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Summer 2014 Newsletter

Clean-up Day

Clean-up Day was held on May 31, 2014 at the Silver Creek Township Hall. We want to thank everyone who volunteered, making this a successful township event. We had 117 households participate this year. This is a great opportunity each year to bring items in for disposal, helping both the environment and the township.

If you have household hazardous waste that you need to dispose of, contact the Wright Co Compost and Recycling Facility located at 505 CR 37 NE Buffalo. Phone number 763 682-7338

Volunteers needed

Message from Josh Scott:

I am a life scout from troop 270. I am in need of volunteers on the day of August 9th, 2014 at 9:00 am, for my eagle project at the Silver Creek Township Hall. We will be putting a border around the Township Hall building, putting a ring around the two memorial trees, and transplanting some trees. Some tools that you should bring would be spade, shovel, metal garden rakes, square shovels, and wheel barrows.

Please mark your tools in case they get lost. If anyone has a four-wheeler with a small trailer that they would be able to bring it would make this project a little quicker.

Food will be provided after the project and if anyone would help by donating food that will be greatly appreciated. Any questions please email countryboyjosh98@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance.

Summer Road Work

Here are the roads that will have seal coating and crack filling, starting in July. Meridian Ave North & South, Appleton, Blackwood, Banyon, Baker, Amery, Duffield and Emerson Ave's, 119, 97, 101, 105, 144 & 140 St's.

Board of Supervisors

Chris Klein Vice Chair – 763-607-3422
John Jones – 763-878-1326
Mike Ludenia – 320-963-5724
Sandy Forsman – 763-878-2307

Office Hours

Monday and Thursday 8:00 am until 12:00
Tuesday 2:00 pm until 6:00

Monthly Meetings

Supervisors meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month
Planning & Zoning meet 2nd Tuesday of month

Note to all Silver Creek Residents:

I have served on the Supervisory Board for the last 3 ½ years, but now I have moved out of the township and must therefore resign my Board position. On June 17, immediately after the regular monthly meeting, I did resign.

I enjoyed the time on the board and consider it an honor and privilege to have had this opportunity. The board and staff are all dedicated to their jobs and I know the people of Silver Creek will continue to be well served. Thank you all. Bill Langenbacher

Elections

Primary will be August 12, 2014

Elections will be held November 4, 2014. The polls will be open from 7:00 am – 8:00pm at the township hall. There will be 2 open seats on the Township Board for a term of 4 years and one hospital board member. (2 years)

The filing period is July 29-August 12, 2014. The filing fee is \$2.00. An affidavit of candidacy can be picked up from the township clerk.

Jane Goodall Environmental Sciences Academy Update

On May 20th a packed house attended the presentation of the Jane Goodall Academy at the Silver Creek Township Hall. The Goodall School, a public school, will open in the fall of 2015 serving grades 7-12th grades. The school will be teacher-led and focus on project-based learning especially using the rolling hills, woods, streams and parks of Wright County as its campus. Information about the school can be found at its website: [Jane Goodall Academy.org](http://JaneGoodallAcademy.org).

During the summer, volunteers who want to help with forming the school can check the Goodall Academy website or the Township's website announcing further public meetings. Over the summer the Goodall Academy is looking for volunteers to help with three committees:

- 1) Curriculum program.
- 2) Marketing
- 3) Fund raising: "Friends of Jane Goodall Academy"

Contact the school via the [Jane Goodall Academy.org](http://JaneGoodallAcademy.org) website.

Town Hall Rental

Looking for a place to have a reunion or a party. Reservations are available for the rental of the Town Hall meeting room and kitchen. Rental fees are \$100 for township residents. \$150 for non-residents. There is also a \$100 damage deposit required (which will be returned if the hall is cleaned and there are no damages).

The building is an alcohol & smoke-free facility. To rent the town hall, contact the Clerks' office at 763 878-0141.

Mailbox Ordinance

When you are replacing your mail box support, please use the approved swing away support that can be purchased from the township or from other sources.

See website for the complete Silver Creek Township Right of way ordinance covering this requirement.

If you have any questions please call the Township Office.

Rebuilding of 127th & Armitage

The status of the townships road upgrading and rebuilding is moving along. The wet spring and summer weather is impacting the project severely. The engineered plans are finished and are advertised for bids. Most of the contractors in the state are behind with their work load, due to the wet weather.

We hope the project can be started and completed this year, but there is a provision that the contractor has the option to either start and complete dirt work by mid-October or start the project in the spring of 2015. We are hoping it will be started and completed this fall. If anyone has questions relating to this project, please give one of the supervisors a call.

Mowing Township Right of Way

Why do townships mow the road ditches? The primary reason is for the traveling public's safety.

Mowing roadsides is an important maintenance activity done to keep sight lines clear of obstructions, by cutting down tall grass that obstructs a person's view or sight line on a road, preventing the growth of brush and trees, control and eradicate weed growth, enhance roadside appearance, wildlife concerns and to prevent drifting snow.

Given our townships population and proximity to major population centers (additional vehicles using our township roads), MN Statute requires Townships to look at all aspects of road and right of way maintenance and to do all it can to eliminate or reduce liabilities and risks to those that travel township roads.

Thank you to all that mow and maintain their ditches, your contributions save the town maintenance expense. Keep in mind, that placing objects in the ditch/right of way, could become an obstruction to a traveling vehicle. Please do not landscape around mail boxes or place rocks and other landscape material in the right of way which could also damage snow plow equipment. Generally the right of way is 33 ft. from the center of the road.

This season, in addition to ditch mowing, the maintenance crew will be removing brush and trees out of the right of way. If work is required in your area, you will be contacted before it starts.

From the Chairman

As the vice chairman, I am responsible to fill in when the chairman isn't available. Bill Langenbacher, was the Township's Chairman, until he recently resigned, having moved out of the Township. Bill did a great job. Thanks Bill for your service and good luck in your new ventures. A new Chairman will be chosen at the July Supervisor Board Meeting.

It will be common to see board supervisors "on the job" and "on the streets" of the Township. You will likely see the board continue planning work on the rebuilding of 127th St & Armitage Ave., traveling that direction in the Township Truck or in our own vehicles. The supervisors are on call, 24/7 and when bad weather is present anyone of us can "get that call", as part of our supervisor responsibilities. Many times, you may see me or other supervisors traveling in the Township truck on different inspections or problem areas around the Township.

Brian (townships 20+ year maintenance man), has been performing many maintenance tasks between rains this spring and ongoing this summer. To date, in addition to normal road grading operations, 8500-9000 yards of gravel has been laid on our gravel roads. All chloride has been applied to the roads for stabilization and dust control. Brush and noxious weed spraying has been completed. The first pass ditch mowing has occurred. Numerous ditches and culverts have been cleared, cleaned and repaired. Asphalt patching is completed and soon seal coating of approximately 7 miles of asphalt roads will start. Brian has a very busy schedule this season, and he continues to work problem areas and right of ways, many times with hired help. When Brian performs these maintenance tasks, if it requires help, it will be common to see me as one of his workers.

When I'm operating township equipment that falls outside of what the supervisory role is, I am treated as an employee working under Brian and the rest of the township board. This isn't uncommon within townships around Minnesota. There are many hours I volunteer helping the township/Brian out and there are hours I am compensated for equipment operation tasks. The board is fully aware of the differences and follows the statutory procedure's that allow supervisors to be compensated for such work. This expense is in the yearly budget and isn't any different than previous years when Brian has hired seasonal help. As a maintenance worker, I get a totally different perspective on the maintenance requirement to the Township roads and right of ways. I simply get to "see the dirt" that isn't possible when on the yearly road tour or driving through the township. This insight helps the discussion with the rest of the board and gives them the perspective Brian sees daily when planning repairs and maintenance to roads.

As the summer continues, look for maintenance work being performed like brush and tree cutting, dead end turn a rounds being constructed, and of course, regular maintenance, including grading/packing and more right of way mowing, making our roads safer for you and the traveling public.

Thanks

Chris Klein, Silver Creek Township Vice Chairman



