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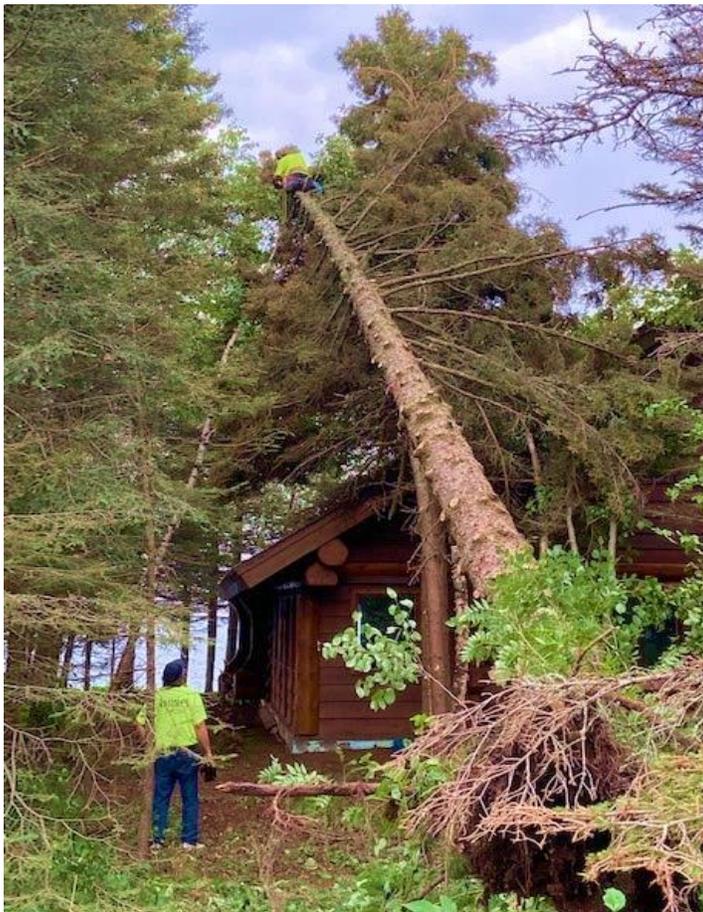
Sept
2021



Quarterly Newsletter of the Town of Silver Creek

SILVER CREEK SOURCE

Summer Storm Hits Hard



The late July thunderstorm hit some properties much harder than others. Chairman Chuck Voss captured this photo of damage in his neighborhood. Some areas had power outages up to 12 hours while others had minimal or no power outages. Silver Creek Operations Assistant Paul Thompson worked all night clearing debris from Township roads to keep them open for emergency vehicles.

Welcome to the *SILVER CREEK SOURCE*! If you have ideas or would like to contribute a story, please reach out to Alison Oftedahl, Clerk at silvercreek@frontiernet.net or 834-5255.

Tom Peterson Legacy

Remembering Supervisor Peterson

One of Silver Creek's most accomplished Board Members passed away this June. Remembered as someone who got things done, Tom Peterson served on the Silver Creek Board for a number of years. He was a driving force in the purchase of the Town's first road grader, and he obtained a \$100,000 grant from IRRRB to build the current Town Garage, replacing the old quonset building (now the Pavilion). As reported in the Northshore Journal, Peterson was a founder of the Superior Hiking Trail and worked as DNR Trails and Waterways Supervisor to lay out North Shore Snowmobile and ATV trail.

Annual Meeting

Attendees approved 2022 Levy Shown Below

At the June reconvened Annual Meeting, attendees approved the \$410,000 levy presented by Supervisors. Chairman Voss noted that we ended 2020 about \$80,000 better than we started due to prudent spending, the taconite and gas tax, and Federal CARES funds. This is the third year without a levy increase.

<u>Funds</u>	<u>LEVY</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
General	\$42,500	\$42,500
Road & Bridge	\$246,500	\$206,500
Road Enhancement	\$20,000	\$20,000
Building	\$25,000	\$25,000
Fire	\$45,000	\$55,000
Cemetery	\$2,500	\$2,500
General Debt Service	\$28,500	\$58,500
TOTAL LEVY	410,000	\$410,000

Repair to Alger Grade Bridge over Gooseberry



BEFORE



AFTER

Bridge Repairs

Surface Issues Corrected

After Lake County's routine bridge inspection uncovered some issues with the Alger Grade bridge over the Gooseberry River, repairs were made by the Silver Creek crew. Years of weather and vibration from heavy truck traffic had cracked the bridge surface, and then gravel worked into the crack causing anchor pins to pop up, some as much as 3 inches! To repair the problem, the bridge deck was swept, and power washed. Next the anchor pins were pounded back in place and the asphalt cracks filled and tamped. Finally, underneath the bridge, all bolts on side rails were checked and tightened.

Truck Delivery Delayed

New Plow and Dump Truck – Update

The new tandem axle truck for plowing, hauling, and dumping that was ordered this spring and promised for December is now not expected until February. The Town was informed that some parts and components are back ordered and the supply chain issues are affecting the delivery date.

Supply Chain Issues

Some Projects Delayed

From the newly ordered truck to the chloride needed for dust control, to the county road projects, delays in obtaining supplies have impacted timelines. Even routine office supply orders have been delivered days late. At the Silver Creek Annual Meeting in June, Lake County Commissioner Sve stated that the bridge project on Highway 3 over Silver Creek has been postponed until next year because road materials could not be delivered in a timely manner. Chloride for town roads was received, but sometimes a week later than expected.

Deputy Clerk Transition

Thank You Laura Kleive

Years of Dedicated Service

Laura Kleive has served as Clerk or Deputy Clerk for most of the past fifteen years. Calm and capable, she was able to step in at a moment's notice when Clerk Oftedahl broke her shoulder. Due to the success of Kleive's drywalling business, her time has been at a premium. We hope Laura will continue to serve as Election Judge, and we want to let her know how much she is appreciated as she steps down from the Deputy position.

And Welcome Katie Anderson

Our New Deputy Clerk

Township resident Katie Anderson was named Deputy Clerk this June. Anderson brings solid bookkeeping and customer service experience and will be working in the office a couple of days a week. This will extend customer service on Thursdays, provide for Clerk duties when Oftedahl is out, allow for extra help with the Stewart River Project, and provide for succession planning. Please make Anderson feel welcome and have patience as we train her.

Website Under Construction

Changes are Coming

The Town website provides contact numbers, meeting schedules, meeting minutes, and lots of information about Town services. The old site www.ttosc.org on Google "Classic" sites will not be viewable after September 1st. A new Google Sites page will be up temporarily while the Town contracts a web designer for a more professional permanent solution. Stay tuned for additional details and please call if you have any problems finding information online.

MnDOT Responds to Highway 61 Speed Complaints



Field Review – August 24, 2020 – Jim Miles

I spent an hour in the Rustic Inn parking lot from 1:30 to 2:30 on Monday August 24th observing traffic and taking speed measurements. This is the commercial “hub” of Castle Danger. It has the most turning movements and will have the lowest speeds given the environment.

Excerpted Findings

The Rustic Inn parking lot remained full throughout the time I was there with numerous vehicles entering and exiting the parking lot.

I observed no risky behavior by vehicles during the time that I was present.

I observed no pedestrians on TH 61 during this timeframe.

The motel/hotel traffic seemed minimal at this time of day which is expected on a Monday in the early afternoon.

There were more southbound right turns into the Rustic Inn than northbound left turns. This also seems reasonable on a Monday. It may be different later in the week and on weekends.

There are no designated pedestrian crossings in the area. There are no specific locations (trails, sidewalk, etc.) which would generate a crossing location.

Lower Speed Limit Request Denied

Speed Study calls the rate of crashes “normal”

Some residents of Castle Danger requested that speed limits on Highway 61 in Castle Danger be lowered for safety reasons. MnDOT completed a Speed Study. In his letter to the Town of Silver Creek, District Traffic Engineer James Miles reported that “The safety performance of Highway 61 was reviewed for the one-mile segment beginning ½ mile south (west) of West Castle Danger Road extending to ½ mile north (east) of West Castle Danger Road. Over the 5-year period ending in 2019 there were 6 crashes, which places the crash rate within the normal range of what can be expected on a similar road statewide. Since the speed limit was raised in 2019, there has been one documented crash which suggests that the increased speed limit has not impacted the safety in this area.”

It should be noted that the Speed Study was not conducted on a weekend. Miles’ report stated that the average southbound speed of vehicles was 57.3 mph and the average northbound speed was 57.2 mph. To read, the full report, access Silver Creek’s website at www.ttosc.org.

Stewart River Project News

Focus on Securing Funding

Engineering Firm Bollig has expressed confidence in putting together the project from a variety of funding sources. With a preliminary plan to pipe Stewart River waste down to the expanded Two Harbors treatment plant, the size of Silver Creek’s portion of the project is slightly reduced. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith are pushing for congressionally directed federal funding for the project and have submitted the project to the Committee who will draft the final bill. In addition, Bollig has ensured that the project will be on both the MN Senate priority list and the Governor’s priority list for the Bonding Bill coming up next spring. Engineering is being updated thanks to American Rescue Plan Act grant funding. The federal government’s focus on infrastructure with ARPA is providing hope that this time funding will actually be secured.

Will my house be on the sewer line?

We know that some of you may be wondering whether your house will be on the new sewer lines. The short answer is that it is too soon to say, because the new design is still in the works. Development may be incremental with the service area beginning closest to Two Harbors and expanding outward slowly.

Castle Danger Wastewater News

Three New Connections Ready

Wastewater Operator Hoops and crew (Reineccius and Thompson) spent several days excavating and laying in the infrastructure to connect three new lots on the East Castle Danger Road to the wastewater system. The owner informed the town that the “ready to build” parcels will be sold for new homes. Castle Danger currently has seven metered commercial connections and 70 connections to residences and smaller businesses. As parcels are developed, the assessments paid are deposited in the Sewer Replacement Fund for later use in repair of the overall system. The new connections also result in ongoing additional monthly revenue.

Fighting the Greenwood Lake Fire

Silver Creek Waits Anxiously as Wind Shifts

8/23/21

Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius has been volunteering weekend and vacation time to run heavy equipment to help cut trees and create a firebreak to stop the Greenwood Lake Forest Fire. As of today, he reported that men are being directed to move back because the fire is burning out of control! The evacuation area has been expanded. We hope the fire is out by the time this newsletter reaches you. This photo was submitted by Reineccius and shows the huge clouds of smoke being generated by the fire along Highway 1. The day this photo was taken, the fire doubled in size.

Excerpt from US Forest Service Website (8/23/21)

The Greenwood Lake Fire was detected on August 15 near Greenwood Lake on the Laurentian Ranger District. It is approximately 15 miles SW of Isabella. The Eastern Area Type 2 Incident Management Team took command of the fire at 6 am on Wed., Aug. 18th. The fire is managed under unified command with the Superior National Forest, Lake County Emergency Management, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. You can sign up for Lake County emergency text alerts and calls here:

<https://www.co.lake.mn.us/emergency-management/>



SILVER CREEK SOURCE

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