

Sylvan Lake City Hall

Village of Sylvan Lake Council Minutes:

June 20th, 1928 Village Council voted to purchase the acre of land situated on the westerly side of Inverness Avenue and southerly side of Michigan Air-Line Railway- 209 ft. square, purchased at a price of \$2500 from Merrill B. Mills.

March 6, 1929 It is the sense of the Board that a necessity exists for a municipal building to house the various Village activities, equipment and property. Be it resolved that Charles Fisher, a regular architect of Pontiac, Oakland County, Michigan, be and is hereby authorized and directed to prepare suitable plans and specifications for a municipal building.

April 5, 1929 Moved by Trustee Kaufman, supported by Trustee Dickie that the sketch of the Village office building as submitted by Charles Fisher be approved and that plans of same be completed. The bid of the Kratzer Company for the installation of a furnace at the Village Office Building for the sum of \$298.30 be and is hereby accepted. A contract for the drilling of a well with 2" casing at the Village Office Building at \$1.25 per foot be awarded to Stanley Shaver. The Plumbing contract for the Village Office Building be awarded to E. J. Duffy for the sum of \$775.

Sylvan Lake Inn

In 1893 Merrill B. Mills, Mansfield Shelly, George Barbour, and J. Blair Simpson decided to establish a resort at Sylvan Lake. The center of the resort, a hotel, was erected on the present site of the Community Center for \$25,000. The resort included a golf course, riding stable, bathing beach, bowling alley, and billiards. The grounds were lighted by electricity in connection with the interurban railway.

In Addition to the hotel, owners planned a community containing 1300 building lots, six public parks, a school house, a depot and church sites. In 1903 the Sylvan Lake Inn burned down.

Detroit Free Press Fresh Air Camp

The Detroit Free Press Fresh Air Camp operated during the 1920's to 1950's. The Merrill Mills family gave the Free Press a restricted deed to the property formerly occupied by Mills' summer Sylvan Lake Inn. The newspaper developed the property as a summer campground for underprivileged children brought out from the city for two weeks of recreation.

Sylvan Lake Community Center

When the Fresh Air Camp disbanded in 1962, the campgrounds were deeded to the city which later developed some of the old buildings into our former Community Center.

A new Community Center building began construction in November 2007 and will be ready for the community in the summer of 2008.