



Doggy happy hour

It was a busy day at the Cleary Lake Dog Park on Tuesday, despite chilly temperatures and blustery winds.

Above – These pups were sad to see their two Samoyed friends head home.

Right – Two local dogs wrestled in the snow.

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KAITLYN EGAN
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COMMENTARY

Volunteering for clean water

BY MEGHAN JACKSON
Guest Commentary

The south metro's lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands make the region unique and provide value whether you enjoy aquatic recreation, wildlife or simply looking at the view of nature out your window.

However, development and other human and natural changes to the environment can place our water resources at significant risk. The responsibility to protect these resources falls on all of us.

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District will start the summer water-quality monitoring season by sending out Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program volunteers to the following local lakes in mid-April: Cates, Fish, Upper Prior and Spring. This program is designed to increase volunteers' understanding and awareness of their lakes and to assist the Metropolitan Council and the Watershed District in assessing the chemical, physical and biological integrity of lakes.

The Watershed District is now accepting applications for CAMP volunteers on other lakes within the watershed, such as Buck, Haas, Jeffers or Lower Prior, which are not currently being monitored during the upcoming season.

To see if your lake is within the Watershed District boundaries, visit www.plslwd.org. Participants in the CAMP program will be trained by Metropolitan Council staff in proper monitoring and sample-collection techniques. Volunteers are required to provide a boat or a canoe and will perform

monitoring activities twice a month from May through September. To be considered as a CAMP volunteer for an upcoming monitoring season, contact Jaime Rockney at jrockney@plslwd.org by April 5.

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District has a number of other ways you can protect and sustain the water resources that we all treasure, including:

- Sign up for our e-newsletter to learn more
- Plant a raingarden or restore your shoreline to reduce runoff or erosion from your yard

- Install a rain barrel (or two) to reduce runoff and reuse water for washing your car and watering your plants
- Schedule a stenciling outing. Storm drain stenciling involves placing a clean-water message next to storm drains to let the public know that any water that runs into the drain flows directly into our waterways. Various groups can stencil, including school and youth, neighborhood organizations and advocacy groups, etc.

- Join our Citizen Advisory Committee and advise our Board of Managers on water resource-related issues that are important to you.

If you live in the district and are interested in signing up for the e-newsletter or becoming a volunteer, email Meghan Jackson at mjackson@plslwd.org.

One tool CAMP volunteers use to measure water clarity is a Secchi disk, a black-and-white disk that is lowered by hand into the water to the depth at which it vanishes from sight.

Meghan Jackson is district outreach specialist for the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District.

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According to John, "We are very fortunate to have a strong, dedicated staff with an average tenure of 9 years, so they must like it here! We have also diversified our business to offer everything from business demolition and excavation, to residential roll-off boxes to help families clean up their property, to recycling and online auctions."

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Prior Lake State Bank is proud to have been a financing partner in the success of Lloyd's Construction since 1987. John says, "In a world that is going high tech, we really appreciate the high touch approach. Our banker, Bob Facente, knows us and our family, and we appreciate their community focus, consistency of service, and dedication to our success."

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