

City of Lake Shore

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2015

For Your Information

A Reminder to Lake Shore Residential Property Owners, the City of Lake Shore and the City of Nisswa has a contractual agreement for the Nisswa Fire Department to place Fire Fighting Equipment in our city hall garage. With this agreement we have created a FD Substation in Lake Shore. Beyond the benefit of having a rapid response to any Fire or Medical Emergency for our city, many Residential Insurance Companies recognize and offer premium discounts because of this agreement and the close proximity of the FD Equipment.

If you have had a new roof put on your home recently or within the last several years you might also check with your agent, it can change your rate also.

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Extensive roots on young sapling.



Impenetrable buckthorn brush 15 grows feet high



5 foot shoots can follow when stoops are cut but not treated

Buckthorn Spreads into Lake Shore

By Ron Faust Environmental Committee

While we look at our beautiful lakes and worry about future aquatic invaders, another highly invasive species has just crept in behind us in Lake Shore. Buckthorn is a fast growing shrub that can quickly grow into dense, impenetrable brush that prevents native trees and bushes from coming up. It grows thick in areas in the Twin Cities and is well established in Southeast Brainerd. It's just popping up in Lake Shore. I've found at least a dozen saplings in my gardens in each of the last two summers.

Buckthorn is easiest to recognize in the late fall. The leaves stay green longer than all of the native plants. It is easily pulled out at the one or two year stage, but gets progressively tougher to pull as it grows. Larger specimens have dark berries that contain 3-4 small seeds. Birds eat the berries, then airmail the seeds as far as they can fly. The native chokecherry tree, which does look similar, has one larger pit in the berries.

Larger specimens can be cut with a chain saw, but then the stumps must be painted with brush killer (tryclopyr, Brush-B-Gon) and removing the brush is often the hardest task. Untreated stumps can re-sprout as much as five feet the following summer. For questions about buckthorn, please check out the DNR web site or contact Lake Shore City Hall.



Berries become black when mature

Minnesota's Year Around Playground on Gull Lake



DUMPSTER ETIQUETTE

By Kevin Egan Environmental Committee

What’s wrong with this picture? It tells us that some Lake Shore residents do not know how to behave around dumpsters, both big and small.

As you know, we have a set of dumpsters at the rear of the parking lot at City Hall. These are supplied by Cass County to play a key role in the County’s recycling program and this recycling center takes the place of a curbside recycling program in Lake Shore. However, like all recycling programs, there are rules attached to the successful operation of such an important environmental effort.

As the City does not control the pick-up date of these containers, it is critical not to overload them. Given their small capacity, they fill up quickly, especially during the busy summer months. It is prudent to check and see if the dumpsters appear to be full before coming to City Hall with a load of recyclables. In our family, we try to stop by during the middle of the week, before the weekend rush swamps the dumpsters. Use common sense when placing refuse into the smaller dumpsters, which are intended to take cardboard boxes and other corrugated materials. Break down every cardboard container so that it lies flat in the dumpster; failing to do this fills up the dumpsters quickly and we are left with a scene like you see in the photo above. Please do not leave any refuse or recyclable material in the parking lot or leaning up against the dumpsters if the dumpsters are filled, as Lake Shore lacks the staff to clean the area. Take that material home and return when there is space in the dumpsters if they are at capacity; better yet, check for room before you come to the recycling center.

When using the large, multi-purpose dumpster, do not use plastic bags to transfer recyclables. These bags block the sorting process that occurs after the County retrieves its dumpsters. Finally, as the County still lacks the ability to recycle Styrofoam, do not place this rigid white packing material into any of the County dumpsters.

It has been suggested that the City consider enclosing the dumpsters in a manner similar to that required in other commercial developments. However, until that is done, some of the common sense suggestions will keep our recycling area looking presentable while still accomplishing its important purpose.

News from Living Savior Church

Living Savior has very successfully started a “Parent’ Night Out” the second Saturday of every month. **THERE IS NO CHARGE!** Stop your children by and enjoy a night out. Children 0-12 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. For all area residents. It is “Kids for Christ” and offers games, music, treats, stories and more.

The Church continues to work on developing the lot to the north of the Church for community use. A large and relaxing fire pit area is now complete along with an adjoining picnic area. The community is invited to enjoy a cook out and relax around a warm fire.

A playground area for kids and a basketball hoop area is on the drawing board and hopefully will be completed soon.

Living Savior is the only church located within the city limits of Lake Shore. Church services are 9:00 a.m. Sundays and Family Night each Wednesday. The Church website is: livingsaviorchurch.org

Property Watch

Property Watch forms are available at the Lake Shore Police Department or online at www.cityoflakeshore.com. A new property watch form needs to be filled out each time you are away on vacation or leaving for the winter season. This information notifies the police department that you will be away from your residence during a specific period and allows us to have contact information in the unfortunate event that something happens.

Reminder -- **Snow Plowing Across Roads** *--Reminder*

Lake Shore residents are reminded that it is unlawful to plow snow from driveways onto or across city streets or country roads. Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Accidents and damages caused by snow piles placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner. Piles of snow increase the chances of drifting snow onto the roadway.

What’s this Refuse Management Fee on my taxes?

Formerly known as the “solid waste fee”, the refuse management fee is charged to improved real estate and personal property parcels based on building type and classification. The collection of this fee began in 1990 to fund waste disposal and recycling programs in Cass County. The Cass County Board has historically supported a flat fee for funding these necessary services instead of funding these costs through the annual levy. This fee is uniformly applied to all identified improved parcels with an assessed value of at least \$1,000, based on the following schedule:

- Residential & seasonal properties \$ 66
- Commercial properties based on building value
 - Under 9,999 \$ 66
 - 10,000 to 99,999 \$150
 - 100,000 to 499,999 \$300
 - 500,000 & up \$500
- Apartment, per unit \$ 12
- Non-commercial tax exempt buildings \$66

Visit the Cass County website for more information, including the locations of recycling bins and waste disposal transfer stations.

POLICE NOTES

Radar Speed Signs

The police department now has a total of three radar speed display signs, two portable and one permanent sign. The portable signs will be moved to different locations throughout the city. The two portable signs were paid for by the National Joint Powers Alliance.

Medical Emergencies

The Clayton Houff Memorial purchased three heart defibrillators with cabinets for our area establishments. They were placed at Zorbaz, Bar Harbor and Cowboys. We are also looking at getting defibrillators placed at Sherwood Forest and Lost Lake Lodge. Each police vehicle is equipped with a defibrillator, oxygen and other necessary medical equipment. The police chief and the full-time officer are both Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) and each part-time officer is trained as Emergency Medical Responders (EMR's). Along with fire services, the Nisswa Fire Department provides additional first responder service for all medical emergencies within the city.

GCOLA

The police department worked with the Gull Chain of Lakes Association (GCOLA) providing an AIS enforcement officer at the DNR boat access to help protect our waters from Aquatic Invasive Species. The vast majority of all boaters were following the AIS laws and no one refused our inspections. The department issued only a small number of citations to more severe violators. GCOLA covers all costs of having the officer at the boat landing.

Zorbaz

The police department worked with Zorbaz in providing additional security on weekends and holidays during the closing hours to help keep the peace. It always amazes us how many vehicles are left in the Zorbaz parking lot on Sunday mornings. This shows how many responsible people now use our local shuttle companies or other means for a safe ride to their destination.

TZD Campaign

The police department worked with the Cass County Sheriff's Office in providing additional enforcement of speed, seat belt, distracted driving, and DWI enforcement on our county roads and city streets. Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) is a statewide campaign that has greatly reduced the number of fatalities and serious injuries on our roads. In 2003, more than 650 people died in motor vehicle crashes in Minnesota, and fatalities were projected to increase every year well into the next decade. That sobering forecast led to the creation of Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) — a traffic safety program whose ultimate goal is to reduce the number of serious injuries and deaths on Minnesota roads to zero. In the 11 years since then, traffic fatalities have dropped more than 40 percent, and the program has set a new goal of reducing traffic-related deaths to 300 or fewer by 2020.

Reporting Suspicious Activity and Crime

The police department wants to remind residents to report suspicious activity. With your help and action we will continue keeping this community safe from crime. When you help the police department, you are helping yourself from becoming a victim of crime. If you see suspicious or unusual activity, report it immediately by dialing 911. Even a five minute delay in reporting can significantly reduce the likelihood of catching the criminal. Do not leave a voice mail on the police department answering machine. Just dial 911 to get the Cass County dispatcher. Don't hesitate to call if you think something may be wrong or out of place. Think about what could happen if you delay or don't make the call.

PREPARING SEASONAL SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND CABINS FOR WINTER

Closing a septic system for the winter is a vital task for seasonal homeowners to prolong the life of the system and to keep it operating at peak performance. Precautions taken in the fall can help prevent a frozen system.

Winterizing the Pipes in the Cabin

Do not add automotive antifreeze, salts or any other additives to your plumbing. If you leave the water on for the winter, be very sure that there are no leaks or drips. This constant, low flow of water can cause septic system freezing. This is common with high efficiency furnaces. Even if the heat is left on, it is a good idea to drain water supply lines. Shut off the water where it enters the house and drain all lines. Drain the pump and then run a couple of seconds to be sure all water is out of the lines. Drain the system by opening all the faucets, leave faucets open. Completely drain the pressure tank. Flush toilets and add RV antifreeze to the tanks at the recommended dilution ratio. Check flexible hoses in sinks and bathtubs to be sure they are drained completely. Remove and drain inlet hoses for the dishwasher and clothes washer. Clear the water valve by starting the machine for a few seconds, then drain the tub. Remove the drain hoses, drain completely. Disconnect the electrical supply to the pump, water heater, softener, washer and dishwasher. Drain the water heater and water softener with a hose after power is disconnected. RV antifreeze can be added to traps in sinks, bathtub and shower drains, washtubs, floor drains and sump pumps. In the spring, re-connect all hoses and flush the lines out before using again.

Furnace

If you have a high efficiency furnace that is left on for the winter, be sure there is no water drip into your system. Freezing can result. Re-route the drip water to a floor drain, bucket or other source that does not enter the septic system at all, or enters in larger amounts. This water does not harm the septic system, but entering in very small amounts causes a trickle of water, which can freeze more easily. If shutting off the furnace, drain all water from forced hot water and steam systems unless the system contains antifreeze. If that is the case, call a plumber for assistance. If leaving the furnace on, it is a wise idea to conserve energy by installing a low-heat thermostat that will maintain the cabin at 40 degrees.

Cleaning/Pumping the Septic Tank

Consider pumping the tank if closing the cabin for the winter, or if it will only be used a few times during the winter. If you live in an area with a high water table, you should only pump out the tank if the tank was designed for high water table conditions. If a tank is left full but the system is not used for the winter months, the sewage will get very cold, and can even freeze. If the cabin is opened before temperatures in the soil start to rise, the effluent leaving the tank will be cold. By starting with an empty tank, you can then start fresh with warm effluent, which is desirable in the soil treatment area.

Vegetative Cover

Stop cutting the grass over the soil treatment area in mid-September. The extra grass length will help capture snow, providing insulation over area. This can help prevent freezing.

Protect the Soil Treatment Area

Keep all foot and vehicle traffic off the tank, pipes and soil treatment area (drainfield or mound). The only exception is the lawn mower. Do not plow snow off the area or store plowed snow over the drainfield.

City of Lake Shore
8583 Interlachen Road
Lake Shore, MN 56468

STD RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAKE SHORE,
MN
PERMIT #53

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

City Hall Business Hours
Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mayor
John Poston

Council Members

Doug Miller
Earl North
John Terwilliger
Krista Knudsen

City Clerk

Patti McDonald

City Administrator/Planning & Zoning

Teri Hastings
Police Chief
Steve Sundstrom
Public Works
Bob Heidelberger
Wastewater
Pine River Area
Sanitary District

**Regular meetings of the City Council are held the fourth
Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.**

Committee Meetings

Board of Adjustment/Planning Commission
2nd Monday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Environmental Committee

Posted on website calendar

Wastewater Committee

Posted on website calendar

Park Committee

Posted on website calendar

Members
Earl North, Liaison
John Ingleman - Chairman
Kevin Egan, Glen Gustafson
Roger Smeby, Tom Diemert
Alternates - Wayne Anderson & Pat Hastings
Doug Miller, Liaison – Kevin Egan
Robert Eliason, Lowell Naley,
Arla Johnson, Rosemary Goff
Alternates - Ron Faust
John Terwilliger, Liaison - Wayne Anderson
Terry Hanson, Andy Swift
Gene Hagen, Bill Schultz
Alternate - Chuck Bergquist

Krista Knudsen, Liaison - Betsy Egan
Todd Peterson, Terry Frovik, Steve Sundstrom
Alternates - Cindy Terwilliger



GET INVOLVED IN
YOUR CITY AND JOIN
US FOR A MEETING

Need to Contact Us:
Phone: 218-963-2148
Fax: 218-963-7562

Website
www.cityoflakeshore.com