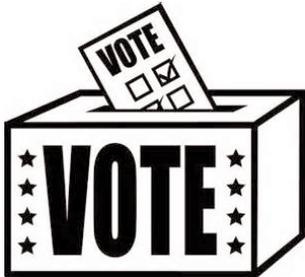


LYNDEN TOWNSHIP

March 2016

Annual Meeting and Township Election Takes Place on Tuesday, March 8

The annual township election and meeting takes place Tuesday, March 8th. Please note that this year there again will be shortened voting hours for this township officer election.



Voting will be ONLY from 2p.m.–8 p.m.

Incumbent Supervisor Anne Ackerman, and Former Supervisor Dennis Niemi have filed for election to the supervisor position. Incumbent Clerk Jenny Schmidt is 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 a brief 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.

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 in a constructive way, exercise your right to vote, meet your fellow residents, enjoy some of Ken Bachofer's photos and enjoy some coffee and treats too.

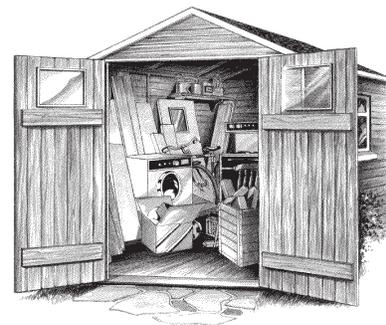
Beyond the cover of this newsletter you will find a different format than we have previously used. Most of the information previously included is available through links on the township website and can easily be accessed by computer. Click on the newsletter link on the left hand side of the homepage, check postings on the township bulletin board outside of the hall, or you may request an information sheet at a township meeting.

This newsletter includes a letter from the Township Chair and a letter from the City of Clearater regarding annexation information, a letter from the Clearwater Fire Chief Ryan Pridgeon and information from new Building Inspector Nancy Scott, as to when you need a building permit and how to proceed. It is always best to call when in doubt about the process.

Township Clean Up Day is Saturday, April 30, 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

This is your opportunity to clean up your property of unwanted things that cannot go into the regular refuse service provided by your independent sanitation service provider.

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





Lynden Township

Thank you to Clearwater Mayor Pete Edmonson who submitted an article elsewhere in this newsletter in response to the article recently published in the Clearwater Citizen Tribune. The town board of supervisors wishes to further clarify any possible misconceptions relating to the City of Clearwater and potential annexation discussions.

Lynden Township representatives have always expressed our interest in working with Clearwater to come to a mutually acceptable agreement. When the timing is right, we will begin discussions to craft an orderly annexation agreement with the city. Our opinion remains that any potential annexation within Lynden Township would need to be developer driven. We will of course continue to work with the best interests of the township in mind.

Anne Ackerman, Chair
Lynden Township Supervisor

Letter to the Community



My name is Ryan Pridgeon and I'm the new Fire Chief for the Clearwater Fire Department. I've lived in Lynden Township for over 10 years and have been a proud member of the Clearwater Fire Department that entire time. I would like to extend a special thank you to Doug Nieters for 11 years of leadership as our former Fire Chief.

This year marks the 92nd year of the Clearwater Fire Department (CWFD). Our goal is to serve and protect both life and property of the citizens and visitors of the Lynden and Clearwater townships and the City of Clearwater.

CWFD is structured with a Chief, Assistant Chief, two Captains, 4 Lieutenants and 18 fire fighters. Many of our fire fighters are able to respond during the day due to the flexibility of their employers. Several members live in the townships and carry medical bags and AEDs in their vehicles. This improves our flexibility, shortens our response time and may save someone's life.

CWFD is prepared to respond to emergency calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In addition to fire suppression, the department provides first responder emergency medical services, vehicle accident extrication as well as water/ice rescue service. All of our services are free of charge to residents of the townships and city that we serve.

Additionally, many members of our department possess a variety of specialty trainings so that we may provide the best possible response to the many emergencies that we may be called upon for. We have personnel trained in fire investigation, hazardous materials response and mitigation, etc.

Please 'friend' us on our Facebook (Clearwater Fire & Rescue, MN) page to see what the Clearwater Fire Department is all about and what we do to be prepared to service our community.

*** If you have an emergency, call 9-1-1. ***

CWFD is always looking for new members, if you're interested in becoming a hometown hero please stop by Clearwater City hall and pick up an application or call 320-558-6561.



Find it on the Website!
Follow the links on the
Homepage

These items are available on the web, posted on the township bulletin board outside of the town hall, or available at a township meeting.

- Township Agendas and Minutes
- Public Notices
- Township Treasurer Reports
- Ordinances
- Resolutions
- Recycling Information & Schedule
- Building Permit Information- Including procedures, requirements and application forms
- Email Addresses of Township Officials
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection & Drop-Off Information
- How to Order Trees for Spring Planting
- Voter Registration Information
- Rent the Lynden Hall information
- Stearns County Hazardous Waste and Paint Recycling Information
- 24/7 Disposal of Used Oil
- Stories about Century Farms in Lynden Township
- Links to the history of the Township Hall & Acacia Cemetery
- Links to: Stearns County, City of Clearwater, State of Minnesota, Dept. of Natural Resources, Stearns Environmental Services, Warner Lake County Park and Great River Regional Library



186,556
Visitors to
date!

www.Lydentownship.org



Township
Information

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

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
Daniel Torgersen-Deputy Treas.	320-558-2891

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, Planning Administrator	320-281-9339
Brian Nickolausen, Chairman	320-558-2692
Greg Halverson	320-274-3970
Gary Stang	320-558-2112
Todd Voigt	320-252-7575
Jeff Westrum	507-213-0323

Building Inspector

Nancy Scott, AllSpec Services	320-293-5298
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or email nscott64@hotmail.com

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 prior to the meeting date.

Visit the contact page of www.lydentownship.org for

Plum Creek Neighborhood Network's Efforts Receive Academic Assistance

The "impaired reach of Plum Creek" is from Warner Lake to the Mississippi River.

Plum Creek Neighborhood Network (PCNN) completed its second year of monitoring the E coli (bacteria) levels in the "impaired" stretch of Plum Creek in Lynden Township.

The MPCA Upper Mississippi Bacterial TMDL Implementation Plan had identified the sources of the impairment as poultry and cattle manure spread on the surface of the watershed fields.

PCNN and Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SCSWCD) staff were concerned that there may be another bacteria source other than livestock manure contributing to the problem. Additional assistance was requested from Dr Michael Sadowsky, Director of the Bio Technical Institute at the University of Minnesota. Dr Sadowsky suggested that PCNN send water samples to the Source Molecular Laboratories in Miami, Florida for DNA analysis and identification. The results were negative for poultry, cattle and human sources. PCNN and SCSWCD asked MPCA to include our data in the final MPCA Implementation Plan which was completed in December of 2015.

Dr Sadowsky's paper of 2015 data from Five Mile Creek in Minnesota, suggested "Persistent strains are likely naturalized to the sites, capable of growing in the sediments and surviving the repeated freeze-thaw cycles. Ditch sediments are potential temporary sinks and sources of E coli in environment, which confounds the use of E coli as an indicator and has implications for future water quality monitoring and TMDL determinations." (Sadowsky 2015)

Dr Joseph Storlien, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies Department, College of St. Benedict & St. John's University, has selected a student researcher to investigate further the E coli levels that exist in the sediment in the creek during next summer's monitoring season.

Dr. Charles Nelson, retired Hydrologist from St. Cloud State and a member of our PCNN, will be available to contribute his expertise to the 2016 seasonal project.

Chuck Johnson, MPCA Surface Water Hydrologist, from the Brainerd Office has also been assigned to the project.

It appears that the stretch of Plum Creek from Warner Lake to Franklin Road has been accepted as an easily accessible, natural laboratory for the further investigation of stream impairment related to E coli in streambed sediment.

—Jerry Finch
Lynden Township Supervisor

Tax Equalization Meeting

The Lynden Township Tax Equalization Meeting is tentatively set for **Thursday, May 5, at 7 p.m.** If you disagree with the assessed value of your property you must schedule an appointment by calling **Mitch Determan, Stearns County Assessor at 320-656-3686.** (You will receive a mailing with your property tax statement and the final date will be included on that statement.)

Building Permit Process

In Lynden Township the permitting process has two parts—**Zoning and Building**.

The zoning portion requires a review of the size and placement of your project. To start this process a Construction Site Permit Application must be completed and submitted to either Stearns County, if your project is in a Shoreland District, or our building official if your project is not in a Shoreland District. This form can be found on the Township website at www.lydentownship.org.

Once the zoning aspects of your project have been reviewed and approved you can then obtain a building permit by contacting our building official. Keep in mind projects that do not increase the footprint of a structure or are entirely in an existing structure do not need a Construction Site Permit.



When do I need a permit? Minnesota Rules: 1300.0120, Subpart 1:

An owner or authorized agent who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert, or replace any gas, mechanical, electrical, plumbing system, or other equipment, the installation of which is regulated by the code; or cause any such work to be done, shall first make application to the building official and obtain the required permit.

Here are some examples of work that does not need a permit:

- (1) One-story detached accessory structures, used as tool and storage sheds, playhouses, and similar uses, provided the floor area does not exceed 200 square feet (60,960 mm²);
- (2) Fences not over seven feet (2,134 mm) high;
- (3) Retaining walls that are not over four feet (1,219 mm) in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, unless supporting a surcharge or impounding Class I, II, or III-A liquids;
- (4) Sidewalks and driveways that are not part of an accessible route;
- (5) Decks and platforms not more than 30 inches (762 mm) above adjacent grade and not attached to a structure with frost footings and which is not part of an accessible route;
- (6) Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, countertops, and similar finish work;
- (7) Prefabricated swimming pools installed entirely above ground accessory to dwelling units constructed to the provisions of the International Residential Code or R-3 occupancies constructed to the provisions of the International Building Code, which do not exceed both 5,000 gallons in capacity (18,925 L) and a 24-inch (610 mm) depth;
- (8) Swings and other playground equipment.

For questions beyond this information, or if you are uncertain as to how to proceed call:

Lynden Township Building Official - Nancy J. Scott, CBO#2099
AllSpec Services, LLC (320)293-5298 nscott64@hotmail.com



All the forms needed are available on the web
(Building Permits is on the left side of the Homepage)
www.lydentownship.org

Stearns County Ditch 39 – Past, Present, and the Future

My name is Chad Martini and I serve as the Stearns County Director of Land Management. One of my roles is to work with county drainage ditches on behalf of the Stearns County Board of Commissioners. There are 19 ditches that Stearns County is responsible for. My goal is to explain what ditches are, how they get established, what the Stearns County role in ditches is, and to specifically address the purpose for the recent assessment for ditch repair.

Minnesota law states that counties have a legal liability to inspect and maintain county ditches. Ditches exist because property owners petitioned for the creation of a ditch for the purpose of draining agricultural land. The benefited properties make up the ditch system and anyone who owns property in the ditch benefit is partially responsible for the costs to administer the ditch.

Stearns County Ditch 39 was established in 1915 and is a combination of clay tile and open ditch. In the summer of 2015, a storm event washed out part of 8th Ave. and a section of the ditch tile. The Stearns County Board of Commissioners, acting as the Drainage Authority for County Ditch 39, approved the recommended repairs. In accordance with Minnesota law, the cost of the repair was assessed to all property owners in the ditch system.

There are currently no immediate plans to do further repairs on County Ditch 39, however, a property owner who benefits from the ditch can petition for a repair to the ditch system at any time. Stearns County may also create a project in order to comply with its legal requirement to administer the ditch.

Any questions about drainage ditches can be directed to me at **320-654-4690** or email **chad.martini@co.stearns.mn.us**.

So much is happening at The Clearwater Library!

Come visit soon!

- March 5 @ 10:30 a.m. - Dr. Seuss Birthday Party
- March 9 @ 6:30 p.m. - Spring Forest Qigong
- March 10 & 24 @ 10 a.m. - Memory Writers
- March 23 @ 6:30 p.m. - Exercise Group
- March 16 @ 6:30 pm. Beginning Photography with Ken Bachofer
- March 19 @ 11a.m. - Movie at the Library
- March 23 @ 6:30 p.m. - Megan Kiffmeyer, Author of Fire Fighting

Free Computer & Internet help on Tues, between noon and 1 p.m.

Library Hours are

Tues. 10-1 & 3-6; Wed. 3-8; Thurs. 10-1; Fri. 3-6; Sat. 10-1

Located at 740 Clearwater Center

320-558-6001





February 2016 - Greetings from the City of Clearwater

Recently, Supervisor Ackerman and I had exchanged some emails regarding the topic of annexation, in respect to Lynden Township and City of Clearwater. Following those talks, she invited me to write a short article for your spring newsletter, giving an update on the topic.

Simply put, annexation is when one governmental entity expands their borders into another entity's territory, for the purpose of current and future growth.

In most circumstances, the topic of future annexation between cities and townships is explained in a city's comprehensive plan, which cities adopt and update to help guide their current and future growth and planning. Clearwater's comprehensive plan was created in 2006 and updated in 2014.

In January, our council had a workshop to review our existing annexation agreement with Clearwater Township, and consider what future annexation agreements might look like with Lynden and Clear Lake Townships.

In the city's updated comprehensive plan, we have identified that our projected growth needs from now till the year 2040 could be adequately handled through the existing annexation agreement currently in place with Clearwater Township. Also, it explains that beginning discussions with the other surrounding townships regarding future annexation agreements, including the appropriate timing to engage in those agreements, is advised.

From the City's perspective, that is where we would like to go next. Over the course of the next few years, we would like to meet with the representatives from Lynden and Clear Lake Townships, to begin formulating a future annexation agreement suitable for all parties involved. Then, when the time comes, we are prepared to move forward.

So, as we both move ahead into 2016, our city looks forward to connecting with Lynden Township as we work towards the future growth and success of us all.

Thank you-
Pete Edmonson, Clearwater Mayor



March is Minnesota Food Share Month

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

Phone is 320-558-2954

The March Campaign is a statewide grassroots effort where every dollar given goes to local food shelves to fight hunger. Food donations can be made at area churches 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 food shelf is also looking for volunteers to assist in food shelf assistance, receptionist, food rescue/deliveries and data. We are willing to train. Ask for Sherry Hanson 320-558-2954.