



Sunfish Lake Quarterly

Summer 2024 Volume 24 Issue 3

Greetings Neighbors,

I hope you are enjoying the warmer days of summer in between the rain storms!

There is a lot to cover this quarter so I'll get to it.

Jim Nayas, our SFL Forester, led another successful Arbor Day event at Musser Park. Thank you, Jim! Also, kudos to all who worked in in the rain and cloudy weather. A special thanks to John Oakman who assisted various groups throughout the entire event. I guess he felt once he was wet, what difference did it make?! Another special "Thank You!" to the Mulrooney family who brought their delicious pine-tree-decorated cookies to nourish the planters. In spite of challenging weather, everyone had a great time. Jim said it was one of the best-attended and fun Arbor days in many years.

Another fun event, the Kentucky Oaks-themed annual SFL party was graciously hosted by Shannon and Ozzie Nelson. A huge "Thank You!" to them and the Sunfish Lake Party Planning Committee members, Shannon Nelson, Ginny Beckett, Kathy Kottas, Sally English, Mary Jo Muelners, Anne Murphy, Rachel Segal and Claire Noble. Their meticulous planning ensured a great time was had by all attendees.

We'd like to welcome Clair Noble, our newest Planning Commission member, appointed at the July City Council meeting. Claire holds a law degree, and her experience includes advising Minnesota State government departments and the Governor's Office on policy and initiatives and she worked on litigation matters in the Attorney General's Office. We are delighted to have Claire join our team.

At the invitation of Dr. Peter Olson-Skog, Superintendent of School District 197, I attended the Annual Fund Raiser for the ISD 197 Education Foundation, a district where many SFL students are enrolled. Their mission is to support academic opportunities for students from Early Learning Programs to Grade 12 through supplemental funding. Most public schools do not have enough funding to support extra beneficial programs and the 197 Education Foundation fills these gaps. They were proud to announce that this year Two Rivers High School was rated in the top 5% of public high schools in the State. Congratulations to Dr. Olson-Skog and the staff and teachers at Two Rivers High School. Their amazing programs are opening doors and broadening career options for their students, including internship programs with the Mayo Clinic and other prominent companies.

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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 Nayas Claire Noble Kevin Wu	City Clerk/Administrator Christy Wilcox cwilcoxclerk@gmail.com	In this Issue Message from the Mayor Stay Organized with the Recycling Zone Reminder - No Parking 2024 Voting and Candidate Filing Info Portable Camera Update
Upcoming Recycling Events:	Shred Event September 14 10 am -1 pm Wakota Federal Credit Union (1151 Southview Blvd, So. St. Paul) FREE! 2 box/bag limit per person		

The keynote address at the 197 Fund Raiser was by SFL former resident Ann Bancroft, an internationally recognized Polar Explorer. Many of us know Ann is an arctic explorer, but few of us actually knew what that really entails! Her presentation was riveting! What she endured and conquered on her numerous trips was beyond amazing. Her motivation for these challenging, extremely difficult and dangerous trips was to inspire young girls to reach for their dreams and know that nothing is impossible for them. What she actually accomplished was to inspire everyone of any age or gender to understand that with the proper, planning, effort and determination their dreams can be realized! Congratulations to Ann Bancroft for her truly amazing career and impact on young lives!

Dakota County mayors meet frequently to discuss issues affecting our communities and to exchange information on important events throughout the County. At a recent meeting, we toured the Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley, one of the top five zoos in the U.S. by size. The Tree-Top-walk offers a terrific view of the animals. The Zoo will be undergoing expansion and renovation to enhance the animal experience. It is a State treasure and I would encourage a visit, especially by those of you with young children or grandchildren

Lastly, The Council would like to remind residents that Sunfish Lake is a public city and as such residents have unique dreams for their homes. Though we are intent on protecting our rural-like setting, SFL ordinances allow for pools, certain other accessory buildings and structures. Neighborhood input into these projects is encouraged with the understanding that neighbors cannot mandate what another homeowner's may do with their property. Only by living in a Neighborhood Association where all residents sign a contract agreeing to be bound by Association rules can the majority of members determine specific design features and other restrictions. In SFL our City Planner and City Engineer approve projects allowed by our Ordinances and at times they are bound more by the public safety aspects of a project than by the "natural or rural" aesthetic of a project. The Council encourages residents to engage their neighbors in discussing planned improvements to their property to reach compromise where possible. Civil discourse will be appreciated by all.

Please view the SFL website's Home page where the message below is prominently displayed. If you are considering a new water heater, furnace, roof repair, landscape change, or almost anything else, protect yourself by making a quick call to our City Planner, Lori, who will inform you if a permit is necessary or will direct you to the West St. Paul building inspectors. **REMEMBER, it is ultimately a property owner's responsibility to ensure a permit is obtained. So, do not depend on your contractor to obtain one, even if your contract with them states they will do so.** Make a quick confirming call to Lori or the West St. Paul Building Inspection Department to ensure your contractor actually obtained the proper permit. **Failure to do so may lead to unnecessary problems.**

Don't forget a permit

Please call City Planner Lori Johnson at 612-364-3029 before starting any landscape or home repairs or remodels to see if a permit is required. Otherwise, you could violate a City Ordinance. See Permits and Forms to learn more about the permit you need

Wishing you a fun and safe summer in SFL!

Dan O'Leary

STAY ORGANIZED WITH THE RECYCLING ZONE

The Recycling Zone in Eagan is a destination for the stuff that doesn't belong in your home curbside cart. With the drive-thru setup, you stay in your car while staff unload materials from the trunk or backseat. Put smaller items in a box that you can leave behind.

Accepted items – free drop-off unless noted

- Auto products like motor oil, antifreeze and gas
- Bug killers/repellants
- Cardboard (no larger than 36 inches by 36 inches)
- Cleaners
- Electronics (fee for TVs and computer monitors)
- Lightbulbs — all types
- Needles and sharps (in a closed rigid container, keep in front seat)
- Paints and stains
- Personal care products like nail polish and hair dye
- Propane tanks and aerosol sprays
- Scrap metal
- Small household electronics like toasters and vacuums
- String lights and cords
- Tires (fee)
- Vaping devices
- Weed killer
- Most products that say caution, warning, danger or poison

The Recycling Zone does not accept

- Appliances
- Carpet
- Furniture
- Humidifiers and dehumidifiers
- Lumber
- Mattresses
- Medical waste and medications
- Yard waste



If you have an unknown or unique household chemical email recyclingzone@co.dakota.mn.us prior to dropping off to work with The Recycling Zone staff about safe handling.

The Recycling Zone, located at 3365 Dodd Road in Eagan, is open all year, four days a week. For a complete list of accepted items and drop-off hours, visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *recycling zone*.

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

REMINDER - NO PARKING NORTH SIDE OF SALEM CHURCH ROAD



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

2024 VOTING AND CANDIDATE FILING INFORMATION

Primary Election: Tuesday, August 13th

General Election: Tuesday, November 5th

Residents of Sunfish Lake vote at First Calvary Baptist Church at 5495 South Robert Trail, Inver Grove Heights. The polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 p.m.

City of Sunfish Lake Candidate Filings: The filing period begins on July 30, 2024, and closes on August 13, 2024. Offices to be elected:

- Mayor (two-year term)
- City Councilmember (four-year term) – two seats

If you are interested in filing for any of these offices, please contact Christy Wilcox at cwilcoxclerk@gmail.com or 612-718-4282 to complete the Affidavit of Candidacy during the filing period. The filing fee of \$5.00 may be paid by cash or check.

ABSENTEE VOTING AVAILABLE FOR PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION



In Minnesota, you can vote by absentee ballot starting 46 days before Election Day.

- To find the online absentee ballot application and file online, go to mnvotes.org website.
- Vote in person at the Dakota County Northern Service Center, 1 Mendota Road West, West St. Paul, Western Service Center, 14955 Galaxie Avenue, Apple Valley or the Administration Center, 1590 Highway 55, Hastings.
- Download and mail an application found on the Dakota County website: co.dakota.mn.us

If you have any questions, please contact Dakota County Elections at 651-438-4391 or City Clerk Christy Wilcox at 612-718-4282.

You may also visit the City's website at www.sunfishlake.org and the Minnesota Secretary of State website at mnvotes.org website for additional election information.

PORTABLE CAMERA UPDATE

The City of Sunfish Lake recently purchased a portable camera that is integrated into the City of West St Paul's secured video management software program. The funding for this camera was dedicated to Sunfish Lake through the State of Minnesota Public Safety Aid package in 2023 which was a one-time allocation to be utilized for public safety purposes, with some restrictions.

This camera can be used in areas of concern, such as illegal dumping sites and locations of past criminal or potential criminal activity. The camera can also be somewhat of a deterrent, if placed in a location that is visible.

The camera is currently placed along Salem Church Rd for two main reasons.

1. Easily accessible location in case adjustments need to be made getting the system up and running on the platform. This is the first location the camera has been in operation and again, is easily accessible if needed.
2. Salem Church Rd is the most traveled city roadway.

This camera is generally not monitored but has recording capabilities that have proven very beneficial in West St. Paul, in order to hold individuals accountable for criminal behavior.

The link to learn more about this camera: <https://shorturl.at/5q8xa>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Chief Sturgeon at 651-552-4201 or by email at bsturgeon@wspmn.gov.

Permit Information

Many residents are unaware that they need permits for many items in Sunfish Lake. The purpose of the permits are to protect the quality of life in Sunfish Lake as well as safeguarding the public health, safety and general welfare of the community.

- Most things dealing with water, electricity, gas etc. require a building permit. Things like putting in a water heater, upgrading your electric, adding a new fireplace, etc. Done improperly these could cause a fire.
- If you wish to pump water from a lake; raise chickens, goats or other farm animals; or maintain a beehive, you need to obtain a permit. Certain restrictions are necessary on those activities in order to protect your neighbors.
- If you want to remove a number of trees on your property you need to obtain approval of the City Forester. We are a Tree City.
- If you are planning a home improvement project you may be wondering, "Do I need a permit?" The City of Sunfish Lake requires permits for most building or site improvements. Things like roofing, siding, fences, room or patio additions or repaving your driveway, all require a permit. Permits are required to ensure all construction is completed correctly and complies with the building and zoning codes. Permits are required regardless of whether a contractor or homeowner does the work.

Some may think that obtaining a permit means extra costs, time delays, and unwarranted regulations. However, building and zoning permits ensure that proper considerations are given to safeguard life, health, property and public welfare. Permits do so by regulating the location, design, construction, and quality of materials of all buildings and structures in the community. Residents may sometimes overlook the benefits of obtaining a permit and appropriate inspections, including confidence in knowing that the work has been done in accordance with all codes.

Before starting any landscape, home repairs or remodels, call the Sunfish Lake City Planner, Lori Johnson at 612-364-3029 or email her at LJohnson@wsbeng.com. She will give you the necessary information and guide you through the steps.

Contact the following individuals for questions concerning permits:

For all building/mechanical/plumbing and electrical permits and inspections:

By Phone: 651-552-4116, Grace

By Email: permits@wspmn.gov

Website: City of West St. Paul

In Person: 1616 Humboldt Avenue, West St. Paul, MN 55118

Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 p.m.

Inspection Scheduling: 651-552-4116

For planning/zoning permits:

Lori Johnson, AICP - (612) 364-3029

For burning permits:

Jim Naves - (612) 803-9033

