

SYLVAN TOWN NEWS



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY !



Winter 2011 Important Dates

December 23, 2011:
Town Hall Closed

December 26, 2011:
Town Hall Closed

December 30, 2011:
Town Hall Closed

January 2, 2012:
Town Hall Closed

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULES

Town Board Meets:
1st & 3rd Thursdays

**No December 15, 2011
Meeting**

Planning Commission
Meets:
2nd Thursdays

Pillager Lake Park
Advisory Board Meets:
As required

Fire Association Meeting
First Monday of each
month - 7:00 pm at
Pillager Fire Hall

Unless otherwise noted, all
meetings begin at 7:00 pm
at the Sylvan Town Hall.

Sylvan Township Proposed 2012 Property Taxes

Mark Peterson with Cass County Assessor's office has given a brief explanation below why the residents are seeing their proposed 2012 property taxes increasing. Sylvan Township did not increase its levy for 2012.

- Decreasing property values and the legislative change of calculating the homestead benefit as a value exclusion has caused a significant decrease in the local tax base.
Sylvan Township tax base down 8.86%
Pillager School District tax base down 7%
Cass County tax base down 3.13%
- The proposed 2012 school levy for District #116 is increasing from \$1,480,738 to \$2,026,318 amounting to 36.8% levy increase.
- New Law changing the way the homestead benefit is calculated has resulted in some significant tax shifts.
Sylvan Township examples using 2011 net tax capacity rates.

Taxable Market Value	Old Tax Law Net Tax	New Tax Law Net Tax	Difference New v Old
\$ 76,000	\$188	\$340	\$152
\$ 150,000	\$734	\$941	\$207
\$ 225,000	\$1,286	\$1,549	\$263

Individual properties maybe affected differently so if you have questions regarding your specific property please contact the Cass County Assessor Office.

Sylvan Town Hall

Hours: Mon.-
8:30- m
1:00pm-2:30 pm
Website:
<http://www.sylvantwp.com>

For address changes,
contact Cass County at
218-547-7260

Town Board:

Greg Booth:

Chair

Lee Shade: Vice Chair,
Fire

Roland Anderson:

Co-Road & Driveway
Supervisor, Park, JOBZ

Ken Dickinson: Co-Road
& Driveway Supervisor,
Weeds

Yvette Dullinger

Planning Commission

SYLVAN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Sylvan Township, in southern Cass County, will be celebrating 100 years since its incorporation in 1912 with a variety of family-oriented fun and activities. The Sylvan Centennial and Early Ancestry Celebration is scheduled for June 9, 2012. The event kicks off with a historically-based geocaching opportunity prior to the celebration and concluding the day of the celebration... you will want to watch for details! The celebration will also include recognition of early settlement families and area businesses, information about local historical sites, Native American culture, vintage car and tractor displays, hit-and-miss motors display, family games, and kite competitions ... fun for all ages. Food and beverages will be available. This is an event you will not want to miss!

The Centennial Committee is looking for family and business historical information. Please contact Faith if you have information to share.

CLOTHING RECYCLING

HELP: The Centennial Committee is partnering with Kenwood Enterprises, LLC for a Clothing Recycling project. Funds earned from this effort will be used to help with costs for the celebration.

Items Taken:

- Clean Wearable Clothing (All Sizes for different Ages)
- Curtains
- Linens – (no pillows)
- Wearable Coats – All Seasons & All Sizes
- Shoes – Must be tied in pairs (Not Boots or High-heels)
- Hand bags & Purses

All Clothing Must be Clean, Dry and Free of Smells and Mildew

CHIP CRAVAACK - MOBILE OFFICE IN SYLVAN

The Sylvan Town Board of Supervisors is in the process of setting up a time and date for Representative Chip Cravaack to be present at the Sylvan Town Hall where he and his staff will meet with residents and listen to their concerns. They will also share important information regarding constituent services available through his office such as the IRS, Social Security and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Please watch for more information which will be provided on the Township Website at <http://www.sylvantwp.com> and our posting places; the Post Office, Pillager Junction, the Corner Store Express and Petro Plus in Pillager.

SEPTIC SYSTEM INFORMATION

Here are some tips from the Cass County Environmental Services Dept. for preventing problems with your septic system this winter. As we all know, a winter of cold temperatures and little snow can cause freezing of our onsite septic systems...but there are steps you can take now to avoid those headaches. Identifying and correcting a potential freezing problem is far easier than dealing with a frozen system.

Some Things You May Do to Prevent Your System From Freezing

- Stop mowing the grass over the drainfield in early fall. Longer grass traps snow as an insulator.
- Add a layer of mulch...8-12" of hay, straw, even leaves over the pipes, tank and soil treatment area. Keep it loose to form air pockets so it acts as an insulator. Special insulating blankets are available for purchase locally. These large vinyl "packets" are filled with straw, measure approximately 8 ft. by 20 ft., are easy to use, and are re-useable year after year.
- Don't leave water running. A slow trickle could freeze, while a steady stream could overload the system.
- Don't add antifreeze to the system.
- If you plan to be gone for a few days, have someone visit and use water regularly. You may want to consider having the tank pumped if you will be gone for an extended period of time.
- Reroute the drip from the furnace. This slow drip can freeze in the pipes. Reroute this clean water into the sump or a bucket.
- Fix any leaky plumbing. The small trickles of water going into the system can freeze as thin ice layers within the pipe and eventually close them.
- Keep all vehicles (ATV's and snowmobiles, as well as cars) off the system, all year.
- Make sure all risers, inspection pipes and manholes have tight covers. Adding insulation is a good idea.

What Should You Do If Your Onsite System Freezes

If your septic system freezes, your first step is to call an onsite professional. This will likely be a pumper or an installer who can help determine the cause of the problem and offer solutions. Contact the Cass County Environmental Services Department to get a list of contactors who are state licensed and work in your area.

Many pumpers and installers have devices called steamers and high-pressure jetters to try to unfreeze system piping. Unless the cause of freezing is corrected the piping will refreeze. Other methods used to help fix a freezing problem include adding heat tape and tank heaters. Cameras can be sent down the pipes to determine where the freezing is occurring and if repairs are needed. If the treatment area is full of ice, or there is evidence of leaking, there is no need to thaw the lines leading to the treatment area, as it cannot accept liquid until the area is thawed in spring.

If it is not feasible to correct the problem, the only other option is to use the septic tank(s) in the system as a holding tank until the system thaws naturally.

You will need to contact a pumper who will empty out the tanks when they are full on a regular basis. This can be very costly, especially with normal volumes of water use (50 to 75 gallons per person per day). Reduce water use by limiting the number of toilet flushes, taking short showers, using the dishwasher at full capacity, limiting running water to get hot or cold and doing laundry at a Laundromat

There are many misconceptions about how to deal with a frozen septic system.

- **Do NOT** add antifreeze, salt or a septic system additive into the system.
- **Do NOT** pump sewage onto the ground surface.
- **Do NOT** start a fire over the system to attempt to thaw it out.
- **Do NOT** run water continually to try to unfreeze system.

Septic systems are still the most effective way to treat sewage in areas where it is not feasible to use a municipal sewage treatment system. Correct maintenance of a septic system will ensure its proper use and extend its life for years to come. Contact the Cass County Environmental Services Office at (218) 547-7241 if you have any questions. You can also visit the University of Minnesota website at <http://septic.coafes.umn.edu/homeowner/index.html>.



Sylvan Township
12956 24th Avenue SW
Pillager, MN 56473

Phone: (218) 746-3652
Fax: (218) 746-3612
Website: <http://www.sylvantwp.com>.

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Holmvg Excavating - New Road Maintenance Contractor

Brad and Jane Holmvg purchased Holmvg Excavating from Brad's father Jerald, in 2004, formerly known as J.M. Holmvg & Sons. They also own North Country Café. They live near Crosby with their four children. Holmvg Excavating specializes in road maintenance for several area townships. Summer months are spent grading, graveling, mowing, and brushing while the winter months are spent plowing snow from the township roads. The maintenance contract is for one year and can be renewed on May, 1, 2012.

Sylvan's Snow Policy

The criteria for commencing snow and ice control operations: 1.) Snow accumulations of 2 inches or more on all roads. This will be at the discretion of the road maintenance contractor regarding early spring and late fall. 2.) Drifting snow that causes problems for travel. 3.) Icy conditions which seriously affect travel. Holmvg Excavating was awarded the road maintenance contract for 2011-2012. They will be doing the snow/ice removal this winter. Any questions or concerns call the Town Hall at (218) 746-3652. Also, the Township has the approved swinging mailbox supports for sale. Call the Town Hall for the price. Have a safe winter.
Roland Anderson & Ken Dickinson, Co-Road Supervisors

Pillager Area Fire and Rescue Knox-Box System

Pillager Area Fire & Rescue will be joining over 10,000 other fire departments across the country that use the Knox System to prevent costly forced entry damage while protecting lives and property. If no one is home or a key holder is not always available & your home has a fire or smoke alarm system that activates, firefighters must determine if it is a false alarm or a actual emergency. Without a Knox-Box, they often must force entry to determine the answer. As a property owner, you can buy a Knox-Box device & mount it near your building entrance according to fire department guidelines. Firefighters use a unique high security Knox Master key to open the Knox-box device only in their jurisdiction. The door hanging version is for those ill, injured or elderly on a Life Alert type system where First Responders can respond quickly, without forcing entry. This version may be rented by the month from Pillager Area Fire & Rescue. For more info or to order go to: www.knoxbox.com or call Chief Randy Lee at 218-820-9441. We will have more information on our website.

Sylvan Manufacturing Businesses Receive Recognition

October 24, 2011 - October 28, 2011 was Manufactures Week in MN. On Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2011 Supervisor Lee Shade & Planning Commission Member John Davidson met with Gail Leverson, Cass County EDC, at the Sylvan Commercial Park to present to Kenwood Enterprises and Backwoods Furniture, Inc. commendations from Governor Dayton.