



August, 2009

Sylvan Lake Shoreline

Get the news you need at: www.slia.net

Annual Meeting Announcement

Dear Neighbor,

The Annual Meeting of the Sylvan Lake Improvement Association will be held on Tuesday, September 22nd at 7:00 pm in the large meeting room at the Countryside Fire Department Station (located on Midlothian Road before you reach Route 60/83).

We will address issues which are important to our Sylvan Lake community. The participation of our residents is critical to this process. I hope you can attend. Here is the agenda:

Call to order and welcome

During the year – A short slide show

Approval of 2008 Annual Meeting minutes

Committee Reports:

President's Report -- *Oktoberfest rules*

Parks/Easements: -- *319 Grant Submittal*

Beach

Lake

Recreation

Shoreline

Garden Club

Environmental

Treasurer's Report -- *Proposed 2010 budget*

New Business

Elections to the board – *3 openings with one incumbent running again*



If you are interested in running for the board, please contact me to learn more, mlt99@comcast.net or (847) 949-5589. Nominations will be accepted from the floor and we strongly urge you to offer your name. During the meeting, we'll have a break for refreshments provided by the Garden Club & Rita Rak. See you there!

Sincerely,
Mike Trahan, President SLIA

Upcoming Events

Labor Day Potluck

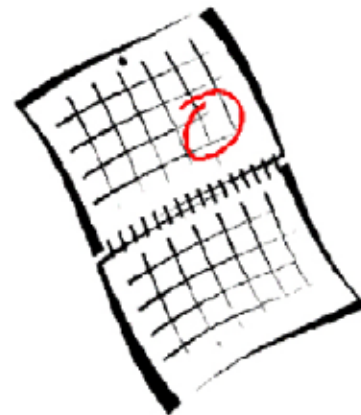
Mon. Sept. 7 @ 4:30 PM- Labor Day Potluck at the beach. Bring a dish to pass, your own drinks, and chairs.

SLIA Annual Meeting

Tues. Sept. 22 @ 7 PM – SLIA Annual Meeting at the Countryside Fire District station on Midlothian Road near Route 60/83. Please attend! Vote on the 319 Grant proposal escrow, hear about the new Oktoberfest rules, and consider volunteering to run for one of the open SLIA board positions.

Oktoberfest!

Sat. Oct. 17 @ afternoon and evening- Oktoberfest! Don't forget to volunteer to help before, after, and/or during.



Board Minutes of the June Meeting

Sylvan Lake Improvement Association

The Board of Directors of the Sylvan Lake Improvement Association (SLIA) met on Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Doug MacKay. The following members of the Board were present: Christy Adler, Kevin Adler, Jeanne Peterson, Sam Ford, Mark Anderson, Dan Trahan, John Hynds, and Doug MacKay.

The first order of business was approval of the minutes of the Tuesday, May 12, 2009 meeting. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved.

The next order of business was for committee leaders to give their reports.

Ladies of the Lake (formerly Garden Club) – Christy Adler stated that the next meeting would be June 16 and would give an update at the next meeting.

Beach – Dan Trahan discussed projects currently on the major project list. All infrastructures needed to add power to the beach shed has been installed and ComEd would be called to hook up power. General discussion ensued. John Hynds discussed plans to upgrade the area around the sailboat pier with sand leftover from clean-up day held May 16, 2009.

Parks/Easements – Mark Anderson discussed major project work on-going for the parks/easements. He informed the Board that the Braulio bid approved at the May 12 meeting did not include underlayment and therefore the revised bid was \$1,400 an additional \$325. This was approved by Board. Mark then opened a discussion about Braulio applying broadleaf to all the parks at a cost of \$475 per year and the treatments would need to be done 3 – 4 years. A general discussion ensued as to safety and any notices needed. The applications were both human and pet friendly and a decision to not post notices was made.

Recreation – Sam Ford discussed the work done at the volleyball courts including the grooming of the volleyball courts at Schwerman park and the poles being straightened. Special note was made of the help received from Peter Graham and Bob Mihel.

Lake – John Hynds reported that he met with the resident who was allowing guests on the lake to fish and gave them a copy of the rules. John mentioned that both Mark and Kevin would host a fish feeder outside

their homes making the total fish feeders at the lake 5. John reported on the results of Carp-O-Rama and the total carp removed was 105 with an average of 2.9 pounds. Approximately \$1,000 worth of raffled gifts were distributed. A general discussion ensued regarding the recent visit from the Conservation Department. John informed the Board that 100 bass were recently placed in the lake as part of his lake restoration plans.

Treasury – The updated budget report was presented by Kevin Adler with no major variances and a forecast of a \$14,000 surplus.

Major Projects – Mark Anderson updated the status of projects on the list under his direction. Mark discussed the work done during Clean-Up day and the need for additional volunteers. Although many things were accomplished during the day, the need for additional help was discussed. Suggestions to improve those coming out to help included adding to annual meeting agenda, calling homes directly prior to the day, and possibly increasing dues to offset the cost of completing projects with outside vendors. Mike Trahan will draft an article on volunteerism.

Other – Mike Trahan discussed the status of the major project list and updated as needed. A general discussion ensued. He then updated the Board that the letter was presented to the realtor of a home for sale where the land was encroaching into the lake. Mike will add to the major project list the recommendation that all easements be surveyed and staked more permanently. There has been no development as to the shoulder work requested by the Board between S. Sylvan and Highland. Sam Ford brought up an issue of beach fires being done this year. It was agreed that outside fire pits are allowed but burning directly on the beach would not be allowed. As a follow-up, conversations have been had with those building fires and no issues were encountered.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2009 at Mike Trahan's house, 21322 S. Sylvan Dr. at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



Reminders, Clarification About Beach Rules

Here's a few reminders about beach rules that we've heard questions about:

- The beach area extends from in the water to the street itself.
- No fires allowed in the sand or grass.
If someone wants to bring a portable fire pit, clean up properly, and remove it when done, that's fine.
- No smoking.
- Vacate the beach by 10 P.M.
Any neighbor seeing people at the beach after 10 P.M. should call the Lake County Sheriff, (847) 377-7020.



Another SIGN (or two) of improvement

New PRIVATE LAKE replacement signs have been put in place at the two entrances to Sylvan Lake, one in from Midlothian and the other from Gilmer. As you can see the old signs have become weathered and were looking a little shabby. What a difference it makes to the image of the whole community when some of the small things are brought up to new condition! First impressions by visitors to our community are lasting, and these look great! Many thanks to Steve Magnusen for this up-grade.



New Bulletting Board at Bjorklund

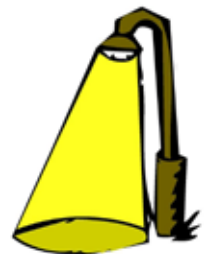
The Bjorklund Park community bulletin board has been replaced with a new board thanks to several volunteers. The old board was taken down and removed by several helping hands. Donn Hamm prefabricated the board in his garage and with the help of Sam Ford transported it over to the replacement location. Mark Anderson was very helpful in showing us how a hand post-hole digger is really ment to worked and then additionally coated the 4 x 4s with a preservative and supplied the crushed stone to back fill the two board legs. Many hands made light work.



From left to right: Steve Magnusen, Donn Hamm, Mark Anderson, and Sam Ford.

New Light in the Old Park

The Bjorklund Park basketball court has a new light thanks to the time and talents of electrician **Jim Bong**. The previous 30-year + light was literally hanging by a wire and needed replacement. Jim removed the old fixture, fabricated a new threaded steel pipe adapter, and obtained and installed a new 250-watt metal halide luminaire on the existing steel pole. Thanks also to the **Derek Hampson family** for continuing to supply the electrical power and on/off control for the light. We now have a much safer and effective light for after-dark court users.



Saving a tree in a little differnt way!

Most of the time when we think about saving a tree we think about keeping in alive, not cutting it down. There are times when trees do need to be cut, but instead of burning or hauling the tree to the landfill, that tree can take on a new life and become life-long treasures in other ways. Paul Stempien saw this opportunity and and has saved these trees in a meaningful way.

The trees came from the lot next door to Paul at 138 North Sylvan when they needed to be taken down by Jim Bishop to build the new house. These white oak trees



were cut into several logs approximately 8 feet long, and some of those were cut in half from end to end at Paul's request for future bench making. Ends of the logs were painted to let the logs dry out more slowly and help prevent cracking. Paul then had Gerry Hamm from G.H. Woodworking come out with his portable sawmill (see pictures) and cut the remaining logs into boards.

Paul has made 3 sitting benches from the logs that were cut in half from end to end. One is in his yard, one he has placed in the triangle between Bittersweet and N. Sylvan as a gift for the rest of us. The third bench, which was left for hikers and walkers to use, was left closer to the road and has, disappointingly, disappeared.

Paul has plans for the remaining oak boards that are drying and curing. One idea is for a boat hull, and if there is any left over I am sure that another plan will come quickly into his focus.

Funding For Storm Water Improvements



On May 29 the SLIA and the Fremont Township Highway Department submitted a "Pre-Proposal" application for IEPA Clean Water Act Section 319 funds for various storm water improvements. Our application requested \$48,900 in grant money out of a total project estimated to cost \$102,900. The estimated cost shares are \$36,025 for Fremont Township Highway and \$17,975 for the SLIA. This SLIA share, however, includes about \$5,100 in volunteer labor expense.

The application was sent to the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) who is administering the program. The proposed improvements are aimed at reducing sediment loading and improving water quality entering the lake.

The proposed improvements include installation of:

- Three underground pre-cast concrete treatment structures on existing storm sewers feeding into the lake at the Beach, at Wildflower Terrace and at Hiawatha Terrace.
- An underground storm sewer leading from the new Wildflower Terrace treatment structure into a submerged outlet in the lake .
- Erosion control "rock riffles" in the drainage ditch running down Hiawatha Terrace.
- Erosion control stone riprap for stream bank stabilization in Maple Park.
- A construction access and bio-swale "rain garden" at Valley View Terrace leading from West Sylvan into Maple Park.

On June 24 an independent Project Review Committee interviewed our team and reviewed the project, along with four other groups in the Indian Creek Watershed who had applied for the same funding. We recently received word that the Review Committee is recommending to IEPA that a grant of \$45,000 be made for our project. Considering that the total amount of grant funds available is only \$67,742, we feel very good about the grant money that has been recommended.

Once a formal grant has been made, we have until December 31, 2010 to spend the money. So, good news for our lake, and look forward to some volunteer help requests, probably early next summer.

The total amount of the project is estimated to be over \$100,000, with almost 50% being 319 funding. The Township and SLIA share includes both hard costs and volunteer labor credits. In this way our out-of-pocket expenses are kept to a minimum. The SLIA Board authorized up to \$10,000 from budgeted and escrow funds for the project this year. It is likely that the work will be spread over two budget years, with all work complete by the end of 2010.

Question of Fertilizer and Herbicide Application

Several people asked why fertilizer & herbicide was applied to the grass at the beach and the adjoining grass along the dam area. There was also the question why there were no sign posted to keep off the grass after the application.....

Here is what was done and why:

- Several people noticed that the weeds were getting out of control in the public areas.
- Board members looked and agreed.
- The Board got several quotes, discussed it at two board meetings, and applied weed control only.
- The broadleaf weed control only, no fertilizer, after feedback that the weed-and-feed combos are not very effective.
- Posted signage was addressed at one of the meetings. The weed control at the concentrations used does not affect humans or pets and is safe immediately, so there was no need for the additional expense of signs (time and money).

If anyone has further questions, feel free to ask a Board member.

Newsletter NEWS Needs Your Help

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 up coming events for the Sylvan Lake community it would make for very interesting reading for everyone!

October 1st Issue News is needed by:

September 22nd, 2009

Pictures welcome!

Send to Donn Hamm at:

dehamm@comcast.net

Please put Shoreline in the subject line.

Shoreline is a Newsletter for the Sylvan Lake Community, Sylvan Lake, Illinois

Steve Magnusen

Community News You Need at: www.slia.net

Garden Club Update

The Ladies of the Lake kicked off the summer season with a "Recession Busting" party in May, hosted at the home of Mary Pohl. Bringing a favorite appetizer or dessert paired with a beverage for all to try, the party was great fun and the dining divine! To round out the evening, the Garden Club provided wine glasses for each participant to decorate. We have some very creative gals living around this lake!

Before we knew it, Fourth of July was around the corner. While the day was met with clouds and drizzle, that didn't stop the Sylvan Lake Community from enjoying the festivities. Many thanks to the Garden Club Board and volunteers for making this event so spectacular:

Rachel Abel.....	Bar
Christy Adler.....	Flyers
Mark Anderson	Posters
Dave Benedeck	Adult Games
Kelly Dickinson	Food purchases
Kathy Ford.....	Parade
Nancy Love.....	Set-Up/Kids Games/Food Storage
Laurie & Doug Mackay	Set-Up
Lucya Mongelluzzo	Infamous Baked Beans
Glenn Mortensen.....	Countryside Fire Truck Visit
Mariann Mortensen.....	Baked Goods
Debbie and Paul Pomazal ...	Bar
Mary and Bill Pohl.....	Set-Up
Tammie Trahan	Kids Games
Rita Rak	Ticket Sales
Dan Washburn.....	Boat Races
Sandy Washburn	Food Storage

In mid-July, our own Kady Slattery hosted swim lessons for our Sylvan Lake kids. While temperatures weren't always cooperative, the kids had a great time with Kady and in the process improved their water skills. Her big smile and encouraging words provided support to all! Thanks Kady!

The Garden Club is currently designing a new Sylvan Lake logo for spiritwear sales which will kick-off later this month! Watch for order forms coming to your mailbox and email soon! T-shirts and sweatshirts will be offered for both children and adults. The holidays are around the corner and these will make excellent gifts!

Garden Club invites all of the "Ladies of the Lake" to the annual hors d'oeuvre party at Laurie MacKay's house on Friday, September 18th at 7:00p.m. Please bring your favorite appetizer to share with all. There will be a short business meeting to include election of officers. If you are interested in joining the Garden Club Board, please contact Christy Adler at 847.949.4314 or cadler18@yahoo.com. With a number of us stepping down from the Board, we are looking for new faces to join!

Volunteerism and Vandalism

One's up and one's down. Unfortunately, it's the wrong one. Volunteers do almost all of what is done at Sylvan



Lake. We all get to enjoy the benefits of our volunteers' efforts, at the beach, at the parks, on the lake, on the playgrounds and easements, and in running the Sylvan Lake Improvement Association for our households.

One day each year, we hold a three-hour Clean-Up Day. It's amazing how much gets accomplished in maintaining our easements, parks, entrances, and the beach during those three hours. But we've noticed a trend of fewer people participating each year for the last several years. Some of us have commitments that make it impractical to attend in any given year. However, it's disheartening to those working to see others in the neighborhood working on their own lawns and not participating.

Please do something to help in our neighborhood both on Clean-Up Day and in small ways throughout the year. There's something to do for everyone regardless of their physical ability.

John Hynds and others maintain the aerator system in our lake. This summer, some individuals have used the floating decoy markers to pull up aerators and drag the hoses away. It takes a lot of time to return, repair or replace this equipment. The rafts at the beach have been overturned or damaged. Sometimes there are out-of-pocket costs. A replacement raft ladder costs \$800. Paul Stempien built two very nice wood benches for easements so walkers can rest and sadly one was stolen.

If you see or learn of anyone involved in vandalism, please let a SLIA board member or the police know. Please make sure that your children or young adults know that vandalism is no joke and causes significant problems. Thanks.