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March  
2019



Quarterly Newsletter of the Town of Silver Creek

# SILVER CREEK SOURCE



## Town Road Bridge Repair

June flooding rains caused the road surface to give way underfoot as Joe Preston was crossing the bridge! In addition to repairing the road surface, metal was added to the abutments underneath to prevent any future erosion. A FEMA Emergency Declaration means that costs have been submitted for reimbursement.

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.

## Supervisors Speak Out

On Township Government by Chairman Greg Hull

*"Democracy is the worst form of government – except for all the rest."*  
-Winston Churchill

If one were to encounter someone who said "I just LOVE Government. I love all it does, and how it all gets done," it would be reasonably assumed that one was talking to an interplanetary alien or an escapee from a lunatic asylum. If it turned out to be an elected official, the latter option would be decided upon. No one claims to love government. Yet when it works well, everyone welcomes the results. *-continued on 4.*

### Taking account with Supervisor Denny Moen

I bring to the Board a background in accounting, management, and banking. I have been able to use these skills as we address the budgeting process and look toward the future. This year I have written an electronic program for the Silver Creek Cemetery which will be printed out and put on display in the kiosk at the cemetery. This will be a great reference for anyone trying to locate the gravesite of a loved one. Although we haven't seen the finished product yet, it is in the printing process at this moment and should be installed and ready for use this spring.

### Farewell from Supervisor Mike Hoops

As I retire after 18 years as Supervisor, I reflect on challenges faced and progress made. Challenges included the Castle Danger Wastewater System, which for a time was a struggle for the Board and a reason for me to be on the Board. Now, the system is working well and producing clean water. For many years the Town had purchased used equipment and kept it running by spending way too many hours on repairs. We implemented a program of buying new equipment as needed. *-continued on 3.*

## Township Election

### Vote for Supervisor and Treasurer

Come to 1924 Town Road, on March 12 between noon and 8:00 p.m. to cast your vote and stay for the Annual meeting.

## Annual Meeting

### Hope to see you March 12 at 8:15 p.m.

Come provide your input on the proposed Budget and Levy.

# New Town Employees

Town Operations and Facilities Manager  
**Jody Reineccius**

Hello, my friends call me “Rhino” -- I live in Silver Bay, am married to Theresa, and have two kids, Nicolas and Natalie. When I’m not chasing my kids to hockey games or other activities, I love to snowmobile, hunt, fish, work in the garage and hang out at my cabin. Previously, I managed John’s Sanitary for twenty years and owned and operated it for five more. I bring diversified experience with mechanics, equipment operations, management, and great problem-solving skills. I am excited for this opportunity to serve the township and encourage anyone to please call with any issues or concerns that arise.

Town Operations Assistant  
**Paul Thompson**

Greetings, I am the newest employee here as of November 26, 2018. I am a lifelong resident of the Silver Bay area where I live with my wife Erin and three daughters Ava, Bella and Josie. I bring twenty-two years of experience operating heavy equipment and commercial vehicles, most recently with Lake County Highway Department. In my spare time I enjoy everything outdoors that this pristine wonderful landscape that we call home can offer. I am very excited about this new opportunity and would like to thank all the residents who passed on words of encouragement and support. We all live here, let’s make it the safest and best it can be.

## Seeking your Support

Editor’s Disclaimer

*All candidates are invited to submit a message. This year only one candidate is running for the open Supervisor position.*

### Running for Supervisor by Candidate Chuck Voss

I am running for the position of Supervisor, representing you on the Silver Creek Township Board. My wife Mary and I have been residents of Silver Creek for 22 years. We have two daughters Rachael and Caitlin. Mary is retired after 38 years of teaching. I’m also retired after working 24 years at Arrowhead Regional Corrections, at NERCC, as a Shift Coordinator Sergeant. Other experience includes Millwright at MinTac, a Project Inspector for Baker Engineering, and a Police Officer in Tampa, Florida. I will work to be fiscally responsible and prudent with the township budget. Our constituents expect and deserve this. We need to continue to work for the Stewart River Wastewater Project. Another focus would be looking into grants for fire protection, which would extend water lines and hydrants. This would provide fire protection and a source of water for residents. I will be open to your concerns and issues. I would appreciate your support and vote on March 12th.



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## Beargrease Cub Run

Hosted by Silver Creek

Twenty young mushers from as far away as St. Paul and Shell Lake, WI braved the January cold to run their dog teams along a two-mile trail that began at the Silver Creek Town Hall. Sawyer Morrow of Duluth won the Cub Run with Taylor DeBoer of Grand Marais in second and Nicole Freking of Isabella in third. Event organizer and Silver Creek resident Liz Busa is the proud grandmother of Nicole. The musher’s meeting and after-race award ceremony were held in the old Town Hall. Cookies and hot chocolate were served. Silver Creek was happy to host this fun event.



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Thank you to *Root River Photography*



# Recycling Message

by Lake County GreenCorps Member  
Rachel Brodeur

This is a story about **waste**... Have you ever wondered what happens to your recycled bottles, cans, paper or glass after it has been tossed in the bin? Typically, after materials are sorted, they are bundled and sold for their "next life" and then brought to the market where the items can be purchased and sold. For more than 25 years, many developed countries, have been sending massive amounts of waste to China instead of recycling it on their own. Recently, however, China has stopped accepting waste from the United States.

Like many stories, there is both bad news and good news to this worldwide change. The bad news is an increase in prices for both garbage and recycling services. The good news is the things you can do to help!

**Stop** using single-use plastics by bringing a reusable grocery bag, packing lunches in reusable Tupperware, or buying a durable water bottle or coffee mug.

**Make** a strict grocery list... 40% of the food in the US is wasted every year.

**Buy** second-hand when possible.

For more information on reducing waste in your daily life call Rachel Brodeur at 218.834.8581.

# Supervisors Solve Sewer Shortfall

## Gooseberry Village Tax Forfeit Land

For over 15 years Silver Creek leadership has struggled with how to recover funds lost when the planned Gooseberry Village Resort never got built. When the property that lies across from Gooseberry Falls State Park went tax forfeit, Silver Creek was out the assessments and monthly service payments and facing a significant shortfall for loan repayment. This year, with help from Lake County leadership and staff, Silver Creek Supervisors Hull, Moen and Hoops were able to convince the State of Minnesota to sell the tax forfeit property to Silver Creek so it could be resold at a higher amount to recoup the funds. A buyer has been lined up and when the transaction is completed the shortfall for the Castle Danger Wastewater System PFA Loan will be erased.

## Hoops Farewell continued

Since 2005 we have purchased two one-ton trucks, a dump truck with plow, wing and sander, an excavator, a wheel loader, and a skid steer. Presently the Town is in very good shape on equipment needs. As I reflect, I see buildings constructed and repaired. A salt-sand storage facility, a cold storage building so equipment is housed year-round, an addition to the shop, providing a comfortable space for the Clerk's Office and a new Board Meeting Room. In addition, the old storage building was converted to a pavilion for public events. The Silver Creek Chapel was acquired by the Town as was the curve land that surrounds the fire pond. The Town's financial position has been improved, with a minimum of six month's operating funds in reserve at all times. We budget for replacement of equipment and to pay loans. It has been rewarding work, but at age 70, it is time to transition. You will still see me at meetings and working as Castle Danger licensed Wastewater Operator. I will be training and mentoring Jody and Paul through the licensing process and providing oversight for the system.

Thanks for trusting me.

Mike Hoops

# Proposed \*draft\* Budget & Levy

As of press time the draft budget and levy for 2020 are under development. There may be slight changes between now and the Annual Meeting in March. Did you know that the residents who attend the Annual Meeting have the right to deny or modify the proposed levy? Come to the meeting to exercise your grass roots democratic rights!

<b>BUDGET:</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
General	\$77,150	\$77,950
Road & Bridge	\$279,000	\$293,500
Road Enhancement	\$20,000	\$20,000
Building	\$7,500	\$16,750
Fire	\$50,000	\$45,000
Cemetery	\$5,000	\$6,000
General Debt Service	\$58,500	\$40,000
Township Sub Total	\$497,150	\$499,200
CD Sewer Debt Service	\$107,500	\$107,500
CD Sewer Enterprise	\$98,100	\$101,600
CD Sewer Replace	\$50,000	\$33,400
Total CD Sewer	\$255,600	\$242,500
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$752,750</b>	<b>\$741,700</b>
<b>LEVY:</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
General	\$45,000	\$45,000
Road & Bridge	\$205,000	\$165,000
Road Enhancement	\$20,000	\$17,500
Building	\$0	\$20,000
Fire	\$50,000	\$25,000
Cemetery	\$1,500	\$1,500
General Debt Service	\$58,500	\$56,000
Township Sub Total	\$380,000	\$330,000
CD Sewer Taxes	\$5,714	\$5,714
<b>TOTAL LEVY</b>	<b>\$385,714</b>	<b>\$335,714</b>

\*Other income not included here

## Hull on Township Government continued

Roads plowed and maintained, reasonable laws and regulations equitably enforced, rights acknowledged and protected – all of these are the result of government doing what it is mandated to do. Former House Speaker Tip O’Neil was fond of saying “all politics is local”. The closer the elected officials are to the people they represent, the better the systems tend to work. Which makes township government the most significant representation most citizens have. You can call a representative in St. Paul and possibly actually talk them. You can call a representative in Washington D.C. and perhaps chat with a staff person.

Township Supervisors, however, are your neighbors, and occasionally at least, friends. Meetings are public and open. Comments are listened to and considered. Not all opinions will be acted upon to the bearer’s satisfaction – but they will be heard.

All of that makes it a bit surprising that so few people pay attention to the activities of the Township. A notice of every meeting is posted on our website (TTOSC.org) and on the bulletin board outside the entrance to the Meeting Room at the Town offices.

There are good things about our governmental system. Township Government is the best example.



Photo by Sherri Kelly

# Thinking of the Future

## Historic Buildings in Need

The Old Town Hall was enjoyed as the host site for the Beargrease Cub Run, the International Ukulele Festival, the Boreal Bliss Yoga Fest, and several family reunions and funerals. Rental fees from these events paid for basic expenses such as utilities and mowing, but the old Town Hall is in need of some fairly major repairs to the roof, foundation, floor, and heating system. There is no hot water in the kitchen, the furnace doesn’t keep up in extremely cold weather, and screens are in rough shape. Town residents are asked to consider the fate of the buildings moving into the future. Should an investment be made? Do you have a new idea for the old Town Hall that would make it a greater asset to our community? The Board of Supervisors would like to hear from constituents on what they see in the future for these buildings and also whether they would like to levy funds for the purpose. Bring your ideas to the March 12 Annual meeting.

### To Rent the Town Hall or Pavilion

Call the Clerk at 834-5255 to reserve a date.

## Election Excitement

### Voter Turnout one of the Highest in the State

The 2018 Elections were held in the Silver Creek Board Meeting Room. New streamlined voting booths and tables enabled a smooth flow of voters. Including absentee voting, the November Midterm election came in at 84% turnout with about 574 voters coming through the door. A big thank you goes to our Silver Creek Election Judges: Sue Hilliard, Val Johnson, Jennifer Havlick, John Bathke, John Carr, Jon Norine, Brenda Melquist, and Joan Reineck. Thank you for your service!

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