

Green Lake Breeze

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www.greenlakespicer.com

May 2007

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Greetings to all Green Lake Property Owners,

What a joy it is to see nature returning to her spring attire! The ice is gone from the lake, the grass is starting to turn green, and the birds have returned. Welcome home to all of the snowbirds who were gone during the winter season!



The GLPOA Board has had several issues to consider during the winter months. (I'm not sure how earlier boards conducted business before the convenience of e-mail!) Some of the items which were of importance to the board over the winter:

- Signing of a resolution in support of the newly formed *Green Lake Fishery Project*
- Patrol of those Green Lake properties which had been registered for the program
- Property variance issues
- Legislative proceedings for a proposed Eurasian Water Milfoil control pilot project for Green Lake
- Finishing the final drafts for the Watershed Handbook that will be printed soon



We are excited that the water monitoring of Green Lake will go on this summer, now under the umbrella of the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District. Julie Klocker, the District Administrator, applied for and received several grants, one of which will help finance the monitoring of Green Lake and other lakes in the District. A training program for all monitors is being given this spring so the techniques used will be improved and more standardized for all volunteers.

Be sure to read the article in this Breeze regarding the new *501-C* rating for our organization. This means that anyone wishing to make a donation to the GLPOA will now be able to claim the donation as a tax deduction.



Remember **JUNE 15, 2007** - the date of the Green Lake Property Owners' Association Annual meeting. Please mark this date on your calendar and be sure to attend the meeting at 7:00 PM at the Green Lake Bible Camp to be informed about events taking place that affect the well-being of Green Lake. GLPOA renewal membership letters will be mailed in May. Please encourage your neighbors and friends to support this worthwhile organization! (\$35.00 — what a bargain for all the benefits offered!)

Sincerely,

Jill Nelson
President, GLPOA



GLPOA -- Granted Tax Exempt Status

Information provided by Brett Aamot, CPA



On October 27, 2006, the Internal Revenue Service formally approved the Green Lake Property Owners Association (GLPOA) application for tax exempt status, under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The IRS further classifies tax exempt organizations as either public charities, or private foundations, and has determined that GLPOA will be categorized as a public charity, and consequently, contributions to the Association are tax deductible.

This determination, which is effective until May 31, 2010, also qualifies the association to receive tax deductible bequests, transfers and gifts. In 2010, the IRS will re-examine the organization's activities, and determine whether to extend the public charities status.

It is hoped that this approval will encourage additional donations and gifts to the GLPOA, and will allow our association to continue serve our members and the public through 1.) Communication of safety and environmental education to members and the surrounding community, 2.) Promotion of Green Lake events, and 3.) providing a resource for Green Lake concerns.

Our organization has also contributed financially to many projects involving Green Lake, and additional donations would help us to continue to support worthy projects and activities on Green Lake.



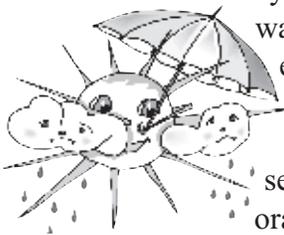
GLSSWD News

The Green Lake Sanitary Sewer and Water District (GLSSWD) is happy to announce that it has been awarded a certificate of commendation for 2006 from the MPCA for outstanding operational performance of its wastewater treatment facility. This award is given to treatment facilities that demonstrate, at the very least, full compliance with a multitude of MPCA requirements.

The last couple of summers have been on the dry side with less than normal rainfall. No one can predict what amount of moisture this summer may bring, and if you have outside watering needs you may consider installing a second GLSSWD water meter just for those needs. The water metered is charged a water usage fee and no sewer usage fee since the water never enters the wastewater collection system. Call the District office for more installation and billing info.

The GLSSWD has purchased a water leak detection listening device that has the ability to sense vibration noise stemming from metallic pipe leaks. So if you see someone wearing an orange safety vest and working around your building water shut off (usually out near the street) it will be a District employee monitoring your water service line for a possible leak. You may be asked at that time if you are currently utilizing water or possibly to curtail water usage for a short time while the monitoring is going on.

For those lake residents that winterized their dwelling, if the water meter was removed to protect it from freezing and needs to be reinstalled, be sure to install it with the arrow on the base going in the direction of the water flow. This sounds easier than it is. The unit or what we call the horn where the meter mounts to is deceptive as how the water actually flows through it. My advice is to take a black marker, and when you know the meter is installed correctly, mark the ends so installation the next time is simplified.



continued on next page

GLSSWD News continued...



The Lake Florida sewer collection project is moving forward with residential grinder/pump station installations. The four main GLSSWD lift stations and the force main from Lake Florida to the west side of Green Lake are installed. The completion date for the entire project is September 30, 2007.

Discussions with other area lake systems will take place this summer regarding possible hook up to the centralized sewer system.

Again for your info, if you are on the District water system, the District water hardness is 15 grains of hardness. So if you have a water softener you can set the unit accordingly so as to achieve optimum softener performance.

If you are planning any construction work on your property and are not aware of where the water and sewer system service lines are located or what options you may have regarding connection to these lines, just call the District office at 320-796-4523 and we will be happy to share our as built drawings with you and help you iron out any construction concerns you may have.

The GLSSWD number for any after hours water or sewer emergency is still 320-796-5565. This number can be called 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Otherwise just call the District office during regular business hours for assistance.

Ron Hagemeyer, GLSSWD Director



Nature Notes



Welcome back, all summer residents and those who spend the winter in other environs. The lake froze over December 2, 2006, same as the previous year. That does not happen very often. Waterfowl stayed around longer than usual. The snows came late. On January 24th the coldest day of the winter so far, a flock of robins, 30-40 strong, settled in trees on the north side. As with other wintering birds, they did not stay around long before finding other friendly trees and yards.

February somehow sailed by with warmer than usual temperatures. Then heavy snow and slippery roads caused cancelling events in the area the first days of March. A few migratory robins perched in a maple tree during the storm, looking as if they wondered why they were back. Days later they were hungrily looking for food, hackberries and seeds on sidewalks and driveways, any place that was open. I thought of the ditty we used to quote that I've probably used here before: "The wind doth blow/And we shall have snow./And what will poor robin do then, poor thing.! He'll sit in the barn! To keep himself warm, /And tuck his head under his wing." Only problem is that now there aren't so many barns for shelter. Naturalists around the state found many birds had perished in the heavy late snows.

Ironically, what followed was the warmest March on record. The lake became porous and looked as if it could open early. Other signs of spring appeared. Three "waves" of swans flew in early the morning of March 27th, and the first frogs were heard. Tulips on the south side of buildings were soon eight inches high. Then the temps plummeted for the bitterest of the winter, and April snows arrived. Any idea the lake might have had of opening were dispelled quickly. Perversely, one Monday, it soared to 81 degrees. The ice wasn't sure what to do, but it finally gave up. Easter Sunday the huge floe drifted to the east shore. A strong wind that night sent it back to the north shore. On April 10th it went out the 90% required for an ice out date. Some ice was still visible on the 11th, especially on the west side, but most of that was gone by evening.

All during this time we saw cardinals and tufted titmice at the feeders, along with goldfinches, back in their yellow garb, house finches, the woodpecker clan - downy, hairy, and pileated—that had kept us company all winter. The chickadees began their songs in January; the nuthatches emptied the sunflower feeders. Horned larks flitted across the road in January - it seemed early for them. On April 19th the loons were calling loud and clear. When the great blue herons and egrets flew overhead and looked for food in the shallows, we knew spring had arrived.

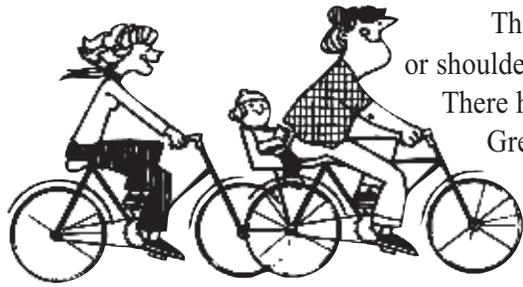
As those of you who are here know, the trees are budding; the grass is green but doesn't need mowing yet. A two-inch rain recently helped peony bushes and lilies of the valley, rhubarb and chives burst forth, and tulips (surprisingly surviving the freeze) and violets bloom.

May the sunlight and moonlight sparkle on Green Lake in peace. May the Green Lake breezes waft gently on your heart.

Gloria Benson



Bicycle Path--Bicycle Lane--Bicycle Trail



The above terms are used to identify and may mean a roadway, or portion of roadway, or shoulder signed to encourage bicycle use.

There have been requests by residents of Green Lake that information be shared via the Green Lake Breeze concerning the use of the path/trail that circles Green Lake.

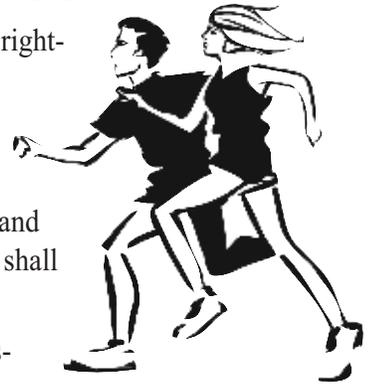
Some of the following information, rules and safety tips along with trail etiquette are from a variety of sources such as the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Bicycling Clubs and Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources.

PLEASE READ AND SHARE THIS ARTICLE WITH YOUR FAMILIES AND NEIGHBORS.

In Minnesota the provision in law that gives bicyclists the same rights as pedestrians in the crosswalk is the Minnesota statutes 169.222, subdivision 4.

Our state law details the rights and responsibilities of cyclists while riding on the roadway or shoulder.

- Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.
- If a bicycle is traveling on a shoulder of a roadway, the bicycle shall travel in the same direction as adjacent vehicular traffic.
- Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway or shoulder shall not ride more than two abreast and shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and on a laned roadway, shall ride within a single lane.
- A person operating a bicycle upon a sidewalk, or across a roadway or shoulder on a crosswalk, shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal. No person shall ride a bicycle upon a sidewalk within a business district unless permitted by local authorities.
- An individual operating a bicycle shall leave a safe distance when overtaking a bicycle or individual proceeding in the same direction on the bikeway
- A person lawfully operating a bicycle on a sidewalk, or across a roadway or shoulder on a crosswalk, shall have all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances.



It is important for bicyclists to bike safely. Bicyclists are required to follow the same road rules as motorists. The Minnesota Department of Transportation has defined the following as Basic Rules of the Road.

- Bicycles may ride on all Minnesota roads, except where restricted.
- Bicyclists should ride on the road, and must ride in the same direction as traffic
- Motorists must at all times maintain a three-foot clearance when passing a bicyclist
- Bicyclists must obey all traffic control signs, signals, and laws
- Motorists and bicyclists must yield to the right-of-way to each other
- Bicyclists should signal their turns and should ride in a predictable manner
- Lights and reflectors are required at night



Often you may see motorists confused as they approach a bike trail crossing. There are rules that govern in that area. In Minnesota those traveling by foot or on wheels have the right of way if they are in a designated crosswalk, according to the State Patrol. A trail crossing sign marks a designated crosswalk. That means vehicles must stop for pedestrians, bikers, and skaters who are in the crosswalk. Vehicles don't

have to stop for people who haven't yet entered the crossing area. Bikers, skaters, and pedestrians must obey the stop sign or yield sign on their path. They also need to be cautious that the drivers see them and not to move in front of a vehicle that cannot stop in time.

Bikeway-Bicycle Route & Trail Etiquette

In order for everyone to enjoy their trail experience there are proper manners for all trail users to exhibit. Remember the trail is for non-motorized use including walking, running, cycling and rollerblading. In order to avoid conflicts, observe the following guidelines.



- Who Yields the Trail? Before passing another trail user make your approach known well in advance. A friendly greeting, “Hello, passing on your left,” or ringing a bell is considerate and works well. Bicyclists and skaters yield to walkers. Bicyclists yield to skaters. Downhill users yield to uphill users. Faster users yield to slower users. Other good phrases to use are ”On your left”, “Passing”, “Behind You”, or “Bike Back”.
- Bicycles stay on the right with the flow of traffic. To the left if walking or running.
- Control your speed! Obey speed regulations when present. Slow down and use caution when approaching or overtaking other trail users.
- Be aware. Do not pass on narrow bends. Pass only when you can clearly see the trail and traffic approaching from the opposite direction.
- Stay single file. Groups should be in single file when other trail users are present and should never use more than one-half of the trail to allow for the flow of traffic. Don’t “hog” the trail. Don’t wait until the last minute to move over when approaching an oncoming trail user.
- Do not obstruct the trail, move to the side when stopping.
- Always look before changing positions on the trail.
- Keep your speed appropriate to trail conditions and traffic density. Be prepared to stop quickly for incidents that may occur, especially when there is heavy use of the trail.
- Be courteous and respectful of fellow trail users regardless of the type of recreation activity, speed, or skill level.
- Show respect for adjacent private property.
- Practice the “Leave No Trace” principle. Be sensitive to the area and keep the trail clean and tidy, your debris could be someone else’s demise/accident.
- Pets should be on leash and shouldn’t leave “anything” behind. Hold the leash in close.
- Wear appropriate safety apparel. For the appropriate sport, helmets should be worn.
- Respect the resources. Look at wildlife from a distance. Leave wildflowers and plants for others to enjoy.
- Pedestrians- Listen for audible signals and allow faster trail users (as runners and bicyclists) to pass safely.
- Runners should be especially alert when running.
- Use Common Sense! You may be considered a public nuisance if you’re talking on a cell phone or wearing head phones while cycling.
- In-line skaters should keep in mind that they take up more room than others on the path and are slower than cyclists.



Conflicts or Problems on the trails usually are caused by users blocking the trail, passing without warning, moving in the wrong direction, and pet problems.

The recreational trails in our area provide a clean and safe place to exercise and enjoy nature. People of all ages and abilities can walk and bike easily and safely. The trails have increased the value and character of our community and have provided a quality of life that has greatly benefited our area

In speaking with Kandiyohi County Sheriff, Dan Hartog, concerning this article, he again reminds us that motorized vehicles, mopeds, scooters that are motorized, snowmobiles, motorcycles or any other “motorized device” are **NOT ALLOWED** on the trail/path.

Also there is to be **NO PARKING** on any part of the walking path. He requests that bicyclists use the path that is marked for bicycles.



REMEMBER - *BE PREDICTABLE* - *BE ALERT* - *BE EQUIPPED*

Myra F. Quale

Middle Fork Crow River Watershed Update

As the plants and critters awake from their winter slumber on this gorgeous spring day, I am reflecting on the events and milestones of the past six months. I quickly realize that for the Middle Fork Crow Watershed District this winter has been anything but a time to slumber!

First and foremost, we completed our comprehensive plan in late November. We sent it out for the required agency and public review, received and responded to comments, approved the final plan in February and on April 25 - only two days short of our 2 year anniversary - our plan was approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). This is a key milestone for us because we have not been able to begin on-the-ground projects without a comprehensive plan. The

Comprehensive Plan is more to us than just a check off on the 'to-do' list. It is our framework for guiding the work of the board and will be referred to regularly to insure that we are moving in the right direction. Many of the comments we have received on our plan speak to the progressiveness and completeness of the goals and objectives.

Those who are interested can receive a free CD of the plan in PDF format by contacting the office. Look for it to be on our new website www.mfcrow.org which is scheduled to be live in late May.

Secondly, we were notified that we received four grants totaling nearly \$500,000 in grant funding.

Clean Water Legacy Act Implementation Grant: \$194,000 for implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP's) such as improvements in animal agriculture, cropland management and shoreline/riparian activities throughout the entire Middle Fork Crow Watershed. We partnered with the Kandiyohi SWCD to submit this grant which expires June 2009.

Clean Water Partnership Grant (CWP): \$240,000 grant funds and \$200,000 low interest loan funds. This grant is for three years and allows us to conduct information and education Programs; water quality monitoring and evaluation; and implement BMP throughout the entire Middle Fork Crow Watershed.

Clean Water Legacy Act (CWLA) Surface Water Assessment Grant: \$50,000 grant which was written with the CROW Organization and is for the entire Crow River Watershed (North, Middle and South Forks). This grant will help fund: training volunteers, monitoring on lakes and data, annual reporting and volunteer coordination.

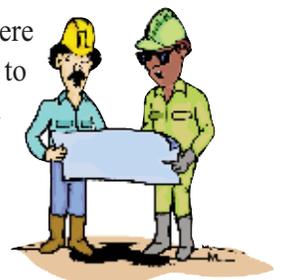
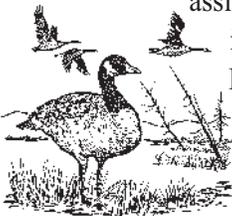
Conservation Partners Grant: This is a small grant (\$5,000) from MN Waters. This grant allowed us to conduct two Rain Garden workshops and to implement selected projects in the New London and Spicer area. This grant expires in late fall 2007.

Thirdly, we have been out and about in the community trying to line-up projects, inform people about the watershed district and conduct educational programs. One of the projects we have focused on includes providing assistance on storm water planning to the City of Spicer for the rebuild of County Road 10. We also hope to provide funding and technical assistance to residents along this stretch of road who may wish to implement their own storm water

improvement project such as a rain garden or erosion control project. Another effort specific for Green Lake is assisting the lake association in trying to obtain status as a Eurasian water milfoil control pilot project. The MFCRWD Board supports Green Lake's efforts to control the patches of EWM found in the lake now rather than to risk an assumption that the plant will not spread. Green Lake is too precious for such a gamble. We are also working with the Nest Lake Association to develop a lake management plan that will focus in-part on aquatic plant management. It's important for Green Lake property owners to understand what is happening to the lake immediately upstream since this is the water you receive. The Nest Lake Association is becoming very active and both of your lake associations would benefit from developing cooperative efforts.

It seems like I am just getting starting listing our accomplishments over the past six months, but there are too many to cover in this space. I frequently send out email updates on our goings-on. If you wish to receive these updates, please contact me at 320-796-0888 or middlefork@charterinternet.com. Make a note that my email address will change to Julie@mfcrow.org in late May, concurrent with the launch of our new website www.mfcrow.org

Julie Klocker, Ex. Director, MFCR Watershed District



Zoning Office Update -- Spring 2007

As we enter the spring of 2007 and look forward to the construction and lake recreation season, the zoning staff gears up to meet the challenges of another season of heightened public contact. This year, as we enter the "busy" season with a renewed desire to meet the needs of the public, to protect public resources, and to help the public in better understanding the inter-relationship of land use decisions and quality of life in Minnesota.



Wadena County has an abundance of surface water resources and associated construction and recreation. Much of the work of the zoning office focuses on these areas. There are several areas of emphasis that the zoning staff will be focusing on this year that relate especially to shoreland zones.

As structures are built near waters, especially as pressure increases on lower, wetter lots, the need to provide protection from flooding is heightened. In recognition of the need to raise awareness and provide consistency in application of the ordinance requirement for construction of structures in relation to adjoining water levels, a new form for certification of elevations is being introduced for projects in shoreland zones. The zoning ordinance requires that a structure's lowest floor elevation be at least three feet above the ordinary high water level or highest known water level, whichever is higher, of the water body. Landowners proposing structures in shoreland zones can expect that their contractor or other representative will need to provide certification that shows that the proposal meets this elevation requirement.

In addition to the previous point concerning protection from flooding, the zoning office is currently working cooperatively with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to update the floodplain maps and ordinance for the County. A comprehensive mapping process is being completed now and will be reviewed and discussed further as the year goes on. This map and ordinance updating process will provide for better flood protection and more public awareness of flood hazards. When completed there will be changes in zoning and insurance status for some landowners.

As was begun in recent years, the zoning staff will continue to stress the importance of proper erosion control measures, impervious surface limitations, and shoreland alteration permitting. Educational and enforcement efforts will continue to be dovetailed to achieve better protection of surface water resources. Zoning staff will continue to work with local DNR and watershed project staff to encourage natural landscapes and native species as appropriate and beneficial features, especially in close proximity to surface waters. Shoreland landowners are encouraged to contact the zoning office prior to completion of any construction, grading, planting, or vegetative removal project on their property.



The zoning staff looks forward to a productive season and desires to work with landowners to meet their needs and desires while providing protection of public resources. Please call the zoning office at 320-231-6229 if you have questions or desire to schedule an on-site consultation.

Gary Geer





Sewer and Water Report



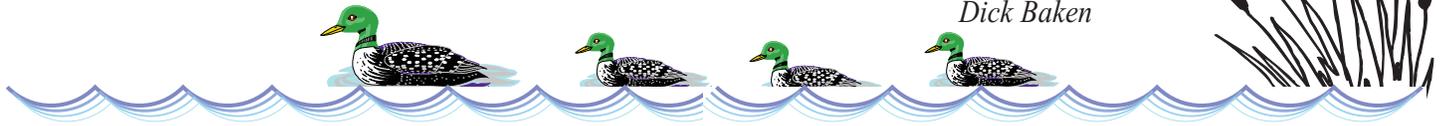
In the first quarter of 2007 the water losses for the total system exceeded the government goals, however the figures for Spicer and Green Lake were below the 20% goal.

The expansion of our sewer system at Lake Florida is now ahead of schedule with all trunk lines and lift stations operational and 29 residential completed and in operation. The project is scheduled for completion by Sept. 30th. Others interested in connecting include Lake George which by petition, showed 60% residents gave a favorable response. A public meeting will be held in June which could began the final steps for approval.



The Nest Lake resort owners met with the engineering firm of Bolton and Menk for clarification of potential per unit assessments. A residential owners meeting is also possible by early June. Lake Henderson is also interested and the county board would like Diamond Lake to reconsider the project. Others making contact on the project include the city of Kandiyohi, and Norway Lake. With this much interest the board will have to consider the total capacity issue, as our existing base area continues to expand.

Dick Baken



Address Service Requested

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