

*Living Sculpture Tree and Shrub Care, Inc.*

Forester's Report 4 30 2014

There were no burning permits issued during April. Even with the occasional very wet weather the MN DNR has listed Dakota County as a restricted open burning county. A warm dry afternoon with a breeze is all it takes to make the tall dead grass tinder dry again. Permits will likely be available again as soon as the grasslands and trees green up. Several residents have requested permits and I will contact them once burning restrictions ease.

The annual Arbor Day edition of the Sunfish Lake newsletter was mailed and it is my hope that the publicity will lead to more volunteers for both the Firewise and Parks and Public Spaces committee. Several have volunteered for each committee so far. The May 3<sup>rd</sup> Arbor Day event will be held at 5900 Zehnder Road this year. Just in case the rain stops we are making plans and will be ready to handle a perfect sunny, warm day for our May 3<sup>rd</sup> Arbor Day Green Fair, if necessary.

The City Attorney has provided a copy to me of Resolution 99-03, passed April 6, 1999, regarding a violation of the open burning restrictions. Essentially it says that if someone in Sunfish Lake is doing open burning (not a recreational fire) without a permit they are guilty of a misdemeanor and if the fire department is called to put out that fire the person committing that violation shall be liable to the City in the amount of \$500.00. I believe that the purpose for having a potential penalty for not obtaining a burning permit is to encourage safe burning of brush and organic debris. The discussion that occurs while a burning permit is prepared with a resident becomes a way to encourage safe open burning methods.

Jim Naves  
City Forester