

CITY OF SYLVAN LAKE

January 2009

Happy New Year!



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

Congratulations to the following Holiday Light Display Contest Winners



First Place Lights: 2316 Garland-Hunger

Religious: 2155 Pontiac-Blanek

Christmas Theme: 1756 Stratford-Duschinske

Best Tree: 1439 Oakwood-Bardizbanian

Most Artistic: 2351 Ferndale-Panian

Best Street: Warwick Street

Multicolored Lights: 2189 Ferndale-Farms

White Lights: 2239 Pontiac-Kaminski

Living Christmas Card: 1742 Beverly-Kincaid

Planning Commission will be meeting on January 6th at 7:30 p.m. in the Sylvan Lake Community Center. On the agenda will be final discussion and recommendation to City Council on amending the fence ordinance to allow a fence to extend into the side yard with restrictions. The current fence ordinance only allows fences in the rear yard.

City Council will be holding its next City Council meeting on January 14th at 7:30 p.m. in the Sylvan Lake Community Center. They will continue their budget discussions and considerations to cut due to the continued lack of funding. Right now City Council is discussing all of the possibilities to increase revenue and cut expenditures.

Tri-City Fire Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. The public is invited. They will be discussing the fire on Garland.

Shoveling Snow When shoveling your driveway please be sure to shovel the snow to the sides of the driveway. *Do not* put your snow in the street. It is a hazard and also illegal. If you have a sidewalk in front of your house or business, it is your responsibility to keep it clean.

Snowmobiler's are reminded that State law prohibits the use of City roads and road right-of-ways as well as our City parks.

Skateboarders This probably will not be a big problem until Spring, but we want to bring it to your attention. There have been a number of instances where people have been riding their skateboards and grinding on the fireplace hearth. This is causing quite a bit of damage. Please talk to your young adults and ask them and their friends to not ride their skateboards around the community center building.

Taxes are payable through February 14, 2009 without a penalty. February 15th penalties applied; *no exceptions*. No postmarks accepted. 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.

Assessment Notices will be mailed the last week of February. The Board of Review will meet at the City Hall in March. Watch next month's newsletter for further details.

REMINDER! Boat Dock Applications are due no later than MARCH 1. Boat dock owners will be receiving their information packets in the mail. This is simply a reminder. More detail will be in next month's newsletter.

Deicing Your Walks and Driveways - Protect our Lake

Winter brings with it lots of fun outdoor activities, like sledding, ice skating and skiing. But winter also means mounds of snow to shovel and layers of slippery ice to remove from our sidewalks and driveways. We often attempt to make the job easier by using various products to melt the snow and ice. However, many people do not realize that many of these products have hidden impacts. When the ice melts, the salt and chemicals dissolve and flow into street drains that lead directly to a lake or stream, that in the Clinton River Watershed, lead directly into Sylvan Lake, the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair.

Does snow or ice need to be removed? If so, how much? We don't always need to see bare concrete to have a safe winter surface. Here are some tips to help you this winter.

- *Shovel early and often.* When it comes to snow removal, there is no substitute for muscle and elbow grease! Deicers work best when only a thin layer of snow or ice must be melted. So head out and shovel and move as much snow as you can during the storm if possible. You can also use a hoe to scrape ice off the surface before putting down a deicer.
- Reduce your use of deicing products. The most important step in deicing is to physically remove as much snow and ice as possible before applying a deicer.
- Use a shovel to break up the ice before you add deicer to your sidewalk. Adding more deicer without removing the ice that has melted can result in over-application, meaning more salt and chemicals end up in the Lake.
- Reduce deicer use by limiting access to your home to one entrance. For every doorway that isn't used, there will be less deicer washing into your street's ditches and catch basins. Even if the surface you are applying a deicer to is relatively far from a street or stream, much of the product will not soak into the soil because the ground is frozen. It will instead runoff as the snow melts and as rain falls in early spring.
- Avoid fertilizers. Fertilizers, including those with urea (carbamide, ammonium, carbonyl diamide, etc.) don't contain chlorides but they contain nutrients. Potassium chloride (Potash) is another fertilizer used to combat snow and ice. Potassium chloride typically costs 3-5 times as much as sodium chloride and doesn't work as well at low temperatures.
- Limit your use of sand. Sand doesn't melt ice. Sand provides traction. When sand is washed off of our driveways and sidewalks into storm drains, it ends up in our lakes, rivers and streams, increasing the amount of sediment there. This extra sediment degrades and even eliminates important habitat for aquatic organisms. Sand is often used by municipalities on roads to help maintain traction. However, ice removal is more typically the concern of homeowners and businesses and therefore proper use of chemical alternatives may be more appropriate.
- Try an alternative. Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) has fewer adverse environmental impacts than salt and doesn't cause corrosion. CMA is recommended for environmentally sensitive areas but is very expensive. Early studies indicate that sugar and corn products may have minimal negative environmental effects and are safe for surfaces. While these products are available to road commissions and municipalities, access to these products by the general public is limited in SE MI. Begin asking your local stores to stock these safer products.

January Calendar of Events

- 1^t ^s Happy New Year! City Hall Closed
- 6th - Planning Commission Meeting at 7:30 in the Community Center
- 13th - Tri-City Fire Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 14th - Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- 19^h ^t Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-City Hall Closed
- 29th - City Council Study Session at 5:00 p.m.

City of Sylvan Lake
1820 Inverness
Sylvan Lake, MI 48320

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!