



Sunfish Lake Quarterly

Fall 2023 Volume 23 Issue 4

Greetings Neighbors,

I hope all of you had a fun summer and are enjoying the beautiful weather and Fall colors.

First, I'd like to offer a correction and apology. In our last newsletter, when extending a thank you to Roger and Shari Wilsey for the wonderful Kentucky Derby-themed event they hosted at their home, Shari's name was inadvertently printed as "Shirley." My sincerest apologies to Shari, and I reiterate that a great time was had by all who attended.

One of our esteemed SFL team members, City Engineer, Jeff Sandberg, retired in September of this year. Jeff has been an integral member of our team and I applaud the outstanding work he has done on behalf of SFL. We will miss him and extend our best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement!

We are pleased to welcome our new City Engineer, Justin Messner, a Principal at WSB, our City Planning and Engineering contractor. He brings terrific knowledge and experience to this role, and he has already hit the ground running. You can find his contact information on the SFL website.

Several important projects are underway in SFL resulting in an increase in taxes this year. Projects include: requisite street maintenance, joining the 21st century by digitizing our City records and updating our ordinances, many of which are complex and not entirely understandable in their current form. The Council discussed initiating a street maintenance fund that potentially would mitigate large swings in taxes from year-to-year. However, discussion by the Council and previous input from residents indicate that most do not favor a street maintenance fund. The rationale being that residents prefer to pay taxes as street maintenance is required as opposed to more routinely paying an annual amount that would go toward building a street maintenance fund. It was noted that some residents may pay taxes for a street maintenance fund but sell their home prior to having their street repaired, thus not receiving value from street maintenance reserves. As always, the Council welcomes input from residents regarding their thoughts on this and other City concerns.

You received a letter a few weeks ago after some residents expressed concern regarding three tents that were erected by homeless individuals at the bottom of the hill at the intersection of Robert Street and Salem Church Rd. This situation was a reminder that signing up on the City website is helpful if you wish to receive notification on concerns that may arise in the City. The Council heard from several residents indicating they did not know what was going on and urged that a letter be sent to all residents. This specific situation was resolved by the time the letter could be mailed and delivered. In the future, for similar situations, the City will send email notifications only, not letters to each resident. Please consider signing up for email notifications if you haven't yet. Your email address is kept strictly confidential and is not provided to other parties.

Wishing you fun and safe holidays, and hopefully a less epic winter than we experienced in 2022!

Kind regards,
Dan O'Leary

City Council

Dan O'Leary, Mayor
Mike Hovey
Steven Bulach
Shari Hansen
Shannon Nelson

Planning Commission

Tom Hendrickson, Chair
Dominick Driano
Ginny Beckett
Jeannine Naves
Kevin Wu

City Clerk/Administrator

Christy Wilcox
cwilcoxclerk@gmail.com

In this Issue

Message from the Mayor
Free repair help for residents
Keep in touch with the City for information
you want or need
If you see something, say something

Upcoming Recycling Events:

Paper Shred

Mendakota Park, Mendota Heights
October 21, 9 am - noon

Pumpkin Collections

West St. Paul & Mendota
Heights City Halls
November 4-5

Holiday Lights Collections

West St. Paul & Mendota Heights City Halls
November 15-January 31

FREE REPAIR HELP FOR RESIDENTS

Dakota County residents can get help repairing household items, clothes, electronics and more at a Fix-It Clinic. These monthly events help reduce unnecessary trash sent to landfills and empower individuals by teaching troubleshooting and repair skills.

Stop by an upcoming Fix-It Clinic on December 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 401 Concord Street in St. Paul. The event is free, and residents do not need to register to participate.

Repair-savvy volunteers will guide you through each step, from troubleshooting to a completed repair. Bring up to three items that need fixing or mending such as lamps, vacuum cleaners and clothes. You must be able to carry items into the clinic, so no oversized items. Bring any tools and supplies you think might help with the job; however, volunteers have plenty of tools.

For future dates and more information, visit www.dakotacounty.us and search Fix-It Clinics.

Partially funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Dakota County.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE CITY FOR INFORMATION YOU WANT OR NEED

Sign up to automatically receive email updates that interest you on the City's website at sunfishlake.org. Give us your email and we'll send updates periodically for the items you've selected. You can unsubscribe or add more options at any time.

Your information will be retained by the City of Sunfish Lake, but WILL NOT be shared, sold or used for other purposes.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

Common questions that the police department receives are, "What should I do when I see something suspicious?"

The easiest answer is to call 911. You are the police department's eyes and ears. If you think something is suspicious, call the police and we will investigate it. That suspicious vehicle in the neighbor's driveway may be someone who pulled into the wrong driveway, or it may be someone looking for an opportunity to burglarize a home. It might be suspicious, it might not be, but that is what the police are for. If you wait to call, the suspicious activity could be gone by the time the police can arrive.

When you call, dispatch will ask you a few questions. The dispatcher will start by asking who you are, you can give them your information, or you can remain anonymous. Next, they will ask you what is happening, why you think it is suspicious, and additional pertinent details. If it is a suspicious person they will ask for descriptors like sex, age, race, and clothing description. If it is a vehicle, they will ask for things like the make, model, color and license plate. Try to give as much detail as possible. Another thing to know, even if you give information to dispatch, the police officer may have other questions for you. If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to ask!

2023 will be the 15th year of the Sunfish Lake Deer Management Plan, once again partnering with the Metro Bowhunters Resource Base (MBRB). Over the course of the last 15 years, archers have removed over 110 deer with the intent to keep the deer herd healthy within Sunfish Lake's wildlife carrying capacity. Sunfish Lake residents that meet the same requirements as MBRB members are also able to participate in the management plan.

Hunting will take place in Musser Park and on suitable private parcels where hunters have been given written permission. All hunting will be done in accordance with the Minnesota Hunting Regulations, with the archery season running from September 16th - December 31st.

The listed dates are reserved for MBRB hunting:

- October 6, 7 and 8
- November 2, 3 and 4
- November 9, 10 and 11
- December 1, 2 and 3

No hunting will be allowed on the following dates:

- October 19, 20, 21 and 22
- October 27, 28, 29 and 30
- November 23 and 24
- December 24 and 25

If you would like your property to be considered for hunting or have any questions, feel free to reach out to Sgt. Matt Muellner at mmuellner@wspmn.org.