Stillwater Township News

May 2006

Township launches newsletter, website

Do you know how to reserve the park pavilion in Otto Berg Park? What's the latest news on housing developments in the township? Do you know where recreational trails are located? And what's the process for building an accessory building?

In an effort to inform township residents about these and other issues, the Town Board recently launched a newsletter and website. The two will work in tandem to fill an information void created by the lack of a local newspaper that concentrates on Stillwater Township news.

The newsletter will be published three or four times a year and will be sent to all township households, either through the mail or by email. It will contain news about current events and features of interest in the township.

The website was launched in March, to coincide with the annual town meeting. The website is maintained by Stillwater Township resident Bob Ranalla, who can be reached by email through the website. The address is www.Stillwatertownship.com.

Through the website residents can find basic information, such as contact information for town officials, information on permits and ordinances, meeting dates and details, demographics, information on parks and recreation, and public safety information. Also available on the site will be past issues of the newsletter.

Visit the site and post your opinion. We're looking for constructive suggestions to improve the site and newsletter to deliver the information you need in the most useful format.

Be careful out there

Stillwater Township rests on the edge of a busy town, but it is still rural enough to be the playground of wild animals. And now is the time to be watchful for coyotes, bears, fox and even a black panther.

Police Chief Steve Nelson told residents at the annual meeting in March that the most unusual sighting of a wild animal in the past year was that of a black panther, which was glimpsed by a resident in the Browns' Creek area near Boutwell Road last August.

Nelson is not surprised by the sighting, since he assumes it is the same panther that escaped from a wild animal preserve near Hugo last year. It has been sighted sporadically since it escaped, but never so far south as in Stillwater Township. The sighting was confirmed by DNR officials, who investigated tracks in the area where the cat was seen. Nelson doesn't expect to see an uptick in sightings of the panther. It's black and nocturnal, which makes it very hard to see.

It's not unusual for bears to be seen in the area as they emerge from hibernation in the spring and begin to hunt for food. Nelson cautions residents to be careful about their bird feeders. "Bears really love suet," he says. He encourages residents to call him at 439-0796 if they see bears or coyotes.

Coyotes are not protected animals. Because their numbers have grown so much in recent years, they can become nuisances. But Nelson advises residents not to try to eliminate coyotes themselves. There are strict laws about where firearms can be discharged. It's better, he says, to let Nelson deal with whatever problems the coyotes are causing.

In the know

The park pavilion is open for reservations

Summer is a busy time in Otto Berg Park next to the town hall. Residents who would like to reserve the picnic pavilion or the baseball diamond can do so by calling Bill Butler at 439-6268.

It costs $25 to reserve the pavilion for a time slot of 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. or 3 p.m. to park closing time. Reserving the pavilion for an all-day event would cost $50. Checks should be sent to Butler but made out to the township.

The ball diamond can only be reserved on the weekends because it is used for organized baseball and softball leagues during the week. Butler says the ball diamond can be reserved separately but that he gives priority to those who are reserving the picnic pavilion. There is no charge to reserve the ball diamond.

June and July are the busiest months for picnic reservations, so planning ahead is a wise choice. The pavilion has electricity, water and charcoal grills. A portable potty is nearby. Alcoholic beverages and pets are prohibited in the park.

Get Fido licensed

Every two years, the township requires residents to license their dogs, and the time is now. In May of each even-numbered year, all township residents receive a dog licensing form in the mail. Those who have already licensed a dog will get a renewal while those who have not will get a blank form that can be used to license a new dog. Two-year licenses cost $10 for neutered or spayed pets and $26 if they are not.

Checks should be made payable to Stillwater Township and sent to Deputy Clerk Kathy Nelson, who can be reached for questions at 439-0796. Residents must provide evidence of a rabies vaccination when they license their dogs. Once the form is sent in, residents will receive a license tag and S-hook in the mail. Residents without dogs can inform Kathy Nelson of that status to prevent follow-up mailings. Dogs must be licensed by July 1.

If your dog is lost or if you find a dog, contact Steve Nelson at 439-0796. Impounded dogs are taken to Hillcrest Animal Hospital, which charges a $60 impound fee and daily boarding fees.

No ditch driving

From April 1 to Aug. 1, no four-wheelers or minibikes can be driven in ditches along roadsides. It's a state law, designed to protect farmers' crops.

Burning brush? You must have a permit

Residents who want to burn brush must get a permit by contacting Steve Nelson at 439-0796. The $15 permit allows three days of burning within a seven-day period. During the summer, the hours of burning are 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. Residents should also notify Nelson if they intend to have a recreational fire.

Trail map to be developed

As a result of a request made and a vote taken during the township's annual meeting in March, township officials will prepare a map of recreational trails in the area. The map, which may be available by the end of the year, will delineate trails by their usage. For instance, some trails are used primarily as horse trails and others as walking trails.

Go on vacation with peace of mind

Leaving on a trip this summer? Contact Police Chief Steve Nelson at 439-0796 to have him check up on your house while you're gone.

Contact us

Town Board Supervisors

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Linda.Countryman@Stillwatertownship.com

Jim Doriott 439-8499
Jim.Doriott@Stillwatertownship.com

Jim Hiniker 351-1867
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Sheila-Marie Untiedt 439-6476
Sheila-Marie.Untiedt@Stillwatertownship.com

Town Clerk

Pat Bantli 439-9051
Pat.Bantli@Stillwatertownship.com

Clerk for Parks and Planning Commission

Kathy Schmoeckel 439-6451
Kathy.Schmoeckel@Stillwatertownship.com

Town Treasurer

Gloria Sell 430-1454
Gloria.Sell@Stillwatertownship.com

Police Chief

Steve Nelson 439-0796
Steve.Nelson@Stillwatertownship.com

Development produces trail for township

A recently approved housing development near the intersection of Otchipwe Avenue North and Stonebridge Trail will give Stillwater Township the opportunity to add to its recreational trails.

The new trail will start on the south side of Stonebridge Trail and run along the west edge of the Otchipwe Prairie development. The land designated for the trail runs through a stand of trees, and the trail would meander through.

The trail would stop at 100th Street, an unpaved road. But Township Supervisor Jim Doriott says the plan is to link the new trail with an existing trail that runs through the Curtis Hills development.

Eventually, he says, the township would like to work toward a system of linked recreational trails.

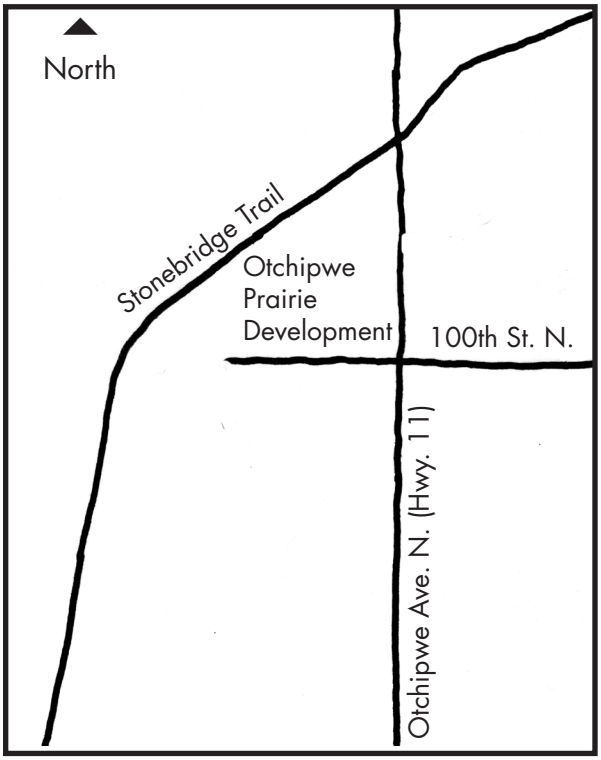
The trail is consistent with the vision that Otchipwe Prairie developer Nor Olson has for the 60-acre property that straddles Stonebridge Trail. Last year, Olson hired Minnesota Native Landscapes to plant 50 of the 60 acres with seven different kinds of prairie grasses and 15 kinds of wildflowers.

The idea, she says, was to take land that had recently been cornfields and restore it to its historical use. The grasses and wildflowers also make the land attractive to buyers and to Olson herself, who plans to build a home on one of the lots. "I can't think what I would have done that would have pleased me as much," she says.

Two of the six lots have been sold. The remaining lots range from 9 acres to 14 acres, and are priced from $299,000 to $424,000. Information about the development can be found at www.otchipweprairie.com.

Olson can't guarantee that future lot owners will keep the prairie motif on their land. She had thought about establishing a covenant to the deed that would have mandated it, but was dissuaded by other developers who said it is too restrictive to dictate landscaping design to owners into the future.

The park committee will be in charge of the timetable for the creation of the trail. Doriott says he hopes for completion by the end of the year.



I need.....

Burning permits
Steve Nelson
439-0796

Park shelter reservations
Bill Butler
439-6268

Building Inspections
Jack Kramer
351-5051

Recycling Information
Karen Richtman
351-9162

Animal Control
Steve Nelson
439-0796

It's recycling season

Township residents have two opportunities in the next few weeks to purge their houses of unwanted items. As an extra bonus, they will be able to dispose of electronics and computer hardware for free, which would normally carry a fee at private recyclers. Each recycling event will be geared toward different items.

On May 20, Washington County will collect unwanted hazardous waste items from county residents from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lily Lake Ice Arena parking lot at 1208 Greeley St. Three categories of items will be collected.

- Household hazardous waste: This category includes used oil, oil filters, paints, stains, pesticides, aerosol containers, photographic chemicals, pool chemicals, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries, car batteries and corrosive household products. These items will be accepted only from Stillwater area residents, not businesses. The items also are accepted year-round at the county's Hazardous Waste Facility on Hadley Avenue in Oakdale (Check for days and hours of operation at 430-6770 or www.co.washington.mn.us/publichealth.)
- Consumer electronics: This category includes televisions, radios and stereo equipment. These items will be accepted only from Stillwater area residents, not businesses. These items are not accepted at the county hazardous waste facility.
- Computers and monitors: Both residents and businesses may recycle their computer hardware, which will benefit

Hazardous Waste Collection Day

May 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lily Lake Ice Arena parking lot,
1208 S. Greeley St.

Hazardous waste materials accepted

- Used oil, oil filters, anti-freeze and other auto fluids
- Paints, stains, varnishes
- Pesticides, garden chemicals, insecticides
- Full or partially full aerosol containers
- Paint thinner, solvents, gasoline
- Driveway sealer, roof coatings
- Photographic chemicals
- Acids, bases
- Ni-Cad batteries (rechargeable)
- Fluorescent lamps
- Drain Cleaner, other cleaners
- Mercury waste (thermostats, switches, etc.)
- Pool chemicals
- Propane cylinders
- Corrosive household products
- Automobile batteries

Computers and electronics, too!
(see story for details)

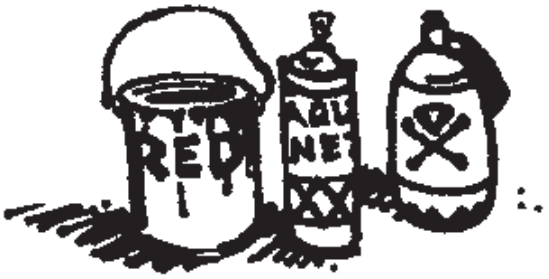
We'll save you a seat

Township meetings are free and open to the public. Check the bulletin board at the town hall or the website for current agenda and meeting information.

The *Township Board of Supervisors* meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7 p.m., except for November and December, when it meets only on the second Thursday.

The *Planning Commission* meets as necessary on the first Thursday of each month at 7 pm.

The *Parks Committee* meets as necessary on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m.



the nonprofit organization Computers for Schools. Computers and monitors will be refurbished and donated to schools. These items are not accepted at the county hazardous waste facility.

On June 3, the Township will sponsor a Heavy Metal recycling day in conjunction with local trash hauler Maroney's Sanitation Inc. The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine, in the Otto Berg Park parking lot next to the town hall.

Maroney's will accept residents' discarded appliances, such as refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, freezers and dishwashers (see chart for costs). Commercial appliances will carry an extra cost.

Automobile and truck tires can also be recycled during this event. Automobile and truck tires without rims will cost $5 each. Tires with rims will be $8. Tractor tires carry a charge of $25 with or without rims. Tires cannot contain cement or other substances.

Also collected will be discarded metals, such as bicycles, which will be charged according to volume. There is a $5 minimum cost. All non-metal parts and fluids must be removed from the metal items before they will be accepted. Also, seats and tires must be removed from bicycles before they will be accepted.

Maroney's will also be accepting discarded electronics such as computers, monitors, printers, televisions, fax machines and peripherals. The charge for recycling will be $1 a pound.

For questions call Karen Richtman at 351-9162.

Heavy Metal Recycling Day

June 3, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Otto Berg parking lot, next to Town Hall

Recycling items and prices

Refrigerator	$40	Hot water heater	$35
Stove	$35	Freezer	$40
Dishwasher	$35	Dehumidifier	$40
Washing machine	$35	Air conditioner	$40
Dryer	$35		

Tires, bikes and electronics, too!
(see story for details)

Your opinion counts

Please let us know what you think of the township's new newsletter. Clip out this comment form and send it to: Stillwater Township Clerk, Box 117, Stillwater, MN 55082.

You may also call newsletter editor Beverly Petrie at 430-9294. Or visit our Website and record your comments there at www.stillwatertownship.com.

Comments on the newsletter_____

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Topics you'd like covered_____

_____

Mailing Address

Hello Neighbor. . . . . .

….. and welcome to the first issue of the Stillwater Township News, a newsletter sent several times a year to all township residents to let them know what is happening in their neighborhood. Inside this first issue you'll find information on:

- the township's new website
- special recycling opportunities in the next few weeks
- a new trail to be developed alongside the township's newest housing development
- current news
- whom to call for permits, permissions and information
- the sighting of an unusual wild animal in the township

Enjoy your first issue of the Stillwater Township News and let us know what you think of it, or what you'd like to see in future issues. Call newsletter editor Beverly Petrie at 430-9294 or email her at Beverly.Petrie@Stillwatertownship.com.