



# Sylvan Lake Shoreline

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

## *Sylvan Lake Recap!*

By Dan Trahan, SLIA President

Greetings Sylvan Lakers,

As we near the end of 2021 and another year living with COVID-19, Sylvan Lake has continued to find ways to engage our community in improvement projects, fun activities, and life-long friendships. Once again, volunteerism and involvement have increased with new neighbors joining the community and others taking the leap for the first time.

I'd like to thank the efforts of our volunteer board and neighbors that help plan, manage, and work on the improvement projects throughout our community. Some of the efforts included adding a large new raft at the beach, installing new aerators, repairing our playgrounds for safety, improving drainage in our parks and easements, repairing and staining benches, removing diseased trees, planting new trees and flowers, donating and installing new flag poles, and helping on our cleanup days. Volunteerism continues to help keep our association dues low.



With federal funding for our dam replacement possibly getting approved at the end of 2021, spring may bring the start of our dam project. The details of this project can be found on our website at <https://slia.net/dam-project>. If and when this project happens, the lake will be lowered approximately six feet for about six months. While

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## *See inside for details:*

Santa will arrive soon

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Dog Waste

**LIFE  
IS BETTER  
AT THE LAKE** 

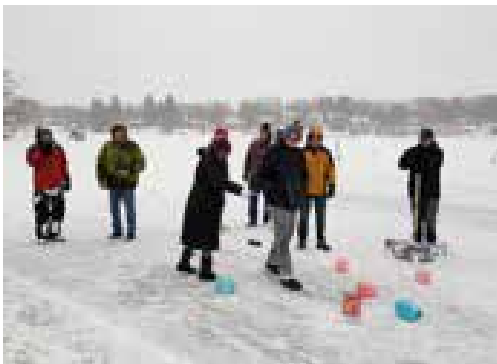
# Sylvan Lake Recap!

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the lake is lowered, we all have an opportunity to perform work on the shoreline and remove old pipes, cement, and other material that may be found on the bottom. Our lake was last lowered in the 80's to dredge the bays, but it occurred in late fall and winter. This time, the lake will be lowered for six months during spring, summer and fall. The resulting impact on fish and plant life will be monitored and spending in 2023 may need to focus on bringing our lake back to life based on how well our lake endures the dam project. We'll also need to come up with creative ways to still enjoy our community without use of our lake, but I have no doubt we'll be able to do just that.



This year was full of events and activities sponsored by Garden Club and SLIA. We ended 2020 with the Turkey Trot, Holiday Train and Luminary Walk. And



started 2021 with a Winterfest featuring burling, ice skating, and kickball! It was a great turnout and ended with a fluffy snowfall resulting in a picturesque scene on the lake. The Bunny Train ran again this year with two bunnies spreading joy and candy to the little ones around the lake. Our volleyball league played a full season with lots of new neighbors partaking in the fun. Carp-o-Rama

continued to bring together kids, parents, and adults alike over Memorial Day weekend in hopes of landing the big one. July 4<sup>th</sup> at the beach brought everyone together for great weather, great food, and great games. Kids Campout provided outdoor movies, campfires, s'mores, and family fun. And although a thunderstorm this year threatened the Cardboard Regatta, it still generated some amazing designs, colors, and laughs. Venetian night provided



our lake with a boat parade full of lights, creative designs and camaraderie. And it was great to have Oktoberfest back after a yearlong hiatus from COVID. It never ceases to amaze me how many events we have throughout the year to bring people together.



I'd like to wish everyone the best holiday season and look forward to a great 2022.

Sincerely,  
Dan Trahan,  
SLIA President

# Snow Art Making Contest

*Garden Club Sponsored Event*

Fun for the whole Sylvan Lake community!

## Rules:

Have fun!

All ages welcome!

Create a snowman, snow-woman, snowgirl, snowboy, snowdog, snowcat, snow-bug... in your front/back yard or at the park. Send a photo (s) to Tammie Trahan or let me know where it is and I'll come take a photo. [tammie.trahan@gmail.com](mailto:tammie.trahan@gmail.com) with the location and artist name(s).



\*Entries must be in by March 1, 2022 without people in photo please. You can send one with people in them as well, just not for the entry.



Pictures of snow art will be posted on Sylvan Lake Facebook page.

There will be prizes- TBD by Garden Club Board Members



One main prize awarded per household.

## Sylvan Lake Newsletter Editor Needed Now

As Donn Hamm retires as the Shoreline newsletter editor we are now looking for the next editor.

SLIA is looking for a volunteer to become the next editor of the newsletters (published 5 times a year on the first of April, June, August, October and December.)

Affordable, professional, desk-top-publishing software (Affinity Publishing) is now available and can be purchased for the next editor. Donn will also be available to share any information about past as well as help in using the publishing software of your choice.

The next newsletter, due out April 1st, 2022, has historically featured articles, pictures and graphics of the Sylvan Lake community events.

Please contact SLIA President Dan Trahan, or Donn Hamm ([dehamm@comcast.net](mailto:dehamm@comcast.net)) for more information.

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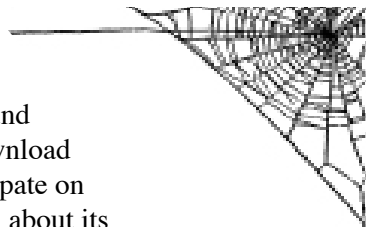
## Sylvan Lake Website

[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.





# ECO-CORNER #21

by Jenn Cameron

## Winter Eco-Learning

During the upcoming winter months, perhaps you will have time to check out the following green and blue :-> news and information:

### The Ocean Cleanup:

Every year, millions of tons of plastic enter the oceans, primarily from rivers. The plastic that's afloat within the oceans isn't going away by itself. The Ocean Cleanup's team is working to develop technology to rid the world's oceans and rivers of plastic.

<https://theoceancleanup.com/>



### Chicago Region Trees Initiative:

CRTI is a coalition of organizations that coordinate actions across the seven-county Chicago region to improve the health of urban forests through proper tree care and planting, improved policies and preservation, and shared responsibility. <http://chicagorti.org/>



### Alliance for the Great Lakes:

Formed in 1970, the Lake Michigan Federation was instrumental in many early Great Lakes protection campaigns. Renamed the Alliance for the Great Lakes in 2006, this organization continues today with vision and volunteer opportunities.

<https://greatlakes.org/>



### NASA:

NASA is more than spaceships and space exploration! Direct observations made on and above Earth's surface show the planet's climate is significantly changing. If you're interested, NASA's Global Climate Change website has global warming information and resources.

<https://climate.nasa.gov/>



Learning about the environment and various ecological impacts and remediation efforts is always in season!

~ Wishing you and yours  
a peaceful winter! ~



# 2021 SYLVAN LAKE GARDEN CLUB

## Planning Events

4th of July



Trivia NIGHT



Olympics



FALL PARTY



Cardboard Boat Regatta



kids games



Snowman Making Contest



## Ladies Night Out



teen and adult games



## Pokeno

## campout



## Winterfest



swim lessons



# Garden Club Board 2022

## Board Officers

President



Tammie  
Trahan

Vice President



Kathy  
Ford

Treasurer



Kelly  
Dickenson

Secretary



Peggy  
Delacruz

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Nancy Hanson



Karen Finerty



Lauren Rollinger



Marianne Mortenson



Jen Crow



Jen Scharff



Debbie Pomazal



Olga Zavialov

## Assistant Board Directors



Wendy Kelberg



Patsy Sweeney



Nancy Brashear

**2021**  
**HOLIDAY TRAIN**  
**SANTA'S VISIT**  
*and*  
**Luminary Walk**  
*Holiday of Lights*



Date: **December 11**

Time: **Starts at 5 PM**

Santa will be on a tractor traveling around **West Sylvan**. Train starts at **Bjorkland Park** (If you live on W. Sylvan South, please find an area at the parks or beach.)

Please watch your children - no climbing on the train.

\*There will be a treat bag for children standing out in their driveway.

\* **Letters for Santa !** There will be a mailbox for Santa's letters for *Wish Lists* and *Thankful Thoughts*.



## Luminary Walk

- Luminary bags will be provided this year. Pick up at Kathy Ford and Debbie Pomazal's house. Please only take as many as you will use. They will also be available at Schwerman Park during the Turkey Trot.

- Please remember CDC safety guidelines- wear a mask when needed. Thank you to all the special helpers who made this possible.

Garden Club Sponsored Event



# Getting to know your neighbor

*Interview with Robert Oliver*

*Written by: Peggy Delacruz*

November 26th, 2021

## **Robert Oliver Interview**

Do you believe Santa Claus is real? I do. Although I'm pretty sure he has many helpers and I'm certain all of us may have met one of them at sometime in our lives. He may have looked like Santa with his traditional bright red suit but it could also be that we didn't even recognize him because he looked like an ordinary man who spread joy and magic and cheer wherever he showed up. Today I met one of them. His name is Robert Oliver and he happens to be Sylvan Lake's Santa.

Robert grew up here with his mom and dad and 5 siblings. He has great memories of Sylvan Lake but the one that stands out the most is the Fourth of July Annual Picnic. Robert was asked to cook burgers one year and he loved it. It was this event that started his passion for cooking and he eventually opened his own restaurant. After that he worked as a line cook at many different restaurants. To this day he enjoys cooking and occasionally does some catering on the side.

Back in 1974 (see photo), Robert was asked to be the Sylvan Lake Santa for the first time. He was just 17 years old. Little did he know that this would circle back and would become a professional career for him years later. When Robert opened his own restaurant back in 1989 he met a caterer who asked him to be Santa for his catering events. People really liked him and began requesting him for other events.

The cost of renting a Santa Claus suit became too expensive so his mom, who was an extraordinary seamstress, made him his first Santa suit in the early 1990's. (sidenote: she also made all the black dresses for the girls in the Fremont School Band). This is the suit he has worn every year up until 2019 when he finally retired the suit. He still has it and has had it professionally preserved.

Robert has been Santa for Sylvan Lake consistently since (he estimates) 2005. The thing I learned about Robert is that he is not only our Santa but he is a professional Santa at many different venues and events. Robert has been Santa in the Senior Community. He is currently working at the Great Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin, Austin's restaurant and the Village Tavern in Long



*Robert's first time as Santa in 1974  
with Jason Harper*

Grove. Robert is Santa all year round. He has been Santa Claus for Christmas In July at Camp Duncan and at Fish Lake Beach. He has also been Santa on a few Cruises in the Summertime where he brings out his summer Santa attire.

There are several Santa networks to which Robert belongs. Some of them are: The International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas, The Worldwide network of Santa Claus and Northern Illinois Santas. He will be going to a conference in Atlanta where there will be 800-1000 other Santas. They will all meet dressed in their Santa attire. I can only imagine how magical that will be. Robert told me that there are several Santa Claus schools all across the country but he has never been to one. He feels that being Santa comes naturally to him and he already incorporates into his routine many of the things that are formally taught.

The thing about Robert is that he doesn't just dress up in a Red Suit and play the part of Santa. He truly lives his life to serve others. Robert told me that in the past he was a bus driver for special needs students. Robert was nominated for the Belief Project because of his kindness and generosity. This is just one of many examples of what a true, kind and compassionate person he is. He was nominated by the mother of one of the boys he drove to school and back over 25 years ago. He still keeps in touch with the family and shows up to their house as Santa every Christmas Eve. His nomination and award was written up in the Daily Herald.

Robert was also interviewed by Mark Rivera on ABC7 after he delivered gifts which were donated to a special boy who was battling cancer. Robert originally met the boy at a Christmas event and because the boy was

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## Getting to know your neighbor... continued

sick he could't visit with Santa. Robert volunteered to visit the boy at his home. After that Robert was asked to deliver the gifts that were donated to him.

Today, Robert is Santa at several venues, does home visits and even virtual Santa visits. He has a green screen with several magical backgrounds to make the experience special.



*Recent photo of Robert at Sylvan Lake*

If you ever have a chance to talk to Robert, don't be surprised if you start believing he really IS a Santa Claus. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to hear his story and I wish I could write every detail of what he shared about his life.

Robert said he doesn't dress as Santa for the money. He does it because of the smiles that it puts on peoples faces both young and old. After talking with him, I truly believe that. I will forever hold in my heart the memory of my conversation with, whom I believe, is a REAL LIFE SANTA CLAUS.

I asked Robert if it was ok to post his contact information. So, with his permission, if you are looking for a Santa either in person or virtually, I promise you, you will receive the true spirit of Christmas:

Robert Oliver  
*A Real Life Santa*  
(847) 565-5925

## Dog Waste Management

Dog waste is a major pollutant and contaminant of the water supply (causing a 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, picking up the waste and then disposing of 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*



## SLIA Board

<b>President</b> .....	Dan Trahan
<b>Vice President</b> .....	Cliff Gartner
<b>Treasurer</b> .....	Ed Meltzer
<b>Secretary</b> .....	Jeremy Vale
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<b>Lake</b> .....	Tom Truffer
<b>Beach</b> .....	Peter Lind
<b>Recreation</b> .....	Laurie MacKay

## Garden Club

<b>President</b> .....	Tammie Trahan - tammie.trahan@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b> .....	Kathy Ford - kpenford13@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b> ..	Kelly Dickenson - kelly.dickinson99@yahoo.com
<b>Secretary</b> .....	Peggy Delacruz - Peggydelacruz@gmail.com

### Board Members

Jen Crow	Nancy Hanson
Lauren Rollinger	Jen Scharff
Olga Zavialov	Karen Finerty
Debbie Pomazzal	Nancy Brashear
Marianne Mortenson	

# Turkey Trot 2021

Another wonderful community celebration of Thanksgiving!  
Thank you again to Kathy Ford for planning the  
Turkey Trot these last nine years!

Many ran, some walked and everyone cheered as Sylvan Lake  
Turkey Trot showed again a lot of community support.

