

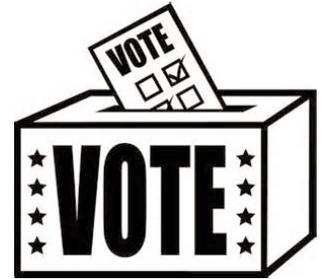
LYNDEN TOWNSHIP

March 2015

Annual Meeting and Township Election Takes Place on Tuesday, March 10

The annual township election and meeting takes place Tuesday, March 10th. Please note that this year there will be shortened voting hours for this township officer election. Voting will be ONLY from 2p.m.–8 p.m. Incumbent Supervisor Jerry Finch and Treasurer Karen Weeres are running unopposed for re-election. Again, the polls are open from 2p.m.–8p.m. The annual meeting begins promptly when the polls close at 8p.m.

Topics that will be covered at this year's meeting include an update about water quality in the Plum Creek watershed, decisions will be made about legal newspaper notices, as well as a comprehensive update about Lynden Township's finances and a report about Fire Dept. coverage. (Please see additional information about these topics elsewhere in this newsletter.) Most importantly, you will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed operating levy which directly impacts the township portion of your property taxes.



This is your chance to vote on grass-roots government. Plan to attend the meeting to learn about important township news, express your opinion, exercise your right to vote, meet your fellow residents and enjoy some coffee and Cold Spring Bakery cookies too.



Lynden Township Building Permits

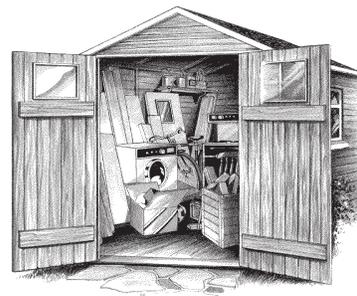
The search is underway for a new building official for Lynden Township. Inspectron Inc. has decided to close their office in Waite Park, so they will no longer be handling building permit applications for us. We are currently reviewing proposals from other firms. Watch the township website for updates on the process. Contact information will be posted prominently on the website when a new firm has been established

In the meantime, you may contact the clerk with your building questions. You may leave her a voicemail on the township cell phone and she will call you back, or you may email her.

Cell phone 320-774-8507 email clerk@lydentownship.net

Township Cleanup Day is Saturday, April 25, 8 a.m.–11 a.m.,

Watch the Clearwater Tribune, the township website and the bulletin board outside of the Town Hall building for more details.



City of Clearwater Comprehensive Plan Eyes Long-Range Growth

In light of the recent Clearwater Tribune article about the Clearwater Comprehensive plan, it is important to note that Lynden Township officials were consulted as this plan was developed, and the City took our suggestions into consideration as they crafted their growth plan. Lynden Township also has a Comprehensive Plan which shows our future areas of concentrated growth radiating out from the City of Clearwater. The article included a map which illustrated two potential annexation areas located in Lynden Township. **What the map failed to note is that these areas are targeted for potential annexation past the year of 2040, so they are not in the city's growth plan for at least the next 25 years.** The text of the plan states that Clearwater has enough land currently governed by an orderly annexation agreement with Clearwater Township and as a result, they "will not seek additional orderly annexation areas within the 2040 planning time-frame."

The 2015 tree sale has begun, trees will be picked up late April or early May.

The Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District tree program was developed to provide landowners with an affordable and convenient way to purchase trees and shrubs for conservation practices, such as windbreaks, shelter belts, living snow fences and wildlife habitat.

The tree program is on a first come, first serve basis. Payment in full is due with your order. You will be notified by post card when the trees can be picked up in Albany (usually end of April or beginning of May).

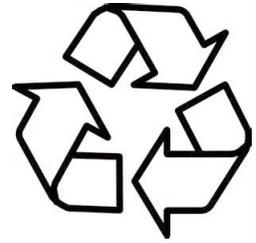
Trees are sold in bundles of 25 with a minimum order of 2 bundles (50 trees). Check their website for a complete listing of trees and shrubs available.
www.stearnscountyswcd.net

This website also offers excellent information regarding invasive species like Buckthorn, and why evergreens are dying.

For more information on ordering trees contact the SWCD office at 320-251-7800 ext: 3.

Single Sort Recycling

Single sort recycling is the easiest and most convenient way for citizens to recycle. No sorting is needed, and the recycling contractor provides a sturdy, wheeled, easy-to-move, nice looking cart with an attached lid.



The recycling cart has 64 gallons of capacity. It stands 39" tall, is 25" wide, and is 27" deep.

Pickup is every other Friday, with the next scheduled pickup on March 6th. A schedule for recycling can be downloaded on the township website, and is posted on the bulletin board at the town hall.

If you are not currently participating in the Lynden Township Recycling program and would like to start please call **Allied Waste Services at 320-252-9608** and they will deliver a recycle cart out to your residence.

Next pick up dates - Fri., March 6 & March 20

But Remember, Do Not put these items in the recycling

- Plastic Bags
- Food Waste
- Pizza Boxes
- Waxy Milk Cartons
- Aluminum Foil
- Plastic Cups or Silverware
- No plastic other than bottles. (no items like clear strawberry cartons)
- No Juice Boxes
- No Aerosol Cans
- No tainted food items like used paper plates, towels or napkins.



March is Minnesota Food Share Month

The March Campaign is a statewide grass roots effort where every dollar given goes to local food shelves to fight hunger. Any resident having a Clearwater or Clear Lake address may visit the food shelf. Food donations can be made at area churches, at Coborn's or you may donate financially directly to the local Food Shelf located in the Lion's Community Bldg., at 1100 Co. Rd. 75 in Clearwater, or by mail to P.O. Box 324, Clearwater, MN 55320

The Clearwater-Clear Lake Food Shelf is open Mon. 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m.; Tues. 9 -11 a.m. and 6 -8 p.m.; Wed. 3 p.m.-5 p.m. Phone is 320-558-2954

Township Road News

Alder Road Parking Policy

Due to the restricted width of Alder Road, the Lynden Township Board of Supervisors placed “No Parking signs” on one side of the road.

We ask that you consider the safe passage of emergency vehicles on the road by observing the restriction. The Stearns County Sheriff has been asked to enforce this policy.

Long Lake Boat Landing Parking

Long Lake has limited parking space at the boat landing and with the need for the Invasive Species inspection area, only three parking spaces are available and marked with signs. Eaglewood Road traffic and the need for safe emergency vehicle access demands that no vehicles be parked on the road. The Stearns County Sheriff will enforce this parking restriction.

200th St., Speed Zone

200th Street, between Co. Rd. 143 and 21st Ave; has been designated a Rural Residential Area by the Town Board, after consultation with MN DOT, and the maximum legal speed has been reduced to 35 mph, and signs have been installed to clearly mark this area.

Because of the residential traffic and the safety of the school bus operation, double yellow lines have been added to the road. Therefore, this area between Co. Rd.143 and 21st Ave. is also a “No Passing” zone.

The Stearns County Sheriff has been asked to monitor this congested area.



Brush Removal

Lynden Township does not currently have an official location for brush disposal. However, these companies do offer brush disposal for a fee:

Tom Kraemer Inc., 320-685-8226
Henkemeyer Landfill, 320-252-6487 or
Jeff Storms Landscaping at 320-248-4106.

Township Information



Notices are published in the Clearwater Tribune, and the St. Cloud Times. They are also posted in the bulletin board outside the township hall and on the website.

Township Officials Are Supervisors

Anne Ackerman	612-804-4243
Jerry Finch	320-558-6634
Dave Johnson	320-558-6879

Treasurer

Karen Weeres	320-558-2136
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Clerk

Jenny Schmidt	320-774-8507
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(This is the township cell phone)

Please leave voice mail messages or send text messages

Address for mailing correspondence is
20517 Woodbine Rd., Clearwater, MN 55320

Planning Commission

James Kantor,	320-281-9339
Planning Administrator	
Brian Nickolausen, Chairman	320-558-2692
Greg Halverson	320-274-3970
Gary Stang	320-558-2112
Todd Voigt	320-252-7575

Building Inspector

Visit the web for information or leave message for Township Clerk at 320-774-8507

Website & Newsletter Editor

Karolyn Boucher	320-293-2242
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Township Board Meeting Schedule

Monthly meetings are held at the town hall on the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. except when that date would fall on a legal holiday. The meeting is then held on the Monday following the holiday.

Any person wishing to be placed on the agenda for a monthly meeting should contact the clerk at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

Visit the contact page of www.lydentownship.org for email addresses of officers.

Online voter registration permitted in MN

Effective April 30, 2014, a provision was passed that addresses an online voter registration program the secretary of state's office implemented in 2013. A court recently ruled the office did not have authority to implement the program—an issue rectified by the new law. Visit the township website for an online link.

Recycling to increase for building owners

Effective Jan. 1, 2016, a new law requires public entities and owners of commercial buildings who contracted for four or more cubic yards of solid waste collection per week to also collect at least three recyclable materials. Other provisions of the law requires state agencies to recycle at least 60 percent of the solid waste generated by each agency and send a progress report to the Pollution Control Agency, and banned sharps from recyclable materials, this was effective May 10, 2014.

Warrantless arrest time expands in some domestic abuse cases

The amount of time law enforcement has to make a warrantless arrest of a domestic abuse perpetrator in gross misdemeanor and misdemeanor cases will triple. The new law increases the time from 24 to 72 hours. It is effective Aug. 1, 2014. Saying it's a way to help with victim safety, supporters said that repeat offenders who know the system often hide out until the time has elapsed to avoid a warrantless arrest then return home and potentially abuse again.

Domestic abusers, stalkers prohibited from having a firearm

Someone who commits domestic violence or stalks another person will lose access to a firearm. Effective Aug. 1, 2014, a person subject to an order for protection in a child or domestic abuse case is prohibited from possessing weapons for the length of the order under certain circumstances and requires them to surrender their firearms as would someone convicted of a domestic assault or stalking offense if

Continued - New Laws

being prohibited from possessing firearms is part of their punishment. The law does not allow the government to take guns without due process or a court conviction nor does it allow illegal searches and seizures.

An abusing party will need to transfer possession of their firearms to a law enforcement agency, a federally licensed firearms dealer or a third party within three business days. A person who accepts a transferred firearm from an abusing party or offender will be guilty of a gross misdemeanor if the offender obtains possession of the transferred firearm while prohibited from possessing firearms.

Tax Equalization Meeting

If you disagree with the assessed value of your home, you may meet with the Local Board of Adjustment on Thursday, May 7th, at the Lynden town hall. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. and appointments are required. Call County Assessor at 320-656-3691 to schedule an appointment.

Communication in Lynden Township

There are a number of ways to communicate with Lynden Township officials. You may want to clip and save the highlighted communication box on page three of this newsletter. All township officials have phone numbers listed and email addresses are listed on the website "Contact" page.

In addition, if you need to leave information for a specific township official, after contacting them by phone or email, you may leave for them necessary items in the black communication box located on the front of the town hall, next to the bulletin board.

All public notices, as well as other helpful information like the recycling calendar, clean up dates, etc. are always posted on the bulletin board at the township hall, which is protected from the weather by glass. All these items are always listed in a prominent place on the township website.



www.lydentownship.org



**Stearns Co. Hazardous Waste Facility
3601 5th St., Waite Park, MN**

The Stearns County Household Hazardous Waste Facility is conveniently located approximately three blocks south of the Stearns County Service Center.

The facility is open Mondays 8-5 and Tuesday through Friday 8-4:30. It is also open the third Saturday of each month from 8am until noon.

Phone number is (320) 255-6140 or (800) 450-6140. Residents may drop off hazardous products such as paint, solvents, pesticides, fluorescent bulbs and child car seats.

The Reuse Store for useable paint and other household products operates at this facility. Residents may come in and take products, still in good condition, for reuse in their own home for free! The facility is stocked with products that other residents have turned in for disposal or reuse.

In addition, a mobile waste unit makes several stops in the county during the summer. Two of the closest for Lynden residents are in Kimball on May 2, from, 8–11 a.m. at Maus & Sons; or in Clear Lake at the City Hall on June 22, from 3–6 p.m.

The county website offers solutions to dispose of many ordinary hazardous products—everything from fluorescent bulbs, to cooking oil from turkey cookers.

Much more information is available by visiting the county website,
www.stearns.co.mn.us/Environment/RecyclingandWasteDisposal/DisposingofHouseholdWaste

A Precious Gem In Your Backyard

Warner Lake County Park has many things for area residents to enjoy including trails for hiking in the summer and skiing or snowshoeing in winter.

In addition, the Warner Lake Nature Center is available year-round for family reunions, graduations and meetings. Go to the county web site to reserve the building **www.co.stearns.mn.us** or call **Stearns Park Dept. at 320-255-6172.**



There is a limited number of summer Park Caretaker jobs for Warner Lake County Park. The Greenview Program recruits the summer staff for Warner Lake County Park. Contact them at 651-639-1913 if you are looking for some part time outdoor summer work.

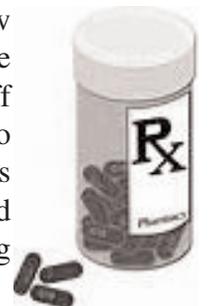


Once the weather warms, families can enjoy a beautiful sandy beach as well as picnic areas and a fishing pier.

Warner Park is located on Stearns Co. Rd. 143, near the I-94 overpass.

Pharmaceutical Drop Box

A drop box is available for unused and unwanted medications at the Stearns County Law Enforcement Center, 807 Courthouse Sq., in St. Cloud. You may drop off medications Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. No Sharps Allowed. If items are in a glass container, please place them in a padded envelope at the drop box before being deposited.



← Visit the county website for other locations.

Clearwater Stickney Library

The Clearwater Library is located in the Clearwater Shopping Center. For current hours and programs call **320-558-6001**.

Digital Photography with Ken

• Wed., March 4 & April 1 @ 6:30 p.m.

Celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday Storytime

• Saturday, March 7 @ 10:30 am

Our favorite books by Dr Seuss

Memory Writers

• Thurs., March 12, 26, Apr. 9 & 23 @ 10 a.m.

Book Club

• March 18 & April 15 @ 6:30 p.m.

Rockhounds & Rockpups

Share your rockhunting experience

• Sat., March 21 @ 10:30 a.m.

Need Computer or Internet Help? Call for a tutor session 320-558-6001

So many exciting things happening at the Clearwater Stickney Library!

Cyrene Bastien Library Services Coordinator

Clearwater Public Library, part of the Great River Regional Library System 320-558-6001



Zentangle Workshop

• March 28 @ 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Storytime

Tues., April 7, 14, 21, 28 @ 11 a.m.

Bruce the Bug Guy

Explore the world of insects with Bruce

Sat., Apr. 18 @ 10:30 a.m.

Clearwater Area Friends of the Library

Second Wed. of the month @ 6:30 p.m.

Dog Ordinances

It is a violation of Lynden Township ordinance to allow a dog to run at large, or to have a dog who is "habitually barking". Barking dogs are the most common complaint of neighbors of dog owners. Often, excessive barking can be successfully abated with just a little effort.

If the barking is a continual problem, consider attending a workshop entitled "Minimizing Barking" which is offered by Petsmart. Petsmart also sells a humane bark control collar which utilizes citronella spray instead of electrical stimulation to curb a dog's excessive barking.



Please show courtesy for your fellow Lynden Township residents, and do your best to keep your dogs within the confines of the law.

Planning and Zoning

Interested in local growth and development?

Each year the Township Board conducts interviews for a member of the Planning Commission, with interviews typically happening in May. The terms for this position are 5 years. This group meets on an "as needed" basis, which is typically one scheduled meeting per month with the Township Board. That meeting is normally the last Monday of the month unless it falls on a holiday. Some months are busier than others with site visits and follow up meetings. Members get paid \$50 for each Planning Commission meeting.

To be considered for an interview please contact **Planning Administrator James Kantor at 320-281-9339**

Interested in receiving County Press Information?

Sign up for informational press releases and news from Stearns County. <http://www.co.stearns.mn.us>
Click on the "Community" bar at the top of the page, then just follow the links that interest you.

Results of 2014 Water Test Kits

6484 well water nitrate testing kits were mailed out to homeowners in Stearns County. Of those sent out, 1886 water samples were returned to the laboratory for analysis from homeowners.

In Lynden Township, 233 water samples were sent to the laboratory for analysis. 214 of the 233 wells sampled tested below 3 milligrams per liter. 12 wells tested between 3 and 10 milligrams per liter, and 7 tested above 10 milligrams per liter.



The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has set a standard of 10 milligrams per liter for nitrate in drinking water. Private well owners should use this level as a safety guideline.

Any residential well with a nitrate concentration of more than 1 milligram per liter should be tested annually. If you are planning to become pregnant, have your water tested. If your water has nitrate levels above 10 milligrams per liter, remember these precautions:

1. Infants under six months of age shouldn't drink nitrate contaminated water either directly or in infant formula. Infants and women in the third trimester of pregnancy should only drink water that is known to be low in nitrate.
2. Do not boil high-nitrate water before drinking it. Boiling actually increases the level of nitrates because the water boils away and leaves the nitrate behind.
3. Seek medical attention immediately if your baby's skin takes on a bluish color.

Burning Permits Available

If you have questions about what can be burned and when, visit this website:

dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/questions.html

A permit can be obtained on the web at

www.dnr.state.mn.us/burningpermits

or from Jim and Pat Voigt, 21362 Co. Rd. 44, across from the township hall.

Plum Creek Water Quality "Impaired" . . . Volunteers needed to help build awareness

Plum Creek, located primarily in Lynden Township, and a tributary to the Mississippi River, was assessed to be "impaired for aquatic recreational use" prior to our annual meeting last year. This assessment was done by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as part of their Upper Mississippi River Bacteria Study and Protection Plan in February of 2012.

The Plum Creek Neighborhood Network has completed the first year of water quality monitoring samples. The data has been submitted into the MPCA data bank for evaluation. The project goal is to get Plum Creek removed from the list of "impaired" lakes and streams. This project will be a multi-year endeavor. If you would like to contribute to this project and join the original twenty-four volunteers, email **Jerry Finch at jerry.finch@lydentownship.net**

Clearwater River Watershed District

The Clearwater River Watershed District was honored with the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts' Program of the Year for its Targeted Fertilizer Application Project: A unique, ongoing partnership with local agricultural co-ops and local farmers to protect lakes and streams while supporting farmers through optimized fertilizer use. In this program, the farmers have their soils tested and only apply the amount of chemical fertilizer necessary for optimum production.

We are fortunate to have an active and innovative Watershed District in our neighboring area

Township Hall Available for Rent



The Hall is available for you to host an event or party for a \$50 fee, plus a fully refundable \$100 security deposit. Smoking and drinking alcohol is prohibited in the hall and on the grounds.

You can access the complete policy information and find an application on www.lydentownship.org website under "**applications.**"

Clearwater Area Historical Society

Mission: To chronicle the History of the Clearwater Area with intent to actively collect, preserve and educate

The Clearwater Area Historical Society was established three years ago, and covers the history of Lynden, Clearwater, Silver Creek Townships and the City of Clearwater. The group meets at 7 p.m. on the third thursday of each month at the Clearwater Township Hall. New members and visitors are always welcome.

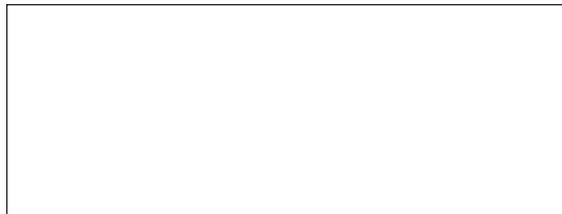
Currently the club has completed two stories on century farms in Lynden Township—the Dave Storms’ farm and Lyle Heaton’s farm, which you will find on the club’s website as well as on the Lydentownship.org website and we are gathering information on other century farms in Lynden Township. If you have writing experience and would like to assist with this project please call Karolyn Boucher, 320-293-2242.



Another project in the works is a historical synopsis of Acacia Cemetery. The cemetery is the final resting place for many military veterans including those from the Civil War, World War I and II, and most recently the VietNam War. During Heritage Days the Club is again planning a wagon tour. This year the club hopes to visit Acacia Cemetery in addition to some locations in Clearwater listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Join us!

We have a scrolling DVD presentation at the library that includes many old pictures, and a cabinet to display some historical artifacts. The DVD’s are available locally at Clearwater Hardware and Parts City Auto Parts. Check out these remnants of Clearwater of years gone by!

If you would like more information visit the website at **www.clearwaterhistory.org** or contact **Karolyn Boucher, 320-293-2242 or Sharon Lee at 320-558-6725.**



Lynden Township
c/o 20517 Woodbine Rd.
Clearwater, MN 55320