

In this issue

Road Report.....	1
Heck of the North Bike Race.....	1
Hosting of Ukulele Carnival.....	2
Repeal of Castle Danger Land Use Ordinance .	2
Bears.....	3
Levy Modification.....	3
Cemetery Changes.....	3
Airport Sponsor.....	4

Sept.
2019



Quarterly Newsletter of the Town of Silver Creek

SILVER CREEK SOURCE

Road Report

State of the Fleet

Facility Manager Reineccius and Assistant Thompson were asked to comment on the vehicles and equipment used to maintain Silver Creek roads. Both said they were generally impressed with the condition of the Silver Creek fleet. When asked which vehicle was most valuable, the 2007 Sterling tandem dump truck was selected. It carries and can level gravel in summer and is fully equipped for plowing and sanding in winter. The other tandem dump truck is almost 30 years old and lacks snowplow and sander. If it could be replaced with a newer model that was outfitted for plowing, it would eliminate plowing with the road grader and ensure a backup plow truck in case one broke down. The grader performed without failure this summer; however, it is old and would benefit from not being used in winter. Mowing with the skid steer has been steady but very slow. The mower/brush cutter attachment for the skid steer was purchased last year to save the cost of renting a large mower each summer. Finally, Reineccius and Thompson include on their wish list a mini-excavator for use in grave openings, culvert, and sewer work.

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.



Highway 3 Encampment River Culvert - DONE

Lake County managed this highway road improvement project with work done by Ulland Brothers. This picture was taken August 4th.

Watch for Bike Racers on the Alger Grade Sept 28th

The Heck of the North Bike Race will start at the snowmobile parking lots on East Alger Grade. Nearby residents should be prepared for delay or detour on the morning of September 28th around 8 a.m. Spectators are welcome. For more info: www.heckofthenorth.com

Summer Road Work Completed

- ☑ Raised driveway approaches along Press Camp Road to better match the raised roadbed.
- ☑ Installed new cross culvert on Trillium Road.
- ☑ Raised roadbed height from end to end on Grimmer Road.
- ☑ Repaired major washout on Loop Road and installed rip rap on culverts.
- ☑ Installed new road signs for township buildings.
- ☑ Removed a problem rock from Alger Grade.
- ☑ Stabilized ditches on Marble Lake Road.
- ☑ Performed routine maintenance on all roads including grading, mowing shoulders and applying dust control.

"If you see us working, please slow down and use caution. Keep us safe while we work to keep you safe," – Jody

"We are a small crew with lots to do, so keep alerting us about potential hazards you see in your travels and please be patient," - Paul

Silver Creek Historic Town Hall and Pavilion host the 9th Annual International Ukulele Carnival



Bursting at the Seams

Every chair owned by the Township, and a bunch of borrowed ones were needed to seat the 231 registered strummers from 12 states and 2 provinces in the Pavilion for the 9th Annual International Ukulele Carnival. At the concert, headliners hailed from Colorado, Tennessee and Minnesota and drew in an additional 130 spectators. According to organizer Dale Moe, the event, is now the largest Ukulele festival in Minnesota. Speaking for the Two Harbors Ukulele Group, Moe noted that more space, tables, chairs and WIFI would be amenities that would allow the festival to continue growing. The event benefits the entire region and was the largest fund raiser of the year for the football team that provided one of the meals. Do you have an event coming up? The Hall may be rented for your family or group event. If you held your event elsewhere, we'd love to hear what amenities would bring your event to the Town of Silver Creek.

Repeal of Castle Danger Land Use Ordinance

Simplifying and Streamlining Services

When the Castle Danger Sewer system was installed almost twenty years ago, the residents of that area (called a Service District) petitioned to have special land use zoning set up for the district. At the time there was a fear that the availability of sewer services would cause development to really take off in that shoreline area and negatively impact the quality of life. The residents came together to create rules including a larger minimum lot size, the prohibition of vacation rental and other regulations that were more restrictive than those of Lake County at that time. Over a period of years, Lake County's ordinances were amended to the same strict lot sizes and setbacks. Because the administration of land use zoning has become very technical with regard to wetlands, and because it was now a duplication of Lake County's zoning, the Board, after years of consideration, decided to work towards repeal. After an Open House with residents last year, and a Public Hearing this August 17th, the Silver Creek Board of Supervisors voted to repeal and vacate the CDSSD Land Use Ordinance at their Regular August meeting. Beginning January 1st, 2020, sewer district residents will apply to Lake County for land use (building) permits, as the rest of the township residents already do. For questions on this topic, feel free to contact the Clerk at 218-834-5255.



Unintentional Recycling

Bears in the Silver Creek Dumpster

The Silver Creek garage dumpster received unexpected guests one evening at about five p.m. This picture shows that failure to have a bar across the lids is a mistake. To avoid having bears hanging around your place, here are some suggestions from the DNR website:

- Never feed bears.
- Use bear-proof trash cans and dumpsters.
- Don't leave pet food outside.

Slight Levy Modification

Annual Meeting reconvened August 20

The Annual Meeting was reconvened for the purpose of finalizing the levy. The levy is the amount that will be collected in property taxes for the Township. This practice of recessing and then reconvening the Annual meeting allows for the levy to be adjusted when unforeseen financial conditions arise after the Annual meeting vote. In this case, the payoff of the Sanitary Sewer's Public Facilities Authority loan means that funds need not be levied for that purpose. Instead, \$5,000 was added to the Fire fund to assist with a multi-year deficit in that fund. Actual numbers are shown below.

2020 Levy:	Final	As of Annual Mtg
General	\$45,000	\$45,000
Road & Bridge	\$205,000	\$205,000
Road Enhancement	\$20,000	\$20,000
Building	\$25,000	\$25,000
Fire	\$55,000	\$50,000
Cemetery	\$1,500	\$1,500
General Debt Service	\$58,500	\$58,500
CD Sewer Taxes	\$0	\$5,714
Total Levy	\$410,000	\$410,714

Care for the Cemetery

Replacing the Perpetual Maintenance Fee

Previous versions of the Cemetery regulations charged families a \$500 Perpetual Maintenance Fee when an above ground family monument was installed. This fee was to be collected at the time of the monument installation. The family monument is only allowed with a group of four or eight lots. This fee is rarely collected today for several reasons. First, fewer individuals are purchasing family groups of lots. And, then sometimes the monument is installed without payment and records don't indicate who is responsible for the payment. And, those purchasing only one or two lots are not paying this fee. This fee is being eliminated, and the price of every lot will be increased to ensure that the ongoing maintenance costs are shared. The plot price of \$100 has not been increased in 17 years. The new price will be set in January. The amended Cemetery Regulations can be viewed on the town website at www.tosc.org.



Color Coded Directory and Flags



The new cemetery directory sign created by Silver Creek Sign Works is shown above. After a few minor adjustments, it is up and looks great. The kiosk has been turned ninety degrees to make it easier to see the quadrants and the sign uses a different color for each quadrant. Thank you to Kathy Thompson of Silver Bay for donating hand sewn flags with matching colors to provide a visual orientation for cemetery visitors. The name index will be updated annually. If you see any names not spelled correctly, please contact the Clerk.

Rule exception made for Veteran's Stones

Because Veteran's stones do not include the name of a spouse, and because more families are requesting to have two cremains interred together in one lot, the Board of Supervisors has responded with an exception for Veterans. When cremated remains of two people will be interred in one lot, and one is a Veteran, two markers will be allowed – the Veteran's stone and a marker for the spouse. For all others, in the case of two cremains interred in one lot, a companion stone listing both names must be used.

Silver Creek asked to Sponsor Airport

Supporters of Silver Bay Airport reach out to Silver Creek Township

Chairman Hull was approached by an interested party and asked to consider whether Silver Creek might become the government sponsor for Silver Bay Airport. Lake County has declined to become the sponsor and the City of Silver Bay is no longer is interested in running it. Pilots and representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration and MNDOT Aeronautics then made their case at Silver Creek's Committee of the Whole meeting on August 13th. The Board voted to consider the matter and followed up with a visit to the Airport. Silver Bay Airport is currently closed to air travel due to maintenance and safety issues; chief among them is the crumbling runway. The Airport is a resource that can be an economic driver, provide medical flight options, and serve as a base for emergency response to larger events such as wildfires. Federal and state grants cover 95% of major improvements and 75% of maintenance. Supervisors are working to obtain accurate financial information so that an informed decision can be made. Nothing has been decided at this point, other than to consider the opportunity. If you have questions or want information on this issue, contact one of the Supervisors, email the Clerk, or attend one of our meetings. Contact information is available on our website. All Committee of the Whole (COW) and Regular meetings are open to the public.