



Sunfish Lake Quarterly

Winter 2022 Volume 22 Issue 1



Upcoming Events:

Saturday, May 7 - Sunfish Lake's Arbor Day event will again have scheduled times for family groups to plant trees in Musser Park. Watch for the Arbor Day newsletter in April.

In This Issue

***Message from the Mayor
Road Conditions Info
2021 Deer Management Report
Permission to Fish
Friends/Neighbors We've Lost
Reduce/Reuse Recycling
Information***

City Council

Dan O'Leary, Mayor
Mike Hovey
Steven Bulach
Shari Hansen
Ginny Beckett

Planning Commission

Tom Hendrickson, Chair
Dominick Driano
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,

It is with heartfelt sadness that the SFL City Council mourns the loss of our beloved colleague, Councilwoman JoAnne Wahlstrom, who passed away December 16, 2021. Joanne was initially appointed to the Council in June 2012 and elected to several terms thereafter. For many years prior, she served as a member of our Planning Commission. Joanne always sought equitable fairness in her decisions and demonstrated remarkable grace, kindness, and love. Her smile and warm demeanor lit up any gathering and endeared her to all that had the privilege of knowing her and calling her a friend. Our sincere condolences go out to her husband John, son Scott, daughter-in-law Krista, her granddaughters Julia and Clara and all who knew and loved her.

Planning Commissioner Ginny Beckett has agreed to serve the balance of JoAnne's term and was appointed to the Council at the January 2022 meeting. Ginny has served with distinction since 2014 on the Planning Commission and many of you are probably familiar with her community leadership of the pre-COVID SFL annual Spring Fling. Hopefully, we will soon once again safely gather in each other's company to celebrate the arrival of Spring

The past year was not without its challenges and although we are all rather fatigued by COVID's continued disruption to our lives. I urge all to remain responsibly cautious and abide by the protocols recommended by the CDC and Minnesota's Health Commissioner. Dakota County reports county COVID statistics weekly. The January 21, 2022 report indicated a third consecutive week of record-breaking spread of COVID with the highest ever 7-day case rate of 1571. The CDC recommends masking indoors if the 7-day case rate is over 50. They also reported the first pediatric death in Dakota County due to COVID of a child in the 10 to 14 age group. Evidence indicates that full vaccination and booster provides the best chance of having mild COVID and is the best means of limiting the spread. There are some positive indicators that this surge may peak soon and we will be moving toward some semblance of a new normal; in the meantime, please stay safe!

In the midst of disruption over the past two years I'd like to express my gratitude to the City Council, all SFL employees, contractors, and each SFL citizen for their continued focus on working collaboratively together and resolving issues with a collegial and positive approach to make our city a great place to call home! The Council and I welcome your ideas and constructive engagement. We are the best together, and hopefully the best is yet to come for our City and our nation!

I wish you all a happy, healthy, prosperous, and inspiring 2022!

***Warmest regards.
Dan O'Leary***

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. It is important that you also copy City Engineer, Jeff Sandberg, at jsandberg@wsbeng.com

Please use these contacts to report road issues rather than contact the Mayor or Councilmembers. Council would also like to remind residents to adjust their driving to the conditions of the road and to be especially cautious at intersections.

2021 DEER HUNT RESULTS

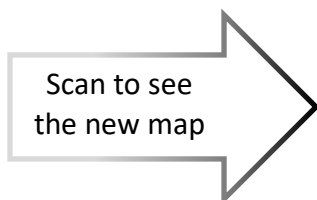
At the January 4 Council meeting, Police Chief Sturgeon reported 7 deer were taken in the deer program, 5 antlerless and 2 antlered deer. The Chief advised that there were no safety issues or complaints related to the deer program. All the deer tested and no Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was found. A big thank you to the Metro Bowhunters and Sunfish Lake residents who participated in this event.

DONATING AND THRIFTING JUST GOT EASIER

Try out the Reduce & Reuse Map by Dakota County to quickly find the closest places to donate goods, shop used, rent equipment and repair your stuff. You can select custom filters based on what you need:

- **Rent:** Search for tents, tools and other equipment at rental locations.
- **Donate/Buy Used:** Find the closest location to donate and buy secondhand home goods, books and furniture.
- **Repair:** Get items like shoes and jewelry fixed and mended using a local repair business.
- **Sell Used Items:** Discover consignment shops that pay you for your gently used sporting goods, clothing and more.
- **Drop boxes:** Drop off clothes and shoes using a donation box near you.

When you make your stuff go the extra mile or score unique items at a secondhand store, you do more than just save money. Buying secondhand also helps the planet. Less resources are needed to make new stuff. Check out the new map by scanning the QR code or visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *reuse map*.



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

FRIENDS/NEIGHBORS WE LOST



JoAnne M Wahlstrom, beloved wife of Dr. John G passed away on December 16, 2021. JoAnne was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, an avid gardener, photographer, artist, scuba diver, seasoned sailor, gifted embroiderer, Sunfish Lake City Council member, and a friend to everyone who met her. Her life was as full and varied as her friends. JoAnne is survived by her husband John, son Scott, daughter-in-law Krista and granddaughters Julia and Clara, her special family Chris and Kiersten Rice and their boys Felix and Dermot, her sister Jean Kosfield, and all who knew and loved her. JoAnne Wahlstrom served on the Sunfish Lake Planning Commission and was appointed to Council in June, 2012, serving in that capacity until her passing.



Gary Sommerland passed away on November 2, 2021. He was preceded in death by the love of his life, Judy, and sister Sandy Somerland. Gary is survived by son Bryan J. (Kristin) Sommerland; grandchildren Evan and Maddy; sisters Karen Bush and Janet Sabes; and many beloved sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, neighbors. He was a friend to all who knew him. Gary worked over 40 years for Aero Systems Engineering, Inc, in St. Paul, MN, where he started as a Purchasing Agent and rose to Executive Management Positions before retiring in 2008. Gary loved and was loved by so many people, leaving an indelible impression on all who knew him. He was kind and generous, funny, and always available to lend a hand to those in need.



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 under Permits and Forms.

RESIDENT VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR CABLE COMMISSION

A resident of Sunfish Lake is needed to serve on the Northern Dakota County Cable Communications Commission (“NDC4”), which provides consumer protection services for cable subscribers and directly oversees government and educational programming on Channels 18, 19, and 20. The NDC4 also administers local community programming through their non-profit corporation, Town Square Television. The NDC4 is comprised of seven member cities: Inver Grove Heights, Lilydale, Mendota, Mendota Heights, South St. Paul, Sunfish Lake, and West St. Paul. Commission meetings are held the first Wednesday of every other month (February, April, June, August, October, and December) If you are interested, please contact City Clerk Cathy Iago at cjiago@comcast.net