



# Sunfish Lake Quarterly

Summer 2023 Volume 23 Issue 3

Greetings Neighbors,

I hope all of you are enjoying this long-awaited warm summer we are experiencing.

Some special events took place in SFL in May.

A special “Thank You!” to Chief Brian Sturgeon and members of the Mendota Heights Fire Department who provided lifesaving training in CPR prior to the May 2<sup>nd</sup> City Council meeting. It was excellent training and gave confidence to those in attendance that we could initiate those procedures in an emergency.

Our SFL Forester, Jim Naves, led another successful Arbor Day event at Musser Park. Another special “Thank You!” to the Sarah and Scott Buell family and sons, William, 10; Reed, 8; and Gregory, 6 and the Rachel and Jeremy Segal family and their son, Noah, 7, all of whom did a yeoman’s job of planting 14 of the 20 trees. Also, to Emily Wu, for her 4-wheeler delivery of water for the trees, which saved everyone’s back!

We were treated to another Kentucky Derby-themed social event that was a fun opportunity to connect with neighbors and friends. On behalf of SFL, I extend a huge “Thank You!” to Roger and Shirley Wilsey for their gracious hosting of the event at their home and to Committee members, Shannon Nelson, Ginny Beckett, Cathy Iago, Kathy Kottas, Sally English, and Mary Jo Muelners for their meticulous planning and execution of this fun event.

A complaint was recently raised at the June Council meeting by a resident that new residents are not always notified of building and landscaping permit requirements. SFL does not track private real estate transactions so communication to new residents is often made through the SFL Welcome Committee (contact info is listed on the SFL website). We ask residents to please notify a member of the Committee when new residents move into your neighborhood such that they can then be welcomed to SFL and be informed as to critical permit requirements prior to initiating any remodel or landscape projects. We appreciate your help with this communication.

Wishing you a fun and safe summer!

Dan O’Leary

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| <b>City Council</b><br>Dan O’Leary, Mayor<br>Mike Hovey<br>Steven Bulach<br>Shari Hansen<br>Shannon Nelson | <b>Planning Commission</b><br>Tom Hendrickson, Chair<br>Dominick Driano<br>Ginny Beckett<br>Jeannine Naves<br>Kevin Wu | <b>City Clerk/Administrator</b><br>Christy Wilcox<br>cwilcoxclerk@gmail.com | <b><u>IN THIS ISSUE</u></b><br>Message from the Mayor<br>Mendota Heights Fire Department Update<br>Minnesota Recycling Works<br>Congrats Grads!<br>Do’s and Don’ts of Property Development in Sunfish Lake<br>Pet Waste<br>Illicit Discharge |
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## DO'S AND DON'TS OF PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT IN SUNFISH LAKE

By Lori Johnson, AICP, City Planner for the City of Sunfish Lake

If you look around in Sunfish Lake you will see new homes going up, home additions being constructed, or landscaping projects being completed. Sometimes these activities can cause a lot of stress in the community, and it is always important to know the rules that are in place through the city's zoning ordinance before undertaking a new project. Understanding the rules will make your project less controversial and will help to speed up the approval process.

If you are proposing to construct a new home, please contact me at the email address or phone number listed below. Any new home that is constructed in the city must go through the major site and building plan review process, which includes review of the project by the Planning Commission (including a public hearing with the notification of neighbors) and City Council. The submittal information for this process is extensive as it must include grading, drainage, and erosion control information to be reviewed by the City Engineer for conformance with ordinances. It is very important to understand this process given the short construction season in Minnesota. Our goal is to make sure this review can be done in a timely manner so you can move into your new home!

If you are proposing to construct an accessory building, a garage or home addition, you may need to go through either major or minor site and building plan review, depending on the size of your project. Accessory buildings or additions above 1,000 square feet will be required to go through the major site and building plan review process, as described above. If it is under 1,000 square feet, you may be directed to go through the minor site and building plan review process, which involves a public notification and notice to the Planning Commission and City Council (with no public meetings involved). Again, it is important to understand the process so please reach out to me at any time!

If you are removing trees from your property or undergoing a major landscape project, you may need to go through the major or minor site plan approval process depending on the size of the project. Tree preservation is very important to the city as a whole and it is critical to know what is allowed for landscaping projects to ensure your project goes smoothly. Taking down trees creates a lot of attention, and staff can help you understand what is allowed. The City Forester, Jim Naves, is always there to help as well.

If you are needing to obtain a building permit for interior remodeling, roofing, plumbing etc., please contact the Building Inspection Department for the City of West St. Paul. West St. Paul has an online permitting process and I, as the City Planner, do not have forms to fill out for permits.

In conclusion, please do not hesitate to email me or call me if you have questions about what you would like to do on your property. I can be reached at [ljohnson@wsbeng.com](mailto:ljohnson@wsbeng.com) or at 612.364.3029. Sunfish Lake is a pristine city and knowing the rules can help keep it that way. I'm here to help at any time!

### PET WASTE

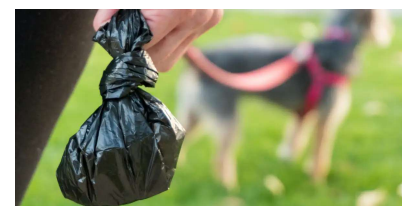
In 1991, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency listed pet waste as a nonpoint source pollutant. As the name suggests, nonpoint pollution does not come from a single identifiable source and instead comes from many dispersed sources. During rainstorms, the waste washes downstream and either directly enters waterways or passes through stormwater infrastructure before ultimately ending up in rivers and lakes.

Animal waste is a potential pollutant for water quality and poses a threat to human health. Animal waste does not simply decompose. **It must be picked up.** Animal waste contains two pollutants, nutrients and pathogens, that harm local waters. When this waste ends up in downstream, in stormwater ponds, rivers, and lakes, it decomposes, releasing nutrients that cause excessive growth of algae and weeds. This turns the water murky, green, smelly, and even unusable for swimming, boating, or fishing. The pathogens, disease-causing bacteria and viruses, can also make local waters unswimmable and unfishable, and have caused severe illness in humans.

There are now more than 77 million dogs living in the United States, and the average dog deposits about  $\frac{3}{4}$  pounds of waste each day. What first appears as a small amount quickly adds up. Picture 267,500 tractor-trailers filled with dog poop. Lined up they would stretch 3,800 miles, from Boston to Seattle. That's 10 million tons each year.

What can you do?

- Always carry poop bags with you whenever you are out with your dog.
- Pick it up every single time. Seriously!
- Tie the bag closed and toss it in the garbage. Dog poop cannot go in compost or yard waste bins.
- Pick up poop in your yard weekly (more often is better and before a big rain).



## ILLICIT DISCHARGES

Illicit discharges are generally any discharges into a storm drain system that are not composed entirely of stormwater, and are restricted by Federal, State, and local laws. Illicit discharges are a problem because unlike wastewater that flows to a wastewater treatment plant, stormwater generally flows to waterways without any additional treatment. Illicit discharges often include pathogens, nutrients, surfactants, and various toxic pollutants. Visible sewage waste, foul odor, suds or other evidence of contamination, are indicators that an illicit discharge is contaminating the storm sewer.

What are examples of an illicit discharge?

- Soil or material discharge into storm drains from remodeling, construction, or industrial/commercial areas
- Illegal dumping, spills, and other polluted sources
- Vehicle washing wastewaters
- Pool draining
- Any car liquids from vehicle maintenance or service stations
- Autobody/repair facility, or car wash wastewaters
- Carpet cleaning wastewaters
- Manufacturers wastewater
- Open sewage/sanitary sewer disrupted connection waste
- Fertilizer, grass clippings, or yard waste
- Laundry or household product waste
- Pet waste



What are not examples of an illicit discharge?

- Discharges from firefighting activities
- De-chlorinated water flushing or draining
- Lawn watering
- Water from crawl space pumps
- Uncontaminated water from foundation, sump pumps, or footing drains
- Routine external building or street washing without detergents or solvents
- Air conditioning condensate

If you see a spill, please call City Engineer, Jeff Sandberg at 651-286-8474.

## MINNESOTA RECYCLING WORKS

Have you ever questioned if recycling is worth it? Short answer: yes. Beyond saving energy and protecting natural resources, recycling also supports vital industries.

Recycling is the process of collecting materials that would otherwise be thrown away and turning them into new products. Our cans, bottles and paper are dropped off at a local facility where people and machines sort the recycling into material types which are sent to many different companies:

- **Paper and cardboard** are made into newspapers, toilet paper rolls and cereal boxes at five paper mills in Minnesota.
- **Cartons** like juice boxes are sent to a company in Wisconsin that makes a material for new paper products.
- **Aluminum cans** get turned into new cans, wire, siding and more at plants in the South.
- **Steel cans** like those used for soup are made into steel beams in Chicago.
- **Plastic bottles with a number 1 like water and soda bottles** are shipped to other states to be made into new bottles and carpet.
- **Plastic containers with a number 2 like milk jugs** are transformed into low-maintenance lumber by companies like Avon Plastics in Paynesville.
- **Cottage cheese and other plastic tubs with a number 5** are used to create food containers, car parts and more by companies in other states.
- **Glass bottles and jars** are sorted by color in St. Paul. Clear glass goes to Anchor Glass in Shakopee to make condiment bottles. Brown glass is sent to Illinois to make beer bottles.

Our recycling is wanted by many companies in our state and across the country. Help support local recycling business:

- **Stick to the basics:** Recycle the items listed above.
- **Keep it loose:** Empty recycling into your bin – no plastic bags.
- **Check the Recycling Guide** for everything else at [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search recycling guide.

## **MENDOTA HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Greetings from the Mendota Heights Fire Department (MHFD) Public Education and Community Relations division! In May, we had the opportunity to teach Hands-Only CPR to those in attendance at the Sunfish Lake City Council meeting. This is a free training that the fire department brings to community events where we provide our neighbors with a simple lesson and basic skills to take action if they witness or come across a person in cardiac arrest. Throughout the year, MHFD hosts open houses and participates in community events to promote fire and life safety education. These events are open to the public. Residents and businesses in our response area; Sunfish Lake, Lilydale, Mendota, and Mendota Heights, are always welcome!

### **Upcoming Event**

Saturday, October 14th 10am – 1pm – MHFD Fire Prevention Open House @ Mendota Heights Fire Station (Dozens of fun and educational activities for children and adults!)

### **Summer Fire Safety**

Outdoor Fires - The State of Minnesota maintains a map of the current fire dangers and burning restrictions by county. Any time you plan to burn or light a bonfire, be sure to check for current restrictions in Dakota County at [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating\\_restrictions.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html)

Grilling Safety – Before lighting up a grill, check for cracks and leaks on the hoses and fuel tank. Only use grills outdoors and always be in attendance while in use. When lighting a grill, keep the top open. If it does not light in the first several attempts, wait five minutes with the top open before trying again. Keep the grill clean. Most grill fires start from build-up inside or because something that could burn was too close to the grill. When grilling, place the grill away from your house, deck railings, and out from under eaves.

To stay informed about events and fire education opportunities visit The City of Mendota Heights webpage at [mendotaheightsmn.gov](http://mendotaheightsmn.gov) or follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/MendotaHeightsMN](https://facebook.com/MendotaHeightsMN).

## **CONGRATS GRADS!**

Coco Barber is a 2023 graduate of Trinity School at River Ridge and will be attending Point Loma Nazarene University in the fall to study Environmental Science.



## **OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Clothing & Shoe Donation Collection**

August 21- September 1

Location of Outdoor drop offs:

Mendota Heights City Hall: 1101 Victoria Curve

WSP Sports Dome: 1655 Livingston Avenue

Doug Woog Arena: 141 6<sup>th</sup> Street South

### **Shred Event**

September 16, 10 am – 1 pm

Wakota Federal Credit Union

1151 Southview Blvd., SSP

Limit 2 boxes per person

### **Clean-Up Day**

September 23, 8 am - noon

Inver Grove Heights Public Works

8168 Barbara Ave

For questions regarding these events, please contact:

Courtney Selstad, Recycling Coordinator

651-552-4118

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