



Chairman's Corner

When is Clean Up Day?

Last summer, the board began consulting with Karen Richtman, a recycling expert, to assess our current annual Clean Up Day event and advise the board of other options. Many of the surrounding communities have discontinued this event due to cost as well as there being other opportunities for recycling drop off locations, such as the Washington County Recycling Center.



Last year, it cost our township \$12,000 to host the 4 hour long Clean Up Day event. There were 200 trips made to the event, and many individuals made more than one trip. Of the material dropped off, 60% of it was garbage; material that should have been picked up by a curbside hauler. We also predict, conservatively, that approximately 20-25% of the items came from outside the township. The board didn't feel this was a very efficient or equitable way to dispose of unwanted items. In addition, there were safety issues related to improperly secured loads traveling on our roads and the long line of cars waiting along the busy Stagecoach Trail to enter the gravel pit.

Ms. Richtman offered several alternative proposals at a recent Township Board Meeting. The board chose to discontinue the event in its current form and instead set a township wide day for the collection of large items by each individual's waste hauler. We are in the process of inquiring with the local haulers about setting standard pricing for this new alternative. Each resident would be responsible for contacting their individual hauler and paying for any items hauled from their curbside. In late May, we will be sending information out to West Lakeland residents with more detailed information on recycling and disposal, which will also include the township wide curbside date. We are hoping to set this date sometime in late June.

East Metro Perfluorochemical (PFC) Groundwater Investigations

The Minnesota Dept. of Health (MDH) has just updated their website with new information about the groundwater investigations in the east metro area. Based on the latest scientific data they have adjusted their health advisory levels for PFCs (PFOS and PFOA) to offer greater protection to those individuals who may have been exposed, particularly to developing fetuses and infants. See www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/hazardous/topics/pfcs/current.html for more details. The MDH website also includes new groundwater plume maps to show the current understanding of the extent of PFC contamination and where new advisories have been issued. For more information about PFCs in general, please refer to www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/hazardous/topics/pfcs/sites.html.

According to the MDH, over 500 wells have been sampled in the east metro to date. Based on those results, 200 new well advisories have been issued. Approximately 150 additional wells will be sampled in the spring of 2017 many of which will be in our own community. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has posted an interactive version of the sampling map, so you can locate your property to see if you are in, or near, an area being targeted for sampling. www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/drinking-water-advisory-southern-washington-county

Important information - if your well is selected to be sampled, MDH will contact you by mail.

If you have any questions or would like to receive periodic updates, please contact the MDH at health.hazard@state.mn.us or by calling 651-201-4897.

Sincerely,

Daniel Kylo, Town Board Chairman

TRANSPORTATION

Roads and Bridges

As I write this it looks like spring arrived early and hopefully we are done with the snow as we have started sweeping the township streets. Just a reminder, in past years a number of contractors have placed landscaping materials consisting of large rock, boulders and mulch on the roadways, cul-de-sacs, ditches or in what is called the right-of-way (ROW). First this is illegal by township and state statute.

Second there is a liability issue if these materials cause an accident, or impede police, fire and EMS vehicles. Additionally, if in the process of depositing or removing these materials, the road surface or the ROW is damaged, the contractor and/or the homeowner are responsible for any damage caused. So by placing these materials in the street or the in the ROW, it may end up costing you more than just the cost of landscaping materials and the contractor's fee alone.



Stagecoach (County Road 21)

The schedule regarding the safety and pavement improvements to Stagecoach or County Road 21 has changed. Because of unanticipated costs involved regarding the northern half of Stagecoach, (north of 30th Street) the southern half will not be done in 2018 as had been planned.

Airport

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) will be holding the first of four open house meetings for the environment process regarding the Lake Elmo Airport expansion on May 11th starting at 6 PM at the Stillwater Area High School, second floor. A formal presentation will begin at 6:30. This is your opportunity to come out and make your concerns known.

If you have any questions regarding our roads or the above info please don't hesitate to contact me.

— Dave Schultz , Road Supervisor (651/436-6816)

'Tis the Tick Season....again.

Deer ticks, also known as blacklegged ticks, are just one of thirteen known tick species in Minnesota. They are most common in the east and central areas of the state and are found in hardwood forests and wooded and brushy areas. Deer ticks are potential carriers of **Lyme disease**. Primary risks are from mid-May through mid-July when the smaller nymph stage of the deer tick is feeding. Risk is present, but lower, in early spring and again in the fall (late September-October) when the adult stage of the deer tick is active.

Prevention

Check and re-check for ticks when you are in tick-infested areas.

1. When in deer tick habitat, walk in the center of the trail to avoid picking up ticks from grass and brush.
2. Wear light colored clothing so ticks will be more visible.
3. Create a barrier to ticks by tucking pants into socks or boots and tuck long sleeved shirt into pants.
4. Use a repellent containing DEET or permethrin, and carefully follow the directions on the container.
5. After being outdoors in tick habitat, get out of your clothes immediately, do a complete body check. Wash your clothes immediately as to not spread any ticks around your living area.
6. Pets should also be checked for ticks.

The risk of getting a tick-borne disease is small if the tick is removed soon after it becomes attached. Deer ticks must remain attached one to two days to transmit Lyme disease, and about one day for the other diseases. Lyme disease signs, symptoms and treatment

Please visit the Minnesota Department of Health's Web site for more information on this topic.:
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/lyme/index.html>

A West Lakeland Home will Serve the “Minimally Conscious”

Granite House is the vision of three people desiring to fill an unmet need for minimally conscious adults. Tom and Carol Insley are parents of an adult son with a severe brain injury, and Anna Bohnen is a registered nurse (RN). Anna provided home care for Aaron after his automobile accident in 2007.

Aaron has been cared for at home since 2008. He spent one summer in long-term care, during which time Tom and Carol saw other young people like Aaron. Talking with their families, they understood the obstacles to bringing someone home with a severe brain injury to be: providing hands-on 24-hour care, making modifications to the home, and the stress placed on other family members.

The Insleys were fortunate that they were able to bring Aaron home to give him more individualized care in a more natural setting and provide stimulation through home care therapies. Very few families are able to do this, and the housing options for long-term care for these young adults are scarce and largely in inappropriate settings.

Granite House is the realization of the dream of Tom, Carol and Anna, who with friends and supporters are working to create a home where four young adults like Aaron can live in a family style setting built to support their specific diagnosis. Their vision includes providing education, resources and supports to families, caregivers and the community.

In the wee Sunday hours of Thanksgiving weekend, in 2007, both of the Insley boys were within a mile from home when their car went off the road and hit a tree. Richard, 23, did not survive. Aaron, 21, was airlifted to Regions Hospital in St. Paul. Aaron made it through without a scratch but sustained a severe brain injury from the impact. After five months in the coma stimulation program at Bethesda Rehabilitation Hospital he was stable but had not regained full consciousness. Aaron spent five more months at Red Wing Healthcare while his home was being modified and supplies acquired. Tom and Carol brought him home on Nov. 11, 2008, just short of the one-year mark of his injury.

Richard had recently graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College with a BS in psychology, and was engaged. Aaron was a senior at Gustavus, majoring in geography, and was starting his application for graduate school. A memorial garden with donated flowers is now in place of the tree on 10th and Neal, and the Adopt-a-Highway sign on that stretch of road has “The Insley Boys’ Friends and Family” on it for cleanup.

The future site for Granite House will be 2114 Stagecoach Trail, and groundbreaking is planned for early May. Granite House will partner with the Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity to maximize resources. Tom Insley will act as Project Manager and General Contractor on behalf of Granite House, with the benefit of Habitat’s donated construction management expertise and access to quality suppliers and subcontractors. Granite House has generous neighbors in Miller Excavating, who will be donating the excavation, and Aggregate Industries, who will donate the sand and rock for the foundation. The WA County Master Gardeners will help design and install a wheelchair-accessible community sensory garden next year at the site. It will be a beautiful, natural place designed for everyone in the wheelchair community to enjoy.

The board of directors for Granite House is currently raising funds to complete the furnishing of the home, and will be looking for help from the community for future projects and volunteer opportunities. More information can be found by visiting granitehousemn.org or by calling 651-436-4422.



From left in the back are nurse Anna Bohnen and Carol and Tom Insley. Carol and Tom’s son, Aaron, is pictured in front.



P.O. Box 447, Lake Elmo, Minnesota 55042

www.westlakeland.govoffice2.com

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TOWNSHIP INFORMATION

Office Hours — 8:00 a.m. to Noon

Phone — 651-436-4773

Mailing Address—

P.O. Box 447

Lake Elmo, MN 55042

www.westlakeland.govoffice2.com

Town Board meetings are held the second Monday of each month in the Oak-Land Jr. High School Auditorium, 820 Manning Avenue, Lake Elmo .

Changes to this schedule can be viewed on the Township website calendar or posting board located at 10th Street and Stagecoach Trail.

West Lakeland contracts with Tennis Sanitation for recycling services every other Monday. Call Town Office 651-436-4773 with questions.

Town Board

Dan Kylo, Chairman	651-436-1134
Dave Schultz, Supervisor	651-436-6816
Steve Ebner, Supervisor	651-436-6482
Carrie Seifert, Town Clerk	651-436-4773
Jennifer Samec, Deputy Clerk	651-436-4773
Marsha Olson, Treasurer	651-998-9178

Building Official (building permits & inspections)

Duane Stensland— 651-436-7669

Animal Control

Kathi Pelnar— 715-386-7789