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June  
2020



Quarterly Newsletter of the Town of Silver Creek

# SILVER CREEK SOURCE

## Election Results

### Chris Jaeger Elected Supervisor

Chris Jaeger won the open Supervisor position and Alison Oftedahl was elected to another term of Clerk. Silver Creek residents who came in or voted absentee totaled 102 – a high turnout in comparison to 37 the prior year.



**Jaeger family:** Left to right, front row Kinze, Quinn, Julia, Brody; and left to right back row, Dugan, and Supervisor Chris Jaeger.

## Essential Services

### Keep Calm, Carry On, and Wash Hands

Ten days after holding the second of two elections in the Board Room, the Governor's Stay at Home Order was issued. Despite COVID-19, roads must be kept open and wastewater must be treated. Jody Reineccius and Paul Thompson continued to serve our town during the past two months, fearlessly and without complaint. **THANK YOU, Paul and Jody - we are grateful for your service!** The Board of Supervisors and Clerk's Office also worked to ensure that the Town's business was accomplished, bills to local vendors paid, and constituent concerns addressed. Supervisor Greg Hull directed us to "Keep calm, carry on, and wash hands."

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.

## Annual Meeting Recap

### How can we Increase our Sense of Community?

Residents filled the meeting room March 10<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Meeting. They voted to approve the \$410,000 levy for 2021, the same level of funding approved for 2020. Citizens in attendance were challenged to consider ways to increase the sense of community in Silver Creek. Many ideas flowed out of the discussion. An annual celebration such as Silver Creek Days with food, maybe a tractor parade and other fun activities was proposed. A group Rummage sale was another popular idea. A garden tour was also suggested. Residents discussed utilizing Facebook to increase participation and to publicize events. Unfortunately, with the COVID-19 virus, most of these ideas are on hold for the moment. Thank you to Liz Busa for baking delicious brownies and bars for the Annual Meeting.

## Playground Planned

### Replacing the Chapel with a new Playground

As a reminder, at last year's Annual Meeting, citizens allocated \$25,000 per year for five years to be accumulated for either the tear down or the refurbishment of the historic Town Hall and Chapel. Hard decisions will have to be made. Supervisors have been wrestling with cost versus benefit. This year's focus is on the old Chapel building which has not been used for years, is mold infested, missing a window, and in poor repair. Supervisors are proposing to tear it down and replace it with a small playground for children. Contact your Supervisors if you have feedback. The future destiny of the old Town Hall is not yet determined, but an inspection of the structure done last year revealed that \$175,000 in repairs are needed. Supervisors want to hear from you on this issue. Should it be torn down or is there a future that will result in more rentals and fun events for all?

## Upcoming Road Projects

### Alder Road Turnaround

This summer gravel will be hauled in for the new turnaround at the end of Alder Road, an improvement that has been under consideration for years and is finally being realized. The new turnaround will greatly help with snow plowing.

### Lake County Projects

Lake County reports that they will be doing a chip seal on the blacktop portion of Gun Club Road. The culvert replacement of Silver Creek Tributary where it crosses Highway 3 which was planned for this summer may be postponed.

## Approved Budget & Levy

### Levy held to prior year's level

Residents at the Annual Meeting voted to approve the 2021 budget and levy, shown below.

BUDGET	2021	2020
General	\$77,434	\$77,150
Road & Bridge	\$314,000	\$279,000
Road Enhancement	\$20,000	\$20,000
Building	\$31,750	\$32,500
Fire	\$50,000	\$50,000
Cemetery	\$10,500	\$5,000
General Debt Service	\$56,000	\$56,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$559,684</b>	<b>\$519,650</b>

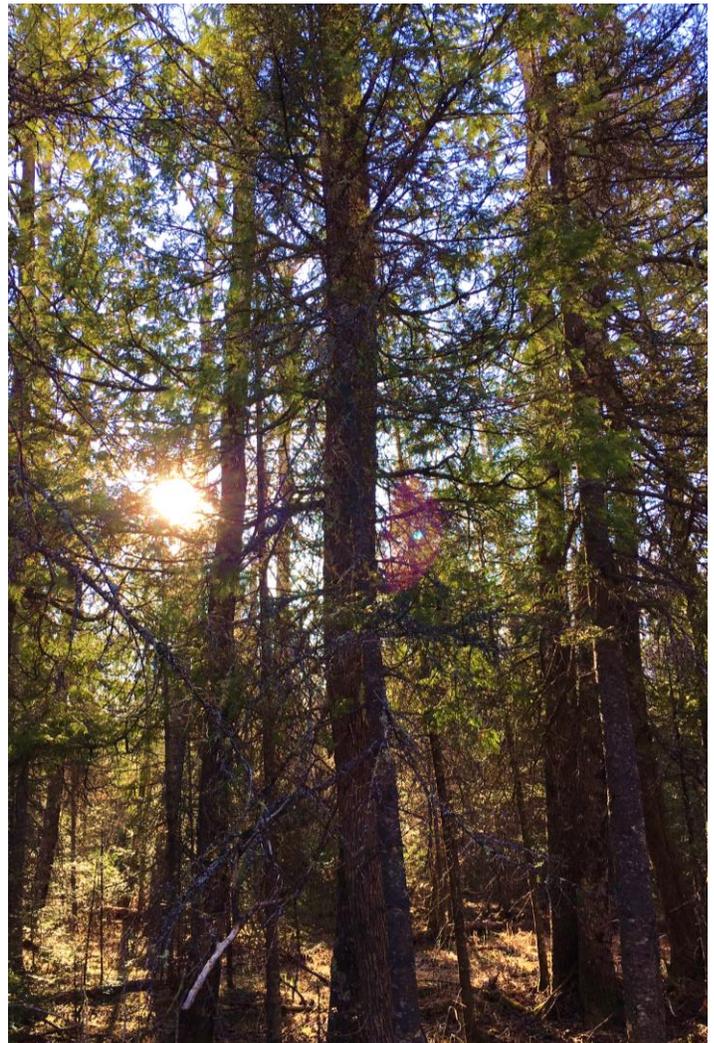
LEVY	2021	2020
General	\$42,500	\$45,000
Road & Bridge	\$206,500	\$205,000
Road Enhancement	\$20,000	\$20,000
Building	\$25,000	\$25,000
Fire	\$55,000	\$55,000
Cemetery	\$2,500	\$1,500
General Debt Service	\$58,500	\$58,500
<b>TOTAL LEVY</b>	<b>\$410,000</b>	<b>\$410,000</b>

Other Income including Taconite and Gas Tax	\$116,150	\$109,200
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$526,150</b>	<b>\$519,200</b>

### CASTLE DANGER WASTEWATER BUDGET

Sewer Enterprise	\$98,100	\$98,100
Sewer Replacement	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$148,100</b>	<b>\$148,100</b>

<b>TOTAL INCOME from USER FEES</b>	<b>\$148,100</b>	<b>\$148,100</b>
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## Into the Woods

### Boost Your Immune System

With everyone focused on maintaining their health, it may come as welcome news that there is actual scientific evidence that walking in the woods boosts the immune system. It is believed that the phytochemicals that trees emit are breathed in by humans and impact our immune systems. A study in Japan that measured "natural killer" or white blood cells before and after walking in the woods found that they are measurably increased, and the positive benefit can last up to a week! According to a June 2018 Forbes.com article "A new meta-analysis in the journal Environmental Research finds that people who spend more time in green spaces have significantly reduced risks for a number of chronic illnesses...Spending more time in green spaces was linked to reduced levels of the stress hormone cortisol, lower heart rate, reduced risk of coronary heart disease, lower blood pressure, lower cholesterol, reduced risk of type II diabetes, reduced all-cause mortality and death from heart disease". So, get out there and take a hike, horseback ride, cut some firewood, ride the wheeler or just sit under a white pine and breathe in the fresh piney smell!! You just may be protecting yourself from the virus.



## *New Roll Up Doors for Pavilion*

### **Thanks to Outgoing Supervisor Moen for this Idea!**

As we say good-bye to outgoing Supervisor Denny Moen, we'd like to thank him for his service and for his accomplishments. The new Pavilion doors, which were Moen's brainchild, ensure that events held in the Pavilion need not be spoiled by rain or wind. They will also make it much easier to close the building in the fall when it is time to use it for winter storage. In addition to this idea, Moen contributed many hours of work on the Map and Directory at the Silver Creek Cemetery, including typing, coordinating design, and researching death records.

## *Stewart River Wastewater Project*

### **Report from Supervisor Chuck Voss**

The COVID-19 Issue consumed the legislative session and legislators did not pass a bonding bill. Hopefully, a negotiated bill that includes our Stewart River Wastewater Project will be passed this summer in special session. Please write to your legislators to encourage them to support the project.

## *Castle Danger Wastewater News*

### **No Rate Increase This Year**

The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to hold the sewer rates to last year's levels. Good management with a focus on holding down costs has resulted in a positive fund balance. This balance made it possible for Supervisors to provide one free month sewer service as a relief measure for hard-hit resorts and restaurants closed due to the pandemic.

## *Mailbox Falling Off?*

### **The Township can help**

If you live on one of the Township roads, you may wish to take advantage of mailbox services. To have the approved swinging mailbox support hardware installed by Town employees is \$75. Are you a do-it-yourselfer? To purchase the approved swinging support hardware (only) is \$50. Contact the office at 218-834-5255 to set up an appointment or purchase the supplies. Please note – mailbox is not included.

## *Thank You Neighbors!*

### **Doug and Melanie Anderson**

A special Thank You to Doug and Melanie Anderson of Castle Danger for picking up 9 bags of trash, as well as steel, tires and a fridge from alongside the West Castle Danger and Bunker Hill Roads. We appreciate your work and the pride you take in our Township.

## *Love for the Cemetery*

### **Thank you to Olson and Hoops**

Gary "Slick" Olson of Clark Road contributes his time, expertise, and hard labor to level the foot stones in the Silver Creek Cemetery. And, Thank You to Mike Hoops for volunteering time to place flags on Veteran's graves. Your efforts have been noticed and appreciated!

## *\*Your\* Cemetery*

### **Reasons to purchase your plot now**

Did you know that Silver Creek Cemetery plots can only be sold to a resident or landowner of Silver Creek township or for a deceased resident? It is very unwelcome news for those who may have grown up here, but no longer live here, to learn that they are not eligible to purchase a plot. The best way to ensure that you and your family can be buried in Silver Creek Cemetery is to purchase a group of plots now while you live here. Then if life circumstances change your address down the road, you'll have the peace of mind that your final resting place is waiting for you.

## *Vince Sando Retiring*

### **He will be missed**

Lake County Veteran's Service Officer Vince Sando stopped by in March and let us know he will be retiring. We will miss him. Thank you, Vince!

### **Interested in Yoga classes at the Pavilion?**

Contact Stacy Nightwine at Cell 218-591-4316  
Email [nightwine218@gmail.com](mailto:nightwine218@gmail.com) or Facebook Lake Effect Yoga Instagram [nightwine218](https://www.instagram.com/nightwine218)

# Sharing the State Trail

## State Trail is Public and Multi-Use

Did you know that the State Trail used for snowmobiles in winter and ATVs in summer is also open to non-motorized travel including hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking most of the year? Called the "State" Trail because it crosses County, State and Federal lands, the C.J. Ramstad North Shore Trail runs through the Township on its way from Duluth to Grand Marais. We asked Silver Creek resident and DNR Officer Dan Thomassen to provide some information to us. Thank you, Dan! While there is a seasonal closure period in April and May to allow the trails to melt and dry out, there is not a closure due to COVID-19. The State Trail should be open by June 1<sup>st</sup> barring any flood events.

Refer to signs at the Trailhead or check the website [www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/closures.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/closures.html) to be sure. ATV and horseback riders are required to purchase a trail pass to use these trails, whereas hikers and mountain bikers are not. **Because these are shared trails, be sure to take care when traveling to avoid hitting or being hit by other users.**

## Grant-in-Aid Trails Mostly not for Summer Use

The Grant-in- Aid trails are public easements crossing private property that in most cases were created for snowmobiling only. It is best to assume that GIA trails are closed in summer unless posted open or indicated open by the local club maintaining the trail in question.

# Upcoming Elections

## The Time to Apply for Absentee is Now!

Normal in-person voting is planned for the August 11<sup>th</sup> Primary and the November 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election. The Legislature did not pass new legislation that would have been necessary to change the election to US Mail. Silver Creek's polling place will be set up with as much distance as possible and likely limit the number of people in the room at a time. These measures will cause significantly longer wait times than in prior elections, with the line outside the building. **If you have underlying health conditions, you are strongly urged to utilize Absentee Voting procedures, and now is the time to apply.**

Absentee voting is a two-part process as you must first apply prior to being able to receive and vote the ballot from home. Do not wait, because there will be a heavy volume of requests to be handled by a small County staff. Now is not too soon to apply. If you have computer access, go to the Secretary of State's website to apply online or print the application to return by mail. If you do not have computer access, call Lake County at 834-8315 to request the application be sent to you. Later on, when your ballot arrives at your home, simply follow instructions, mark your ballot, seal it up, and drop it into the mail.

[www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote)  
**August 11th – Federal Primary Election**  
**November 3rd – General Election**

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
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