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Dec  
2024



Quarterly Newsletter of the Town of Silver Creek

# SILVER CREEK SOURCE

## Making Recycling Easier

### Lake County and Silver Creek Partnership

Lake County Solid Waste Coordinator and Silver Creek resident Colleen Wallin came to a Board Meeting to suggest that one of the county's recycling trailers be placed on Silver Creek Town property. The trailers, that were purchased with grant funding, are part of an effort to increase recycling and reduce waste sent to the landfill. Ongoing measuring will be used to determine if the program is effective. In the first few weeks, the trailer was full in less than the two weeks planned.

### Working out the Details

The Silver Creek Board agreed to the plan but has not yet signed a formal agreement. The Town requested a 90-day trial period to test the program and location. The Town and County ultimately need to agree upon who will pay for any unauthorized dumping of trash. However, it is hoped that those using the trailer will be respectful and that there won't be extra trash to deal with. Board Members are committed to keeping the entire area clean and presentable.

## Local Election Results

### High Turnout and New Registrations

The Election held in the big garage ran smoothly and all eight Election Judges were kept busy with an average of 49 people per hour coming through the door. Everyone was pleasant and polite. 48 voters registered at the Silver Creek polling place on election day and 15 more registered on election day at the Lake County Courthouse. Of 851 Silver Creek persons voting, 639 cast their ballots in-person and the remainder voted early or absentee.

### Presidential Race Results

Silver Creek voters chose Harris (460) over Trump (351) with the remainder choosing other parties or write-ins. Lake County voters overall also chose Harris (3,534) over Trump (3,265).

Welcome to the *SILVER CREEK SOURCE*. This newsletter is also available on [ttosc.org](http://ttosc.org). If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email, send request to [silvercreek@frontiernet.net](mailto:silvercreek@frontiernet.net).



Paul Thompson and Colleen Wallin  
on Opening Day in October

## Opening Day for Recycling

### Thompson and Wallin – Making it Happen

Operations Manager Thompson installed a gravel pad and Wallin delivered the trailer on opening day. The location of the trailer may change over time, but currently it is right next to the Historic Hall just off Highway 3. You can drop things any day or time provided it is not full.

### How Does it Work?

Place your items in the correct bins. Only leave recyclables, do not leave containers. Bins are labeled with the mixed bin accepting cans, number 1 or 2 plastics, pasteboard and mixed paper (including magazines). The same rules apply as at the Recycling Center in Two Harbors. Please take the time to place items into the appropriate bin and ensure that items do not end up on the ground.

# Cannabis is Coming

## Silver Creek Hosts Lake County COW

Lake County Commissioners discussed cannabis retail during their October 15<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole (COW) Meeting held in the Silver Creek Board Room. Silver Creek Supervisors Hull and Voss were present along with Clerk Oftedahl. The County is in the process of defining which zones will allow cannabis retail establishments and which will not. The moratorium currently in effect ends at the end of 2024. The meeting was an informal 'discussion only' meeting, where there were no actual regulations being voted upon. The Lake County commissioners present expressed the desire to limit retail cannabis establishments to the minimum required by Minnesota law. The law does not allow counties to fully ban cannabis establishments altogether, but they can be limited to a minimum of one per every 12,500 residents. If Lake County registers and permits one business, they are not required to register any more than that. In the meeting it was noted that the City of Two Harbors could enact their own ordinances and choose to have more retail locations. And, in the meeting it was stated that Cook County plans to have several. *Disclaimer...* Because the meeting observed was discussion-only and not all commissioners were present, it is possible that the final decisions could be different than stated in this story.

## Registration & Compliance Delegated to Lake County

Silver Creek Supervisors, at the advice of the Minnesota Association of Townships, voted to delegate authority to Lake County for cannabis retail registration and compliance monitoring. This will save time and money for the Township which would otherwise have to train someone to be able to do the on-site compliance checks.

### More Questions?

You can learn more about this subject online where we found information for this story, "Minnesota Regulation of Legalized Cannabis: FAQ" document published by the Public Health Law Center.



## Silver Creek Cemetery

### Removal of Old Trees Continues

The gales of November claimed two more trees at the Cemetery: one by the gate and one over by the skating rink that is pictured on the next page.

### Thank You to Sharon Kleive for Watering New Maples

The new Maple trees in the Cemetery were struggling this fall due to the drought. Resident Sharon Kleive took the initiative and donated several mornings to give these young trees a good watering. Township Employees wish to express our appreciation for the help!

## Post Election Items

### Thank You Election Judges

Judges Phil Sogge, Mary Londborg, Liz Busa, Sara Swanson, John Carr, Jan Brenaman, Michelle Backes-Fogelberg, and Debbie Cooter made the Election happen! They set up booths and tables in the Town garage the day before, picked up and returned ballots from Lake County, and worked a 15-hour day ensuring that Elections were properly run and fairly held and not biased towards any political party. The Clerk's office wishes to extend a large THANK YOU to everyone who helped.

### Garage Clean-Up Duty

Thompson and Larsen spent several days clearing the Town garage of vehicles, equipment and dirt to enable the Election to be held in that space. Luckily there were no winter storms on that day. The garage has been used for presidential election and some mid-terms, with the Board Room used for smaller ones. The Pavilion would provide the same space, but is lacking internet, heat and restroom. Long term, the need for a larger election space may be good for everyone to consider.

### Clarification on Campaign Signs

Several calls were received regarding signs near the polling place and/or in the right of way. Both the County Auditor and the Association of Township Attorney were consulted for direction, and they confirmed that private property owners have the right to post their campaign signs on their property, even in the right of way and even if their property is close to a polling place.



**Blowdown in Silver Creek Cemetery in November Windstorm.**

## Road Report

### Ready – Just in Time

Rain in late November finally provided conditions conducive to grading all Township Roads. Thompson worked several extra days to get roads smooth prior to the freeze up. The timing worked perfectly. The Town’s primary plow truck is ready for winter and has new tires designed for gravel and snow.

### Creative Drought Response

Road grading requires a certain amount of moisture that was lacking in September and October due to the drought conditions. One creative solution attempted involved spraying a truckload of water on the worst of the washboard areas, and then grading just those select areas.

### Road Work Accomplished this Season

Culverts were replaced this year on East Castle Danger, Loop, Red Maple, and Dogwood Road, with two culverts done on West Castle Danger. Graveling was done on Alger Grade, West Castle Danger, Dogwood, and Loop Road.

### Looking Ahead - Gravel

Silver Creek is planning to purchase gravel on Lake County’s bid for material crushing in 2025. The Town plans to purchase approximately 5,000 yards and is anticipating spending around \$35,000. It has been four years since gravel was last purchased.

## Castle Danger Wastewater News

### Lift Station One Improvements Planned

The main Lift Station for the sewer has required a number of pump repairs with ever-increasing frequency in the past few years. The Town is interested in replacing the problem pumps. Engineer Nathan Feist has been tasked with calculating optimal specifications to ensure that new pumps will be up to the increasing workload. Once the specifications are ready, the Town will publish a request for proposal (RFP) in hopes of installing new pumps in spring.

### New Regulations for Campground Dump Stations

The Board passed regulations for campgrounds in the wastewater district. The regulations ensure that waste accepted through dump stations will be measured and metered so as not to overwhelm the system or negatively impact all the other customers on the line. The new Resolution can be viewed in full on the Town’s website under Services - Sewer.

### Septage no longer accepted at Castle Danger Treatment Ponds

To postpone expensive dredging in the future and in response to issues with garbage in the septage, the Board of Supervisors made the tough decision to stop accepting septage from private haulers. Septage is the waste pumped out of private septic systems. The problem in which septage is filled with wipes, applicators and other non-biodegradable items is one that starts with homeowners and unfortunately is extremely bad for treatment systems. The health of the treatment ponds is a top priority for the Board.

## Plowing Tips

### Know the Law...

Many of you know that you cannot plow snow from your driveway onto the roadway, however, did you know that it is also unlawful to plow it across the road to the other side? And, a reminder, mailboxes must be on regulation swing-arm hardware. Contact us for assistance with mailbox supports.

## What to Expect

### Silver Creek’s Plowing Policy

The Town will decide when to begin plowing based upon:

- Snow accumulation of 3 inches or more,
- Drifting that causes problems for travel,
- Icy conditions which seriously affect travel,
- Time of snowfall relative to heavy use.

### Order of Plowing

#### Truck One

1. Alder Road
2. Trillium Road
3. Grimmer Road
4. Press Camp Road
5. Cedar Road
6. Burlington Road
7. Flood Bay Road
8. Aspen Road
9. Loop Road
10. Silver Creek Road
11. Cliff Point Road
12. Big Point Road
13. Valhalla Road

#### Truck Two

1. Town Road
2. West Castle Danger Road
3. Landfill Road
4. East Castle Danger Road
5. Clark Road
6. Dogwood Road
7. Balsam Road
8. East Alger Grade
9. Red Maple Lane
10. 32A parking area only

# Clerk's Corner

## New Posting Board

A new larger board for posting public information has been installed next to the door to the Office and Board Meeting Room. The double-sided legal ballots are so long that a larger posting Board was needed. Silver Creek's Board meeting schedule, information on special meetings or hearings and sample ballots are posted here according to law. And, for those who don't stop by often, you can find the exact same notifications on the town's website (ttosc.org) under Notices & News.

## Welcome Back Katie

Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson suffered an injury to her ankle that required some time out of the office in September and October. We're all very happy she is back as she was sorely missed!



## Mark Your Calendar

### 2025 Board Meeting Schedule

After it is approved in the December meeting, the schedule of 2025 Board Meetings will be posted on the posting board and on the Town's website at ttosc.org. The normal schedule is the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

## Annual Meeting

### Annual Meeting and Township Election March 11, 2025.

Voting 12 noon to 8 p.m. Annual Meeting at 8:15 p.m.  
Both events will be held in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road. One Supervisor and one Treasurer position will be on the ballot.

# SILVER CREEK SOURCE

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