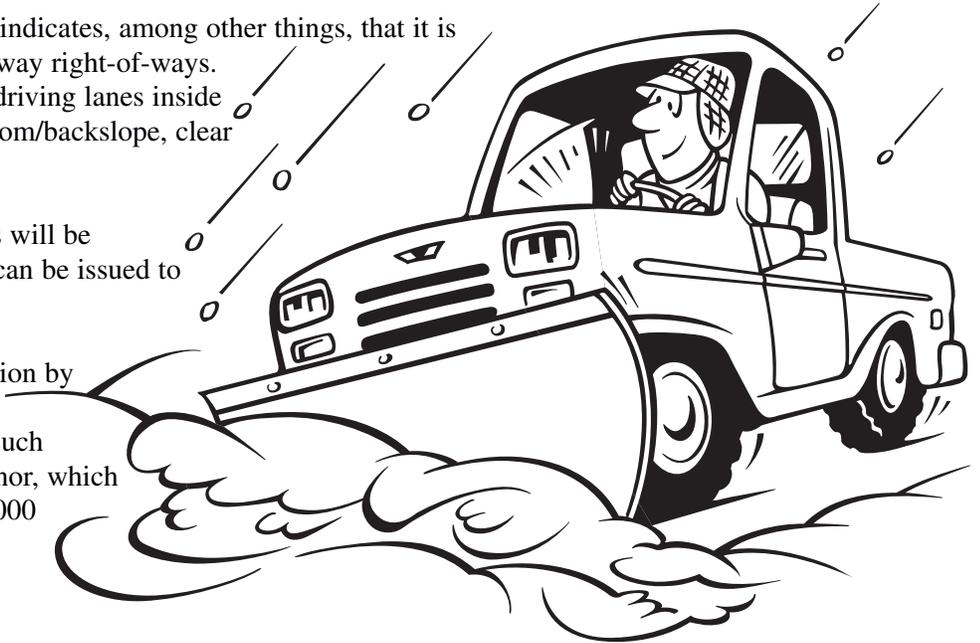
**The roads in Sylvan Shores are Township roads.
If you have concerns, notify your appropriate Township officials.**

SNOW REMOVAL NOTICE

Minnesota statute 160.27 subdivision 5, indicates, among other things, that it is illegal to plow snow onto or across highway right-of-ways. Highway right-of-way is defined as the driving lanes inside and outside shoulders, inslope/ditch bottom/backslope, clear zone, and sight corners at intersections.

Fawn Lake Township road right-of-ways will be monitored and a **“Notice of Violation”** can be issued to persons performing such activities.

Failure to comply may result in notification by the Township Attorney of possible prosecution. Any persons convicted of such violations shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, which is punishable by a maximum fine of \$1,000 and/or 90 days in jail.



PROPERTY TRANSFER/BRUSH PILE

Property owners: when buying or selling property in Sylvan Shores would you please provide a copy of the deed and transfer of the property for the Sylvan Shores records.

It has been very hard keeping up with the brush pile. People are dropping off large logs which are very hard to burn, therefore, we have decided to close off access. There is a facility just outside of Browerville which will accept the brush and leaves.

KEEP JACK FROST FROM NIPPING AT YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Prevent freezing in the first place. Insulation is a key to preventing pipes and drain fields from freezing. Allowing grass to grow an extra 6 inches over the entire system (septic tank, connecting pipes and drain field/mound) in the fall can protect it from frost. Another good insulator is a layer of mulch (for example, straw, leaves or hay) spread 8-12 inches deep over the system. Other ideas include maintaining wildflowers or native grasses over your tank and system.

Don't be a drip, keep it hot. Dripping faucets trickle water into the system, which can cause ice to build up and eventually freeze a pipe closed, often right where the septic pipe leaves the home. Fix all leaks and keep the system "energized" with regular doses of warm water during the winter-warmer the better. Spread out your laundry schedule so you run one warm/hot load a day. Use the dishwasher and take hot baths. However, do not leave water running all the time, as this will hydraulically overload the septic system.

There are some things you should never do to try to fix a frozen system:

- Do not introduce antifreeze, salt or a septic system additive into the system.
- Do not pump sewage onto the ground surface.
- Do not start a fire over the system to attempt to thaw it out.
- Do not run water continually to try to thaw the system. This can overload the system.
- Go to the SSTS Practitioner and Homeowner webpage at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/0agxb12> for more information on how your septic system works and how to keep it healthy all year.



EMAIL

One of our goals is to make sure that communication is a priority. A call-out for email addresses have occurred in the past. We can't emphasize the importance of supplying this information to us. It is expensive to mail out post cards, notices or even our newsletters. We will continue to send out our newsletters but in order to keep up with what is happening at Sylvan Shores, email is the most efficient way to accomplish this. Your email address will not be used for anything else except for updates, events and anything deemed important for our community. If you are comfortable sharing your email address, please let the office know.

**SYLVAN SHORES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT
Patrick Fiscus

VICE PRESIDENT
Joan Morphey

SECRETARY
Melissa Hurd

TREASURY
Polly Brown
Carol Kollodge
Phil Miller

**SYLVAN SHORES
COMMITTEES**

ADVISORY/FINANCE
Chair: Polly Brown

ARCHITECTURAL
Chair: Patrick Fiscus

ENTERTAINMENT
Chair: Joan Morphey



**IT IS ILLEGAL TO DISCHARGE
A FIREARM IN SYLVAN SHORES**

Sylvan Shores

Property Owners Association

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Browerville, MN 56438

218-894-1065 • Fax 218-894-3022

e-mail sspoa@mail.com

Website sylvanshores.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	What	Time	Where
December 3, 2016	Board of Director Meeting	2:00 pm	Clubhouse
December 3, 2016	Annual Christmas Party	4:00 pm	Clubhouse
February 25, 2017	Board of Director Meeting	10:00 am	Clubhouse
June 10, 2017	Board of Director Meeting	10:00 am	Clubhouse
July 29, 2017	Board of Director Meeting	10:00 am	Clubhouse
September 2, 2017	Annual Meeting	?	?

Being Environmentally Friendly

We have the option to email you the newsletter in a pdf file. If you are interested in receiving email newsletters please contact the office at 218-894-1065 or email sspoa@mail.com.