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Quarterly Newsletter of the Town of Silver Creek

SILVER CREEK SOURCE

SILVER CREEK SOURCE is published by the Town of Silver Creek and edited by Clerk Alison Oftedahl. Send comments or ideas to silvercreek@frontiernet.net or call 834-5255.

Silver Creek Airport?

Should Silver Creek take on Airport Sponsorship?

50 people showed up on a snowy night November 26th to learn more about possibly sponsoring Silver Bay Airport. The following experts were on hand to present and answer questions: Aviation Consultant Mike Beard, FAA Engineer Jake Martin, MnDOT Aeronautics Director Cassandra Isackson, and IRRRB representative Chris Ismil. **All the presenters stressed their desire to partner with Silver Creek**, their confidence in the viability of the airport and the regional economic benefit that is driven by an airport.

What are the benefits?

To the question of how the Airport would benefit Silver Creek, the main answer is economic. Many other small airports are used by Twin Cities private pilots to fly up for a weekend at their cabin or a resort. While here, they spend money in local businesses. In addition, capital improvement projects such as construction of a new runway will create jobs. Finally, having an airport can lead to companies locating in the area which otherwise would not do so, according to Beard.

How could we afford it?

Most of the financing comes from the FAA and MnDOT, who get their funding from aviation taxes, a regular and dedicated funding source. Runway replacement would be 90% funded by FAA, 5% funded by MnDOT and 5% local share paid for by IRRRB. Day-to-day operations, estimated at \$40,000 per year, could be paid for as follows: \$14,000 in revenue from hangar rentals, \$20,000 reimbursed by MnDOT Aeronautics, and \$6,000 pledged by Lake County. Fuel will be sold once facilities are back in place. MnDOT reimburses 75% of daily operational costs on an ongoing basis.

No decisions have been made.

There will be a public hearing before any decisions are made. Watch the Northshore Journal for scheduling information.



Gravel Bike Racing in Silver Creek



Photo by Tone Coughlin Photography

Racers lined up on the Alger Grade for the start of the 9th Annual Heck of the North Bike Race

On September 26th the ninth annual *Heck of the North* race was run in Lake County. There were three different distances that racers could enter: 100, 50, or 20-mile lengths. Congratulations to locals who successfully completed the 100-mile distance of this race.

Skating Rink

Did you know that Silver Creek provides a skating rink across from the historic Town Hall and that skating is free? The Historic Town Hall can be rented for birthday parties to provide a warm area for refreshments after skating.

Extension Committee

The Lake County Extension Committee is seeking a Board member to represent our area and interests. If you are interested, contact Debbie Alm via email at debbie@debbiealm.com.

Silver Creek Skiing & Snowshoeing Trails

Township Recreation Update

A new section of public recreational trails for skiing, snowshoeing, and fat-tire biking will be created on an 80-acre parcel owned by Silver Creek. This land is located south of the Cedar Road. The new trails will be connected to current trails near the Lake County Fairgrounds. The Two Harbors Recreational Trail Club negotiated an agreement with Silver Creek when they deeded the land to the township several years ago. The north 20 acres are reserved for treatment ponds for the planned Stewart River Wastewater project, should it get funding. The remaining 60 acres are dedicated to recreation. The Recreational Trails Club is designing and creating the trails that will initially be open for winter use only. However, long term, they hope to secure funding for professional trail design and possible summer use. If you are interested in helping with the trails, contact Leon Pitzen at leonpitzen730@gmail.com.

Winter Storage in the Pavilion

Making the most of Township Resources

Because the Pavilion is an unheated and open area, it is not used for events in winter. However, it has been put to a good alternate use: four trailers, three boats, and a motor home will spend the winter in the Silver Creek Pavilion. After running an advertisement in the Northshore Journal, calls were taken in the order received to reserve space. This year storage fees collected totaled \$1,719. These funds will go towards utility and maintenance costs for the Pavilion and the historic Town Hall.

Castle Danger Wastewater System News



Clockwise from upper left, Supervisors Chuck Voss, Dennis Moen, Greg Hull, & Operator Mike Hoops

PFA Loan Paid!

Supervisors Sign Final Check

The \$2.2 million Public Facilities Authority Loan taken out nineteen years ago for the building of the Castle Danger Wastewater System has been paid off one year early. The early payoff will save on interest and release the Township from the requirement of an external audit.

Congratulations to Jody Reineccius

Wastewater Operator Class D

Reineccius has achieved his Wastewater Operator Class D license and is making great progress towards the Class C license needed for full oversight of the Castle Danger Wastewater Treatment plant. Mike Hoops is the current Class C licensed operator of record and is providing training and mentoring.

2020 Election News

Four Elections in Silver Creek Next Year

Mark your calendars, as there will be four elections in 2020! The Presidential Primary is new and is intended to ensure that everyone can participate in a way that was sometimes not possible in the caucus system. The Township will be reimbursed for the expense of conducting this election. The other three elections are the same as prior presidential years. Here are the dates:

- March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary
- March 10, 2020 Township Election
- August 11, 2020 Party Primary
- November 3, 2020 General Election – presidential year.

Who's up for re-election in the Township

One Clerk's position (2-year term) and one Board of Supervisor position (3-year term) will be on the ballot for the township. Denny Moen does not plan to run again for his Supervisor seat, so we're looking for a candidate. Anyone interested in running for these positions should contact the Clerk.

Where do I vote?

Voting in 2020 will be held in the Board Meeting Room located at 1924 Town Road, Two Harbors. If you need additional directions, contact the Clerk. Polling hours and other information will be run in the Northshore Journal closer to the elections.

New Ballot Counting Machines

Lake County has purchased new ballot counting machines for use in 2020. The ballots themselves will continue to be paper to allow for manual recounting if necessary.

Census Matters

You Count!

While it can seem intrusive and time consuming, completing the Census forms has a direct impact on government and representation for you. And, did you know, the census is required by the United States Constitution? A complete census ensures Minnesotans get their fair share of federal funds. If residents do not get counted, the shrink in recorded population could cause Minnesota to lose a US Representative seat and reduce the number of Electoral College votes that determine the presidency, thereby shrinking our voice in Washington. Closer to home, census population and household numbers in Silver Creek are used to determine state funding. If we have a severe undercount, the loss of funding could result in an increase in property taxes for you.

Rent the Historic Town Hall

Since the last newsletter, Silver Creek facilities have hosted a funeral, a Thanksgiving family meal, and the Tractor Club banquet. Call 834-5255 to rent the Hall for your event.

Snowy Roads?

It's that time again...

The Township Roads are plowed by Town of Silver Creek whereas county or state highways in Silver Creek are plowed by the County and/or the state. Snow less than 3 inches will not be plowed, and in some cases, if the snow begins very late in the day, plowing will be done early the next morning. Two plow trucks with two drivers normally work together to clear the roads. The order of roads plowed is based upon traffic volume, importance to the welfare of the community and snow conditions, so the order below can vary. * Note that Beaver Dam Road is plowed for us by Lake County.

One plow will proceed as follows:

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

At the same time, the other plow will proceed as follows:

1. Town Road
2. West Castle Danger Road
3. Clark Road
4. Dogwood Road
5. Balsam Road
6. East Alger Grade
7. Red Maple Lane
8. Landfill Road
9. East Castle Danger Road
10. 32A (this minimum maintenance road is not plowed)

Why can't the Township plow our (private) road?

This question has been repeatedly asked over the years. By law, township resources including plow trucks and township employees can only be used for work that benefits the entire township. And, only designated township roads are maintained by Silver Creek. Gravel, chloride, trucks, and manpower used to maintain the safety of the traveling public add up to one of the largest budget items for the town.

Heating the Town Garage

The heating wires in the cement floor of the Town Garage have been slowly breaking causing the floor to have cold spots. As this was the only source of heat in the garage, it does not keep up in below zero weather. The Board authorized purchase of a new propane shop furnace to keep the building at a workable temperature.