



Sylvan Lake Shoreline

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Shoreline Newsletter to go digital! 'No more home delivery'

Starting with the December issue the delivery of the Sylvan Lake Improvement Association's newsletter 'The Shoreline' will be delivered to you by email or it can read on the Sylvan Lake community website: www.SLIA.net.

This issue, June, and the next issue in August will be the last with home delivery. When the newsletter is published a notification will be put up on the community bulletin boards to let you know that it is available if you choose to go to our website to read it. Those that have or will provide us with your email address will have it sent directly to you. Publication dates are usually the first of March, June, August, October, and December.

If you would like to receive Sylvan Lake email notices and the newsletter please send your name and email address to SylvanLakers@gmail.com

The decision to go to the digital publication has come about for several reasons. The first is that the printing of the Shoreline, which is five times a year, costs approximately \$120.00 an issue or \$600 a year. The second is that the all most all of our community have computers and email availability. Reason three is that many of our community do not have an acceptable location on their mail box for the newsletter to be delivered and the Post Office has indicated that we can not place the newsletter behind the mailbox flag or squeeze it in behind the mailbox. The forth and last reason is that to stop printing paper copies of the newsletter is environmentally sound.

At the last SLIA board meeting it was discussed and decided that due to these reasons it would be a win, win decision for digital publishing and delivery.

There are other advantages to electronic delivery of our newsletter. The first advantage is that when the Shoreline Newsletter is published it will be available to everyone, all at the same time, no more copies blowing around in the yard. The second advantage is that many of the issues have pictures and graphics designed in full color but printed in black and white to keep the cost down. You will now see the news letter in all the colors that it was designed.

Please send your name and email address to SylvanLakers@gmail.com

4th of July Picnic



at Sylvan Lake
Sunday, July 4th, 2010

9:00-10:00 a.m. Softball Game
at Schwerman Park - Co-Ed /
All Ages welcome! Just show
up and play!

10:30a.m. Bike Parade
at Schwerman Park - Bring
your decorated bike, wagon,
or scooter!

11:00a.m.-3:00p.m. Lunch
at the Beach!
Hamburger with Chips
Hot dog with Chips Baked
Beans Cookies/Brownies
Pop / Water /Beer / Wine

12:30p.m. Kids Games
at the Beach

1:30p.m. Paddleboat Races
at the Beach

2:30p.m. Sailboat Races
at the Beach

3:30p.m. Adult Games

Rain Date: Monday, July 5th
**Happily Sponsored by the
Sylvan Lake Garden Club**

Clean-Up Day Re-Cap, May 22

A big THANKYOU goes to all the volunteers who spent part of their Saturday to help keep our parks and easements in shape. There was a lot of shoveling, raking, weeding, hauling, cutting, hammering, sawing, flower planting and just plain elbow grease displayed by a sizeable neighborhood



crew. Among the major accomplishments was new sand in the volleyball courts, tilling the beach sand, setting up the beach piers and rafts, installing new boards on the beach bench, yanking out nasty invasive plants and general landscape cleanup and planting in many areas. **A lot was accomplished.** Also, many thanks to all who take the time to keep the areas near their homes in great shape throughout the year.

The day was just about perfect – not too hot in the morning and sunny and pleasant for the lunchtime cookout, socializing and refreshments that were headed up once again

by Stan and Rita Rak and Jeanne Peterson. A special thank you to all the “Captains” who coordinated work in the various parks. I would like to mention many others who deserve recognition, but we all know who you are. It really is gratifying to see all the help come out.

If you missed the opportunity to work off a few calories, find loose change in the sand, or take out your frustrations with a hammer or saw, let me or someone on the Board know. We can probably find a project for you.

Thank you, Steve Magnunsen



We used not just one but four quality control inspectors who determined that the new beach bench boards met specifications.



Beachmasters MacKay and Trahan reportedly used state of the art GPS technology to exactly position the piers.



Stan and Rita Rak are experts at keeping the workers well fed. It was another great luck on Clean-Up Day!



Bill Grinnell's Highway crew arrived early on Monday to remove and chip all the branches, so the neighborhood really looked in top form very quickly.

Newsletter Info.

Next Newsletter information for
June 1st Issue News is needed by:

July 19th, 2010

Pictures welcome!

Send to Donn Hamm at:

dehamm@comcast.net

Please put Shoreline in the subject line.

**Do we have your addresses
Newsletter is going digital!**

If you want to be part of the email
list, please send your email address to

SylvanLakers@gmail.com.

The Emergency Phone at the Beach

There is a red emergency phone located in the island at Highland and N. Sylvan, across the street from the beach. In case of an emergency, the phone can be used to directly contact the Sheriff's Department 911 call center simply by pressing the call button. The 911 communications equipment will automatically identify the call as coming from Sylvan Lake, however the dispatcher who responds will want you to clearly state the nature of the emergency.



Invasive Plant Species at Sylvan Lake Many Aliens Spotted

Clean Up Day rendered another bumper crop of Garlic Mustard, Dame's Rocket and buckthorn. In the entrance to Ravinia Park, just the entrance, a lot of all three of these were removed. Upon inspection of adjoining properties to Ravinia, much more was seen on private land bordering these public areas.

Please do your part on your own property to stop the spread of these species.

Invasive means that our local balance of nature does not recognize these plants as food sources, so they become abundant. If our local wildlife liked the berries of buckthorn or the deer ate the bark, it wouldn't be a problem.

Chipmunks, rabbits and other little furry creatures do not enjoy eating garlic mustard or Dame's Rocket. When we had a Purple Loosestrife

problem, it took several years to get rid of it and that plant was not out of control, like these 3.

Also, a beetle was introduced from Asia that keeps the loosestrife under control by boring into the shaft of the plant to lay its eggs. Many of the beetles were imported for precious areas like Volo Bog. It took care of the problem there and we must have had some make their way here, because we are nearly 98% free of loosestrife now.

So it's up to us to get rid of buckthorn, garlic mustard and Dame's Rocket. Otherwise, it simply takes over areas.

Why is this a problem? Biodiversity is not possible when the normal food sources are gone due to overcrowding from non-normal food sources.

What if we only had raccoons? No

coyotes or hawks to keep them under control. Only moles/mice. I think they call that Chicago.....

What do these aliens look like? Go to our website and see!

By the way, Dame's Rocket is always mistaken for phlox. Real woodland phlox does not bloom until late summer, and is not as tall, nor variegated in colors. Dame's Rocket is in full force RIGHT NOW....a patch of it will range from white to light pink, then lavender. Garlic Mustard HAD a white flower at the top, but has lost it by now.

Again, visit the website to see how to identify these criminals. Have you heard ??? there is a recipe for Garlic Mustard Pesto ? Hopefully Barbara Erdman will put it in the Shoreline.

Thanks and have an alien free day !
Jeri Swanson

Parking, Litter Control and Smoking at the Beach and Dam

With summer now here and the beach and dam areas being in full use, some important restrictions need to be remembered and followed for the good of everyone:

1. **Vehicle parking on the concrete ramp is not permitted at any time.** This is not a parking space. (Shame on us-the Clean-Up Day dumpster was dropped there by mistake) We must keep the ramp open for Fire Department access in case of an emergency in the water. Fire trucks may also use this ramp to fill their tankers from the lake in addition to the “dry” hydrant located nearby. We hate to install signs but may need to.
2. **No Smoking on the beach includes** that area between the sand and the dam. It is all designated as “Beach” on the directory map, and we may be adding signs on the benches to that effect. Residents enjoying the view from the benches have complained about cigarette butts and other trash left behind.
3. **Please pick up all your litter.**

Section 319 Water Quality Grant Update

The water quality improvements mentioned in previous Shoreline issues that are planned for the beach area, Wildflower Terrace, Maple Park and Hiawatha Terrace, are still proceeding through the State and Federal permit process. We do not expect work to begin until late summer and will keep you posted.

New Street Improvements Being Planned

Bill Grinnell, Fremont Township Highway Commissioner, is in the process of complying with our request to have some new curbs installed in several areas. As of this writing, it looks like Bill is going to be able to schedule the following early this summer:

1. New mountable concrete curb and gutter will be constructed around the island at Highland and N. Sylvan to improve drainage,
2. New concrete curb and gutter will be installed on the north side of N. Sylvan from where they now end at 170 N. Sylvan.
3. The triangular island at Bittersweet and N. Sylvan will also have new mountable curb and gutter around its perimeter, with a new storm water inlet to keep water off the pavement.

Added up it amounts to almost 500 feet of new curb and two storm sewer inlets.

We certainly appreciate Bill Grinnell’s great cooperation and willingness to finance these improvements.

The Ponds of Ravinia Park

I have received comments of concern regarding mosquitoes in Ravinia Park related to the three ponds there. It has always been mine as well as other conservation groups opinions that these types of ponds do not breed additional mosquitoes. *This is why:* mosquitoes breed in very shallow, dark, protected areas of stagnant water. This is why they do not breed in the shallows of the lake. They do however breed freely behind eroded seawalls, birdbaths that are not rinsed, plant container saucers, clogged gutters, boat covers, boat seats, and deeper puddle areas in a dark location.



When mosquito larvae is in a natural area, such as the Ravinia Park pond, toads are their biggest predator. We have lots of toads in Ravinia. Before the ponds were installed, we had broken drain tiles under 6’ tall grasses. Approximately 15 holes were discovered, the perfect place for continual breeding of mosquitos due to shaded and protected areas of stagnant water. Birds are also predators of larvae, when it’s easily seen.

Two of the ponds dry up rather quickly after rainfall, much like rain gardens do. They were designed to hold water and the sediment it drags along, then dry in about 3-6 days.

Mosquitos complete their entire life cycle in 10 days so our best defense is to be vigilant about rinsing out non-natural breeding areas such as eroded seawalls, birdbaths, plant container saucers, clogged gutters, boat covers, boat seats, and deeper puddle areas in dark locations and let the toads and other natural predators of mosquitoes take care of our park lands..

Please, let’s give it a try.
Jeri Swanson

S L Woodworkers Have First Meeting

Sylvan Lake woodworkers met to share their hobby May 12th. A great exchange of the past and present were shared in their hobbie or woodworking.



Linda and Harry Margolius, Paul Stempien and Donn Hamm met and talked about woodworking. Linda teaches stained glass design and her husband Harry grew-up in the jewelry design business. You can see some of their woodworking and mixed media in front of their home on S. Sylvan. I am sure that you all remember that Paul Stempien built the split-log park benches and Donn Hamm has been turning small bowls from Sylvan Lake logs.

It was decided that there would be future meetings to share more interest in woodworking.

We hope that there will be more woodworkers making art, heirlooms, chips and sawdust that can join us at the next meeting (to be announced.)

Sylvan Lake Website

www.slia.net

Sylvan Lake has a website that provides up to date information on events and activity around the lake. You can also download the latest Shoreline, participate on a message board, and learn about its history. To access secure sections of the site, fill out the online form from the home page and the login information will be emailed to you.

The Common Snapping Turtle Is at Home in Sylvan Lake

This snapping turtle, over 12 inches long, was recently seen out of the water here at Sylvan Lake possibly going to lay eggs

The **common snapping turtle's** natural range extends from southeastern Canada south, west to the Rocky Mountains (and beyond, where introduced). The Snapping Turtle is the largest freshwater turtle in the western United States.



Common snappers are noted for their belligerent, vicious dispositions, and readily snap at nearby objects. However, when encountered in the water, they usually slip quietly away from any disturbance. These turtles have lived for up to 47 years in captivity, while the lifespan of wild individuals is estimated to be around 30 years

The Common Snapping Turtle is not an ideal pet. Its neck is very flexible, and the turtle can bite its handler even if picked up by the sides of its shell. The turtle can amputate a finger with its powerful jaws. It will make a hissing sound when it is threatened or encountered.

Lifting the turtle with the hands is difficult and dangerous. Snappers may stretch their necks halfway back across their own carapace to bite. Also, their claws are sharp and capable of inflicting significant lacerations. Manual lifting (which should be done only if no other options are available) is best accomplished by scooping and lifting the turtle just off the ground with a shovel (especially a snow shovel), if done quickly, may be safest and easiest for all concerned parties.

CSI Sylvan Lake

This photo was taken by Gen Connor of something she found in the lake. At first she thought that it was a rock but with further cleaning has determined that it is a cow's skull.

Gen believes that it may have been buried there since before 1923 when the lake was filled in.



Summer Recreation in Sylvan Lake!

Volleyball League

Where: Schwerman Park and Bjorklund Park

When: Tuesdays starting June 15th

How Much: \$5.00 Resident / \$10.00 Non-Resident

Contact: Sam Ford at (847) 566-4325 with any questions.

Captains will submit roster and funds for entire team prior to first game



Horseshoe League

Where: Point Comfort Park

When: Thursdays starting June 17th

How Much: \$5.00 Resident / \$10.00 Non-Resident

*League participants will not have to
pay entry into Labor Day Tournament*

Contact: Sam Ford at (847) 566-4325 to enter your team.



Winners will receive: Respect, Accolades ... and a Shirt.

Sylvan Lake Garden Club invites you to...

Ladies Night Out

Return of the Goodwill Fashion Show

Saturday, June 5th, 6:30pm

Mark you calendar, save the date:

See the latest trends from our nearest
haute couture boutique, Goodwill.

Observe bold colors and daring combinations.

Be Fashion Forward as well as Wallet-Savvy.

With your tags still attached, your Goodwill ensemble (or single item) may win in several style categories.

Date: Saturday, June 5

Time: 6:30PM

Place: Kathy Schwerman's House of Fashion
21290 S. Sylvan Drive

Please bring an appetizer.

