



# Sylvan Lake Shoreline

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

## Slowly, Community Returns

It has been a world wide event that has altered our lives and life styles. We have all learned more about the flu, the severity of types of flu, and the best precautions to avoid this pandemic flu than we ever imagined. We sifted thru unfounded rumors and facts from many different sources to navigate our own survival. Masks, social distancing, sanitizer, isolation from neighbors, friends and especially family have been our new way of life. With cautious optimism, maybe, we will soon be back to the normal life style we have enjoyed in Sylvan Lake.

With this first issue of the Shoreline in 2021 we hope that these community activities, that we have all grown to expect and enjoy, will return.

Thank you for our community precaution and safety.



## Ready, Set, Spike!

Get your game on and get ready for Sylvan Lake Volleyball!

Join our league for a fun and social time on the court. Whether you are new to volleyball or an experienced player, all levels are welcome! Games will be on Tuesday nights beginning in early June and go through mid August and ending with a Championship tournament. You can either sign up as a full team or as an individual to be placed on a team. Please let me know if you would be interested in Captaining a team or need to be placed on a team at [lauriemackay@gmail.com](mailto:lauriemackay@gmail.com) or 847-452-2205.

Laurie MacKay



## Clean-Up Day

*(Many hands make light work)*

**Saturday Morning May 22**

**Everybody-Pitch-In-and-  
Help-Clean-Up Day.**

Each park and easement needs a Captain (we need volunteers) and a whole lot of worker bees.

**Plus**, all workers will enjoy a great noon lunch and frosty beverages at the beach.

## Dam NEWS

Fremont Township will be prepping the spillway side of the dam and planting no-mow grass seed.

Prior to this work, they're asking for volunteers to help gather and stack dead wood to burn in this area.

**What we need:** - "Muscle power" and Chain Saws to cut, gather, and stack dead wood

**When:** = Sun, April 18th at 10am to possibly 1pm. Rain date will be Sun April 25th at 10am.

**To give us an idea if this can get organized, Please call/text Jeri Swanson @ 847-507-2760 before April 15th.**

# Spring will soon be here!

If you are considering making some changes to your landscape as part of your spring plan, won't you consider adding plants and trees that will benefit birds, butterflies, pollinators and lake health? Adding native plants to your existing landscape or, better yet, replacing some lawn with a native plant garden will not only add interest to your property but may be a great solution to a landscape problem area in your yard. There are some great online sources to help you including <https://wildones.org/>. In addition to great information about the benefits of natives, there are a number of beautiful, professionally designed native landscape plans that are free! Check them out!

Openlands is another great resource. As part of their conservation@home program, you can arrange personalized assistance and even certification of your property once basic criteria are met. Several of our Sylvan Lake properties proudly display their plaques. To learn more, check out <https://www.openlands.org/livability/lands-in-harmony/schedule-a-virtual-appointment/>

If you would like to have an **Openland's** representative come to your property for a COVID safe consult, the cost is \$50 but if you choose to meet with the representative via phone, facetime, or zoom there is no cost. If you would like to have your property certified as "planet friendly" an actual visit is necessary.

Feel free to contact [sandrawashburn@comcast.net](mailto:sandrawashburn@comcast.net) if you have questions or would like more information about native plants and trees.

*Sandy Washburn*

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## 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.



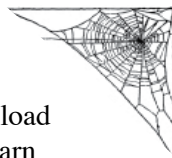
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## Sylvan Lake Website

[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.



## Sylvan Lake Facts

**Major Watershed:** Des Plaines

**Sub-Watershed:** Indian Creek

**Location:** T44N, R10E, Section 34

**Surface Area:** 31.57 acres

**Shoreline Length:** 1.31 miles

**Maximum Depth:** 13.0 feet.

**Average Depth:** 7.73 feet.

**Lake Volume:** 273.05 acre-feet

**Watershed Area:** 165.90 acres

**Lake Type:** Impoundment

**Management Entities:** Sylvan Lake

Improvement Association Current

**Uses:** Fishing, swimming,

non-motorized boating, aesthetics

**Access:** Private

Lake County, - 2012

Sylvan Lake Summary

*Prepared by the Lake Co. Health Dept.*

*Population Health Environmental Services*

### A Few of the Recommendations in 2012

LCHD-ES recommends the following actions for improving the water quality and overall health of Sylvan Lake:

- Consider increasing the horsepower of the 4 aerators currently installed in the lake.
- The number of fish feeders in Sylvan Lake should be reduced to only a couple and the focus of management should be on providing good habitat for fish by promoting vegetation.
- Development of an action plan for the handling blue-green algal blooms (HABs).
- Physical removal of feces left behind by waterfowl
- Action should be taken by owners of eroding shorelines to repair them.

# Parks & Easements

It is wonderful to see all the sights and sounds of spring in our quaint neighborhood! The parks have gotten busier and the kids are playing at the playgrounds once again. As the trees are budding and plants are blooming, so are some new sights to enjoy.

## Ravinia Park

We missed the winter work slated to be done due to the amount of snow. When it is dry enough on the pathways, the work begins. The creek will be redirected back to the detention ponds so water can settle before entering the lake. This will control the amount of silt coming into the lake. When Ravinia was originally rehabbed 14 years ago, farm fields existed across Gilmer Rd. Now, with the existing homes and the impervious surfaces, larger water loads are directed toward Sylvan Lake. The excess water needs to settle into the ponds and will once again.

## Maple Park

Eco-Chicks have been collecting native seed from the surrounding park areas and gardens. They've been redistributing the seeds to enhance existing gardens and to start new gardens. Maple Park is an example of a native garden that is still in the developmental stages. Many of the flowering varieties are deep rooted. Not only are they beautiful but also the deep rooted species have a positive impact on retaining soil. Vegetation reduces land degradation and salinity, improves water quality, and provides habitat for a wealth of unique biodiversity including threatened species.

## Schwerman Park

A flag at Schwerman Park was donated by the Lind family and Mark Anderson did the honors of replacing the tethered flag. Another flag will replace the one at Bjorkland Park. If you are interested in donating for an additional flagpole to be placed at the

beach area, please contact me. Diane Capasso did a great job improving our Message Boards. The beautiful Book Boxes survived another harsh winter and are open to all neighbors once again.

The big trees will not last forever, so we need to continue adding to our woodlands. Eco-Chicks, a group of dedicated neighbors who work to reverse the negative effects of clearing and habitat fragmentation have donated native trees that will be added to our park areas very soon. The trees were purchased through Citizens for Conservation in Barrington from their annual sale. CitizensForConservation.org

Sandy Washburn, our own Master Gardener, has offered to speak to shoreline homeowners about the shoreline stabilization this summer. Openlands will inspect our beach area the week of April 5. We will keep you informed for future updates.

## Clean up Day Saturday May 22 9:00-12:00 Rain date May 23

This is a great day to work with neighbors for the improvement of our community. Please mark your calendars! Sylvan Lake is known for having wonderful volunteers who make our neighborhood a better place to live! Chipping date May 24: no dirt clumps, metal, or debris

If you would like to volunteer to direct a clean up project, please contact Jeri. Project areas will be shared soon via email.

## Adopt a Highway

Sylvan Lake will once again sponsor a section of Gilmer Road for Adopt-A-Highway. Our section runs from Midlothian to Chevy Chase. The cleanup is done in the spring and again in the fall. The date will be given to us soon. We will keep you posted!

## Old News

Pet owners, please pick up after your dogs! Mark Anderson refills all of the poop bag dispensers throughout our neighborhood. Thank you pet owners for using the biodegradable bags and disposing them in your garbage cans. If you have a dog, it is your responsibility to pick up after them, so just do it! Please check out the following information.

<https://doggydogood.com/blogs/dog-blog/4-reasons-picking-up-after-your-dog-is-more-important-than-you-think>

Bob Mihel, Ryan Haukedahl, and Scott Hanson will be assessing the conditions of playground equipment. Any repairs will be completed by volunteers. The drainage system at Schwerman Park will be completed this spring. Volunteers will be needed to fill in dirt areas for grass seeding. Thank you Mark Anderson for leading this project. Dam area construction preparation will need some volunteers to work with the township to clear leaves and brush. They would like to partner with us as a favor due to portions of the section being Sylvan Lake easement property. The date to be determined soon.

Please let Renee know if you would like to volunteer for any of these neighborhood improvements. As always, it is greatly appreciated, and there are benefits. We save money and share the workload!

*Jeri Swanson &  
Renee Del Missier*





# ECO-CORNER News

You may have been lucky enough to catch the Doug Tallamy zoom presentation on Nov 14 through Fremont Library. If so, you understand why Eco-Chicks are so focused on removing damaging invasives (buckthorn, garlic mustard, etc) and adding native plants (the plants that grew here prior to the arrival of European settlers) to our easements and common areas. Tallamy, professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware is a dedicated researcher and author who explains the overwhelming benefits of using native plants and trees in our landscapes. If you want to keep unwanted pollutants out of our lake, attract and support songbirds and butterflies, reduce erosion and provide many more environmental benefits, adding some native plants to your landscape may be an effective strategy.

If you are thinking of making some changes to your landscape, now is the time to do some planning. Some great starting points:

Bringing Nature Home and/or Nature's Best Hope by Doug Tallamy (both are available through Hoopla, a Fremont Library app)

*Creating and certifying a Monarch Waystation* (<https://monarchwatch.org/waystations/certify.html>)

*Explore ways to landscape for birds* (<https://www.audubon.org/news/how-make-your-yard-bird-friendly-0>)

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## Native Plants for Your Shoreline

Here are some links that might help the people who are interested in native plants for shorelines. The Citizens for Conservation online native plant sale has many of the plants. The link for the sale: <https://citizensforconservation.org/cfc-events/spring-native-plant-sale/>

### Resources for Shorelines

- Native plants for shorelines: <https://bactrust.org/native-plants-for-shoreline/>
- Shoreline buffer strips: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/conservation/lake-notes/shoreline-buffer-strips/shoreline-buffer-strips.pdf>
- Minnesota resource: [https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/shoreline\\_alterations\\_lakescaping.pdf](https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/shoreline_alterations_lakescaping.pdf)
- Michigan State resource: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/going\\_native\\_can\\_be\\_a\\_smart\\_choice\\_for\\_michigan\\_landscapes](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/going_native_can_be_a_smart_choice_for_michigan_landscapes)

Another Michigan State Resource:

- [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/reap\\_the\\_benefits\\_of\\_natural\\_shoreline\\_landscapes](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/reap_the_benefits_of_natural_shoreline_landscapes)

## Vision Statement for Eco-Chicks/Eco-Lakers - Est. 2018

*A committee of Sylvan Lake neighbors working under Parks & Easements Committees For the improvement of our community*

### Who are we?

Eco-Chicks/Eco-Lakers is a group of eco-aware Sylvan Lake homeowners collaborating with SLIA and addressing the ecological health of Sylvan Lake and its surrounding natural habitats as a functioning part of the Indian Creek Watershed.

### What do we do?

Our Mission is to assess and address ecological concerns impacting Sylvan Lake, its common wetlands, wooded easements, public areas, as well as educating our residents about the importance of maintaining healthy native habitats.

### Why Do We Do This Work?

We envision an engaged and active group of residents learning and working together to impact the protection and improvement of the unique natural environments of Sylvan Lake for future generations of residents.

### Our Guidance and Resources:

Our intention is to apply current science-based Best Ecological Practices drawing from the tenets and initiatives of the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Fremont Township, Illinois Lakes Management, and other local agencies such as Openlands, Lake County Forest Preserve District, Citizens for Conservation, and Indian Creek Watershed Project.

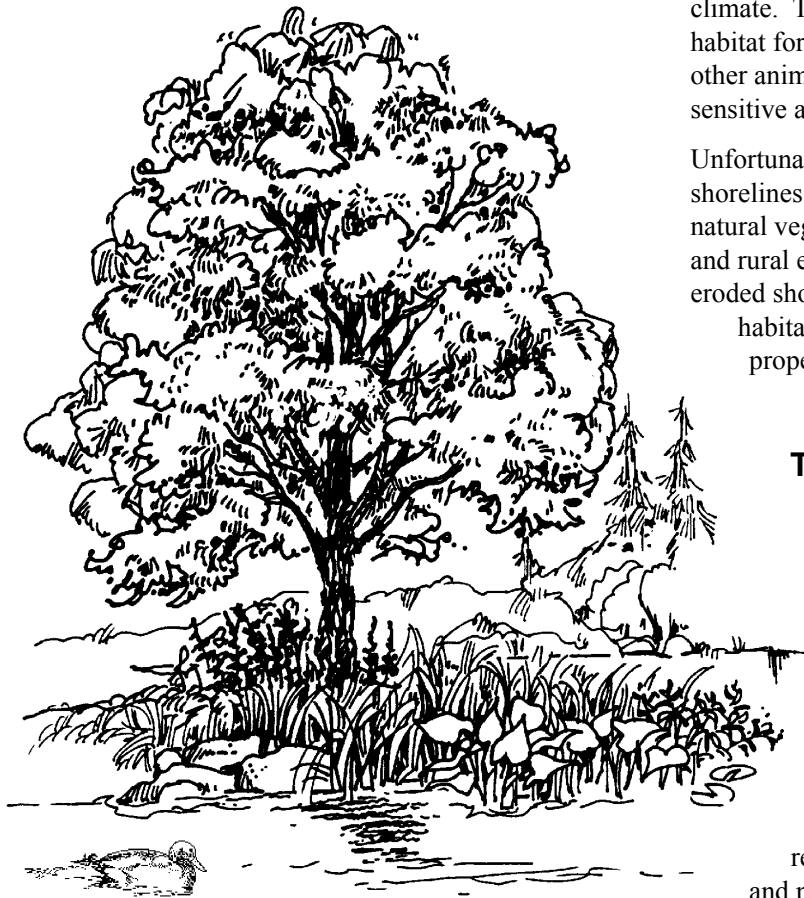
### Key Goals

- Maintain or improve the ecological quality of Sylvan Lake, its wetlands, land easements, and public areas
- Support the overall Sylvan Lake environment as a functional part of the Indian Creek Watershed
- Enhance the biodiversity of the native land and water habitats surrounding Sylvan Lake
- Foster eco-awareness and environmental-consciousness of fellow residents

We currently have 10 active members. If you feel that you would like to be a part of our amazing community of workers, please contact Renee Del Missier [reneedel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:reneedel@sbcglobal.net) or Jeri Swanson [swan458@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swan458@sbcglobal.net)

# Shoreline Buffer Strips

Picture an idyllic lake setting. The sun glimmering on clear, clean water. Children wading along the shore. A fisherman casting for elusive bass. Chances are this view also includes lushly vegetated shorelines blending into the surrounding landscape.



The interrelationship between a lake and its shoreline is important. The shoreline zone is the last line of defense against forces that may otherwise destroy a healthy lake. A naturally-vegetated shoreline filters runoff generated by surrounding land uses, removing harmful chemicals and nutrients. At the same time, shoreline vegetation protects lake edges from the onslaught of waves and ice generated by our harsh Midwestern climate. The shoreline zone also provides critical habitat for aquatic insects, microorganisms, fish, and other animals, thereby helping to maintain a balance in sensitive aquatic ecosystems.

Unfortunately, as lake landscapes are developed, natural shorelines often are damaged or destroyed. Beneficial natural vegetation is cut, mowed, or replaced. In urban and rural environments alike, this often leads to eroded shorelines, degraded water quality and aquatic habitat, impaired aesthetics, and a reduction in property values.

## The Buffer Concept

Ecologists, water quality specialists, land planners, and lake managers all agree that a naturally-vegetated buffer strip along the periphery of a lake (or a stream or wetland) is critical to the health and quality of the waterbody. The concept of a buffer is fairly simple. A buffer generally should be comprised of the type of vegetation that naturally exists in a shoreline, or *riparian*, setting. Buffers require little maintenance, and use of fertilizers and pesticides is discouraged.

# Light Pollution

Light pollution is bad for people and many animal species, including birds, nocturnal animals, and many insects and moths which are necessary for healthy ecosystems. There are many spotlights now targeted across the lake which can annoy neighbors. It's much better to have very time-limited, downward facing lights or better yet, motion-sensored lights.



# Spring Garden Clean Up Tips:

Now that Spring is on our doorstep, many of us are getting anxious to head out to the garden and clean things up. We want to bolt outside and spring clean the garden as soon as we can. But, don't head out just yet! There's a right way to do a spring garden clean up.

**Your messy post winter garden provides habitat for many beneficial insects and other creatures.**

In early spring, many insects are still in diapause (a physiological state akin to hibernation). In other words, they're still sleeping. Sometimes they wake up because the weather warms and sometimes they wake up because the day-length increases. Lots of beneficial insects, including pollinators like tiny native bees and pest-munching predators like syrphid flies, lacewings, and parasitic wasps, spend the winter hunkered down in hollow plant stems. Cutting down the dead plant stems too early in the spring will disturb them before they have a chance to emerge. Wait as long as you can to do your spring garden clean up. Ideally, you should wait until the daytime temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees for at least 7 consecutive days. If possible cut stems and gather them into small bundles. Tie the bundles together and hang them on a fence or lean them against a tree. Again, the insects sheltering inside of them will emerge when they're ready. An added bonus of this method: More insects, especially native bees, will move in to the stems and possibly use them as brood chambers all summer long. Don't mulch... yet! There are also many beneficial insects and pollinators who burrow as either eggs, pupae, or adults. Some examples include

the hummingbird clearwing moth, soldier beetles, and many native bees. Covering the ground with a layer of mulch too early in the Spring may block their emergence. Hold off on mulching chores until the soil dries out a little and the weather warms. Prune with great care. If part of your spring garden clean up involves pruning, keep a sharp eye out for cocoons and chrysalises. Some of our most beautiful moths and butterflies spend the winter in a delicate cocoon dangling from a branch, including the swallowtails, the sulfurs, and spring azures. Allow any branches with a cocoon or chrysalis present to stay intact. You can always cut them back later in the season.

HAPPY GARDENING!!!



## Dog Waste Management

Dog waste is a major pollutant and contaminant of the water supply (serious health issue). Proper clean up of pets limits the amount of pathogens that can be washed into waterways. Appropriate disposal includes bringing a bag, pick up the waste and then disposing it in the trash.

### Benefits

- Results in less organic debris and bacteria in waterways, which can lead to high nutrient levels and low dissolved oxygen levels in streams and lakes.
- Preventing serious health issues to humans and other animals

*Thank You  
Dan Trahan*



## Garden Club

Tammie Trahan ..... **President**  
Laurie MacKay ..... **Vice President**  
Karen Finerty ..... **Treasurer**  
Nancy Hanson ..... **Secretary**

### *Other Board Members*

Kathy Ford  
Nancy Hanson  
Jen Crow  
Peggy Delacruz  
Lauren Rollinger  
Fran Pacheco  
Mariann Mortenson  
Kelly Dickenson  
Debbie Pomazol  
Marianne Michnowski

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**Treasurer** ..... Ed Meltzer  
**Secretary** ..... Jeremy Vale  
**Parks & Easements**

Jeri Swanson  
Renee Del Missier  
**Lake** ..... Tom Truffer  
**Beach** ..... Peter Lind  
**Recreation** ..... Laurie MacKay

# A New Section for the Shoreline: Getting to know your neighbor

*Interview with the Editor, Donn Hamm*

*Written by: Peggy Delacruz*

*"We have lived out a small piece of heaven, here in Sylvan Lake"*

I had the unique opportunity to interview Donn Hamm, the Editor of our Sylvan Lake Shoreline. It was unique for two reasons. One, I have never interviewed someone before for a public article and two, this was all done through email from my computer in Illinois to Donn's computer in Arizona. I want to start by thanking Donn for allowing me to do this. The experience has been such a pleasure.

I have to tell you before I continue that even though I grew up in Sylvan Lake, I did not know very much about Donn. I could tell you where he lived and who his children are but that's all I knew about him. Whether you know Donn by name, have known him for years, or perhaps are just hearing his name for the first time, my hope is that you will learn something new about your neighbor. Everyone has a story. I'm honored to share just a few highlights from several chapters of Donn's life story.

I want to begin by sharing something Donn wrote to me in his email because I think it provides a perfect introduction to this interview. Donn wrote, "My wife says that the German in me prevents me from 'cutting loose' and being more adventuresome. But I guess I wouldn't change a thing about my life. I married above myself, my family has all become educated and successful in their own way and I am proud of them all. We have lived out a small piece of heaven, here in Sylvan Lake."

Now, I'm German too so I can relate to the "not always being adventuresome" part of that statement. However, after reading some of Donn's experiences and stories, I'm not so sure I agree with it. I'll let you decide for yourself.

Donn spent 35 years of his life as an Industrial Arts Teacher (I promise to get to that part of his life later). I want to mention his teaching career at this time because as a teacher he applied for the Teacher In Space Program in 1986. He was invited to Florida as an Illinois finalist by NASA to watch the launch. Most of us who were around then most likely remember not only watching the launch but may even remember where we were as we watched in horror as the Space Shuttle Challenger Exploded just after take off. Christa McAuliffe was the teacher selected but was killed in the explosion.

I know, I know. I felt exactly how you probably do now after I read that story. There's so much there and yet nothing else really needs to be said. The one thing I will say is it's an incredible story and as incredible stories go, most of us may have one to share in our lifetime. Some of us have more.....

Like the time Donn was finishing his private pilot license at Grayslake's Campbell Airport. Donn was practicing 'short-field landings' and crashed landed the plane. A wing and wheels were torn off and the plane was destroyed. The

landing still holds the record for the shortest landing from touchdown to a fullstop. Sounds frightening to some of us yet he still managed to finish his pilot's license the following week!

OK, Are you starting to agree with me? I think these two stories alone qualify for adventuresome. But there is SO... MUCH... MORE...

Let's start with Donn's family history. Donn was born in Matteson, IL (a town south of Chicago) in 1947. He is one of four boys. One older brother and two younger. His mom, dad and brothers moved to Mundelein in 1957 when he was in fifth grade. His mom was an RN at Condell Hospital back when the hospital was much smaller. His father, who grew up on a farm, worked in the printing industry. Donn remembers family trips to the Northern Boundary Waters, the Rocky Mountains and camping each summer. He told me that one time while camping in the North Woods a bear and cubs came into their camp, smashed the cooler and ate all their food. I can see why that's a memory you certainly would not forget! Donn says that the neighbors used to call his family 'The Hamm Slave Labor Camp'. This was because Donn's father always kept them busy doing chores, clearing the trees on a lot across the street, mowing the lawn and even helping with home remodeling projects. His dad would say, "If you want something done right, do it yourself, then there is no one to blame but yourself". I guess it should come as no surprise that when I asked Donn who was the most influential person in his life



*Donn Hamm*



## Getting to know your neighbor continued

his response was, "My parents, they taught me work ethic and honesty".

Donn and his family lived on Diamond Lake where they did a great deal of swimming, boating and ice-skating. His family attended St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Mundelein. This is where Donn and his wife would later marry and baptize and confirm all their children. Donn and his wife are still active members of the Church.

Donn's first employment experience started in fourth grade as a paperboy. He ended that career in seventh grade but started another job in eighth grade working at Quig's Orchard. Anyone who grew up here in Mundelein will remember Quig's. Unfortunately they are no longer around and the building has been torn down. Donn told me that he worked at Quig's through High School making apple cider. (thousands of gallons). He also mentioned that they discovered Hard Cider from the cider left in the cider barn. I did not ask him anything further about the Hard Cider but I'm almost certain there could be some stories around that.

When I asked Donn about his favorite school memories, (Elementary, High School and College) he described himself as "not being in the 'A' student club, but enjoying school and all the activities." He really enjoyed keeping busy with bike riding, roller skating, playing kick-the-can, building model airplanes, and Boy Scouts. In High School he became interested in sports, girls and later on motorcycles, his fraternity and flying lessons. He also included meeting his wife as a favorite memory....I found that to be really sweet.

Donn went to Mundelein High

School where he was a member of the FIRST freshman class when the school opened. Donn enjoyed playing sports including track (pole vault), wrestling and football. John Graham (from Sylvan Lake) was Donn's track coach and Driver's Ed Teacher. During his Senior Year he became the co-captain of the football team and the wrestling team. The Chicago Tribune named him an All-Area Football player. Donn earned a scholarship and went on to wrestle in college! Donn said, "I can say I beat the Number 4 in College wrestling because, although a better wrestler, he pinned himself and I got the win!" One last memory Donn shared about High School was working at Dairy Dream in the summers. In the evening after work he'd ride out to our very own Sylvan Lake and go swimming with his friends.

So I asked Donn why he and his wife, Tana, decided to move to Sylvan Lake. He told me that when they were first married they lived out on Schwerman Rd. They would, like so many others did, cut through South Sylvan on their way to visit his parents in Mundelein. One time, they noticed a lot for sale. The lot had a structure built on it and it was red tagged because it did not meet the county standards for a house. They bought the lot and tore down the structure. Donn used the lumber from that structure to help build the home they live in today. He says they built that home "one nail at a time" back in 1973. To this day, Donn and his wife have no idea who built that original structure or why.

Donn and Tana have many memories from Sylvan Lake. It is here that they raised three children: Nathan (currently a firefighter), Sara (who still lives in Sylvan Lake and works in Business Development)

and Benn (who owns Lincoln Station Sports Bar and Grill in Chicago). They have been blessed with 8 grandchildren!

When I asked Donn what some of their favorite memories were about Sylvan Lake he mentioned swimming lessons at the beach, their kids growing up with neighbors who would become lifelong friends, watching the kids sail in the sailboat races at Fourth of July and also, seeing his kids finally swim out to the big raft for the first time! I think for a lot of us who grew up here or are raising our families here now, we share those same memories.

Another question I had for Donn was if there was something Sylvan Lakers did back when he first moved here that was different from now. He told me that most of the traditions we have today are the same although now there is a greater focus on ecology and pollution.

I also wanted to know if Sylvan Lake had changed in anyway, for good or bad. Donn talked about how when his kids went to Fremont there were only two classes per grade and because of that most families knew each other. He mentioned that as the school and communities around have grown, that has changed. Donn says, "Sylvan Lake has remained unique, special and a community." I have to agree with him.

Sometimes we think we know a lot about a person who we have known for a long time. So for those of you who know Donn, I asked him to tell me if there was anything about him that may surprise his neighbors. Here's what was revealed, "Tana and I have celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. Alex Grandt (Sylvan Lake Resident) and I were college roommates even though Alex



## Getting to know your neighbor continued

started 4 years ahead of me. Alex loved college! My wife married me because I lived on Diamond Lake! Where she came from, living on a lake was a very big deal!”

Something else he remembered was that he and Alex Grandt were Fremont Boy Scout Troop leaders for 12 years when their boys were boy scouts. He shared fond memories of those times and said that he and Alex still go back to those scouting days. He remembers camping on weekends, summer camp trips, and traveling to BWCA (Boundary Waters Canoe Area). The time they had to remove a fish hook from Chris Wetteland’s (from Sylvan Lake) finger. Donn asks reminiscingly, “Did you know that when you tell a troop of Scouts that they will eat as soon as the camp is set up that they never hear the ‘when camp is set up’ part?” I’m sure Alex and Donn have a long list of Boy Scout memories. What a treasure.

I had to ask Donn’s wife Tana to tell me something about Donn that people may not know about him because... wives will tell you things.....and what she told me is probably one of the best things I learned about Donn during this whole process. Here is what Tana said: “When he is in his workshop, Donn loves to whistle all sorts of songs. My favorite is when he goes from How Great Thou Art to Don’t Cry for me Argentina without missing a beat. He has quite a repertoire!” I don’t know Donn, but I know one thing about people who whistle while they work...in general, they tend to be happy people!

Here’s where I’ll get to Donn’s teaching career I promised earlier. Donn taught for 35 years as an Industrial Arts Teacher. This included woods, metals and drafting. He also worked as a graphic artist in the

Barrington School District. During the summer he even helped to build five homes.

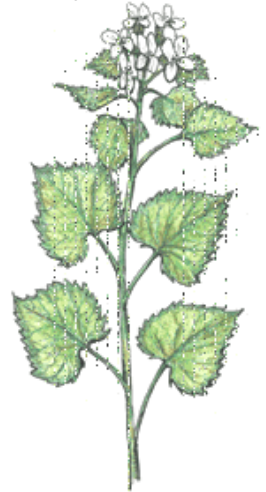
His experience as a graphic artist at the school district gave him plenty of experience with publishing. There he published newsletters, playbills, booklets, etc. So it only makes sense that he took over publishing the Shoreline in 2007 from Gen Connor. The Shoreline is published five times a year so Donn has been a part of this publication for the last 70 issues. In the earlier years, they used to print out copies of the newsletter and hand deliver them to each home.

Today, we get to read the Shoreline in a modern fashion. Either way, I know we all are so grateful that Donn has kept publishing the Shoreline so we can enjoy it each time it comes out. But that is not the only thing Donn does to keep his mind sharp and his days full. Donn enjoys reading books, staying healthy, woodworking and lathe turnings, baking and travel. I asked Donn “What advice would you give to your younger self?” To which he replied, “Work a little less and play a little more”. It sounds to me like Donn has found a balance of working and playing and has the benefit of enjoying all the things he loves with his wife, children and grandchildren.

Thank you Donn for allowing me to share your story with our neighbors. It’s a beautiful story and I know that this is just a few chapters of many. There is no way to capture everything, but we got to know more than we did before. I think everyone’s life is so unique and special and deserves to be shared. I hope you enjoyed reading about your neighbor. I look forward to my next interview and will be reaching out to someone soon.

## Garlic Mustard Is Alive and Unfortunately Doing Well

Garlic mustard is an invasive species that affects woodland habitats. It has no natural enemies in our area and spreads rapidly. Invasive species such as garlic mustard destroy biodiversity by creating



monocultures, or widespread areas of a single species. Garlic mustard monocultures can completely dominate a forest floor in five to seven years, drowning out native woodland wildflowers and other vegetation that our wildlife needs to survive. It is possible to prevent this by catching the growth early and removing it.

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## Volunteering makes Sylvan Lake a

### “Community”

Our thanks and appreciation for the volunteers that will help on Clean-up Day, that includes clearing and or removing invasive plants, trimming, raking and beautifying our community grounds.