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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](mailto:silvercreek@frontiernet.net) or call 834-5255.



### *Cemetery Improvements Underway*

A number of planned improvements to the Silver Creek Cemetery are in the works. The grounds are receiving spring cleaning and raking, and fresh gravel will be applied to the road through the cemetery. The kiosk that was donated by the Silver Creek Country Club has been in need of a directory. Silver Creek Signworks was asked to create a directory sign, customized to the kiosk, that can be updated annually. And Supervisor Dennis Moen spent many hours with the historic cemetery book verifying names and adding them to an electronic file needed by Silver Creek Signworks. The new Directory should be up by press time. The old flagpole has been straightened, new solar lights have been affixed to it, and flags have been donated to the Township by Lake County Veteran’s Services. Now the flags can be flown daily, whereas before they were raised only for selected holidays. The entry gates have been straightened to remove the sag that had developed. In the future, we hope to see a bench installed. A family interested in donating a Memorial bench is currently researching options. It’s never too soon to plan for the future. Residents interested in purchasing cemetery lots, or holding funeral or memorial services in the historic Town Hall should contact the Clerk.

*Thank you to Vince Sando at Lake County Veteran’s Services for the new flags shown left.*

***Happy Memorial Day!***

# Noxious Weeds

## What you should know

Noxious weeds are regulated by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and are defined as those that are “known to be detrimental to human or animal health, the environment, public roads, crops, livestock or other property.” These prohibited noxious weeds are divided into the “Eradicate” list and the “Control” list. If an “eradicate” weed species is on your property, the MDA or the County Agricultural Inspector can order that the plant be removed. In Lake County, there is only one known species from the “eradicate” list: Meadow Knapweed shown below (*Centaurea x moncktonii*)



Plants on the “Control” list require that efforts be made to reduce population and stop their spread. “Control” list weeds known to be found in Lake County include Common Barberry, Spotted Knapweed, Canada Thistle, Purple Loosestrife, Wild Parsnip, and Common Tansy. In addition, Knotweeds and Buckthorn are two species at the top of Lake County Soil and Water’s list to manage before they gain a foothold here. Buckthorn can look a little like our native Chokecherry or hawthorn, with a greyish black bark. Buckthorn has glossy leaves and black berries, both of which often persist into the winter. Buckthorn threatens forest ecosystems, as it is a shade-tolerant woody invasive species and will outcompete native tree regeneration completely. Knotweeds are another species of high concern because they are terribly difficult to remove and can regenerate from a scrap of live vegetation the size of a quarter. To request help with managing or eradicating invasive plants, contact Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District at 218-834-8513. Free information and assistance with creating an eradication plan is always available and funding exists for control of selected species including Buckthorn, Knotweeds, Wild Parsnip, and “eradicate” species.

*Mackenzie Hogfeldt, Forester for Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District provided this information.*



## Highway 3 to Close for Culvert Replacement

### Traffic to detour via Clark and Alger Grade

In July, the Lake County Highway Department will close Highway 3 in Silver Creek Township for approximately six weeks to replace a deteriorated culvert at the Encampment River. Construction is expected to begin on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, and traffic will be detoured via Clark Rd. and the Alger Grade during this project. This detour adds an estimated ten minutes to a trip. Depending upon the weather, the Highway Department expects to reopen Highway 3 in mid-August. Work on this project must be completed between July 1<sup>st</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup> to minimize the potential for impacts to fish spawning. Residential access to driveways between Clark Rd. and Alger Grade will be maintained during construction.

Lake County thanks residents and visitors for their patience during road construction season and encourages thru traffic to utilize Highway 61 to avoid this temporary detour. This infrastructure investment is supported by state bridge bond funds and county state-aid highway funds. Lake County awarded this \$566,000 construction contract to Ulland Brothers, Inc. at the May 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Commissioners meeting. Questions may be directed to the Lake County Highway Department at 834-8380.

*This press release provided by Lake County.*

**For pictures and more information go to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s website.**

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/weedcontrol/noxiouslist>

**Please report sightings of invasive plants and insects in one of the ways listed below:**

- Call Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District at (218) 834-8513
- Report online at [www.eddmaps.org](http://www.eddmaps.org)
- Email [Mackenzie.hogfeldt@co.lake.mn.us](mailto:Mackenzie.hogfeldt@co.lake.mn.us)

# County Clean Up Day

## Big Success

Lake County's May 4th Recycling Day began with rain and long lines through town and ended with sunshine and mountains of old tires and appliances. Over 1,000 tires were collected as well as numerous truckloads of old electronics. If you missed the event, here are some options: appliances, scrap metal, and construction waste can go to the Landfill. Electronics and hazardous wastes can be brought on Wednesday afternoons to the Household Hazardous Waste Building at the Recycling Center. Old tires must be taken to the Rice Lake Materials Recovery Center.



# Budget & Levy

## Approved for 2020

At the Annual Meeting, Silver Creek residents in attendance approved the budget and levy shown below. During the meeting, constituents debated the fate of the historic Town Hall and Chapel. Some speakers were in favor of tearing down the old buildings while others spoke of the desire to preserve and renovate them. A vote on the levy revealed consensus for raising funds that could pay for either teardown, or renovation. Please send your feedback on and ideas for the fate of Silver Creek's historic buildings.

<b>BUDGET:</b>	<b>2020</b>
General	\$77,150
Road & Bridge	\$279,000
Road Enhancement	\$20,000
Building	\$32,500
Fire	\$50,000
Cemetery	\$5,000
General Debt Service	<u>\$56,000</u>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$519,650</b>

<b>LEVY:</b>	
General	\$45,000
Road & Bridge	\$205,000
Road Enhancement	\$20,000
Building	\$25,000
Fire	\$50,000
Cemetery	\$1,500
General Debt Service	\$58,500
CD Sewer Taxes	\$5,714
<b>TOTAL LEVY</b>	<b>\$410,714</b>

# Annual Meeting Recap

## From the minutes...

At the Silver Creek Annual Meeting held in March, Chairman Hull in his annual report characterized the 2018 as smoother and quieter than the previous year. Accomplishments included a privacy fence built next to the Pavilion constructed using all donated materials, and a land deal to recoup lost assessments for the sewer system. Silver Creek purchased the tax forfeit Gooseberry Village land for \$140,000 and is selling it for \$250,000 to net approximately \$110,000 for final repayment of the Public Facilities Association loan used to build the sewer system. Hull also counted the hiring of Jody Reineccius and Paul Thompson as significant accomplishments and described their work as "more bang for the buck." Hull and others in the meeting complimented them on the condition of township roads.

Ongoing projects discussed in the meeting include the Stewart River project which been stalled since it was removed from last year's state bonding bill. Partnership with the City of Two Harbors or with a wider regional group for development of a large regional wastewater treatment system has been under consideration. A second ongoing project is a transition of zoning and land use administration for the Castle Danger Subordinate Service District over to Lake County. Because environmental and wetlands expertise is needed for the processing of land use applications, Lake County is better staffed to administrate the zoning. Furthermore, Castle Danger's zoning differs very little from Lake County's, so the impact to residents in the service district should be minimal. One hearing for affected residents has been conducted with a second one planned. If you live in the Castle Danger sewer district and have an opinion to share regarding land use administration, please email it to [silvercreek@frontiernet.net](mailto:silvercreek@frontiernet.net) or call the Clerk at 834-5255.



## *Thank you, Mike*

### **Eighteen Years of Dedicated Service**

Outgoing Supervisor Mike Hoops (left) received a plaque of recognition from Chairman Greg Hull (right) at his retirement party in March. While Mike is no longer serving on the Board of Supervisors, he continues to be employed as licensed operator for the Castle Danger Wastewater System during the three-year period required for Reineccius to achieve that license. Mike is generous in sharing his expertise and experience. The fact that it is taking several people to replace him will not surprise those who know him.

## *Mowing Considerations*

### **Balancing Safety with Wildlife Needs**

Roadside maintenance is an important duty of the Township. Mowing along the roads improves safety by creating sightlines. It helps prevent flooding by keeping drainage ditches clear of brush, and it maintains the area used for plowed snow. In recent years, there has been a push to limit the mowing in roadsides in order to protect butterfly, bee, and bird habitat. As a compromise between conflicting needs, the legislature has set the following limitations on mowing done by road or highway departments in statute 160.232. The first eight feet from the road surface can be mowed anytime. The entire road right-of-way can be mowed only during the month of August. After August 31<sup>st</sup>, mowing may not be done except for safety reasons, and if done, cannot shorten the vegetation height below twelve inches. These restrictions apply to our township road crew; but do not apply to homeowners. If you live on a township road, and you have safety concerns due to grass or brush blocking the view when trying to exit your driveway, please give us a call. If you live on a county road such as Highway 3, you would need to call Lake County Highway Department – our township crew is only responsible for maintenance on township roads. -*Information from the Minnesota Association of Townships*