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Dec  
2021



Quarterly Newsletter of the Town of Silver Creek

# SILVER CREEK SOURCE

## Silver Creek's New Website

[www.ttosc.org](http://www.ttosc.org) now LIVE

Silver Creek's old website, a free Google Classic site, did not function after Google forced an upgrade this fall. The old site had a dated look and was not easy to find. Two Harbors web designer firm Breakwall Digital was hired to create a new page with a professional look. Content was provided by Clerk Oftedahl and Deputy Clerk Anderson. The site is hosted on a simple platform that will be easy for the Clerk and Deputy to maintain themselves. We hope you'll love the changes. We've streamlined the text, improved the photos and made sure that answers to frequently asked questions are there. A map of the Township with town-maintained

Welcome to the *SILVER CREEK SOURCE*! If you have ideas or would like to contribute a story, please reach out to Alison Oftedahl, Clerk at [silvercreek@frontiernet.net](mailto:silvercreek@frontiernet.net) or 834-5255.

roads highlighted in yellow has been added. Looking for right-of-way setback distances from township roads? They're on the site. Need to know this year's cemetery rates? They're there. Looking to rent a hall? Rates and Rental agreement can be printed from the site. Meeting handouts will be posted by 2 p.m. on meeting days, eliminating the copying of hundreds of pages. Meeting minutes are uploaded to keep you up to date on Board decisions. Please take a minute to look at the new site and let us know what you think. And, if you have a great picture of Silver Creek that should be on our website, please email it to us.

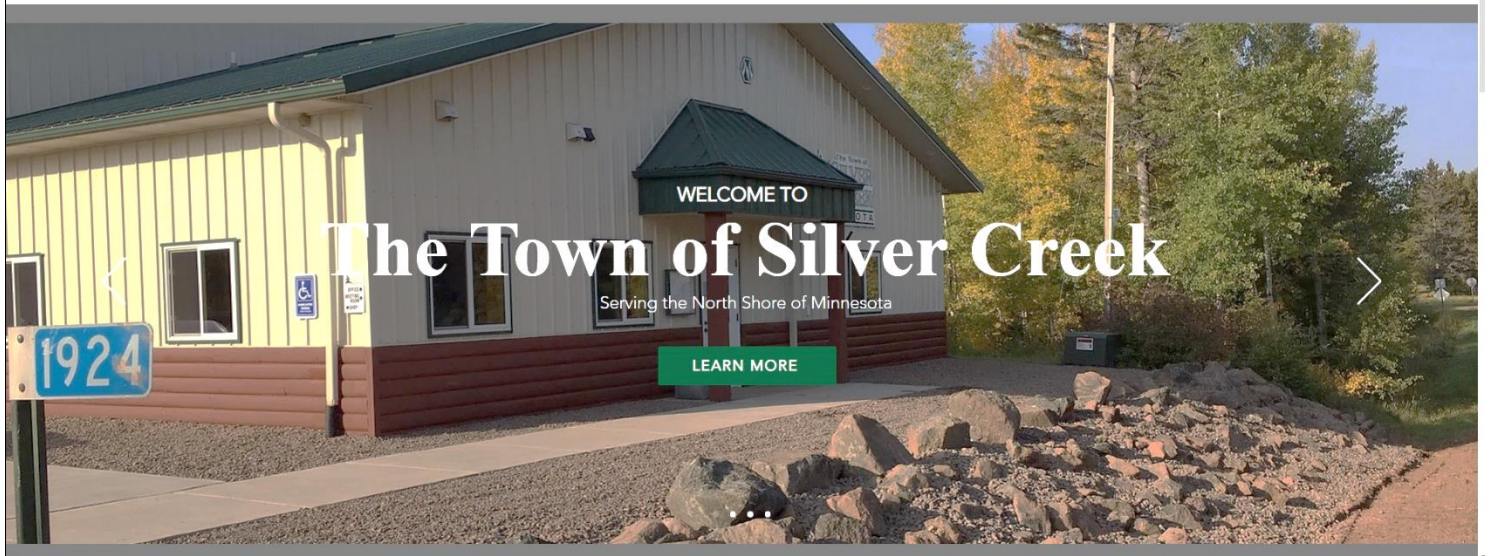
[www.ttosc.org](http://www.ttosc.org)

What does *ttosc* stand for? The Town Of Silver Creek

Join us at our next meeting which will be held November 9th, at 6:30 pm



ELECTED OFFICIALS NOTICES & NEWS TOWN MEETINGS MINUTES SERVICES CONTACT



# ISD 381 School Election Silver Creek Precinct Results

Total Paper Sheets: 216	
ISD 381 Question 1	
Yes	131
No	84
ISD 381 Question 2	
Yes	86
No	129

## Silver Creek In-Person Voters Supported Facilities Repair but not Athletics

As shown in the results tape above, 216 votes were cast at the Silver Creek polling place on November 2, and the majority voted "Yes" on question 1 and a majority voted "No" on question 2. The tape above does not include absentee votes or votes cast by other precincts.

## Thank You Election Judges

Voting at Silver Creek was made possible by the services of Laura Kleive, John Bathke, Jennifer Havlick and Katie Anderson.

## Interested in becoming an Election Judge?

On Lake County's website, the Auditor page has a sign-up form for anyone interested in serving as an election judge in future elections.

# Silver Creek Population

## Census Shows 9% Increase

Silver Creek was notified that the census counted 1,192 permanent residents (nonresident owners are not included). This number is used in the calculation of local government aid among other things. The list below shows population comparisons from the past five years.

- 2020 - 1192
- Prior year numbers below came from the Minnesota State Demographer's Office and are estimates.
- 2019 - 1094
- 2018 - 1088
- 2017 - 1078
- 2016 - 1081

# New Plow and Dump Truck

## April Delivery Anticipated

The new truck ordered last spring has not arrived. Supply chain issues have caused delays. The most recent delivery estimate is for April 2022.

# Snowplowing Policy

## When are roads plowed?

The Town Operations Manager will decide when to begin plowing based upon the following:

- snow accumulation of three inches or more
- drifting of snow that causes problems for travel
- icy conditions which seriously affect travel
- time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of streets.

The Township does not assure a completely bare road. Drivers reminded to exercise caution, **slow down, and drive with care.**

## How long will it take to clear roads?

Snow will be removed in three phases: first making the road passable, then widening and sanding, and finally cleaning up. The discharge shall go onto the adjoining right-of-way areas of the town road. In time of extreme snowfall, town roads will not always immediately be able to be completely cleared of snow.

## In What Order are Town Roads Plowed?

### Truck One

- Alder Road
- Trillium Road
- Grimmer Road
- Press Camp Road
- Cedar Road
- Burlington Road
- Flood Bay Road
- Aspen Road
- Loop Road
- Silver Creek Road
- Cliff Point Road
- Big Point Road
- Valhalla Road

### Truck Two

- Town Road
- West Castle Danger Road
- Clark Road
- Dogwood Road
- Balsam Road
- East Alger Grade
- Red Maple Lane
- Landfill Road
- East Castle Danger Road
- 32A (Minimum Maintenance)

## Lake County provides plowing for these township roads:

- Beaver Dam Road
- Marble Lake Road

# Chip Rock Stockpiled

## Reineccius Upgrades the Town's Ice Control

An inexpensive source of chip rock is enabling Silver Creek to stockpile the material for use with salt sand. The chip rock holds better to the surface to provide more traction and it holds to the road surface for a longer time.

# Silver Creek Cemetery

## A Place to Come Together

The Township Cemetery served as a place for families to come together. Six burials took place this season; the Historic Hall and Pavilion hosted two Memorial services; and six plots were sold. Some residents used their government stimulus money to buy monuments or to reserve plots for the future. *Please remember that you must be a property owner in Silver Creek to purchase a plot.* Funds raised from plot sales pay for seasonal mowing of the Cemetery; and charges for grave opening pay for payroll costs incurred.

# Silver Creek Township Bridges



## Your Silver Creek Facilities

### Small Changes Add Up

From welcoming flower boxes, a convenient new drop box, and new blinds to reduce air conditioning, to the new monitor in the meeting room for better viewing of maps or graphics - small changes add up. We have a customer service window that provides distancing, so you are welcome to stop by the office. However, should you need to drop off paperwork after hours, a new outdoor document size drop box is available for that purpose. It can be found right at the Office door. Expanded hours are available on Thursdays and we hope to have Friday hours in the future.

## Stewart River Project News

### New Local Resident Nathan Feist's Role in the Stewart River Project

We asked Nathan to introduce himself and explain what he is doing for the Stewart River Project. Current work is being paid for by American Rescue Plan Act funds. Here are his replies:

*I am a new resident to Lake County, with plans for our family to move into our new house in December. My wife is a local doctor in Two Harbors. We absolutely love the area and are thoroughly enjoying getting to know all of the locals. It's been a treat to be working with Silver Creek for the past 3 years, with an opportunity to work in my local community.*

*For the Stewart River project, we are currently working on a Preliminary Engineering Report where we identify project needs, evaluate alternatives, and make recommendations for which alternative fits best. This report is a requirement for funding agencies to get involved. My role is to coordinate with the Town, as well as other entities that will have a stake in the project like MnDOT and the DNR. From there I get to work with my team to assemble the narrative, cost estimates, and figures that make up the report.*

### Voss appears before MN House Capital Investment Committee

Chairman Chuck Voss, accompanied by Nathan Feist, gave a ten-minute presentation in front of the Capital Investment Committee to request state funding for the Stewart River Wastewater Project. The presentation was given at UMD while the committee enjoyed a meal in the new football building.

## Bridge Inspections

Lake County is required to regularly inspect all bridges in the County. Inspection reports for bridges across Township Roads are sent to Silver Creek. Specifically, we receive inspection reports for the Alger Grade bridge over the Gooseberry River, the Town Road bridge over the Encampment River, the Clark Road over Encampment and the West Castle Danger over Crow Creek. Our inspector is Silver Creek resident and Lake County Engineer John Schlangen. It is Silver Creek's responsibility to respond to any maintenance or safety issues uncovered by the inspections.

### Response to Inspection

Reineccius and Thompson are in the process of addressing the maintenance issues for the Town Road bridge (shown left). Additional riprap was required and has been applied to the abutments but must still be applied underneath the bridge. That work is planned for this winter. The Alger Grade bridge over the Gooseberry River was repaired earlier this summer as reported in the last newsletter.

## Castle Danger Wastewater

### New Alarm Phone Numbers

If your sewer alarm sounds off, please call the office phone first **218-834-5255**. If there is no answer at the Office, call **218-220-0003**, or **218-220-0045**. If you have old stickers or magnets with other phone numbers, please discard or cross out the old information. New fridge magnets will be sent to all customers.

### New Residential Connection

Silver Creek has received application for a new home being built that will be connecting to the sewer. An old system on the property has been vacant and must be replaced for the new house.

### Wastewater Trailer

Reineccius refurbished an old unwanted trailer for use in hauling frost boxes and blankets to customer locations when winterizing the grinder stations.

### Repairs at the Lift Station 2

A leaking discharge pipe was replaced this fall at Lift Station 2.

# Wildlife Challenges

## Beaver Dams and Culverts

Beaver Dams that block township road culverts unfortunately must be removed. The Town is responsible for the safety of the road and that includes drainage and flood prevention. Generally, the Town will only remove a beaver dam that is blocking the culvert and is located within the road right-of-way. One such dam along the East Alger Grade was removed this fall.

## On the Hunt

An unwanted township resident dug a number of holes such as this one behind the Town Garage this summer and even pulled plastic liners out through the sides of the flower planter boxes. So far, the trap is empty.



Do you know  
what animal  
caused this?

*SILVER CREEK SOURCE*