

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP NEWS



Happy Holidays from Sylvan Township!



Fall/Winter 2021 Important Dates

November 25, 2021
Thanksgiving
Town Hall Closed
November 26, 2021
Town Hall Closed
December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve
Town Hall Closed
December 27, 2021
Town Hall Closed
December 30, 2021
New Year's Eve
Town Hall Closed
January 3, 2022
Town Hall Closed

Broadband Access in Sylvan Township

Greg Booth, Supervisor

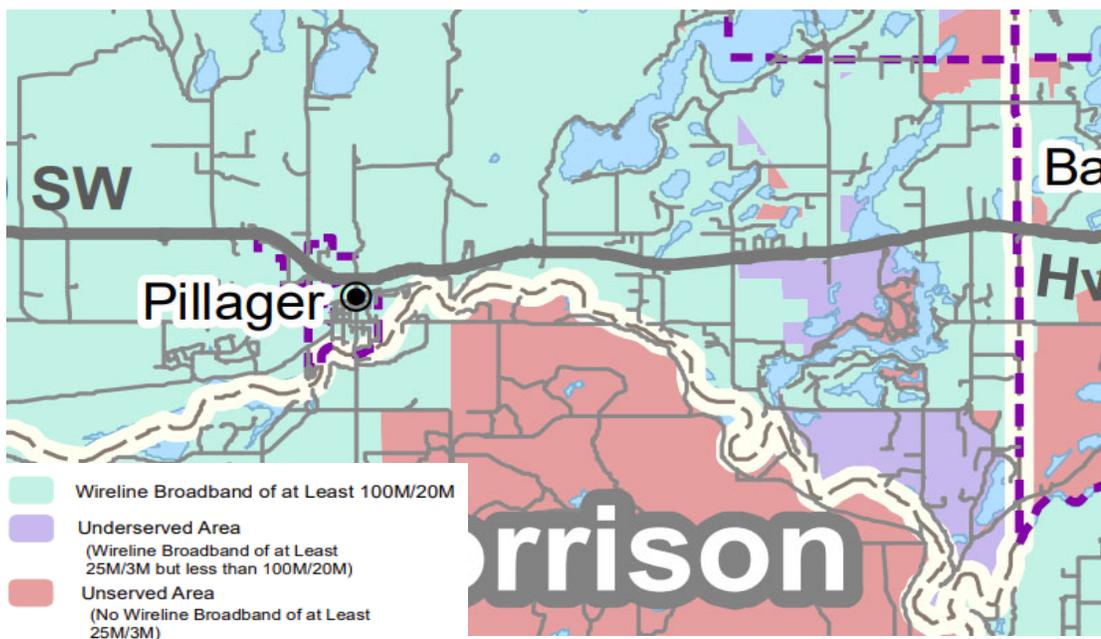
High-speed internet service has become more and more important for rural businesses, agriculture and education. Sylvan Township has made a commitment to helping upgrade unserved or underserved areas in the township. Much of Sylvan Township is rated "underserved" by the Minnesota Department of Economic Development.

The Town Board allocated federal CARES dollars to help Consolidated Telephone Company provide fiber optic cable to residents in the Little Pine Road area last year. This year, the Board has allocated \$180,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds to help provide high-speed internet access in other areas of the township. Cass County has also committed to provide ARPA funding, and CTC has committed to providing installation at reduced prices. There is also additional federal funding available through the State of Minnesota.

There is still a lot of work to be done. It's expensive to provide service in sparsely populated areas, and obtaining federal funding is often a lengthy process. The Township has created a committee to find out which areas need access and where our dollars will be best used.

If you don't have broadband in your home or business, please contact Sylvan Town Hall with your address and current internet speed. This will help the broadband committee determine where the needs are.

Just a reminder we still have free WIFI available in the parking lot at the Town Hall.



MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULES

Town Board Meets:
1st & 3rd Thursdays
Except December

Planning Commission Meets: 2nd Thursdays

Pillager Lake Park Advisory Board Meets:
As required

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

Board & PC Meetings:
November 1st - March 31st starts at 6:30 pm.
April 1st- October 31st starts at 7:00 pm at Sylvan Town Hall or on Zoom.

Sylvan Town Hall

(218) 746-3652
Hours: Mon.-Fri.
8:00 am - 2:30 pm
Email us at:
info@sylvantwp.com
Website:
www.sylvantwp.com

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

Town Board:

Greg Booth: Chair
Greg Bennett: Vice Chair, PC Liaison
Bob Johnson: Co-Road & Driveway, Fire
Arlene Schmit: Lead Co-Road & Driveway, Park
Yvette Dullinger: Co-Road & Driveway, Weeds

Sylvan Lake Park Update

Dave Johnson, Planning Commission Chair

The development of the Park at Sylvan Lake continues but not without challenges. 2021 proved to be a very difficult year for new growth due to the drought conditions that persisted for a better part of the year.

Out of approximately 175 trees that were planted in the spring possibly 10 are still alive and that section will need to be redone. The section that was seeded in native grasses and flowers fared even worse with no native plants appearing and in both areas the weeds flourished as they typically do under these conditions. After consulting with Adam Maleski at Crow Wing Soil and Water it seems we will start over in 2022 in both areas.

On the bright side, the turf on the trail that was developed in 2019 have done very well and that trail looks great. We also began construction of new trails consisting of approximately 4000 feet that look fantastic. These trails will take hikers to the rim above the pit area then to the south coming out to Lower Sylvan Road then back into a lower area along a wetland bringing hikers out to the parking lot.

About 1000 feet in the lower trail has been groomed and seeded and is closed to the public for the remainder of the year to allow growth. The remainder of the new section is being groomed with stick and rock removal, root cutting and dragging prior to seeding. At the time of printing this newsletter, this trail may also be closed after seeding. The new trails include the overview of the pit as mentioned but also a wooded view of Sylvan Lake that allows hikers to enjoy a very secluded



feeling while only a short distance from Lower Sylvan Road. The new trails will be marked as closed until they are ready for foot traffic.

Cal Disterhaupt Excavating was the contractor for the trail construction and volunteers have helped with the grooming. Scott Forsythe has been a particularly helpful volunteer. There will be many ongoing opportunities to volunteer **and we need your help**. If interested just call the Sylvan Townhall and we will find a perfect match for your skills.

We have had discussions with Pillager High School inviting student participation in future projects. There could be many educational applications for the student in art for design of signs, forestry in plant identification, ag in advising on plant selection propagation, woodworking in construction of tables and benches, welding for kiosks and stands and so on. While this year had some disappointments we are optimistic that citizens of Sylvan Township will have a beautiful place to enjoy nature as this project goes forward. Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the park effort.

Sylvan Town Hall has been UPGRADED!

Sylvan Township was awarded a grant from the Federal Government in 2020 (CARES Act) and now again in 2021-2024 (ARPA Funds). These grants made it possible for Sylvan to upgrade several things in the Town Hall and one area with broadband last year. The ARPA funds were used for a new air exchanger furnace/AC system, new upgraded security and new IT upgrades. We also set some funds aside to continue our broadband coverage for the Township.

Sylvan Town Hall has new security in place for anyone visiting the building. The inside door will remain locked during business hours, there is a 2-way camera (doorbell) to communicate with the staff prior to them letting you in. There are materials for residents on a table in the entry way. There is also a drop box located outside the north doors for afterhours drop offs. As always you can contact us by phone **218-746-3652** or by email info@sylantwp.com.

Sylvan Town Hall also has new IT upgrades with a new projector, projection screen, large tv monitor, microphones, and audio equipment to assist with Zoom meeting audio/visual. We were able to tie the new audio system into our existing overhead speaker system. Zoom meeting links can be found on our home page of the Website. www.sylantwp.com

“Let There Be Light”

Bob Johnson, Co - Road Supervisor

That is a pretty famous quote, but it also was a request to the Sylvan Town Board of Supervisors from residents because of a safety concern over lack of lighting at several intersections of Township roads and Highway 210.

The Town Board agreed and reached out to Crow Wing Power in December 2020 to get recommendations on specific locations and costs of lighting options. In the spring of 2021 locations and type of lighting were finalized and after the spring thaw the project was given the green light. By late this summer the new lights (each containing 4-LEDs) were in place at the following intersections with Highway 210: West Gull River Road; Little Pine Road; 24th Avenue and Crow Wing River Road (East and West).

The feedback has been positive and the ability to see the intersections at night has made the approach and turn-offs of Highway 210 more controlled and safer. All of this happened because of the interaction and cooperation between the Township residents and the Town Board. Working together gets things done! A special “Thank You” to Crow Wing Power.

Road Update

Yvette Adelman-Dullinger, Co-Road Supervisor

Shady Hollow Road was upgraded this summer to asphalt, and the water runoff concerns were addressed. Also completed this summer, 43rd Avenue and Spring Road, Prairiewood Drive SW and Prairie Star Circle SW.

Speed Limit signs were also installed on Goodrich Road, Lincoln Drive and Bigwater Drive.

Still in discussion is the petition to takeover Dandelion Lane.

The survey for 26th Avenue should be complete by the time this newsletter is distributed. We are working with Septic Check to draw up plans to cover the Community Septic/Stormwater issues. We are researching what the township can do to improve water quality around the lake and will try to get a grant to cover much of the project. Right at this time we are researching options and what may be feasible or not.

We are also looking into what can be done about the 4-wheeler issue in the Township (high speeds, and destruction of driveway approaches). Currently we need to abide by State Statutes and need to remind residents to review ATV safety regulations especially regarding minors operating ATVs on public property. If any resident sees any infractions at this time, they should immediately call the sheriff's department.

We would like to remind residents with winter coming up to please watch road conditions and drive appropriately. With shaded roads a slippery patch should be expected – please drive slowly.

Pillager Lake Park Report

Arlene Schmit, Park Representative

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.

The Park Board has a very good park host this year and we hope they will come back next year. We have room for one more so if anyone is interested, please contact Arlene Schmit at 218-251-1048. We made some improvements to the park with adding new beach sand, staining the play equipment and the painting the bathroom floors. Thank you to the Pillager Lions for donating your time to stain the play equipment and paint the bathrooms. Thank you for all your great work .

We are planning on getting bids for fixing the older pier as it needs a new floor and some boards need to be replaced.



Pillager & Area Lions

Pillager & Area Lions Club would like you to know they are here in Sylvan Township. If there are any small projects that you need some help with or if you know anyone who needs some help in Sylvan Township, please email info@sylvantwp.com to put in a request. Projects could include but are not limited to painting a deck or shed, raking and bagging fall Leaves, building a Handicap Accessible Ramp at a home, putting on storm windows, etc.



Sylvan Township
12956 24th Avenue SW
Pillager, MN 56473

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

Reminder: Business Permits are required in Sylvan Township.

Sylvan Township Deer Stand Policy

All stands must be free standing or are fastened to trees using ropes or straps. Screws or driven spikes must not be used; short stabilizing projections may be used if they do not damage trees.

Steps that are screwed into trees may not be used.

Trees and brush may not be cut or removed.

Deer stands may be placed on Township property 10 days prior to the beginning of the deer hunting season for which the user of the stand is licensed to hunt. The stands must be removed within 5 days of the end of the hunting season.

Persons placing a stand on Township property must place a tag on the stand with name and phone number.

A hunter may not place a stand less than 300 feet from an existing stand.

A hunter may not place a stand less than 500 feet from a residential dwelling.

Hunters are reminded that hunting of deer on Sylvan Township land is limited to Archery, Black Powder Rifles or Shotguns.

Note: This policy was developed to offer a consistent policy for hunters who wish to hunt on Sylvan Township land. At the same time this policy will provide additional safety for citizens who wish to enjoy the Township property and may be exposed to an "attractive nuisance" that might pose a risk to children and adults who might climb on unused stands.

Cass County Resource Specialist

Levy Bergstrom, Resource Specialist from Cass County Environmental Services Department will be holding office hours at Sylvan Town Hall to help with permit applications and to answer any questions you may have on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 10:30am to 1pm until April 2022. (These are subject to change.) If you would like to meet with him please call 218-547-7365 or email him at levy.bergstrom@co.cass.mn.us