

Green Lake Breeze

P.O. Box 362 • Spicer, MN 56288

www.greenlakespicer.com

July 2013

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On Saturday, June 15, the Green Lake Property Owner's Association held our annual meeting at the Green Lake Bible Camp. The event was a great success with 91 people in attendance. Thanks to all of you who took time to join us!

Our meeting's keynote address was again given by GLPOA lobbyist, Bruce Kleven. He explained the process we experienced in the past legislative season with the "Green Lake Bill," sponsored by Minnesota House Representative, Mary Sawatzky. In a nut shell, the bill would have provided money to build a permanent washing station at the City of Spicer boat access. The washing station would have become a place for all boats in the region to be washed after they left an infested lake. It would have also asked two townships and the County to close three of the six public boat accesses on Green Lake. Another interesting aspect of the legislation was that it required the GLPOA to raise \$100,000 for a public/private partnership. If passed, the legislation would have funneled all boat users to the three remaining access points on Green Lake, which would allow for easier inspection.



As Bruce explained, many of the legislators saw our "Green Lake Bill" early in the season and really liked it. They even wanted to offer something like this to other lakes. Ironically, our bill was replaced by another piece of legislation that provided \$3 million of funding for any lake that would like to build a washing station and could get a local government unit to apply for a grant. This new bill passed the House and Senate, then landed on the Governor's desk only to be **VETOED** by Governor Dayton.

Although we were very disappointed by the actions of Governor Dayton and his lack of understanding of the bill and the vision behind it of protecting our lakes and the outstate MN economy, we are still excited about how far we have come. The GLPOA has a great opportunity to continue where we left off after this year's session. We sincerely believe we can continue to lead and find a permanent source of revenue for protecting Green Lake and all of our Minnesota lakes. Most importantly, we will not stop until we accomplish our goal.

With all that in mind, please mark your calendar for next year's GLPOA meeting. It will be held on **Saturday, June 21, 2014 at 9 AM**. It is always a great opportunity to visit with and get to know other Green Lake property owners.

Jaime Duinink
President



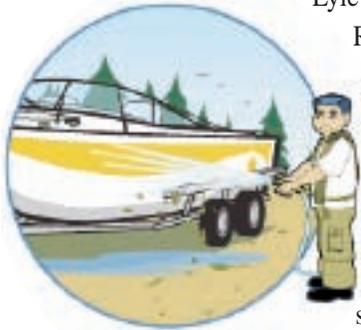
Editor's Note -- Annual Meeting with Guest Speaker Bruce Kleven

The 2013 legislative session finished on time but still came down to the wire at midnight on Monday, May 20. The two-year, \$38 billion budget deal between the legislature and the Governor calls for \$2.1 billion in tax increases primarily on income and tobacco taxes. The deal eliminates the \$627 million budget deficit, provides \$725 million in education funding, and provides \$440 million in property tax relief. The legislature also committed approximately \$30 million over the next two years to continue the fight against the spread of invasive species.



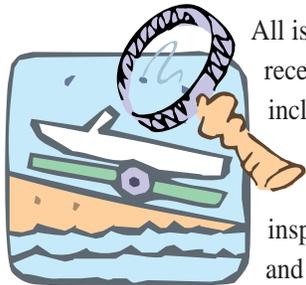
This session we worked on securing state funding to construct a permanent decontamination station at the Spicer boat access. The bill to provide the state funding was authored by Representative Mary Sawatzky (D-Willmar) and Senator Lyle Koenen (D-Clara City) and thanks to an amendment on the House floor offered by

Representative Sawatzky, specific funding for the Green Lake project was included in the House version of the dedicated sales tax bill. The dedicated sales tax bill contains funding for the following three accounts: the outdoor heritage account, the clean water account, and the parks and trails/arts funding account. In addition to the Green Lake project, the House expanded the concept of local grants and provided \$7.5 million over two years in their bill so that any local unit of government could apply for local aquatic invasive species (AIS) decontamination and inspection grants.



Unfortunately, the Senate did not provide any funding for AIS grants in their version of the dedicated sales tax bill. The conference committee agreed to meet in the middle and

provided \$3 million the first year of the bi-ennium for local decontamination and inspection grants. But bowing to pressure from hunting and fishing groups, Governor Dayton exercised his line-item veto authority to strike the \$3 million appropriation from the bill because the hunting and fishing groups had not approved of the appropriation.



All is not lost, however, because the Green Lake project has a second bite at the apple. In another bill, the DNR is receiving \$1.082 million each year for grants to counties for boat and water safety and to prevent the spread of AIS, including inspection and decontamination programs; \$925,000 each year for enhancing public water access facilities and to prevent the spread of AIS, including inspection and decontamination programs; and up to \$300,000 each year for grants to local units of government and tribes to prevent the spread of AIS, including inspection and decontamination programs. Any one of these sources could be available for the Green Lake project and we will be working with the DNR to secure funding this summer. The

same bill also provides \$6.448 million each year for management, law enforcement, public awareness, assessment and monitoring research, and water access inspection to prevent the spread of invasive species. Finally, the bill provides \$1.718 million each year for law enforcement efforts to prevent the spread of invasive species. There is a total of \$20.946 million for invasive species programs in this bill.



The bill providing nearly \$40 million in state lottery proceeds to various environmental projects over the next two years contains \$4.35 million each year to the University of Minnesota for the AIS Center to develop new techniques to control aquatic invasive species, including Asian carp, zebra mussels, and plant species. The bill also provides \$600,000 the first year for an agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey to assess ecological impacts of a commercially available molluscicide formulation to evaluate the effectiveness of treatment option for the detection and control of zebra mussels. There is a total of \$9.3 million for invasive species programs in this bill.



Bruce Kleven
GLPOA Lobbyist

Fluctuating Green Lake Water Levels 2009-2013



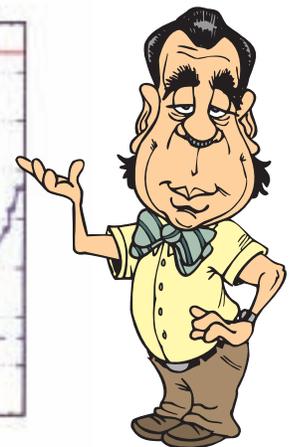
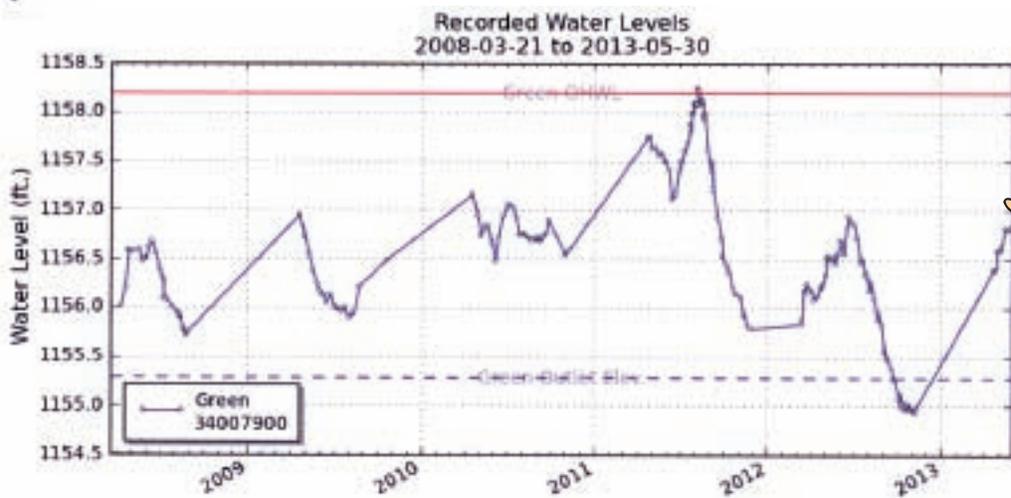
Well, here we are in the midst of another series of wild water level fluctuations that began nearly three years ago and finally has the lake back near average levels. Mother Nature has certainly taken us for a ride over this time period. Some of the highlights from Green Lake alone include the earliest and latest ice-out dates on record, and water level variations of over two feet in consecutive years. The lake is nothing if not constantly changing!

Green Lake lies on the mainstem of the Middle Fork of the Crow River (afterward, MFCR). The contributing watershed for the MFCR at Green Lake encompasses approximately 95,000 acres, reaching up into Stearns County and includes the city of Belgrade. Watershed size and overall land use within the

watershed are important factors for determining the flow volume and duration related to precipitation events, and play a very large role in the water level fluctuations on basins like Green Lake. The precipitation swing in this area has been drastic of late, and water level fluctuations should reflect this pattern. Therefore, it is no surprise that, while some seasonal fluctuation in all basins is normal, the level of fluctuation over the past two years has been relatively extreme. From April 2009 to August 2011, precipitation in this area was markedly above average, leading to significantly higher water levels. Beginning in mid-August 2011 and continuing through March-April 2013, precipitation was well below average, and severe drought conditions developed through much of the area, including the Green Lake watershed. As abnormally dry conditions continued to develop, falling water levels within the basin began to reflect this trend.



It is important to note weather trends and relationships when analyzing lake level fluctuation patterns. Specifically, above average precipitation from 2009-2011 produced lake levels that nearly matched the all-time high in late July of 2011. As precipitation began to decrease, levels began dropping dramatically, and had fallen over two feet by ice up in November. Following the record early ice-out of March 20th, 2012, water levels recovered slightly due to spring rains. By mid-June, however, water levels began to fall drastically as the drought deepened. By ice-up in November 2012, water levels on Green had dropped over three feet from the previous high in August of 2011. In fact, there was no outflow from the Green/Calhoun Lake system through the MFCR from the beginning of September to ice-on last year. Water levels recovered dramatically this spring following the latest ice-out on record (officially May 9th) due to wet spring conditions and snow melt. Currently, the lake is about 0.7 feet above the long term average.



Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this newsletter, and please contact me at 320-796-2161 if you have questions or comments. For those who are curious about Green Lake water levels at any given point, there is a permanent water level gage located at the lake outlet on the Kandiyohi County Road 4 bridge. The gage zero is 1151.77 feet, so simply add the gage reading (average is 4.34) to the gage zero for the elevation of the lake. Thanks!

*Ethan Jenzen
Area Hydrologist*

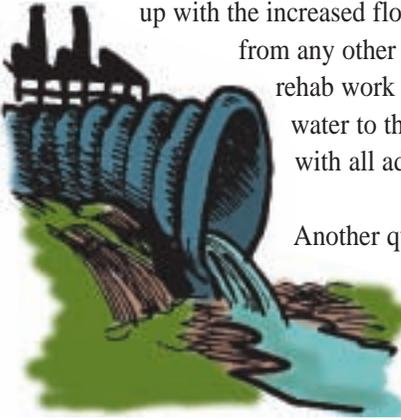


GLSSWD NEWS

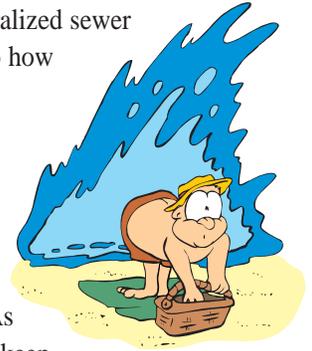


With the completion of the Diamond Lake sewer infrastructure project last year and their connection to the Green Lake Sanitary Sewer & Water District (GLSSWD) centralized sewer system, the GLSSWD now conveys and treats wastewater from three cities, Spicer, New London & Kandiyohi, in addition to six lake systems, Green Lake, Lake Florida, Nest Lake, George Lake, Lake Henderson & Diamond Lake.

I have been asked what lake system will be hooking up next and what expansion at the wastewater treatment plant will be required to keep up with the increased flow. First of all the answer to the two questions is none. The GLSSWD has not received any inquiries from any other lake system pertaining to providing wastewater treatment service. In addition, with the infrastructure rehab work the cities of Spicer and New London have done in recent years curtailing their discharge of ground water to the sewer system, their reduced flow has allowed the GLSSWD to stay within its design capacity range with all additions to the service area.



Another question I am asked is, are all parties that are connected to the GLSSWD centralized sewer system paying the same rates? The answer is yes. Not to go into details as to how the rates are collected and how they are dispensed, let me just say that all customers, city or lake, pay the same monthly wastewater fee or water and wastewater fee if on both systems. All parties also pay the same usage fee for the same uniform amount of water utilized or wastewater produced. All



entities that join the GLSSWD system are required to commit to a uniform twenty year payment schedule. Uniform meaning all parties (regardless of when they entered the system) pay the same monthly rates as recommended by the GLSSWD Commission and approved by the Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners. As for what is referred to as the Green Lake area (Green Bond), eight years remain on the payment schedule. Please keep in mind however that there will always be some required maintenance of the infrastructure and treatment plants needed. The costs associated with required upkeep will be addressed by the GLSSWD Commission at that time. Green Lake has two members that sit on the Commission.

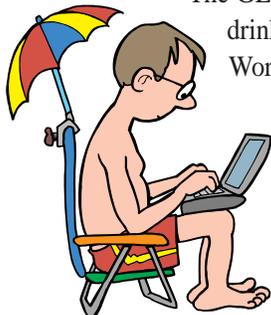


The GLSSWD National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, or what is also known as the wastewater treatment operating permit, as administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, is up for renewal again. The permit needs to be applied for every five years. Permit reissuance forms, in addition to a Phosphorus management plan and Mercury management plan have been submitted for agency review. The GLSSWD anticipates no difficulty regarding reissuance of the NPDES permit.

Another project the GLSSWD is working on is development of a Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) mandated wellhead protection plan. The GLSSWD has hired a consultant to deal with the complexities of the plan and produce a suitable document acceptable by the MDH. A wellhead protection plan basically is as it states. It is a forever evolving plan that protects the ground water supply utilized by the water treatment system.



The GLSSWD has a website where information can be obtained such as Commission meeting agendas and minutes, drinking water reports, operations info, etc. To get on the site go to www.co.kandiyohi.mn.us and click the Public Works tab, click on Green Lake Sanitary Sewer and Water District.



If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the following:
Office 320-796-4523, cell 320-905-7640, e-mail glswd@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Ron Hagemeyer
GLSSWD Director

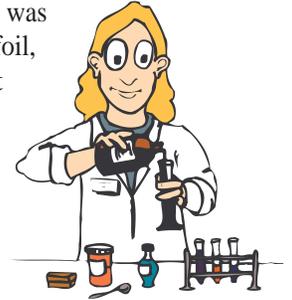


Treatment of Eurasian Milfoil on Green Lake



Nick Brown, our DNR representative, and Bob Schemel were on Green Lake looking at the locations of milfoil and the size and activity of growth in the plants. This was done to develop the treatment plan. Because of the variety of size of the milfoil, the treatment will be spread out more than any other previous year. Our first treatment on the largest of the milfoil patches will be done, weather permitting, the last week of June. Monitoring of other patches will determine treatment dates. The chemical that is going to be used this year is Renovate Max-G. We will be using the latest in John Deere GPS technology to record the size and the location of the milfoil.

Bob Schemel



Watercraft Inspection Efforts

Recently representatives of the Department of Natural Resources, Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District and the Green Lake Property Owners Association met to discuss watercraft inspection efforts on Green Lake for the 2013 season. A total of three Level 1 Inspectors will be working at the Saulsbury Beach, County Park 5 and Rush Brown Accesses this summer. One of these inspectors will be full time on Green Lake (DNR staffing and grant) and the other two



inspectors, employed by the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District through a DNR Grant, will be working at Diamond, George, Calhoun, Nest and Long Lake-Hawick, in addition to Green Lake.



Level 2 Watercraft Inspectors, who are trained in hot water pressure decontamination, will be at accesses on Green Lake for a total of 100 hours this season. This represents a 25% increase from 2012 hours. Additionally, DNR Fisheries is working closely with the Lake Association to coordinate voluntary boat washings/decontamination for permitted fishing tournaments being held on the lake this summer.

Our department truly appreciates the spirit of cooperation and coordination of efforts between everyone involved in helping to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in our area's irreplaceable lakes, streams and wetlands.

Skip Wright

Ecological and Water Resources - District Manager

Dock Service Providers

Please use one of these permitted dock service providers for Kandiyohi County as they have been trained by the DNR in helping prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

4 Season's Lawn & Beach Service
Annual Outdoors
Central Minnesota Propeller
Dice's Island View Resort
Eagle Lawn and Labor
Family Marine
Grove Dock and Lift

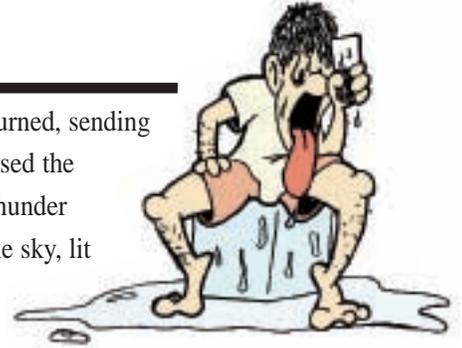
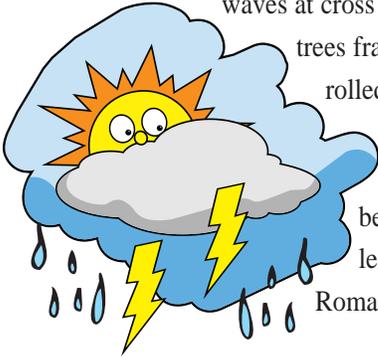
I&M Landscaping, Nursery Inc.
Little Crow Sports Center, Inc.
Mike's Dock & Yard Service, Inc.
Nelson Specialties
Oakes Lawn Care, LLC
Premium Properties Lawn
Management

Reeds Irrigation Plus, LLC
Solid Rock Youth Group
Spicer Sports and Marine
Tensen Marine
Twin Lakes Services

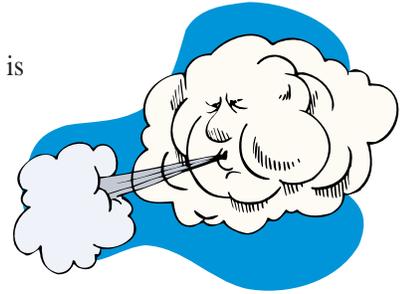


Nature Notes

It was a hot and steamy night. Dark clouds had been building in the west all evening. The wind turned, sending waves at cross purposes until they pounded in one direction. Sudden gusts tossed the trees frantically. Lightning flashed on the horizon; distant rumbles of thunder rolled. (God playing ten pins in the sky?) Sheet lightning covered the sky, lit up the waters, white caps reflected in the light; a thunder clap shook the dwelling, startling the listener - had a nearby tree been shattered, the chips flying across the road? Rain pelted the roof. Esmeralda wondered if she should leave the comfort of her... Oh, wait—this is Nature Notes, isn't it—not the beginning of a sultry Mystery Romance set in the wilds of the North country.

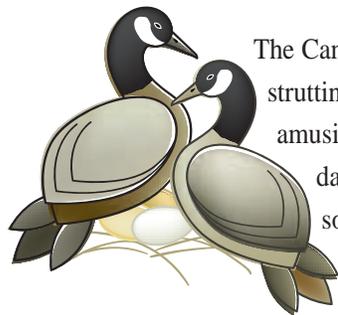


Oh, well—the setting isn't too different from the thunderstorms we have on Green Lake. In fact, the night is reminiscent of a winter snowstorm (without the lightning), when the wind comes screaming around the house, piling up snow into two foot drifts, higher if building upon previous drifts, packing it in like cement. Then dry branches break off, littering the ground; roads are blocked; the land and lake are eerily white. Now we go out come morning to pick up sticks—or branches, straighten up lawn furniture and flower pots, rescue lift canopies, save boats forcefully beached upon the sand, hope no further damage has been done to property. Easier than shoveling? Depends on whether trees have fallen or other major damage has occurred. At least now it's warm and not -20 with a wind chill of -50.



Plants that started slowly, shot up quickly and died back fast. Forsythia, lilacs, tulips—all told the same story. Rhubarb grew a foot overnight. Apparently strawberries are three weeks behind, but the fruit is juicier than ever with all the rain that nourished it. According to purists, growing objects that show the hand of man aren't really nature—I am not a purist.

If action at the bird feeders has slowed down, some nesting is still in progress. Baby robins, scruffy, little white feathers protruding through their speckled coats, perch on chairs, waiting for mama to come with a juicy worm. She is patient if he can't handle it the first time, flying down and picking it up, starting over again. Little one is grateful.



The Canada geese goslings grew rapidly—one week little balls of fluff, next week, it seemed, half grown and strutting onto the road near water. Watching them swim in families or with those “gosling sitting” can be amusing—as long as that's where they stay. On the road, on the beach, on the lawn—not so amusing. In the olden days, villages and towns passed ordinances forbidding people bringing them to town. They built board walks so that the ladies with their long skirts could rise above the situation.

One friend watched two loons animatedly conversing—a third one left out of the loop. That little grouping has been observed before. Is the third one a lookout? Does it wish it were included in the chatting? The other, nighttime calls, sometimes frantic, sometimes longing, often eerie, are more typical. As long as loons return each year, “God's in His heaven; all's right with the world.”



AIS with Apologies to Dr. Seuss

Aquatic Invasive Species – what are they?
They are nearing our lakes, coming our way.
When they arrive, they'll make a mess.
And we just call them A - I - S.

They hitchhike on boats from lake to lake,
Wreaking havoc in their wake.
They are plants, animals and even a virus
We do not like you A - I - S!

As they infest lake after lake,
We must step up "ore its too late."
So many lakes are facing the test
Of this long, long list of A - I - S.

We've had some of these most of our life:
Milfoil, curleyleaf and purple loosestrife.
Flowing rush, common carp add to our stress.
Please, oh please no more A - I - S.

There are bighead, black and silver carp.
Brazilian elodea, Hydrilla and yellow floating heart.
Viral hemorrhagic septicemia or VHS.
Alas, there are even more A - I - S.

Mystery snails - Banded, Japanese and Chinese,
European frog bit, New Zealand mud snails and Indian swampweed - please.
Giant salvinia, water hyacinth and water lettuce.
When will it end? Yikes A - I - S!

Rusty - rainbow - - spiny, geel
Crayfish, smelt and water fleas
Mussels - Quagga and zebra - we cannot rest.
Will we stop these A - I - S?

Ruffe and round goby if you wish.
Even Northern snakehead, called 'Frankenfish.'
There are more and more of these awful pests.
We must stand up, Green Lakers, against A - I - S.

They spoil fishing, tourism, economy;
Recreation, enjoyment and ecology.
We can do more to ease our duress.
Why wouldn't we stop these A - I - S?

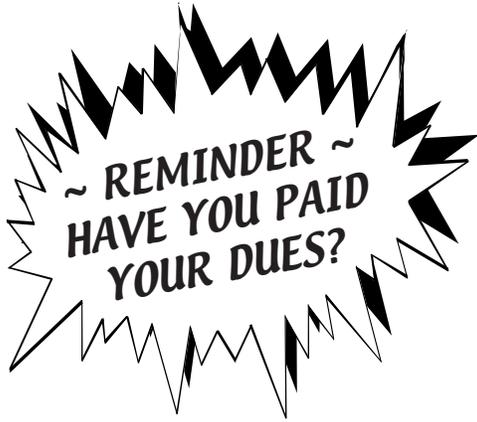
Once in a lake, there is no cure -
All we can do is cope and endure.
We gotta prevent these blasted pests,
If we don't want A - I - S.

A - I - S are big and bad,
A - I - S make us sad
A - I - S are coming fast.
A - I - S are a pain in the...Butt.



The Green Lake Breeze
Green Lake Property Owners Association
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Return Service Requested



Music in the Park

Gather together your family and friends, pick up your chairs and blankets and head to the Spicer City Park for six Sundays of *Music in the Park*. Beginning on Sunday, July 7 through Sunday, August 11, talented area musicians will produce a variety of pleasant sounds on the new park deck from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. There is no cost to attend these concerts.

The first group of musicians appearing on the deck will be the **Green Lake Bluegrass Band** on July 7. Showcased onstage on July 14 is the **New London-Spicer Community Band**. Jazz permeates the deck on July 21, featuring the **Roger Kodet Jazz Quartet**. More jazz is performed on July 28 presented by the **Mill Pond Jazz Quartet**. On August 4, it's time for the **Great Times Band** to entertain us. The final performers are the **Peace Lutheran Bluegrass Army** on August 11.

If you get hungry while you listen, local fundraisers invite you to buy their wares, ranging from popcorn and lemonade, to hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, sodas and other food items. The Link, Habitat for Humanity, the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, the Grace Living Community of Glen Oaks and the Lions Club are the fundraising groups offering cures for the munchies.

Susan Lange

