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Dec
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Quarterly Newsletter of the Town of Silver Creek

SILVER CREEK SOURCE

90th Birthday Party

Welcome to the *SILVER CREEK SOURCE*. This newsletter is also available on ttosc.org. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email, sign up on our website at www.ttosc.org.

for Retired Silver Creek Road Foreman Bruce Hanson



Town Celebration of Hanson's Birthday held in Silver Creek Historic Town Hall

Friends, neighbors, retired Township employees, and even a Lake County Commissioner turned up to celebrate Bruce Hanson's 90th Birthday. Everyone was entertained by the Two Harbors Ukulele Group. Hanson retired from the Township in 1996 after many years of dedicated service. Found in the minutes, "Bruce Hanson was shot at by juveniles while driving a (Silver Creek) tandem on June 4th, 1992. He sustained a small bruise on his elbow and leg. The driver's side window in the truck was blown out." We also learned in the minutes that he had amassed nine weeks of unused vacation by the time he retired. That's dedication!

Four Elections to be held in Silver Creek Next Year

Voting to be held at 1924 Town Road

March 5 – Presidential National Primary – Polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. – Contact Lake County for Absentee materials.

March 12 – Township Election – Polls open from noon to 8 p.m. Contact Silver Creek for Absentee materials.

August 13 – Primary Election – Polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Contact Lake County for Absentee materials.

November 5 – General Election – Polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Contact Lake County for Absentee materials.

Fall Runoff Matches Spring

September Deluge ends the Dry Summer

Fall and spring Encampment River water levels are shown here. We received 5 plus inches in one weekend this September!



Road Report

Alger Grade Culvert Replacement

In spite of rain and mud, the crew managed to replace a culvert on Alger Grade just north of the Gooseberry River near where the power line crosses. To make the area safer, a longer culvert was put in and the road was widened about 4 feet.

West Castle Danger Road Reinforcement

Materials including boulders, pit-run, and gravel were added to shore up the area of West Castle Danger near Crow Creek where the road was slumping.



New Culvert Markers Tested

A simple and cost-effective marker made of re-rod with a yellow or orange cap is being tested for marking culverts that tend to get buried by the snow.

Five Year Warranty for New Truck

An extended service plan was purchased for the new tandem axle dump and plow truck to mitigate any future repair expenses.

Castle Danger Wastewater News

Congratulations to Jody Reineccius on Licensure

Town Operations Manager Reineccius passed the licensure exam and is now a certified Class C licensed Wastewater Operator. He has been working with Eric Appelwick and Advanced Utility Services for the past month and is in the process of finishing new connections, winterizing the system, working on a grease problem in Lift Station One, calibrating pumps and buttoning things up for winter.

Lift Station One Issues

A couple of new issues are impacting Lift Station 1 since the last newsletter. Excess grease has been clogging pumps and requiring manual removal. The source of the grease has been identified and is being addressed. Electrical repairs were done at Thanksgiving to resolve a power issue.

Sentence to Serve Provides Clean Up at Ponds

An annual cleanup of the septage receiving area was completed free of charge by Sentence to Serve labor.

Gas Meter Purchased

A new gas meter will ensure that employees are not exposed to dangerous fumes when working on underground sewer problems.

New Connections

One new residence was fully connected to the wastewater system. Another is ready but the house construction will not be completed this year.

**"Flushable" Items are NOT Flushable

Many personal care items labeled "flushable" are hazardous to wastewater and septic systems. Avoid flushing down anything except toilet tissue and human waste.

Fats, Oils, and Grease Damage the System

As a reminder – do not wash oils or fats down the wastewater system. Clogs will stop the system for everyone.



Which Grave Site is it?

Cemetery Cap Project

Sentence to Serve labor was used to uncover the corner pipe markers in the Cemetery. Then, an unobtrusive PVC cap (pictured above) with an engraved number was placed on the corner pipe of each block to easily identify its number. The numbered caps will greatly speed up the process of reserving plots or opening graves. Only the three quadrants with the most open areas are being marked. One quadrant has been completed and two more will be marked in the spring.

Snow Season Reminders

Do Not Push Driveway Snow onto Roads

Minnesota Statute 160.27 prohibits the plowing, blowing, shoveling, or otherwise placing of snow from sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots onto public roadways. This includes ditches and roadsides.

Reminder – 3 inches to Plow

The Town policy is to plow only after three inches of snow, but the Town Operations Manager has the discretion to decide when to begin plowing. View the full snowplow policy online at www.ttosc.org ...Services...Roads.

Stewart River Project

Update From Bollig Engineering

Bollig reports that they have worked to gain legislative support for the project heading into the legislative session, bringing the new representatives up to speed on where the previous ones left off. In addition to garnering support for the project, they are working on setting the project up to fit into a funding agency or legislature's ability to fund. They hope to have all the groundwork laid out shortly.

Township Offices on Ballot

1 Supervisor and 1 Clerk on Ballot

This year Supervisor Greg Hull and Clerk Alison Oftedahl are up for re-election. To run for office, come to the Town Office during the filing period (Jan 2-16) to file and pay the \$2 filing fee.

Picnic Tables Donated

A Nice Addition to the Pavilion

The donor of these beautiful handmade wooden picnic tables wishes to remain anonymous. Thank you!

Updates to Cemetery Policy

No Gravestones on Empty Graves

Updated cemetery regulations passed by the Board of Supervisors require burial prior to placement of a gravestone. In the case of a shared plot, one of the two individuals must be buried prior to placement of a gravestone. This policy is based upon experience with unique situations. First, on the practical side, it is more difficult to open the grave using the mini excavator when a monument stone is already on top of the grave. Second, placement of a stone does not guarantee that the person is later buried there. Years can go by and sometimes the family decides to do something different from what was planned. Family feuds are also unfortunately possible and have occurred in the past. In addition, there have been cases in which after a stone for a couple was placed, they divorced and abandoned their plan to be buried together. For all of these reasons, it makes sense to place markers only after burial. Appeals can be made to the Board which retains the power to grant exceptions in the case of true hardship.

Clarification on Unused Plots

The last newsletter raised some unintended concerns about older plots. The Town has not repossessed any unused cemetery plots. The story was meant to be informational. There are some Cemetery book reservations dating back to the 1930's in which no one was buried at all. Eventually the Township has the right to re-possess these lots should the space be needed.

Artificial Flowers turn into Litter Confetti

The Cemetery Regulations do not allow plastic or artificial flowers to be placed on graves. This is not a new regulation, but it is one that is being ignored by some. These items get blown and hit by the mower and then turn into confetti littering the entire cemetery. The Town reserves the right to collect any item that is interfering with mowing, causing broken glass, plastic, or litter.

Election Judges Needed

We need you – participate in Democracy!

With 4 elections, it will be important to have enough trained Election Judges. Call 218-834-5255 if you are interested.



A Northern Experience

The portable sauna and plunge pool shown here were brought to the last night of Yoga at the Pavilion. Silver Creek residents Phil and Stacy Nightwine rent this out for those looking to make their event truly unique.

Rentals Build Community

\$3,500 in Revenue from Hall Rentals & Storage this Year

From 90th Birthday parties, to the Lake County Republican Banquet, to Logger Education classes, and sports groups including Yoga, and Fat Bike enthusiasts, the Township Halls bring people together in a unique environment. To learn more about renting a facility, contact the Clerk's Office at 218-834-5255.

Annual Meeting 8:15 p.m. March 12 – Hope to see you there!

Held in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road.

Board Meeting Room Rental

A Great Space for Classes or Workshops

The Board Meeting Room (shown set up for Yoga), is a smaller space than the Pavilion and Historic Hall but has wonderful ambiance and heated floors. It can be rented for classes or workshops and was used this year for Yoga in November and for a Logger Safety Class this spring.



Thank you to Dutton Foster for editing this Newsletter.

SILVER CREEK SOURCE

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