

By Jim Onarheim

It looks like we are back on track again with spring after our snowstorm last week. After switching over to daylight savings time on Sunday morning March 9th and having a temperature at our house of 60 degrees I sure enjoyed the day. It now will appear we have longer days with sunset now one hour later at 7:07 PM. Actually, the sun just rises one hour later in the morning and sets one hour later in the evening. But it makes me feel better so I can get more things done outside our house. Last Sunday when I was outside, I spent a few minutes watching all that snow melt and run down the driveway. What a beautiful sight and another sign of spring.

In last week's Moose Lake News, I started to write about the fire danger in our area that will start to increase as the snow disappears and things start to dry out. We have been reminded in the past couple of months of all the damage that wildfires can do, especially when they have destructive winds accompany them. Fires that the residents of California have experienced should be a strong reminder that serious wildfires could happen here also. We live in a very vulnerable area with many of us living in the National Forest. Many fires are started by careless people doing debris burning. If you avoid doing any outside burning in the spring, it is a good step towards good fire prevention. Humidity levels in the spring are normally very low compared to other times of the year and moisture can be at minimum especially during April, May, and early June. After things start to green up the fire danger can subside depending on the amount of rain that we get.

Composting is always your best option. Burning debris is your last option. But in case you need to do outside burning on a very wet day and with a permit please note the following. In the Round Lake Township, we have four locations where the Smokey Bear fire danger signs are posted for your information. Pine Point Rd. & County Hwy S, County Hwy S and Moose Lake Rd. County Hwy. A- and Moose Lake Rd. and in front of Hilman's grocery store on Highway B. Burning conditions are rated as follows,

Low: Fires will start from an open flame, spread slowly and in the absence of wind tend to go out. This is the safest time to burn.

Moderate: Fires start from a match or burning embers. They can spread quickly in dry grass or leaves. Burn with extreme caution!

High: Dangerous conditions. Fires start readily from a match or spark, spread quickly and spot readily. These fires are difficult to control, and burning is not recommended.

Very High: This is a very dangerous condition. Fires start easily, spread very rapidly, can cause a crown fire, and start many spot fires. These fires are very difficult to control, and burning is not recommended.

Extreme: This is a very explosive condition. Fires start easily, burn fiercely, and start crown fires very readily. These fires are very difficult or impossible to control during the day. Burning is not recommended. This also may be declared a Red Flag Day. Outside burning is not allowed at all.

The good news is that fires can be prevented, and it is possible to live, work and play safely in fire prone areas safely. This is done by understanding the common causes of wildland fires and recognizing when

conditions are unsafe for burning outdoors. We can reduce the risk of wildland fires by using good common sense.

Be proactive and know the daily fire danger restrictions for your area. Read this website for more information on outside burning in Wisconsin. <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/forestryapps/burnrestriction>

NOTICE: On Tuesday March 25th between 5:30 and 7:30 there will be a Meet and Greet held at Louie's Landing Bar and Grill. This will be for the Town of Round Lake candidates and members of the Town's board of directors. The spring election is on Tuesday April 1, 2025. There are two supervisor positions, chairperson, treasure, and clerk position on the ballots this year. Those running are as follows, Jim Strandlund-Chairman-unopposed, Kay Wilson – Supervisor, Dan Palmer – Supervisor, Darin Jenson – Supervisor, Vicki Palya- Treasure- opposed. Frank Leuschen 3rd – Clerk-unopposed. Rolfe Hanson has served 20 years and is not running. Kathy Mc Coy has served for 25 years and is not running. A Big Thank you to both of you, Rolfe, and Kathy for your dedication to the town of Round Lake over the past 20 and 25 years. Both of you will be missed.

Last week I completely forgot to wish a Happy Birthday to a very good friend of my wife Barb and myself. Patti Pearson celebrated her birthday on March 5th Patti Happy belated birthday with many more to come. SORRY!

Other birthday wishes this week are extended to, Effie Debias on the 14th, Joan Tamm on the 15th of March. We have three birthdays on March 16th long time fishing guide, Larry Ramsell, Marcia Whaley, and Ross Metcalf. Randy Ross and Laura Gilkey both have birthdays on the 17th. Happy Birthday to all of you. There are no anniversaries this week.

Stay safe everyone and enjoy your week with nice temperatures. Please send your items of interest to my new e-mail address emta984@gmail.com or call my landline at 715-462-4448 or my cell at 715-577-8880. Moose Lake Improvement association website is <http://mliahaywardwi.org> The Town of Round Lake Web site is <https://www.townofroundlakewi.org> and the Round Lake Fire Department website is <https://townofroundlakefire-rescue.org> JO