

# SYLVAN TOWN NEWS



**March 13, 2018 Annual Town Meeting will be held at the  
Sylvan Town Hall at 7pm**



## Smoke Alarms

Every day, seven people die in home fires, most in homes that lack working smoke alarms. Sadly, children and the elderly disproportionately lose their lives. The American Red Cross wants to improve the odds and save lives, that's why we launched our Home Fire Campaign in 2014.

A critical part of the campaign is *Sound the Alarm*, a series of home fire safety and smoke alarm installation events across the country. Red Cross volunteers, along with fire departments and other partners canvass at-risk neighborhoods, installing free smoke alarms, replacing batteries in existing alarms, and providing fire prevention and safety education. In just three years, we've accomplished so much, including the installation of more than 1 million smoke alarms and prepared more than 1 million people against home fires through our home visits.

If you would like a free fire detector installed free of charge – please contact Tim Norton, Cass County Emergency Management Coordinator. 218-547-7437 (Office) [tim.norton@co.cass.mn.us](mailto:tim.norton@co.cass.mn.us)

## New Planning Commission Member

Vickie Kettlewell is the newest member of the Planning Commission. Following is a little background about Vickie and her interest in Sylvan Township that she submitted to the Planning Commission:

My family relocated their ranching operation to Sylvan township in the early 70s, buying several properties to put together what is today Sunup Ranch. The largest parcel of land my family bought was owned by Brower and Laura Peterson, who operated a dairy, and an adjoining piece was bought from Lucy (Peterson) Clark, who was Brower's sister. Members of these families continue to be land holders in Sylvan. My background first and foremost is as a rancher. At present, the agriculture sector is not represented on the commission. Given the makeup of the township, it's a sector whose voice should be at the table. My background also includes a 30-year career as a journalist, 16 of those years at the Star Tribune. While there, I worked with, or around, numerous stories about townships, development and community planning. I learned a lot about how towns, townships, communities worked through their issues and found pathways to success for their various constituents.

## WINTER 2018 Important Dates

**March 11, 2018**  
Daylight Saving Time

**March 13, 2018**  
Annual Town Meeting  
7:00 PM Town Hall  
Alternative date:  
March 20, 2018

**March 26, 2018**  
Spring Short Course  
Town Hall Closed

**April 17, 2018**  
Board of Equalization:  
10:00 AM 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 - 7:00 pm at Pillager Fire Hall

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

**Sylvan Town Hall**  
(218) 746-3652  
Hours: Mon.-Fri.  
8:30-12:30 pm.  
1:00pm-2:30 pm  
Email us at:  
[sylvan@brainerd.net](mailto:sylvan@brainerd.net)  
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  
**Arlene Schmit** Co-Road & Driveway Supervisor, Park  
**Yvette Dullinger:** Fire, PC Liaison



## CASS COUNTY EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SERVICE

Citizens are inundated with information from a variety of sources (traditional media, the internet, social networking sites, etc.)- but the quantity of information does not correlate to quality of information. The Cass County Sheriff's Office utilizes a system called Nixle to implement its Community Notification System to alert residents in real-time for localized emergency situations and relevant community advisories. These alerts may include: hazardous weather warnings, public safety messages, and community notifications and are issued for imminent public safety alerts. All alerts are targeted geographically, allowing residents to receive localized, relevant alerts via Text or Email. You will not be inundated or 'over-notified', you will only receive pertinent, time-sensitive information that is related to public safety.

There are three simple ways to sign up.

Text your zip code to 888777 or;

Go to <http://www.co.cass.mn.us/> and click the 'Nixle Alerts' widget or;

Go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) where residents can sign up and create a user profile which allows you to customize your alert settings. The process of creating a user profile on the Nixle website is very simple and intuitive.

If you have any questions about Nixle or Cass County's Community Notification System, please feel free to contact Tim Norton, Emergency Management Coordinator at 218-547-7437 or [tim.norton@co.cass.mn.us](mailto:tim.norton@co.cass.mn.us).

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## SYLVAN TOWNSHIP NON-EMERGENCY COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

Sylvan Township will also launch a new notification service using Nixle. This will help to improve communication with those who live, work, and visit our area. Through Nixle, Sylvan Township can deliver messages securely to township residents by **email and text messaging**. The following are some of the non-emergency alerts that may be considered for notifications but not limited to:

Significant Road detours/work, Water or Sewer planned service or interruption of service, Large-scale public works projects, traffic mitigation, community events such as parades, picnics/fundraisers, other meetings/events, unforeseen crisis affecting public safety and weather related parking bans.

Depending on where you are and what you are doing at the time the messages are sent, a text message or email could be the best communication method to alert you. Sorry, we are not able to accommodate landlines for voice messaging; CELLULAR PHONE TEXT MESSAGE AND/OR EMAIL ONLY.

**To sign up for the new Non-Emergency information service:**

**Call Sylvan Township at 218-746-3652 or**

**email [sylvan@brainerd.net](mailto:sylvan@brainerd.net)**

**\*\*\*Please include your name, cell phone number and email address**

## **Solutions for Spring Cleanup**

With Daylight Savings Time starting on Sunday March 11th, and Spring officially arriving on March 20th, solutions for cleanup are always helpful. Where and when items can be recycled or disposed of is often the question to be answered.

Cass County has several recycling bins and disposal sights throughout the county for residents to use. Two of the bins for household recycling are within Sylvan Township. One bin is located by the Corner Store at the intersection of County Highway 18 and Hwy 210. The second bin is located on Birch Street just north of the fairgrounds in Pillager, MN.

For larger items or items requiring special disposal the May Township transfer station is located on Cass County 34, north of Pillager. Check the Cass County web site for a list of items that can be disposed of for free or for a fee at this location.

Many technical gadgets and accessories can be traded in or recycled at at the Best Buy store in Baxter, MN. Check the store website for details.

As for metal objects, these can reap a small monetary reward if taken to Crow Wing Recycling in the Brainerd Industrial Park. Again see the business website for details.

## **Pillager Area Fire Protection Association**

The Townships of Sylvan, Fairview, Homebrook, Rosing, the east half of May, and the City of Pillager are the governmental units that own the fire department under a joint powers agreement. The Association Board is comprised of one representative from each township and the city. The group meets monthly to take care of the months' business and bills. The Association has two stations: Station #1 is in Pillager and Station #2 is on the west side of Gull Lake in Fairview Township.

Pillager Area Fire and Rescue (PAFR) is the firefighting or "hands on" part of the Association. There are close to 30 firefighters at present time. The firefighters are required to make at least 40 hours of in-house training and 25% of the runs per year. All firefighters are also required to be medical First Responder and Firefighter I with Haz Mat Ops certified within 2 years of joining the team. Most all have gone on to be Firefighter II certified. These classes were taught by four of our firefighters who are state certified instructors. By having in-house certified instructors, the Association saves thousands of dollars every year.

Most fire departments now do a lot more than just fight fires. Their responsibilities include responding to fight fires, medicals, vehicle accidents, ice and water rescues, searches, Haz Mat, C.O. alarms and many other calls. As the saying goes, if no one else can or will do it, "Call the Fire Department".

All residents should take a good look at their driveways for emergency vehicle access. There should be at least 13 feet of height and 20 feet of width cleared of trees, branches, wires and snow banks. The firefighters must be able to get two or more trucks into the driveway and then to be able to work and move all the way around them.

As you all may know by now, Randy Lee retired as Fire Chief effective Dec 31, 2017. Our new Fire Chief is Greg Ringler, the new Associate Fire Chief is Tom Youngbloom, new Captains are Trent Hawkinson and Sandie Youngblom, and new Lieutenants are Josh Eastman and Jason Eastman for the year 2018.



Sylvan Township  
 12956 24th Avenue SW  
 Pillager, MN 56473

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

## Annual Town Meeting Set For March 13, 2018 at 7:00pm

**T**ownship residents can participate in grass roots democracy, deciding the annual levy and other important Town issues. The Sylvan Township Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at 7 p.m. at the Sylvan Town Hall, alternate date will be March 20, 2018.

Proposed 2019 tax levies are:

- General Fund       \$ 130,600.00
- Road & Bridge       \$ 476,950.00
- \$ 142,964.00 Bond #2
- Fire Fund           \$ 72,000.00

Total Proposed Levy   \$ 822,514.00

Last year's levy total was - \$ 770,757.00

### Donations

Donations from Townships are very limited by Minnesota Statute. Some of the donations allowed by law include those to county fairs, county historical society, senior centers and youth centers. Any expenditure must be authorized by the Town Board.

### AGENDA—tentative

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY TOWN CLERK/TREASURER
  - 1.1 Pledge of Allegiance
2. ELECTION OF MODERATOR FROM COMMUNITY
  - 2.1 Introduction of Board Members
3. CLERK/TREASURER'S REPORTS
  - 3.1 Motion to approve minutes of 2017 Annual Meeting
  - 3.2 2017 Financial Reports—Audit Report on Table
4. TOWN STATUS REPORTS
  - 4.1 Fire Association: Yvette Adelman-Dullinger
  - 4.2 Planning Commission: Yvette Adelman-Dullinger
  - 4.3 Park Board: Arlene Schmit
  - 4.4 Road & Bridge Supervisors: John Wulff
5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
  - 5.1 Donations or Other
    - 5.1.1 Cass County Historical Society - Letter
    - 5.1.2 Cass County Ag Society (Fair Board) - Lisa Fletcher
    - 5.1.3 Lakes Area Dive Team
6. SET TAX LEVIES FOR 2019 (see proposed levies at left)
7. MOTION TO SET 2019 ANNUAL MEETING FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019 at 7:00 pm
8. MOTION TO ADJOURN