

Gem Lake News

Gretchen Artig-Swomley, Newsletter Editor

Special Interest Articles:

- *Flag Raising Ceremony*
- *Temporary Moratorium on Development*
- *City News Page 4*
- *Positions Up for Election*

Upcoming Recycling Dates:

- *July 20*
- *August 3*
- *August 17*
- *August 31*

Tip: put out your bin the night before for 7 a.m. pick-up.

Flag Raising Ceremony at Heritage Hall

There will be an official flag raising ceremony at Heritage Hall on July 19 at 7:00 p.m.

The ceremony will be conducted by the local VFW in honor of our new flag pole, which was recently installed near the front door of the building. The flag raising will be followed directly by the Gem Lake City Council Meeting.

All members of the public are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.



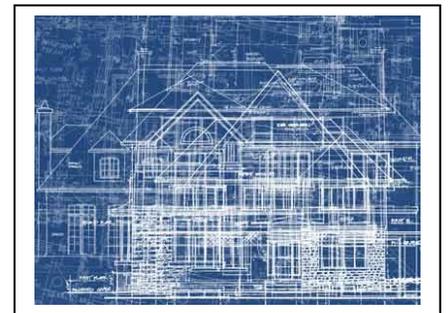
Temporary Moratorium on Development

The Gem Lake City Council officially passed a temporary moratorium on development for a certain portion of the city while a committee reviews and updates relevant ordinances. This action happened at the June 21 City Council Meeting.

The moratorium affects real property west of Highway 61, east of Big Fox Road, North of County Road E, South of 21 Daniels Farm Road, South of 19 Daniels Farm Road and South of 3 Daniels Farm Road in Gem Lake.

The moratorium temporarily prohibits the granting of preliminary subdivision approval, zoning approval (CUP variances), rezoning or Plan Unit Development (PUD) approval within the moratorium area.

Recently, the City Council formed a committee to take a thorough look at city ordinances in order to insure more consistency between documents, to come up with a standard glossary of key terms, to make sure the ordinances fulfill the underlying purposes of the City's land use and zoning provisions, and to prepare them for the 2018 Comprehensive Plan, which is required



(Continued on page 2)

Temporary Moratorium on Development (continued from page 1)

by the Metropolitan Council every ten years.

The moratorium would expire in twelve months of passage, or it may be repealed earlier if the council determines that the appropriate ordinances have been updated and zoning codes have been finalized.

The City Council may also grant a variance to this Ordinance if it finds, after a careful review of the facts, that a proposal is not contrary to the intent of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan, that it is compatible with the zoning and official control amendments being considered by the City, that it does not adversely impact the health, safety or welfare of the citizens and that it otherwise meets the requirements of the City of Gem Lake and state law.

Gem Lake Budget for 2017 to be Discussed at August Meeting

How time flies! A preliminary 2017 budget for the City of Gem Lake will be initially discussed at the August City Council Meeting on August 23 at 7:00 p.m.

According to law, all cities in Minnesota must approve a preliminary budget for the following year no later than September of the previous year. This is so preliminary tax statements can be sent to county residents for their input.

Also by law, the final budget a city approves cannot exceed the preliminary budget, so most cities tend to be conservative in the number crunching. Please attend the August meeting and provide your feedback.

Gem Lake Home Featured on Artisan Home Tour



A beautiful new home in Gem Lake was recently featured on the Artisan Home Tour, which ran through weekends in June. The tour was sponsored by the Parade of Homes and featured upscale new homes throughout the Twin Cities.

The Gem Lake home was built for a local family by Michael Paul Design and Build, a local builder that focuses on luxury custom homes.

This home, on Hillary Farm Lane in Gem Lake, was billed as a sprawling and low profile rambler with a Northwoods feel. It has an open floor plan with a wonderful blend of finishes, from barn wood to custom granite countertops. Distressed beams and wire brushed hickory flooring completed the 'modern rustic' look.

The outside living spaces of the home featured a beautiful pool, a screened porch and several decks. For more information on the builder contact them at 651-785-7719.

Positions Up for Election on the City Council

It seems there is some sort of election this year.. Yes, there appear to be a few people running for office on a federal, state and county level. But, don't forget those all-important local elections.

This year, Gem Lake has three positions open. One is the position of mayor, the other two are city council positions.

For the position of mayor, **Bob Uzpen**, current mayor, is running for re-election. Bob has served as mayor for 8 years. This would be his third term, if elected. (see photo below)



For the two spots on the city council the candidates to date are as follows:

Faith Kuny, current City Council Member and former Planning Commission Chairperson, is running for the other open position on the Gem Lake City Council. This would be her second term, if elected. (see photo below)



Jim Lindner, current council member and former Planning Commission Chairman, is running for re-election. This would be his third term if elected.



The filing deadline for running for office in Ramsey County is August 16. If you are interested in running for a position in Gem Lake, go to the Ramsey County Election web-site for all the details. Basically, candidates can begin to file for office starting on August 2.

The basic requirements are as follows:

- *You must be at least 21 years old.
- *You must be a resident of the area covered by your office for at least 30 days prior to the general election.
- *You must be eligible to vote in Minnesota.
- *You must not be running for a similar office somewhere else.
- *You must pay a filing fee—in our case \$2.00
- *You must file your completed paperwork with the applicable city clerk.

Election Day is November 8.



City News Page

New Billing Software

The City of Gem Lake updated its software program that is used for billing for sanitary sewer, fire inspections and septic inspections. The new program allows for emailing of invoices and automatic bank drafting.

If you would like to have your invoice emailed to you, please send an email to

Gloria.tessier@Gemlakemn.org. Please include your account number or address of your billing location. If you would like to have an automatic bank draft, please call Gloria Tessier at 651-747-2742 to set it up. Please note that bills now go to the City of Gem Lake at 4200 Otter Lake Road.

Several Residents Ask for Sewer Line Extension Discussion

A group of residents who live near the corner of Goose Lake Road and Otter Lake and Scheuneman Roads in Gem Lake are interested in having the city look into a possible extension of the sewer line to service their homes sometime in the future. They wish to bring the subject up at the next city council meeting on July 19 and plan to bring a petition that has signatures on it of interested parties. If you are interested in this subject, please attend the meeting.

New Rental Property Requirements

Effective January 1, 2016, the City of Gem Lake began licensing all rental property in the City. Persons with rental property will be required to obtain a rental license for their rental units. Licenses will be for a two-year period. The licensing fee is \$100.00 for a single family unit and for a two family unit \$50.00 per unit. All units will be subject to an annual inspection. Contact Gloria Tessier at 651-747-2792.

Dog Licenses Due for Renewal

It's time to make your dog an official member of the Gem Lake community. Dog licenses in our fair city run from June 1-May 31. If you currently have a licensed dog, you will be mailed a new application form. The application should be returned with a \$10 fee and a copy of your dog's rabies certificate. The certificate will be returned to you.

If you need more information or another copy of the application form, call Gloria Tessier at 651-747-2792.

August City Council Meeting—New Date

The Gem Lake City Council meeting for August of 2016 has been changed to August 23, which is the fourth Tuesday of the month. Normally, council meetings are held on the third Tuesday. The change was made due to a scheduling conflict.

Plastics Recycling Explained....

Confused about which plastics can be recycled?

You are not alone if you're confused about what types of plastic can go in your curbside recycling cart. Americans generated 33 million tons of plastic waste in 2013 which, according to the EPA, accounts for nearly 13 percent of all municipal solid waste. In the 1960s, plastic made up only 1 percent of the waste stream. And, that's a lot of plastic creating a lot of confusion. Luckily, there is a very simple way to know what type of plastic to recycle in your curbside cart. And it goes like this...

Do The Twist!

The best way to know if a plastic is recyclable in your curbside cart is if it has a twist-off lid. That's it. Does the lid twist off the container? If yes, then toss it (with the lid on it) in your cart. This includes plastic containers like water and soda bottles, milk jugs, laundry detergent bottles, peanut butter and miracle whip jars and similar containers with twist-off lids.

If it doesn't have a twist-off lid, then it doesn't belong in your cart. This includes plastic bags, bubble wrap, toys, baskets, flower pots, garden hoses and other plastics without a twist-off lid. Many of these items can be reused, donated or recycled somewhere other than your curbside cart. [Plastic bags](#), for example, can be taken back to many grocery and retail stores to be recycled.

Why Can't All Plastics Be Recycled?

There are two factors that determine what plastics are accepted in your cart. 1.) The plastic is able to be efficiently and accurately sorted at the recycling sorting facility. 2.) There must be a market demand for the type of plastic. Not all plastics are created equally. There

are thousands of different types of plastics, each with its own chemical

composition. Melting points and manufacturing processes vary. In order to successfully recycle plastics, those with similar makeup must be separated from those that differ. Recycling facilities can't feasibly sort every type of plastic, so they must be selective and accept those that are the most common with the greatest demand for resale. Because most containers with twist-off lids are made of the most desirable plastics, they help ensure a sustainable, successful recycling program.

Does It Really Matter?

Yes! The problem with tossing non-recyclable plastics into your cart is that they will contaminate the entire recycling stream. If the quality of the plastic is low because of contamination, it is devalued on the market. Manufacturers pay significantly less for contaminated plastics, or they won't buy them at all.



What If the Container has the “Chasing Arrows” Symbol?

You can toss out any previous knowledge of symbols and numbers. The “chasing arrows” symbol with the numbers inside—usually located on the bottom of plastic containers—doesn't necessarily mean it's recyclable in your cart. It is symbol adopted by the plastics industry years ago to identify the type of plastic. Keep it easy and fun. When it comes to plastics recycling—just do the twist!

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: May and June 2016

The following Gem Lake Meetings will be held at Heritage Hall for the next few months.

July 11, 2016

City Council Workshop at 7:00 p.m.

July 19, 2016

City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Please note:

there will be a flag raising ceremony at Heritage Hall at the beginning of the meeting to honor the city's new flag pole set up.

August 2, 2016

Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m.

August 8, 2016

City Council Workshop at 7:00 p.m.

August 23, 2016

City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Your Gem Lake City Council

Bob Uzpen-Mayor

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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.

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