

CITY OF SYLVAN LAKE

Winter Newsletter

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: Russell Meskin 310-0780, 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: 2404 Avondale West - Garska **Religious:** 2155 Pontiac - Blanek
Christmas Theme: 1470 Glenwood - Wozniak **Best Tree:** 1439 Oakwood - Bardizbanian
Most Artistic: 1756 Stratford - Duschinske **Best Street:** Beverly Street
Multicolored Lights: 2011 Woodland - Weslock **White Lights:** 1632 Maplewood - Lorenz
Living Christmas Card: 1440 Rosedale - Waldo

Planning Commission will be continuing its discussion of the noise ordinance, outdoor storage of vehicles, outdoor seating for businesses and updates to address the Master Plan.

City Council will be holding its next City Council meeting on January 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the Sylvan Lake Community Center. On the agenda will be discussion of boat dock and park fees and whether council meetings should be broadcast on cable tv.

Due Dates If a due date is on a weekend or a Monday, your bill is still due. Please use the mail slot by the front door at City Hall. Penalties will *not* be waived if you come in after the due date.

Changes in Boat Dock and Park Policy At the December City Council meeting the following changes were made to the boat dock policy:

- Eliminated the requirement to have a watercraft, dock or mooring post at a dock space. However, if there is one or more watercraft at a dock space, at least one of the watercraft has to be owned by the dock space

holder.

- Deleted the provision in the Boat Dock Policy that allows residents to waive a dock space for one year. If the next person on the dock wait list is offered a dock space, they must accept it and pay the fee, or be removed from the wait list. However, they may choose to be placed at the bottom of the wait list for a charge of \$25 if they make that choice immediately when declining an offered dock space.
- A boat ramp key may be purchased by any resident whether they own a boat or not. However, a watercraft sticker or day pass is still required for each watercraft launched.

REMINDER! Boat Dock Applications and all associated information are due no later than MARCH 1st. Boat dock owners will be receiving their information packets in the mail. This is simply a reminder. 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:

- If there is a watercraft, at least one watercraft must be owned by the dock space holder.
- Original registration for proof of

ownership of each 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 1st**. If we do not receive your application by March 1st, you may lose your space.

Volunteers needed for Boards and

Committees We are still looking for volunteers to sit on the Parks & Recreation Committee. This includes someone to Chair the Committee. It will be a working committee to help organize events in the parks and the Community Center, along with enhancing our facilities. Also, the Cable Commission needs a volunteer for a three-year term. The application for any committee is on the website at www.sylvanlake.org under downloadable forms.

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

Snow Plowing and Salting Reduced Salt entering the storm system and ultimately our lakes and streams has been an ongoing environmental concern. There has also been a significant increase in the cost of purchasing salt and fuel. With both of these concerns in mind, the streets will not be plowed or salted as much as they have been in the past. They will be monitored for safety and addressed if necessary, but they will not always be completely bare.

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.

Flyers Please note it is a federal offense to put anything in or on a mailbox. It is against City Ordinance to place anything on the mailbox rack unless it is a City function.

Taxes are payable through February 14th, 2010 without a penalty. On February 15th penalties will be 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.

Don't pay another late fee for your Taxes or Water/Sewer Bills! You may have your water/sewer bills and tax bills automatically deducted from your checking or savings account *on the due date*. It is very easy to set up. Please contact City Hall for more information.

Rewards for Recycling This program encourages curbside recycling. Residents can go online to register at www.rewardsforrecycling.com. To encourage recycling, the City is selling *green, wheeled recycling bins* at ½ price at City Hall. There are three sizes: 35 gallon \$20, 64 gallon \$22 and \$96 gallon \$25. Each has a 10-year warranty. Your identifier tag was sent to you. If you did not receive one or lost it you can call Richfield at 877-609-6753. Participation in the program gives you access to valuable savings with local merchants. To see items which can be recycled a recycling flyer is at www.sylvanlake.org, click on city services.

Wheeled Trash Cans Richfield Equities (trash collection company) is selling large wheeled garbage cans to Sylvan Lake residents at a great price. Cans are available to purchase at City Hall. There are three sizes: 35 gallon \$41, 64 gallon \$46 and \$96 gallon \$52. Each has a 10-year warranty.

Assessment Notices will be mailed the last week of February. The Board of Review will meet at the Community Center in March. If you feel the assessment of your property is incorrect and would like to make an appointment to meet with our Board of Review to request a change please do so by contacting **Oakland County Equalization Division, toll-free 1-888-350-0900, Ext. 80768**. The board will meet at the Community Center, Wednesday, March 3rd, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, March 8th, 1:00 p.m.. - 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.. Wednesday, March 10th, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Dog/Cat License Renewal Dog owners will receive a renewal form from Oakland County

Animal Control, \$7.50 for dogs who are neutered/spayed, \$15 if they are not. Proof of rabies vaccine is needed. Cats also need proof of rabies vaccine brought in. The cost is \$3.50.

Community Center Use and Rental Most of you have seen the beautiful Community Center and we want it to be used more. During the summer we had a few residents volunteer to be attendants in the community center for various times of the day. That way anybody could drop in to play cards, games, watch TV, etc. That has slowed down for the winter, but we look forward to having it open more in the Spring and Summer of 2010. But we can't do that without your help. If you would like to volunteer as an attendant for a four-hour block of time, please contact City Hall. The Attendant(s) could be an individual or a small group that would like to use the Community Center and allow others to use it too. The following information for Sylvan Lake Crafters is an example. Please check the Community Center calendar on the Sylvan Lake website for dates and times it is open.

Community Center Virtual Tour A "virtual tour" of the Community Center is available on the Sylvan Lake website as well as a list of amenities it offers.

To all Sylvan Lake Crafters Bettie Pitchford and Josephine Ondik invite you to join their crafting group which will meet at the Community Center on Tuesdays from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. Bring your quilting, knitting, stitching or crafts. What a great place to meet others with the same talents and interests and share your knowledge.

Clinton River Trail Trail enthusiasts are encouraged to volunteer your time to help clean, trim and maintain the trail. We are looking for a list of people willing to help in the late winter to trim trees and bushes (prior to leaves growing). Later in the spring we will conduct a trail cleanup. If you are willing to help, please call or email City Hall with your contact information. You will be notified with cleanup dates. We thank those that regularly volunteer to beautify the trail.

Memorial Day Parade Spring is just around the corner and plans are being made for this year's parade. Your help is needed for volunteering or

providing a donation. A form is available at City Hall to register to participate, volunteer or donate. Please contact **Jim Bull** at 681-3053 if you have any questions.

Sylvan Lake Garden Club Thursday, March 18th, at 7:00 p.m., will present Bill Pioch, Oakland County's 2005 Master Gardener of the year, who will speak to Sylvan Lake residents about vegetable gardening. Among his topics will be container gardening. Everyone is welcome. Oakland County Market shoppers may already know Bill as he sells his produce there. The meeting is free of charge.

From the City Manager First I want to wish all of you a very happy, healthy and safe New Year. As do all years, 2009 had many changes, challenges and ups and downs for us on all levels of our life; as individuals, families and companies to City's, the State, the Country and Foreign Countries. Some of the changes are good and some are very difficult and require us to make significant changes in our way of life. During times like these it is very easy to fall into a "doom and gloom" mentality that is both depressing and sometimes immobilizing. We become unhappy and complain about our lives or circumstances and carry that over to how we treat our friends, neighbors and family. Negativity breeds negativity. However, we do not have to follow that mentality and allow it to consume us. We have a choice. We have the ability as individuals to have a positive outlook on our lives and help others see that positive outlook for themselves. Many times we spend so much time thinking about the negative that we forget the positive. We complain about not having things we "need," when most often they are really just things we "want."

As a City we will try to keep that positive attitude even though there are difficult months and years ahead. With the Charter Amendment passing, it will help us maintain most of the services that have been provided in the past in spite of the large reduction in property taxes received. The charter amendment does not fix the financial issues we face and it does not eliminate the need for change. Many services will be reduced or altered in some way, but we will strive to have them continue. We already have groups of residents that are willing to donate time to hold events in the City to not only generate funds for projects, but to also

create a sense unity with a positive and fun atmosphere. Following is a partial list of things we currently do or would like to do in the future, with your help: Home and Garden Tour, Juried Art Fair (new for 2010), Fire Works, Ice Cream Social, Memorial Day Parade, Garden Club, holiday egg hunt and Parks and Recreation activities including movies, games, soccer, etc. Of course there are the main attractions in the City with our community center, Memorial park, Ferndale and Lakeview parks, boat ramp access, boat docks, RV storage, bocce ball and volley ball. At the community center there could

be scrap booking, crafting, card clubs, Monday night football, kids day, bike day, CPR training, etc. It would be great to have the tennis courts repaired and have tennis lessons and possibly a local tournament. Concerts in the Park would be a wonderful way to get people together.

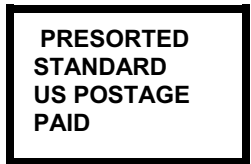
There will be many thoughts and ideas being discussed by the City Council and Administration as we strive to keep Sylvan Lake the beautiful and unique city it is. Your positive input is encouraged and appreciated.

Calendar of Events

Monthly meetings (*subject to change*): Planning Commission - 1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
City Council - 2nd Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Study Session - 4th Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

- Jan 1st** - Happy New Year! City Hall Closed
- Jan 14th** - City Hall closed for software training from 9:00 to 1:00
- Feb 14th** - Taxes Due (drop in mail slot at City Hall)
- Feb 20th** - Water Bills due (drop in mail slot at City Hall)
- Mar 1st** - Boat Dock Renewal Applications Due (If dropped in mail slot at City Hall, all info must be provided)
- Mar 3rd** - Board of Review 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Mar 8th** - Board of Review 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Mar 10th** - Board of Review 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Mar 14th** - Daylight savings time begins - move your clocks forward one hour.
- Mar 17th** - Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!