



# Sunfish Lake Quarterly



www.sunfishlake.org

End of Summer 2015  
Volume 13 Issue 3

## Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Is it possible that summer is coming to an end? It's been glorious for our family and I hope it's been so for yours too. Soon the school buses will be rolling through our lovely neighborhoods filled with eager learners ready for a new year! This newsletter is filled with lots of important information which I trust you will enjoy and use when needed. Thus, my greetings here are brief. The Sunfish Lake City Council has been busy preparing the 2016 Budget and Levy which will be set preliminarily at a "not to exceed" level at our September 1<sup>st</sup> council meeting. State law requires us to pass the final budget at our December 1st meeting and anyone is welcome to attend. Take care, savor the last days of summer and stay safe. Again, enjoy our lovely weather and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at [mollypark@mac.com](mailto:mollypark@mac.com) or 651-455-8809.

Warmly,  
Mayor Molly Park

## Lake Access and Boating Information

If you wish to let someone use the lake for fishing, please remember to provide your guest with the required Lakeshore Access Permission form. This form must be completed and signed by the homeowner, and carried at all times while on the water. It can be found on the Sunfish Lake city website under permits and forms. Remember, no boats can be brought down to the lake from other waterways. **NO MOTORIZED** boats are allowed on our waterways.

Please look for more information in the Fall edition of the Sunfish Lake Quarterly about upcoming considerations for Sunfish Lake from the Lakeshore Association. There is special consideration and focus on water quality.

## Variance Requests and Factors

Recently, the city council has been faced with a few variance requests by homeowners and it seems timely to review what a variance is and when can it be used. In a FAQ summary, the League of Minnesota Cities states that a variance is a way that a city may allow an exception to part of a zoning ordinance. Variances are rarely granted, and three statutory conditions must be met. The "three factor's" are

1. The property owner proposes to use the property in a reasonable manner.
2. The landowner's problem is due to circumstances unique to the property not caused by the landowner.

3. The variance, if granted, will not alter the essential character of the locality. Also, the variance request must be in harmony with the intent of the ordinance and consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. Since 2011, the term "undue hardship" has been replaced by the term "practical difficulties" in applying the Three Factor Test. It is only the City Council that can grant a variance and the Sunfish Lake city council takes constitutional duties seriously by trying to approach all variance requests with thoughtfulness and thorough analysis of the unique conditions found in our lovely community.

## Did you Know?

The emerald ash borer continues to raise its head in more counties around Minnesota and is now less than 4 miles away from Sunfish Lake. If you plan to save any mature white or green ash trees, you need to begin an insecticide treatment program at least by spring 2016. If you haven't started yet, now is the time! Contact a tree care supplier to have a *Certified Pesticide Applicator* inject your ash tree to protect from the Emerald Ash Borer.

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## *Safety Message from West Saint Paul Police Officer Kurtis Syvertsen*

Some of you may already know me but for those who do not, I am West St. Paul Police Officer Kurtis Syvertsen and I have been serving in this capacity since December of 2014. My primary community policing area is the City of Sunfish Lake and having lived in Sunfish Lake for most of my life. I am excited to give back to the community where I grew up. Below you will find five tips that will help keep you and your family safe in Sunfish Lake. These tips are effective in limiting the chances that your family will fall victim to criminal activity.

**Tip #1** Always lock your doors. Whether it is your house or your vehicle, criminals prey on opportunity. Leaving your doors unlocked allows criminals the opportunity to commit a crime. Whether it be entering your house or entering your vehicle, it only takes a short period of time for criminals to disappear with your belongings.

**Tip #2** Never leave your keys in your vehicle when parked in your driveway or on the street. Leaving your keys inside your vehicle (whether it is locked or unlocked) provides criminals the opportunity to not only enter your vehicle without your permission but also potentially steal your vehicle.

**Tip #3** Monitor your mail. Having a mailbox that locks or regularly monitoring your mail to ensure none of it is missing is the safest way to prevent your family from falling victim to mail theft as well as fraud.

**Tip #4** When leaving for an extended vacation, you can contact the West St. Paul Police Department and request that officers conduct extra patrols of your property while your family is out of town. This request is quick and easy and it can provide you the peace of mind that your property is being monitored while you are out of town.

**Tip #5** If you see or hear something suspicious, please call the police immediately. The police department can be reached by dialing **911** (always call 911 in the case of an emergency) or by calling the non-emergency police phone number, which is **651-322-2323**. The police department responds to calls for service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. Hopefully each of these tips can help protect you and your family from falling victim to a crime. If you have any questions, you can contact me directly and I will respond to your concern as soon as possible. Otherwise, please feel free to contact our non-emergency police phone number at 651-322-2323 and an on-duty officer will return your call as soon as an officer is available. I look forward to continuing to build relationships with the residents of Sunfish Lake as well as assisting our department in serving Sunfish Lake with the highest level of police services.

Officer Kurtis Syvertsen  
Voicemail: 651-259-2636  
Email: ksyvertsen@wspmn.gov

## *Federal Aviation Administration Update*

On July 31st the Metropolitan Airport Commission placed a sound level monitor in Musser Park to measure airplane departure data (# of planes and their sound levels) over a period of 7 days. Dana Nelson, MAC Manager of Noise, Environment and Planning visited the August 4th City Council meeting to highlight this measurement program that the Noise Oversight Committee of the MAC requested. Last fall, two monitors were placed in similar public spaces in the cities of Edina and St. Louis Park. Ms. Nelson will return to the October 6th City Council meeting to share data results. She added that the data will be saved for future use but is not intended to result in Noise Abatement measures for Edina, St. Louis Park or Sunfish Lake.



*This is the sound level monitor that was recently placed in Musser Park. It measured airplane departure data over Sunfish Lake.*

## Graduation Announcement's

Congratulations to the following Sunfish Lake high school and college graduates. We are all so proud of your achievements! Kudos Parents!

**MATT MCMAHON** graduated from Cretin Derham Hall and will attend Georgetown University in Washington DC. He achieved a perfect score of 36 on his ACT entrance exam.

**JANE DRIANO** graduated from Convent of the Visitation and will attend the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

**JACOB BELLOMO** graduated from St. Thomas Academy Magna Cum Laude and will attend the University of Minnesota.

**JOHN DOLAN** graduated from St. Thomas Academy Summa Cum Laude and will attend Boston College in Massachusetts.

**EMMETT LEFEVOUR** graduated from St. Thomas Academy and will attend Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

**MICHAEL MILLER** graduated from St. Thomas Academy and will attend the University of Minnesota.

**NATALIE BENNETT** graduated from Henry Sibley High School and will attend DePaw University in Greencastle, Indiana.

**JAMES HOVEY** graduated from Henry Sibley High School and will attend Inver Hills Community College

**JACOB GARR** graduated with honors from Henry Sibley High School and will attend the University of Indiana in Bloomington, Indiana.

**COURTNEY GILL** graduated from Cambridge University, UK, where she captained the golf team. As a junior, she was named the *Rolls Royce Female Undergraduate Of The Year* and represented them world wide.

## Neighbors in the News

Two young ladies from Sunfish Lake received the prestigious De Chantal Award presented annually by the *Visitation Alumnae Association* to students who exemplify the qualities inherent in a well-rounded individual in all three divisions of the school.

**CAROLYN SCHLEHUBER** received the Lower School award and **CECI DRIANO** received the Middle School Award. The winners were selected from a panel of faculty, staff and alumnae representatives. Mendota Heights resident Elizabeth Wollan received the Upper School award.

*Congrats to you all!*

**LAUREL GILL** was promoted to full Lieutenant in the United States Navy. A 2011 graduate of the USNA in Annapolis, Maryland, Laurel is a meteorologist at the naval base in Coronado, California and is engaged to be married to F18 Fighter Pilot Lieutenant Peter Schultis.

*Best wishes for a joy filled life!*

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the **free Fire Prevention Open House** on **Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>** at the Mendota Heights Fire Department located at 2121 Dodd Road from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

This year's theme is **"Hear the Beep Where You Sleep: Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm"**

Watch for information for the annual **Sunfish Lake Halloween Hayride**. Get out your best chili recipe for the third annual Chili-Cook Off held during this event!

There will be a **Meet The Police** event who serve our community. This will be held at Mayor Molly Park's residence tentatively set for Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Watch for your invitation!

### Annual Great Neighbor's Duck Races!

**Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** Located at Southview Blvd in South St. Paul from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Free admission. \$5 per duck to participate in races (prizes awarded for each race). Duck Races will be held approximately every 15 minutes. Detailed information can be found at [www.neighborsmn.org/events/](http://www.neighborsmn.org/events/) Neighbors House provides emergency assistance and supportive assistance programs to low-income community members.

## Healthy Tips for the School Year By Junior Reporter Maddie Schlehueber

Greetings Sunfish Lake kids! It's back to school time again, and now I have some ways to make your mornings a little easier so you can get out the door faster! Make sure you have your backpack packed the night before school starts. Another way you can make your morning better is to eat a complete and healthy breakfast. This might include a scrambled egg and an apple, a fruit and yogurt smoothie, or a breakfast burrito to go (wrap a scrambled egg, cheese, and maybe some salsa or bacon in a tortilla and cover with foil for the road)! These breakfasts will keep you powered up throughout the day, when sugary cereal or a donut will not. One last way you can be ready and recharged for the morning is to go to bed at an appropriate time consistently every night.

*Have a happy and healthy school year!*

## Wildflower Planting Demo

A wildflower planting demonstration is occurring near the corner of Windy Hill Road and Salem Church Road. So far the approximately 1000 square foot area has been mowed once. It will soon be treated with Roundup to prepare the site for fall seeding with a wildflower mix. Some of the seeds will germinate this fall and others will start growing in the spring and eventually there will be colorful wildflowers to brighten the roadside. Watch what happens and consider trying it on your property too. Please contact the city forester Jim Naves to help with the project or if you have any questions. 612-803-9033 or [jim@lstreecare.com](mailto:jim@lstreecare.com)

## Beware of Blue-Green Algae

Across Minnesota, the heat is on. As the dog days of summer approach, conditions are ripe for some of our lakes, ponds and streams to produce cyanobacteria, better known as blue-green algae, which have the potential to be unsafe for pets and humans. When these algal blooms form, it often makes the water appear cloudy or scummy with a green, yellow, or bluish-green cast. These blooms can occur on waterbodies that are overloaded with high inputs of phosphorus and nitrogen from sources like fertilizer or wastewater. Such high concentrations of excess nutrients can feed algal blooms and also increase the presence of microcystin, a toxic side effect of blue-green algae. The concentration of toxic microcystin in an impaired waterbody can vary greatly with time and location. If you see an algal bloom, the Minnesota Department of Health recommends the following guidance: **“When in Doubt, Best Keep Out.”** By practicing lake-friendly lawn care practices, like limiting fertilizer use, picking up regularly after pets, and installing a raingarden or native shoreline buffer on your property, you can maintain a healthy lawn and do your part for our local water resources.

## Master the Art of Recycling

Become a recycling leader in Dakota County! The Master Recycler and Composter program provides training on waste reduction, recycling, composting and solid waste. The 6-week course includes a training handbook, hands-on demonstrations, presentations from local and regional experts and field trips to relevant sites. Share your time, knowledge and skills, build positive change and help reduce waste in Dakota County. Once classes are complete, participants volunteer 30 hours putting their skills to work to help others in the community learn how to:

- Reduce the amount of natural resources used
- Reuse goods
- Recycle more at different locations

### Master Recycler/Composter

Thursdays, October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>  
6pm-9pm

Lebanon Hills Visitor Center, 860 Cliff Road, Eagan  
\$30 fee covers course materials and field trip transportation.

Visit [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us) and search Master Recycler for more details and to register.

*Below is from a tour at a waste management facility.*



*Do you have information you would like featured in the upcoming Fall Quarterly? If so, please contact Mayor Molly Park with your input!*