

In this issue

Tractor Purchase	1
Snowmobile Trail Re-Route..	1
Road Report	2
Stewart River Project.....	2
Castle Danger Wastewater...	2
Thank You Mike Hoops	2
Cemetery Updates	3
Thank You Sharon Kleive	3
Regional Airport.....	3
Community Radio.....	3
Stewart River News	3
Historic Hall and Pavilion	4

Sept
2023



Quarterly Newsletter of the Town of Silver Creek

SILVER CREEK SOURCE

Tractor Purchase

Welcome to the *SILVER CREEK SOURCE*. This newsletter is also available on ttosc.org. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email, send request to silvercreek@frontiernet.net.

Mowing Solution Found

The Town has long struggled with keeping all roadsides mowed. Many solutions were tried over the past 30 years including hiring local farmers, leasing large mowers, trading with the County, and more recently a skid steer with brush cutters. The leasing of a very large industrial mower cost \$10,000 for 10 days. Other solutions like the brush cutter off the side of the skid steer were prone to constant breakdowns. Town Operations Manager Reineccius found a used 1993 New Holland tractor with a boom and a flail mower for \$25,000. This machine was previously used on snowmobile trails and has the size and power for the job. The tractor allows for driver safety, good visibility of the terrain and a reasonable speed. The machine is multi-purpose and can also be used as a loader. Currently the Town has requests from Lake County Forestry to lease it later this fall for mowing along forest roads, and it may be leased by nearby Townships for use along other public roads.

Skid Steer Brusher

The skid steer was used for rougher off-road terrain in the ditches, and the front brush cutter purchased last year performed well. West Castle Danger was brushed way back and looks great.



CJ Ramstad/North Shore State Trail Reroute

New Route Near Silver Creek Gravel Pit – View map of Old and New Route on ttosc.org on the News page

DNR Area 2C Supervisor Kevin Johnson has been working with the Township to re-route a portion of the state snowmobile trail after a landowner revoked permission for the trail's current route. The solution developed by the DNR is to widen the Wild Country ATV Trail and run the snowmobiles along it for this section. A small portion runs through the Town's parcel 29-5410-08190 near Silver Creek's Gravel Pit. You can see a color map with the old and new route on Silver Creek's website ttosc.org...on the **Notices and News** page.



Road Report

Welcome Louie Larsen

Louie Larsen was hired in July as a part-time on-call equipment operator. He has been authorized for an average of 40 hours per month to assist with projects or emergencies. He is a retiree from Lake County Highway Department and will be able to assist with snow plowing, hauling, mowing and other work as needed. He knows all the roads and has years of experience driving plows and trucks. We feel lucky to have him join our team.

Reineccius and Thompson attend Safe Excavation Course

Reineccius and Thompson attended an OSHA training class held in Silver Bay where they learned how to prevent worker accidents from occurring while excavating. The Town is looking into grants for the purchase of trench boxes to improve safety at excavation sites.

Electronic Job Board Tested

Chairman Hull designed an electronic job board that can be used for planning, tracking work, messaging, and documenting the service and maintenance of roads and vehicles. The team can access it from cell phone or laptop and best of all, it is free.

Dust Control

Although Chloride has cost about \$1,000 more per truckload this year than last year, conservative application has helped hold costs down. The Town again applied chloride for government partners at Gooseberry Falls State Park and Duluth Township – with reimbursement provided.

Stewart River Project

Efforts Continue

Bollig Engineering has been working with the City of Two Harbors to secure agreements regarding the proposed Stewart River Wastewater collection system. They have met with State Representative Zeleznikar and State Senator Hauschild. Federal funding requests sponsored by Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith were not approved. The project remains stalled at the planning phase due to a lack of funding solutions.



Castle Danger Wastewater News Thank You Mike Hoops!

Operator Hoops Stepping Down after 24 Years

Wastewater Operator Mike Hoops stayed on the job six years beyond his last letter of resignation to mentor new employees and ensure a smooth transition. His leadership has been a gift to the residents of the Sanitary District. His extensive history with the system, as well as his diligence in caring for the treatment ponds daily will truly be missed. He has earned a wastewater-free future and we hope he can enjoy being freed from the 24-hour responsibility that comes with the Operator job.

Town Employees Team with External Operator

Thompson and Reineccius maintain the wastewater treatment ponds, respond to sewer service calls, repair pumps and build new sewer connections; however, neither of them are licensed yet. MPCA regulations require that the wastewater system be run by a *licensed* operator. Until Reineccius' licensure is official, an outsourced operator will provide oversight.

Repairs require Patience and Persistence

After more than a year of struggling with problems, followed by delays in obtaining parts and service, Lift Station 1 is finally fully repaired. Two pumps were rebuilt including removing and reinstalling, and two leaking pipes had to be replaced. The remote alarm system was re-wired to stop the false alarms that were occurring. The backup and redundancy of the two lift stations, each with two pumps, worked as designed during this period.

Trashy to Trendy

Cemetery Water Station Upgrade



Thank you, Jane Wick, for suggesting that we improve the appearance of the four water stations in the Silver Creek Cemetery. With the dry summer, these stations were frequently used. Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson and Supervisor Scott Krech came up with the design for the new look. The posts were painted, with only a few leaks needing repair. Then new post covers, new hooks, and new watering cans were installed. Decals on the watering cans were provided by Jessie Anderson.

Cemetery Right of Interment

Considering Gravestones on Empty Graves

As times have changed, the Cemetery Rules have had to do so as well. While many people think of buying a plot in the cemetery, the Town actually sells a "Right of Interment" which is the right to be buried in a particular space. This means that the land is not sold, it remains the property of the Town. This principle is being used to consider the question of empty graves. As more people request that their ashes be scattered, there are some families finding that they do not have any remains to bury in their plot. A few have asked to place a gravestone monument on an empty grave. The Board is considering this issue and looking at a couple other laws that might impact their decision. First, the Veteran's Administration does not allow Veteran's Stones to be placed on empty graves. And second, unused graves revert to the Township after 40 years. The Board's decision will be covered in the next newsletter.

VOTER Funds

Managed by Lake County

New state funding for Voting, Operations, Technology, and Election Resources has been allocated to Minnesota counties. Lake County received just under \$5,000 of these VOTER funds. Silver Creek's share of this funding amounts to a couple hundred dollars. Because Lake County purchases, maintains, programs, and tests the vote-counting machines, and because the Silver Creek share was so small, the Board has signed these funds over to Lake County.

Thank You Sharon Kleive

Keeping our Cemetery Green and Flowering

Silver Creek resident Sharon Kleive went out of her way to water the Cemetery's flowers and new trees each week during the long droughty summer. We really appreciate her help.

Regional Airport

Board Declines Role in Regional Airport Authority

The Town of Silver Creek was invited to participate in the rebuilding of the Silver Bay Airport as one member of a Regional Authority. The Silver Creek Board declined to do so, upon unanimous vote. Concerns included excessive cost, a lack of control, and constituent opposition.

Seeking Your Support

Two Harbors Community Radio

Chris Belfield attended Silver Creek's July Board Meeting to speak about the expansion of the radio station's broadcast area. They have received authorization to expand in order reach to all areas of Silver Creek and farther up the shore, however now they will need to secure funding. Donations and many volunteers are needed. For more information on how you might get involved, access their website at www.tkwh.org.

Historic Hall and Pavilion News

Ukulele Festival Outgrew Silver Creek Location

The International Ukulele Festival sponsored by the THUGs, was not held at the Silver Creek Pavilion this year. Their popularity resulted in their outgrowing the space and they have moved to the Lake County Fairgrounds.

Keyless Entry and New Door at Pavilion

The front door for the Pavilion had experienced terrible wracking issues due to moisture and then was sticking badly. It finally broke after receiving one boot too many. Reineccius and Thompson have installed a new door that can be easily opened. They also put in a keyless entry that has been very helpful for recurring events such as YOGA. The codes can be changed at any time providing greater security.



Toilet Replaced in Historic Hall

A new toilet was installed to replace the one that was constantly running and wasting water. Previously the water had to be turned off repeatedly.

Dry Spell in Hall Rentals

Despite the same low prices, hall rentals for gatherings have been down this summer. We're not sure why. If you need an affordable venue for your next event, please consider the pavilion, and give us a call.

Thank you to Dutton Foster for editing this Newsletter. Thank you to Katie Anderson for photos.

Road Alert – Bike Race

Heck of the North on Saturday 9/30

The Heck of the North gravel bike race that is held each September will again be taking place in Silver Creek. East Alger Grade and Highway 3 at London Crossing will have bicycle traffic most of the day. More details below.

Parking

Racers and fans will park in the lot on the north side of Alger Grade. The lot on the south side will remain open for ATV trailers. All ATV Trails will remain open during the race.

The Start

700 riders will start in waves heading west on East Alger Grade, crossing Highway 2 and then proceeding west on Briton Pit Road.

New Finish Line

At the end, riders will turn onto the Alger Spur, where they will then head south on the Wild Country ATV trail to finish in the northern parking lot. Racers should all be finished by about 6 p.m.

SILVER CREEK SOURCE

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
1924 TOWN RD
TWO HARBORS, MN 55616