



WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Annual Meeting and Election Tuesday, March 9

Mark your calendar and plan to attend Lynden Township's annual meeting Tuesday, March 9--**meeting begins promptly at 8 p.m.** after the polls close for the annual township election. Be sure to vote for candidates for the township treasurer and for the township supervisor. **You can vote Tuesday at the township hall between 2-8 p.m.**

The annual meeting will include highlights of the past year's business in Lynden Township including general ordinance updates, road reports, and a review of township spending in 2020. The most important agenda item is the opportunity to vote on the proposed 2022 operating levy, i.e. the township portion of your 2022 taxes payable. The levy directly impacts the township portion of your property taxes. Whether you are new to the area, or have lived here for years, the annual meeting is a great way to stay informed.

The election results will be announced at the end of the meeting. Please plan to vote and to attend this important once a year meeting.

NOTE: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the in-person meeting capacity (at time of print) will be limited to 40 residents and seven elected officials and staff. The meeting will also be streamed live but will not be interactive, so only residents attending in person will be able to vote.

Township Cleanup Day

Saturday, April 24 from 8 – 11 a.m.

Clearwater Township Hall

MN Hwy 24 - 3 miles south of Clearwater

Candidates Running for Open Supervisor and Treasurer Positions

Two candidates have filed to run for the positions of town supervisor and town treasurer. Incumbent Dennis Niemi has filed for the supervisor position and Jean Schermer has filed for Town Treasurer —no one else filed to run against either. The election will take place Tuesday, March 9th at the Lynden Township hall, and the polls are open from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please exercise your right to vote.



Photo by Lynden Township Supervisor Tom Plaggerman

Tax Equalization Meeting April 13

If you disagree with the assessed value of your home or property, you may meet with the Local Board of Appeals on Tuesday, April 13. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. at the Lynden Town Hall and appointments are required.

You can schedule an appointment by contacting Mitch Determan at the Stearns County Assessor's Office at 320-656-3691; you may be able to resolve the differences in that conversation.

Township Cleanup Day April 24

This year Lynden Township will be conducting its spring cleanup day on **April 24 from 8-11 a.m. at the Clearwater Township Hall** and maintenance facility south of Clearwater on MN Hwy 24. Open to all Lynden Township residents; you must be in line by 11 a.m. *Only cash or check will be accepted as payment.*

One free pickup size load of garbage and/or recyclables is allowed per household (IDs will be checked) -- other items such as appliances, tires, e-waste, etc. are accepted for a fee (see below). Trailers with garbage/recycling material will be charged extra, so plan accordingly. Please check the township website for an announcement of the final details closer to the date.

If you joined us at last October's cleanup day, you saw first-hand how smoothly the flow of traffic was. Your first stop will be at the appliance/electronics dumpster; the last station will be the scrap metal. For ease of unloading we recommend loading in this order: scrap metal, tires, garbage, and lastly, appliances/electronics.

Pickup size load of garbage	Free
Garbage load larger than pickup size	\$20
Passenger vehicle sized tires or smaller	\$5 each
Commercial vehicle tires	\$20 each
Large tractor tires	\$60 each
Appliances	\$20 each
TV/Electronics	\$25 each
Scrap Metal	Free

No household garbage, shingles, paint, oil, concrete blocks or brush will be accepted.

Fire Number Signs

Some Lynden Township residents may still have an old red Annandale or Clearwater Fire Number signs by the road. Those fire number signs have long since been replaced with official blue 911 address signs, so the old fire number signs should be removed. If you still have one, please remove your out-of-date fire sign at your convenience—you can keep it as a memento. Unless you use the 911 addressing, there is no address info available if you would use these old fire numbers, so they are of no value in trying to locate your specific address in any emergency—this is when time counts. If you have any questions about this, call Lynden Township Supervisor Dave Johnson at 320-558-4649.

CARES Act

Lynden Township partnered with Digital Nomads to develop a technological improvement plan for the township to support social distancing at the meeting hall and remote accessibility for the residents. The township utilized the CARES ACT grant fund to make much needed improvements to the town hall facilities.

We started with the vision of improving the ability to have internet streaming capabilities for the township meetings. In deciding to install cameras for the broadcast of the meetings, we realized that social distancing would necessitate the need to have any visitors spaced further apart than normal. To do this, we installed a microphone system with overhead speakers to allow the members of the board to be heard easily throughout the township hall.

Multiple cameras were set up to allow for showing the board and the attendees, along with a podium for anyone addressing the board.

Several new large screen TVs were mounted on the side walls to allow displaying information to the attendees, and four wireless microphones and mixer, which feeds the amplifier for the in-ceiling speakers, were added. A podium to address the board and ceiling mounted cameras to allow broadcast of the meetings were installed, which when not in use for meetings can double as security cameras for the building.

We improved the wireless and networking to support the additional needs for streaming and broadcasting meetings, and an AV cart was set up to allow people to virtually attend the meetings and still be able to address the board if unable to physically be there in person.

Touchless bathroom fixtures and a touchless thermostat were also installed for further health and safety purposes.

As you visit the Town Hall you will notice the orientation of the room has been changed to better maintain the flow of the building and meeting. The 2021 Annual Meeting will also be presented virtually and with the new direction we are able to have more visitors.

To view the meetings online, please visit the township's new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/lydentownship>. You do not need to be a member of Facebook. We will also be integrating YouTube as well allowing the new smart TVs to easily stream our meetings.

With the township using the CARES Act funds for government, we had a limited time to create and complete the project. We would like to thank George from Digital Nomads for his excellence in IT.

Know what to throw

Lynden Township recycling services

Do you know what can and can't be recycled? Did you know that nearly a third of products put into recycling bins *can't* be recycled? You can be a good recycler by following these basic tips:

Your recycling container should only contain flattened cardboard, paper, metal cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles and jugs. Prepare your recyclables by cleaning and drying them; just one dirty item can contaminate the contents of your entire recycling container. Cardboard or paper that has been contaminated with food or liquid can no longer be recycled. Remove any tape or staples.

Never place items that can't be recycled into your recycling container, such as pizza boxes, plastic bags and wrappers, Styrofoam, plastic silverware, diapers, aluminum foil, wood, yard waste, batteries, wax-coated cartons, egg cartons, aerosol cans, food, and garbage.



RECYCLE

Place your items loosely into your recycling container. Don't bag them up, which can disrupt the entire recycling process. Return used plastic grocery bags to the store, or better yet, invest in reusable shopping bags.

Lynden Township contracts with Republic Services for recycling services; 64-gallon wheeled carts are provided free of charge by calling Republic at 320-252-9608. All recyclables can be mixed in the cart and do not have to be sorted. Plastics labeled #1 through #7 are accepted. Pick up is every other Friday.

Learn more at recyclingsimplified.com.



Photo by Lynden Township Supervisor Tom Plaggerman

Township Road Report

In 2020, Lynden Township had more class 1 gravel crushed up for the gravel roads in the central third of the township. The new supply is in the Damann Pit to cut down on hauling costs.

Gravel was put on roads from Dover Road up to Craigway Road, all gravel roads were bladed and packed whenever there was moisture to work with, and all gravel roads had magnesium chloride applied in various widths and concentrations. All township ditches were mowed twice.

Four asphalt roads were routed and crack filled, then seal coated: Elmwood Road, Englewood Road, 19th Ave. and the asphalt portion of Franklin Road. Seal coating can extend the life of the township's asphalt investment up to 10 years.

The township is in the process of working with the Stearns County highway engineer to fill out a grant application for the local road improvement program. This is a grant that would help the township improve its Industrial Park roads from 7-ton to 10-ton rated. The grant, if received, would pay for 100% of the cost except for engineering, which the township would pay for. The project would be performed in 2022.

Road work planned for 2021

In 2021, the township will be graveling roads that are in need of gravel in the north one-third of the township, as well as applying dust control and brushing and mowing ditches as needed. Gravel roads will also be bladed and packed as necessary.

Call before you dig!

If you're planning a project that involves digging, contact Gopher State One Call at 811 at least two days prior.



Photo by Lynden Township Supervisor Tom Plaggerman

Insulin safety net program established

Diabetics will be able to get affordable insulin on both an emergency and long-term basis as part of the Alec Smith Insulin Affordability Act. Under a new law, most manufacturers of insulin will be required to establish procedures to make insulin available to eligible individuals who are in urgent need of insulin or need access to an affordable insulin supply. This must be done by July 1, 2020.

Beginning on that date, diabetics with less than a seven-day supply of insulin readily available and who need the drug “in order to avoid the likelihood of suffering significant health consequences” will pay no more than \$35 to get a 30-day supply from a pharmacy. To get insulin, people would need to present a filled out an application created by MNsure and attest to eligibility requirements. A requestor must also have a valid prescription and show proof of Minnesota residency with an identification card, driver's license or permit. Upon receipt of the application, a pharmacist is to dispense a 30-day supply of prescribed insulin and notify the practitioner who issued the prescription no later than 72 hours after the insulin is dispensed. Insulin manufacturers will either reimburse pharmacies for the cost of emergency insulin or replace the insulin provided to patients.

Under the program, someone can receive up to a 90-day supply of insulin from manufacturers. Insulin is provided on an ongoing basis for the 12-month eligibility period and eligibility for the program may be renewed. The safety net provision expires Dec. 31, 2024, unless the Legislature determines it should continue.

Text-to-911

The Stearns County Sheriff's Office would like to remind everyone that Text-to-911 has been available throughout

Minnesota since December 2017. Text-to-911 is a great option for deaf and hard of hearing individuals who are unable to make a voice call. Another reason to use Text-to-911 would be if you are unable to safely make a voice call and need to remain discreet, such as reporting domestic violence, home invasions, human trafficking, and suicidal individuals. Text-to-911 does not have the location accuracy of a traditional voice call and the texter will need to give the 911 Dispatcher their exact location. Persons who are able to make a phone call are still highly encouraged to do so.

Farmers, lenders get more time to prevent foreclosures, repossessions

Farmers and lenders will be given more time to prevent foreclosures and repossessions of agricultural property as the coronavirus pandemic hammers the already-hurting industry. The Farmer-Lender Mediation Act requires banks and other creditors to offer a 90-day mediation period to farmers before enforcing debts against land, livestock or crops. Effective retroactive to April 16, 2020, the new law modifies a COVID-19-response law passed earlier in the 2020 session by extending the mediation period between the farmer and lender to 150 days or until Dec. 1, 2020, whichever is later. It also expands eligibility to include farmers who initiate mediation under the Farmer-Lender Mediation Act by Aug. 31, 2020. Previously, that date was July 31, 2020.

Tax Equalization Meeting

Tuesday, April 13 at 6 p.m.

Lynden Township Hall
Appointments are required

Township looking for website photos to feature

Each month, a different photograph is featured on the home page of the township's website. All pictures are taken by township residents and depict a location somewhere within Lynden Township. Please share photos for possible consideration to be featured on the home page of www.lydentownship.net. Pictures can be of landscapes, nature, fishing, hunting, outdoor activities, etc. Please mail your photos with your name and the address where the picture was taken to clerk@lydentownship.net. Use 'Photo' in the subject line.

Lynden Township's Website

Lynden Township's website www.lyndentownship.net is regularly updated with important announcements, meeting dates and public notices. The site is mobile-friendly and easily navigable from your smart phone. Be sure to bookmark the home page for easy access. The home page always shows you the date of upcoming township meetings and the next date for recycling pickup. In addition, there are many helpful resource links for valuable area information.

The township website has forms and applications that can be filled out directly online, streamlining the processes. You can enter information from your computer without having to print and manually fill out applications. Whether you need a building permit, are applying for a variance, or simply want to rent the town hall, take advantage of the updated format. **Please note**, that after filling out a form online, the form must be digitally signed or printed and signed before submittal. Please review the "Applications" page of www.lyndentownship.net for complete details.

Snowplow hit your mailbox?

If your mailbox is hit by the snowplow and it was a swing away post, call Dennis Niemi at 320-266-4867 and it will be repaired or replaced at no charge. However, according to the township's long-standing policy, if it wasn't a swing away post you will be responsible for the repair yourself.

One way you can help prevent the plow from damaging your mailbox post is to keep it shoveled out. Nearly all of the mailbox damage done by a snowplow happens when the operator is attempting to get the snow cleaned out from the front of it so the mail can be delivered. If your mailbox is kept shoveled out, the plow does not have to get close and therefore will not hit the post.

If anyone is interested in replacing their mailbox post this summer, the FAQ section of the township's website lists multiple places in the area where they can be purchased. **Remember, the swing away post should be installed 42"-48" from the ground to the top of the post** so the wing of the plow can clear snow out from under it. Don't forget to call 811 before installing the post so the various utilities can be located.

Contact Dennis Niemi at 320-266-4867 with any questions about mailboxes.

Find a Stray Dog or Cat?

If you find a stray dog or cat, contact the Tri-County Humane Society at 320-252-0896. The township has an agreement

with the humane society to accept animals found in our township.

Tri-County Humane Society is located off Highway 10 at 735 8th St. NE in St. Cloud. There is no cost to you to drop animals off, but transportation is not provided.

Area recreation

Lynden Township is home to many lakes, rivers, and creeks, and is host to a number of different recreation opportunities, including swimming, camping,

If camping is your thing, **A J Acres Campground** offers tent and camper spots with picnic tables and fire rings, swimming, hiking, canoe and boat rental, boat launch, fishing pier and fish cleaning house, recreation hall, laundry, showers, and toilets. There's also an on-site convenience and snack center and playgrounds and games for the kids.

Along with tent, trailer and RV pull-through spots with picnic tables and fire rings, **St. Cloud Clearwater RV Park** offers RV and cabin rentals, a pool, mini golf, showers and toilets, laundromat, pavilion, and store/gift shop. There are also plenty of games available for all ages inside and out.

In the summer, **Warner Lake County Park** is the place to be. Visitors to the park enjoy a large swimming beach, campsites, reservable shelter, picnic areas, nature center, fishing pier, boat launch, and walking and bicycling trails. There are also winter trails for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and fat tire bicycles.

For those who enjoy canoeing and kayaking, the Clearwater River runs through a section of Lynden Township. Just down the road, at 12482 Bayview Road, South Haven, the **Clearwater River Canoe Access** offers easy access to the river, which eventually runs into Clearwater Lake.



Photo by Lynden Township Supervisor Tom Plaggerman

'Like' us on Facebook!

[facebook.com/lyndentownship](https://www.facebook.com/lyndentownship)

If you're on Facebook, please 'like' Lynden Township to view monthly meetings and information on dates and agendas for upcoming township meetings

Town Hall Available to Rent

Once pandemic restrictions have been lifted, the town hall is available to rent for private events for a \$50 fee (plus a fully refundable \$100 security deposit).

Please note that smoking and consumption of alcohol in the town hall or on the grounds is prohibited. See the 'Applications' page at www.lyndentownship.net for the complete policy and rental application.



Photo by Lynden Township Supervisor Tom Plaggerman

Lynden Township Building Permits

If you have a construction project planned, please visit the 'Building Permits' tab on the township website, www.lyndentownship.net, for more information and permit applications, and contact the Chief Building Official, Nancy Scott, at (320) 293-5298 or email nscott64@hotmail.com.

Great River Regional Library

Lynden Township financially supports in part the Great River Regional Library branch in Clearwater in conjunction with the City of Clear Lake, City of Clearwater, Clear Lake Township, Clearwater Township, Haven Township, Palmer Township, and Silver Creek Township.

CLEARWATER LIBRARY INFORMATION

Monday: 1:00 - 4:00

Tuesday: 10:00 - 1:00, 3:00 - 6:00

Wednesday: 3:00 - 8:00

Thursday: 10:00 - 1:00

Friday: 3:00 - 6:00

Saturday: 10:00 - 1:00

Sunday: Closed

Location:

740 Clearwater Center
Box 335

Clearwater MN 55320

320-558-6001

Contact Clearwater Branch

Holiday Closures



For more detailed information visit Great River Regional Library's website at: griver.org/locations/clearwater

Clearwater-Clear Lake Emergency Food Shelf

The Clearwater-Clear Lake Emergency Food Shelf is located in the Lions Park Building at 1100 County Road 75, Clearwater. Phone number 320-558-2954. Hours of operation are Mondays 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m.; Tuesdays 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.; Wednesdays 3 p.m.-5 p.m.

The food shelf supplies its clients with a three-day emergency food supply. To ensure we are serving only Clearwater and Clear Lake residents, please bring in identification and proof of address if you are in need of this service. Donations can be made to the Food Shelf by mailing to P.O. Box 324, Clearwater, MN 55320, or by drop off during food shelf hours. Donations can also be dropped off in the food shelf bin located in the entryway of Coborn's in Clearwater. Please call to arrange an alternative time.

We're looking for your photos!

We need photos! If you would like yours to be featured on the township's website, send yours to clerk@lyndentownship.net. Use 'Photo' in the subject line and include your name and the address where the picture was taken. Publication not guaranteed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing address for all correspondence is as follows:

Lynden Township
c/o Clerk Jenny Schmidt
20517 Woodbine Road
Clearwater, MN 55320



Lynden Township Hall located at 21367 Co. Rd. 44, Clearwater

Clerk

Jenny Schmidt, Clerk, 320-774-8507 (Leave a message or text); or email clerk@lyndentownship.net. Contact *Jenny* for general inquiries including rental of the town hall. Term expires 2022.

Township Board of Supervisors

Dave Johnson, Board Chair, 320-558-4649 or email dave.johnson@lyndentownship.net
Contact *Dave* for general ordinance inquiries, weed inspection, and road signage issues. Term expires 2023.

Dennis Niemi, Road Manager, 320-266-4867 or email dennis.niemi@lyndentownship.net
Contact *Dennis* for any road-related issues (including grading and snow plowing), driveway and approach permits. Term expires 2021.

Tom Plaggerman, Supervisor, 320-266-1561 or email tom.plaggerman@lyndentownship.net
Contact *Tom* for general inquiries and animal control issues. Term expires 2022.

Treasurer

Dan Torgersen, Treasurer, 320-267-4909 or email treasurer@lyndentownship.net Term expires 2021.
Jean Schermer, Deputy Treasurer, 320-274-2738 or email deputy.treasurer@lyndentownship.net

Burning Permits

Pat Voigt, 320-252-9349 (across County Road 44 from the township hall) Burning permits can also be obtained online from the DNR.
Webapps15.dnr.state.mn.us/burning_permits

Building Permits

Township Building Official Nancy J. Scott, CBO#2099, AllSpec Services, LLC; 320-293-5298 or email nscott64@hotmail.com
Contact *Nancy Scott* for any building permit questions.

Environmental Services

Stearns County Environmental Services
320-656-3613
Contact *Environmental Services* for county ordinance inquiries, shoreland/lakeshore/ riparian questions and septic system permits.

Lynden Planning Commission

James Kantor, Planning & Zoning Administrator
320-281-9339 or email james.kantor@lyndentownship.net

Jeff Westrum, Planning Commission Chair
507-213-0323 or email jeff.westrum@lyndentownship.net
Term expires 2023.

Greg Halverson, Planning Commissioner, 320-274-3970
Term expires 2021.

Gary Stang, Planning Commissioner, 320-267-8256
Term expires 2022.

Todd Voigt, Planning Commissioner, 320-252-7575
Term expires 2024.

Shawn Moorehouse, Planning Commissioner,
Term expires 2025.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance	9-1-1
Fire	9-1-1
Sheriff	9-1-1
Sheriff, non-emergency	320-251-4240

LYNDEN TOWNSHIP

c/o Clerk Jenny Schmidt
20517 Woodbine Road
Clearwater, MN 55320