

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP NEWS



Primary Election - August 11, 2020

Chairman's Notes

It seems the COVID-19 pandemic has affected everything in our lives, including Township voting. The Town Board struggled with the question of whether to go with mail-in balloting for this year's elections. There were many things to consider, including the safety of the election judges and clerks, the safety for voters, the distancing required for lines, sanitizing voting equipment. To complicate things, the Board had to make a decision early, when we still didn't know how state guidelines would be in effect for crowds and distancing.

I have always liked the concept of voting day, when every eligible voter votes on the same day. It's a real American tradition, and a Sylvan Township tradition. Things have changed gradually over the years with absentee voting and no-excuse early voting. Even so, Sylvan Township has had very high turnouts for in-person voting. We have always prided ourselves on fair, easy access voting, with great election judges and efficient reporting.

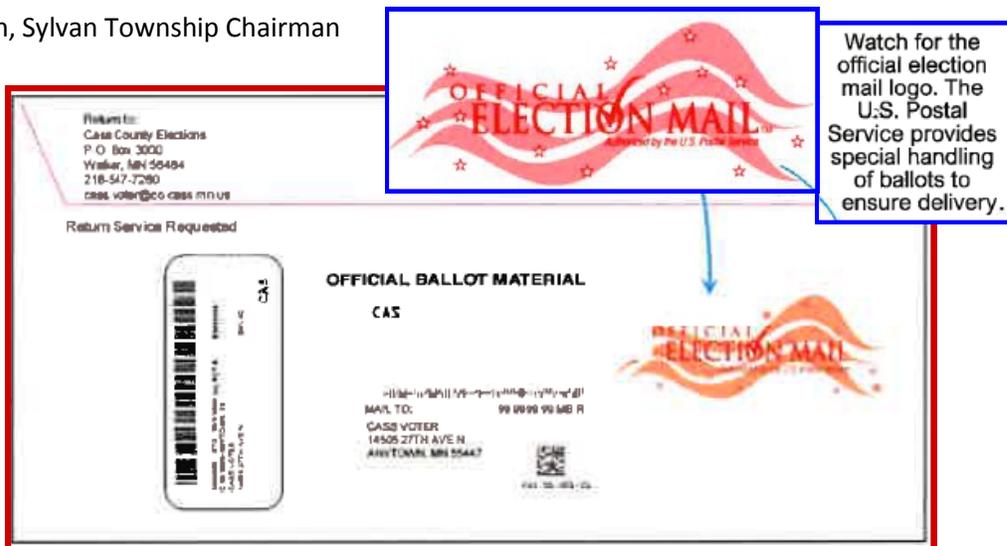
The Board decided, on a split vote, to go with mail-in balloting for this year only.

Voters with disabilities and other special needs, either permanent or temporary, may access a voter assist terminal to mark their ballot by bringing their ballot and ballot envelopes to the Cass County Auditor-Treasurer's Office at the address noted above, or at Sylvan Town Hall.

We look for a high turnout from Sylvan Township residents. Please see an example of the mail-in ballot envelope below. If you have questions, please contact the Town Hall.

Vote. It's important.

Greg Booth, Sylvan Township Chairman



Summer 2020 Important Dates

June 26, 2020 - July 28, 2020
Primary Election ballots mailed to residents for mail-in ballot voting

July 28, 2020:
Filing Affidavit of candidacy begins

August 11, 2020:
Last day to file for candidacy

August 11, 2020
Primary Election:
7:00 AM—8:00 PM

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULES

Town Board Meets:
1st & 3rd Thursdays

Planning Commission Meets:
2nd Thursdays

Board and PC Meetings:
November 1st - March 31st at 6:30 pm. April 1st- October 31st at 7:00 pm at the Sylvan Town Hall.

Pillager Lake Park Advisory Board Meets:
As required

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

Sylvan Town Hall

(218) 746-3652

Hours: Mon.-Fri.

8:30-12:30 pm

1:00pm-2:30 pm

Email us at:

clerk@sylvantwp.com

Website:

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:
PC & Fire

Mail-in Ballot Information - Cass County

**Please watch for your
ballot and don't throw it
away to avoid delays
and the cost of
replacement ballots.**

The dates that ballots will be mailed to Sylvan Township residents are:
State Primary August 11, 2020 Ballot Mailing Dates: June 26 – July 28, 2020
General Election November 3, 2020 Ballot Mailing Dates: September 18 –
October 20, 2020

Each voter registered by July 21, 2020 for the August 11, 2020 State Primary will be mailed a ballot automatically.

Each voter registered by October 13, 2020 for the November 3, 2020 General Election will be mailed a ballot automatically.

Eligible voters not pre-registered by this date, or pre-registered voters wishing to receive their ballot at a temporary address, may apply for an absentee ballot.

Voters may register and apply for an absentee ballot on-line by visiting mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us or the elections and voting pages of the Cass County website at www.co.cass.mn.us. For paper applications or assistance, call 218-547-7295.

Ballots may be returned by mail (a postage prepaid return envelope is included when the ballots are mailed), delivered in person by the voter, or delivered by designated agent to the Cass County Auditor-Treasurer's Office, 303 Minnesota Avenue, P.O. Box 3000, Walker, MN 56484. Ballots must be received no later than 8:00 p.m. on election day in order to be counted. Normal business hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hours on election day are 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Voters with disabilities and other special needs, either permanent or temporary, may access a voter assist terminal to mark their ballot by bringing their ballot and ballot envelopes to the Cass County Auditor-Treasurer's Office at the address noted above, or other designated absentee voting locations.

Officials are also available at these locations to complete the witness requirements for mail ballots. Instructions are included with each ballot. The back of the return envelope must be signed by the voter and witnessed by any the following:

1. anyone registered to vote in Minnesota, *including a spouse or relative*,
2. a notary public, or
3. a person with the authority to administer oaths.

Prompt return of voted ballots is encouraged so that any omitted requirements can be corrected in advance of election day. Ballots are processed when received, and voters will be notified if there is a problem. **Voters casting a mail ballot may also track their ballot on-line by visiting the website of the Minnesota Secretary of State at mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us.**

In addition to the normal business hours, extended hours for mail ballot voting (for in-person drop off, voter assist terminal access or absentee voting for non-registered voters) are:

State Primary: Saturday, August 8, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Monday, August 10, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and Tuesday, August 11, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

General Election: Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Monday, November 2, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and Tuesday, November 3, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The counting of mail ballots will be completed at the Cass County Courthouse after 8:00 p.m. on election day.

Additional information is available by contacting the Cass County Auditor-Treasurer's Office, 303 Minnesota Avenue, P.O. Box 3000, Walker, MN, phone 218-547-7295.

Update on the Planning Commission:

There have been several areas in which the Planning Commission has been involved. The Sylvan Commercial Ordinance was updated last year. Since then we have been working on the application of that Ordinance to the businesses that exist in the residential areas of the Township. We have had only a few applications for permits to date. As a reminder everyone who is conducting business in Sylvan Township is required to have a permit. Commission members are happy to meet with anyone questioning if you need a permit, what type is needed and what needs to be done to acquire that permit.

Our Township has the opportunity to make recommendations to the Cass County Planning and Zoning regarding variances that have been requested from the county by owners within the Township. To date it has not been as busy as last year there have been a few. Most have been related to after the fact permits that involve building without a county permit.

Update on the Sylvan Lake Park

Work continues at a slow but steady pace. To date this spring we have burned the grass off the steep slope of the old gravel pit, did some minor grading on that slope, and hydro seeded it with a blend of native grasses and wild flowers which make up the "pioneer blend" that was acquired from Minnesota Native Landscapes. In addition, we distributed the topsoil that was left from the original pit area and planted 175 trees. The trees were Jack Pine, White Pine and Red Pine (Norway).

We had applied for a grant from the DNR Parks Grant program. We have just been informed that we were not successful with that application. Our next step is to re-analyze the budget to see what we may be able to do yet this year. There are a few additional options that we may try for additional funding that may stretch the funds we have available.

At best the progress so far, while considerable, is still a long way from the finished project we envisioned. It will take some time to finish the remaining three trails and the central pit area. If anyone is inclined to offer financial help, the Township will be putting together a list of things like signing, benches, picnic tables, and other items that will embellish the park as we proceed.



Pillager Park Report

The Pillager Lake Park Board has 4 government entities, City of Pillager, Townships of May, Fairview and Sylvan. Each entity appoints a representative to the Park Board.

This year is quite a bit different than other years with social distance in mind.

At this time we do not have a park host so if anyone is interested in being a park host please contact Arlene Schmit at 218-251-1048. The Park Board members are taking turns checking on the park so we would appreciate everyone's help in keeping it clean and please be respectful of the park equipment.

We have hired someone to help keep up the beach area and VanVickle Lawn Care to mow the lawn and get a handle on some of the overgrowth of trees and brush. The park benches and outside tables have all been sealed.



Sylvan Township
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Pillager, MN 56473

Phone: (218) 746-3652
Fax: (218) 746-3612
Website: www.sylvantwp.com
Email us at: clerk@sylvantwp.com

Visit mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us
or call 218-547-7260 to...

Register or update your registration

Check registration or ballot status

Apply for an absentee ballot

View or request a sample ballot

Find election results

Have You Seen the Signs?

In an effort to promote safe speeds, we have placed digital speed limit radar signs that many residents may have driven by. The intent of the signs is to raise awareness of road speeds and allow for safer Township travels. The signs are meant to let you know your current speed as you get near the sign. If you notice the signs are blinking, please slow down. Currently we have three signs. Two signs are used by being attached to poles and the third is a solar powered trailer sign. All three of the signs are portable allowing us to make moves to different roads increasing the awareness of traffic safety. We started the sign placement on Hardy Lake Road and Scearcyville Drive. This past week we moved the signs to Lower Sylvan and Camp Jim Road. Our plan will be to move the signs every 6-10 weeks to different locations. You may see the trailer sign used in areas during heavy traffic use or near areas of special events. If there are areas that you would like to see the signs utilized, or if you notice that the sign is not working, please contact the Town Hall.

History Series in Your Backyard

This lecture series highlighting the historical moments of Sylvan, Rosing, Fairview and May Township and the Cities of Pillager and East Gull Lake had great attendance last year and plans are being made to continue exploring our backyard, however due to the COVID-19 pandemic the series for 2020 has been postponed until next year. Here are the topics the committee has been working on for future lectures: Country Schools, Native Daily Life, Native Plants, Historical Sites (with tour), Cemeteries and their stories, Anchor Families and historical buildings, and Early Railroads.

Please continue to watch the newsletter and our new website for future updates. Last year's series will be available on the new website in the next month.