



# Sylvan Lake Shoreline

Get the news you need at: [www.slia.net](http://www.slia.net)

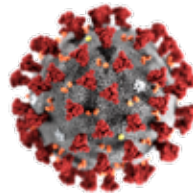
Publishing Dates: April • June • August • October • December

## Keep Up Your Safety Vigilance

- Wash your hands often for the recommended 20 seconds.
- Keep a safe distance of 6 feet from others you meet.
- Wear a mask in public when you may be closer to others than 6 feet.

## Troubling Times...

Call your neighbors & friends!



Neighbors, particularly senior citizens, are not seeing much of each other because of the virus. Think about calling your neighbors on the phone for a “Cheer up” call just to let our neighbors know we care about them, especially neighbors who live alone. We can find out if their needs are being met and just have our Sylvan Lake friendly neighborhood social life extend via a friendly phone call.

## Beach Opened June 7

We’ve been eagerly awaiting direction from the IL Department of Public Health for opening our beach and playgrounds. We have received word that we’re now able to open both immediately. The guidelines are still in place, please continue to practice social distancing and keep groups less than 50 people.

### Just a few reminders,

- 1) Our lake is catch and release for all bass. Members are responsible for guests not following this rule.
- 2) Pets are not permitted in the beach area.
- 3) Guests should be accompanied by residents while at the lake.

Thanks again for all your help! SLIA Board

## On a Brighter Side

During this unique time of Covid 19, world wide concern and cautionary precautions, it has been very good for our community in that it has allowed us to see more of our neighbors while walking, biking or working in our yards around the lake (all the while keeping our social distance).

In what may have been our normal daily activity of going here or there (usually in a cars and to some distant destination) has now been cautiously altered to be more close to home activities providing us more opportunity to meet neighbors we have not greeted or even talked to for a long time.

To paraphrase from Gary Goldblatts sign-off from his newsletter articles, “If you see something, say something.” can be also interpreted to mean “if you see someone you haven’t met, say something!”

With the increase in healthy seclusion has come a degree of isolation and loneliness. It is really good for you and us to meet and greet!

# Thank you for the Great Improvement

The Board and Sylvan Lake residents would like to thank the Ford family for their volunteering efforts in replacing the benches at Bjorklund Park. With the “stay at home mandate” the Ford’s would go on occasional walks and noticed that the benches were rather uninviting and looked unsafe to sit on. They proposed a budget to replace the benches to the SLIA Board to cover the expense of the material and volunteered their time to cut, stain, assemble and install the benches.

Thanks so much for their hard work and great improvement for the park. It’s efforts like this that makes Sylvan Lake a great place to live. Please note the “before and after” photos.

Brian Wawrzyniak



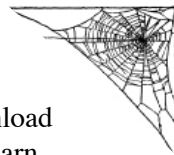
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## Sylvan Lake Website

[www.slia.net](http://www.slia.net)

The Sylvan Lake website 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.

The updated website is ready for your use. The only place that requires a password is for the Sylvan Lake Phone Directory under the **Association, Contacts** tab. If you don’t have the password, send an email message to [Sylvanlakers@gmail.com](mailto:Sylvanlakers@gmail.com) and request it.



## Groot Garbage

Diana O’Kelly

Just a reminder that you do have electronic recycling at your curb included with the Groot Wastehauler Agreement. It is on the second Friday of the month, but you must call Groot at 847 693-2700 to arrange for the pick up. There is no additional charge.

Items requiring more than one person to collect (including televisions over 50 pounds) will require an additional fee.

Yard waste stickers can be purchased at either Jewel in Mundelein.

If you turn 65, please contact Groot at 847 693-2700 to get the senior rate.

Every Friday you may leave one bulk item. If you have questions about the large item, contact Groot at 847 693-2700. I had a couch that wasn’t worthy of donation and they took that. They do ask that you fold and tie mattresses. **Oversized items like a piano or hot tub will require an extra fee and must be scheduled.**

If you need to get rid of refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, washers, dryers, dishwashers, hot water tanks or dehumidifiers, there is a \$35.00 charge. You must contact Groot to arrange for pick up.



# State of the Lake

By Gary Goldblatt. SLIA President

Greetings fellow Sylvan Lakers! Covid-19 has resulted in many summer events being canceled including all of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events within Lake County as well as our own popular annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration hosted by the Garden club. However, that didn't stop Sylvan Lakers from putting on a fantastic fireworks display throughout various parts of the lake. It was impressive, fun and allowed for some much needed small group gatherings. The balance of 2020 will continue to challenge in many ways but I am confident that Sylvan Lake will continue to move forward and will continue to be that fun, safe and beautiful community in Lake County. Thank you all for following the Sylvan Lake and Lake County covid-19 asks. Be safe, have fun!!

Your SLIA board will continue to keep you all updated regarding covid-19 protocol as it relates to our community. At present, the Countryside fire station does not permit HOA meetings. Our July meeting had a limit of 20 people including board members. Now they have suspended all meetings until further notice. We are pursuing other meeting room options which may include using the Fremont center meeting room, postponing the annual meeting to later in the year which may allow for a location to accommodate us. More to follow. We will keep you advised as it is difficult to do any long range planning at this time. Oktoberfest is also being reviewed as to what we can and can't do to provide a safe, fun environment for all. In the meantime the board is working hard at finalizing the 2021 budget for which you will get a copy. ETA sometime in August

## LAKE LOWERING:

Now that I got your attention, I want to share a Fremont initiative to help members who live on the lake and have piers and shorelines that

they want to make improvements and upgrades to. There have been several members who have asked if this was possible. Beginning October 1, Fremont Township will be removing several boards of our dam which will lower the lake level about 11". Normally, the lake gets lowered in the winter by about 4" to help with ice erosion etc. This move is more aggressive to help members make improvements to their shoreline, piers etc. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of this initiative.

## OTHER UPDATES & IMPROVEMENTS:

- \***Gilmer road expansion** is planned for Fall of 2021. (Fremont Township and Lake County)
- \***Re-directing the catch ponds** in Ravinia and shoreline (ETA Fall)
- \***Installing a step Bridge** in Maple park (Budget phase)
- \***Replacing some of the wood** in the playground equipment in Schwerman park and Port comfort (planning and budgeting stage)
- \***Pier walkways** thru Hiawatha Terrace as well as upper area in Crescent on same trail. (Budgeting phase)
- \***Shoreline pier and boat storage** in Maple (budgeting phase)
- \***Install drainage** around the basketball court in Schwerman Park ( budgeting phase)
- \* **New diving raft** and updating aerators (budgeting phase)

## SLIA current YTD.

### Financial highlights:

#### Balance sheet:

Total Liabilities and Assets TY \$229.8 vs LY \$190.6

#### Profit and Loss:

YTD: \$63.3 vs LY \$41.3

(trending better than budget)

**Expenses:** YTD \$16.9 vs LY \$44.9

(LY included Maple Park shoreline project)

#### Legal and professional fees

YTD: \$2.6 vs LY \$4.3

**Receivables:** YTD: .8 vs LY \$ 6.6

\*We are in good shape to keep making improvements

## SLIA Web site:

Check out the SLIA Website. 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 for the Sylvan Lake Phone Directory under the control tab. If you don't have the password, send an email message to [Sylvanlakers@gmail.com](mailto:Sylvanlakers@gmail.com) and request it.

## Your 2020 SLIA board:

President: Gary Goldblatt

Vice President: Jeanne Peterson

Treasurer: Ed Meltzer

Secretary: Dan Trahan

Parks & Easements: Jeri Swanson

Lake: Tom Truffer

Beach: Cliff Gartner

Boat Director: Brian Wawrzyniak

Recreation: Dave Kruse

I encourage everyone to attend the monthly Board meetings. They are held on the third Wednesday of every month except December. 7:30 pm - 9 pm. As mentioned above the location may be changing due to Covid-19. We will keep you informed by email. This is where great ideas, suggestions can be shared and acted upon. Don't make the annual meeting the 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 Summer Everyone!!!!

# Lowering the Lake A little bit . . .

We hope you're enjoying the summer and taking advantage of everything Sylvan Lake has to offer. We have an opportunity to help with shoreline erosion this fall and wanted to give you ample time to prepare.

Normally, our lake is slightly lowered prior to the winter season, however, this year our lake will be lowered an estimated 11 inches on October 1. This will be done by removing two boards from our dam, which will be added back in the spring. We encourage all lakefront members to inspect your shoreline and use October for work on improving erosion control, removing old debris, fixing piers and enhancing your shoreline.

We appreciate everyone for keeping their shorelines and lake in beautiful condition!

Respectfully,  
SLIA Board

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## A Big Welcome to Our New Community Members

Please welcome our new Sylvan Lake members to our community with a smile and maybe even an elbo bump.

**Vladimir and Olga Zavialov**  
21301 W Sylvan Dr

**Eric & Sandy Reschny**  
21155 W Sylvan Dr

**John and Jennifer Scharff**  
21258 W Crescent Dr

**Joseph and Kiaya Memeo**  
21267 W Sylvan Dr

Thanks you  
Dan Trahan

## Guest Privileges

There have been multiple instances of visitors using our beach and fishing near the dam without a member present. As a reminder, just because a guest knows a member doesn't give them access to use our lake at any time. All guests must be accompanied by a member in our common areas or they can be asked to leave. Sylvan Lake is a private community and we appreciate your cooperation.

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## Open Burning Ban Extended

The Lake County Board voted to extend the open burning ban until August 12th, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a reminder, small recreational campfires or cooking fires are permitted so long as dry, seasoned firewood is used and smoke is not a nuisance to neighbors. This ban is primarily aimed at preventing yard waste and garbage from being burned which generates much more smoke.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact the Lake County office at (847) 367-5511.

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## Boat Safety Class

The Countryside Fire Protection District is hosting a free boat safety class on Saturday, August 15th, 2020. It's recommended for anyone born after 1998 that would be operating a motorized watercraft. Registration is limited to 20 students and there are still spots available. See the attached flyer for more information.

For more updates from our Countryside Fire Protection department, we encourage you to "like" their Facebook page.

Sincerely,  
SLIA Board

*Yes, there is a limit to motors on Sylvan Lake!*

# Parks and Easement News

Jeri Swanson

Beginning the first week of August a new tree removal contractor, Balanced Environments, will start tree removals along the creeksides in Ravina. Following that, later in August, Integrated Lakes Mgt, (ILM) will begin excavating the creek sides to re-route run-off back into the (3) ponds there. Ravinia had received a total overhaul about 16 years ago. Back then we did not have all the homes across Gilmer Road, Due to lots of impervious surfaces, which are drives, walkways and streets, we receive way more run-off than was ever figured into engineering.



The last two springs both brought record breaking rainfalls, sending huge amounts of water through the ravine, so fast, it simply flew through the creek, never settling into the ponds. Not only does this cause severe erosion in the park itself, but our shorelines suffer as well.

Re-routing the creek back to the (3) ponds and reinforcing streambanks will slow it down and allow a lot of water to once again settle into the ponds. This year all the ponds were dry. Missed all the frogs singing. The mouth of the bay will be widened and receive large rip rap. We do not anticipate any boats needing to be removed for this work.

Be on the look out for the tree people, try not to park near the entrance of Oak Terrace on Crescent as they'll need room for their trucks

and chipper.

From there they will be removing trees growing out the embankment at Deadman's Curve. We do not want trees growing there as their roots erode the embankment. Sometime while they are here, they will also remove the large dead elm tree at the beach near the shed area.

Now for the Eco-Chics: they never stop working!! Every Thursday morning in July, lead by Sandy Washburn, they have worked on buckthorn removal along the fenceline on North Sylvan Drive.

Where did all the spoils go?? In several neighbors "yard waste" containers. Good thing Groot handles yard waste, we're really getting our \$\$ worth. On one of those Thursdays, they shifted gears and Linda Mihel supervised cutting/removal of invasive species at the beach area such as reed canary grasses and prickly weeds. Be sure to read the Eco Corner article by Jenn Cameron about the rare native species discovered at the beach: American Water Willow (*Justicia americana*). I happened to be there just as they discovered it, but a much more alert neighbor had an app for that and that is how it got identified. I have never seen this dainty beauty before. These gals are terrific, we all learn something when were out there digging around!! Can't thank them enough!

Fall Clean Up Day: If Covid would just leave, I'm planning on Sat October 17th, raindate the 18th. We will send an eblast regardless.

This is when you MAY put tree limbs out to be picked up by the township. They do this twice a year, spring/fall. In the meantime please do not put tree waste on curbsides waiting for it to magically disappear. If you use Groot, you can follow their rules for such. Give them a call.

I personally use a garbage can that I attach a "sticker" to. The stickers are \$2.95 each and can be purchased at the older Jewel in Mundelein

A lot fits in one, but can not weigh more than 50 lbs. as the driver has to pick it up. Branches and twigs should be cut into 2' long sections and tied in bundles. Again, consult Groot for all the details or read the flyer we got from Fremont Township explaining different options.

Please feel free to contact me:  
email: [swan458@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swan458@sbcglobal.net)  
cell:847-507-2760

Jeri Swanson, *Parks/Easements*

*I was just alerted that 2 garden elves performed a much needed mow and weed whacking in Ravinia Park. This was at the trail, Oak Terrace, off the stairs and down to the boat rack. Glen Makinski and Alex Grandt donated their time and sweat to clean up that area. Many are thankful, and I thank you so much, too. Apparently that area was being mowed by a private landscaping service thinking it was part of The Seidner's property. When the Seidner's tried to tell them that they didn't need to cut that area, they just continued anyway..... The association will look into this, but in the meantime, Thank You Al & Glen!!*

# ECO-CORNER # 15

by Jenn Cameron

## DISCOVERY

Back in early July, a small group of Sylvan Lake eco-volunteers spent a few hours clearing overgrowth near the beach. Was the sun blazing at 8 am? Yes. Was the heat index already above 80 degrees? *Um hm.* Did we bring an over-abundance of tools, work gloves, and grit? *Of course we did!* And in just 2-3 hours of working together, we accomplished a lot on several different fronts and made a few discoveries!

That shoreline area was overgrown. Wait. Make that **OVERGROWN**. The water's edge was blocked with a dense, tangled growth of primarily cattails, reed canary grass, and just plain weeds-gone-wild. While it was tempting to just grab that 'ole weed-whacker and quickly buzz everything to the ground and be d-o-n-e, we knew Mother Nature could be hiding something within that mess and so we were careful.

We scouted ahead and looked for living creatures that may have nests hidden, we combed through to identify what plants might be worth protecting, and we were honestly unsure of how far up the water line lapped the shore. We worked as a true team. Some clipped while others whacked, some raked while others shoveled, and still others shlepped more tools in and more barrels of debris out.

We discovered there was a very small bit of land hidden underneath which poked out into the lake - perfect to cast a line from - and I personally saw someone fishing from that spit o' land during the Fourth of July weekend.

Small stepping-stones that were laid at some point in the past but which were almost invisible became visible as thick mats of turf were trimmed back. Rocks that had sunk almost below the waterline were unearthed and replaced as edging.

Finally, a small colony of American Water Willow (**Justicia americana**) plants was discovered growing at the water's edge. None of us knew the identity of the specimen at first, but with a smart phone at hand, we soon figured out the mystery. This was an unexpected good find for us that morning as the plant is labeled as Endangered or Threatened in some nearby states.

This Illinois native wetland plant helps shoreline stabilization, attracts native pollinators, and provides cover for small fishes and other tiny aquatic neighbors making their homes at Sylvan Lake.

*We showed up, we cleaned up, we discovered!*

[https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/wetland/plants/wt\\_willow.html](https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/wetland/plants/wt_willow.html)

<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=JUAM>

<https://garden.org/plants/view/82756/American-Water-Willow-Justicia-americana/>



American Water Willow

