

Green Lake Breeze

P.O. Box 362 • Spicer, MN 56288

www.greenlakespicer.com

September 2006

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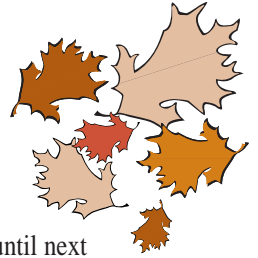
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Dear Green Lake Property Owners,

The signs of autumn are sneaking up on us: cool nights with fog rising off of the lake in the early mornings, acorns dropping (or blasting!) off of oak trees, and an increase in the “dark-to light” ratio for the days. Another sign that autumn is approaching is that this will be the last edition of the “Breeze” until next spring. The board will meet once more in September, and then we will remain in contact with each other by phone or e-mail until next April. This Labor Day weekend will be the last hurrah for many residents, and then the docks and boats will start coming off of the lake. It seems like only yesterday that we were all excited about getting our docks put into the water!



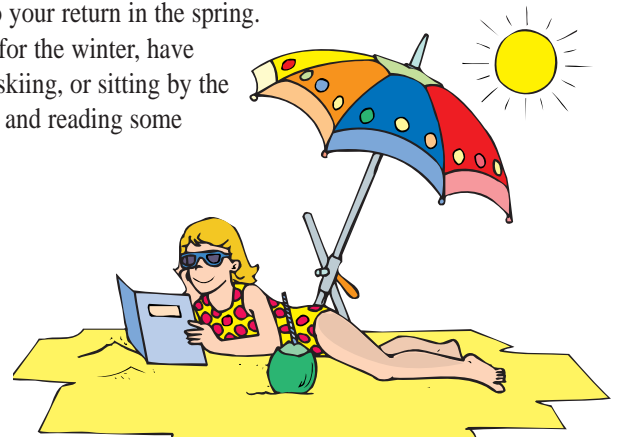
I have received contacts from several people who live on the lake regarding the presence of litter on the road and along the shoreline, with one person noting the presence of broken glass in the water by Lone Tree. (Something that might help all alleviate the broken glass situation is if we would all consider using plastic containers rather than glass when boating.) While riding my bicycle around Green Lake I too have noticed a lot of litter on the sides of the road, especially by the new fishing bridge where many styrofoam bait containers seem to end up in the water. It just so happens that the Crow River Organization of Water (CROW) has scheduled a “Clean Up Day” for September 16th from 8 a.m. until noon. In conjunction with this event the GLPOA Board is asking lake residents to take some time on September 16th (or on another day if it is more convenient) to clean up along the lake road and the beach front. Special attention might be given to any storm water grates which most likely have leaves and debris accumulating on them. Next spring we plan on having another clean up day, perhaps with a weigh-in of garbage and refreshments afterwards. If anyone would be available to walk the Crow River to help pick up trash, please contact Diane Sander, CROW Watershed Coordinator, at 763-682-1933 Ext. 3, or diane.sander@mn.nacdn.net. Over the past two years this project has removed over 15 tons of garbage from the river! Grab your family and friends and join the effort to clean up around Green Lake and the Crow River!

If you are leaving Spicer this winter for a warmer climate, have a great winter and we look forward to your return in the spring.

If you will remain in the area for the winter, have fun ice fishing, cross country skiing, or sitting by the fire enjoying the winter views and reading some good books!

Sincerely,

Jill Nelson
President, GLPOA



Thank You, You Have Helped!

Green Lake Property Owners Association President Jill Nelson, along with Vice President Ralph Jansen is seen presenting a check to Tony Rime and Dean Ruhland in the amount of \$1,000 to help the Spicer First Responders in the purchase of a new defibrillator.



Dean Ruhland of the Spicer First Responders, President Jill Nelson of the GLPOA, Tony Rime of the Spicer First Responders, Vice President Ralph Jansen of the GLPOA.

The American Heart Association approved new standards and guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), in addition they also established new standards for the uses of cardiac defibrillators.

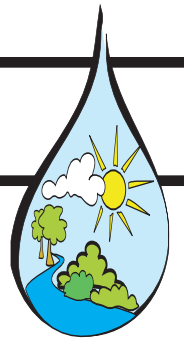
One day, you or your family or a neighbor may need help from the Spicer First Responders. You can be very “thankful” that part of your dues helped in this service.



The Green Lake Property Owners would like to say THANK YOU to the Spicer First Responders.

GLSSWD News

The Lake Florida sewer collection installation project is progressing well. G & M Contracting has most of the low pressure collection line installed around the lake and will be installing some homeowner grinder-pump stations this fall. Most of the hookups will occur next construction season due to the fact that the forcemain from Lake Florida to the west side of Green Lake needs to be completed before any actual residential hook ups can be made. Duininck Brothers Construction, the contractor for the forcemain part of the project, has noted it should be completed by late October.



If you will be winterizing your home this fall please remember to fully drain all the water from your water meter. Every spring a number of people come in looking for parts to repair their water meter that suffered damage from freezing. If enough damage has occurred a totally new meter must be purchased. Also, we see people having trouble reinstalling their meters correctly. A few accounts, when we are reading meters in early summer will indicate the meter has been turning backwards, meaning of course that the meter has been reinstalled backwards. A little trick to avoid this problem is to take a black marker and mark one end of the meter base and the same end of the copper horn that the meter is attached to. That way there is little confusion as how the meter needs to be installed later on.

If the dry summer has you thinking of lawn irrigation needs, the GLSSWD offers customers the option of installing a second water meter for just irrigation use or whatever type of outside water use you may need. You pay no additional base fees and only a water unit charge for the amount of water utilized. Call the District office at 320-796-4523 for more details if you are interested in a second meter for watering purposes.



continued on next page

GLSSWD News continued...



Sewer collection line maintenance and pump repairs are expensive and time consuming. Please remember to put solid waste items in the garbage for landfill disposal and not down the drain. Also grease clogs your system and ours, so help keep it out of the system.

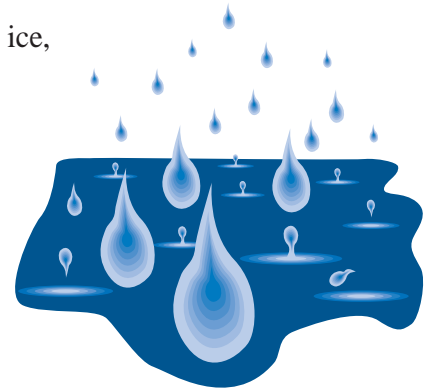


Again a note about water softeners, with the research I have done along with my lab data I believe there are still households that are softening water to the extent it becomes corrosive and leaches out copper from their internal plumbing systems. Anything less than 3 grains of hardness is considered soft water. Please check your softening system for proper settings.

The District has an emergency number (320-796-5565) that may be utilized for after hours water or sewer emergencies. The on call operator will assist you with your situation.

WATER FACTS:

- The only water we will ever have is what we have now. No new water is produced.
- In a 100-year period, a water molecule spends 98 years in the ocean, 20 months as ice, about 2 weeks in lakes and rivers, and less than a week in the atmosphere.
- It takes 1,851 gallons of water to refine one barrel of oil.
- It takes 1,500 gallons of water to process one barrel of beer.
- It takes 120 gallons of water to produce one egg.
- An acre of corn will give off 4000 gallons of water per day in evaporation.



I hope you're having a great summer, please contact me with any utility concerns you may have.

Ron Hagemeyer, GLSSWD Director

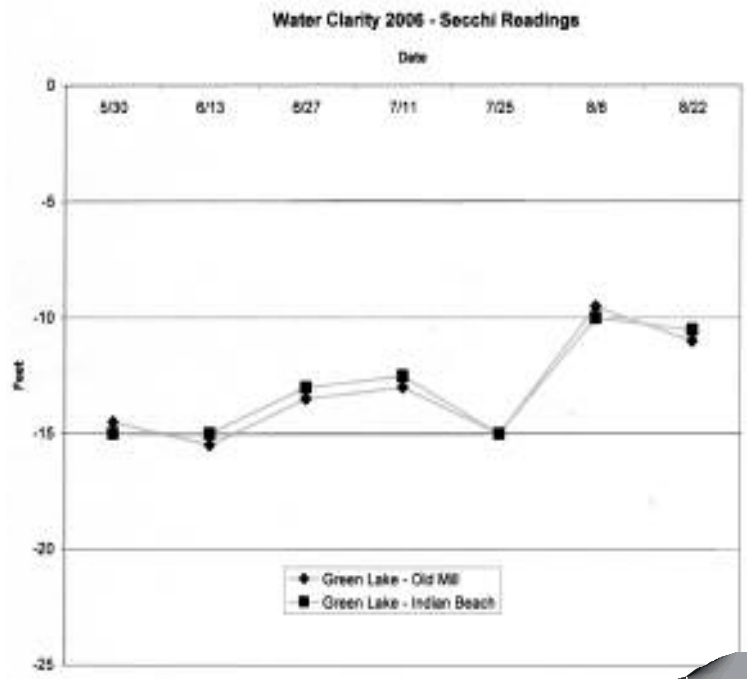
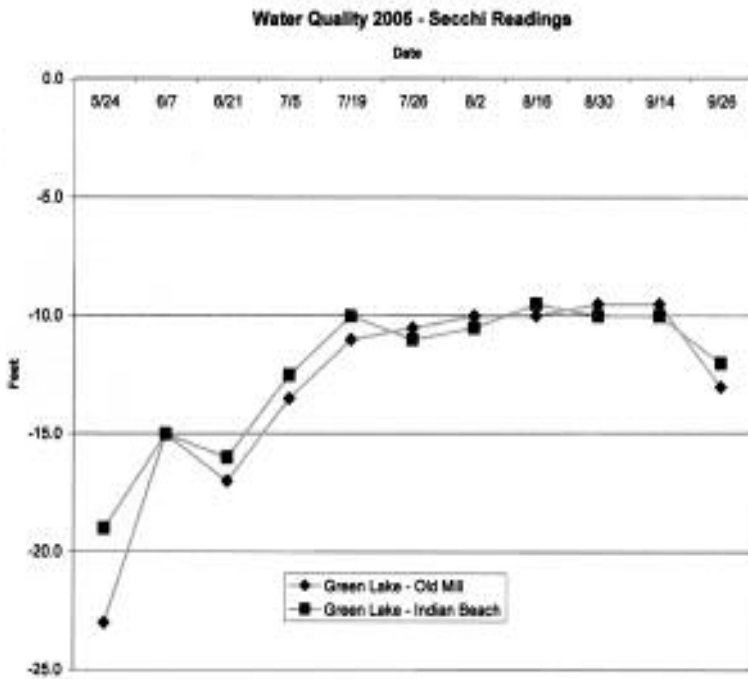
What Is Our Membership?



	<u>Associate</u>	<u>Green Lake</u>	<u>Irving</u>	<u>New London</u>	<u>Spicer</u>	<u>Total</u>
Possible Membership	28	133	221	258	170	810
Members Paid Dues	18	94	174	157	98	541
Percentage of Members Paying Dues	64%	70.67%	78.73%	60.85%	57.64%	66.79%
Members Paid Patrol		32	59	35	8	134
Percentage of Members Paying Patrol		24.06%	13.13%	13.56%	4.49%	16.54%



Secchi Disc Readings



Melvin's on the Lake

To our friends on Green Lake:

Melvin's on the Lake wants to be around for sometime to come & to do this some difficult decisions need to be made. Effective at the end of October, Melvin's will be closing its doors for the winter, but re-opening around May 1, 2007. We will continue to fight to remain a viable business on Green Lake that you are proud of, and your support this summer has been very much appreciated.

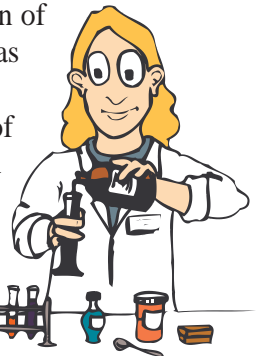


So for now, we hope to see you again this September and October and wish everyone a safe and happy Fall/Winter season. We look forward to another great summer in 2007! And as always, please feel free to contact us on your experiences and feedback at Melvin's.

*Dave and Mary Baker
Owners / Operators*

Watershed District Water Monitoring

The Watershed District lake water monitoring program has been going smoothly this summer with seven of the nine collection dates completed. Every other Tuesday starting on May 30th a group of volunteers has collected water quality samples from Monongalia Lake, Nest Lake, Green Lake (2 sites), and Lake Calhoun. The water is collected from the deepest spot in the body of water, which necessitates the use of a GPS system on Green Lake. These water samples are shipped to ERA Lab in Duluth, MN to be tested for phosphorus and chlorophyll a. The phosphorus level that was designated by the DNR as the highest acceptable concentration in Green Lake is 18 parts per billion (ppb). (See graphs for phosphorus values.) These volunteers also test for water clarity using a Secchi disc. The Secchi reading is the number of feet that the disc is visible when lowered into the lake, so the higher the reading the better the water clarity. There are also volunteers who have been collecting water quality samples at six of the major stream sites in our watershed for phosphorus and total suspended solids. By the end of the summer they

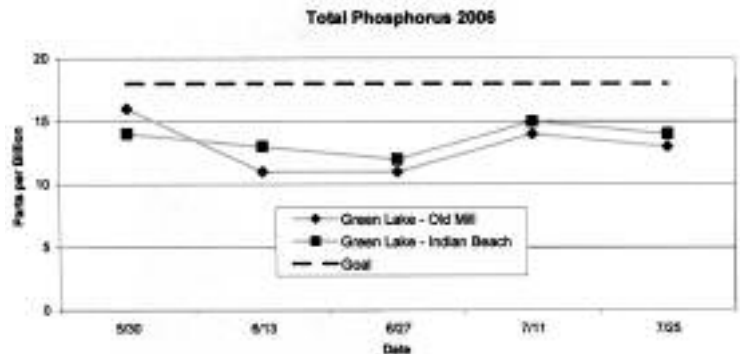
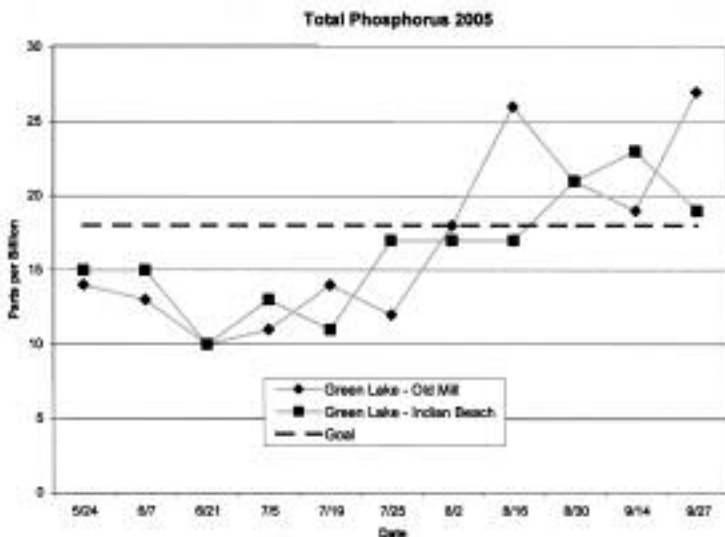


will have collected on 12-15 different dates. After all of the results are in at the end of the summer they will be analyzed by the DNR and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).



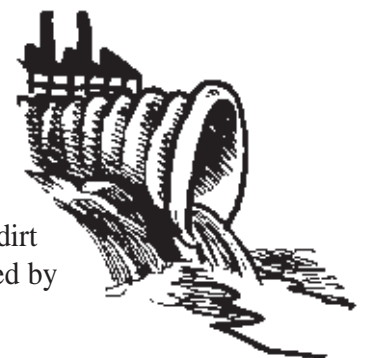
GLPOA volunteers have been recording the water clarity over the summer at 10 inlets into Green Lake. Since it started out as such a dry summer, there is not as much data from these sites as we had hoped there would be. Many of these inlets do not run except after a major rain event. The data that we do have will be reviewed at the end of the season to locate any inlets that are bringing more sediment into the lake than is acceptable.

Jill Nelson



Guard Your Drain!

Almost everyone living on Green Lake and within the City of Spicer is connected to Green Lake by a storm water drain or catch basin. These inlets located on many lots and along the streets with curb and gutter need to be protected from grass clippings, leaves, pet waste, soil, dirt blown off driveways and other yard maintenance activities. A majority of storm water pipes fed by these inlets discharge directly into the lake with little or no treatment.



Polluted storm water runoff has been found to be a major threat to the long-term health of Green Lake. Residents are encouraged to protect their nearest drain and Green Lake.

Skip Wright, Area Hydrologist

Nature Notes



From the “tschk, tschk, tschk” of the sprinklers in the morning, trying to keep the lawns from burning up completely, to the soft “whirr” of the cicadas to the high-pitched chirp of the crickets; from the soft, sad call of the mourning dove to the varied calls of the loon, any time day or night—we are reminded of the passing of the seasons.

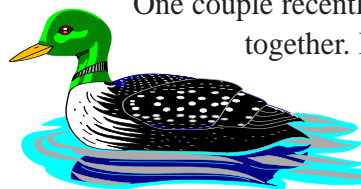


Canada geese, once swimming by with their six little goslings, soon pass by with the six young ones almost full-grown. A second family joined the first at a respectful distance—all eight of them. Then one day one family had only five young ones; but the two families were followed by 27 more geese joining the flotilla. By then the adults must have had their flight feathers restored, as the large number found homes elsewhere. As attractive as they are, one does not encourage them to take up residence on one’s lawn.

Although most of the robins are seeking food other than worms now that nesting season is over, we see an occasional one on the lawn or in the trees. Hummingbirds still visit the feeders and flowers, even though one tried to reach a stained glass artwork hanging inside my window. An occasional female or immature oriole visits the nectar and grape jelly feeder. A cardinal appeared at least twice, looking as if one of the bright red geraniums had taken flight. The other evening as I sat on the dock, watching the sun going down, a flutter of wings settled a few feet from me—a cedar waxwing stopped to take a rest. Usually they fly in flocks, but the latest ones observed have been solitary or in two’s. Do you suppose they’re scouts, checking out the landscape for the rest of them?

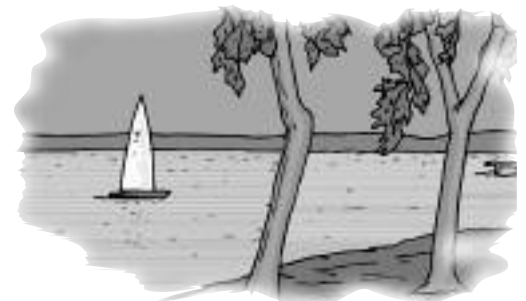


Last year I made the mistake of destroying 11 caterpillars that were eating my parsley. A few days later I learned they would have become yellow swallowtail butterflies and that some people plant extra parsley just for them. Fortunately, a few more caterpillars appeared that week, but those butterflies have boycotted my phlox this year. I was not completely bereft of the delicate beauties, however; a Black Swallowtail (I think) and Monarchs (gathering now for the migration) have paid us a visit. If you read Jim Gilbert’s Nature Notes last week, you learned that of the 20,000 species of butterflies in the world, about 700 inhabit North America, north of Mexico, and that we have 172 types. In defending their territory, they can be very aggressive, but they can’t bite. Their sense of smell and taste is acute, and some walk on their food, as their taste buds are located on the soles of their feet. They are fascinating little bits of nature, to say the least.



One couple recently had the good fortune while out on their pontoon to encounter about 15 loons swimming together. It’s difficult to count them when they keep diving and coming up sometimes 25 or more feet away. The couple shut off their motor and just drifted with the loons for a while. Another person, during his early morning daily swim, had the company of a loon swimming only a few feet from him. One does not forget those rare moments.

The end of August seems early to be signing off for Nature Notes for the season, but we’ll be in touch next summer. In the meantime, enjoy the changing of the seasons, the change of locale if you go elsewhere for a few months, and may the Green Lake breezes stay with you, reminding you of peace and serenity—with a few gusty white caps thrown in for a bit of excitement.

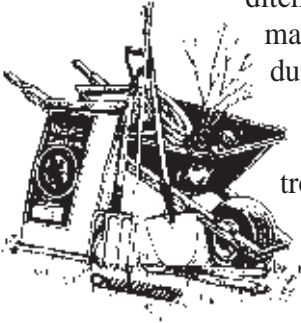


Gloria Benson

MN Department of Natural Resources

Disposal of Leaves and Yard Debris

'What am I to do with the yard waste?' This is a common thought of lakeshore property owners each year as they remove the grass catcher from the lawn mower or rake leaves that accumulate in the fall. Often the lake yard is small and constructing a compost pile is not convenient. You don't want to dump the waste in the lake! Can it hurt to dump the leaves and grass in the ditch across the road? Maybe. Leaves and grass clippings contain phosphorus, which if it enters the lake can promote aquatic plant growth and even algae blooms that cloud the water. Pathways that carry nutrients and even contaminants to lakes and streams can include road ditches, drain tiles, and storm sewers. If the area you dump yard waste has drainage to the lake, you may effectively be facilitating nutrient loading to the lake you love. Dog and other animal waste dumped by a lake inlet can return to your beach as invisible but dangerous bacteria. Alternatives to dumping grass clippings can include using a mulching type mower that keeps the clippings on the lawn. Nutrients are naturally recycled to the lawn. Use the clippings for garden mulch to control weeds. The mulching function on a leaf blower will greatly reduce the volume of fallen leaves. You'll have fewer bags to dispose of (I recommend the county compost site), or use the leaf mulch in the garden. Build a small compost pile with neighbors who have a large upland site. Minnesota Extension Service has composting information.



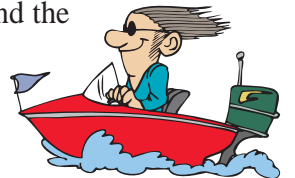
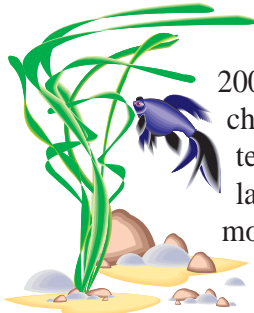
Green Lake Outlet Shore Fishing Structure

DNR Fisheries and Trails & Waterways, working with Kandiyohi County Highway Dept. completed a safe trail crossing and fishing location with the replacement of the County Rd. 4 bridge. DNR Fisheries and Trails contributed \$40,000 toward the project which was designed to get anglers and bikers off the road bridge. The fishing bridge/trail is on the Green Lake side of the bridge. A fishing pier is on the downstream side of the bridge. A small parking area will reduce congestion.

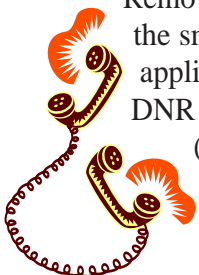


Eurasian watermilfoil

Recently there have been concerns about an increasing number of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) fragments seen floating in Green Lake. Eurasian watermilfoil was found in Green in 2000. By 2001 there was over 15 acres of EWM, mostly by the Spicer access and swim beach. Attempts to chemically eliminate the aquatic plant failed. However, Eurasian watermilfoil declined to less than one tenth acre by 2003. There are still some small stands and individual plants around the lake, but I don't feel that the fragments pose a particular threat of producing more large EWM stands. Fragments may be produced by boating activity, angling in stands of vegetation, swimming, cutting by lake shore owners, natural senescence, etc. Most fragments wash up on shore and die. Where there are suitable sites (typically nutrient rich disturbed sites protected from strong wind) within the lake, the plant will grow. We may see several acres of it again if all the right conditions develop. Fortunately Green Lake is not favorable for growth of many aquatic plants including EWM. Nutrient, sediment, and weather conditions for growth are factors affecting where it may occur. Some guidelines for reducing the chance of EWM growing on your shore include: Minimize disturbance of aquatic plants. When native aquatic plants are removed, an exotic species may gain a foot hold.



Remove only the aquatic plants where they seriously interfere with swimming or boating, and then clear only the smallest area for your activities. Some hand tool removal can be done without a DNR permit. Chemical application to water always requires a permit. Before removing any aquatic plants contact the Minnesota DNR Spicer Fisheries office (796-2161) or Southern Region Aquatic Plant Specialist Jacquelyn Bacigalupi (507) 359-6026 to determine if a permit is needed.



Sincerely,
Bruce Gilbertson, Area Fisheries Supervisor

Patrol to Begin on October 1st



If you paid for membership, along with the patrol service you will notice that the “PATROL SIGNS” will be placed on our residence shortly after the 1st of October.

The BI-monthly patrol will begin near the middle of October. Please be advised that if you wish to sign up for this valuable service you must submit your \$25.00 prior to September 15, 2006.



The person who does the patrol will be identified this year by a vest with the words “Green Lake Patrol” on the back of the vest. If further I.D. is needed, an identification card with picture of the employee has been issued by the Kandiyohi County Sheriff’s Office.

Post cards will be mailed to your home residence during the six month period, as we do not know when you leave for your winter home. Please advise your postmaster to forward your PATROL POST CARDS as they do your regular mail.

The Green Lake Breeze
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Address Service Requested