



Sunfish Lake Quarterly

Spring 2024 Volume 24 Issue 2

Greetings Neighbors,

It’s the time of year when snow blowers are relocated to the back of the garage and spring garden tools and bicycles move to the front! Despite a mild winter no doubt we’re all eager for warmer temps.

On behalf of the City Council, I sincerely thank all SFL residents who contacted our state representatives to oppose the recent proposed state legislation that would usurp Minnesota cities’ local zoning ordinances and require more density and types of multiple housing in cities. The proposed mandate ignores the unique characteristics of cities and doesn’t take into consideration stress on city budgets and potential assessments residents would incur to abide by infrastructure requirements necessary to provide water and sewage treatment to many more residents because of increased density.

The City Council took immediate steps to gain exemption for SFL from the proposed law as it would have extremely undesirable consequences for SFL. As such, we enlisted services of a formidable lobbyist, who facilitated my meeting at the Capital with Representative Mike Howard, one of the co-authors of the bill. After listening to SFL’s unique circumstances, he provided assurance to us that SFL would be exempt from mandates in this bill. SFL email communications about this matter were sent to those on the city email list. See the SFL website home page for more information in the “From the Mayor” area.

Recent indications are this zoning restriction bill appears to be “dead” for this legislative session which is a testament to positive local activism. In addition to SFL, many other community leaders and residents galvanized to vigorously protest the bill. That said, it is likely that this legislation will continue to be proposed in future legislative sessions because of strong bipartisan support of legislators. We will continue to be vigilant and may once again ask for your support to object to a new iteration of this bill.

The City Council wishes to extend our heartfelt appreciation and thanks to our long-time City Attorney, Tim Kuntz, for his decades of outstanding work on behalf of SFL! Tim has indeed earned his upcoming retirement. We have been the beneficiary of Tim’s extensive municipal law knowledge and his thorough level-headed representation. He has been a terrific partner to the Council and his sage advice delivered with calm objectivity has been an asset to the effective governance of our city. I know the Council, city staff, and all residents join me in wishing Tim a healthy, fun and fulfilling retirement doing his favorite things with family and friends. “Thank you, Tim!”

As Tim transitions to retirement, Kori Land, a partner in Tim’s firm will assume the City Attorney role for SFL. I have known Kori for over 30 years and she is an excellent attorney and extremely well-versed in municipal law. We welcome Kori to our team. To affect this transition, and to resolve a meeting time conflict with another city Kori represents, the Council voted at the April 2024 Council meeting **to change the City Council meetings to the second Tuesday of each month**, This change will also lessen conflicts with voting dates that SFL often incurs.

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City Council Dan O’Leary, Mayor Mike Hovey Steven Bulach Ginny Beckett Shannon Nelson	Planning Commission Tom Hendrickson, Chair Dominick Driano Jeannine Naves Kevin Wu	City Clerk/Administrator Christy Wilcox cwilcoxclerk@gmail.com	In this Issue Message from the Mayor Bring Your Broken Items to a Fix-It Clinic No Parking Message from Mendota Heights Fire Sunfish Lake Derby Week Septic Pumping Reminder Pavement and Culvert Mgmt Program
Upcoming Recycling Events:	Mattress Collection for Recycling June 15, 9 am –noon West St. Paul Public Works (403 Marie Ave East) \$10 per mattress or box spring (cash only)		

Mark your calendars for these May events!

Friday, May 3rd at 5:30 pm., our annual **SFL Spring social event** will take place at Ozzie and Shannon Nelson's home. It is always a fun event to connect with friends and neighbors. You should have received your invitation which gives more information. I look forward to seeing you there!

Saturday, May 4th beginning at 9:00 am, our annual **SFL Arbor Day** activities will be helmed by our Forester, Jim Naves. This planting event is a fun, eco-friendly (rain or shine) activity that offers children of all ages an important nature and community service experience to beautify our community and watch their plantings grow over the years. Please also see the SFL website for more information.

Wishing you a fun and safe summer!

Dan O'Leary

BRING YOUR BROKEN ITEMS TO A FIX-IT CLINIC FOR FREE REPAIR HELP

Dakota County residents can get help repairing household items, clothes, electronics and more at a Fix-It Clinic. These monthly events help keep items out of landfills and empower people to repair things on their own.

Show up to the upcoming Fix-It Clinic on Saturday, April 20th from 10 am to 1 pm at Kaposia Library in South St. Paul. The event is free and you do not need to register to participate.

Helpful 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 overly large items. Bring any tools and supplies you think might help with the job, but it is not required to bring any tools.



For future dates and more information, visit www.dakotacounty.us, search fix-it clinic.

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

NO PARKING



In order to enhance vehicle and pedestrian safety along Salem Church Road, the City Council passed a resolution in December 2023 to restrict parking along the roadway. Parking is allowed on the south side of the roadway while parking is not allowed on the north side and signage prohibiting parking is in place.

Residents are asked to notify their lawn care contractors and other vendors that frequent properties along Salem Church Road of this restriction.

If a resident is having a large or special event where parking may be an issue, the Chief of Police has authority to evaluate the area and allow temporary parking during the event and temporary signage will be placed in areas where parking is permitted. If you have interest in having temporary parking, please contact Brian Sturgeon, Chief of Police, at 651-552-4201 or via e-mail at bsturgeon@wspmn.gov

MESSAGE FROM THE MENDOTA HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Happy spring from the Mendota Heights Fire Department – Public Education and Community Relations division!

With the return of spring, it's a good time of year to evaluate the tree and vegetation growth along driveways. Fire trucks that respond in Sunfish Lake require a clearance height of at least 14-feet. There should be no growth within the width of the pavement. Ample clearance is necessary to prevent access delays and damage to equipment. Another way that residents can help response efforts is to ensure address and fire numbers are placed so they are visible from the road and provide clear direction for homes that are down long driveways.



The lack of snow over the winter has made for abnormally dry spring conditions. That means a few things should be considered before starting a recreational fire; no fire shall be started or maintained in dry conditions or when winds are over 15 M.P.H., fire size shall not exceed 3-feet in diameter or flame height, and all fires shall be at least 25-feet from any building or structure. For a more detailed list about recreation fires and open burning visit MendotaHeightsMN.gov.

Mendota Heights Fire Department has several public education events and activities throughout the year, including the annual Fire Prevention Open House on Saturday, October 12th, 2024 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Events are posted on MendotaHeightsMN.gov or @MendotaHeightsMN on Facebook and Instagram. Keep an eye out for the 2023 Mendota Heights Fire Department Annual Report to arrive in your mailbox during the second quarter of 2024.

SUNFISH LAKE DERBY WEEK, KENTUCKY OAKS PARTY

The Sunfish Lake Holiday Party Committee has been busy planning the Sunfish Lake Kentucky Oaks Party.

Please save the date of **May 3rd, 2024**. This year, the party will be held at the home of

Shannon and Ozzie Nelson, 357 Salem Church Rd.

Party time is from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. There will be prizes for Best Dressed & Best Hat, male and female categories.

Betting opportunities will surely be available, if you're so inclined.

Pink is the color of the day!

Look for your invitation in the mail, more details will be there. We hope to see you on May 3rd!

If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Ginny Beckett at 651-457-6414

SEPTIC PUMPING REMINDER

Residential septic systems must be pumped every three (3) years to remain in compliance with City ordinance requirements. Please remind the Septic Pumper to send a copy of the report to Dakota County Environmental Services that your septic system has been pumped.

Dakota County will send a reminder postcard to residents who are not in compliance with the three-year pumping requirement. If your septic tank has not been pumped within the last three (3) years, please schedule a pumping of your system within the next 60 days.

Contact information for Dakota County septic pumping records:

jenna.grim@co.dakota.mn.us or 952-891-7575

emily.gable@co.dakota.mn.us or 952-891-7008

Main Office: 952-891-7000

PAVEMENT AND CULVERT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Every few years, the City of Sunfish Lake inspects and evaluates city streets through its Pavement and Culvert Management Program. As springtime is upon us, there will be City staff collecting data to proactively address the condition of the streets and culverts to extend pavement, culvert life, and enhance performance in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

Data collection for approximately five miles of city street will use specialized equipment and physically walking to measure pavement roughness, rutting, cracking, and other surface distresses as it travels down the roadway. It will use LiDAR information for locating where these distresses are and cataloging the data. Data collection for approximately fifty city culverts will include a trained culvert inspector who will locate and assess the condition of the culverts. Data will include field notes and photographs specific to each culvert. After streets and culverts are inspected, they are evaluated and given an overall rating, ranging from “excellent” to “worst”.

The data collected will be used to develop a Pavement and Culvert Management maps to help determine future projects needed throughout the City, which could include crack sealing, mill and overlay, and reconstruction for streets and maintenance and reconstruction for culverts.



PLEASE NOTE – CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE CHANGE

Beginning in May, the City Council will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. To view the agenda for each meeting, please visit the website at www.sunfishlake.org

