

October, 2019



Sylvan Lake Shoreline

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Publishing Dates: April • June • August • October • December

Volunteering is what makes Sylvan Lake a “Community”

Our thanks and appreciation for the volunteers that helped on our Fall Clean-up Day that included clearing and or removing invasive plants, trimming, raking and beautifying our community grounds. Also included in Clean-up Day was the fall removal and storage of piers as well as pulling in and beaching the two rafts. It took many hands and a great effort, but all is now stored away for the winter. A special thanks to the volunteers who needed to jump into the lake to pull up the heavy anchors attached to the rafts. They may be our last swimmers of the year!



Community News You Need at: www.slja.net

State of the Lake

By Gary Goldblatt. SLIA President

Greetings fellow Sylvan Lakers!
Fall is such a beautiful time of the year at Sylvan Lake. Trees are turning and weather is still good enough for boating and other outdoor activities around the Lake, and of course, Oktoberfest. Enjoy the Fall Y'all.

Annual Meeting update:

* **The Dam project** is still a Fremont priority focus, although, there have been some delays due to some recent re-engineering. The project has not gone out to bid. We will keep all posted as this project continues.

* **One Hauler Garbage collection-**

The requirements have been submitted to local Garbage haulers. The bidding process is underway and should a bid be accepted, we should expect one hauler service to begin around April 2020. Leaf pick up will not be an option. A shout out thanks to Nick Tonkery for sharing information on this as he has been a great advocate for Sylvan Lake during this process.

* **Gilmer Road expansion project** pushed out to 2022

* **Revised SLIA budget** submitted via e-blast

* **All watercraft stored at Easement Piers** A Member motioned and member Quorum voted in the following proposal ... "All watercraft stored at Easement Piers must be stored on the left side of the pier as you face the water, leaving the right side free for day parking of other watercraft." Details to be worked out by the board. This regulation will be in force with the 2020 Boat storage season (April 15th)

SLIA current YTD.

Financial highlights:

Balance sheet:

Total Liabilities and Assets This Year \$178.1 vs Last Year \$161.0
Accounts Receivable: TY \$5.5
VS LY \$3.3

Profit and Loss:

Year to Date: \$27.3 vs Last Year (\$15.6)
(trending better than budget)
Expenses: Year to Date \$59.8 vs Last Year \$55.9
Legal and professional fees Year to Date: \$6.4 vs Last Year \$8.6
(Reimbursable This Year: \$2.9
Last Year: \$1.3)
*We are in good shape to keep making improvements

Volunteer Impact on Expenses:

Thank you Volunteers!!!! It is estimated that Sylvan Lake volunteers throughout the year contribute about 350 hours. That equates to some \$3,500.00 in potential savings, compared to hiring out the work for the same things. "Improvement" is our Association's middle name!

SLIA Web site:

Check out the SLIA Website. It is up and running, and will continue to be a useful tool for all things Sylvan Lake.

Website name : **slia.net** The only place that requires a password is the Sylvan Lake Phone Directory under the Association > Contacts Section. If you don't have the password, send an email message to Sylvanlakers@gmail.com and request it.

Your 2019/20 SLIA board:

President: Gary Goldblatt

Vice President: Jeanne Peterson

Treasurer: Ed Meltzer

Secretary:

Parks & Easements: Jeri Swanson

Lake: Tom Truffer

Beach: Cliff Gartner (re-elected)

Special Projects:

Brian Wawrzyniak (re-elected)

Recreation: Dave Kruse

***Dan Trahan** was elected to the board to fill the 9th position

I encourage everyone to attend the monthly Board meetings. They are held on the third Wednesday of every month except December. 7:30pm-9pm at the Countryside Fire station on Midlothian Rd. This is where great ideas and suggestions can be shared and acted upon. Don't make the annual meeting your only meeting for participation. In the interim and always, please feel free to reach out to any of the Board members if you have questions, comments, suggestions and the like.

See something,
Say something,
Do something!

Until the next time...
Happy Sylvan Lake-ing all!!!

LIFE
IS BETTER
AT THE LAKE 

ECO-CORNER #11

Glyphosate. Say it slowly, GLY-FOE-SAYT.
Glyphosate. A/K/A/ **Roundup.**

Glyphosate is the active chemical making the consumer herbicide product *Roundup* so successful (i.e. potent). This weed killin' chemical has been widely used in agriculture in the U.S. since the early 1970s, which means many people reading this article right now have been exposed to glyphosate through eating foods/food ingredients grown in areas sprayed with the chemical over the years. Perhaps some of us take advantage of the sales at local garden centers and currently use *Roundup* around our Sylvan Lake yards (... I can see a few hands raised ...). Others have contracts with lawn services that apply this chemical to planting areas in yards as a means to control weeds (... a few more hands went up ...). And many homeowners are satisfied with their choice to use this product (... lots of arms and hands flapping and waving ...).

No judging here - just eco-awareness information.

There have been recent lawsuits in the news leveling accusations and serious concerns about the toxicity of glyphosate and linking extensive human exposure to this chemical (and possible lack of professional training in proper application methods and amounts) with serious negative health effects. We may not have much power right now to change the way large-scale entities use chemicals to control weeds, but what we *can* do as homeowners is be aware of the health and safety concerns popping up about using this chemical product specifically and using herbicides in general around our yards. We do have *purchase-power* which we can flex when choosing to spend \$\$\$ on chemical products or tools to control weeds creeping and annoying us in our planting beds and veggie gardens.

Please read labels carefully and apply minimally.

Whatever products are applied in one yard have the potential to affect a much wider area and audience: other homeowners, children, and their yards; pollinators of all kinds; and our beloved pets too! Pets may also be at risk for health issues if they are exposed (eye, nose, and feet!) at ground level to areas where chemicals are used. Oh! And did I mention Sylvan Lake? While many products scattered and sprayed in our yards eventually dissipate into the ground and/or air, some chemicals can be washed away in a sudden rainstorm, and the storm sewers transport these chemicals into easements, and yes, down to the lake. Uh oh.

Again, please read labels carefully and apply minimally. Eco-awareness doesn't cost a thing, and it is a good neighbor investment in a healthier Sylvan Lake environment.

<http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/glyphogen.html>

<https://www.fda.gov/food/pesticides/questions-and-answers-glyphosate>

<https://www.harvestpublicmedia.org/post/use-controversial-weed-killer-glyphosate-skyrockets-midwest-fields>

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/09/common-weed-killer-believed-harmless-animals-may-be-harming-bees-worldwide>



No Leaf Burning On the Street

Lake County Regulations



Unincorporated Lake County- Burning of leaves and small branches is permitted during daylight hours. Open Burning must be 25' from any structure and 50' from schools & roads. **Absolutely no burning on roads.** The burning of landscape waste must be generated on the property. Maximum size of any burn pile is 5' in diameter and 3' high.

*** You MUST follow the Do's and Don'ts in ALL areas ***

Do's and Don'ts

- *Burning must take place during the day light hours only.* Best time of the day to burn is the mid-morning to mid-afternoon as smoke should disperse quicker.
- *Open burning must be attended by an adult at all times.*
- *A water source of some sort must be provided.* (hose or a fire extinguisher)
- *Open burning must be 25' from any structures.*
- *Maximum size of any burn pile is 5' in diameter and 3' high.*
- *Materials being burned are limited to landscape waste generated on the property of the burn site.*
- *Burning trash or construction debris is strictly prohibited.*
- *DO NOT use gasoline as a fire starter. It is explosively dangerous!*
- *Wind velocity must exceed 5 MPH and must not exceed 15 MPH.*
- *Smoke from open burning shall not obstruct visibility on roadways, etc.*
- *Fire or smoke must not create a hazard or nuisance situation. Be courteous and respectful to your neighbors especially those with breathing problems.*
- *Dispose of ashes, don't let them wash into the lake.*

Sylvan Lake Recreation!

CARP O RAMA

Sporadic rain showers couldn't keep the Carp O Rama faithful away.

Congratulations to our 2019 winners:

Dan & Dylan Trahan -
Largest Carp 12.45lbs

John Rollinger & Chris
Molsen won most caught
with 14 & 13
respectively



Dan and Dylan Trahan

VOLLEYBALL

SLIA Volleyball wrapped up an 8-week season with an all-day tournament Saturday August 10.

Congratulations to Team Graham for winning...again & all of our 2019 Captains for organizing teams:

Team Graham:

Pete Graham,
Dave Benedeck,
Ben Ford,
Dan Kjeldbjerg,
Anibal De La Cruz,
Kim Del Bene &
Dan Trahan



Sylvan Lake Celebrates Fall *Octoberfest 2019!*



A river ran through it but at sunset it was beautiful and the community rallied, laughed, danced and had fun!



With the help of many of our community volunteers, Sylvan Lake celebrated Oktoberfest.

Although the afternoon saw significant rain, the grass was soggy and there was a small river running through the activity tent, the food, treats, beer and community fellowship and talented band still made the event wonderful. Thanks to all volunteers!



Parks and Easement News

The creation of the Eco-Chics as they call themselves, has been very beneficial to Sylvan Lake's Parks & Easements.

We managed to get the Maple Park Shoreline project seeded after the bizarre polar vortex and record-breaking rains this Spring. With the remaining seed and donated native seed, we made seed balls and dispersed them mainly in the edging along the lake [since these species are meant for being in water.] If needed, we can install some plant plugs next Spring.

The Eco-Chics meet only a few times per year, mainly to do on the ground maintenance of our natural areas, plantings, seed collection and brainstorm about issues. Anyone is welcome, it is not real heavy work. If you want to volunteer for an hour or 4 hours, its flexible. All that is required is the desire to make our public areas as eco-friendly as possible with a focus on better water quality. By upland planting, rain and run off is filtered, capturing pollutants. We aim to use only native plants in the process. With this in mind, we decided to halt herbiciding in the major natural areas as well as the play areas.

This will mean more hand pulling of invasive plants like ragweed, buckthorn, dame's rocket, garlic mustard.

The fenceline along North Sylvan has been worked on a lot in the past 2-3 years. We have many more native species there now instead of ragweed, thistle, and giant dandelions.

Since the larger natural areas are in very good shape now, we are planning to burn Maple Park and Ravinia Park in the spring. Burning

destroys non-native seed and emergent invasives, but the native seeds survive and can fill in where invasives once took up space. Native species always have deeper root systems than non, and keep our soil in place.

Ravinia Park (circled on the map below) has received way more run-off than what was estimated when it was re-habbed 12 years ago due to 3 subdivisions being built off Gilmer road. The actual engineering for this was done 4-5 years prior to the completion of the project. We receive the run off that once was held by farmland and a tree nursery. Now there are roads, driveways: impervious surfaces instead of earth that could absorb rain/snow. The mouth of the bay is severely eroded and will require quite a bit of rip rap to be brought in, after the mouth is widened. We hope to accomplish this during the winter. Several willows will need to be removed along the creekbed as their root systems are problems for the creek.

A shoreline stabilization meeting will be held in February with ILM, the contractor we used for the Maple Park Shoreline project. They will speak to those in attendance about options for restoring shorelines. Start now thinking about what you can do to prevent erosion on your shoreline, and bring your questions to this meeting.

Some residents have asked about our playground equipment. As a neighborhood we need feedback.

Please consider attending a future meeting so we have lots of input. Perhaps we can budget for this in 2021.

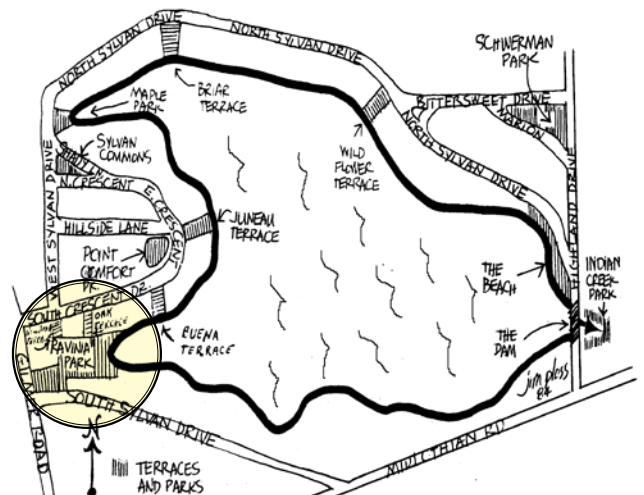
Just after the Annual Meeting, Sandy Washburn purchased a special tool for removing buckthorn/brush. She and husband Dan have tested it and it works great ! Thank You Dan & Sandy for thinking forward, can't wait to witness this miracle product !

For those who may not know why this is a problem: buckthorn is from Europe and was brought here by our ancestors as a hedgerow plant to create fence lines and enclose farm animals. It is considered an "alien" plant.

We at Sylvan Lake have been battling it for nearly 30 years. We have made a difference, but as I mentioned, the birds are not helping our efforts. Please learn about it and do your part to remove it on your property. Or better yet, volunteer to help on days when we're out working on it. I will send the "invite" in an eblast when we are doing this. You will quickly learn how to identify it.

Jeri Swanson

Parks & Easements



Boat Management Accomplishments – 2019

1. Registered Boats - Metrics (Note: Inflatable crafts do not need

to be registered)

- a. There were eight newly registered boats in 2019.

Kayaks	60
Row Boats	14
Canoes	24
Paddle Wheelers	45
Peddle Pontoon Boats	12
Sail Boats	9
Paddle Boards	5

2. The beach and easements were evaluated every quarter for non-registered boats in addition to registered boats that had not paid the required storage fee.

3. Revised Rules and Regulation on boat storage that no boats are allowed to be stored on the beach between November 15th and March 15th. (Section 3 – B – 13 of the Rules and Regulations).

4. Abandoned Boats

2017	14
2018	1
2019	1

5. 2020 Goals

- a. Quarterly Monitoring
- b. Processing boat registration and storage requests
- c. Evaluate if additional boat storage locations are needed.

6. Boat Registration/Storage Process (per the SLIA Rules and Regulations).

- a. Complete the SLIA Boat Registration/Storage Request form.
 - i. Forms are found in the SLIA web site and in the bulletin board at the beach.
- b. Submit the form to the mailing address on the form.
- c. The SLIA Treasurer will confirm that the member is in good standing with their assessments and forward the form to the Boat Director.
- d. The Boat Director will send the requester the requested sticker(s) and or the assigned storage location along with an explanation memo.
 - i. The Boat Directors turn-around time once the Treasurer has forwarded the request is 1 to 2 days.

7. How Abandoned Boats are Communicated (Per the SLIA Rules and Regulations).

- a. The boat in question lacking a boat registration sticker is noted by either the Boat Director of a member of Sylvan Lake.
- b. The boat is tagged with a notice of missing a registration sticker giving the owner one month to address the lack of registration.
- c. A picture is posted of the tagged boat on the SLIA Facebook page in addition to a general E-Mail blast to the community indicating that a boat was found without a registration sticker and may be considered abandoned.
- d. If the boat is not claimed a 2nd attempt is made to find its owner and after that it's considered abandoned and either disposed of or claimed by another SLIA member.
- e. In the past (2017) there are a number of boats on the beach and easements that have been sitting around for years/decades that have been removed and disposed of due to safety concerns. In general, SLIA members move and do not take their boats with them.

Brian Wawrzyniak



Top picture is a tree that has been in the lake, floating near the dam that was removed by the Fremont Township Highway department. **Bottom picture** is effect of major rain that filled out lake to the point of eliminating our beache and water rose all the way to the seating area. *Pictures by Brian Wawrzyniak*

Past Sylvan Lake Resident becomes an Author

Steve Magnusen, was a very active community member prior to leaving Sylvan Lake for Indiana some years ago. Once there, he continued to work on his writing. He has now completed and published a very interesting book, TO MY BEST GIRL. Steve's book is a true Civil War love story, action story and human interest story. It is a good "companion book" to David McCullough's THE PIONEERS. Steve's main character, Rufus Dawes, is the grandson of two of the "pioneers" written about by McCullough, and it depicts life in Marietta, Ohio during turbulent times. For more information, you can go to www.stevemagnusen.com. Amazon.com also has a number of posted reviews.



Steve Magnusen holds a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Purdue University. He served as a registered professional municipal engineer and public works director for Winnetka and Libertyville, Illinois, the latter for twenty-eight years. Steve later joined an engineering consulting firm, assisting many suburban Chicago communities, prior to relocating to Indianapolis.



County Clerk News

Get Paid to be an Election Worker

The Lake County Clerk's office needs approximately 2,000 election workers to staff election day voting sites for the March 17, 2020 General Primary. Election workers are vital to ensuring the proper, lawful conduct of the election. Pay is based on Election Day assignment. English/Spanish speaking applicants are encouraged. Required training is free and begins in Nov. 2019.

To apply or get more information, contact the Lake County Clerk's Election Judge Department:

- Call 847.377.2408
- Visit ElectionJudge.info
- Email ElectionJudge@lakecountyil.gov

Picking up waste

Picking up waste after your dogs is a great thing, but neighbors would rather you didn't drop the bags into their garbage carts on the street.



Even worse, dog walkers have deposited those bags into their neighbors' recycling carts by accident.

Please take them back to your own property for disposal

Lexophile

Lexophile describes those who have a love for words, such as "you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish," or "To write with a broken pencil is pointless." An annual competition is held by the New York Times to see who can create the best, original lexophile entry. Here a just a few.

- No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
- Did you hear about the crossed-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest
- A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.
- When she saw her first strands of gray hair she thought she'd dye.