

FREE

SILVER LAKE

MINNESOTA



2015-2016 AREA GUIDE BOOK

Welcome to the City of Silver Lake

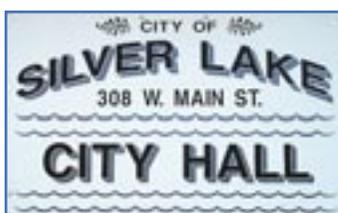
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City of Silver Lake

308 Main St. W.

Silver Lake, MN 55381

320-327-2412 • www.cityofsilverlake.org

Enjoy the small town experience

Welcome Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit and enjoy our wonderful city. Silver Lake has so much to offer its residents and visitors. For our residents, Silver Lake is a small town with many of the big town amenities. Lakeside Elementary School and the entire Glencoe-Silver Lake School District offer great educational opportunities for our young families.

Our community takes great pride in the fact that we have our own police, fire, and ambulance services. It brings great comfort and a sense of security to our residents to know that if ever needed, these services are only minutes away.

During the spring and summer months, there are many activities that range from biking along the soon-to-be-paved Luce Line Trail, relaxing by the pool at the Bruce Maresh Aquatic Center, enjoying some volleyball, basketball, or softball, or even throwing a ringer or two in the horseshoe pits. During the heart of the summer, we have a great group of volunteers that pull together and sponsor the "Music in the Park" on Thursday evenings, which in turn leads us right into our annual "Pola-Czesky Days" celebration the



Silver Lake Mayor Bruce Bebo

first weekend of August. If you are fortunate to be around for our celebration, you will get to witness almost all of our great organizations in action. You will be amazed at how everyone works together!

There are also many activities that take place during the fall, winter, and spring months. Some of those events are the Sportsmen's Club Turtle Soup

feed, a free will Thanksgiving Dinner for all, a Winter Festival that includes horse-drawn rides and reindeer, the Lions' brunch, Knights of Columbus fish fry, the ever growing St. Patrick's Day Parade, and the list goes on and on.

The thing that will jump out at anyone who visits our fine city is the friendliness of the residents. I would describe people of the city of Silver Lake as "strong and proud!" All of these events that I mentioned above, as well as many of the services, are only possible because of these fine people and they do it in many different fashions. It ranges from volunteering hours and hours of their time, to maybe donating funds if needed, to even risking their lives on a daily basis so all of us can go to sleep at night knowing that if a difficult situation arises, we are in the best hands possible. No one could ask for anything more than that!

Again welcome, and on behalf of everyone in Silver Lake, we appreciate you taking the time to visit our city and I hope you enjoy all of the wonderful things our residents have to offer.

**Sincerely,
Bruce Bebo, Mayor
City of Silver Lake**



Where is Silver Lake?

Silver Lake is located in McLeod County, south-central Minnesota. It is 50 miles west of the Twin Cities, located on Minnesota Highway 7.

Population: 837

City of Silver Lake

308 Main Street West,

Silver Lake MN 55381

320-327-2412

www.cityofsilverlake.org

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Cover Information

Photo by Brenda Fogarty

Main photo: A view of Silver Lake from the dock at the northwest shore near Cedar Crest Estate, Inc. Assisted Living Facility.

Publisher

2015-2016 Silver Lake Guide published by McLeod Publishing, Inc., Glencoe, Minnesota.

New to town? Some things to know

Utilities

Electricity — Xcel Energy

- Customer service, 1-800-895-4999

Natural Gas — CenterPoint

- Gas leak-emergency, 1-800-722-9236
- Billing, account set-up, 1-800-245-2377
- Website, www.minnegasco.CenterPointEnergy.com

City water and sanitary sewer

- New accounts, 327-2412
- After hours emergencies, 864-3134

Telephone — CenturyLink

- New accounts, 1-877-743-2907
- Repairs, 1-800-366-8201
- Website, www.centurylinkdeals.com

Mail — U.S. Postal Service

- Most city residents require a post office box to receive mail. Check with postmaster.
- Postmaster, 327-2155

Satellite Television — DirecTV

- New accounts, 1-888-810-7892

Cable Television — Mediacom

- New accounts, 1-605-697-5447
- Repairs, 1-800-332-0245

Refuse/recycling service —

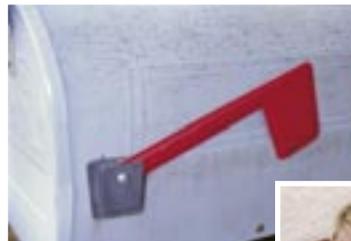
Waste Management

- Refuse pickup each Thursday; recycling pickup every other Thursday
- Recycling bins available at city hall.
- New accounts, 1-800-450-9378

Underground utility location —

Gopher State One Call

- Call 48 hours before digging, 1-800-252-1166



Some city ordinances to be aware of ...

The following are some of the more applicable city ordinances that people need to be aware of in Silver Lake:

- Building permits are required in Silver Lake for virtually any type of construction/remodeling project and these include plumbing and heating as well. Permit forms can be obtained through city hall. The city building inspector is MNSPECT and can be reached at 888-446-1801.
- Animal control ordinance states that if you have more than two cats or dogs you must obtain a permit through city hall, and if you have pets other than cats, dogs, or indoor caged pets, a permit must also be obtained.
- Silver Lake does enforce parking restrictions for snow removal from November to May each year.
- The city's blight ordinance does not permit anything that may cause a blighting factor within the community.
- Water/sewer utility accounts are handled through the city.

This is not a complete listing of all city ordinances. Feel free to contact city hall at (320) 327-2412 for more ordinance information.

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Silver Lake city staff

City administration



Kerry Venier
Clerk/Treasurer
327-2412



Kristi Mesenbrink
Deputy Clerk



Silver Lake City Hall, located at 308 Main St. W, houses city police, ambulance and public works staff. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, with the lobby open until 6 p.m. each day. The city hall phone number is 327-2412.

Public works

Supervisor: Dale Kosek, 327-2412
Gary Jerabek, Maintenance

Emergency contacts

Police Chief: Forrest Henriksen, 327-0108 (non-emergency); RJ Cripps, Police Officer
silverlakepolice@mchsi.com
In an emergency, dial 9-1-1

Fire Chief: Dale Kosek, 864-3134

Ambulance Chief: Duane Wawrzyniak, 327-2412

Emergency Response Coordinator: Christine Wawrzyniak, 327-2412



City signs welcome visitors into town. The signs were completed with funds from the city and donations by the Silver Lake Lions Club.



View of Silver Lake from Cornerstone Park.



Above, the Silver Lake Auditorium. Left, the water tower.

Sumter Mutual Insurance Company

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LARRY DOERR AGENCY	320-562-2428
HUTCHINSON AGENCY, INC.	320-587-4939
LAKE REGION INSURANCE AGENCY	800-635-0359
CITIZENS INSURANCE SERVICES	952-467-2535
LAKE CENTRAL INSURANCE SERVICES	320-274-8216
REMARK FINANCIAL	763-658-4936
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INSURANCE BROKERS OF MN	763-682-4517



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Silver Lake City Council



Mayor
Bruce Bebo
217 Summit Ave.
320-327-3157



Council Member
Ken Merrill
312 Frank St.
320-327-2793



Council Member
Nolan Johnson
205 E. Main St.
320-327-2990

Council meetings:
Third Monday, 6:30 p.m.,
and first Monday of January,
April, July and October

Contact council members
by e-mail:
www.cityofsilverlake.org



Council Member
Joshua Mason
9928 Hwy. 7
651-280-7247



Council Member
Greg Gillett
228 Century Ln.
320-583-7861

Other area city councils

Biscay (864-5024): Ray Urban, mayor; Jana Kunkel, clerk; Marian Knoll, treasurer; Tom Urban, Brian Moisan, Dennis Schwanke and Donovan Dose, council members. Meeting: Second Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Brownton (328-5318): Norman Schwarze, mayor; Ella Kruse, clerk/treasurer; Douglas A. Block, Curtis Carrigan, Brian Dressel and Tim Olson, council members. Meeting: First Tuesday at 7 p.m.. Fax: (320) 328-5318

Glencoe (864-5586): Randy Wilson, mayor; Mark Larson, city administrator; Daniel Perschau, Allen Robeck, Kevin Dietz, John Schrupp and Gary Ziemer, council members. Meetings: First and third Mondays

each month at 7 p.m.; Fax: 864-6405.

Hutchinson (587-5151): Gary T. Forcier, mayor; Matt Jaunich, administrator/treasurer; John Lofdahl, Chad Czmowski, Mary Christensen and Bill Arndt, council members. Meetings: Second and fourth Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.. Fax: (320) 234-4240; e-mail mjaunisch@ci.hutchinsonmn.us

Lester Prairie (395-2646): Andrew Heimerl, mayor; Marilyn Pawelk, coordinator/treasurer; Larry Hoof, Ron Foust, Eric Angvall and Robert D. Messer, council members. Meeting: First Monday after first Tuesday at 7 p.m. Fax No. (320) 395-2646

Plato (238-2570): Bob Becker, mayor; Gerri Scott, clerk and treasurer; VeeAnn Wood, Robert Pflipsen,

Jake Nelson and Dennis Oltmann, council members. Meeting: Second Monday at 7 p.m.

Stewart (562-2518): Jason Peirce, mayor; Ronda Huls, clerk/treasurer; Jim Eitel, Curt Glaeser, Chuck Kruggel and Kevin Klucas, council members. Meeting: Second Monday at 7 p.m. Fax: (320) 562-2518; e-mail: cityhall@mchsi.com

Winsted (485-2366): Steve Stotko, mayor; Clay Wilfahrt, administrator; Deb Boelter, clerk/treasurer; Bonnie Quast, Tom Ollig, Max Fasching and George Schulenberg, council members. Meeting: First and third Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Fax: (320) 485-2858; e-mail: clerk.winsted@tds.net.

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Planning for Silver Lake's future

Silver Lake will likely be focusing on improving the quality of its drinking water as the result of a recent communitywide survey conducted by the city's planning commission.

City Clerk Kerry Venier said the city conducts such surveys about every 10 years, and the city uses the results to update its comprehensive plan, and make future facility and utility improvements.

In fact, the survey done about 10 years ago resulted in the city focusing on obtaining an assisted-living facility for the elderly and disabled.

"In fact, we looked into starting a city-owned facility, but the cost was about \$5 million, and we'd never done anything like that before," said Venier.

However, Cedar Crest of Hutchinson was looking for a place for a branch facility. After considering a site in Dassel, Cedar Crest used the results of Silver Lake's community survey, and a feasibility study, to build a facility at the western end of Silver Lake, along the lake.



The city of Silver Lake has concentrated on street and utility improvements in recent years.

Not only did that result in an assisted-living facility for Silver Lake, but the city gained some lakefront property.

The most recent survey pointed to a need to improve the drinking water.

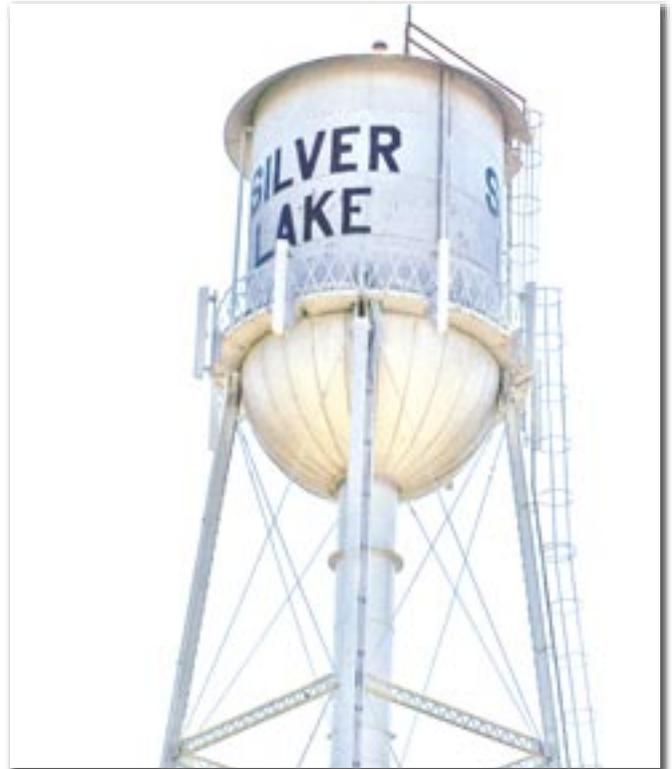
While the water is safe for drinking, it has some secondary issues, said Venier; most notably, a sometimes "rotten-egg" smell and an occasional rusty quality.

Venier said improving those cosmetic issues will likely be a focus after the City Council updates its comprehensive plan and capital improvement projects list.

Venier also said that the majority of respondents (139 were returned of 352 that were delivered, a 39 percent return rate), were home owners, rather than renters.

Venier said that most renters are elderly, and there is little turnover in the rental units in town.

"There isn't a lot of turnover, but there isn't a lot of vacancy, either," said Venier. "That may indicate a need for more rental units, especially for the elderly."



A recent community survey indicated a desire to improve drinking water quality in Silver Lake. Although the water is safe to drink, the city hopes to address odor and clarity issues in the very near future.

Another item addressed in the survey question is whether the city should concentrate on revitalizing the economy downtown along Main Street, or focus on development along the Highway 7 corridor, which bisects the northern part of the city.

The survey started with questions about individual properties and their conditions, and then moved into a segment to seek feedback on the services provided by the city.

"It gets into what you think about the city, and the value of the services offered for the taxes you pay," said Venier. "Whether you think it's good to have our own police department, ambulance service, that type of thing."

Venier said he was a little

surprised by the results.

"We tend to get the complaints here," Venier said of the city clerk's office.

But, surprisingly, the survey showed that most residents had favorable input on the services the city offers.

"When people actually put pen to paper, the results were kind of surprising," said Venier. "There is a lot of satisfaction with what we're offering here."

The most recent survey results are being compiled by the planning commission, which will make recommendations to the City Council on priorities, which will then come up with a comprehensive plan for the next five to 10 years, after which the city will re-evaluate and likely conduct another citywide survey.

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Silver Lake Lions Club

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Silver Lake Lions, PO Box 451, Silver Lake, MN 55381

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LIONS DONATIONS

- Lions Hearing Dog
- Leader Dog
- Youth Exchange
- Peace Poster
- Lions Eye Bank & Children's Eye Clinic
- Lions Club International Foundation
- Collect used eyeglasses, sunglasses & hearing aids
- Lions Hearing Foundation
- Journey for Service
- Diabetes

SPECIAL DONATIONS

- Habitat for Humanity
- Tim Orth Foundation
- McLeod County Historical Society
- Take tickets at McLeod County Fair
- Foundation for Children
- McLeod County Food Shelf

SCHOOL DONATIONS

- High School Scholarships
- High School After Prom Party
- Field House
- Close-Up Program

COMMUNITY DONATIONS

- Pola-Czesky Days
- Highway Clean Up
- Churches
- Cornerstone Park
- City Tennis Courts
- Lions Youth Football
- Senior Dining
- Fruit Baskets for Shut-ins
- Flower Garden
- Summer Recreation
- City Street Signs
- Lions Shelter
- Softball Field Restrooms
- Swimming Pool
- Senior Citizens
- Bike-a-Rama

Over 50 Members
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*We would love to have you visit a meeting
on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the
Silver Lake Legion Club rooms. Enjoy a free meal
on us and see if you would like to join*

Thank you Silver Lake for your support!

Silver Lake emergency services

Silver Lake Police

The Silver Lake Police Department is a proactive police department that prides itself on community-oriented policing, with its mission statement being: "To provide public protection from crime and provide services that enhance the safety and quality of life for the city of Silver Lake."

The department consists of one full-time chief, one full-time officer, and three part-time officers. Treating everyone in a professional, respectful, and courteous manner is what goes a long way for the Silver Lake Police Department.

Members of the department train and work closely with the Silver Lake Ambulance, Silver Lake Fire Department, and the Silver Lake First Responders.

Roles for the police department include things such as escorts for businesses, residential and business checks,



community events, and security for the public.

Residents may speak with an officer by calling 320-327-0108, or by contacting the McLeod County Sheriff's Office at 320-864-3134 and leaving a message for an officer. The police department can also be contacted by sending an email to silverlakepolice@mchsi.com. In an emergency, residents are strongly advised to call 911. The police department encourages residents to report any suspicious activity they observe.

Silver Lake Ambulance

Since 1970, the Silver Lake Ambulance has provided the city of Silver Lake, Hale Township and portions of Rich Valley Township with Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance service, responding to over 100 calls per year. Approximately 15 Minnesota certified EMTs staff the ambulance service, providing 24/7 coverage.

The ambulance is a 1995 MedTec on a Ford chassis. Along with the state-required BLS equipment, the service has variances, which allow it to carry and administer several potential life-saving medications.

The ambulance is funded by the city of Silver Lake, Hale Township and Rich Valley Township. In addition, the ambulance staff conducts an annual fundraiser for



additional funding for equipment acquisition.

The ambulance service meets every second Thursday of the month in the Silver Lake Auditorium. Anyone interested in joining the service can contact the Silver Lake City Hall at 320-327-2412.

Silver Lake Fire

For 125 years, the Silver Lake Fire Department has proudly provided fire and rescue protection to the residents of the city of Silver Lake, Hale Township, and portions of Rich Valley, Winsted and Hassan Valley townships.

With the strong support of the city and townships, the department maintains two pumper trucks, two tanker trucks, a rescue van equipped with the jaws of life, a gamma goat (grass rig) and a six-wheeler for the fire and rescue activities. The department also maintains a vintage 1932 pumper truck, which is proudly shown in parades.

Silver Lake firefighters are required to attend the basic firefighter course through South Central Technical College during their probationary first year on the department. In addition to their initial training, the firefighters attend drills twice a month and the department holds



monthly meetings.

The department is 28 members strong. In addition to drills and training the department is also active in the schools and the community providing fire prevention training.



Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2859

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SCHOOL FACILITIES

Helen Baker Elementary School

Grades K through 2 ~ 320-864-2666
405 16th St. E., Glencoe

Lakeside Elementary School

Grades 3-6 ~ 320-864-2500
229 Lake Ave., Silver Lake

Lincoln Junior High School

Grades 7-8 ~ 320-864-2455
1621 E. 16th St., Glencoe

District Office ~ 320-864-2491

Glencoe-Silver Lake High School

Grades 9-12 ~ 1825 16th St. E., Glencoe ~ 320-864-2400

Panther Field House/Community Education

1825 16th St. E., Glencoe ~ 320-864-2690

Early Childhood Learning Center

ECFE, SR Preschool, and ECSE ~ 320-864-2681
1621 E. 16th St., Glencoe

ADMINISTRATION

Christopher Sonju, Superintendent of Schools ~ 320-864-2498 ~ CJonju@gsl.k12.mn.us

Paul Sparby, 7-12 Principal ~ 320-864-2401
PSparby@gsl.k12.mn.us

Dan Svoboda, Assistant 7-12 Principal
320-864-2456 ~ DSvoboda@gsl.k12.mn.us

Bill Butler, K-6 Principal ~ 320-864-2666
BButler@gsl.k12.mn.us

Diane Schultz, Assistant Elementary Principal
DSchultz@gsl.k12.mn.us ~ 320-864-2500

Michelle Sander, Business Manager ~ 320-864-2496 ~ MSander@gsl.k12.mn.us

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GSL School District 2859


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12325 Zero Ave., Norwood Young America
238-2315 (home)


Anne Twiss

208 W. 18th St., Glencoe
864-3625 (home)


Kevin Kuester

13082 110th St.
Glencoe
864- 6477 (home)

Administration

Chris Sonju, superintendent

Lincoln Junior High School
864-2498

Michelle Sander, business manager

Lincoln Jr. High School
864-2496

Paul Sparby, principal

Glencoe-Silver Lake High School
864-2401

Bill Butler, principal

Helen Baker Elementary
864-2677

Diane Schultz, assistant principal

Lakeside Elementary
864-2501

Dean Schwirtz, activities director

864-2402 (high school)

Transportation

864-3032 (bus garage)

Tina Schauer, Community Education

864-2696

Alicia Beste, ECFE/School Readiness
864-2681

GSL School information

Central office, 864-2499; Fax: 864-6320

High school, 864-2400; Fax: 864-6475

Activities line, 864-2444

Lakeside, 864-2500; Fax: 327-3122

Activities line, 864-2555

Lincoln Elementary, 864-2455; Fax: 864-2475

Attendance line, 864-2488

Helen Baker Elementary, 864-2666; Fax 864-2682

Attendance line, 864-2688

Glencoe-Silver Lake Community Education,
864-2960; Fax: 864-2695

Panther Field House, 864-2690; Fax: 864-2695

Early Childhood/Family Education, 864-2681

District School Nurse, 864-2446

School Counselor, 864-2406

School liaison officer, 864-2473

Adult Farm Management, 864-2461; Fax: 864-2477



Glencoe-Silver Lake Lakeside Elementary School, located on Lake Avenue.

GSL: Continues to excel at many levels

The Glencoe-Silver Lake (GSL) School District continues to offer a formidable number of opportunities for its students.

Silver Lake is one of six communities — Biscay, Glencoe, New Auburn, Plato and Brownton are the others — whose preschool, school-aged and adult populations are served by Glencoe-Silver Lake School District 2859.

Consolidated in 1996 from the former Silver Lake School District 425 and the Glencoe School District 422, GSL School District 2859 also consolidated with the former Brownton School District after Brownton and Stewart dissolved McLeod West Public Schools in 2009.

GSL provides a quality array of academic, co-curricular, extracurricular, social, recreational and community programs and services to over 1,700 students in grades P-K-12.

The current grade level configuration of the school district remains Pre-K-2, 3-6, 7-8, 9-12 with educational programming located in four facilities. Helen Baker Elementary (Glencoe) houses the district's preschool and K-2 students, while Lakeside Elementary (Silver Lake) serves all district students in grades 3-6. Lincoln Junior High (Glencoe), grade 7-8 youngsters, and Glencoe-Silver Lake High School (Glencoe), grade 9-12 students, are located on a common site, along with the multipurpose Panther Field House, a newer outdoor athletic complex in northeast Glencoe, and an early childhood/preschool addition near the Lincoln Junior High.

The school district is governed by a six-member school board which meets monthly (typically on the second Monday) in the media center at Glencoe-Silver Lake High School at 1825 E. 16th St., Glencoe.

GSL's teaching, specialist, support and administrative staffs are dedicated to providing quality programs and services to the preschool, school-aged and adult populations.

Staff in-service training and curriculum development ensures the school district's staff employs "best instructional practices and current curricular (subject) content."

Christopher Sonju is school superintendent. Providing other leadership are principals, Bill Butler, Helen Baker Elementary; Diane Schultz, Lakeside Elementary; Paul Sparby, GSL High School; Alicia Beste, director of ECFE

programs and services, including school-aged childcare; learning readiness and ECFE programming; all day/every day kindergarten; and excellent programs and services at all organizational levels.

The school district's instructional programming is comprehensive in its design, preparing students for entry into the world of work, post-secondary technical college training, or university study, as personal goals and interests may dictate.

Course offerings at GSL High School are found in 12 subject matter disciplines, including agricultural education, art, business, English, family and consumer science, industrial technology, mathematics, music, physical education and health, science, social studies, and world languages. Qualifying students at the high school level may participate in the "College in the Classroom" courses, which offer dual (both high school and college/university) credit.

The district also offers students a progressive technology program.

Extracurricular and co-curricular programs and events, as well as a broad range of academic, club and leadership competitions, enhance the physical, intellectual and social development of the district's students.



GSL's commitment to academic excellence is evidenced in its Knowledge Bowl teams: in 2015, three teams qualified for the state competition; one copped the championship, and the other two placed eighth and 12th, respectively.

and pre-school; Jeff Jenson, director of technology and information systems; and Tina Schauer, director of community education/Panther Field House coordinator.

GSL has a strong reputation among school districts in central Minnesota for providing an appealing array of



Among activities offered at GSL High School is mock trial, which allows budding jurists to hone their legal skills in real-life courtrooms in front of actual Minnesota District Court judges.

Fire Department reaches 125 years of service

The Silver Lake Fire Department has reached its 125th year of service to the city and the surrounding townships, forming in 1890, when the city itself was just a year old.

Not much is known about the very early years of the department's history, with the first written records of the organization being dated 1898. According to the 1941 reminiscing of five remaining members of the pre-20th century department, members in 1898 included F.A. Stibal, the first remembered chief; Joe H. Phillipi, a secretary; John Vojta, a second elected chief; J.J. Mikesh, a pioneer merchant and likely the first elected treasurer; John Krejci, an early secretary; and Wencel Chalupsky, John B. Jerabek, Wencel Dubisar, Thomas Sherin, Jos. H. Lhotka, Vincent Halva, Joseph Halva, T.W. Hovorka, Joseph Zrust and Anton Trutna.

Some minutes were retained from 1900 and 1901, but after that there was no recorded minutes to be found until 1921, when Assistant Chief Jos. Chalupsky called a meeting to reorganize the department. And that it did: committees were formed to draft rules and bylaws, inventory equip-

ment and to figure out a more efficient alarm system.

The department met weekly until it accomplished all its appointed tasks. At its final meeting after reorganization, an election of officers was held, but no one cared to step up and be the chief.

According to the McLeod County History book account, which was written and compiled by W.O. Merrill, was turned down by candidate after candidate.

"Then, according to the records, Joe Lowy came to the meeting and before he could get his coat off, he was elected chief like nobody's business, and that cleared the situation."

Following is a list of those who have served as the chief of the department, from available records: Joseph Lowy, 1921-22; Joseph Kaminsky, 1923-26; George B. Chalupsky, 1927-1932; Will J. Halva, 1933-1940; Wilbert Merrill, 1941-1949; Pat Taylor, 1950-1951; Wilbert Merrill, 1951-1953; Leo Kaczmarek, 1954-1955; Edward Wawrzyniak, 1956-1985; Gene Wawrzyniak, 1985-2010; and Dale Kosek, 2011 to the present.

A new fire hall was built under Chief Edward



The fire department was once housed in the original Silver Lake village hall.

Wawrzyniak's tenure, and the fire department continues to improve both its training and its equipment.

Most recently, the City Council approved the replacement of a tanker truck for the department.

The 2015 department roster includes:

Dale Kosek, chief; Darrel Kaczmarek, assistant chief; Joe Ebert, secretary; Tim Grenke (EMT), Kyle Wawrzyniak, Brian Nemec, Mike Posusta, Gary Jerabek and Keith Anderson, training officers; and Mike Boyer (accountability officer), Wade Dolezal, Darren Dummer, Jay Hoese, Nolan Johnson, Ryan Kaczmarek, Dan Kieser, Todd Konen, Jon Marvan, Ron Posusta, Bryan Posusta, Bill

Schauer, Joey Schauer, Jen Venier, Kerry Venier, Eric Inselman and Jared Brecht, firefighters.

Plans are to celebrate the department's 125th anniversary on June 27 in the Silver Lake Auditorium parking lot (the event will be moved into the auditorium in case of rain).

Gates open at 4 p.m., and there will be car extrication and kitchen grease fire demonstrations from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Entertainment by the Highliners will be from 8 p.m. to midnight, and burgers will be served from 4 p.m. to midnight.

The department is holding a raffle in conjunction with the celebration.

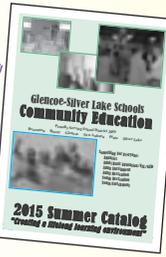


Pictured above is the current fire hall on Main Street, which was built in 1960.

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 under CommEd/ECFE tab

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Pictured, from left to right, front row: Britt Stepien, Sheila Czech, Dr. Shawn Knorr, Char Sullivan, Denise Lueders. Back row: Tanya Reichow, Bobbi Ehrenberg, Sheryl Voight, Karla Ardolf, Marilyn Vinkemeier.

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Pola-Czesky Days in Silver Lake

Silver Lake is known for its wealth of activities, from St. Patrick's Day parades, bean bag tournaments, and ice golf to Dairy Day, "Rock 'n' Roll" wrestling, and Music in the Park.

But the city is most famous for its annual town celebration, Pola-Czesky Days, a three-day event celebrating the community's rich Polish and Czechoslovakian roots.

The history of the celebration is a bit foggy — some sources date the beginning of the celebration to 1969 and, in other instances, some indicate that the event started in 1975, and that was the year the celebration was "revived."

That year, churches and organizations throughout the town received letters asking for representatives to create a planning committee.

A three-day format was chosen, with a Friday evening introduction to the celebration, the crowning of the royalty on Saturday, and a grand parade on Sunday.

Since, the schedule has changed a bit, but still main-

tains much tradition.

Today, the event still kicks off on a Friday evening with toilet bowl races, and on Saturday, the day is filled with a "kiddie parade," "kiddie" games, a flea market, tractor pull, street dance, and Queen's Ball.

On Sunday, the big day starts with the grand parade at 1 p.m. along Main Street, and after the parade, the royalty are crowned, with a street dance to follow.

Pola-Czesky Days buttons have been sold every year since 1976, becoming collector items for many.

Other activities of Pola-Czesky Days include a Polka Mass, softball and kickball tournaments, car shows, and history "roundtable" discussions.

There also is a variety of food sold at the celebration, including pork chops, chicken, hamburgers with fried onions, hot dogs, cheese curds, malts, mini donuts, and more.

The Pola-Czesky celebration runs the first full weekend in August every year.



The Pola-Czesky queen pageant is one of the highlights of the annual community celebration. The 2014 royalty included, from left, junior princess Katelyn Fiecke, ambassadors Jenna Lokensgard, Cortney Konen and Brooke Noeldner, and junior princess Meadow Askerud.



Toilet bowl races.



Kiddie parade.



Grand parade.

Holy Family Catholic Church

700 Main St. W., Silver Lake, Mn 55381

Rev. Anthony Stubeda, Pastor
 Rev. Paul Schumacher, Associate Pastor
 Rev. Cornelius Ezeiloaku, Associate Pastor



Saturday Mass, 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday Mass 8:00 a.m. & 8:00 p.m.

320-327-2356

E-mail: office@holyfamilysilverlake.org

Website: www.holyfamilysilverlake.org

Grace Bible Church

Non-Denominational

Dr. Tom Rakow, Pastor

300 Cleveland Street, Silver Lake, MN

(Next to the City Water Tower)

Phone: 320-327-2352

http://silverlakechurch.org

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- * Attend Vacation Bible School in July! Check our Web site for exact dates.
- * Look for our float and then stop in for a FREE ice-cream cone in the city park after the Pola-Czesky Parade!



* Visit our booth at the McLeod County Fair in August!
 "For it is by grace you have been saved" (Ephesians 2:8a)

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Silver Lake area churches



Faith Presbyterian



Grace Bible Church



Holy Family Catholic

Assembly of God

RIVERSIDE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

20924 State Hwy. 7 W.
Hutchinson
Dr. Lee Allison, pastor
Sunday worship, 8:30 a.m.
& 10:30 a.m.
320-587-2074
Fax: 320-587-7407
E-mail: assembly@riversidehutch.org
Website: www.riversidehutch.org

Non-Denominational

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

300 Cleveland Ave. SW,
Silver Lake
Dr. Tom Rakow, Pastor
Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.
320-327-2352
Website:
silverlakechurch.org

WORD OF LIFE CHURCH

950 School Rd. S.W.,
Hutchinson
Jim and Sheree Hall, pastors
Sunday worship, 9:30 a.m.
and 6 p.m.
Wednesday worship, 7 p.m.
Website: www.wordoflifechurchmn.com
320-587-9443

Baptist

BEREAN BAPTIST

727 E. 16th St., Glencoe
Jonathan Pixler, pastor
Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.
320-864-6113
www.glencoechurch.org

SHALOM BAPTIST

1215 Roberts Rd. S.W.
Hutchinson
Rick Stapleton, Senior pastor
Adam Krumrie, worship pastor
Tami Smithee, Student ministries
Sunday worship, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
320-587-2668
Fax: 320-587-4290
Website: www.shalombaptist.org

Catholic

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Rev. Paul Schumacher and Rev. Cornelius Ezeiloaka, Associate Pastors
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Sunday Mass, 8 a.m. & 8 p.m.
320-327-2356

E-mail: office@holyfamilysilverlake.org
Website: www.holyfamilysilverlake.org

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints

770 School Rd., Hutchinson
Kenneth Rand, Branch President
Sunday worship, 11:40 a.m.
320-587-5665

Lutheran-ELCA

BETHEL LUTHERAN
77 Lincoln Ave. N, Lester Prairie
Sunday worship, 9 a.m.
320-395-2125
E-mail: bethelp@embarqmail.com
Website: www.lpbethel.org

Presbyterian

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN

108 W. Main St.,
Silver Lake
Mark Ford, Pastor
Sunday worship, 10 a.m.
320-327-2452
Fax 320-327-6562
E-mail: faithfriends@embarqmail.com

United Church of Christ

FIRST CONGREGATION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

31 Fourth Ave. S.W.,
Hutchinson
Cindy Mueller, interim pastor
Sunday worship, 10:15 a.m.
320-587-2125
E-mail: congoucc@hutchtel.net
Website: www.uccwebsites.net/firstconguccchutchinsonmn.html



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Maresh Aquatic Center in Silver Lake

Every summer, the Bruce Maresh Aquatic Center continues to be the center point for Silver Lake recreation.

The Aquatic Center and surrounding recreational area is located near the northwest shore of Silver Lake. The area features a softball field, volleyball, tennis and basketball courts, horseshoe pits and playground.

The Aquatic Center features a beach-style entry children's area with play features, a 20-foot water slide and diving board, as well as an attached picnic shelter. The Silver Lake Pool and Parks Organization continues to raise money for improvements to the area and, in 2015, will be adding two "funbrellas," a 20-foot by 70-foot expansion to its pool deck, and two new children's fixtures, a frog and a turtle that spray water. Total improvements will cost about \$16,000.

Currently, Teresa Kuester and Gary Kosek, coordinators for swimming pool activities, are in the

process of developing a new pool schedule that will not only cater to children and young adults, but senior citizens as well.

Kuester and Kosek have arranged a swimming schedule that will offer designated pool time in the mornings for senior citizens, lap swim, and swim club. "We're hoping to get more seniors to use the pool," Kuester said. She explained that this allows seniors "quiet time" in the pool and it gives them the opportunity to swim with their peers.

Kuester creates a monthly schedule for the pool that offers specific times for each pool activity. "Everybody is so proud of the aquatic center. And they

should be," she said. "It has a small-town atmosphere and that's key."

The aquatics center was named for the late Bruce Maresh, who started the drive for a new pool and formed the Silver Lake Pool and Parks Organization in 2002. There also is a concession stand and security lighting at the bath house.

The city of Silver Lake hires a manager to run it, and it has Red Cross certified life guards. All the admissions collected go to the city for operation of the facility.



The Silver Lake pool, which is called the Bruce Maresh Aquatic Center, opened in 2006. It offers a zero-entry to 3-foot deep pool and a 3-foot deep to 10.5-foot deep pool with a diving board and tube slide. Also located in the recreational area are horseshoe pits and a baseball field.



Silver Lake area clubs and organizations

Silver Lake Sportsmen's Club

Purpose: To improve hunting and fishing opportunities around the Silver Lake area, and at the same time conserve our natural resources for future generations.

Founded: 1948.

Meetings: Fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the clubhouse at Swan Lake sanctuary.

Activities: Operates and maintains a clubhouse, sanctuary and aeration system all near Swan Lake; annual clean-up around shores of Swan Lake; hold annual fund raisers, including turtle soup feed; and sell sportsmen's burgers during Pola Czesky Days.

Membership: 13 officers, 150 members.

Officers: Bernie Koktan Jr., president; Dale Wraspir, secretary; Todd Syvertson, treasurer; and 10 directors.

Memberships can be purchased from any Silver Lake business or at the annual turtle soup feed for \$15 a year or \$150 for lifetime.

Contact: Bernie Koktan Jr., 320-327-0166.

Pola Czesky Days Committee

Purpose: Coordinate annual city celebration.

Founded: 1970.

Meetings: January through September, last Monday of each month, 7 p.m. in Silver Lake Auditorium.

Activities: All arrangements necessary to put on Pola-Czesky Days, a three-day celebration honoring Polish and Czechoslovakian ancestry in Silver Lake.

Membership: One member of every city organization that is involved in the event.

Officers: Cory Fouquette, chairman; Bev Hoffmann, vice chair.

Contact: Cory Fouquette, 612-328-3284.

GFWC Silver Lake Women's Club

Purpose: GFWC Silver Lake Women's Club is a nonprofit organization which addresses the diverse needs of the community and world. We promote education, preserving natural resources, encourage healthy lifestyles, work on behalf of the elderly and people with disabilities, and advocate for is-

sues concerning women, children and families, and support participation in the arts.

Activities: Club projects and programs address a wide range of issues: support the school by donating funds for library books and special education needs and providing a Teacher & Staff Appreciation Tea during American Education Week; donate time and funds in planting flowers by the auditorium; organize and help with the Silver Lake Winter Festival; provide a meal and entertainment for the senior citizen apartments; organize the Pola-Czesky Days Kiddie Parade; serve food at Music in the Park; hold a bake sale in the citywide sales; help with the Thanksgiving meal; Christmas projects for the Silver Lake Dining Site and Silver Lake senior citizens, plus many other activities within the community. We also make donations to McLeod Alliance for Victims of Domestic Violence, Guatemala Mission Group, and McLeod Emergency Food Shelf and Cedar Crest Estates of Silver Lake. We are also very involved in Operation Smile, the National GFWC project.

Meetings: Every fourth Monday of the month during September through May, at the Silver Lake American Legion Club room at 6:30 p.m. with coffee and dessert and meeting at 7 p.m. Each meeting features a speaker or activity.

Membership: Area women of all ages and professions are invited to join.

Contact: Call 327-2783 or 327-2249.

Silver Lake Enhancement Association

Purpose: To better our lake and community.

Founded: 2004.

Members: Over 25 members.

Officers: Gerald Quast and Bruce Bebo, co-chairs.

Memberships are \$10 per individual (over 18 years) and free (under 18).

Contact: Bruce Bebo, 327-3157.

Silver Lake organizations

Continued on page 23



Silver Lake organizations Continued from page 22

Silver Lake Lions

Purpose: To serve the community through volunteerism and support the Lions International programs.

Founded: Chartered Sep. 26, 1966.

Meetings: First and third Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Silver Lake Legion

Activities: See advertisement on page 4.

Members: 50+ members. Officers are elected annually and take office in July.

Contact: Silver Lake Lions, P.O. Box 451, Silver Lake, MN 55381.

Silver Lake Fire Department

Purpose: Fight fires, provide rescue services and First Responder Services.

Founded: 1889.

Meetings: Drills second and last Mondays and meeting on last Monday each month.

Activities: Established/set up gambling (pull tabs) to help fund the procurement of trucks and fire rescue equipment.

Members: 30. Officers are Dale Kosek, chief; Darrel Kaczmarek, assistant chief; Wade Dolezal, secretary; training officers, Brian Nemec, Kerry Venier, Kyle Wawrzyniak, Tim Grenke, Mike Posusta.

How to join: Contact a member.

Contact: Dale Kosek, 327-2860.

Crow River Sno Pros Inc.

Purpose: To have snowmobile trails in McLeod County; keep trails groomed and set up trails in the fall; take down trails in the spring.

Founded: October 1986.

Meetings: First Tuesday of the month at Major Avenue Hunt Club.

Activities: Donate to area schools, police and fire departments; hold picnic in July for landowners where trails cross; hold vintage sled show and swap meet in March; give out scholarships.

Members: About 100. Officers for 2013-14: Kyle Strobel, president; Chester Kiekhafer, vice president; Bob Kuttner,

treasurer; Brian Wosmek, secretary; board members, Ball Mathews, Ken Mathews, Luke Runke, & Roger Wersal.

Memberships: Due by Sept. 1.

Contact: Crow River Sno Pros, P.O. Box 123, Hutchinson, MN 55350; or email crowriversnopropros@broadband-mn.com

Silver Lake Ambulance

Purpose: Provide ambulance service to city of Silver Lake and surrounding townships.

Founded: 1970.

Meetings: Second Thursday of each month in Silver Lake Auditorium.

Members: 15 EMTs. Officers: Duane Wawrzyniak, chief; Christine Wawrzyniak, assistant chief; Terri Caughron, secretary; Ashley Ardolf-Mason, training officer; Adrienne Entinger, training officer.

Memberships: Must be a Minnesota-certified EMT; ambulance service pays tuition costs for EMT class.

Contact: City hall at 327-2412.

Silver Lake Senior Citizens Club

Purpose: To promote the welfare of all people 60 and older in the Silver Lake community and surrounding area.

Founded: Nov. 22, 1965, with 20 members meeting at the public school.

Meeting dates: Second Monday of the month, 1 p.m., at the Silver Lake Auditorium.

Activities: Meet once a month, county senior citizens picnic, Christmas party, senior day at the county fair, quarterly county meeting.

How to join: \$5 per year; must be 60 years of age, not just from Silver Lake city, but from the surrounding community.

Officers: Margaret Benz, president; Joanne Victorian, vice president; Tony Victorian, secretary/treasurer.

Contact: Margaret Benz, 327-2249; Tony and Joanne Victorian, 327-2344.

Silver Lake organizations

Continued on page 24



Silver Lake organizations Continued from page 23

Knights of Columbus

Mother Cabrini Council 1841

Purpose: A Catholic, family, fraternal organization dedicated to values and faith of the Roman Catholic Church. It is comprised of Catholic men, who with the involvement of our families, provide support for the church, our families, our community and our youth through charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

Founded: May 12, 1916.

Meetings: Third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in Holy Family Catholic Church basement, Silver Lake. Currently 172 members.

Projects: Service projects to strengthen and aid the Catholic church, our families, our youth, such as: awards banquet, KC family picnic, Pola-Czesky Days float, Pola Czesky Days Polka Mass, Pola-Czesky Days cheese curd stand, Holy Family bazaar tent set up, marathon for non-public education, lead the rosary before Mass, Masses and rosaries for deceased members of the Holy Family parish, religious Christmas card sales, fruit baskets for shut-ins, Christmas radio ads, Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest, family Christmas party, Blue Mass, free throw contest, turtle soup feed, Mass servers bowling, pro-life pancake breakfast, fish fry, Tootsie Roll drive, pro-life billboards, birthright ads, paper drives supporting community events, seminarian grants, GSL High School scholarships, ladies night and family night meeting; insurance available for members and their families, donations to Holy Family religious education classes, support and volunteer at Holy Family Catholic Church, support parish education programs, donations to high school students and activities, support a variety of organizations that support our community, and much more.

Memberships: \$20 a year; contact any officer or member for more information.

Contact: Bob Penas, 320-327-2122 or bobpenas@wildbluecoop.com; Silver Lake K of C 1841, P.O. Box 93, Silver Lake, MN 55381-0093.

Central Minnesota Two-Cylinder Club

Purpose: Dedicated to the restoration and preservation of antique John Deere two-cylinder tractors, their accessories, lore and literature, and the special place John Deere holds in America's agricultural heritage. The club has members from at least seven counties.

Founded: 1988. The club received its charter on April 22, 1989, and was the first chapter organized in Minnesota.

Activities: Since the beginning, club members participated in and displayed tractors and equipment at: the National Two-Cylinder Expo, the Minneapolis Branch House 100th anniversary celebration, Farmfest, North American Farm and Power Show, and area threshing shows and parades. Members provide assistance at the NTPA tractor pull in Hutchinson and, with members of other clubs, organize the antique farm equipment display and antique tractor pull at the McLeod County Fair.

Meetings: First Monday (second Monday in September.), 8 p.m., usually at the Silver Lake Legion. Some meetings are held at members' homes to be able to view their collections.

Officers: Rick Reiner, president, 320-587-5823 or 320-583-8054; Chris Johnson, vice president, 320-848,2448; Gerald Konerza, secretary, 320-327-2488; Gary Ahlbrecht, historian, 320-328-5587; Margie Kritzeck, editor, 612-720-0583; Cindy Pieper, membership chairman, 320-864-4484.

Membership: Membership dues are \$20 per member per year. To join send your membership dues to the membership chairman, Cindy Pieper, 11606 155th St., Glencoe, MN 55336.

Silver Lake Dining Site

Purpose: Provide a nutritional meal for senior citizens as well as an opportunity to socialize and play cards, bingo, etc.

Silver Lake organizations

Continued on page 25



Silver Lake organizations Continued from page 24

Founded: 1993.

Meeting dates: Monday through Friday, starts at 10:30 a.m.; dinner at 11:30 a.m., and the senior council meets the third Thursday of the month at the Silver Lake Auditorium.

Activities: Cards, bingo, dice games, music, observe birthdays and snacks.

Officers: Senior council is made up of five members.

Contact: Silver Lake Dining Site (320) 327-2621. Site manager is Pearl Branden, 327-2536. Delivery to homebound available. Delivery to home bound available. Call for reservation one day in advance.

Silver Lake Civic Association

Purpose: A nonprofit organization promoting activities for residents of the Silver Lake area, friendships and fellowship of its members, and enhancement of the community through various projects.

Founded: 1977.

Meeting dates: Third Monday of the month.

Activities: Easter party, sandbox fill, pillow cleaning, flower boxes for city, senior citizens' dinner, park and recreation program, swimming pool, bean bag tournaments, toilet bowl races, supporting Tim Orth Foundation, GSL Close-Up, GSL Robotics and other various programs.

Membership dues: \$10 annually.

Memberships: 36 members. Membership is open to men and women in the area.

Contact: Shari Schultz, 320-327-2763.

American Legion Post 141

Purpose: Fostering a strong national security, taking care of veterans, mentoring the youth of our nation, promoting patriotism and honor.

Founded: Oct. 13, 1919.

Meeting dates: Third Monday of the month, 7 p.m., at Legion Post.

Activities/Donations: Veteran donations; city of Silver Lake:

Fire department, ambulance, Thanksgiving and winter festivals, summer recreation, pool and parks, senior dining, lake enhancement, Christmas festivities; GSL: After prom party, Close-Up program, page program, military history class, robotics, two college scholarships, two nursing scholarships; Guatemala Mission Group; First Presbyterian: depression research, young adult summer camp; McLeod Emergency Food Shelf; kids' gun training (food and supplies).

Officers: John Otteson, commander; Tom Zanoth, 1st vice commander; Ron Paggen, 2nd vice commander; Gary Malak, adjutant.

Memberships: \$30 per year. Contact any Legion member for application.

Contact: Silver Lake American Legion, 320-237-2404; www.silverlakepost141.org.

Silver Lake area day care locations

Candace's Daycare

Candace Pierson, 211 Summit Ave., Silver Lake, 320-434-0408

Heather's Lil' Sunshines

Heather Stockmann, 218 Center St., Silver Lake, 320-510-2059

Michele's Day Care

Michele Ebert, 108 Century Lane, Silver Lake, 327-2834

Little Friends Daycare

Sandy Heuer, 217 Frank St. NE, Silver Lake, 327-2756

Little Hugs Day Care

Stacy Anderson, 640 Grand Ave., Silver Lake, 327-3067





Churches

- 1 Faith Presbyterian Church
- 2 Grace Bible Church
- 3 Holy Family Catholic Church

Recreation Facilities

- 4 American Legion Park
- 5 Corner Stone Park
- 6 Silver Lake Recreational Facility
- 7 Pool/Aquatic Center
- 8 Rumrill/Tschimperle Field

City/County Facilities

- 9 Auditorium
- 10 City Hall/Police/Ambulance/Public Works
- 11 McLeod County Highway Department
- 12 Fire Hall
- 13 Post Office

School

- 14 GSL Lakeside



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Luce Line Trail offers a variety of recreation

Silver Lake, in conjunction with the cities of Hutchinson and Winsted, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and McLeod County, is working on improving the quality of the Luce Line State Trail.

The three cities, the county and the DNR have all contributed funds in hopes of luring bonding funding from the Minnesota Legislature. Those efforts have proved to be successful, as the trail will finally be paved this year from Winsted at the eastern end of McLeod County to Cedar Mills, west of Hutchinson in Meeker County.

Silver Lake City Clerk Kerry Venier said that the city of Silver Lake contributed \$10,000 to the project; Winsted, \$100,000; Hutchinson, \$750,000; McLeod County, \$500,000, and the DNR, \$500,000. Those commitments helped attract \$1.732 million from the state Legislature during its last bonding session.

Venier said work on the trail will begin as soon as spring weight restrictions are lifted and heavy equipment can be brought into the area. It is hoped the paving will be completed by August 2015.

Currently, the Luce Line Trail consists of crushed gravel, and can be used for biking, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, snowmobiling, and skiing.

The trail, which is a 63-mile-long former railroad track that runs from the Twin Cities west past Cosmos, stretches across varied landscapes of metropolitan and rural Minnesota.

It is a preserved strip of countryside alive with many varieties of plants and

animals.

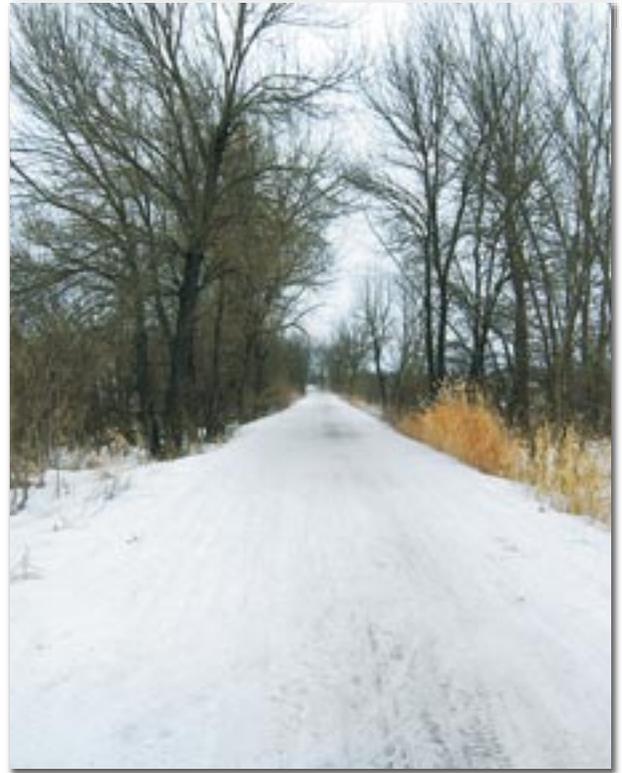
Rolling stands of sugar maple and basswood, along with many colorful plants can be found in the east. West of Hutchinson, the woods give way to remnants of the tall-grass prairie, with many prairie plants still visible.

The trail is also home to much wildlife, including deer, fox, mink, owls, and pheasants. The many adjacent lakes also support habitats for ducks and geese.

With the state bonding bill monies, the trail will be paved with a bituminous surfacing material, which will provide a superior surface for biking, rollerblading, walking, jogging, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.

Venier said that Silver Lake businesses that abut the trail, and those in other communities as well, “are excited for the opportunity this will bring for their businesses” in new customers.

The Luce Line Trail has been under the control of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) since 1976, and its “master plan” for the trail, written in 1998, has identified a large portion of this section to be paved to accommodate local needs.



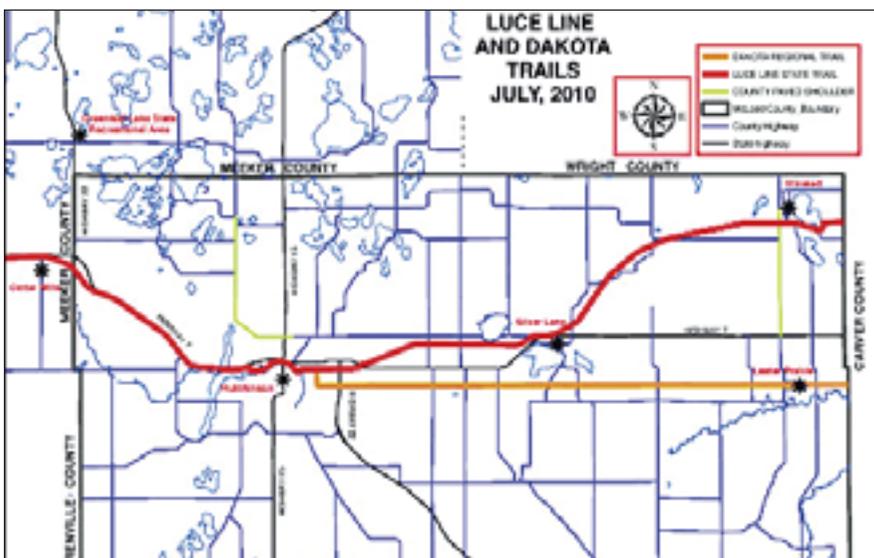
The Luce Line Trail, a 63-mile recreation trail from Plymouth to Cosmos is used for walking, biking, horseback riding and snowmobiling.

The paved 10-foot wide trail section would run approximately 25 miles from Winsted to Cedar Mills. Besides providing a variety of uses for nonmotorized recreational activities, the trail also would accommodate snowmobile traffic and provide parallel sections to facilitate horseback riding.

Key benefits of the plan include:

- Safer alternate routes for exercise and commuting.
- Increased options for physical activity to promote healthier lifestyles for adults, children, and families.
- Valuable means to connect users with nature and the environment.
- More opportunities for “trail connectivity” and use between communities.

Within Silver Lake, the city and organizations, such as the Silver Lake Lake Enhancement Association, have been working to make the trail system more “user friendly” by installing benches along Silver Lake, and creating a dirt trail in front of Cedar Crest Estate in Silver Lake, complete with a fishing pier.



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Silver Lake history rich with ethnicity, faith, industrial folks

Silver Lake's history can be traced back to nearly the beginning of McLeod County itself, according to information published in Silver Lake's 1989 centennial book.

Settlement of the area began in the 1850s after the Minnesota Territory was acquired from the Sioux with the Treaty of Traverse Des Sioux in 1851.

In spring 1855, a party of men consisting of Martin McLeod, Col. J.H. Stevens and others explored the area and founded the town of Glencoe, now the county seat. At about the same time, the three Hutchinson brothers chose a spot northwest of Glencoe and established the city of Hutchinson.

Silver Lake is known for its Czechoslovakian and Polish ancestry. The first Czechs arrived in 1858 and settled in Rich Valley Township east of Hutchinson. Some of the early family names are still remembered today — Kasper, Maly and Navratil.

During the Sioux Uprising of 1862, the Czech families banded together at the Kasper home, built their own stockade, sent out scouting parties, continued to try to harvest their crops and suffered no casualties through the ordeal.

The beginning of Silver Lake (once called Fremont) probably happened in the 1860s.

Like most communities, a need for a church and a cemetery played a role in the early establishment in the area.

The Czech Catholics established a cemetery at Bear Creek, about four miles

south of what is now Silver Lake. Though not much is known about the Polish migration into the area, people of Polish descent built a Catholic church in the village of Silver Lake itself, with the help of the Czechs, in about 1879.

The residents of Protestant descent began to hold religious services in their homes. Eventually, they formed the Czech Evangelical Reformed Church, finally building a church home in 1881 after a delay caused by a grasshopper invasion.

Also in 1881, the Silver Lake townsite was laid out by pioneers Jan Jerabek, Jan Totusek and John Mimms, who were operating a general store and saw mill. Eight years later, a petition was presented to the McLeod County Board to incorporate the townsite into a village, which was granted.

Surprisingly, Silver Lake did not fall to the same fate as other communities which were bypassed by the railroad.

In 1887, the Minneapolis Lyndale and Minnetonka Railroad was built through to Hutchinson. The railroad had proposed to come on the north side of the lake and through the town, and had asked for a subvention of \$6,000. But the businessmen and farmers were unable to raise this large sum, and the railroad line was laid on the south side of the lake. A Mr. F.D. Fimon, who owned the land, gave the railroad 60 acres and expected a town to spring up. This future town was often referred to as South Chicago, although it was rumored that a town of "Fimon" was platted. But to



Silver Lake's early history included a large variety of businesses and industries, including a creamery.

most people, it was simply known as South Silver Lake. A side track and a few stores were built, but the land was low and swampy and not desirable, and eventually South Silver Lake faded away.

The churches have always played an important part in Silver Lake's history. The Czech and Polish Catholics worshiped together until 1894, when Father Jiranek, a Bohemian priest in charge of the Polish church, took steps to establish a Czech congregation. The following year, the Church of St. Joseph was built and Father Jaroslav Cermak became its first pastor. A parochial school was established in 1930.

The Polish Church of St. Adalbert also founded a parochial school, much earlier than that of St. Joseph.

The first pastor for the Protestants was Jan Prucha, college student. He served the church in 1887-89, but then returned to his theological studies.

Later, dissension resulted in some members of the Czech Evangelical Re-

formed Church splitting off and forming the Free Reformed Church.

One of the oldest organizations in the area was the Bohemian Reading and Educational Society, founded in 1876, and which had its own building halfway between Silver Lake and Hutchinson. It maintained its own library of about 1,000 volumes of Czech books in the fields of history, politics, literature and philosophy.

Until 1893, the only public schools were rural districts, one of which had a schoolhouse not far from the village limits.

Then, Independent School District 38 was organized and a four-room schoolhouse was built on the shore of Silver Lake. In 1912, a high school department was organized and graduated its first class in 1914, with a total of five members.

The village for many years also had a bustling commercial life, with a brewery, a creamery, and many others.



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Mileka 5K Run/Walk Event

In 2012, the family of Mileka Hall, a 9-year-old girl who passed away from injuries suffered in an ATV accident, organized the first “Mileka 5K Run/Walk” in her memory.

Her mother and father, JoAnna Hall and Kyle Wawrzyniak, and sisters Brianna and Ashley, hope to organize the event each year, which is held Mother’s Day weekend in May, the weekend Mileka passed away in 2011.

“Mileka was always there to support me when I ran 5K races. She was my

cheering section,” JoAnna said.

In 2012, the event drew over 750 people. The event not only includes a 5K run/walk, but also a one-mile “kids’ run.”

“We wanted it to be a family event, so we are having a run for kids, too,” JoAnna said.

The event also includes a meal and entertainment, such as face painting.

Proceeds from the race go towards scholarships for seniors at Dassel-Cokato and Glencoe-Silver Lake high

schools.

“Mileka was a student at Dassel-Cokato, but we live in Silver Lake, and she was very much involved in the community here,” JoAnna said.

Before the races started, 100 pink balloons were released in Mileka’s honor, and the race routed along the pool, Mileka’s home, the park, and Silver Lake — a few of her favorite places.

For more information, visit www-milekasrun.com.





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County parks offer recreation options

Swan Lake Park

Swan Lake Park is located three miles northwest of Silver Lake along County Road 16. Its 82 acres feature a picnic shelter, fishing pier, grills, open-space activi-

ties, natural trails, duck pond, large stand of spruce trees and groomed cross-country ski trails.

The McLeod County park system offers services for everything from an occasional picnic to a full-blown camping and fishing trip.

There are six parks in the system. Two of those — Lake Marion Park and Piepenburg Park — offer camping, public boat landings, volleyball courts, softball fields, picnic shelters, showers and other amenities.

Lake Marion Park is located on the northeast corner of Lake Marion, north and west of Brownnton. It is served by U.S. Highway 15.

The 86-acre park opened in spring 1981. The land, which was formerly home to one of the larger mink ranches in the United States, was bought in 1975.

The facilities available include two picnic shelters and grills, a one-mile hiking trail, a beach (there is no lifeguard on duty), a fishing pier, boat landing, main shower building, camper dump station, playground equipment, volleyball pit and a softball field. Also, in season, there are groomed cross-country ski trails.

Lake Marion Park offers campers 36 RV sites and 14 tent sites.

There are many campsites available. Fees for campers who require electrical service are \$25 a day, \$132 per week or \$456 a month.

Fees for campers who do not require electrical service are \$18 a day, \$90 a week or \$307 a month.

There is an additional cost for air

conditioning hookups and use of the camper dumping station.

To make camping reservations, contact the caretaker at 11655 State Highway 15, Brownnton, MN 55312, 320-328-4479. The camping area is open May 1 to Oct. 1.

There is a \$35 fee to reserve a park shelter at any of the county parks. Contact the McLeod County Parks Office, 320-484-4334, to make reservations.

On the south edge of Lake Marion is the Brownnton Rod & Gun Club, which offers a boat landing, a picnic and beach area, plus a concession stand. Each Friday night at the clubroom, there is a steak, pork chop, chicken breast and pork chop fry. Shrimp also is available, as well as beverages.

Piepenburg Park is located on the southeast corner of Belle Lake. From Hutchinson, go north on Highway 15 to County Road 60, turn west and continue for 5 miles.

The park features two picnic shelters with grills, a red rock trail, a beach (no lifeguard on duty), a boat landing, a fishing pier, a main shower building, a camper dumping station, natural prairie, playground equipment and horseshoe pits, volleyball court and softball field — plus groomed cross-country ski trails.

The fees for camping and the park shelter are the same as for Lake Marion Park. To make reservations, contact the caretaker, 21104 Belle Lake Road, Hutchinson, MN 55350, 320-587-2082.

Reservations for the park shelters at Piepenburg may be made by contacting the county parks office.

Swan Lake Park is closest to Silver Lake, located three miles northwest of Silver Lake on County Road 16, and is 82 acres in size. It features a picnic shelter, fishing pier, grills, open space activities, natural trail, duck pond, large stand of spruce trees and groomed cross-country trails.

Buffalo Creek Park, three miles southeast of Glencoe (near the airport), is a little more than 45 acres and features a picnic shelter with tables and grills, playground equipment, open space activities, nature trail, duck pond, a large stand of spruce trees and groomed cross-country ski trails.

William May Park is located three miles east of Winsted off of County Road 85. Seventy-one acres in size, it features a picnic shelter, tables, grills, nature trail and a large stand of maple trees.

Stahl's Lake Park is located 6-1/2 miles northwest of Hutchinson and is 127 acres in size. It features a picnic shelter, tables, grills, a boat tile connecting French Lake to Stahl's Lake, a nature trail, a duck pond, a tree nursery and groomed cross country ski trails.

The hours at all the parks are from 8 a.m. to sunset.

For additional information, contact the McLeod County Parks Office located at the county fairgrounds in Hutchinson, 320-484-4334.

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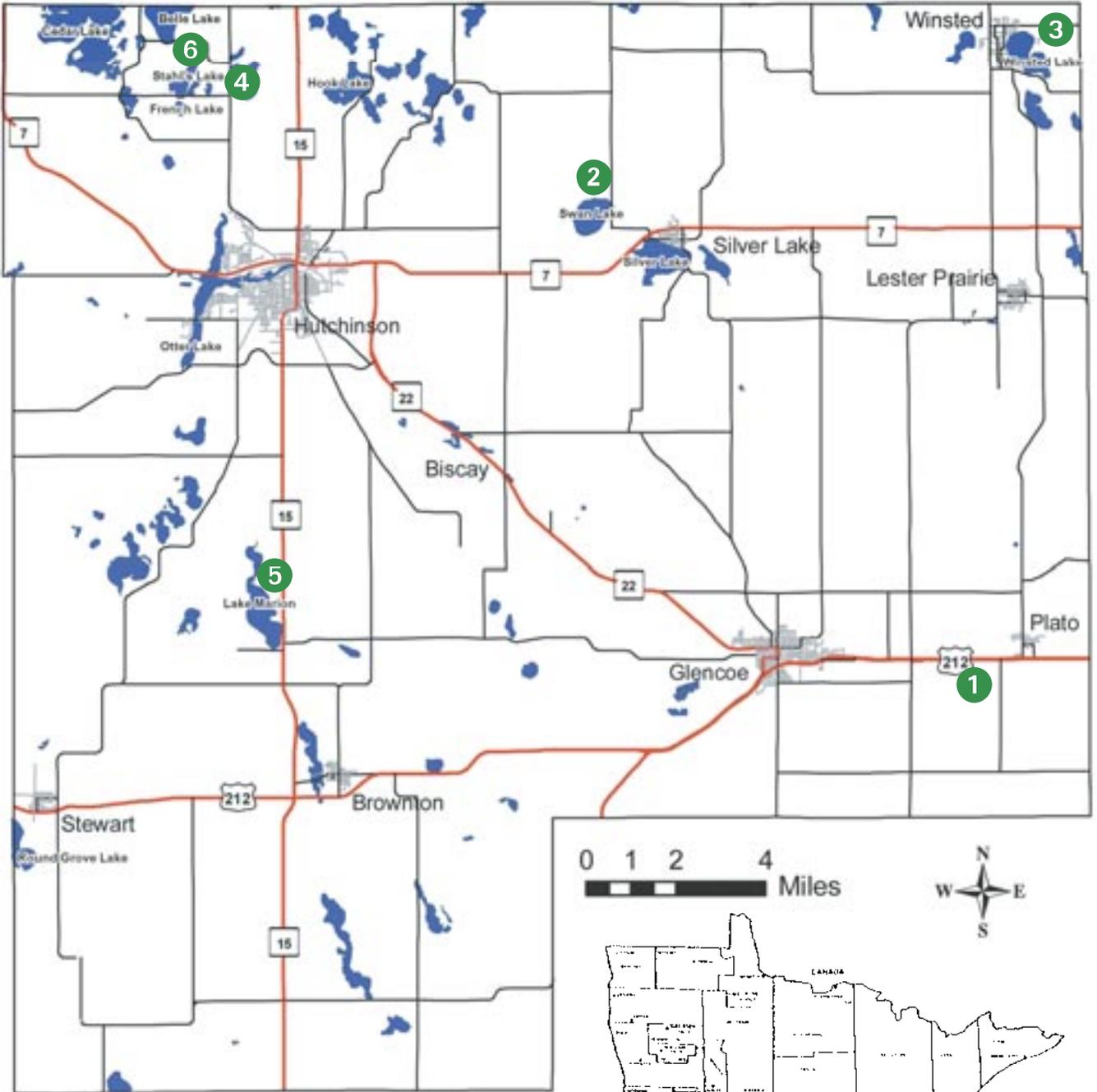
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- 5. Lake Marion Park**
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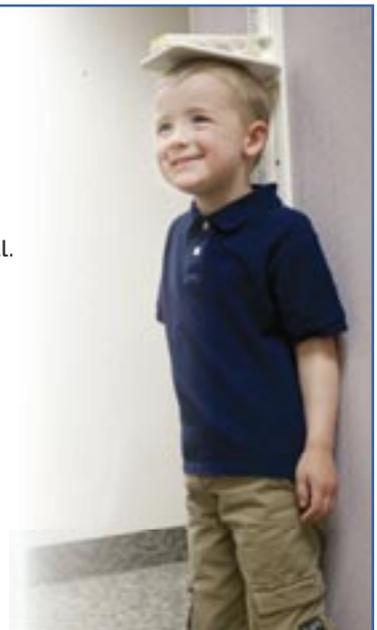
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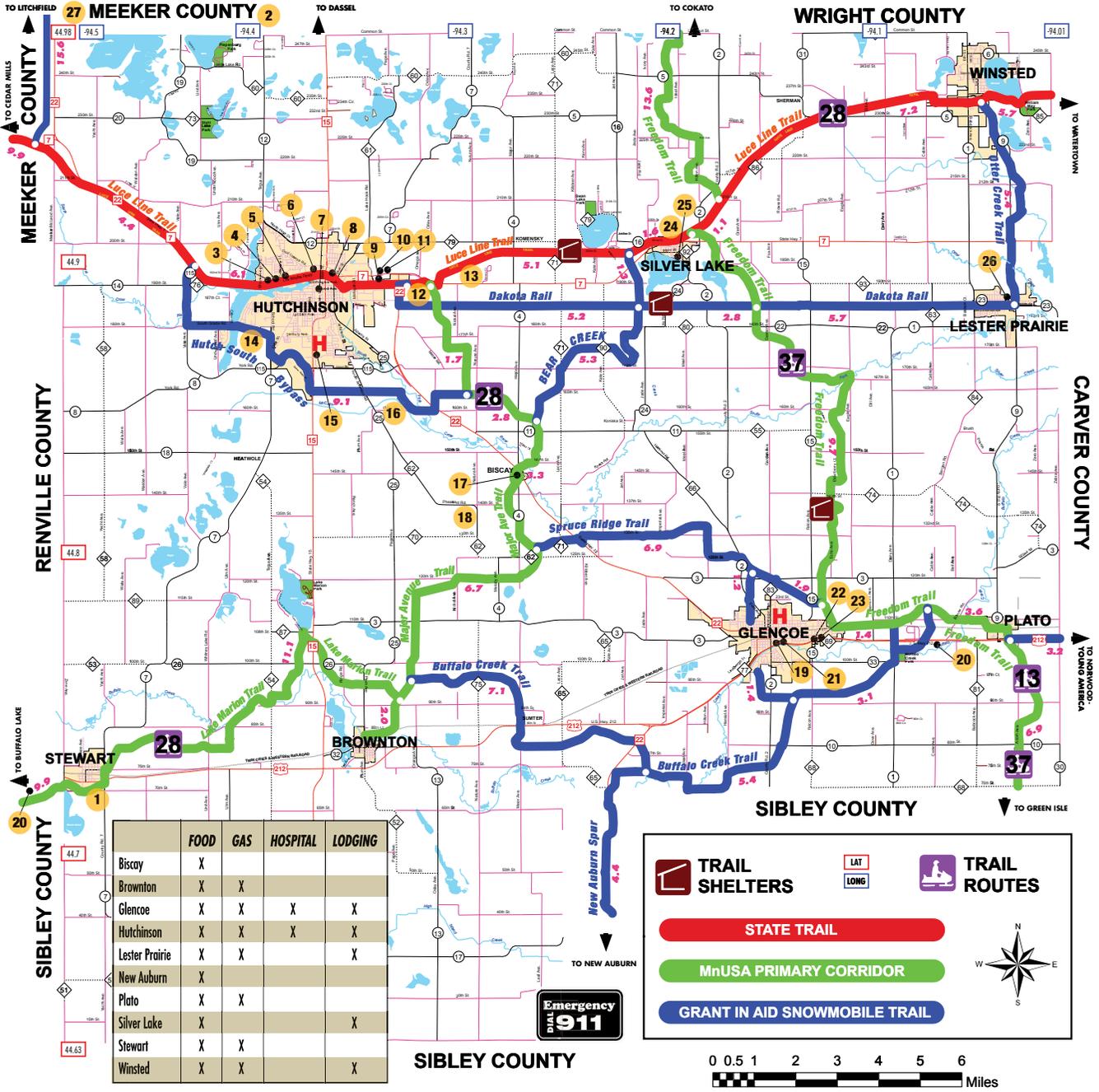
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Music in the Park

Music in the Park is just one of the many activities Silver Lake has to offer, and it is a six-week event known as a “prelude” to the infamous Silver Lake Pola-Czesky Days, the town’s celebration of Polish and Czechoslovakian heritage.

Music in the Park starts on the Thursday evening, six weeks before Pola-Czesky Days, and continues

each Thursday evening until Pola-Czesky Days begins.

The event is held at the Legion Park in Silver Lake, and is organized by volunteers, Ray and Sharon Bandas and DeNeil and Lisa Thompson.

The couples book bands for each evening, and organizations serve a meal each Thursday before the music begins.

Music ranges from old-time polka music to the “Big Band” sound of the 1950s.

Several businesses, organizations, and individuals also donate prizes for the event, and nearly 75 win-

ners are drawn each week.

The event is free and open to the public. So bring your friends, a few lawn chairs, and come enjoy a hot meal and some good music!



McLeod County committees, commissions

Adult Training & Rehabilitation: Christine Davis, Glencoe; Nancy Krcil, Glencoe; Charlotte Knick, Brownton; Cheryl Beilke, Hutchinson; Gerard Stifter, Winsted; Richard Schimmel, Mayer; and James Fahey, Hutchinson.

Board of Adjustment: Curtis Carrigan, Brownton; Les Engelmann, Plato; Ron Mickolich, Silver Lake; Chuck Hausladen, Hutchinson; Robert Doerr, Stewart; Marc Telecky and Larry Gasow, zoning department.

Board of Health: County commissioners Ron Shimanski, Doug Krueger, Paul Wright, Sheldon Nies and Joe Nagel.

Buffalo Creek Watershed managers: Matt Melberg, Hector; Scott Lang, Buffalo Lake; Donald Belter, Glencoe; Larry Phillips, Glencoe; Corey Henke, Stewart.

Crow River Joint Powers Board: Commissioner Doug Krueger, McLeod County; Mike Housman, Meeker County; Paul Setzpfandt, Renville County; Jeff Johnson, Hennepin County; Larry Lindor, Pope County; Charlie Borrell, Wright County; Tim Lynch, Carver County; Roger Imdieke, Kandiyohi County; Joy Cohrs, Sibley County; Jeff Mergen, Stearns County.

Ditch inspector: Roger Berggren, McLeod County environmentalist.

Ditch committee: David Dostal, Silver Lake; Larry Phillips, Glencoe; Steve Reiner, Hutchinson; Francis Svoboda, Hutchinson; Scott Streich, Stewart; Roger Berggren, county environmentalist; Cindy Schultz, auditor/treasurer; Christy Christensen, GIS director.

Environmental Services advisory committee: Corey Henke, Buffalo Creek Watershed; Kevin Lindeman, Brownton; Charles Mathews, SWCD; Skip Quade, Hutchinson; Virgil Voigt, Hutchinson; Donald Albrecht, Brownton; Lee Sundmark, DNR; Adam Bielke, BWSR; Jeremy Moul, BWSR; Clayton Schmitz, NRCS; Nathan Winter, Extension; Ryan Freitag, SWCD; Roger Berggren, environmentalist.

Extension committee: Marian Filk, Hutchinson; Scott Streich, Stewart; Sara Andersen, Hutchinson; Neal DeMars, Winsted; Carla Kuehn, Plato; Neal DeMars, Winsted; Becky Kobow, Hutchinson; Rachel Stender, Hutchinson; Casey Schulz, Glencoe; Cindy Schultz, county auditor-treasurer; commissioners Paul Wright and Kermit Terlinden.

Fairgrounds commission: Jerry Schimelpfenig, Glencoe; Scott Ziegler, Hutchinson; Tim Ulrich, Hutchinson; Marian Filk, Hutchinson; Jill Grams, Extension educator; Al Koglin, parks director; Randy Starke, fairgrounds manager; Casey Walters, fair manager; commissioners Paul Wright



Along with the main Courthouse, McLeod County has other office buildings, including this one on Hennepin Avenue North.

and Joe Nagel.

Feedlot subcommittee to Environmental Services advisory committee: Kevin Lindeman, Brownton; Jim Hueser, Glencoe; Virgil Voigt, Hutchinson; Roger Engelmann, Plato; Dale Hegland, Glencoe; Chris Hutton; Commissioner Paul Wright; Ryan Freitag, SWCD; Clayton Schmitz, NRCS; Roger Berggren, environmentalist; Nathan Winter Extension; Larry Gasow, zoning administrator.

High Island Watershed managers: Vernon Schlueter, Arlington; Leonard Eibs, Henderson; Dwight Swanson, Hector; Herman Miller, Brownton; Orville Polzin, Gaylord.

McLeod County Public Health Advisory: Chris Sonju, Glencoe; Barb Max, Hutchinson; Genevieve Lhotka, Silver Lake; Joan Ewald, Brownton; Dr. Catherine McGinnis, Hutchinson; Bev Fritz-Hults, Glencoe; commissioners Sheldon Nies and Bev Wangerin.

Hike and Bike Trail: Gary Lenz, Winsted; Heidi Pflipsen, Plato; Martin Briggs, Hutchinson; Larry Mulenburg, Glencoe; Ed Doring, Hutchinson.

McLeod County HRA: James Mills, Hutchinson; Charles Lemke, Glencoe; James Lindeman, Brownton; Dorothy Merrill, Silver Lake; Otto Templin, Hutchinson; Commissioner Doug Krueger.

Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS): Commissioner Joe Nagel; Curtis Carrigan, Brownton; William Hard, Hutchinson; Mark Johnson, Plato; Robert Billiet, Hutchinson; Paul Merkins, Stewart; Donald Albrecht, Brownton; Robert Heil, Brownton; Nathan Winter, Extension educa-

tor; Roger Berggren, environmentalist; Larry Gasow, zoning administrator.

McLeod For Tomorrow: Joe Nagel, commissioner; Pat Melvin, county administrator; Mary Jo Wieseler, human resources; Casey Walters, coordinator

McLeod Treatment Program, Inc.: Chester Hoernemann, Glencoe; Bev Wangerin, Hutchinson; Shirley Nowak, Glencoe; Joseph Neubauer, Hutchinson; Gloria Hilgers, Glencoe; commissioners Ron Shimanski and Joe Nagel.

Noxious weeds appeal committee: Commissioners Paul Wright, Sheldon Nies, Ron Shimanski, Doug Krueger and Joe Nagel; Michael Laxen, Winsted.

Parks commission: Brad Duesterhoeft, Hutchinson; Ryan Lemke, Glencoe; Tom Prieve, Hutchinson; Dan Rickert, Brownton; Jerome Thiemann; Doug Krueger, commissioner.

Planning Advisory Commission: Paul Merkins, Stewart; Curtis Carrigan, Brownton; Larry Phillips, Glencoe; William Hard, Hutchinson; commissioner Ron Shimanski; Larry Gasow, zoning administrator.

Trailblazer Transit Joint Powers Board: McLeod County commissioners, Ron Shimanski, Sheldon Nies and Doug Krueger; Sibley County commissioners, Jim Swanson and Bill Pinske; Wright County Area Transit (WCAT) representatives, Jack Russek and Lynn Kissok.

McLeod County

2014 population: 36,651

County seat: Glencoe

General Telephone: 320-864-3410

Size: 503 square miles; 311,388 acres

Township roads: 465.35 miles

County roads: 401

State highways: 102 miles

Townships: 14 (Glencoe, Helen, Bergen, Acoma, Rich Valley, Collins, Sumter, Round Grove, Penn, Lynn, Hassan Valley, Hutchinson, Hale and Winsted.)

Cities: Nine (Biscay, Brownton, Glencoe, Hutchinson, Lester Prairie, Plato, Silver Lake, Stewart and Winsted).



Ron Shimanski
1st District
23808 Jet Ave.,
Silver Lake
327-0112



Sheldon Nies,
4th District
1118 S. Jefferson St.,
Hutchinson
587-5117



Doug Krueger,
2nd District
9525 Co. Rd. 2.,
Glencoe
864-5944



Joe Nagel,
5th District
20849 196th Rd.,
Hutchinson
587-8693



Paul Wright,
3rd District
15215 County Road 7,
Hutchinson
587-7332

Elected county officials



Cindy Schultz,
Auditor/Treasurer
Glencoe
Office: 864-1263



Scott Rehmann
Sheriff
Winsted
Office: 864-3134



Michael K. Junge
Attorney
Hutchinson
Office: 864-1265



LynnEtte Schrupp
Recorder
Glencoe
Office: 864-1327



Michael Savre
Glencoe
Office: 864-1284



Terry Conkel
Glencoe
Office: 864-1281

McLeod County District Court judges

Appointed office heads

Pat Melvin, county administrator
Office: 864-1363, Hutchinson

Karen Messner, court administrator
Office: 864-1285, Glencoe

Dr. Quinn Strobl, county coroner
Midwest Forensic Pathology
Office: 763-236-9050, Coon Rapids

Jeff Rausch, county surveyor
Office: 587-4789, Hutchinson

Gary Sprynczynatyk, social services
director
Office: 864-1395

John Brunkhorst, county highway engineer
Office: 320-484-4321, Hutchinson

Sue Schulz, county assessor
Office: 864-1255, Glencoe

James Lauer, veterans officer
Office: 864-1268, Glencoe

Kevin Mathews, emergency services
director
Office: 864-1339, Glencoe

Nathan Winter, county extension director
Office: 320-484-4334, Hutchinson

Allan Koglin, agricultural inspector
Office: 320-484-4334, Hutchinson

Vacant, public health director
Office: 864-1373, Glencoe

Ed Homan Jr., solid waste director
Office: 320-484-4316, Hutchinson

Allan Koglin, parks superintendent
Office: 320-484-4334, Hutchinson

Scott Grivna, buildings supervisor
Office: 864-1221, Glencoe

Larry Gasow, zoning administrator
Office: 864-1218, Hutchinson

Roger Berggren, environmentalist
Office: 864-1214, Glencoe

Vincent Traver, information technology
Office: 864-1325, Glencoe

Jill Grams, 4-H program coordinator
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Surrounding area celebrations

- * Brownnton's Cabin Fever Days, February.
- * Winsted's Winstock, second weekend in June.
- * Hutchinson Water Carnival, third weekend in June.
- * Hamburg Zummerfest, third weekend in June.
- * Glencoe Days, fourth weekend in June.
- * Stewartfest, fourth weekend in June.
- * New Auburn Fourth of July.
- * Plato's White Squirrel Days, second weekend in July.
- * Lester Prairie's Prairie Days, third weekend in July, Friday-Saturday.
- * Silver Lake Pola-Czesky Days, first weekend in August.
- * Sibley County Fair, first weekend in August (Wednesday-Sunday).
- * Carver County Fair, second weekend in August (Wednesday-Sunday).
- * McLeod County Fair, third weekend in August (Wednesday-Sunday).
- * Renville County Fair, third weekend in August (Wednesday-Saturday).
- * Norwood Young America Stiftungfest, fourth weekend in August.

(These are approximate dates that are subject to change from year to year.)



**Brownnton's Cabin Fever Days
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McLeod County Fair



Glencoe Days "Beep Ball"

Stewartfest pedal pull



Plato White Squirrel Days





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 E-mail: sen.scott.newman@senate.mn

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Acoma Township (587-6471): Corrinne Schlueter, clerk; Gary Graham, treasurer; Lynn Splittergerber, Ron Rusch and Larry Karg, supervisors. Meetings: Second Thursday, 7 p.m.

Bergen Township (395-0173): Amy Meyer, clerk; Angela Leverich, treasurer; Albert Teubert, Sheldon Ehrke and Francis Burch, supervisors. Meetings: Second Thursday, 7 p.m.

Collins Township (562-2567): Alan Fredrickson, clerk; Daniel Benson, treasurer; Pete Maiers, James Friedrichs and Jay Reiner, supervisors. Meetings: Second Thursday.

Glencoe Township (864-3584): David Milbrand, clerk; Bruce Bargmann, treasurer; James Hueser, Duane Haag and John Albers, supervisors. Meetings: Second Thursday, 8 p.m.

Hale Township (327-2790): Tammy Stifter, clerk; Colleen Kaczmarek, treasurer; Clarence Junczewski, Roger Pokornowski and Ron Mickolichuk, supervisors. Meetings: Second Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Hassan Valley Township (587-6055): Robert E. Anderson, clerk; Joan Harren, treasurer; Randy Kirchoff, Steve Reiner and Garrett Luthens, supervisors. Meetings: Second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Helen Township (238-2460): Karen Mackenthun, clerk; Tammy Mathews, treasurer; Rodney Mathews, Mark Johnson and Leslie Engelmann, supervisors. Meetings: Second Thursday, 8 p.m.

Hutchinson Township (587-9431): John Gregor, clerk; Marlys Swenson, treasurer; Brent Uecker, Jon Christensen and David Ondracek, supervisors. Meetings: Second Thursday, 8 p.m.

Lynn Township (587-2746): Cheryl Bleil, clerk; Jackie Reiner, treasurer; Robert Theuringer, Corey Henke and Paul Merkins, supervisors. Meetings: Second Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Penn Township (328-5375): Donald R. Albrecht, clerk; David Schuch, deputy clerk; Veryl Becker, treasurer; Kevin



Rich Valley Township Hall

Lindeman, deputy treasurer; Neil Winterfeldt, Wilbert Hahn and Kevin Miller, supervisors. Meetings: Second Monday, 8:30 a.m.

Rich Valley Township (864-6647): Theresa A. Rusten, clerk; Fay Bruckschen, treasurer; Donald Lhotka, Rodney Schmidt and Bob Novak, supervisors. Meeting: Second Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Round Grove Township (328-5277): Deborah Zellmann, clerk; LeRoy Hedtke, treasurer; Robert Doerr, Elmer Rettig and Darwin Wagner, supervisors. Meetings: Second Monday 7 p.m.

Sumter Township (328-5789): Janel Zimmerman, clerk; Donald Husske, treasurer; Jeff Kosek, Gary Waller and Joel Griebie, supervisors. Meetings: Second Thursday.

Winsted Township (485-3552): Lisa Bayerl, clerk; Nina Stifter, treasurer; Nathan Schmalz, Tony Hausladen and Brian Anderson, supervisors. Meetings: Second Thursday.

How townships were named

The origins of the names of townships in McLeod County as taken from page 317 of the Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Vol. 17-1902:

Glencoe — Valley in Scotland where McDonald clan was massacred.

Hassan (Valley) — Indian word haza or hahzah meaning sugar, maple sap or sweet juice. South branch of the Crow River was called Hassan River, 1860-69.

Acoma — Named for a Pueblo village in New Mexico by Dr. Kennedy.

Bergen — Named for city of that name in Norway.

Biscay — Named for Bay of Biscay bordering France and Spain.

Brownston — The townsite was the former farm of Alonzo Brown.

Collins — Named after an early settler by that name.

Hale — Either named for an early settler by that name or for a prominent

statesman by that name.

Helen — Wife of Sheriff Armstrong and first white woman to settle in that township.

Hutchinson — Group of singers who founded the town.

Lester Prairie — For John Lester on whose farmstead the town began in 1888.

Lynn — Town in Massachusetts.

Penn — By Germans from Pennsylvania.

Plato — Named for Greek philosopher Plato.

Rich Valley — For its rich soil.

Round Grove — For a large grove of trees in that vicinity.

Stewart — For founder Dr. D.A. Stewart.

Sumter — After Fort Sumter.

Winsted — After Winsted, Connecticut.

Weather facts

1934 — An extreme drought hit the area with daily temperatures up to near 110. The entire summer went without rain, and only the smallest of corn crops was raised.

1936 — The most prolonged cold snap occurred, beginning Jan. 15, as temperatures held below zero, day and night, for 26 days. Temperatures reached 35 below zero and froze water mains that were six feet under ground.

Nov. 11, 1940 — The Veterans Day storm of 1940 started out with a warm rain with fog, but by 9 a.m. a violent storm front rolled in and hit the area with one of its worst snowstorms of the century. The raging snow storm closed roads, trapped hunters and killed numerous people throughout the state as temperatures dipped to 13 below zero before the day ended. The cold temperatures prevailed without a thaw until mid April of 1941.

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