

December 2008



# Sylvan Lake Shoreline

## ★ SANTA'S VISIT ★

Sylvan Lake Boys and Girls...  
Santa will be coming to **BJORKLUND PARK**  
for his annual visit on:

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

**He will arrive at 5:00p.m. SHARP!**



Come visit the Jolly Old Man with your  
Christmas wish list!  
There will be cookies and hot chocolate to enjoy  
around the fire pit.

**\*\*Garden Club is looking for bakers to make their  
favorite cookies to share at this special event!  
Drop off your goodies between 4:45-5:00p.m.\*\***



## 2009 New Year's Eve Progressive Dinner

**Everyone** living here at Sylvan Lake is invited to participate in this year's New Year's Eve Progressive Dinner. We will start at one house at 6:30 for hors d'oeuvres, then progress to Mary and Warren's for the dinner portion, then onto a dessert house where we will celebrate and bring in the new year. If you would like to attend, please call Mary/Warren at 970-9741 by December 15<sup>th</sup> and make your reservation. The cost is one dish to pass and \$20.00 per person to pay for the dinner. We will need two houses, one for hors d'oeuvres and one for dessert. Come and share the fun and a wonderful evening without driving.

## Weight of the Pumpkins:



Winners of  
Guess the Pumpkin "A" weighing in  
at 18 lbs. 2 oz. was Olivia Del  
Pumpkin "B" weighing in at 18 lbs.  
8 oz. was Kaitlin Ford

Winner of the 50/50 Raffle took  
home \$115.00: Joanne Halvorsen

## NEW Sylvan Lake Activity Directors:

At the Garden Club Meeting this fall, Mary Harroun and Marlene Kirby were elected to be the co-activity directors for Sylvan Lake. Mary and Marlene will be organizing any all lake activity that you suggest. If you have an idea, whatever it is, please contact Mary or Marlene and they will organize it. Since all of us like to see each other and do events together, let us know what you would like to do. Be creative.....and let us do the organizing.

## Newsletter News Special thank-you

A special thank you to Genevieve Connor for all the issues of the *Shoreline* that she was the editor. She certainly raised the bar on quality. Gen Connor has passed the responsibilities of the *Sylvan Lake Shoreline* on to me (Donn Hamm) and her great publications are going to be hard to match but I will do my best! Thank you Gen for all your time and sharing your publishing talent!

I will need help to pass along the information for the next issues of the *Sylvan Lake Shoreline*. If you would email me any information or pictures about the past happenings or upcoming events for the Sylvan Lake community it would make for very interesting reading for everyone!

Pictures, pictures, pictures.  
Worth a 1000 words!

Here are some other suggestions:  
Calendar of community activities,  
special events, event pictures, new neighbors, new babies and always Special Thank yous.

Email your news: Please put Sylvan Lake News in the subject line.

dehamm@comcast.net

## Sylvan Lake Book Clubs Meet

The Bookies (Sandy Washburn) and Glola's Book Club (Glola Basler) had a joint get together with everyone on the lake invited who read the book "Lions of Medina". A recent gathering of the combined book clubs met at Warren Young and Mary Harroun's house with the featured guest of Mark Anderson to discuss the book "Lions of Medina". It's about a battle in Vietnam during the Vietnam war. Mark was there and is mentioned many times in the book. Mark shared what it was really like and the neighbors (who all read the book) asked questions. It was really eye opening for everyone.



## Do you Email? Do we have your email addresses

Hi Sylvan Lakers --

We have put together a list of email addresses. The Sylvan Lake Association board would like to use it to send out the *Shoreline* and Garden Club announcements as e-newsletters, as well as occasional notices of interest to the whole community. We will also use it to send invites when the whole community is welcome at a party or event.

If you want to be part of the email list, please send your email address to [SylvanLakers@gmail.com](mailto:SylvanLakers@gmail.com).

Jeanne Peterson

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# Re-cap of the Annual Meeting

On September 23, 2008 35 households met at the Countryside Fire Dept. meeting room to review projects completed and hear suggestions for new projects. For the first time, President Mike Trahan presented a slideshow of social events and those projects.

A new board was elected, and another first: 5 people made it known that they want to be involved. So a real election was held and here's the new board:

Mike Trahan,  
Doug Mackay,  
Steve Magnusen,  
Jeanne Peterson,  
Mark Anderson,  
Kevin Adler,  
Dan Trahan,  
Sam Ford,  
John Hynds, and  
Christy Adler.

Three additional committee people will be helping: Donn Hamm, Jeri Swanson and Warren Young. These three will report to either the President or other board members with their projects.

At the next regular board meeting is where the assignments of board positions happen:

**President:** Mike Trahan

**Lake:** John Hynds

**Treasurer:** Kevin Adler

**Recreation:** Sam Ford

**Vice Pres. & Asst. treas.:**

Jeanne Peterson

**Parks/Special Projects:**

Mark Anderson

**Secretary:** Doug Mackay

**Parks/Easements:**

Steve Magnusen

**Beach:** Dan Trahan

**Garden Club:** Christy Adler

**Shoreline:** Donn Hamm

**Environmental:** Jeri Swanson

Warren Young: Will help where needed

## Committee Reports:

- **Kevin Adler & Jeanne Peterson** reported no dues increase this year, thanks to good planning and good collection of dues.
- **John Hynds** reported that many bass were added this year, at no charge to us, as well as many aquatics plans. We ask that residents do not remove, or move any of the plants as muskrats are enough of a problem. John is happy to help waterfront owners with establishing vegetation on their shorelines.
- He reminded us **NOT TO PARK** on the boat ramp so that emergency vehicles have access at all times as well as Lake County for algae treatments.
- Lake County did a new Bathymetric map of our lake this year at no charge using their new equipment.
- Please use catch and release the bass. *There seems to be a few non-residents catching lots of fish and carrying them away. Please confront those when you see them or alert a board member for help.*
- A solar powered fish feeder has been installed and dispenses pellets twice a day. This was recommended by Lakes Mgt to help the bass population survive. More feeders will be added where residents can maintain them.
- Volleyball & Horseshoes are still going strong, but **Sam Ford** reports that younger teams are needed...(to injure the olders ones ??).
- Volleyball finals hosted an ice cream social this year. Dan Trahan's team came in first place.
- Sam Ford also reported that "spam" is being tacked up on our bulletin boards, so be aware and scold those that you may see. *Spam is defined as non-resident advertisements.*
- **Mark Anderson** oversaw an Eagle Scout Project in Ravinia Park. It replaced a foot bridge with a land bridge. It's much more stable to travel over, and it should still be

there in 50 years. Erosion control is another benefit of a landbridge.

- Mark & crews replaced the basketball court at Bjorklund park and recently got the backstop installed over Octoberfest weekend.
- There is a new charcoal grill at the beach. A coal bucket will be next to it so that YOU can clean it out. (please remember the YOU part). Please don't leave a mess for others. Dan Trahan, John Hynds, Kevin Adler and Peter Graham installed it.
- **Mary Harroun** got volunteers to plant and look after 10 barrels of leafy & flowering vegetation around the beach area and fishing benches near the dam.
- The beach committee added some pier areas and old piers were turned into a sailboat pier.
- A system has been used to reserve the shed/deck area for private events: Put a note up stating when you will be using it. It's that simple and works.
- Nick Tonkery gave a report of a Fremont Township meeting that addressed the possibility of a township wide refuse collector. No decisions have been made, as it would need to be voted on after petitions are signed to get it on a ballot. Other areas have accomplished this with lower rates and most important reduced traffic from heavy trucks. Currently we have two collectors that travel each pick up day for garbage and then for recycled items, in very large trucks.

Thank you to all board members who VOLUNTEER their time. We welcome the new ones and remind everyone that we are VOLUNTEERS...we spend a lot of time planning and implementing projects and improvements. Please thank your neighbors for all the time they donate to make this such a special place to live. Offer to pitch in...every hand makes the jobs easier. No experience necessary, the rewards are great and benefit many.

Jeri Swanson,  
past Secretary, but still volunteering !

## We have lost two of our own

**Rita Ryan**, Uwe Moeller's beloved wife passed away September 14. She lived at Sylvan Lake for fifteen years. Our deepest sympathy to Uwe and family.

**Rene Goldammer**, Patty Hampson's mother passed away in November. Rene lived in Sylvan Lake for 10 years. Our deepest sympathy to Patty and the Hampson family.

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## Railroad sale to CN Will have impact close to Home

The EJ&E railroad sale to Canadian National reportedly may increase freight train traffic by 4 to 5 times. Two of the crossings that will see an increase in car traffic delays are Gilmer Road, just south of Sylvan Lake, and IL Highway 60/83 near Diamond Lake Road.

The proposal would shift CN freight traffic onto the 198-mile EJ&E line, which runs in an arc from Waukegan to Joliet to northwest Indiana. Much of that freight comes from overseas through the railroad's Canadian ports.



## General ice thickness guidelines When is ice safe?

There really is no sure answer. You can't judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, temperature, or whether or not the ice is covered with snow. Strength is based on all these factors -- plus the depth of water under the ice, size of the water body, water chemistry and currents, the distribution of the load on the ice, and local climatic conditions.

As a general rule for new, clear ice only:

- \* 2" or less - STAY OFF
- \* 4" - Ice fishing or other activities on foot

Enjoy the lake this winter, hope for a smooth freeze and BE SAFE!



## Thinking about BUYING OR SELLING real estate?

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# Oktoberfest 2008

***Great weather.....Great neighbors  
306 Brats...120 Hot Dogs...24 lbs. potatoe chips...  
2 barrels beer...4 full pans beans...  
2 full pans sauerkraut...LOTS of baked goods  
Over 50 volunteers...kids games...crafters***

We welcomed for the first time, the Kevin Purcell Band, who Dan Trahan booked for us.

As if that wasn't fun enough, Dan and his friend, Don Anderson treated us to some fine tunes before the band started !

It really does take 1/3 of the neighborhood to organize Oktfest. But as usual there are some who do so much, they must be mentioned:

Prior to the actual event, Mark Anderson is collecting firewood and checking the pile to remove "accidental" building materials that are left there. During the day of the event Mark was also supervising the installation of the basketball backstop and helping a neighbor with their driveway drainage problem AND bringing the generator to the event.

Nick Kirby donates his tent, and organizes the pros to install it. This year, Karen & Jeff Suo were a HUGE help getting the flier out, preparing the beans and sauerkraut.

Deb Kvien donated materials and her time to teach kids about scrapbooking, her business, and they took home a Halloween scrapbook.

Marianne Mortensen painted faces, Kristin Swanson, Jen Crow and Karen Finerty helped with kids games. Risa Weiss and Marie Weitzel helped the kids paint pumpkins as well as serve up a Halloween concoction. This year Garden Club organized the bake sale. They also got to keep the proceeds as the Easter bake sale never happened due to snow.

The DuPonts carted us around the 'hood on the tractor hay ride, the bonfire was given a blessing by the fire dept, and it was lit @ 6:45 to warm up those outside. The much loved Moonwalk returned this year, thanks to Wayne & Scott Hanson's generosity.

Did you notice the port-a-potty, it was sponsored by Poul's Landscaping. They are new neighbors on South Sylvan, The Kjeidbergs. Sam Ford & Kevin

Adler organized the bar and made sure our \$\$ was safe at all times. Because by nature, Sylvan Laker's pitch in on a moments notice, I will not mention anymore names for fear of missing one of those who did pitch in at the last second.

Jeri Swanson, *former Oktfest organizer*  
(you could be next...contact Sam Ford to help)



# Garden Club Holiday Party

## Friday, Dec. 12th



The holidays are coming, it's time to celebrate.  
A party with the ladies of the infamous Sylvan Lake.  
Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share,  
A canned food item and \$10 wrapped gift, if you dare.  
We'll enjoy some beverages and eat yummy treats,  
Visit with our neighbors...this combo can't be beat.  
Plan to join us Friday, the 12th of December,  
Mark your calendar NOW so you remember.

Event: Ladies of the Lake Holiday Party  
Date: Friday, December 12th  
Time: 7:00p.m.  
Place: Mary Pohl's House  
21230 South Sylvan Drive

\*Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share!

\*If you'd like to participate in the exchange, bring a \$10.00 festively wrapped gift. This is optional.

\*Consider bringing canned food items to donate to the Fremont Township food pantry.



Sylvan Lake Cookbooks are still available for \$15.00 and make great gifts.  
Call Christy for details...847.949.4314

Sponsored by the Sylvan Lake Garden Club

## Leaf Burning

*This may be a little late for this year  
but it may be of help next year or  
during spring clean-up.*

Around the lake we have the usual leaf burning in the street. We ask people to clean up the ashes before the next rain washes things into the storm sewers and from there into the lake. Other suggested guidelines are:

- Be courteous and respectful to your neighbors, especially those with breathing problems. Let them know before you burn.
- Do not burn on windy days, or days when the wind blows towards your neighbors.
- Do not burn wet leaves. Smoke from such fires stays closer to the ground and longer in the breathing zone.
- The best time of day to burn is from mid-morning to mid-afternoon. The smoke clears the fastest at this time of day.
- If you can, burn several small fires instead of one large fire. The leaves will burn faster this way, reducing air pollution.
- Always attend, manage and control your fire. Always have a hose or water source nearby.
- Do not burn in ditches, drainage ways or within 25 feet of a body of water.
- Open burning of anything other than yard waste, such as garbage, is not permitted.

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## Newsletter Correction:

In a previous newsletter these two people were mistakenly left out of the thank you portion for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Karen Suo headed up the bar duties and Glen Mortensen headed up the Fire Truck entertainment.  
Thanks Karen & Glen !!