

birchbark

Greetings Tri-Lakes Residents!

This is my first year as the President of the Tri-Lakes Improvement Association. I'm new to the neighborhood moving in during the summer of 2017 and my observations of the events was that they ran like well-oiled machines and there wasn't much involvement required from the President. According to Past President, Dave Carlson, I simply needed to be "the straw that stirs the drink". Well, I've taken on a lot more responsibility than I bargained for!

A lot has changed this year and there is a lot to communicate, so I want to share the state of the neighborhood with our residents in this Summer edition of the *birchbark*.

Even though all of the recent indoor events have been cancelled, we are still planning some outdoor events. This includes the Swim Lessons, so please sign up for those and participate! To ensure we're adhering to proper safety guidelines we have consulted the State of MN, the Washington County Public Health Nurse, and the Minnesota Department of Health. The Tri-Lakes Day Ski-show and Social will not be held this year. Please see update under *Upcoming Events*.

The long running socials hosted at our neighbors' houses are cancelled until further notice. Although the Adopt-a-Highway was cancelled this spring, we plan to host this activity in the fall—most likely in October. We were able to adapt our Easter Egg Hunt and Botanical Day to meet public health requirements and the July 4th Boat Parade will also be held. You can read about those in this letter.

Thank you to all those who support the Tri-Lakes Improvement Association with your help and volunteer work. Please continue to stay safe and healthy as we adapt to the times together.

Joel Gardner
2020 President



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WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

It's great to see some new faces in the neighborhood! There have been several homes that have been sold and that means new people to welcome to the Tri-Lakes .

The Welcome Committee reaches out to new neighbors with a friendly letter, but if you're able to talk to new neighbors, be sure to send them to our website,

tri-lakes.info, and also tell them about all the great events that the Tri-Lakes Improvement Association sponsors. Although the adult socials are on hold for now, the Swim Lessons and Ski Show are great opportunities to participate. Contact Deb Zeien at 651-353-2521, or debszeien@comcast.net if you would like to be on the Welcome Committee.



Tri-Lakes

“The Best Memories are Made Here.”

EASTER EGG HUNT RECAP

Coronavirus wasn't able to stop the Annual Tri-Lakes Easter Egg Hunt at Pebble Park, but the event was scaled back quite a bit. Thank you to Nicole Hendrickson for hosting this event again in 2020 and adapting to restrictions. The Tri-Lakes Association was able to deliver take-home Easter Egg kits for 12 families with 150 eggs in them. This was put together in record time, so thank you again to Nicole for keeping this tradition alive!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ⇒ **The July 4th Boat Parade** will be held this year. Please start loading boats early to be ready to go at 12:00pm sharp at the Lake Demontreville Boat Landing. Thank you to Jim and Jan Douglass for hosting this again this year. There will be fabulous prizes for the top 3 boats with best decoration. Stop out to show off your boat and celebrate Independence Day!
- ⇒ **Certified Swimming Lessons** will be held at the Hamerly Beach at 9429 Jane Rd N. Dates are July 13 – 23 Monday – Thursday during the timeframe for each age group. Thank you to John and Laurie Hamerly for hosting this wonderful tradition. There are over 40 swimmers registered and the class sizes are limited to 8 people or less. Go to the Tri-Lakes website to register or [Click Here to Register](#)
- ⇒ **The Water-Ski Practice & Ski Show** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the board of the Tri-Lakes Improvement Association voted to cancel the 2020 Water-Ski Practice and Show which was to be held August 29. The decision was made based upon the difficulty of monitoring and enforcing social distancing requirements during the practices & event, and the health and safety of our community. We thank you for your support and patience during this difficult time. The board is looking forward to the return of the Water Ski Show in August of 2021.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

The Neighborhood Watch Committee, with support from the Washington County Sheriff, began a Neighborhood Watch program in 2019. This program was started after some suspicious activity was observed and there wasn't a good way to notify the neighbors. This program fits in well with the Tri-Lakes organization, but could use some more help. There are roughly 750 homes in the Tri-Lakes area and the Neighborhood Watch program suggests a block captain coordinate 10-15 houses. That means to have a fully effective Neighborhood Watch program, we'd need about 60 block captains!

The key to success is outreach and communication. If you know who your neighbors are and how to contact them, it is easy to get immediate news to react to urgent situations. Some recent activity where the Neighborhood Watch has been helpful is looking for lost dogs and tracking suspicious vehicles. We also have a good relationship with Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Darin Ostertag who is the lead patrol officer for Lake Elmo.

If you are interested in coordinating with your immediate neighbors, please consider being a block captain. To get started, please contact Dave Carlson at dmcarlson78@gmail.com.



Neighborhood "Sign of the Times"

Actively bringing Tri-Lakes residents together to protect, improve, and promote our Community.

BOTANICAL DAY RECAP

The 2020 Botanical Day was held on Saturday, May 16 and was a great success this year! Thank you to Rachel Kusilek for leading the organization of this, the Olinger Family for hosting the location, and to Sharon VanDemmeltraadt for putting together some take home kids games. Over 40 families received bee friendly plants and lots of plants were exchanged from hostas and raspberries to aloe and irises. This is an annual event for Tri-Lakes members. If you weren't able to make it this year, try to stop by next year in the middle of May.

Stay Safe Tri-Lakes

GARDENERS CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Do you have a green thumb or at least like our neighborhood to look great? There are seven Tri-Lakes signs around the neighborhood that have nice landscaping around them thanks to the diligence of a very small group of dedicated people. This small group is trying to revitalize the support for this, so if you'd like to connect with neighbors who like to keep the sign landscaping in tip-top shape, please reach out to Joel Gardner at gard0158@gmail.com for more information.

2020

BOARD MEMBERS

Joel Gardner, President
Dave Carlson, Past President
Brian Pitzen, Vice President/
Communications Director
Elise Ostarello, Treasurer
Dana Bloyer, Secretary
Jonathan Early
Tom Burns
Debbie Dean
John Hamerly
Tony Nelson
Dan Olinger
Daryl Seifert
Karen Slakey
Dan Stoudt
Sharon Vandemmeltraadt
Lane Hinsperger

CONTRIBUTE YOUR TALENTS

The Tri-Lakes Improvement Association depends on a myriad of volunteers to make this a great neighborhood to live in.

If you work in communications, marketing, or information technology (IT), please consider reaching out to the Tri-Lakes Board if you're able to consult with your skills. We'd like to improve our communication to members to be more effective with our neighborhood outreach. If you think you might be able to help, please contact: Joel Gardner at gardo158@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you to all who have volunteered in the past and if you haven't volunteered or are looking for new opportunities, this is your chance!



Neighborhood Signs

You may have noticed some encouraging signs in place of the regularly scheduled events. Thank you to long-time sign committee chair, Mick Mohrlant for printing these out and hanging them around the seven neighborhood entrances.

birchbark

Tri-Lakes Improvement Association

www.tri-lakes.info
Tri-Lakes Facebook Page
Neighborhood Signs

"Living the Good Life"



BLACK BEAR SIGHTINGS

The talk of the neighborhood has been the bear sightings this June. This photo was taken on Hidden Bay Trail where it borders the Carmelite woods.

Sightings have also come in from Lake Jane, as well as, north of Tri-Lakes in Mahtomedi and Grant Township along the Gateway Trail.

For the most part, bears are after bird seed & berries. They should not be approached or provoked to keep everyone safe.