

# CITY OF SYLVAN LAKE

## February 2009

City Hall 1820 Inverness, Sylvan Lake MI 48320 Hours: 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Mayor: Aron Lorenz - 682-7857 , Mayor Pro Tem: Sharon Maurina - 681-5708  
Council Members: John Shepp - 683-3982, Eric Wiegand - 682-8746, Mike Zubrzycki - 738-1192  
City Manager: John Martin, City Clerk/Treasurer: Dennise Clippert, Police Chief: Mark Silver  
Sylvan Lake Web Site: sylvanlake.org , Email Address: SylvanLakeCityHall@Comcast.net  
Telephone: (248) 682-1440, Fax Number: (248) 682-7721  
Police, Fire or Medical Emergency 911, Police non-emergency (248) 682-2104

**City Hall Closed on Monday's** At the last City Council meeting, Council approved closing City Hall on Monday's in order to save money. Full-time staff is still working, but City Hall is not open to the public. If you need the Police or Fire for an emergency, call 911. If you need the Police for a non-emergency, or if there is a DPW *emergency* (e.g., sewer back up, water main break) please call 248-682-2104 and that will connect you with West Bloomfield Dispatch who can then inform our police of the issue.

**Budget Deficit** Since the millage proposal was not passed at the last election, City Council is continuing their discussion on how to address the budget deficit. They are asking residents to come to the meetings and voice their opinions, to learn what is going on and being done. The city has been proactive in making cuts in expenses, including cutting employees and changing medical benefits, but the budget is still not balanced. Some of the items being ***discussed*** are:

- Increase in summer fees (docks, parks, etc.)
- Increase the fee for the RV storage lot
- Sell some city property
- Open the rental of the Community Center to nonresidents
- Open the Parks to the public at an increased fee for an annual park tag
- Eliminate the park ranger and extra summer park patrol by the police department
- Reduce the frequency of lawn mowing
- Outsourcing the Police Department if economically advantageous
- Reduce the hours of the Ordinance Enforcement Officer by half (done)
- Close City Hall one day per week (done)
- No capital improvements in the City (done)

Unfortunately, most of these items are not long-term cost-effective solutions and the City cannot continue to operate at the current level of service on the current income.

Minutes are on the Sylvan Lake Web Site for residents to review. Council voted to put a millage proposal on the November 3, 2009 ballot, with the exact language to be determined.

**Boat Dock Renewal** applications have already been sent out. The renewal fee is \$365. This includes your park registration, ramp key, park and sports tags. You must have **ALL** of the required information and documentation with you when submitting your application. We will not accept partial information. Just to refresh you on some of the requirements, they are:

- At least *one watercraft* at each dock space must be *owned by the dock space holder*.
- Original registration for proof of ownership of watercraft
- *Proof of PL & PD insurance* for the dock and all water craft that will be placed in the dock space. Proof must be submitted with application.
- *Deadline for submitting a dock license application* and all information is **March 1**. If we do not receive your application by March 1, you may lose your space.

**Boat Dock Waiting List** On November 12, 2008, the City Council voted to amend the Docking Ordinance No. 78 (2.13) to include a one-time non-refundable \$100 administration fee for all current and future wait list applicants. Current Wait List applicants will remain in their current position on the Wait List with payment of the administration fee. **Payments must be made by February 13, 2009 to remain in your current position on the wait list.**

The top **25 people on the wait list** must notify City Hall by **February 15 of each year**, on whether they will accept a permanent dock space if one becomes available. Applicants on this list can waive the space for one year. If they decide to decline the space for a second year,

they will be removed from the list. They may then reapply for a dock space, pay the applicable fee and will be placed at the bottom of the list.

**Planning Commission Meeting** will be held Tuesday, February 3 at 7:30 p.m. They will continue their discussion on changes to the fence ordinance. They are currently discussing allowing fences in the side yard with a height limit of four feet and the fence must be "open." The current ordinance only allows fences to be placed in the rear yard. Fences would still not be allowed in the front yard.

**City Council** The regular City Council meeting will be February 11 at 7:30 p.m. Discussion will continue on the budget deficit.

**Taxes** are payable through February 14, 2009 without a penalty. On February 15 penalties will be applied. No postmarks accepted. *No exceptions.* Please pay by check, cash, or sign up to have them automatically debited. Instructions to use a credit card online are on your tax bill. You can also drop your payment off at the mail slot next to the front door of City Hall.

**Water/Sewer Bills** will be mailed this month and are due February 20.

**Trash Collection** is every Wednesday. Richfield Mgt. begins picking up trash promptly at 7:00 a.m. Trash collection will be delayed one day only for the following holidays (*if* that holiday falls on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday): New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Christmas Day.

**Snow Shoveling** When shoveling your driveway, please make sure to shovel the snow to the sides of your driveway. It is both hazardous and illegal to shovel snow into the street. If you have a contractor clear your driveway, please inform them of this law. Also, if you have a sidewalk in front of your house or business, it is your responsibility to make sure it is clear.

**Garden Club** THINK GARDENING! Ruth Vrbensky from Oakland Wildflower Farm is going to talk about Native Plants and Wild Flowers on Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Everyone is welcome. Come to get some new ideas about what to plant along our trails, in our parks, and in our yards. If you plan to attend, please call Helen McAllister at 248 682-1082.

## **February Calendar of Events**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Groundhog Day
- 3<sup>th</sup> - Planning Commission Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Fee due for Boat Dock Waiting List
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Taxes Due
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Happy Valentines Day
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Top 25 on Wait List acknowledge acceptance of dock space
- 16<sup>th</sup> - City Hall Closed for Presidents Day
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Water/Sewer bills due
- 26<sup>st</sup> - Council Study Session at 7:00 p.m.

*City of Sylvan Lake*  
*1820 Inverness*  
*Sylvan Lake, MI 48320*

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