

# SYLVAN TOWN NEWS



## Summer 2013 Important Dates

**June 18, 2013**  
Cass County Board of  
Commissioners Mtg. -  
Town Hall 6:00 PM

**June 22, 2013**  
Sylvan Heritage Day  
10:00 AM— 5:00 PM

**June 26, 2013**  
Summer Short Course  
Town Hall Closed

**July 4, 2013**  
Fourth of July -  
Town Hall Closed



## MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULES

Town Board Meets:  
1st & 3rd Thursdays

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.

### It's Time to Celebrate!

Välkommen, Velkommen, and Tervetuloa! Come celebrate this year at the Sylvan Heritage Day Celebration. Join us on June 22nd from 10am – 5 pm at the Sylvan Town Hall, just east of Pillager on Highway 210.

This years celebration features great music by Swedish musicians Skålmusik, vintage tractors with Model T's and Hit-and-Miss motors display, Blacksmith demonstrations, as well as demonstrations and displays by the "Central Minnesota Wood Carvers" Clarence Lundquist and Ken Ramler, handmade soaps and lotions by Rosewood Emporium, and a brilliant vintage quilt display and historical renditions by Arlean Rosemore from Mothers Original Quilt Shop. Be entertained with food and craft presentations highlighting lefse making by Greg Bennett, krumkaka demonstration by Faith Broberg, Rosemaling by Barb Morgan, Swedish weaving by Janet Peck, and so much more.

Family events include, corn husk doll making, rope making, games, a children coloring picture display, and Scandinavian story telling. Enjoy the farmers market and come see local author Arlean Rosemore, writer of "Small Town is Like a Large Family" on site.  
Food will be available by Prairie Bay Mobile Catering.

**Farmers Market space is still available.** Please contact Sylvan Town Hall at 218-746-3652.  
Coloring Pages for children are available at the Sylvan Township website, [www.sylvantwp.com](http://www.sylvantwp.com)  
We are excited to celebrate with you and enjoy the early pioneer heritage of Central Minnesota.

See us on Facebook.

## Sylvan Town Hall

Hours: Mon.-  
8:30- m  
1:00pm-2:30 pm  
Website:  
[http://  
www.sylvantwp.com](http://www.sylvantwp.com)

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

**Town Board:**  
**Greg Booth:**  
Chair, Weeds  
**Lee Shade:** Vice Chair,  
Fire  
**Roland Anderson:**  
Co-Road & Driveway  
Supervisor, Park  
**John Wulff:**  
Co-Road Supervisor  
**Yvette Dullinger**  
Planning Commission  
Co-Road Supervisor

## SEPTIC INSPECTIONS

Sylvan Township along with Cass County Environmental Services Department (Cass County ESD) has been working on a project to inventory all existing Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) on all properties in both East and West Sylvan Township. Cass County ESD has received a state grant through the Clean Water Legacy fund to assist the Sylvan Township property owner's inventory and inspect all of the existing septic systems on parcels in Sylvan Township.

The goal of this project is to identify failing systems that may be contaminating our lakes, rivers, and our drinking water sources, to identify areas in need of wastewater treatment assistance, and to provide property owners some recommendations to increase the longevity of their existing septic system. Together with Cass County, we are in the process of requesting proposals from State-licensed SSTS site inspectors to conduct these inspections in accordance with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Cass County SSTS Rules. The inspection criteria include:

- Sewage escaping to the ground surface or backing up into a dwelling
- Non-compliant system components (i.e. drywells, cesspools and seepage pits)
- Insufficient ground water separation distance from the bottom of the system

Systems that have been installed within the last 5 years and existing systems that have been issued a certificate of compliance within the last 3 years are considered to be compliant and do not need to be inspected during this project.

All compliant systems will be granted a Certificate of Compliance that is valid for 3 years from the date of the inspection. Systems that are found to be non-complying will be put on an upgrade schedule, with the highest priority given to imminent public health threats. In cooperation with Cass County and Region 5 Development Commission, the MN Dept. of Agriculture has a low interest loan program available and some grant money may be available to upgrade failed systems.

Having obtained funds through a Clean Water Legacy Fund grant and Sylvan Township, our SSTS inspection program is at *no cost to the property owner*. Without this program, such an inspection would likely cost from \$125-\$250+ per site - at owner's expense!

A letter will be going out to residents in the near future as to whom the inspector will be and when the inspection will begin.

This is one positive step among many that residents of the Township can take to ensure the water quality of our lakes and rivers remain good.

## Noxious Weeds Must be Controlled

The Township and landowners are required by state law to control prohibited noxious weeds. The Township controls weeds in road right-of-ways by mowing.

Prohibited noxious weeds include Yellow Star Thistle, Grecian Foxglove, Oriental Bittersweet, Japanese Hops, Dalmatian Toadflax, Common Teasel, Cut-leaved Teasel, Giant Hogweed, Brown Knapweed, Meadow Knapweed and Black Swallow-wort. These weeds must be eradicated by killing the above and belowground parts of the plant.

The following weeds must be controlled by a lawful method that prevents the maturation and spread of propagating parts: Leafy Spurge, Canada Thistle, Musk Thistle, Plumeless Thistle, Garlic Mustard, Purple Loosestrife, Wild Parsnip, Common Tansy, Spotted Knapweed and Narrowleaf Bittercress.

Poison Ivy is a specially regulated plant and must be eradicated or controlled along rights-of-ways, trails, public accesses, business properties open to the public or on parts of lands where public access for business or commerce is granted. It must also be controlled along property borders when requested by adjoining landowners.

Cass County's noxious weed list includes Hoary Alyssum, Oxeye Daisy, Tall Buttercup, Orange Hawkweed, Tansy, Wormwood and Spotted Knapweed.

If you have a concern or complaint about noxious weeds, contact the Sylvan Town Hall.

For more information: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/weedcontrol>

## What is Your Vision for the Future of Sylvan Township?

That was the challenge put before a group of 19 volunteers on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The group, selected at random from the list of property owners, along with some of the board members and planning commission members gathered at the town hall. Facilitated by Denny Doucette, Dave Johnson, Colleen Putnam, and Yvette Adelman- Dullinger, these VISIONAIRES were asked to imagine themselves in the year 2018 (5 years from today). If Sylvan Township was an award winning Township in 2018, what would the township look like? What would be different?

At the end of a 4 hour session the VISIONAIRES had the opportunity to weigh in on 10 different areas that impact our quality of life. Those areas were **attributes of the Township, land use management, growth, transportation, public safety, utilities, agricultures industries, natural environment, recreational opportunities and general improvements**. By the end of the evening there were 31 charts lining the walls with ideas that represented the desires of the group.

The most prominent underlying themes revolved around aggressive management of growth in an effort to protect the natural amenities that brought us to Sylvan Township or have kept those who are lifelong residents. Use of technology for things like an early warning system or the best use for the Sylvan Lake property owned by the Township were also topics for discussion.

The group was a very eclectic group with summer residents, weekend residents, lifelong residents and residents who also had business either in the Township or surrounding communities. We had a representative from the Pillager Area Fire Dept. and two from the Pillager School Board. Three were from the Board of Supervisors, and three from the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors will have joint meetings on June 13<sup>th</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss this update. The Planning Commission will meet on their own July 11<sup>th</sup> for that purpose. You, the public, are always welcome to attend these meetings to hear what is being developed. There is an opportunity for public input in all Sylvan Township agendas. Stay tuned and stay involved.

We especially want to thank those who took the time to attend a 4 hour meeting when outside they could have been enjoying one of the finest spring evenings to date.



Sylvan Township  
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Pillager, MN 56473

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

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**Road Report**

We had record breaking spring snow amounts that kept the plows out for long hours. The average snowfall for the season is 46 inches. The snowfall for February, March and April totaled 60.1 inches. The Town Board is looking at the Town's snow policy to find ways to clear the roads in a shorter time period.

We are working on the water problems in the Town with the above average snowfall and heavy spring rains. There was major farm field flooding, water in basements and minor road flooding. We will increase our beaver control and install more culverts.

Sweeping has been completed, crack sealing is near completion and shoulder work is ongoing. Brushing of the Town road right-of-way and signage will also be done this spring and summer.

We plan to have Classic Pine SW and West Mile Lake Road SW paved this spring. The Board is looking at what road to pave in 2014.

Roland Anderson  
Co-Road Supervisor