

# Gem Lake News

Gretchen Artig-Swomley, Newsletter Editor

## Special Interest Articles:

- *Gem Lake Accomplishments and Goals*
- Swearing-In Ceremonies
- City News Page 4
- Local wedding at historic site

## Upcoming Recycling Dates:

- *February 1*
- *February 15*
- *March 1*
- *Tip: put out your bin the night before for 7 a.m. pick-up.*

## Elected Officials Sworn In

Gem Lake City Clerk Bill Short presided over a swearing in ceremony for newly elected officials at the last Gem Lake City Council Meeting, which was held on January 17.

Council Members Faith Kuny and Jim Lindner, as well as Mayor Robert Uzpen took the oath of office after each was re-elected last November.

Terms of office run four years for both the Mayor and City Council positions. All three individuals have been elected several times to these positions and will be up for election again in 2020. The other two positions on the city council are up for election in 2018 and are currently filled by Rick Bosak and Gretchen Artig-Swomley.

Congratulations to Bob, Faith and Jim!



## Gem Lake Accomplishments for 2016/Goals for 2017

*By Robert Uzpen*

The Gem Lake City Council worked on two major projects in 2016. The first was to bring city water to the business district. City water was brought to Hoffman Road and the business area on Scheuneman Road. This accomplished several objectives. First of all, the local fire department loves the fact that in case of a fire, water is available to them. Second it affects the property owner's insurance, and finally, it adds value to the property owner's land if they want to sell.

The second major project is the effort to update city ordinances that affect properties and the next Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan provides the overall framework for where the city is going, and affect residential and commercial growth. A team starting working on revising the ordinances last June and is expected to finish by no later than June of this year. Once that is finished, the City Council, with the help of the engineering firm SEH, will work on updating the Gem Lake Comprehensive Plan, which is due in 2018. (Continued on page 4)



## There's a New Sheriff in Town—Welcome to Jack Serier

Jack G. Serier was appointed Sheriff by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on January 10, 2017. Prior to being appointed as Sheriff, Serier served for two years as Chief Deputy (2015-2017), Undersheriff of Public Safety Services Division in Arden Hills (2013-2015), Inspector in policy development and later as manager of the Water Patrol, Dive Team and the Canine Unit (2011-2012).

Before serving in the Sheriff's Office, he served as a patrol officer in the Stillwater, Eagan and St. Paul police departments. During his time in St. Paul, Serier also worked as a firearms instructor, training officer, training sergeant/academy commandant, patrol supervisor, investigator, executive officer to an assistant chief, and as a police commander for an investigation and district narcotics unit.

Sheriff Serier holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hamline University. He additionally has earned a Master's Degree in Education and a doctoral degree in Leadership, Policy and Administration from the University of Saint Thomas. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Serier loves teaching others and serves as an assistant professor at Saint Mary's University, adjunct faculty at the University of Saint Thomas, and as an instructor for the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's management program. He and his wife of 25 years have two adult children and they spend time together skiing, hiking, traveling and spending time at their cabin.

The Gem Lake City Council had the pleasure of a presentation by the new Sheriff on January 17 at the last City Council Meeting at Heritage Hall. During that meeting, Serier was able to discuss some of the major projects being spearheaded by the Sheriff's Office at this time.

One of those priorities is the installation of a new software system to help efficiently and effectively manage information such as crime statistics, police reports, crime mapping, public safety data and information that helps investigators. Two other important and high priority programs are outreach initiatives that allow the public to get to know the law enforcement officers in



their communities and a new program aimed at producing better outcomes for individuals in jail.

These outreach initiatives were very successful in 2016 and will be continued in 2017. One initiative was called "Coffee with a Cop," and the other "Hot Dog with a Deputy." "Coffee with a Cop" was held at various coffee shops around Ramsey County during day time hours. "Hot Dog with a Deputy" was aimed at early evening hours and was designed to be held at parks throughout contract cities in Ramsey County. Both programs were well attended and even spurred young people to ask questions about careers in law enforcement. At both types of events, people were encouraged to bring their questions and concerns about law enforcement matters.

Sheriff Serier also spoke about a new initiative for county inmates called PRIME- which stands for Positive Responsible inmates managed effectively. The goal is to garner more positive outcomes for prisoners through leadership, literacy, counseling, anger management and degree completion programs, with additional privileges for good behavior. So far, the results have been positive. We welcomed our new Sheriff to our meeting and appreciated the communication!

## Licenses for Liquor, Charitable Gambling and Tobacco Approved at Council Meeting

Applications for Liquor, Charitable Gambling and Tobacco licenses were reviewed and approved at the Gem Lake City Council Meeting on January 17. Prior to the meeting, all applicants had submitted certificates of insurance, paid the appropriate fees, passed business license inspections and background checks conducted by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. As a result, the following licenses were approved for the 2017 calendar year:

**Country Lounge** was approved for on sale and off sale liquor licenses, Sunday liquor sales, 2:00 closing for liquor sales, charitable gambling (pull-tab sales) and tobacco sales.

**The Gem Lake Hills Golf Course** was approved for on sale and Sunday liquor sales.

**Black Sea Restaurant** was approved for an on sale liquor license.

**Café Cravings** was approved for an on sale liquor sales.



### Work Begins on 2018 Comprehensive Plan for Met Council

The Metropolitan Council requires that all cities, large and small, located in the Metropolitan area of Minnesota write an extensive comprehensive plan every ten years. The last plan was written in 2008 and the next is due in 2018.

This plan has numerous required sections such as Community Development, Land Use, Water Resources, Housing, Parks and Trails, Transportation, etc.

Drafting a comprehensive plan is a significant undertaking, requiring expert assistance, especially in areas such as water supply, surface water management and land use.

Gem Lake has hired the engineering firm of SEH, (Short Elliot Hendrickson) to assist with this project, which is expected to take over a year to draft. In order to keep costs down on this writing adventure, Gem Lake City Council Members intend to write as much of the plan themselves as possible, similar to the way it was handled ten years ago.

Work has already begun on this super fun project. Last month the council tackled the sections entitled "Resilience" and "Economic Competitiveness," coming up with initial drafts of copy for these topics.

Many of the workshop sessions in 2017 will be devoted to the comprehensive plan, and your feedback is always welcome and appreciated. Watch your newsletter and the city web-site for more information.

### Food Shelf Collection Box Now at Heritage Hall

There is now a box at Heritage Hall for your non-perishable donations to the White Bear Lake Area Emergency Food Shelf.

Please feel free to drop off a donation any time you are in the area or attending a city event, such as a city council meeting. Volunteers from the city will deliver your donations to the food shelf. Items that are especially needed include things like cooking oils, spices, disposable diapers, basic toiletries and pet food.

Remember, 365 days a year, someone, somewhere needs help with basic necessities. Your donations are much needed and greatly appreciated.

## City News Page

### **City Makes Another Donation to Food Shelf**

The Gem Lake City Council voted to provide another donation of \$1000 to the White Bear Lake Area Emergency Food Shelf at its October City Council Meeting in December.

The donation resulted from charitable gambling proceeds that came into the city from pull-tab sales within city limits.

### **Gem Lake Fee Schedule Approved for 2017**

Gem Lake reviews and approves its schedule of fees each year and did so this January at the city council meeting on January 17.

There were several changes to the fee list, including reduced fees for conditional use permits, and several other minor changes. A complete fee schedule for 2017 can be obtained at Heritage Hall or on the Gem Lake web-site.

### **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](mailto:Gloria.tessier@gemlakemn.org) or call Heritage Hall at 651-747-2792 to request a bigger bin. Leave your name, address and contact information.

### **List of City Appointments Approved for 2017**

As required by state statute, the City of Gem Lake formally appointed individuals and organizations to various city positions for 2017 at the January City Council Meeting. This included things like appointing a back-up mayor, so meetings could be conducted in the mayor's absence. Some appointments are required by law, such as the city clerk, the city treasurer, the back-up mayor, and believe or not, a weed inspector.

Other positions or appointments are usual and customary to assign to someone to once a year in January. This would include things like naming an auditor, a sewer inspector, a building inspector, etc. With the exception of services the City contracts for, such as fire, law enforcement, zoning administration, animal control, city clerk, etc. most positions are what you call honorary,

meaning there is no pay what so ever... Some highlights of the appointments include the following:

**City Clerk:** William Short of White Bear Township  
**City Treasurer:** Thomas Kelly of White Bear Township

**City Engineers:** Short Elliot Henderson (SEH)

**City Attorney:** Kelly & Lemmons, P.A.

**Zoning Administrator:** Robert Uzpen

**City Code Enforcement Officer:** Michael Johnson of White Bear Township

**Representative to the Ramsey County**

**Sheriff's Department:** Robert Uzpen

**City Emergency Services Director:** Jim Lindner

**Ramsey County League of Local Government**

**Representative:** Faith Kuny

**Back up Mayor:** Gretchen Artig-Swomley

**Assistant Weed Inspector:** Jim Lindner

A complete list of city appointments can be obtained at Heritage Hall.

### **Gem Lake Accomplishments for 2016/Goals for 2017 (continued from page one)**

The accounting firm of CliftonLarsonAllen audited the financial condition of the city and gave Gem Lake a satisfactory rating, stating that the city is in a strong financial position.

For 2017, the City Council will continue to work hard to control expenses, provide necessary services, and position Gem Lake for the future in a way that preserves its special character.

Specific goals for the year will be to finish a complete review of ordinances aimed at bringing consistency to our regulations, definitions and overall goals and statements in the city's comprehensive plan.

Another goal is to substantially complete important sections of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan.

The city will also strive to foster a developer friendly environment for property owners who want to sell their land and to seek developers who can add value to the city and are in compliant with city ordinances.



## Wedding Held at Historic Gem Lake Site

The historic area once known as the Daniels Farm on Gem Lake was the site of a beautiful wedding last September.

The wedding took place on September 24, 2016 between Madeline Cooley and Michael Bobkins. Madeline is the sister of City Council Member Faith Kuny.

The ceremony was held in an Edwin Lundie designed secret garden, of sorts, which was part of the original Daniels estate. The estate was built in 1929, with many of the buildings designed by the famous regional architect Edwin Lundie.

The original name of the estate was “Worsted Skeynes,” The estate was the site of many large and important gatherings over the years, including a visit by the former King of England, Edward VIII, later the Duke of Windsor, and his American wife, the former Wallis Simpson, who visited in the 1930’s and held a party at the main house.



Flowers for the wedding were designed and provided by White Bear Floral. Pictured above is the flower girl, Katherine Kuny, displaying one of the arrangements.

Below, the bride arrives on the scene with her father Robert Cooley in a beautifully restored carriage. In the background, one of the original buildings from the Daniels estate is visible.



## The City of Gem Lake

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Newsletter e-mail:  
[gretchenas@comcast.net](mailto:gretchenas@comcast.net)

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

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We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.gemlakemn.org](http://www.gemlakemn.org)

## Meetings: February and March, 2017

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

### February 7, 2017

Planning Commission  
meeting at 7:00 p.m.

### February 13, 2017

City Council Workshop at  
7:00 p.m.

### February 21, 2017

City Council Meeting at  
7:00 p.m.

### March 7, 2017

Planning Commission  
meeting at 7:00 p.m.

### March 13, 2017

City Council Workshop at  
7:00 p.m.

### March 14, 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](http://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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55110

