

June 2023

Sylvan Lake Shoreline

CARP-O-RAMA

2023 Carp-O-Rama results: Carp King and most carp caught went to Matt Molsen with eight fish and 7.39 lbs. In the kids' division, Ian Crow and Blake Washburn both won the biggest fish and most caught with six fish and 5.32 lbs. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who participated!



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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 the history of Sylvan Lake.

The updated website is ready for your use. The only place that requires a password is 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.

Parks & Easements

Cleanup Day

Thank you so much to all the volunteers who came out and worked so hard on clean up day. It was a very long day for some and the work even continued on Sunday. This spring we focused on playground updates, mulching our parks and beach, setting up the volleyball courts and putting out the piers and rafts. Thank you to the other volunteers who purchased all the food, set up, cooked and served lunch and to those who passed out refreshments.

Thank you to all our other volunteers who couldn't make it but help out on other days and in other ways.

Schwerman Park Improvements



Over the past month, Schwerman Park has received a couple new additions and updates. A spider climber and wood stump stepping stones were installed, a future garden bed was cut out and mulched and some much needed pea gravel was added, although much more is still needed. Work is still slowly being done, but hopefully soon we have multiple new slides installed.



Other Continuing Projects

Schwerman Park is not the only project we are currently working on. It seems like the SLIA board, Eco-Lakers and other volunteers are constantly working on projects in all our parks and easements. The invasive removal in Briar Terrace is finally complete and new native bushes were purchased and installed by our Eco-Lakers. We are hoping to add a couple more this fall. The shorelines in Maple Park and Ravinia are slowly being improved, but the first step in this is controlling the weeds and unfortunately this takes time. We will continue to add more flowers to the shoreline in Ravinia with help from Eco-Lakers and this fall Tall Grass Restorations will remove the remaining grass and weeds along the shore in maple park and seed with native flowers, grass and sedges. We are currently looking for volunteers to build wood kayak racks in Wildflower and Juneau Terrace and starting to plan for future work in Blue Heron Point, including adding a pier for lake access on W Sylvan Dr South.

Eco-Lakers Update

This year we raised over \$600 by selling vegetable seedlings to our neighbors and friends. Thank you to everyone who purchased them and supported our neighborhood. With the money raised, we purchased 12 native shrubs that we planted in Briar and Hiawatha Terrace. We plan on purchasing more shrubs and flowers this fall.

Over the last couple months Eco-Lakers finished removing the honeysuckle in Briar Terrace, removed more buckthorn in Hiawatha and some honeysuckle and small weedy trees in Ravinia. We also rescued flowers from the Fremont Township native gardens and planted them throughout the neighborhood. We are currently cutting back and treating the regrowth of buckthorn and honeysuckle along W Sylvan with the Fremont Township Highway Department and as always, trying to maintain our neighborhood native gardens.

If you are interested in learning more or volunteering with the Eco-Lakers please email Sarah Owen at sarahstoeckel@gmail.com

Parks and Easements
Sarah Owen, Kim Del Bene

Fire Truck at the Beach Tradition on the 4th of July

Sylvan Lake has a 4th of July tradition. The beach crowd hears the loud sound of diesel truck engine on Midlothian Road, sees the big red Countryside Fire Protection District fire truck with flashing emergency lights, sirens blaring, horn blasting crossing the dam ...and ...the crowd cheers! Next the pumper is set up and starts to flow a gigantic stream of water towards the beach. Large drops deluge the children and adult children in the water. Small drops and mist deluge the spectators on the beach. Sorry! The roses along the fence across the road get their annual extra watering.



I was a part time Fire Apparatus Engineer/Firefighter on Countryside from 1988 to 2009. When I got qualified to operate the fire trucks in 1993, I got to hear the “Beach Cheers” from the driver seat of the fire truck. The cheers from the Beach are actually louder than the siren. Countryside continued the tradition and has not missed a 4th of July ever since except when emergencies call them to duty.



In addition to making a beautiful rainbow and water display at the beach, pumping water from the lake tests the ability to get water from the lake in an emergency.

We live in a community that does not have a water system large enough to supply fire hydrants. We live in a “Rural” area. Fire departments in rural areas use large tanker fire trucks to supply water to portable ponds for other fire trucks to pump from. Trucking water to a fire is very challenging. Running out of water fighting a fire is not an option. Where ponds and lakes are



available, a fire truck can “Draft” water up to 28 ft up from a lake. If the water is open, accessible, and not covered by ice, a floating device is placed on the end of a hose to draft the water. We have a “Dry Hydrant” – a pipe above ground that extends into the lake for the fire truck to draft from at any time of the year, even when the lake is covered by ice. In addition to the 4th of July use – this dry hydrant was used for an ample water supply at the Bittersweet Dr./Highland Dr. house fire several years ago.

To the women and men of the Countryside Fire Protection District for making our 4th of July Beach Tradition so special, thank you.



Please join the community at the Beach at about Noon this 4th of July when we will be honoring Countryside Fire with a presentation from the Sylvan Lake Garden Club

Thank you to all the First Responders that keep our community safe.

Glen Mortensen

4TH OF JULY PICNIC 2023

Tuesday, July 4th

SCHEDULE

10:00

**BIKE PARADE -
SCHWERMANN PARK**

decorate your bike,scooter.

11-3

LUNCH AT THE BEACH

Hamburger with Chips Hot dog with chips
Beans/Brownies/Cookies Pop/Water/Beer/Wine

11:00

**KIDS GAMES AT THE
BEACH AGE 1-13**

11-1?

**COUNTRYSIDE FIRE
DEPARTMENT -PLAQUE**

1:00

**ADULT GAMES
14+**

2:00

**SAILBOAT RACES
*WEATHER PERMITTING**

***No parking in marked off areas from pit toilet to
shed (Only for unloading) Thank you!**

Thank you to the artists who created murals for the Schwerman Park benches!



Zoe Trahan



Tammie Trahan



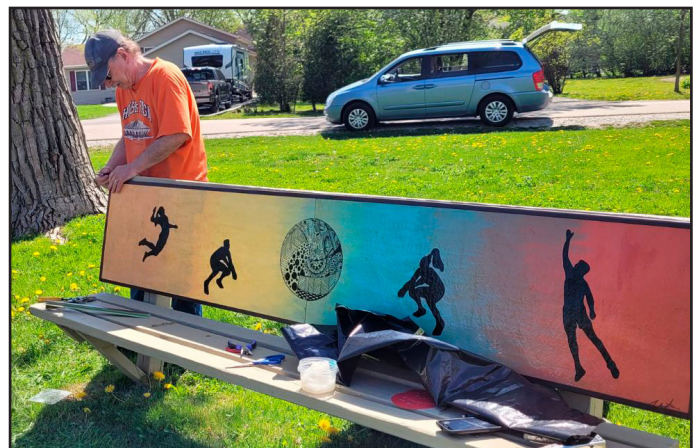
Melissa Vale



Diane Capasso



Mike and Barbara Erdman



Thank you Jeff Brashear for installing them.



Dave Benedeck

The world is a better place
with you in it.

Thank you for leading the 4th
of July adult games for 20+
years. We will miss your
awesome energy! *Garden Club*





HONORING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Countryside Fire Protection District

The SYLVAN LAKE COMMUNITY greatly appreciates your loyal community service in our 4th of July celebrations. Along with over 60 years of dedication to protect our families.

July 4, 2023



Sylvan Lake Garden Club Lady's Night Out



May 6 Garden Club Attendees

The Sylvan Lake Garden Club held its Spring Lady's Night Out on Saturday, May 6 – the evening was hosted by Bridget Duerr & a wonderful evening was had by all (Thank you, Bridget!!). Everyone brought a favorite appetizer or dessert & Bridget made an amazing ham & set up a beautiful evening. We planned out the upcoming 2023 events & played games, shared laughs & had a relaxed evening with friends.



Original Garden Club Members 1941

For those that are not familiar with the Garden Club, our purpose is to not only keep Sylvan Lake a beautiful place to live, but to ensure activities and events are planned year round to continue to provide fellowship & fun to all that live here.

Some of the events sponsored by the Club are:

- 100 Year Anniversary events & shirt sales
- Art in the Park
- 4th of July Picnic
- Lake Swim Lessons
- Venetian Night
- Santa Visit
- Easter Bunny Visit & Egg Hunt

If you have an interest in joining the Garden Club, watch the bulletin boards for upcoming events, volunteer to help out & join in on the fun (next up – 4th of July beach party).

Irene Flora
Garden Club Secretary

Sylvan Lake 100th Birthday Garden Walk

Mark your calendar for July 29 (rain date, July 30) from 9 to noon to continue the Sylvan Lake 100th Birthday Celebration.

View and be inspired by your neighbors' gardens. Participate in guided walks of Briar, Maple and Hiawatha Easements. Learn about ongoing projects to improve the health of our lake and the birds and pollinators that depend on it.

Stop at Schwerman Park for birthday cupcakes, information about gardening for pollinators and birds, buffer strips and other ideas for keeping Sylvan Lake beautiful and healthy, and a demonstration of how your neighbors are giving Monarchs a helping hand.

We have many beautiful, unique gardens at Sylvan Lake. Please consider being a part of this event! If you are willing to have your garden included in the walk or if you have question, please contact sandrawashburn@comcast.net

ECO-CORNER #27

by Jenn Cameron

Floating Islands

In order to promote healthier land and water eco-environments of our Sylvan Lake community, invasive plants are pulled, native vegetation is planted, and carp are targeted for removal during Carp-O-Rama. And while it would be nice to think



that the lowland (wet) and upland (dry) natural areas will just, you know, take care of themselves naturally and maintain a strong protective response to unnatural influences, again, the current reality is that nature sometimes needs extra support to mitigate potentially harmful human activity. We can also learn from others who are trying to improve the water quality of lakes, rivers, and ponds and promote eco-friendly environments above and below the waterline.



For example, Sylvan Lake captures run-off which is water + whatever flows along with it from our yards, easements, streets, AND from other nearby low areas, roadways, and building developments. Water is

channeled towards Sylvan Lake as it moves through easement in-flows and from our own neighborhood storm sewer drains. Excess silt, debris, fertilizer, and other pollutants can easily be washed into our lake that can lead to a shallower basin, unbalanced water chemistry, and algal blooms. Considering the seasonal influences of weather plus other factors, our lake holds water for a period of time before evaporation occurs or it makes its way over the dam flowing towards the next wetland area.

Floating eco-islands similar to some sections of the Wild Mile in Chicago just might be applicable to improve the ecological quality of inland impoundment lakes similar to our Sylvan Lake by helping to filter incoming impurities and excess nutrients, oxygenating sedentary water, creating additional above water habitat, and supporting the underwater ecosystem. Another lake neighborhood not far from ours is actively working on similar



projects to improve the water quality of their lake. Remember, a healthier body of water = improved water quality for human recreation and native habitat. It's part of being good stewards of our lake water! Let's be open to ideas that will keep us ahead of the learning curve on healthy water management. Other neighborhoods are doing it ~ we can too!

<https://www.wildmilechicago.org/>

<https://news.wttw.com/2023/03/31/are-floating-wetlands-making-difference-urban-rivers-chicago-researchers-say-ecosystem>

https://thecharles.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Application-of-floating-wetlands-for-the-improvement-of-degraded-urban-waters_full-article.pdf

Sylvan Lake Sunshine Group

Thank you to all who volunteered to work with the Sunshine Group. We all can know the comfort of living in a community that helps our neighbors in need. We are focused on how we can expand and improve what is happening naturally already, neighbors helping neighbors.

We are developing plans to better communicate with our volunteers when we become aware of needs in our neighborhood. If you are aware of anybody in our community with an illness or emergency that may need some help, in a variety of different ways, we are available. Including providing meals, help with pets, picking up groceries or prescriptions, picking up mail or take out/put back your garbage bins. The Sunshine Group is also available for moral support with calls, text or in-person visits.

In general, please as neighbors please continue to look out for our elderly neighbors. That gives us an opportunity to know them better and become aware of their potential needs or concerns. If you have concerns about a neighbor that Sylvan Sunshine Group could be of benefit to, please contact one of the following point people.

For further information or assistance, please call Frances Pacheco, 847-989-6862 or Denise Goldblatt 847-650-8644 or Renee Del Missier 847-643-6684.

Dam Project Update

There was only one bid for the dam project and the proposal was unreasonably high. As a result, the dam project will not be proceeding this year. Fremont Township will be meeting with the Lake County Stormwater Management Committee and engineering firm to see if any changes can be made to possibly decrease future bids and re-try bidding this winter for a 2024 construction.

For an overview of the dam project, please see our website [here](#).

Sincerely,
SLIA Board



A Reminder:
Golf cart drivers must be 16 years of age or older.

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Newsletter Designed and Edited by

Jeanne Peterson	Dan Trahan
Melissa Kitzmiller	Andrew Kitzmiller