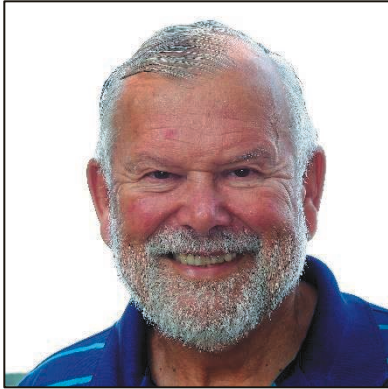


FISH HOOK LAKE AND RIVER ASSN NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

EMAIL: FISHHOOKLAKEANDRIVER@GMAIL.COM

Website: <https://fishhooklakeandriver.org/>



President's Letter by Tom Harmon:

Like many of you in March I received my 2023 Property Tax Statement and Proposed Property Valuation for 2024. The 2023 property value had increased by 33%. The payable taxes had increased by 20%. And the 2024 Property Value increased another 24%. I have since talked to others whose increases have been even more.

To say the least I was shocked, then dismayed, and then just plain mad. I felt a bit like Howard Beal in

the 1976 movie "Network". He was a New York City TV news anchor with a nightly show, but he was losing its ratings, losing his job and losing his mind. For him the world was falling apart because of inflation, the oil crisis, and issues following the end of the war in Viet Nam and Watergate. With all this pressing on him, he's about to crack when he tells his TV audience that he is: "Mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore."

Well, I wasn't quite as mad as Howard Beal, but I did wonder what could be done. So, a group of neighbors got together and went to the City Hall Council Chambers for the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting on April 13. There we learned the Minnesota State Assessor's Office had directed the Local Assessor's Office to install the new computer program that will configure the information for the 2024 Property Values and Proposed Taxes. But we were told that it was not a "seamless transition of data" from the old system to the new one. So, they were still working out some of the bugs.

But how did all these increases happen? Jeff Forester, Executive Director of the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates explains it this way. As our economy rebounded post pandemic the real estate market particularly on the lakeshore became hot. The demand for lakeshore property, then the increase in the selling prices, and now two years later the jump in property tax assessments is based on those sales.

Minnesota Lake and River Advocates (MLR) has been working this year with the Minnesota Legislature for a solution for these pandemic induced property tax increases. Our Fish Hook Lake and River Association is a member of the MLR. If you would like to learn more about what they are doing their website address is: www.mnlakesandrivers.org.

In the meantime, we need to look at the positive side of this issue. Our lake and river property did increase in value dramatically. As a result, it is wise for all of us to take good care of our investment. One of the ways of doing this is to join the Fish Hook Lake and River Association to support our clean water efforts and to give a voice to property owners. Another way is to volunteer to be a part of the Association's Board of Directors or one of the committees of the Association. We are always looking for good, hard-working and fun-loving people. If you are interested, you can contact us through our new website: www.fishhooklakeandriver.org or email us at fishhooklakeandriver@gmail.com.

Thank you. See you on the water. Tom Harmon

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 4th –Downtown Parade
@ 11:00 a.m.

July 4th FHL&R Boat Parade
2:00 @ Red Bridge Park

FHL&R Annual Meeting July
15th 5:00 pm @Heartland
Park

Annual Meeting: We will hold our ANNUAL MEETING on **Saturday July 15th @5:00 pm at Heartland Park.**
Additional details will be emailed to all when available. If we don't have your email, we can't keep in touch.
Please provide it when you renew your membership.

We have a new website!

Scott Gingerich has been handling the updates to our website for several years. About 18 months ago we were notified that MN Lakes and Waters would no longer host our site, so Scott went about creating a new site. So go to our new website and take a look. He is seeking input into what else should be included on the site and is also looking for interesting pictures. **ONE OF THE BIG CHANGES** he made is now you can renew or sign up for your annual membership on the site. <https://fishhooklakeandriv.org/> Click on "Membership" on the top right or scan this QR code and in a couple of minutes you will be a "Paid Member" for 2023. Thank you, Scott!



Gary smith found this duck nesting in his neighbor's flower pot on her tree.

C.O.L.A. News:

Thank you to Don Rumpza, our water testing volunteer, for continuing to participate in the **HC COLA Water Monitoring Program**, annually May through September. The success of the Program gives confidence to all to look forward to the near term and multi-generational future of all Hubbard County lakes. Results can be found at: <https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/water-quality-monitoring-reports.html>

Additional Resources On Fishhook Lake

To see where Fishhook Lake is on an interactive map and for more important information about the Lake, go to the MN DNR Lake Finder Report. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/lake.html?id=29024200> There you will find "Lake Reports", which may include Fisheries Lake Survey, Water Access Sites, Fish Stocking, Ice In / Out, Fish consumption, Water Levels, Water Quality... You will also find "Lake Maps", which may include Water Clarity, Lake Depth, Recreation Compass, Google Earth / KML...

Decontamination Station:

Hubbard County provides a FREE Decontamination Station to clean visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, snails and other prohibited species off your watercraft as it goes from one lake to another. It is open by appointment 7 days a week by calling 218-252-6738 between 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. The Station is located at 812 Henrietta Ave., Park Rapids (between the Detail Shop and the Transfer Station on the north side of the road).



Hubbard County Watercraft Inspection Program:

The Hubbard County Environmental Services recently reported that this summer 34 Boat Launches on 32 Hubbard County Lakes are scheduled for 15,878 Watercraft Inspection Hours. Shifts are scheduled more heavily on weekends and holidays, but the busiest accesses will be scheduled for hours during the week as well. The schedule is posted on the Hubbard County page.

Funding for this comes from the Environmental Services budget plus supplemental funding from Lake Association Donations and Township/City Supplements. The Fish Hook Lake and River Association donated \$6,500 to purchase an additional 295 of inspection Hours for the Fish Hook Lake and River access sites. Please thank these inspectors for their service when you see them at the boat launch areas.

-CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY

Fishing Update by Paul Thompson

With the fishing season starting, here is some information to review on regulations and license requirements for Minnesota. A great single source online to get information or download the entire fishing regulations on seasons, limits, license requirements is; [Minnesota fishing regulations | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing/regulations/)

Lake Information; you can review information on fish species, stocking reports and lake maps of any lake in the state at; mobile phone link; [LakeFinder Mobile \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefinder/mobile/) desktop version link; [LakeFinder | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefinder/)

Catch a nice large fish, keep it or release it? Although slot limits for larger species have been around for years to protect breeding population and maintain a healthy mix of larger fish, the smaller species like crappies and sunfish have fewer or sometimes no size requirements. The Minnesota DNR say the spawning cycle is impacted negatively by keeping large sunfish and crappies for eating. If you catch an assortment you want for a meal, consider keeping mostly smaller fish and releasing the large ones. This increases the opportunity for a healthy fish population going forward.

Have you been to the Heartland & Red Bridge Parks Lately? What fun and beautiful places for us to play!

Heartland Park: take a walk, do some fishing, play some frisbee golf, go for a bike ride, play some pickle ball, take your grandchildren to the play area, go swimming on the beach, how about horseshoes, tennis, softball, basketball or just sitting under a shelter to enjoy the day.



Red Bridge Park adjoins Heartland Park. What a place for a picnic, enjoy the art walk, walk on the Old Red Bridge or have your picture taken there, or fix your bike at the bike station. FHL&R donated a dock so you can tie up and pick up your pizza or go downtown and shop.



Park photos by Neil Jordheim

JOIN THE FISH HOOK LAKE AND RIVER ASSN FOR 2023 (Jan 1 – Dec 31)

Name: _____ Email: _____

() Please check here if you are a current member and your information is current.

Telephone: (lake) _____ Phone (Cell): _____

Lake Address: _____ Other Address: _____

(NOTE: **Please provide your email address** and save us postage. We do not share your information.)

Send this registration and \$35.00 for your annual membership. * Please include an additional check for \$20.00 or more made payable to City Treasurer, City of Park Rapids to support our AIS efforts. Put "For FHL&R AIS Fund" in the Memo line and include it with your membership check. Please mail both checks to: FHLRA PO, Box 225, Park Rapids, MN 56470.

Fish Hook Lake and River Association Board of Directors

Tom Harmon - President

Jim Spencer - Vice-President

Gwen Zent - Secretary

Scott Gingerich – Treasurer & web master

_____ - COLA Representative

Members-at-Large: Jim Knox, Peter Dieser, and Paul Thompson

Neil Jordheim - Newsletter Editor (not a board member)

MISSION STATEMENT: The Fish Hook Lake & River Association shall be an advocate of the environment of our lake/river systems. We shall be a partner with other lake associations and agencies which have an impact on water quality. We shall act as an educator in community understanding of the issues and goals of our association. The objectives of our efforts are better water quality and property values for everyone. As a group, we have a stronger voice than as separate individuals.

FISH HOOK LAKE AND RIVER ASSOCIATION PO Box 225 Park Rapids, MN 56470