



# Sunfish Lake Quarterly



Winter 2021 Volume 20 Issue 1

## Helpful Reminder:

### Holiday Lights Recycling

Bring your Christmas lights, extension cords and cord lights to the collection containers at West St. Paul, South St. Paul and Mendota Heights City Halls before January 31st for recycling.

No wreaths or greenery accepted. Lights are also accepted year-round at The Recycling Zone in Eagan.

## In This Issue

*Message from the Mayor*  
*Meet the New City Planner*  
*Road Conditions Info*  
*2020 Deer Management Report*  
*Pet Reminder*  
*2020 Election Results*  
*New Polling Location*

*Insert – Dakota County Curbside Recycling Information*

### **City Council**

Dan O’Leary, Mayor  
Joanne Wahlstrom  
Mike Hovey  
Steven Bulach  
Shari Hansen

### **Planning Commission**

Tom Hendrickson, Chair  
Dominick Driano  
Ginny Beckett  
Jeannine Naves  
Shannon Nelson

### **City Clerk Administrator**

Cathy Iago

### **Editor**

Stacy Iago

Publication of the  
Sunfish Lake Quarterly  
is partially funded by  
the Minnesota Pollution  
Control Agency and Dakota County

## *Greetings Neighbors,*

2020 posed unprecedented challenges to our families, communities, nation and world that tested our fortitude and resilience. Our hearts and prayers go out to those in our community who have suffered loss this past year. We are all no doubt allied in hope that 2021 will bring healing, unity and new directions. With every end comes a new beginning.

A few things to note.....The SFL Council has accepted the generous gratis offer from Pastor Mike Verway and the Board of First Calvary Baptist Church to utilize their facilities for our City Hall for the next five years. We appreciate and are grateful for this generous contribution to our community. Effective January 1, 2021, our new City Hall address and voting location is First Calvary Baptist Church, 5495 S. Robert Trail, Sunfish Lake, MN 55077.

And speaking of voting...a huge “Thank You” to our City Clerk, Cathy Iago and her team of diligent election judges, Mike Hovey, Jeannine Naves, Ginny Beckett, Angel Crandall, Christine Hartman, Elizabeth Lee, Shelley Little, Elizabeth Oakman, Barb Tani, Megan Manternach, Anne Pabst, Shari Hansen and Linda Touhy! This team ensured a safe, efficient, and friendly voting experience in the midst of this once-in-a-century pandemic. Your civic volunteerism is much appreciated by all!

The Council would also like to commend our SFL residents for a remarkable **91.18% voter turnout!** Of 454 registered voters, 414 ballots were cast. Thanks to all for exercising your right to vote and participating in democracy at work.

It is that time of year again when old man winter inevitably presents us with snowplowing challenges. Each winter, we are reminded that our city’s lovely landscapes and multiple tree-lined roads contribute to consistently icy road conditions not easily remedied. If you notice a road or area that needs attention, please contact the City snowplow contractor at his direct email address, [sunfishlakesnow@gmail.com](mailto:sunfishlakesnow@gmail.com) and please copy our City Engineer, Jeff Sandberg at [jsandberg@wsbeng.com](mailto:jsandberg@wsbeng.com) in order to provide for consistent monitoring and compliance. This information is also posted on the SFL website.

In spite of persistent challenges, I hope you and your loved ones continue to safely navigate the coming months. Please see the CDC state or national website for recommended precautions and health updates. Hopefully with the advent of a robust vaccination program we can look forward to safely gathering with each other once again before year end. Until the coast is clear, please stay safe and well. Happy New Year!

*Warmest regards.*

*Dan O’Leary*



### **MEET OUR NEW CITY PLANNER**

Tom Ramler-Olson is a community designer with over eight years of professional experience that includes work in land use, urban design, zoning, and transportation. His background includes work as both a public servant and private consultant and providing customer-focused service to local and national clients. Tom is enthusiastic in leveraging his expertise and blend of creative and technical talents to help communities manage their growth and development. He lives with his wife and dog in South Minneapolis and his hobbies include biking around the City, reading, drumming, drawing, and working on his new home, or pretending to while he asks actual professionals for help.

---

### **REPORT UNSAFE ROAD CONDITIONS IN SUNFISH LAKE**

In an effort to keep city roads as safe as possible this winter, our plowing contractor, Executive Contractors, has created an email address for residents to report concerns. If you notice a road/area that needs attention, please send an e-mail to [sunfishlakesnow@gmail.com](mailto:sunfishlakesnow@gmail.com). It is important that you also copy City Engineer, Jeff Sandberg, at [jsandberg@wsbeng.com](mailto:jsandberg@wsbeng.com)

Please use these contacts to report road issues rather than contacting Councilmembers. These are the folks who can fix it. Council would like to remind residents to adjust their driving to the conditions – **PLEASE SLOW DOWN** and be especially cautious at intersections.

---

### **2020 DEER MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The annual deer hunting season was conducted on weekends from October 8 through December 6, 2020. A total of 9 deer were harvested. The warm weather this past season attributed to the low numbers as deer tend to be less active until temperatures drop. The Metro Bowhunters Group harvested 5 antlerless deer that were tested for Chronic Wasting Disease and were found to be negative. Sunfish Lake residents harvested 2 bucks and 2 antlerless deer.

---

### **REMINDER TO CLEAN-UP AFTER YOUR PET**

Just a friendly reminder to be carrying a plastic bag for cleanup and disposal of dog waste while out walking your pet in our beautiful City.

### **CITY OF SUNFISH LAKE 2020 ELECTION RESULTS**

Mayoral Candidate Dan O’Leary received 339 votes. Council Candidate Steven Bulach received 317 votes and Candidate Shari Hansen received 310 votes. Council held a Special Meeting on November 12 to canvass the election results and declared Dan O’Leary Mayor for a two-year term and Steven Bulach and Shari Hansen Councilmembers for four-year terms commencing January 1, 2021.

There were 427 registered voters prior to the polls opening and 27 persons registered on Election Day or by absentee ballot for a total number of 454 registered voters. A total of 414 votes were cast at the polls, by absentee ballot or early voting, for a voter turn-out percentage of 91.18%.

The Presidential race was close in Sunfish Lake with Donald Trump receiving 190 votes and Joe Biden receiving 206 votes. Other races of interest are as follows:

- U.S. Senator: (R) Jason Lewis 215; (D) Tina Smith 182
- U.S. Representative District 2: (R) Tyler Kistner 223 156; (D) Angie Craig 180
- State Senator District 52: (R) Tomas Settell 224; (D) Matt Klein 179
- State Representative District 52B: (R) Cynthia Lonnquist 230; (D) Ruth Richardson 170

Special thanks to City Clerk Cathy Iago and the Election Judges for their service and diligence during these unprecedented times to make the 2020 Election Day run smoothly and also special thanks to voters for an excellent turnout.

---

### **NEW VOTING LOCATION IN 2022**

The City of Sunfish Lake will be utilizing First Calvary Baptist Church as the new election polling location for future elections. Dakota County Elections will be sending a postcard to notify all residents of this change in location prior to the 2022 election season. Sunfish Lake will be sharing this location with one of the precincts from the City of Inver Grove Heights, however, the voting areas will be clearly marked and should not create any issues on election day.

Please remember that voting locations for School District 197 Elections are different than for City elections and please check the School District 197 website for information on where to vote.

---

### **PERMISSION TO FISH ON CITY LAKES**

A reminder that non-Sunfish Lake residents looking to fish on City lakes must receive permission from Lakeshore residents. A “**Lake Access Permission**” slip and a valid photo ID are required when fishing. Permission slips may be obtained on the City website at [sunfishlake.org](http://sunfishlake.org) under Permits and Forms.