



October, 2020

Sylvan Lake Shoreline

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

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

Oktoberfest at Schwerman Park Cancelled...

In keeping with the our due diligence of keeping Sylvan Lakers and guests safe from the corona virus, Oktoberfest has been cancelled for this year.

We all will look forward to next year to again enjoy the usual libation, good food, music and community.



A Great Park Improvement in our future!



A Great Schwerman Park Improvement in our Future!

The usual location for our Oktoberfest activities in Schwerman Park will see a great improvement next year. A drainage tile is being installed on three sides of the basketball court. The drainage tile will be piped over to the nearest storm sewer.

Many will remember how very wet and soggy this area can be. This improvement should make for drier feet at all our future community events!

Leaf Burning v Leaf Pick-up

Leaf pick-up, for the first time, is in the planning for this fall by Groot Wastehauler. This new service is being planned by the Fremont Township in conjunction with the new contract for Groot.

At this moment Fremont Township does not have information from Groot as to the details of this pick-up, where the leaves need to be placed and when the pick-up(s) may happen.

So when we receive this information, we will send an e-blast. Being the first time, the Township expects a few glitches. Please be patient.

A Day on Sylvan Lake

Fishing
Swimming
Kicking
Playing
Paddling
Sitting
Dunking
Floating
Racing
Winning
Sun-shining
Splashing
Casting
Not Catching
And that was my day
So Much **Fun!**

Everett
Hamm,
Eight
years old

LIFE
IS BETTER
AT THE LAKE 

CLEAN UP DAY

CLEAN UP DAY is scheduled for Saturday, October 17th, with a rain date of Sunday, October 18th.

See more information on page 4.

Many volunteers and Clean-up captains are needed!

Many hands make light work....

Lowering the Lake A little bit . . .

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

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.

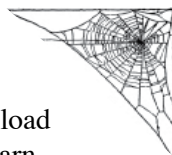


Sylvan Lake Website

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 and request it.



Groot Garbage Electronic Recycling

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.



ECO-CORNER #16 by Jenn Cameron

“a face only a mother could love”

We sometimes dislike what we don't understand or what we think is ugly or scary. Weird hair? Yuck. Beady eyes? Creepy. Hairless tail? Puh-lease. But wait! Knowledge leads to understanding, and sometimes understanding can lead to a more comfortable acceptance. Sylvan Lake is an attractive place to live for people AND wildlife, and we should remember that not all wildlife is as colorful as the male cardinal, graceful like the monarch, or slick and fast like a bass. Sometimes nature is just, well, weird looking, slow, and has “bad hair days” every day. Did someone say, opossum?

The impossibly cute - yet very misunderstood - opossum is a native Illinois resident we should get to know so that we, as Homo sapien, can better respect the place of *Didelphis virginiana* in a healthy, native ecosystem. Fossilized relatives of opossums have been found on this continent and dated over 65 million years old! Opossums were here way before my moving truck, garbage cans, wood deck, bird feeders, and my veggie garden. These animals are non-aggressive and are wrongly blamed for property destruction caused by other animals such as raccoons.

The opossum (aka Virginia opossum) is a marsupial native to North America, and they are legally protected (yup) as a furbearer species here in Illinois. They are mostly nocturnal (active at night) and solitary. They like to be left alone yet will defend themselves if bothered or threatened. Opossums are omnivores which means they'll eat both animal and vegetable matter, and they play an important role in, um, “cleaning up” road-kill which



many times results in their own fatality. By the way, opossums are also GREAT at finding and consuming ticks, thank you very much!

Sylvan Lake is an ideal habitat for these native and adaptable critters. Jeepers, I sound like Elly May. Opossums prefer to live near wooded areas with a water source nearby, and they find shelter in many places: the abandoned nests of other animals, under decks and sheds, in hollowed out logs, rock cavities, and under thick brush piles. Sylvan Lake also provides a year-round abundance of opossum-approved gastronomic delights such as tree nuts, berries, and insects. Humans also inadvertently contribute to the five-star menu with vegetable gardens, fallen birdseed, and open food waste.

So while joeys (as opossum babies are called) have faces that only their mothers might find adorable, by learning more about this shy animal sharing our neighborhood areas, we might even more appreciate and tolerate the diversity of nature living around us whether cute or not. Like many animals, opossums are instinctually opportunistic and are just going about minding their own business to eke out some kind of a life, albeit a life that people don't always love (you know, the wiry hair, beady eyes, creepy tail, et al.). However, the native Illinois opossum's life adds value to our local Sylvan Lake ecosystem and plays a role in balancing the natural habitats surrounding our local area.

<https://www.wildlifeillinois.org/gallery/mammals/looks-like-a-dog/opossum/>
<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/wildlife/Pages/Opossum.aspx#:~:text=Opossums%20are%20common%20and%20found,square%20mile%20in%20favorable%20habitats.>
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/group/opossums/>
<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/what-do-about-opossums>

Checker Board Parking

Checker Board Parking is the occasional parking of cars on both sides of the street and it can be challenging to pass through this maze. Our streets are generally narrow and when there is parking on both sides of the street it becomes challenging for the average size vehicle to maneuver between the parked cars to pass down the street. Larger emergency vehicle, many times, would not be able to negotiate between the parked cars.

Please ask neighbors and your friends that may be visiting that “checker-board” parking on both sides of the street is discouraged and is a discourtesy to others as well as a safety issue for emergency responders.

Scams, phishing and more Scams.

Almost daily there is a phishing scam in the email. Most are now coming in with major names like the United States Post Office, Amazon, Common Wealth Edison, maybe even a large bank, maybe even your bank, etc. Most of these scams indicate that something that has been ordered is now shipped (but you didn't order anything). Something needs to be updated but that is not true.... the schemers just want you to click on there magic scam button. for more of your information, access to your contact list or your bank account.

NEVER click on anything... ever... that you did not initiate yourself. Assume anything that comes in your email UNSOLICITED is a scam.

Sylvan Lake Volleyball - Another Great Season!

Volleyball Wrapped-Up

SLIA Volleyball wrapped up an 8 week season with an all day tournament Saturday August 8. Congratulations to Team Graham for winning for the 8th consecutive year & all of our 2020 Captains for organizing teams:
Thanks - Dave Kruse

First Place Team Graham

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



Parks and Easement News

Jeri Swanson

CLEAN UP DAY is scheduled for Saturday, October 17th, with a rain date of Sunday, October 18th. We voted on the dates at the Annual Meeting.

For those of you new to Sylvan Lake we typically have a spring and fall Clean Up where we always hope lots of folks turn out to help with stick/branch clean up, weeds and of course garbage that may be hiding along our roads and in the woodlands.

For garbage we will pass out plastic garbage bags that we will pick up. For sticks, branches from private as well as public areas we are **BEGGING** you to cut them into 3-4 foot lengths and place them neatly along the road easement areas. Please adhere to this so that when the township comes they have a smooth job of it !

Since they chip the branches, no garbage or lumber can be in these piles, just branches/sticks. They are aware of our date.

Normally we would have lunch @ noon, but with social distancing still being enforced, we will pass on this.

If you want to begin prior to that weekend, please do not place branches/sticks out until Friday, October 16th, unless it is on your own property.

We also will be driving around to pass out water bottles and garbage bags and assist with "weed" identification if you are not sure what to remove.

Captains will be needed for each park, please email me if you are willing to head up and recruit helpers for a park or easement near you.

Its always amazing to see what we find and then admire how neat and tidy everything looks. Come on out and meet new people!

Captains needed for all areas:

Beach
Schwerman Park
Indian Creek Park
Wildflower Terrace
Fenceline along North Sylvan
Maple Park
Juneau Terrace
Pt. Comfort Park
Briar Terrace on N. Sylvan
Path between Crescent & South Sylvan
Hiawatha Terrace
Sylvan Commons @ Shady Lane
Oak Terrace that leads into Ravinia Park
Buena Terrace off Crescent
Volleyball area @ N. Sylvan & Crescent

A group will be working earlier than this on the Maple Park Shoreline as some invasive plants have shown up and we need to jump on this.

Please email with your choice to Captain. We can discuss what you hope to accomplish!

Also, if you can drive around offering water bottles and garbage bags, there is a need.

Thanks all, hope to see new faces, too!

Jeri Swanson
email:swan458@sbcglobal.net
cell: 847-507-2760



Parks and Easement in review

Jeri Swanson

SLIA 2020 Annual Meeting Parks & Easements:

Eco- Chics 3rd anniversary was August of this year. We have met several times beginning in February 2020 to distribute seed balls we made in December. Some were placed in Maple Park and some along the fence line of N. Sylvan. This is a group of ladies that are dedicated to the removal of invasive species and the installation of native species to preserve our woodland areas. Native species have deep root systems are are vital to natural areas for biodiversity within our wildlife that exists here. Bees benefit as well. We also met in April to remove more buckthorn in Maple Park, then again in August along North Sylvan.

Anyone is welcome, only requirement is the desire to learn what needs to go away, and the physical capability to trim back vegetation. Emails go out to select the day, if you are interested in participating, give me your email address.

Schwerman Park:

Drainage work to be done to move standing water from the BB court and nearby open space, due to standing water.

Tree dedicated to Esther Benedeck lost a limb during a storm...needs to be sealed?

Pt. Comfort & Schwerman Parks playground equipment is need of repairs. Dan Trahan will research how, when this can happen.

Maple Park Shoreline Rehab:

Was recently inspected by Tori Trauscht, Founder of the Indian Creek Watershed Project. She has a few suggestions to further the growth & spread of native species that we already installed there. She will donate seed to us and some plants that she has on a 2-acre property.

Continued on page 5

Parks and Easement in review -

Continued from pg. 4

SLIA 2020 Annual Meeting Parks & Easements:

Sandy Washburn & I will visit that site. Tom Truffer installed a new pier, and another is still needed closer to where boats are stored below Adam Washburn's property.

Trees @ deadman's curve were removed from the embankment to open the canopy to re-establish more native plants. Tori will donate seed for that area.

Juneau Terrace:

Thanks to Doug DeBruin for volunteering to solve the severe erosion taking place from run off. He installed a box catch basin and piping to move that water over to the larger piped area as it was traveling over the steps and thru the gravel. The last rainfall proved this is working. He has another to install farther down, and has only spent \$122.00. Some crushed stone will also be added for about \$40.00. He did retrieve a lot of stone that had washed down that trail.

John Rollinger removed a few dead trees there and a very large buckthorn, weed wacked overgrowth before Doug started.

Renee DelMissier loaded up some of the larger boulders from the beach/lawn area to be used @ Juneau and delivered those for Doug.

Sylvan Commons:

Gratefully taken care of by Andi Dickinson & Crew.

VB Court on Crescent/N. Sylvan:
Bench repaired by Sam Ford !!

Trail between S. Sylvan & Crescent:

Needs a pier elevated over the creek near S. Sylvan and exit up by Crescent needs some pier sections to safely traverse over lots of exposed tree roots. Pier section with 2 rails constructed with a slip resistant surface would cost \$2500, the other \$1550.

Quotes rec'd from Atlas Piers earlier in the year. Right now it is a slippery trail to navigate.

Wildflower Terrace on N. Sylvan:

Pier needed repairs. Pollinator Gardens are supervised by Sandy Washburn & Linda Mihel.

Briar Terrace on N. Sylvan:

Needs invasives removed and general clean up for access to pier area. We have frozen seed balls left over from last year to distribute there this winter, being stored in Washburns freezer & mine.

Ravinia:

Proposal from Integrated Lakes Management has been accepted for streambank reconstruction. Cost for this project is \$30,000. We can pay 1/2 in 2020 and 1/2 in 2021.

Due to extreme amounts of rainfall in the last few years and the velocity of water traveling thru this area from increased run-off where there were once farm fields and are now impervious surfaces, the water has cut deeper into the creekbed. The result is less water settling into the 3 detention ponds and has caused more erosion as well as a complete blowout at the mouth of the bay.

Trees were removed from the creek sides as their roots also interfere with stabilization. Stabilization of these areas is key to fighting increased sedimentation into the lake. The creek will be curved a bit redirecting water to the 3 ponds. Some areas will also receive reinforcing and check dams installed. Larger rip rap will be added to the mouth of the bay as well as retrieval of what has washed in. A large excavator will be deployed down Oak Terrace and the Peterson's property.

All disturbed soil areas will receive seeding of native species, again using our own inventory of seed and additional donated seed from Tori Trauscht.

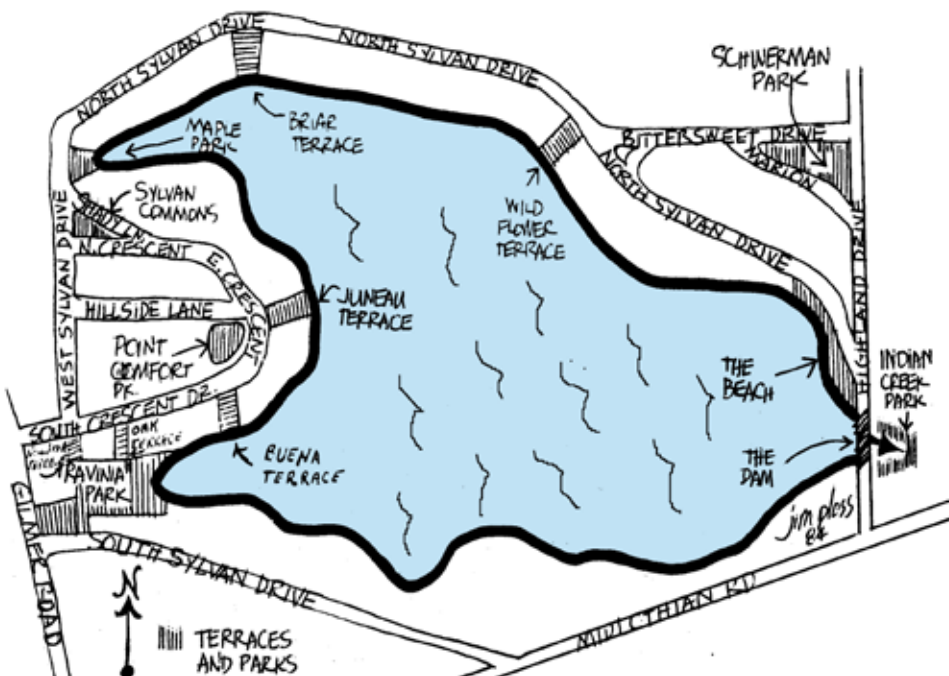
Engineering for the original rehab of Ravinia was done about 17 years ago which was before the Chicago Park District sold off the property on the other side of Gilmer Road. The amount of water we rec'd prior to that time was nowhere near what we receive now.

Leaf Pick Up by Groot:

I will be meet with Diana O'Kelly regarding the procedures we will need to follow and advise residents via e-blast.

**PLEASE DO NOT RAKE YOUR
LEAVES INTO RAVINE OR WOOD-
ED AREAS!**

Jeri Swanson



Sylvan Lake Grecian Night 2020



*Great weather
and a lot of fun!*



*Thank you to
Steve Mongelluzzo
for the great pictures*



Thank you Sylvan Lake Board

A real big SHOUT OUT to the board members that have volunteered for the past year and in most cases years. Sylvan Lake is much better for your guidance and service!

The Sylvan Lake Board will vote and choose its committee heads and officers at its next meeting.



And the new Sylvan Lake Board is the following!

New to the Board this year:

Jeremy Vale

Renee DelMissier

Peter Lind

Laurie MacKay

Returning to the Board for another year:

Cliff Gartner

Ed Metzger

Jeri Swanson

Dan Trahan

Tom Truffer

Sylvan Lake Cardboard Regatta Excitement and fun for everyone!

*Thank you to
Dan Trahan
for the great pictures*

