

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



Important Dates

Saturday:
August 9, 2025
from 10am-2pm
**SYLVAN
COMMUNITY
OUTREACH DAY**
at the Town Hall

Wednesday:
August 13, 2025
from 1pm-3pm at the
May Transfer Station
**Household
Hazardous Waste
Disposal Event**
see detailed flyer on
back cover

Chairman's Notes

-Greg Booth

It's never OK to dump anything in a Township ditch.

Recently, Sylvan Township has received reports of debris, mostly lawn clippings, brush and leaves, deposited in Township ditches. It's a misconception that the ditch is a public area for dumping — in reality, Minnesota statutes prohibit the dumping of any material in the right-of-way. The right-of-way on most Township roads is 66 feet wide, usually measured 33 feet on each side of the centerline of the road.

Some residents have even reported dumping on private property just off the right-of-way, which is not only illegal dumping, it is trespassing.

The only things that can legally be placed in the right-of-way are mailboxes, traffic signs, E-911 address numbers, public utilities and driveways. Everything else is prohibited by law, including placement in the right-of-way of leaves, rakings, trees, clippings, branches, brush, fences, walls, yard debris, garbage, construction debris, oil, and anything other than the permitted objects noted above.

Minnesota Statutes 169.42 and 609.68 make road dumping a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$700 or imprisonment for up to 90 days, for each offense.

Sylvan Township maintains the ditches for snow storage and water drainage, all at taxpayer expense. It costs more for our contractor to maintain the right-of-way if there is garbage, leaves or other debris cluttering the ditch. Junk and debris can also be a liability for the Township and landowners. If you see any violations, please report them to a Township supervisor or one of our Town clerks.

Also, to save on energy costs at the Town Hall we will be constructing a solar panel array on the roof, which will drastically cut our electric bill for the next few decades. With a large roof surface, tax incentives, two major grants from Sourcewell and the State of Minnesota, along with engineering help from a Township resident, the estimated savings would be \$3,696 annually and \$233,624 over the 30-year life of the panels. This will allow us to keep our utility line item in the General Fund budget as low as possible in future years. Some progress may already be evident by the time of our Township Community Day.

MONTHLY MTG SCHEDULES

Township Board
Meets: 1st & 3rd
Thursdays (Unless
Noted)

Planning Commission
(PC) Meets: 2nd
Thursday

*All Township Board
and PC meetings
begin at 7:00 PM at
Sylvan Town Hall
unless noted*

Pillager Lake Park
Board Meets: As
needed - monthly in
summer

Pillager Fire Assoc.
Meets: First Monday
of each month - 7:00
pm at Pillager Fire

Cass County

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



Business Permits are Required in Sylvan



UPDATES - CHANGES - IMPORTANT INFO



- Jenna Ruggles (Clerk)

ATV Laws:

Cass County has passed a new Ordinance to have most ATVs ride on all County Roadways instead of in the ditches. Sylvan Township is in the process of adopting or mimicking this Ordinance for all Township roads as well. You can find Cass Co.'s Ordinance on their website and Sylvan's website. Sylvan Township is considering paving the ATV ditch approaches off of Hwy 210 and Township roads. We know that many residents and some township roads off of the County roads currently have paved approaches in the ditch—please note that these are not for use any longer if the ATV qualifies to be on the road. The Sheriff's team will be out monitoring and giving tickets for those who do not follow the new Ordinance in Cass County.

Cannabis Laws:

Cass County passed an Ordinance in 2023 "Regulating the Use of Cannabis and Cannabis-Derived products in Public Places within Cass County" effective 12/7/2023. Sylvan Township is included in the Cass County lands and this ordinance must be followed here as well as other lands in Cass County. You can find the Ordinance on both the County website and Sylvan's website.

Short-Term Rental (STR) Ordinance:

Cass County has passed a Short-Term Rental Ordinance. Sylvan Township is required by State Statute to be equally or more restrictive than the County, therefore Sylvan is currently making amends to our Short-Term Rental Ordinance which will be completed later this year. You can find both Sylvan's and Cass Co's STR Ordinances on our Website.

Sheriff's Corner:

Cass County Sheriff, Bryan Welk, provides some great information in his monthly Sheriff's Corner report on Facebook. Sylvan Township also has these on our website www.sylvantwp.com. The Sheriff does an excellent job at keeping us informed of what is happening in Cass County on their Facebook page - we highly suggest you follow them.

The last 2 volumes reflected on the new DNR Boater Safety and Law changes from adults to youth. Main changes include **beginning July 1, 2025: Anyone 12 years of age and older, born after June 30, 2004 must have a valid watercraft operator's permit.** The requirements gradually include more groups each year. **Beginning July 1, 2026:** Anyone 12 years and older, and born after June 30, 2000, must have a valid watercraft operator's permit. **Beginning July 1, 2027:** Anyone 12 years and older, and born after June 30, 1996, must have a valid watercraft operator's permit. **Beginning July 1, 2028:** Anyone 12 years and older, and born after June 30, 1987, must have a valid watercraft operator's permit.

Township Parks and Public Lands:

Sylvan Township has new signs that will be placed at our Park's and on our Public Lands due to reports of people camping overnight and driving on land where they shouldn't. Sylvan has hunting land that is walk-in only — ATVs and vehicle use is restricted, there also should not be any campfires of any kind in our parks or land. Please keep this in mind and let the Town Hall staff know if you see anyone abusing the use of our lands. We have had dumping issues in the past and we work hard to keep the Township clean and usable for all. We do not want our land and parks to turn into an encampment or dumping ground so we appreciate all the help we get from our residents.

Cass County Emergency Management Update

-Keith Card

On a specified date in September Cass County's Emergency Management team will put on a full scale exercise in Pine River. The intention of this exercise is to raise awareness of local and regional resources that we can utilize when responding to and managing large scale incidences in Cass County. Sylvan Township regularly attends emergency management meetings.

Sylvan Community Outreach Day is August 9th! 10-2

Pillager Lake Park

-Arlene Schmit

Our summer has started off very hot, so the park has been unusually busy. We have a new park host this summer who is working hard around the park to make it look extra nice. Due to the bad weather in the Bemidji area the DNR was not able to get the boat landing done at the park but it will be done sometime this year. The new dock was installed. Please help us keep our water slide in good working condition for children 14 and under. We are still looking for good play equipment. If you know of any please let me know. There still are trees that need to be removed for additional parking for trucks and trailers. Please don't use the park garbage services for personal use, we are limited on funding.

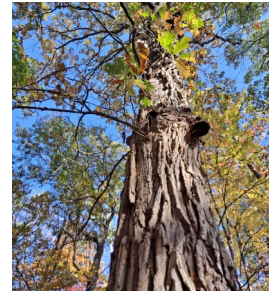


Sylvan Park Update

-Dave Johnson (Planning Commission Chair)

Development in Sylvan Park is moving forward, but this spring we have had a couple of issues that have slowed progress slightly. We were scheduled for a prescribed burn over a large portion of the wooded area of the park. Due to weather-related cancellations of a prescribed burn managed by the Nature Conservancy, seeding repairs for trails has been delayed, and will now be completed by the end of June.

We have also scheduled several projects as part of the restoration in the pit area. We plan to complete the picnic area with the addition of a larger Bass Wood tree, addition of mulch, and a picnic table or two. We will be completing the addition of the kiosk and adding more flower areas along one of the trails. These projects also have been delayed because we plan to apply for a grant to pay for much of this. This work, either way, should take place by September.



We have a need for volunteers to do more weeding, trimming around the smaller trees, and some brushing. If you are inclined to help, please contact staff at the town hall.

Volunteers so far this spring include Dave Johnson, Roy Peterson, Emmett Young and family, Marsha Johnson and Vickie Kettlewell for tree planting and Dave Johnson, Arlene Schmit, Gene Leibel, Gail Brecht, Trudi Detert and Katie Lee for weeding. Thanks to all of you for your help.



ROADS

- ⇒ **Right-Of-Ways & Ditches:** (Bob Johnson) Keeping our Township looking nice is beneficial for both the views and safety! Please pick up your ditches if you see any debris/garbage. Watching where grass clippings and leaves are flying is also beneficial to the safety of residents who could be using the road shoulders for walking/biking and if they get in the roadway it can be dangerous for motorcyclists. Wet leaves and grass can get slippery and we've had a good amount of rain days this year with more to come. When the snow falls you will need to keep your trash cans back off of the road for the snow plows to work effectively. Also keep fish houses, vehicles, basketball hoops, and any other items or posts other than E-911 numbers and mailboxes out of the road rights-of-ways. These all create safety concerns and can cause damage to vehicles, contractor's equipment, or cause delays in plowing.
- ⇒ **2025 Road Project:** (Greg Bennett) The Township is happy to announce the updates to 4 major road projects for the summer of 2025. Parts of 33rd, 132nd, 13th and West Sylvan Drive are all getting much needed work done. This work includes reclaiming asphalt, road formation and overlays where needed. Most of the work will be done by the end of July. Sorry for any interruption this has caused, however, these projects have been identified by residents, road committee and supervisors as immediate needs. Also, Dandelion Lane and Norway Drive have been brought up to Township standards and have been taken over as Township maintained roads as requested by the residents.
- ⇒ **Storms:** If there is a road that is impassable or has dangerous situations after a storm, please notify the Town Hall or a Board Member. If you see trees down in the ditches or roads 24-48 hours after a storm, please notify the Town Hall.



Sylvan Township
12956 24th Avenue SW
Pillager, MN 56473

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

E-mail us at
info@sylvantwp.com

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE 2025 SUMMER COLLECTION SCHEDULE

(or drop off year round at Pine River Transfer Station)

CASS COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY. No Appointment Necessary.

Accepted Wastes:
Unwanted or unusable paint and paint products, adhesives, mercury products, corrosives, pesticides, oven cleaners, cleaning products, old gasoline, automotive products, electronics, fluorescent bulbs, and batteries

Do NOT Bring These:

- Explosives or radioactive wastes
- Used motor oil, oil filters or antifreeze (these can be taken to any transfer site at no charge year-round.)
- Unusable joint compound and empty containers - dry out & dispose in regular garbage



2025 Summer Mobile HHW Collection Schedule

June 4 (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.)	Walker at Cass County Garage on Co Rd 12
June 18 (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.)	Lakeshore at City Hall
July 9 (12 p.m. to 3 p.m.)	Longville behind City Hall
Aug. 6 (10 a.m. to 12 p.m.)	Remer at Do it Best Hardware
Aug. 6 (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.)	Outing at the Crooked Lake Town Hall
Aug. 13 (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.)	May Twp. at the Cass County Garage on Co Rd 34

For additional questions including business waste that won't be taken call
Randy at Northwest MN HHW Management (800) 637-2090 (Bagley)
Paid for by Cass Co. Environmental Service Dept. 218-547-7241 (Walker)
www.co.cass.mn.us

Everyone is Welcome

Please Come Join Us & our Friends...
at: Sylvan Town Hall
on: Saturday August 9th 2025
from: 10am – 2pm

- Play Games & Purchase Food
- Visit with, collect information & goodies from leaders of different Resource Groups
- Learn more about Local Services
- Connect with Neighbors
- Get up close to some Emergency Service Vehicles & Equipment
- Learn about the newest ATV laws and water safety
- Apply for Permit to Carry and other Permits
- Dispose of old drugs in the "Take it to the Box"
- Bring your old documents/papers to shred securely with "Paper Storm"

PILLAGER AREA FIRE PROTECTION ASSOC. **Sylvan Township Annual Community Outreach Day** **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

12956 24th Ave SW Pillager, MN 56473 | NOTICE: All Town Board members will be in attendance

Sylvan Township Board: Greg Booth: Chairman & Weeds Supervisor | Greg Bennett: Vice-Chair, Co-Road & PC Liaison | Bob Johnson: Co-Road & Fire Liaison | Arlene Schmit: Co-Road & Pillager Park Board | Keith Card: Cass Co Emergency Mgmt. Rep. & CRVST Rep.