



# birchbark

Dear Tri-Lakes Neighbors,

2020 was a tough year, but what better place to spend it than in the Tri-Lakes Neighborhood. The lakes and trails were buzzing with activity and thanks to our many volunteers several successful events were held.

Although “canceled” was one theme of 2020, “adaptation” was more uplifting. The traditional Tri-Lakes Day and monthly neighborhood socials didn’t occur, but we did celebrate quite a few events. In particular, the Botanical Plant Give-Away, Swim Lessons, Boat Show, Adopt-A-Highway and Santa Visits were all smoothly executed.

One highlight for 2020 was the growth of the Neighborhood Watch Program. With more residents being out and about, it was a great opportunity to increase organization of this valuable program! Read inside for more information about the nine zones of the neighborhood and how to become engaged with your Zone Captain and/or Block Captain.

Even though the Lake Elmo Fire Department wasn’t able to “slip-n-slide” this past Summer, our Association donated \$200 to the Lake Elmo Fire Relief Association which provides retirement benefits to members and their dependents. We greatly appreciate the work that the Fire Department does for our community and their ongoing support of Tri-Lakes Day.

The Annual Meeting will be held virtually this year through Microsoft Teams on Monday, February 22, 2021. In years past, members have enjoyed complimentary drinks on behalf of Tri-Lakes, but this year we’ll be giving away gift cards to members who attend remotely. Details on how to participate are on page 2.

Thank you to all the Tri-Lakes residents who participated in activities in 2020. I hope to make 2021 the best year yet for the Tri-Lake Improvement Association.

Joel Gardner  
President, Tri-Lakes Improvement Association

*“Living the Good Life”*



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## JULY 4TH BOAT PARADE

The Annual 4th of July Boat Parade was another successful event on Lake Demontreville. The Pitzen family won first prize for their boat decorated as the “S.S. Pandemic”. This was a welcome bright spot in the middle of a quiet



*Boat Parade Winners*

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*“The Best Memories are Made Here.”*

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2021

### ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be 100% virtual for 2021, but the prizes will not be! Gift cards of \$250 to local businesses (Lake Elmo Inn, Gorman's, Twin Point Tavern, No Neck Tony's and Hagberg's) will be given away to members who participate this year.

To attend the Annual Meeting via phone, you can call 844-652-7942 with the conference ID of 322 967 587.

If you would like the video chat feature using Microsoft Teams, look for a link in a Tri-Lakes e-mail (to be sent in February) or use this URL:

<https://tinyurl.com/tri-lakes2021>.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

2020 was a banner year for the Tri-Lakes Neighborhood Watch Program. Our “neighborhood” is rather large. So it’s a challenge to get a handle on everything that goes on. To address this, nine zones have been defined to manage the block captains more locally, and provide a local point of contact who is not more than a mile away. Furthermore, roles and responsibilities of block and zone captains have been defined and added to the website. (Check them out at [tri-lakes.info/NW](http://tri-lakes.info/NW)).

You may have seen the program signs, but what does “Neighborhood Watch” actually do? This program provides a central point of contact for the neighborhood when something of interest happens. This past year has seen lost dogs, a wandering black bear, some isolated car break-ins and more.



The neighborhood block captains serve as a resource to collate this information and provide facts (not rumors) for the community and a point of contact for law enforcement.

Thank you to Mary Ann Warner, Daryl Seifert, Dave Carlson, Jim Arkell and all of the Block & Zone Captains for advancing this organization moving forward.

## 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Tubing at Green Acres**

January 31—Sunday  
(See sidebar)

### **Annual Meeting (Held Virtually)**

February 22 - Monday

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

April 3, Saturday 10:00 am Sharp  
Rain or shine at Pebble Park  
(See sidebar)

### **Botanical Giveaway & Exchange**

April 10, 17 or 24 Saturday (TBD)  
Rain or Shine  
Bring the kids for activities  
Location TBD

### **Adopt-a-Highway**

Early May

### **July 4th Boat Parade**

Lake Demontreville

### **Certified Swim Lessons**

Lake Jane  
July 12—July 13, Tentatively

### **Tri-Lakes Day & Ski Show**

August 21, 3:00 pm Ski Show  
Barbeque Party to follow with kid games,  
water slide and music.  
August 14 - Saturday  
Lake Jane

### **GREEN ACRES TUBING**

Tri-Lakes Day at Green Acres is scheduled for Sunday January 31, 2021 from 1PM to 3PM.

Free tickets will be provided to the first 30 members who register (limit 4 tickets per family).

Green Acres Tubing is a great local business and it's right in our backyard. Come meet some of your neighbors for this outdoor event!

To register, send an e-mail to [membership@trilakes.info](mailto:membership@trilakes.info) with the subject line "Green Acres".

*Stay Safe Tri-Lakes*

## **CERTIFIED SWIM LESSONS**

Thank you to Laurie and John Hamerly for hosting the 2020 Swim Lessons on Lake Jane this year!

This tradition has been going on for decades and is a great way to teach kids how to swim (especially in a lake!). The lessons are led by Red Cross Certified instructors. This year, due to covid-19 mandates, the class numbers were lowered from 10 to 8 students per class. However, we still registered 54 swimmers. Altogether, there were seven different classes which lasted for two weeks. At only \$45 per swimmer this is one of the best values in the neighborhood.

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

### **EASTER EGG HUNT**

The format for the Saturday, April 3 Easter Egg Hunt has yet to be defined.

Depending on conditions, a decision will be made in March whether to host a traditional hunt (with lots of people, presumably in face masks) or an "at-home" hunt where Tri-Lakes will give kits for members to hide eggs in their own yards.

Thank you to Nicole Hendrickson who will be organizing this event again this year. Look for more information on the website and via e-mail in mid-March

2021

**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

**ASSOCIATION SUPPORT**

The Tri-Lakes Improvement Association is a modest organization that depends on its members to provide financial support for its many activities. Thank you to all the residents, old and new, who returned their dues payments in 2020. Not everyone was able to see a return on their investment this year with diminished events, but it is helpful to view this as a donation rather than a membership benefit.

With the 2020 contributions, the Association managed to support things such as the Neighborhood Watch, Adopt-A-Highway, Lake Elmo Fire Department, Botanical Day and many other activities which improved our neighborhood and made it a great place to live in 2020.



*Nora Kusilek, age 4, participating in Adopt-A Highway in September of 2020*

**Adopt-A-Highway**

This program covers the stretch of Olson Lake Trail/Ideal Ave. from 50th St to Stillwater Blvd. Look for a date this coming Spring for Adopt-A-Highway.

*birchbark*

Tri-Lakes Improvement Association

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

*“Living the Good Life”*



Tri-Lakes Improvement Assoc  
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Lake Elmo, MN 55042

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

