

Gem Lake News

Gretchen Artig-Swomley, Newsletter Editor

Special Interest Articles:

- *White Bear Police to Provide Services*
- *Coyotes Population Increasing*
- *City News Page 4*
- *Golf Course Opens Soon*

Upcoming Recycling Dates:

- *March 29*
- *April 12*
- *April 26*
- *Tip: put out your bin the night before for 7 a.m. pick-up.*

White Bear to Provide Police Protection

Starting January 1, 2018, the City of Gem Lake will be contracting with the City of White Bear Lake to provide police protection, changing a decades old relationship with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department, at least for the next two years.

The decision was reached at the February City Council Meeting and was based on cost and proximity of resources. The projected costs of police services through Ramsey County have experienced a combined increase of 18% in the past two years. Both Ramsey County Sheriff's Department and the White Bear Lake Police Department are ranked in the top five in the State of Minnesota.

(Continued on page 2)



Coyotes Population Increasing in Gem Lake

By Jim Lindner

Several residents reported hearing a commotion on the evening of Friday, January 27. At about 10:30 p.m., sounds of an animal scuffle disrupted an otherwise calm night. The following day, neighbors along Goose Lake Road and Heritage Gardens reported seeing up to three possible coyotes. While it is not clear exactly what occurred that Friday evening, it was most likely the coyotes hunting for prey.

Coyotes in urban areas are an increasing problem in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. While Gem Lake has large tracts of open space, other more developed communities such as Woodbury and Bloomington also report the presence of coyotes. Even places like New York City and downtown Chicago report coyotes in their midst.

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White Bear Lake Police Department to Provide Services

The White Bear Police Department is led by Chief Julie Swanson and includes 28 officers and a total staff of 38.

The staff also includes investigators, dispatch, and other support personnel.

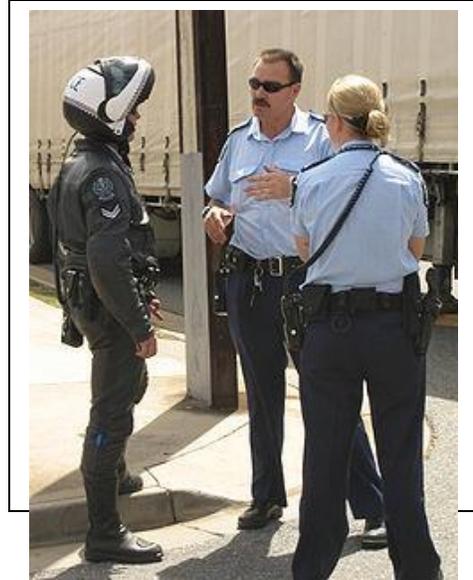
The White Bear Lake Police Department has been serving the community since 1881 and has a proud history. According to their web-site and public information they are “committed to improving the quality of life in our community.” They are also committed to community oriented policing, with two core components: community partnerships and problem solving.

The department divides its service boundaries into four quadrants and positions officers throughout their service areas, making resources potentially available in a timely manner throughout the two cities. (Gem Lake and White Bear Lake.)

During an information session at the January Gem Lake City Council meeting, Chief Swanson discussed how officers are assigned to general areas for patrolling purposes, as well as providing the council with more information on department philosophies and goals. She discussed upcoming projects, such as the fact that White Bear Lake police officers will be using body cameras in the year ahead.

After voting in February of this year to use the White Bear Lake Police Department for police services, starting on January 1, 2018, the next step for the council will be contract negotiation. This will happen in the next few months between White Bear Lake’s city manager and Gem Lake’s mayor (Bob Uzpen). There will probably be a lawyer or two involved also.

All parties have already agreed that it would be a good idea for Gem Lake to also allow Ramsey County to maintain the Sheriff’s substation at our Heritage Hall. According to Mayor Uzpen, this is another great way to locate resources in our midst.



WaterFest 2017 Set for June 3

“Make Waves” at WaterFest 2017! This family friendly festival celebrates our clean lakes and is scheduled for Saturday, June 3 in Lake Phalen Park—11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Rain or Shine).

The event is organized by the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District and provides a fun and hands-on opportunity for the whole family to learn more about water, wildlife, land and water conservation, and much more. There will be kayak, paddleboat and canoe rides, as well as fishing lessons and contests, art exhibits, native plant giveaways, a food arcade, and so much more.

For more information: <http://www.rwmwd.org>.

Coyotes Population Increasing in Gem Lake (continued from page 1)

Coyotes grow to a height of 18" at the shoulders and weigh approximately 30 pounds. Members of the dog family, they are between the sizes of foxes and wolves and may appear larger when they have their full winter coats of fur. Coyotes may resemble German Shepherds. They primarily feed on mice and rabbits, but are known to feed on other animals ranging from squirrels to deer to even turkeys and geese. Coyotes are generally fearful of humans and will avoid areas frequented by people. While it is not unheard of for coyotes to attack family pets, such events are rare.

Like everyone else, coyotes are looking for places to live and raise their young. They are attracted to easily obtained food sources. To this point, they may attempt to access garbage if it is not placed in secured trash containers. Do not feed coyotes, even if you might think you are doing them a favor. Feeding them only encourages them to hang around and thus they could become nuisances.

The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office says that coyotes fall under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR). Much of the information in this article comes from the MNDNR web page on urban coyotes. The MNDNR makes it clear that their game officers will not trap, shoot, or relocate coyotes. They do offer simple tips to make your neighborhood less attractive to coyotes. Do not feed coyotes, do not leave small pets outside unattended, and do not leave garbage laying out. Secure garbage in containers, keep bird feeders at a height inaccessible to coyotes, and harass coyotes you may see by making noise so they will leave an area.

While coyotes are a newer resident of Gem Lake, other wildlife is well familiar to us all. Deer and turkeys have lived in our neighborhoods for many years, and, similar to coyotes, these other animals are looking for food. During bleak winter months some people feel the need to feed wildlife, which actually creates more problems than it solves.

Wildlife has been fending for itself for thousands of years, but when people offer free food, wildlife can become dependent on such feedings. Or at a minimum they hang around knowing that food will be available. In the meantime, they process what food they've eaten and leave their waste behind, and then possibly run into the roads and impact traffic.

Many cities around the metro area have adopted ordinances to prevent feeding, other than bird feeders. But even the bird feeders can become tempting targets of hungry animals. Keep bird feeders far enough above the ground so land animals cannot reach them.

Gem Lake is a wonderful place to live, and now coyotes have joined other wildlife and are enjoying Gem Lake's natural beauty. But if people follow some common-sense practices, we can lessen the impact wildlife has on our yards and streets.



City News Page

Interesting Information on Glass Recycling

Most glass bottles and jars produced in the United States now contain at least 27% recycled glass. The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle can run a 100-watt light bulb for four hours. It also causes 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than when a new bottle is made from raw materials.

After recyclable glass bottles and jars are sorted at the material recycling facility, the crushed glass, called cullet, is sent to a [glass processing facility](#) where it is sorted by color. The different colored glass is then shipped to various markets where they're made back in to new glass products. Most of the clear glass from the Twin Cities makes its way to Anchor Glass in Shakopee, MN where it is made back into new glass bottles and jars.

Remember!

1. Recycle glass bottles and jars (rinse items and leave lids on).
2. DO NOT recycle drinking glasses, window glass, ceramics, mirrors and Pyrex containers.
3. These items have a higher melting point than the glass bottles and jars you put in your curbside recycling.
4. If these two types of glass mix, the newly recycled glass will be contaminated and won't be as strong.

Rain Barrels and Compost Bins for Sale

The Washington County Conservation District, the City of Hugo and the Recycle Association of Minnesota are co-hosting a rain barrel and compost bin sale this spring. Anyone is allowed to order for pick-up.

Rain barrels are a great way to save and collect rainwater for use in flower gardens and lawns, without having to rely on irrigation from ground water sources. Compost bins will produce rich compost to help your flower beds thrive.

Rain barrels are \$84, plus tax and compost bins are \$64, plus tax.

Your pre-ordered items will be available for pick up at the Hugo Public Works Building on Friday, April 28, 2017.

For more information and to order go to: www.recycleminnesota.org. Call 651-641-4589 with any questions.

Gem Lake Volunteer Needed

The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) Technical Commission (TEC) is in need of a Gem Lake resident to volunteer at its meetings. VLAWMO's mission is to protect and enhance the water quality of its lakes and streams and its Technical Commission serves as an advisory committee to the board of directors. The TEC consists of representatives from each of VLAWMO's member communities and meets at 7:30AM on the second Friday of every month at Vadnais Heights City Hall. Each month the TEC works with VLAWMO staff to review and consider various projects intended to keep our surface and ground water safe for current and future generations. A Gem Lake resident is needed to assure that projects intended to improve Gem Lake water quality are considered among the projects reviewed and recommended for approval. Appointment to the TEC is through the Gem Lake City Council and run in one year terms. Beyond the monthly meetings there is minimal work involved. If you are interested in joining this important group, please contact Gloria Tessier at 651-747-2792.

Need More Recycling Storage Space?

Because we are so good at recycling here in Gem Lake, various residents have asked if they can get larger recycling bins. If you find your bin isn't big enough for your recyclables, please email Gloria.tessier@gemlakemn.org or call Heritage Hall at 651-747-2792 to request a bigger bin. Leave your name, address and contact information.

Gem Lake Hills Golf Course Set for Great Season!

The Gem Lake Hills Golf Course will soon be open and hopes to attract many new customers in the season ahead.

According to General Manager Matt Greer, the course should be open in early April, depending upon the weather.

Golfers can expect to see some great new improvements such as new and leveled tee boxes and wild flower plantings.

Gem Lake Hills is proud to offer a comprehensive new rewards program this season, which will return 5% of expenditures on green and cart fees to golfers in the form of a course credit.

There will also be an executive pass available at a cost of \$209 for the season, which allows the golfer unlimited golfing at Gem Lake Hills (based on tee times available), and also discounts at two sister courses—Applewood Hills and Oak Glen, both located in Stillwater.

According to Greer, Gem Lake Hills is also very proud of its Junior League program.



For \$199, kids aged 7-16 can enjoy unlimited golfing, based on available tee times, league golfing, pizza parties and availability of golf instruction at an extra charge.

Feel free to contact Gem Lake Hills Golf Course with any questions at 651-429-8715. The course is located at 4059 Scheuneman Road.



The City of Gem Lake

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This newsletter is also posted
on the city's web-site under the
"Documents" section.

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.gemlakemn.org

Meetings: April and May, 2017

The following Gem Lake
Meetings will be held at
Heritage Hall in
December.

April 4, 2017

Planning Commission
meeting at 7:00 p.m.

April 10, 2017

City Council Workshop at
7:00 p.m.

April 18, 2017

City Council Meeting at
7:00 p.m.

May 2, 2017

Planning Commission
meeting at 7:00 p.m.

May 8, 2017

City Council Workshop at
7:00 p.m.

May 16, 2017

City Council Meeting at
7:00 p.m.

Your Gem Lake City Council

Bob Uzpen-Mayor

Phone: 651-492-5083

City Council Members:

Gretchen Artig-Swomley

Phone: 651-260-9742

Rick Bosak

Phone: 651-426-9695

Faith Kuny

Phone: 612-718-4316

Jim Lindner

Phone: 651-429-7597

For more information on
meetings, city ordinances,
recent events, permit
procedures, etc. please
consult the Gem Lake
web-site. The address is
www.gemlakemn.org

Each Gem Lake
Newsletter is also posted
on the web-site under the

news section.

Please email your ideas,
comments and
suggestions. See box at
left for detailed contact
information.

CITY OF GEM LAKE
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