

SYLVAN TOWN NEWS



General Election - November 6, 2018



Fall 2018 Important Dates

September 21:
Absentee Ballot Voting began
October 16:
Pre-registration for voting ends 5:00 PM
November 5: Absentee Ballot Voting ends 5:00 PM
November 6:
General Election - 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Town Hall

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 - 7:00pm at Pillager Fire Hall

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

Election 2018

We are handling the absentee voting for Sylvan Township which started on Friday, Sept. 21, 2018 and runs until November 5, 2018 at 5:00 PM.

The general election will be held on November 6, 2018 from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM and will be held here at the Town Hall.

The following Sylvan Township offices will be voted on for at the state general election:

Township Supervisor Seat 3 - Currently held by Yvette Dullinger. Yvette Dullinger has filed for this position (4 year regular term).

Township Supervisor Seat 5 - Currently held by Arlene Schmit. Arlene Schmit has filed for this position (4 year regular term). Keith Card has also filed for this position.
(See candidates bio on following page)

Pillager Lake Park Report

The park is in pretty good shape this year and was very busy again this summer. Both piers are in place and electricity has been put in the pavilions.

In the month of July there was a lot of vandalism to the porta - pottys and a 4 foot section of the boat dock was taken. Please report anything you notice to the City of Pillager or Sylvan Town Hall. I would like to thank those who have been reporting the things they notice.

The Park Board meets once a month thru the summer and has 4 government entities: City of Pillager, Townships of May, Fairview and Sylvan. Each entity appoints a representative to the Park Board.

Arlene Schmit
Park Representative

Pillager Area Fire and Rescue

The Pillager Area Fire Department is looking for volunteers to join the Department. The volunteers must live in the Pillager Area Fire Protection Association area which consists of the Townships of Fairview, Homebrook, May, Rosing, Sylvan and the City of Pillager. Please call 218-746-4577 for more information.

Sylvan Town Hall

(218) 746-3652
Hours: Mon.-Fri.
8:30-12:30 pm.
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, Weed Inspector
John Wulff: Vice Chair, Co-Road & Driveway
Greg Bennett
Co-Road & Driveway Supervisor
Arlene Schmit
Co-Road & Driveway Supervisor, Park
Yvette Dullinger:
Planning Commission & Fire

Bio's on Candidates Filing for Township Seats

Yvette Dullinger

Hi, I am Yvette Dullinger, my husband (recently deceased) and I moved up from Sauk Rapids in 2001. We both were rural residents all our lives. We raised exotic birds as a hobby, and both loved to fish and enjoy the outdoors. I work full-time as an accountant. My sisters and I are third generation owners of our family farm in Sauk Rapids. The farm now being almost surrounded by the city – I am well aware of concerns regarding family farms and annexation as well as mixing urban and rural land uses. I started on the Sylvan Township Planning Commission in 2003 and have thoroughly enjoyed the projects and the people I worked with. I was elected to the Sylvan Town Board of Supervisors in 2010. I mainly have spent my time as liaison to the Planning Commission and representing Sylvan Township at Pillager Fire Assn meetings. I regularly attend Cass County Emergency Management Meetings and Cass County Association of Township meetings serving as a member of the Board of Directors. One of our current projects is trying to implement an emergency disaster response plan for the Township – this is just in the initial stages. I enjoy being able to help people and try very hard to be fair and impartial when contentious topics arise. I love living in Sylvan Township, it is truly God's Country. I would very much appreciate staying on the Sylvan Town Board and continuing to represent the wonderful citizens of Sylvan Township.

Arlene Schmit

I grew up in the Pillager area, and attended Pillager school. I got married in 1965 and had 3 children and later 5 grandchildren. In 1975 my family and I moved back to Pillager from St. Cloud, where we lived until moving into the Sylvan Township in 1995. In 2007 I was asked to serve on the Planning Commission, which I did until 2015, when I became Co-Road Supervisor. As a member of the Road Supervisor team I believe I can help make good decisions for the people, and the Board. I would like to thank everyone who has voted for me in the past and I hope you will vote for me again.

Keith Card

I have been married for 45 years and have 4 adult daughters. I was raised in Grand Rapids, MN and raised my family in Staples, MN. I am a Vietnam Veteran and taught machine trade at CLC for 18 years. I retired from 3M in 2015 and moved into Sylvan Township. I enjoy hunting, fishing and especially spending time with my 9 grandkids. I pride myself as always being someone that wants to be part of the solution. I would like to get involved in the township in a capacity that I can make a difference.

Feedback Requested - Dave Johnson, Planning Commission Chair

The Planning Commission has been working on a couple of projects that could use some input from you, the residents of the Township. Also we have an issue that is new to the Township that we will be discussing in the future that also could use some input from you.

First issue is related to an ongoing process of reviewing the Comprehensive Plan and how it reflects on our recommendations we make to the Cass County Planning and Zoning on variances requested by property owners. Typically most variances have been granted with some conditions. Our Comprehensive Plan speaks overwhelmingly to protection of water quality and green space within the Township. We have a sense that we are not being true to the intent of the Comp Plan if these variances are granted too easily. So the question to you is: would you prefer a more strict interpretation of the Comp Plan making these variances more difficult to grant? You can see the Comprehensive Plan online at the Township website. You can contact us with your answers at deputyclerk.sylvan@brainerd.net

Secondly a topic that has not been discussed by the Planning Commission is that of rentals through Vacation Rentals By Owner (VRBO). These rentals are becoming more popular in the lakes area and there is currently very little regulation regarding numbers, age, length of rentals, hours, etc. What are your thoughts regarding regulation of this type of rental.

Dark Skies - Vickie Kettlewell

The Sylvan Township Planning Commission is initiating a "Dark Skies" project. This initiative seeks to encourage citizen participation in preserving one of the assets of living in this township – dark skies and starry nights. The initiative is strictly voluntary and seeks to offer sources to Sylvan residents who want to make the change in their lighting. We want to offer information about light pollution, resources and information on how to mitigate outdoor lighting so as to not send out light drift, and economic solutions to lighting design that reduces light pollution, which can include not lighting at all. We are promoting this initiative by recognizing home owners or business owners who decide to make changes. The Township would like to recognize these efforts with both a medallion they can display on their dwelling, and a "how I did this" article in the Township newsletter. Sharing information can be very helpful to others. Through "how to" stories, making resources available and giving recognition to good lighting design, not only does the effort have potential to build community, we all have a good chance to look up and see the stars. We are proposing starting this initiative mid-fall.

Sylvan Township: Starry, Starry Nights Initiative

Dear neighbors and residents of Sylvan Township,

We can tick off a dozen reasons we live in this northern township – lakes, the pines, wildlife, rural character, and likely the night sky. Humans have gazed at the stars for thousands of years. They have found inspiration, wonderment, cultural lore and inspiration. And, they found their way – navigating by the location of the stars.

Sylvan Township would like to engage its citizens in an effort to preserve our night skies. Stargazers across the globe are increasingly concerned by the loss of darkness to light pollution. Not only does light pollution decrease our ability to see the spectrum of stars across the sky, but it also interrupts natural cycles. Our own circadian rhythm needs darkness for our sleep cycle.

What is light pollution? In its most obvious forms it is the artificial light that accumulates and begins to diminish the dark sky, so to the human eye we often see a glow of light on the horizon, or we can't see many stars when looking up, or it feels like twilight and is never really dark out.

Why does that matter? At a human scale, it can be disruptive to our sleep, to our health. For wildlife, it can disrupt mating, migration, navigation ability and predator-prey behaviors. Darkness is important.

What can you do? Today, there are many options to nighttime lighting that are smart, efficient and can help keep our skies dark and lighting where it is needed. Not only has lighting design changed so that it can be very direct and downward, not aimed at the sky, but it is highly efficient and cost effective, especially with LED technology.

Sylvan Township is interested in keeping its skies dark and would like to ask residents to look up and see the stars. We also want to encourage home and business owners to consider their own light needs and whether their lights might be adding to light pollution.

As an added incentive to giving consideration to your lighting needs, we want to recognize residents who decide their lighting could be changed or adjusted to help keep our dark skies. If you are interested in participating and decide to make changes, let us know. Tell us your story, what changes you made. We would like to recognize residents who make changes with a certificate and mention in the Township's newsletter.

In the near future, Sylvan would like to invite its residents to a stargazing evening at its Park on Sylvan Lake. We plan to invite some amateur astronomers and have an evening of discovering the stars.



Sylvan Township
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Pillager, MN 56473

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

E-mail us at
sylvan@brainerd.net

Roads - John Wulff Co Road Supervisor

Sylvan Township has many levels of roadways in its borders, some are maintained by the Township and some cannot be maintained with Township funds. In the next few paragraphs we will look at why some roads are maintained and what could change the status of a road.

Most of us travel many different roads every day. These vary from our driveway to large interstate highways. There is a state highway and three county roads that are in or pass through Sylvan Township. Since this is the Township newsletter we will focus on Township and public roads in Sylvan Township. Sylvan Township has about 60 miles of recorded Township roads with about 50 miles that are paved and 10 miles that are not paved. If one looks at a web map such as Google Maps or Bing Maps there are many additional roads that are used by the public that are named and have street signs. The difference is that these additional roads have not been accepted as a Township road and do not have a road order that is recorded by the Township with the Cass County Recorder office.

Several years ago as the Enhanced 911 addressing system was implemented and the blue number signs were installed, most of unnamed roads were named and street signs were installed by Cass County. Prior to this time usually only the Township roads were named and had street signs. With the roads having both street signs and address numbers how does one know if the road in question is a township road or a public road?

In the late 80's and early 90's Sylvan Township went through a process to document and register the Township roads with Cass County. If you have a question about the status of a road a call to Sylvan Township will verify the status. In short a "Town road" is defined as: those roads and cartways which have heretofore been or... may be established, constructed or improved ... [by] Town boards; and roads established, constructed, or improved by counties and have been maintained by the towns for a period of at least one year prior to July 1, 1957. This is from Minn. Stat. 160.02, subd. 28.

The question "Can a road become a Township road"? is often asked. Yes it can through processes established by the State of Minnesota. If a request is made for the Township to accept a road as a Township road the Board will work with the residents to see that the road meets the specifications and the steps to accept the road.

We are here to serve the residents of Sylvan Township. Your questions and concerns are always welcome.