Stillwater Township News

May 2009

Farmers' Market will begin on June 17 at the Town Hall

The inaugural Farmers' Market in Stillwater Township will be open for business on Wednesday, June 17.

An array of vendors will be setting up tables to sell their wares in the parking lot of the Town Hall and will be prepared to return each Wednesday evening until the fall. "We'll go all the way to Halloween if people still have things to sell," says organizer Rick Jacobson. Not all growers may be at the Market each week, if the timing is not right for the items they produce.

Jacobson is hoping to have 10 vendors offering a variety of products. One vendor, Debbie Roth, has worked to recruit others. So far, seven vendors have agreed to participate, and Jacobson and Roth hope more will join in.

These vendors have agreed to participate so far:

- Costa-Roth Gardens. Roth is a local grower who specializes in organic produce and has farms in Stillwater Township and Grant Township. She has been part of the Stillwater Farmers' Market for years.
- Sunshine Barkery. Beverly Friendt, of Pine Springs, makes homemade dog biscuits and other items for pets.
- Mike's Popcorn. This Centuria, Wis., business makes caramel corn and cheese corn, and offers pint jars of homemade popping corn.
- Don's Specialty Greens. Lake Elmo resident Don Slinger offers organic greens.
- Vegetables by Kao Xiong. This Stillwater Township resident grows and sells vegetables such as peas, carrots and potatoes.
- Honey Pine Apiary. Stillwater resident Jerry Linzer offers various honey products.
- Deanna Buzicky, of Stillwater, will sell Natural Insect solutions and other garden products.

The Farmers' Market will be open from 3 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday evening. For more information, or to sell locally grown items in the market,

contact Rick Jacobson at (651) 351-0299 or email him at ***Rick.Jacobson@stillwatertownship.com.*** ***V***endors are charged $50 for the season.

Heavy Metal Day

Otto Berg Park
next to the Town Hall

Saturday, June 6

8 a.m. to Noon
rain or shine

Maroney's Sanitation Inc. will collect discarded refrigerators and other large items in a special collection for Stillwater Township residents. Electronic items, such as computers and printers, will be collected also, for a fee. But Washington County now collects electronic items for free. Visit its website at ***www.co.washington.mn.us*** for more information. For questions, or to get prices for items not on this list, call Maroney's at (651) 439-7279.

Household appliances

$40 - refrigerators, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers.

$35 - stoves, dishwashers, washing machines, dryers, water heaters

Other metals

Priced by volume, with $5 minimum - bicycles, car parts, swing sets, lawn mowers, etc.

(All nonmetal parts and fluids must be removed prior to recycling. Bicycles must have seats and tires removed.)

Tires

$8 - auto and truck tires, with rim

$5 - auto and truck tires, without rim

$25 - tractor tires

In the know

Check website for public safety alerts, other breaking news

Monthly updates and alerts have been added to the website, in an attempt to keep residents current on Township activity and events. Breaking news can be found on the home page and regular updates from the Township's Police Chief can be found in the "Public Safety" section.The township website is ***www.stillwatertownship.com.***

Township committee needs members

The Township's Communication Committee is looking for two more members.

The committee guides the preparation of the newsletter and updates to the website. Committee members are compensated for attending meetings.

For more information, contact Kathy Schmoeckel at (651) 439-6451.

Dog licenses are necessary

The current period for dog licensing started on July 1, 2008, and the licenses are good through June 30, 2010. All dogs that will be in the township for more than 30 days a year need to be licensed. Contact Kathy Nelson at (651) 439-0796 for more information.

If your dog is missing for more than two hours, call Steve Nelson at (651) 439-0796. Dogs that are impounded are taken to the Hillcrest Animal Hospital in Maplewood. The phone number is (651) 484-7211.

Sign up for emailed newsletters

The Township newsletter, which is published three times a year, can now be delivered by email. This delivery method saves the Township money and is ecologically preferable to printed newsletters.

Go to the website to sign up. Under "Newsbits," click on "Email: Looking to be Green?"

Burning restrictions are lifted

Spring burning restrictions have been lifted, but permits are necessary to burn brush. Hours for burning will be 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. Permits allow residents to burn piles of brush, leaves, grass or untreated lumber, and can be obtained by calling (651) 439-0796. A 24-hour advance notice for the permit is requested, and the fee is $15. Failure to get a permit will result in a fine.No fee is charged for burning piles of buckthorn.

Recreation fires do not require a permit and are allowed any time, except for rare occasions when the DNR imposes a total burning ban. Fires must be kept smaller than a 3-foot cube to be considered a recreation fire.

Reservations available for Otto Berg park

The shelter in Otto Berg Park next to the town hall can be reserved for picnics and other gatherings. The cost is $25 for four hours. Reservations are for the shelter only, and do not include the ball diamond. The diamond can be reserved during the week, and is typically used then for organized sports, but it is commonly used on a "first come, first served" basis on the weekends.

A new online reservation form is available on the Township website For questions, call Rick Jacobson at (651) 351-0299.

Beware wild animals

The township is home to a large population of coyotes and even a few bears. They are very active at this time of the year. Use caution around these wild animals, and be watchful of your children and pets. Do not leave food outside. Also be aware that bears are attracted to bee hives and bird feeders, especially feeders containing suet.

Restrictions on off-road vehicles

Four-wheelers, dirt bikes, and other off-road vehicles are not allowed on township, county and state road right-of-ways between April 1 and Aug. 1.

They are never allowed on roads or the shoulders of roads. The only exception is vehicles that are being used in farming operations.

When riding on private property be courteous to your neighbors and limit your riding times.

Skeet shooting rules

Skeet shooting is not illegal in the Township, but residents must follow hunting ordinances. Shooting is not allowed except on parcels of land five acres or larger, and there must be written permission from the landowner. Firearms cannot be discharged less than 500 feet from any building. And high-powered rifles cannot be used except into an allowed backstop.

Township will consider single-hauler trash collection

The Township is considering whether to enact a system of single-hauler trash collection, also called organized hauling. If enacted, the township would award to one hauler the right to collect trash from all residents in the Township.

During a recent board meeting, Township supervisors agreed to consider the move, which would require a six-month process of planning and public comment before it could be implemented. The first public hearing will be held on June 11 at 8 p.m. as part of a regular Town Board meeting.

Currently, two haulers operate in the Township: Maroney's Sanitation Inc. and Waste Management Inc. Residents contract individually with the hauler they prefer. Both haulers provide recycling services in addition to trash hauling.

Advocates of organized hauling cite these advantages of the single-hauler system.

- More efficiency and less energy consumption if just one truck—rather than two—makes a pass along each road.
- Cleaner streets if garbage cans are in view just one day a week.
- Potential cost savings by having the township negotiate rates.
- Potential savings on road repair if large trucks are traveling roads just once a week.
- Lower costs to the contractor due to economies of scale.

The primary drawback to organized hauling is that residents do not have a choice of haulers.

Residents are encouraged to attend the public hearing on June 11 to express their views on this topic. There will also be an opportunity for residents to weigh in on the township website at ***www.stillwatertownship.com.***

Do you recognize this place?

If you do, you might win a $25 gift certificate toward goods purchased at the new Stillwater Township Farmers' Market.

Enter our photo contest by visiting ***www.stillwatertownship.com*** and completing the Photo ID form online. A winner will be drawn at random from all the correct answers received by June 6. So don't delay.

The lucky winner will receive a $25 voucher to be redeemed with vendors at the new Stillwater Township Farmers' Market. You may also mail your answer and contact information to Stillwater Township Photo ID Contest, 13636 90th Street N., Stillwater, MN, 55082.

Also, in an effort to spruce up the Township website and make it more meaningful to residents, we are now accepting submissions of photos from around the area. If you take a great photo within the township, submit it to us and you might see it posted on the website. Just go to the website and follow the instructions under the heading "Photo Submissions."

Beverly Petrie

Get out the brats and mark your calendars

Last year's Township picnic was so well-attended and such a great success that the Parks Committee is already making plans for this summer's picnic. It will be held on Sunday, Aug. 23. Join your neighbors to celebrate summer and the satisfaction of living in this beautiful rural area. Check the website for more details.

Stillwater Township
13636 90th St. N.
Stillwater, MN 55082
www.stillwatertownship.com

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Meetings

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**.**

Township Board of Supervisors meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7 p.m., except for November and December, when meetings are held on the second Thursday.

Planning Commission meets as necessary on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

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

If you need.....

Burning permits
Steve Nelson
(651) 439-0796

Building inspections
Jack Kramer
(651) 351-5051

Park reservations
Rick Jacobson
(651) 351-0299

Animal Control
Steve Nelson
(651) 439-0796

Contact us

Township Board of Supervisors
Linda Countryman (651) 351-0714
Matt Beane (612) 590-6949
Jim Hiniker (651) 351-1867
David Johnson (651) 439-5448
Sheila-Marie Untiedt (651) 439-6476

Township Clerk
Pat Bantli (651) 439-9051

Clerk for Parks and Planning Commmission
Kathy Schmoeckel (651) 439-6451

Township Treasurer
Carol Collins (651) 340-7600

Police Chief
Steve Nelson (651) 439-0796

Website Publisher
Bob Ranalla (612) 819-8497

Newsletter Editor
Beverly Petrie (651) 430-9294